

# 風の館 塩屋



#### The History of Ogawa-machi and Features of Shioya

The Ogawa-machi shopping district is located at the intersection point of the Suna River, which flows into the Shiranui Sea, and the Satsuma Kaidō, which connects the old Higo and Satsuma Domains. Initially the coastline was closer, meaning historically there has been a great deal of trade between coastal cities like Amakusa and Nagasaki, and mountain villages like Kaitō and Gokanoshō. Ogawa-machi has long played a central role in the local economy as a distribution point for products, as a post town for travelers on the Satsuma Kaidō, and where wealthy merchants gathered in great numbers. As a result of that time, many valuable *machiya*\* houses were built during the end of the Edo period to the Meiji period, and several remain standing today.

It was during this time, a traditional *machiya* called Shioya (the former Iwasaki family residence) was built in 1906 (Meiji 39). The interior featured brilliant design and structural beauty, with elaborate *tatami* rooms embellishments and roof trusses carved from debarked pine.

\*A *machiya* is a traditional wooden townhouse typically occupied by merchants or artisans who conduct work and business in the front of the house (the *mise*).

#### The Transitions of Shioya

In the very beginning the owners of Shioya, the Iwasaki family, used the property to operate as kimono fabric merchants, even today old wooden business signage from that time remains. From the 1930s, it became a residential property, and in the 1960s, the front part of the lower house was renovated to accommodate road widening construction. The house became vacated in 1995, and after suffering damage caused by 1999’s Typhoon Bart, was considered for demolition by the Iwasaki Family. A local group of housewives known as Kaze no Kai, proposed to restore and utilize the property that was then virtually in ruins. Taking approximately one year, the construction was complete and Shioya was restored to its former beauty.

The roof tiles were coming off, the interior had deteriorated due to rain damage and dust—this was the unusable state of Shioya in 1999 when Kaze no Kai took in the property. The cost of restoration totaled 12 million yen. Without a public subsidy system to support the project, the nine members resolved to scrape together the funds by their own means. With the help of lumberers, tile makers, carpenters, and other craftsmen as well as local volunteers, construction was able to start from 2000.

However, halfway through the project they ran out of funds and had to make a last-ditch effort to raise donations. The members resorted to door-knocking and reaching out to Ogawa-machi expatriates, and miraculously managed to raise an additional five million yen to resume the work. By these means, in April 2001 the property reopened to the public as Kaze no Yakata Shioya.

With Kaze no Yakata Shioya, the property saw a new start. Reborn as a cultural hub in Ogawa-machi, they put on concerts, exhibitions and even served meals made with local ingredients. While everyone expected only growth, the Kumamoto Earthquakes of April 2016 struck. The ceiling and walls crumbled, and the property was severely damaged. Shioya was struck by yet another disaster, but with the help of donations and local residents Shioya was once again restored to its former state.

#### 小川町商店街の歴史と塩屋の建築的特徴

不知火海に注ぐ砂川と、薩摩と肥後を結ぶ薩摩街道が交わる場所にある小川町商店街。かつては海岸線が近く港が設けられ、天草や長崎などの海側と、海東かいとうや五家荘ごかのしょうなどの山側を結ぶ交易が盛んに行われていた。小川町は古くから産物の集散地として、また薩摩街道しゅくぼの宿場まぢ町として、地域経済の中心的な役割を担い、多くの豪商を輩出したことから、江戸時代末期から明治時代に建てられた貴重な町家が今でも数軒残っている。

そのなかの一つである塩屋（旧岩崎家住宅）は、明治39年（1906）創建とぞうしらかべつくの土蔵白壁造りの町家で、内部の座敷飾りや松の丸太材を用いた小屋組こやくみなど、華やかな意匠いしやうと構造的な美しさを併せ持つ。また外壁には水切瓦みずきりがわらや玄関の格子戸こうしどが残り、歴史的な景観に寄与する上質な町家建築として、2020年に国登録有形文化財に登録された。

#### 塩屋の変遷

所有者である岩崎家は、塩屋に現存する商標看板によると、創建当時呉服店を営んでいた。その後1930年代に住まいとなり、1960年代に行われた道路拡幅による軒切りのきぎで、1階道路側げやの下屋部分を改修。1995年に空き家になったあと、台風18号による被害を受け、岩崎家は取り壊しを検討する。すでに廃墟のような塩屋であったが、小川町の主婦グループ「風の会」が修復と活用を提案。約1年にわたる工事を経て、創建時の美しい姿に蘇る。

1999年当時の塩屋は、屋根瓦が飛び、内部は雨漏りと埃で汚れがひどく、とても使用できる状態ではなかった。修復にかかる費用は1,200万円。公的な補助制度がないなか、風の会のメンバー9人は自己資金による捻出を決める。製材業や製瓦業、大工などの職人や地域のボランティアの協力のもと、2000年に工事開始。

しかし途中で資金が底をつき、苦肉の策で寄付を募ることに。周辺住民を一軒ずつ回り、県外の小川町出身者には趣意書しゅいじょを送付。なんとか追加の500万円を集め、工事が再開される。こうして塩屋は、2001年4月に「風の館 塩屋」として開館した。

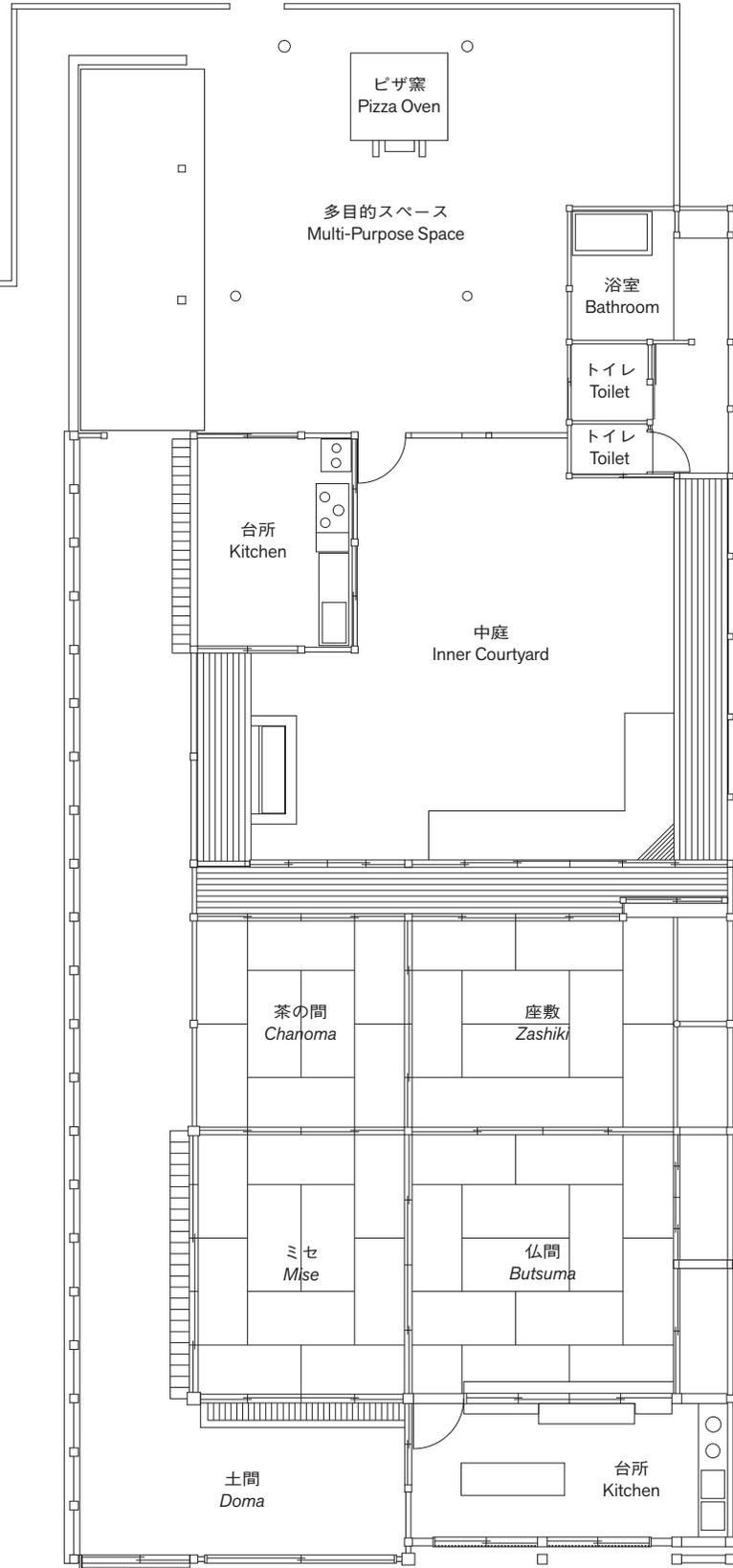
開館後の塩屋では、地元食材を使用した食事の提供や、コンサートや展示会、自然学校などが行われた。小川町に新しい文化の風が吹く拠点となり、誰もが塩屋のさらなる発展を期待したが、2016年4月に熊本地震が発生。天井や壁が崩れ落ちるなど、大きな被害を受けた。再び苦難が塩屋を襲ったが、補助金や周辺住民の協力により、見事よみがえ以前の姿せいに蘇った。

<sup>[1]</sup> 参考文献 鳴川 伸広、磯田 節子、原田 聡明、塩屋の保存再生活動と建築的特徴について：熊本県宇城市小川町商店街の近代化遺産に関する研究（その4）、日本建築学会九州支部研究報告、2015年3月

<sup>[2]</sup> Bibliography: Narukawa, N., Isoda, S., & Harada T. "The Architectural Characteristics and the Renovation of Shioya by Local Residents' Kaze no Kai, A Study on the Modernization Heritage at Ogawa-Machi, Uki City, Japan (No. 4)." AUJ Kyushu Chapter Architectural Research Meeting, March 2015

Registered Tangible Cultural Property

# Kaze no Yakata Shioya



**1. 畳の間の特徴**

入ってすぐのミセに比べ、奥の3部屋の天井が高い。この構造により、2階床下には収納空間が生まれ、ゆとりを感じる座敷の空間を作り出している。



**2. 天井廻縁の装飾**

黒塗りの廻縁には、西洋の意匠である複雑なくり型が施されている。

**3. 襖の引手飾り**

各部屋の襖の引手には、七宝や桜の花びらなど、華やかで細やかな装飾が施されている。全部で4種類。



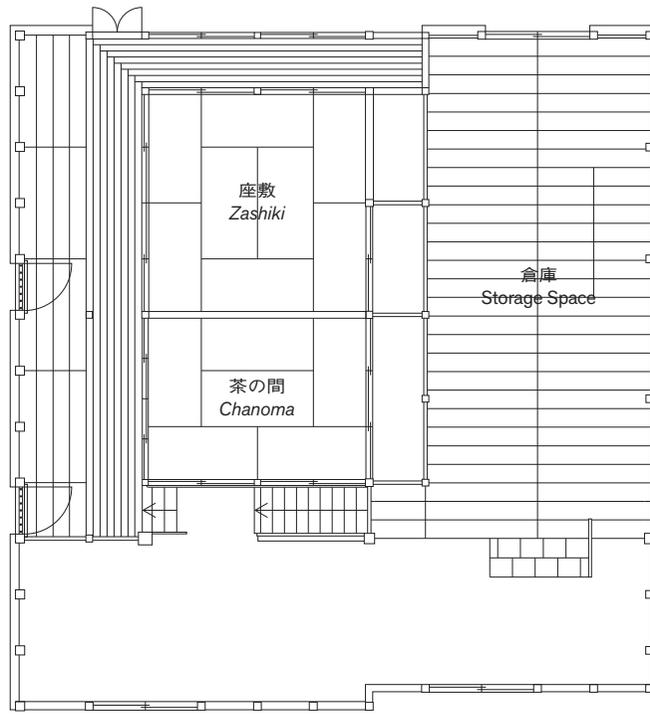
**4. 縁側の矢羽根天井**

矢羽根文様の天井は、目の錯覚によって立体的に見える。弓矢には古くから魔除けの意味があり、矢は真っ直ぐ突き進むことから、縁起の良い文様とされている。



**5. 棟札と小槌**

2階の小屋組みに取り付けられた棟札には、塩屋創建に携わった棟梁として蔵原氏の名前が記されている。蔵原姓の大工は、通り沿いのほかの町家の棟札にも確認されている。また棟札の横に見える小槌は、棟木を叩き納める際に使用されたものだと考えられる。



**6. 床柱とおじいさんの思い出**

オープン後のある日、塩屋を訪れたご年配の男性。その方は小さい頃に一度、大工の父親と塩屋を訪れたことを明かし、五家荘にあったとても大きな桑の木から節が一つもない床柱が取れたこと、ここまで運ぶのが大変だったことを聞いたという。この話は当時その場に居合わせた風の会メンバーから、大切に語り継がれている。



**7. 「塩屋」の由来**

1300年代頃、山奥に平家の落人が住み着いたとされるクマヤマという秘境があった(現在の五家荘一帯)。この村に辿り着く術を知っていた小川商人の勤兵衛は、村人が欲しがらる塩を運び、山の幸と物々交換。それを小川に持ち帰り、高値で販売することで大儲けをしたという昔話が残る。この「塩売り勤兵衛」の話が、塩屋の屋号の由来と伝えられている。

**1. Characteristics of the Tataminoma**  
The four *tatami* rooms on the first floor may appear identical, but in actuality the nature of the rooms in the front and back differ. In comparison to the front space (the *mise*), the ceilings of the three back rooms are higher. With this structure, a storage space was accommodated for under the second floor, allowing a more spacious seating area in the *tatami* rooms.

**2. Ceiling Cornice Decoration**  
The black-painted cornices are decorated with an intricate Western-style moulding.

**3. Fusuma Door Pull Handle Decorations**  
The pull handles in each room are adorned with a total of four different designs, including cloisonné and cherry blossom petal motifs.

**4. The Yabane Ceiling of the Engawa Porch**  
The arrow fletching (feather) motifs on the ceiling create an optical illusion; while the ceiling is flat, these patterns appear three-dimensional. Bows and arrows have long been a symbol that ward off evil; arrows are said to be one of the most auspicious patterns because they shoot straight ahead.

**5. Munafuda Plaque and Kodzuchi Hammer**  
On the second floor of the house, there is a *munafuda* (a traditional wooden construction plaque) on which the master carpenter named Kurahara has his name inscribed. This carpenter's name can also be found on the *munafuda* plaques of several other *machiya* houses along the street. Displayed alongside the *munafuda* is a *kodzuchi* (a traditional wooden hammer), which is thought to have been used to secure the *munagi* (ridge pole on the roof) during construction.

**6. An Old Man's Memories of the Tokobashira Pillar**  
One day, after Kaze no Yakata Shioya had opened to the public, an elderly man came to visit. He spoke of when he was a little boy, and his father, who was a carpenter, had brought him to visit Shioya. His father told him a story of a huge mulberry tree that had stood in Gokanoshō, it was so smooth it had no nodes. His father made a *tokobashira* pillar from this tree and laboriously lugged it back to the property. Moved by this, the members of Kaze no Kai cherish and continue to pass down the story.

**7. The Origins of Shioya**  
In the 1330s, it is said that the Heike warriors settled in an unexplored region called Kumayama (now known as Gokanoshō). An Ogawa merchant named Kanbē knew of the route to the village, where he transported salt to its villagers and bartered for rare goods from the mountains. Returning to Ogawa he would sell them at a high price, eventually leading to an uproar that went down in history. This is also said to be the origin behind the Shioya business name.