

As word of Beppu's famous hot springs spread across Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, wealthy Japanese began to purchase vacation homes in the area. Today, the hills around Beppu are dotted with well-preserved homes from this period, some of which are now operated as lodgings for domestic and international travelers. One such home is Yamada Besso, built by Yamada Eizo in 1930. Now operating as an inn, this home was built as a fusion of the Japanese and Western architectural styles popular at the time. The Yamada Besso was built with both tatami- and wood-floored rooms and incorporated Western architectural elements like the sitting room into a Japanese home. The inn is operated by the descendants of Yamada Eizo, who have modernized the home while maintaining its prewar charm.