

## The Pavilion for Japanese Art at LACMA, Designed by Bruce Goff, Celebrates its 25th Anniversary



Pavilion for Japanese Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Photo © Brant Brogan

(Los Angeles—March 31, 2014) To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Pavilion for Japanese Art, designed by architect Bruce Goff, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents a year of special exhibitions:

*Modern Japanese Prints: The Juda Family Legacy*

December 7, 2013–June 22, 2014

Pavilion for Japanese Art, The Helen and Felix Juda Gallery

*The Color of Life: Japanese Paintings from the Price Collection*

February 1–April 20, 2014

Pavilion for Japanese Art, East Wing

*Netsuke at LACMA: The Bushell Gifts*

March 8–November 2, 2014

Pavilion for Japanese Art, The Raymond and Frances Bushell Netsuke Gallery

*Pavilion for Japanese Art: Paintings in Celebration of Twenty-Five Years*

April 26–June 22, 2014

Pavilion for Japanese Art, East Wing

*Kimono for a Modern Age, 1900–1960*

July 5–October 19, 2014

Pavilion for Japanese Art, East Wing

*Zuan: Japanese Design Books*

July 5–October 13, 2014

Pavilion for Japanese Art, The Helen and Felix Juda Gallery

*Samurai: Japanese Armor from the Ann and Gabriel Barbier-Mueller Collection*

October 19, 2014–February 1, 2015

Resnick Pavilion

*Art of the Samurai: Swords, Paintings, Prints, and Textiles*

November 1, 2014–February 8, 2015

Pavilion for Japanese Art, East Wing and the Helen and Felix Juda Gallery (held in conjunction with *Samurai: Japanese Armor from the Ann and Gabriel Barbier-Mueller Collection*)

More information about these exhibitions is available upon request.

### **About the Pavilion for Japanese Art**

The Pavilion for Japanese Art is the last structure and only major public building designed by Bruce Goff, who passed away during its construction.

The story begins in Oklahoma, years before the project broke ground at LACMA in 1985, Goff and his foremost client, collector Joe Price, had discussed building a gallery at Price's Oklahoma estate to hold the collection of Edo-period work Price had amassed throughout the 1950s and '60s, widely considered one of the finest in the Western world. Price's stipulation was that the "art itself" would be the client, dictating the design of the building from the inside out, with scrolls and screens displayed as the original artists intended: under natural light, with each work hung in its own *tokonoma*, or alcove—quite different viewing conditions than for contemporary Western art, which often calls for large spaces and bright, uniform lighting.

Ultimately, Price decided to open his collection to the public, and—with several twists and turns along the way—the site was relocated to Los Angeles, where LACMA was undergoing a major capital campaign under the guidance of Earl "Rusty" Powell. Longtime

trustee Camilla Chandler Frost led fundraising efforts for the creation of the new building. When Goff died, in 1982, the building was yet to be realized. It was Bart Prince, Goff's disciple, who meshed Goff's imaginative plans with the reality of the LACMA site's many challenges, which ranged from an absence of bedrock to a necessity to vent methane gas from the La Brea Tar Pits to stringent California building and seismic codes, not to mention the delay in construction caused by the new discovery of prehistoric fossils beneath the foundation.

The exterior walls of the Pavilion for Japanese Art are made of Kalwall, a translucent material that permits light to enter a room much the same way a shoji screen does, varying according to time of day, weather, and season, making the movement of the sun and clouds noticeable on the works; the gentle spiraling ramp and petal-like viewing platforms that give the viewer a sense of climbing through a garden, glimpsing art from above and below; the soft shadows that gather in the space and the building's cream, gray, and green colors reminiscent of clouds, stones, and leaves, provide a contemplative space in the heart of Los Angeles. The Pavilion for Japanese Art remains a destination site for Los Angeles residents and visitors.

#### **About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes over 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art, Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over a million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives, such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement at [lacma.org](http://lacma.org). Situated in Hancock Park on over 20 acres in the heart of Los Angeles, LACMA is located between the ocean and downtown.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

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#### **Connect with LACMA**



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