

Shoto-en

This modestly sized garden, established in the early 1970s and run by the widow of its founder, is fronted by a cozy, shop-like space that makes it particularly accessible to curious beginners. Inside, and extending out onto the street, is a selection of bonsai-related items at very affordable prices, including pots; small *suiseki* decorative rocks; and plates of wood called *ji-ita* that possess a subdued beauty. Behind the shop is the garden itself, where a wide variety of trees is cultivated in order for the proprietor to continue refining her craft. Smaller bonsai are accessibly priced, with hardy *shinpaku* (Japanese juniper) recommended for visitors to purchase.