

# “朝雲庵” 千利休 御成の茶室

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Sakai grew to be one of the richest cities in Japan through its lucrative trade with Europe. During this time the wealthy citizens of the city developed “The Way of Tea”, or “Chanoyu”.

Chanoyu became a symbol of wealth and high culture for the wealthy of the city. One of the citizens of Sakai, a man by the name of Sen no Rikyu (1522~1591, also known as Sen Rikyu), created a very simple and rustic style of tea, which came to be known as “Wabicha” or “Wabi-style tea”.

Later, he became the Head Tea Master for Oda Nobunaga (1534-1582) and Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-1598), two of the most powerful rulers in Japanese history.

Throughout his life, Sen no Rikyu pursued the ultimate spirit of hospitality. This spirit has been handed down as a Japanese ideal throughout the ages and remains a core element of Japanese culture.

One of the great symbols of Sen no Rikyu’s spirit of hospitality was the teahouse at his Osaka residence near Osaka Castle. This teahouse was considered to be the embodiment of his spirit and ideals and the symbol for the culture of tea. Tragically, the teahouse was demolished upon his death in 1598.

In 2006 we endeavored to bring this most significant symbol of Japanese culture back to life. Here in Sakai where the tea master himself was born we have rebuilt his teahouse, which had not stood for 420 years.

The structure was designed and constructed based on detailed historical drawings made by Yamanoue Soji (1544-1590), a wealthy merchant and student of Rikyu’s, and the diary of Kamiya Sotan (1551-1635), a wealthy merchant from Hakata, who wrote in detail about the tea ceremony Rikyu hosted.

Great care was made to assure the authenticity of design and that the teahouse was constructed using only the traditional materials and methods that would have been used on the original structure.

Please contact us at 072-225-1111, from 9:00 am to 18:00 pm for further information.