

The Asakawa Garden Project at Yale University

To recognize the achievements and legacy of Professor Asakawa Kan'ichi (1873-1948), plans for the creation of a garden on the campus of Yale University are now in development and fund-raising for the project is now under way.

The “Asakawa Garden” planning committee, consisting of members of the Yale faculty/staff/student community, formed early in 2006. Its members are:

Louisa Cunningham (Deputy Director, Yale University Art Gallery)

Ellen Hammond (Curator, East Asian Collection, Yale University Library)

Edward Kamens (Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures; Associate Master, Saybrook College; chair of the committee)

William Kelly (Professor of Anthropology and Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies)

Gustav Ranis (Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics, Senior Research Scientist, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies)

John Treat (Professor and Chair of East Asian Languages and Literatures)

Takeshi Watanabe (B.A. 1997, Ph.D 2005, East Asian Languages and Literatures)

In addition, **Koichi Hamada** (Tuntex Professor of Economics) serves as special adviser to the committee.

After a review of many ideas concerning the location, design features, accessibility, and maintenance of the garden, the committee requested and received University authorization to proceed with design development and fund-raising to create the garden in a site located within Killingworth Courtyard of Saybrook College, one of Yale’s residential colleges—a proposal that offers the benefits of a central campus location; a modest size manageable in terms of design, construction cost, and maintenance; the security of a college courtyard combined with high visibility and relatively easy access; and a direct connection to Professor Asakawa, who was a resident faculty fellow of Saybrook College in 1939-40. The proposal also has the enthusiastic support of the Master of Saybrook College, Mary Miller (the Vincent Scully Professor of the History of Art).

The Saybrook site is a small walled enclosure located between entryways N (“Woolsey”) and O (“Hadley”) in Killingworth Courtyard, the so-called “grass court” of Saybrook College. (Saybrook College is part of a complex of neo-Gothic style buildings designed by James Gamble Rogers, originally constructed in 1917 as the Memorial Quadrangle, then re-modeled as one of Yale’s first 10 residential colleges in the 1930s.) The design proposal would open the stone wall on one side of this enclosure, providing ground-level access and thus creating a garden that includes both the space within the small walled area and the border area along the adjacent pathway (currently planted with shrubbery), measuring a total of approximately 16.5 x 14.5 feet (roughly 240 square feet, or about 22 square meters). Visitors will be able to look into and enter the enclosed space, which will be re-designed with appropriate plantings, seating, and identifying markers. Stone removed from the wall might be re-used within the garden (as a bench or benches, for example) in order to maintain a design that is consonant and harmonious with the current architectural design of Saybrook College. The carved plaque identifying Killingworth Court, which is part of the exterior stone wall facing out into the main courtyard, would remain untouched and in place.

The walled area of the garden receives relatively little sunlight at almost all times of the year, so the selection of plantings will focus on trees or shrubs that will thrive in shade while also introducing elements associated with traditional Japanese garden design: this might include pines or other evergreens, moss, ferns, etc., but should be limited to plantings that do not require special expertise for maintenance. Part of the site may offer enough sunlight for flowering shrubs or trees, such as the traditional Japanese cherry. It may be possible for the design to accommodate the planting of a cutting of a cherry tree from Nihonmatsu, Japan—Asakawa's birthplace—which has been tentatively offered as a contribution to the garden by the Asakawa Kenshō Kyōkai (Asakawa Peace Foundation), a Japan-based group dedicated to study and commemoration of Asakawa's life and achievements. The same group has also suggested that it may wish to donate a traditional-style decorative garden stone, and the committee is interested in exploring this as an idea for a central element in the garden's design. Landscaping of the space should include a permanent flagstone or other hard surface, plantings as described above, and an appropriate commemorative plaque identifying it as the Asakawa Garden.

The committee believes this is an excellent site for the proposed garden and by far the best site on campus available for this purpose. First and foremost is its location. Groups and individuals visiting campus, whether knowledgeable about Professor Asakawa or not, will encounter the garden as an attractively landscaped space; those who visit specifically out of interest in Professor Asakawa will be able to enter one of Yale's most beautiful college courtyards and find within it a site specifically dedicated to commemorating him in a unique, significant, and central space. Saybrook College's scenic and historic courtyards are on the route of every organized tour conducted by official student tour guides: the Asakawa Garden will be an additional feature that can be pointed out to every participant in such tours, thus ensuring relatively high visibility for this commemoration of one particular figure in the history of Yale's international profile, within a courtyard named in commemoration of Yale's early, temporary location in the town of Killingworth, Connecticut. The Saybrook site is also quite close to other locations associated with Professor Asakawa: the Sterling Memorial Library, where he was Curator of the Chinese and Japanese collections; the Hall of Graduate Studies, which houses the History Department, of which he was a long-time faculty member; and his gravesite in Grove Street Cemetery. Visitors to the University interested in seeing all these sites associated with Professor Asakawa will be able to do so on foot, within a two or three block radius. As mentioned above, Professor Asakawa was himself a resident of Saybrook College in 1939-40: his suite of rooms was in the center wing of the building and thus had views of the courtyard in which we propose to create this garden. Finally, it should be noted that the creation of this garden space will in turn provide a real enhancement of the Saybrook College facility as a whole: an unused and overlooked niche within its courtyard will become an attractive, inviting outdoor space for quiet retreat, contemplation, or conversation while also serving the purpose of commemorating the life and career of Professor Asakawa and all that his legacy represents in the international history of Yale.

Three New England-based landscape architectural consultants with experience in the design of Japanese-style gardens have been contacted with requests to submit preliminary design and cost analyses for the site as described here. Our initial estimate of all costs, based upon the general design concept developed by the Committee in association with architects in Yale's Office of Facilities, is **\$65,000**. **We are now launching the effort to raise funds needed to meet the goal of creating the Asakawa Garden in time for its dedication (or ground-breaking) during the Asakawa centennial observances in the year 2007.**

All contributions to “The Asakawa Garden Project” will be most gratefully accepted.

- ◇ **Donors of more than \$10,000 will be recognized as “Asakawa Garden Major Benefactors”**
- ◇ **Donors of \$5000 to \$10,000 will be acknowledged as “Asakawa Garden Patrons”**
- ◇ **Donors of \$1000-\$5000 will be acknowledged as “Asakawa Garden Sponsors”**
- ◇ **Donors of \$500 to \$1000 will be acknowledged as “Asakawa Garden Contributing Members”**

Donations are deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Checks payable in U.S dollars and made payable to Yale University should be sent to:

**Yale University
Office of Development
P.O. Box 2038
New Haven, CT 06521-2038
Attn: The Asakawa Garden Project/Geri Turecek**

Gifts can be made online at <http://www.yale.edu/give>

**For questions regarding contributions, please contact
Ms. Geri Turecek at (203) 432-5457 or e-mail: geri.turecek@yale.edu**

**For all other questions regarding the Asakawa Garden Project, please contact
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ASAKAWA KAN'ICHI*

A native of the town of Nihonmatsu in Fukushima prefecture, Kan'ichi Asakawa matriculated at Dartmouth College in 1896 following graduation as valedictorian from the Tokyo Senmon Gakkō. In 1899, he entered Yale Graduate School to study history and was awarded the Ph.D degree in 1902 for a thesis that examined reforms during the Taika era. In the course of the Russo-Japan War during 1904 and 1905, Asakawa pleaded Japan's case in speeches and writings published in the United States and in Europe. In June 1904, Asakawa attended the Russo-Japan peace conference held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as an observer with the Japanese delegation. At the request of Yale University and the Library of Congress, Asakawa returned to Japan in 1906 and 1907 to collect systematically Japanese publications and materials.

On his return to New Haven in fall 1907, Asakawa was appointed as Instructor in the History of Japanese Civilization and Curator of the Chinese and Japanese Collections of the Yale Library. Asakawa's teaching career would span thirty-six years until his retirement in 1942 as Professor of History. He would retire as Curator of Yale's East Asian Library in 1948 following a forty-two year tenure during which he oversaw the acquisition of Chinese, Japanese, and Western language materials in support of teaching and scholarship on East Asian Studies at Yale. During his career, he published seminal works on Japanese history and U.S.-Japan relations, including non-scholarly writings that showed his commitment to international peace. In his promotion to full Professor of History at Yale in 1937, Asakawa became the first Japanese professor at an American college or university.

福島県二本松に生まれた朝河貫一氏は、東京専門学校を総代として卒業した後、渡米し、1896年にダートマス大学を卒業しました。1899年に、歴史を学ぶためエール大学大学院に入り、1902年に大化の改新についての博士論文を提出し、博士号を取得しました。日露戦争時には、朝河氏は日本の立場を養護する発言や執筆活動を行い、それらは欧米諸国で発表されました。1904年には、ニューハンプシャー州ポーツマスで行われた日露講話会議に、日本代表団のオブザーバーとして参加しています。その後氏は、エール大学と会議図書館の要請を受け、1906年と1907年に日本の刊行物や資料の収集のため、日本に帰国しています。

1907年秋にニューヘイブンに戻った朝河氏は、エール大学で日本文明史の講師、そして大学図書館の中国・日本コレクションの館長（キュレーター）となりました。彼は教授として1942年に引退するまで、36年間教壇に立ち、館長としてはさらに6年間、1948年までつとめ、中国語や日本語の資料、そして西欧諸語で書かれた東アジア研究の図書の収集の監修にあたりました。生涯を通じ、日本の歴史や日米関係に関する数々の独創的な研究をおこなったほか、学術論文以外にも国際平和への強い意志を訴えた著作を発表しています。1937年に正教授に昇格した彼は、アメリカの大学におけるはじめての日本人教授となりました。

(*from "Yale-Japan, November 2005," Office of International Affairs, Yale University)