

Renchiken Rest House

The Renchiken Rest House is located at the southern side of the garden and is visible to the right after entering the South Gate. The building's facade has not changed since it was restored after being damaged in a 1934 typhoon; it was one of the few buildings in the garden that survived the bombing raids of World War II.

The rest house was particularly favored by daimyo Ikeda Tsunamasa (1638–1714), who first built the garden and would often stop here to enjoy his breakfast and to admire the lotus flowers that once grew in the small pond in front.

The granite bridge that crosses the pond, now stocked with koi carp, has been a key design element since the garden was first built. The bridge changes direction midway in a V-shape that resembles the Japanese hiragana character for “ku.” The east room of the building, which is currently used as a cafe, features a circular window metaphorically representing Buddhist cosmology that frames the garden view.

Visitors to Renchiken can enjoy picturesque views of the garden's ponds, rolling landscape, and pine grove. Directly in front of the house is a small pond, which acts as a waterway linking Sawanoike Pond to the northern end of the garden flowing past the foot of Yuishinzan Hill and emptying into Kakonoike Pond on the eastern side of the garden.

This house and others in the garden are open to the public in monthly rotation and the facilities can be rented by advance reservation.