

6 Clapboards

This kind of exterior wall construction keeps rainwater outside by overlapping clapboards downward, a style that originates in Europe.

7 Window Shutters

This style of shutters is said to come from India and East Asia during the colonial era. They are built with numerous horizontal narrow planks oriented at an angle for ventilation, lighting and shelter from the rain. All openings with shutters in the museum are furnished with sash windows.



8 Stained Glass

Glass started to be used for fittings during the Meiji Period (1868~1912), and it had to be imported from overseas until the domestic production became sufficient. Since it was difficult to acquire large pieces of glass, stained glass, made of smaller pieces combined together, was frequently used instead.

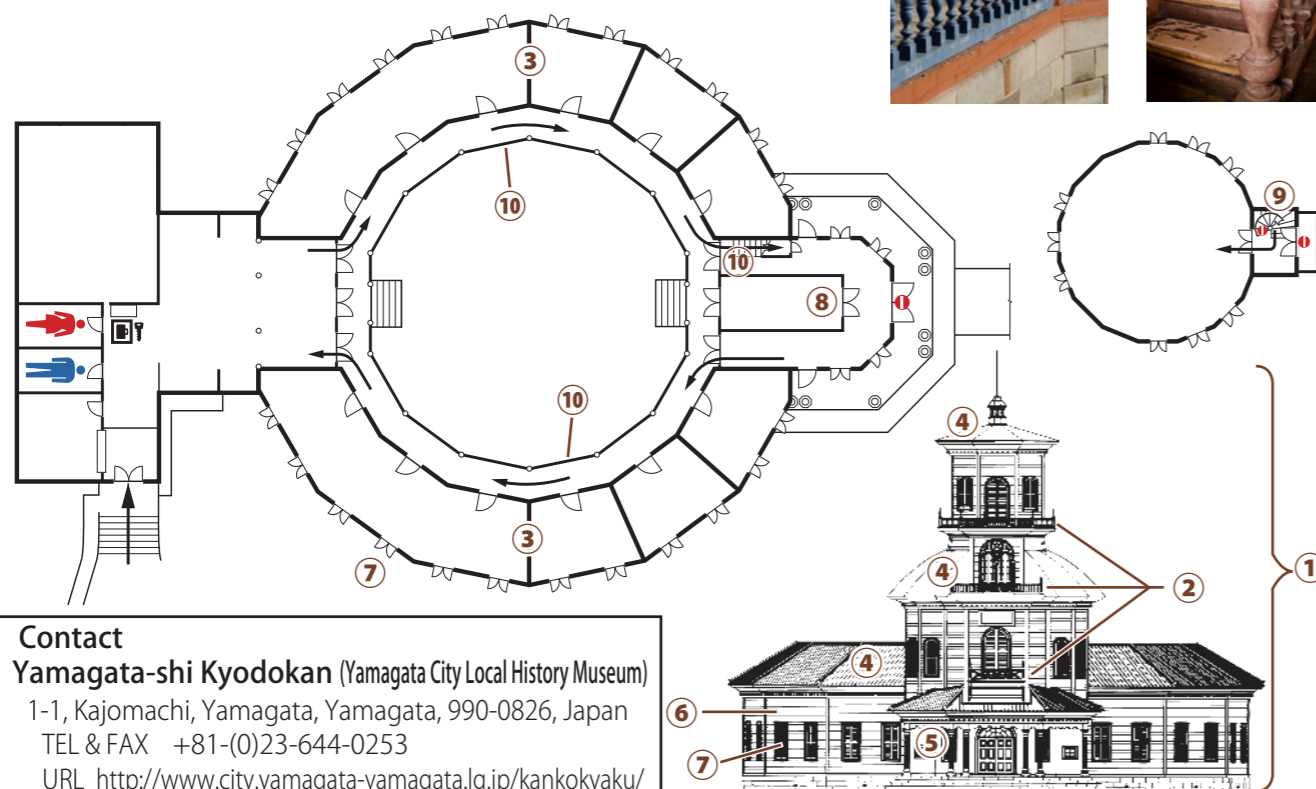


9 Spiral Staircases

The staircases connect the 2nd and 3rd floors. Made of Japanese zelkova, the sides are carved with a traditional Japanese arabesque design.

10 Handrails

The handrails were made with a potter's wheel, as the one used for making kokeshi dolls, or by woodworking artisans and Buddhist altar craftsmen.

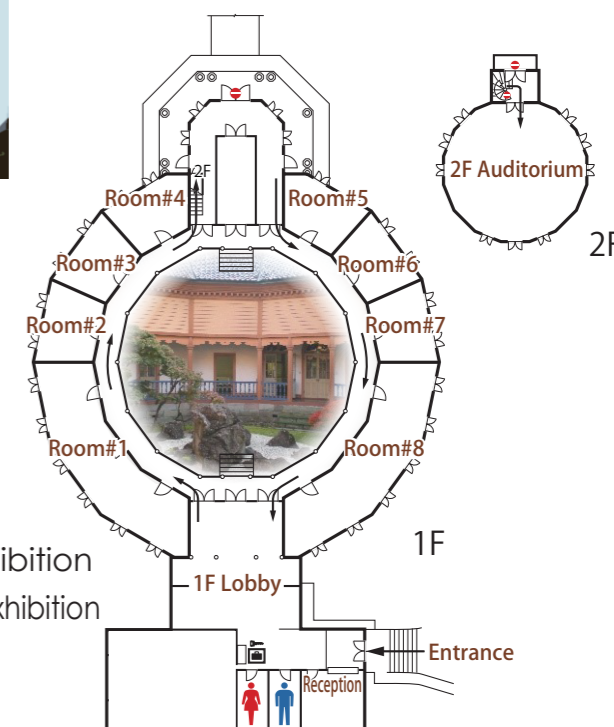


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•Floor Map

Room #1	History of Saiseikan
Room #2	Dr. Roretz' s room
Room #3	Disciples of Dr. Roretz
Room #4	Medicine exhibition
Room #5	Medical items exhibition
Room #6	Medical books exhibition
Room #7	Saiseikan restoration works exhibition
Room #8	Medical instruments and hospital exhibition
2F Auditorium	Local history exhibition



•Exhibition Contents

Room #1 History of Saiseikan



The Saiseikan hospital was built on orders from the first governor of Yamagata prefecture, Mishima Michitsune. Mishima incorporated elements of Western culture to Yamagata, promoting civilization and enlightenment to enrich people's lives. He had the Saiseikan built as both a medical school and a prefectural hospital. Panels and documentation on Mishima and the hospital are on display in this room.

Room #2 Dr. Roretz' s Room



Austrian doctor Albrecht von Roretz was invited by Mishima in 1880 to teach and practice medicine at the Saiseikan hospital. He brought with him German medicine and medical instruments. Because of his efforts, the medical school became the focus point of German medical science in the Tohoku region. Many belongings of Dr. Roretz are on display.

Room #3 Disciples of Dr. Roretz



Dr. Roretz only stayed in Yamagata for a year and ten months, but he trained numerous young doctors who became medical pioneers in Yamagata prefecture. The exhibition contains items from some of his disciples, like Kudō Masuji or Otoyama Kingorō, and from teachers and graduates of Yamagata's medical school.

Room #4 Medicine Exhibition



Herbal medicine and containers from the Edo (1603~1868) and Meiji (1868~1912) periods are stored here. Medicine used to be put in ceramic containers before glass became of common usage. A cabinet that was used by doctors to store Chinese medicine is also on display.



Room #5 Medical Items Exhibition

Documentation on Miura Goro, a local doctor practicing in the north Murayama area during the Meiji Period (1868~1912), is on display here. Dr. Miura interned at the Saiseikan hospital after graduating from the University of Tokyo. He later created the North Murayama Area Doctors' Association and was a pioneer in the foundation of the doctors' association in the inland region of Yamagata. Medical items like scales used for medicine are also on display.



Room #6 Medical Books Exhibition

The museum holds a large collection of medical books, a part of which is displayed in this room. There are medical books dating from the Edo (1603~1868) and Meiji (1868~1912) periods, along with Eastern and Western encyclopedias and translations of medical books.



Room #7 Saiseikan Restoration Works Exhibition

With needs for the modernization of medical facilities, the Saiseikan hospital became obsolete around 1955, and the building was expected to be destroyed. It was however designated an important cultural asset in 1966 due to its value as a building of Giyōfu architecture, and relocated to its current location within Kajo Park. Documents on the restoration works done at the time are displayed here.



Room #8 Medical Instruments and Hospital Exhibition

Numerous medical instruments, including a German-made microscope that was used at the hospital, are on display, along with panels of photographs of medical examinations at the time, giving visitors a glimpse into the Meiji Period hospital.



2F Auditorium Local History Exhibition

The auditorium was used for many events, including lectures and ceremonies. It now holds old maps of Yamagata, along with documentation on local history, including photographs of the old cityscape. While the painting of Hippocrates by Yamada Nariaki used to be on this floor, the plaque including the writings "Saiseikan" made by Sanjō Sanetomi now replaces it.

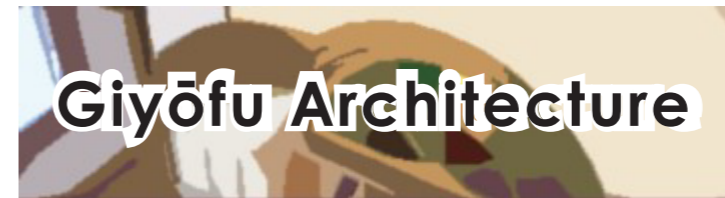
Information

■Opening hours: 9:00 to 16:30 ■Closed: December 29 to January 3 ■Admission fee: Free

- Smoking is not allowed in the building.
- Eating and drinking is not allowed in the building.
- Taking pictures of the building is allowed, but not of the exhibited items.
- The 3rd and 4th floors are not open to the public but pictures are displayed on the 1F lobby.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



●Giyōfu Architecture

This style of architecture applies to buildings built from 1850~1880 by Japanese carpenters and artisans mimicking Western architecture. Local carpenters watched and imitated Western-style buildings without relying on artisans or architects from overseas who were familiar with Western architecture. As such, while their appearance looks Western, the details of the buildings are incorporating elements of Western, Japanese and even sometimes Chinese architecture. As knowledge of Western architecture increased around 1890 and proper Western style buildings became more common, the giyōfu architecture style stopped being used.

Numerous buildings in this style, including the old Saiseikan Hospital, were built in Yamagata prefecture between 1876~1882 on orders of the government official Mishima Michitsune.

● Characteristics

1 Three-storied Structure Appearance

While looking like a three-storied building, there are actually four floors inside, as indicated by the four verandas. This complicated structure incorporates not only Western techniques in some parts of the structure supporting the roof, but also uses ancient traditional advanced Japanese wooden architectural techniques.



2 Veranda and Balcony

There is a stone laid veranda on the first floor, glass double doors leading to a veranda on the second and third floors, and a balcony on the fourth, in a style often seen in Europe and South-East Asia.



3 Corridor

The tetradecagonal corridor shaped as a donut connects to eight rooms, which were used for consultations, etc.

4 Tiled Roof and Galvanized Iron Roof

Mishima Michitsune had the first floor's roof tiled in order to resist the snow country climate.



5 Decorated Eaves and Pillars

The sections on the eaves with a board, or eaves ceiling, giving them their gradual structure are called eaves moldings, while the square parts looking like regular teeth gaps are called 'dentils'.

The cloud design of the lower eaves decoration is reminiscent of shrines and temples.

The pillars of the first floor veranda are in early ancient Greek Doric order, while some of the ones on the third floor veranda are in late ancient Greek Corinthian order.

