



Le Corbusier and an early model of the overall plan

Le Corbusier (1887~1965)

- Real name: Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris
- Born in Switzerland and later became a French citizen
- Master of 20th century modern architecture
- Le Corbusier was a pen name used in the magazine *Esprit Nouveau*.
- He proposed new ideas, such as the “Domino” system of construction and the Five Points of a New Architecture (①Pilotis ②Roof Garden ③Free Plan ④Horizontal Long Windows (Horizontal Continuous Windows) ⑤Free Facade), as well as the Modulor scale of proportions. He was an enormous influence on architecture and design in the 20th century and since.
- Representative works: the Villa Savoye, Unité d'Habitation in Marseilles, and the Chapel at Ronchamp
- Besides the architectural field, Le Corbusier worked on the production of artworks, such as paintings, prints, and sculpture; as well as interior design and writing.

The National Museum of Western Art Information

Hours: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
 (9:30 am - 5:00 pm during winter months)
 * Fridays: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm
 * Admission ends 30 mins. before closing time

Closed: Mondays and Dec. 28th - Jan. 1st

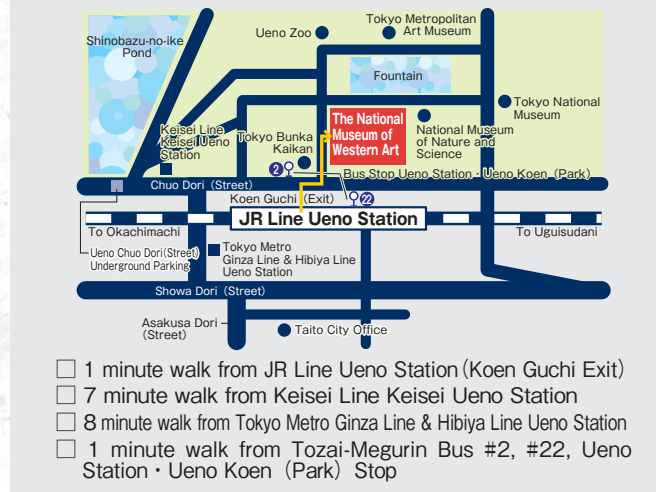
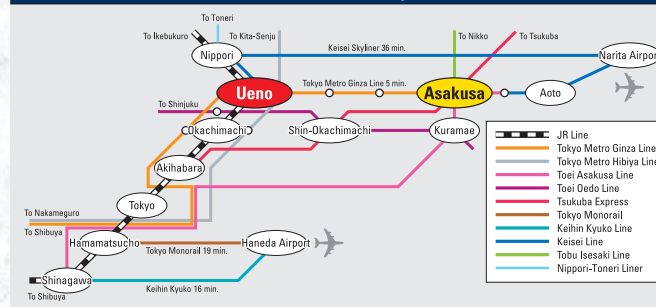
Permanent Collection Admission: General ¥420, Students ¥130

* Free Admission for high school students or younger, under the age of 18, over the age of 65, physical or mental disabilities and their attendants

Free Admission for the permanent collection the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, and Nov. 3rd

Telephone: 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)

Access Map



Taito City is proceeding with the promotion of World Heritage registration in cooperation with the public and private sectors in association with local residents.

Edited and issued by Taito City World Heritage Registration Promotion Division in Feb. 2012
 4-5-6 Higashi Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo, Japan 110-8615
 TEL:03-5246-1111 FAX:03-5246-1339
<http://www.city.taito.lg.jp/sekaiisan/>

Editorial assistance and photographs are provided by The National Museum of Western Art

Aspiring to be registered as a World Heritage Site

The One and Only Work of Le Corbusier in Japan

国立西洋美術館

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART



 TAITO CITY, TOKYO METROPOLIS

Have The National Museum of Western Art registered as a World Heritage Site !

The National Museum of Western Art in Ueno's Art Forest enables you to appreciate not only the Matsukata Collection, which belongs to the museum, but also other superior Western artwork from artists such as Renoir, Monet, Picasso, and Rodin. Now, for the National Museum of Western Art, designed by the architect Le Corbusier, inherited by the next generation as a valuable cultural asset, the French government is taking the lead to register the museum as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Aspiring to Register as a World Heritage Site (Topics)

2007:	September	- Request from the French government to the Japanese government regarding a serial nomination - The Japanese government decides to be listed the National Museum of Western Art on the tentative list of World Heritage Sites
	December	- Main building of the National Museum of Western Art designated as an important cultural property (architecture) of Japan
2008:	January	- The Japanese government recommends "Architectural and urban work of Le Corbusier" as a World Heritage Site
	February	- The French government, representing the states parties, submits letter of nomination for "Architectural and urban work of Le Corbusier" to the World Heritage Center of UNESCO
	October	- Technical Evaluation by ICOMOS (*1)
2009:	May	- ICOMOS to recommend "Deferral"
	June	- The 33 rd World Heritage Committee in Spain examines and makes "Referral" decision (*2)
2011:	February	- The French government, representing the associate countries, submits additional information "The architectural works of Le Corbusier : an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement" to the World Heritage Center of UNESCO. (Altered the letter of nomination title and revised constituted asset.)
	May	- ICOMOS to recommend "Not to Inscribe"
	June	- The 35 th World Heritage Committee in France examines and makes "Deferral" decision (*3)

*1 = ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites, provides evaluations on cultural properties nominated for inscription in the World Heritage List.

*2 = "Referral" decision: To request additional information and to reconsider it after the next committee meeting.

*3 = "Deferral" decision: To request more detailed research and essential revision of the letter of nomination, and necessary to be reconsidered by the consultative organization again in about 18 months after reintroduction of the letter of nomination.

(*1 to 3: based on the press release of the Agency for Cultural Affairs)



The National Museum of Western Art designed by Le Corbusier

— Value as Building —

◎This historic building was the beginning of French-Japanese cultural exchange:

This historic building represents the resumption of diplomatic relations and the recovery of the relationship between France and Japan through the donation and return of the Matsukata Collection.

◎One and only work of Le Corbusier in Japan:

This work expresses well the architectural features of Le Corbusier, which are pilotis (piers), ramps, and a lighting plan using natural light.

◎The museum uses the unlimited museum growth concept:

This is the museum that realized the idea; the exhibition corridor expands into the unlimited outside, while forming a spiral "whirlpool" from the 19th century hall.



The 19th Century Hall



Exhibition hall of the main building

<Beginning of The National Museum of Western Art>

In the 1910s and 1920s, Kohjiro Matsukata, the president of Kawasaki Dockyard Company, Ltd., collected paintings and other artwork in Europe (called the Matsukata Collection) with the objective of introducing Western art to Japan. After the World War II, the Matsukata Collection, which had been stored in Paris and was once under the control of French government as enemy wealth, was in 1953 donated and returned to the Japanese people. The National Museum of Western Art in Ueno's Art Forest was built to exhibit the Matsukata Collection.

The world famous architect Le Corbusier was appointed to design this new museum. Le Corbusier visited Japan in November 1955 to see the land where The National Museum of Western Art was to be built. Based on the architectural drawings submitted by Le Corbusier, three of his pupils, Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura, and Takamasa Yoshizaka, completed the detailed design from the drawings.

Construction of The National Museum of Western Art began in 1958, and was completed and inaugurated in the following year, 1959.



Full view of the building after completion (around 1960)