

Staff Quarters

At Shikinaen, even the functional spaces intended for the use of staff were well-designed and beautiful. The Side Gate, or Tsuyo-mon, is similar in form to the Main Gate (Sei-mon) and quite elegant, though smaller and simpler in detail. It was the staff entry for those who worked in the garden. The compact guardhouse (*banya*) is strategically located near the entry gates as well as the palace. It is essentially a small, well-appointed residence built in traditional Ryukyu style for the palace guards. The front-most room, closest to the entry, is the duty room, while rooms at the rear are living quarters, with a deep wooden corridor closed off by wooden shutters. A small, tile-roofed outhouse stands alongside. A *kagoya*, or palanquin house, stands a few steps away from the entry to the palace. Royalty and other members of the elite used these shoulder-carried palanquins (*kago*), as a dignified means of transport, usually being carried all the way to the palace entry, where they could alight on the stone step without their feet touching the ground. The *kagoya* was used to keep palanquins ready and as a resting place for the carriers.