

Ryuten Rest House

On the east side of Yuishinzan Hill, the Ryuten Rest House provided the daimyo lords a rest spot when strolling around the garden. The building was restored after flood damage in 1934 and was one of the few structures in the garden to survive the 1945 air raids.

The four walls of the ground level are completely open and straddle a stream flowing through the two-story structure—a rare sight in a Japanese garden. Planted in the stream are six rocks of varying sizes and colors arranged in an intentionally asymmetrical way to guide the water elegantly through the building. Other contrasting elements are harmoniously juxtaposed: the differently sized flooring on the two sides of the stream and the contours of the building's pillars, which are rounded on the outside and squared on the inside. The pillars are slender enough not to obstruct the view they so elegantly frame. To maintain the unobstructed view, the ceiling hatch leading to the second floor is located in the center of the building and has no fixed staircase.

Unlike many buildings in the garden, the Ryuten Rest House is open daily to visitors. The gentle breeze flowing through the structure is especially pleasant on a hot summer's day.