

Origin of the Story House

The "Zongping Rd Story House" was built in 1930 and is a well-preserved Japanese double house. During the Japanese occupation, it served as housing for Japanese residents in Taiwan. After the war, the government assigned this Japanese-style building to civil servants as dormitories, with Mr. Wang Guo-zhi, who worked in the Mountain Affairs Department, and Mr. Liao Yun-quan from the Education Bureau, along with their families, taking up residence.

Both the Wang and Liao family are Hakka from Taoyuan. During their time living here, they integrated Hakka life experiences with the Japanese setting, gradually developing a unique lifestyle that reflects the coexistence of diverse cultures. The two families spent nearly six decades in this house, allowing it to carry rich family emotions and historical memories. In this 30-plus ping space (around 1067.52 sq ft), not only is the Japanese architectural style and functionality preserved, but it also embodies the daily lives of ordinary citizens, witnessing the historical trajectory of Zhongli.

After the original residents moved out in 2007, the house was designated as a historical building in 2010. To revitalize and repurpose the old house, the Taoyuan City Government's Cultural Bureau began renovations in 2013, which took nearly two years. The "Zongping Rd Story House" officially opened to the public in May 2015 and received certification as an environmental education facility for cultural assets in 2021, showcasing the diverse aspects of the house's character.

Space Activation

Zongping Rd Story House features an exhibition area primarily showcasing the traces of activities and historical memories. The exhibition themes are regularly updated to present a more diverse and innovative narrative of everyday life in Zhongli.

Serving as an environmental education facility, Zongping Rd Story House connects with Li Jing Ding (Zhongli Story House) and the Zhongli Forest Story House, allowing the Zhongli Urban Story House Cluster to continually promote the concept of sustainable development.

Occasional hands-on experience courses are held alongside various cultural activities, interpreting the context of diverse cultures from the perspective of younger generations.



中平路故事館
Zhongping Rd Story House

Opening Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed on Mondays; open on national holidays.

By Train: Get off at Zhongli Train Station and walk about 5 minutes.

By Bus: Take the Taoyuan / Zhongli / Hsinchu / Kuo-Kuang Bus to Zhongli Terminal, then walk about 5 minutes.

By High Speed Rail: Get off at Taoyuan High Speed Rail Station and take the 170 shuttle bus to Zhongli Terminal, then walk about 5 minutes.

By Car / Nearby Parking Locations:

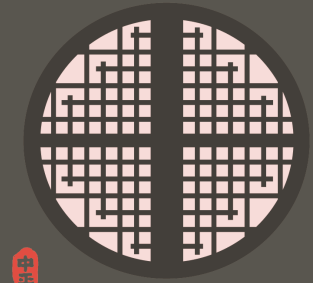
P1 Yanping Road Multi-Story Parking (No. 535, Yanping Road, Zhongli District)

P2 Central Underground Parking (No. 83, Central East Road, Zhongli District)



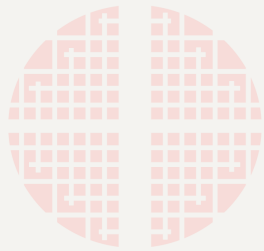
指導單位/ 桃園市政府、桃園市議會 主辦單位/ 桃園市文化局

Since 1930



中平路故事館
Zhongping Rd Story House

English version



Introduction to Japanese Architectural Style

Japanese travelers in Taiwan often feel a strong interest upon encountering numerous Japanese-style buildings. This fascination arises not only from a sense of nostalgia but also from the familiarity of the architecture, which combines with Taiwan's unique environment to create a distinctive appearance.

The Zhongli Urban Story House Cluster (Zongping Rd Story House, Zhongli Forest Story House, and Li Jing Ding) features the characteristics of Japanese dormitories, including basic spaces such as tatami rooms, living areas, and kitchens, as well as adaptations in the building design to suit the Taiwanese environment.

Characteristics of Japanese Architecture in Taiwan

"Western-Style Round Windows"

Traditionally, the windows of Japanese residential facades, exemplified by the "Kyomachiya" (Kyoto-style townhouses), are most famously represented by square lattice windows. In contrast, the Zongping Rd Story House incorporates a western style with round windows adorned with decorative wooden lattice work.



"Rain Shield Wall"

The rain shield wall is considered a standard exterior feature of Japanese houses in Taiwan. In the rainy climate of Taiwan, the overlapping horizontal wooden boards allow rainwater to flow quickly down, preventing it from accumulating in the gaps between the wooden boards of the house.



"Base"

The elevated building base is an important characteristic of Japanese architecture in Taiwan. Typically, wooden Japanese houses have a floor height of about 45 cm from the ground. In Taiwan, this height is often increased to adapt to the hot and humid climate. The base of the Zongping Rd Story House is approximately 50 cm high and includes ventilation openings.

"Genkan" and "Tachikomi"

These refer to the entrance space. The "genkan" serves as a transitional space connecting the interior and exterior, broadly encompassing the "tachikomi"; the "tachikomi" is the designated area for removing shoes before entering the elevated interior space. In the past, the Wang and Liao family would take annual family photos in front of the genkan.

a

"Tatami Room"

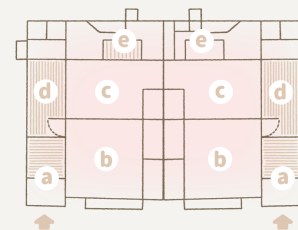
The tatami room is the best-ventilated and well-lit room in a Japanese house, often used as a living room for receiving guests. It is typically furnished with tatami mats and includes a "tokonoma" alcove for displaying books, paintings, and artworks, showcasing the owner's taste. From the tatami room in the Zongping Rd Story House, one could once enjoy a distant view of trains entering and leaving Zhongli Station.

b

"Ima - living room"

The living room is a space where family members can gather comfortably, located farther from the genkan so that guests do not disturb family activities. In the limited space of a Japanese dormitory, the living room serves as a family area, contrasting with the tatami room, which is more for entertaining guests.

c



"Engawa"

The engawa is a unique structure in Japanese houses situated between the tatami room and the courtyard, providing a place to sit and enjoy the garden view. It is an ideal spot for the Wang and Liao family to cool off during the summer.

d

"Kitchen"

The kitchen, or "suishitsu," is usually adjacent to the bathroom. It features a small door known as "katte-guchi," which serves as another entrance for family members to avoid disturbing guests, also referred to as the "inner genkan." Additionally, there is storage space beneath the floor, which both families used as a cellar to store pickled vegetables.

e