

National Historic Site of Japan

# TEKIGAIISO

The former residence of KONOE Fumimaro

Tekigaiso, originally known as “Futekiso,” was built in 1927 as a villa for IRISAWA Tatsukichi, who was the chief physician to Emperor Taisho. It was designed by ITO Chuta, the renowned architect, who designed Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple and other notable buildings.

KONOE Fumimaro had been seeking a residence in the area not so far from the heart of Tokyo, since becoming prime minister in June 1937. He purchased “Futekiso” from Irisawa in November of the same year, and it was given the name “Tekigaiso” by an elder statesman SAIONJI Kinmochi. Tekigaiso was not only KONOE Fumimaro’s living place, but also the place of his political activities. So much so, many governmental meetings took place there, including the “Ogikubo Conference” on July 19, 1940 and the “Tekigaiso Conference” on October 12, 1941.

After the war, Konoe received a summons from GHQ on suspicion of war crimes, which made him decide to end his life in his study of Tekigaiso on December 16, 1945, the day of the deadline for the appearance.

After Konoe’s death, Tekigaiso continued to serve as the Konoe family’s residence. In 1960, about half of the building, including the reception room and drawing room, was moved to somewhere in Toshima Ward.

Since it was the place where politically important gatherings were held, Tekigaiso was designated as a National Historic Site of Japan in 2016, and in 2022, the construction began, which was to restore the property to its appearance during Konoe’s residence, specifically 1940-1941 (completed in 2024). The survey of the existing structural members determined the basic principle of the restoration, that is, to maximize the use of the original members. Furnishings and fixtures were restored using the surviving old drawings and photographs as references.