

SHISHI-IWA — HOUSE

Shishi-Iwa House Unveils a Pipeline of Idyllic Architectural Retreat Houses Across Japan

Redefining Luxury Restorative Experiences Beyond Karuizawa with Visionary Design



Renderings of Shishi-Iwa House, Hakone: Exterior and Interior (Photo credit: Kazuyo Sejima and Associates)

Karuizawa, Japan, 21 January 2026 — Shishi-Iwa House, the acclaimed collection of architectural retreat houses, announces its strategic expansion across Japan's most iconic landscapes. Building on its legacy in Karuizawa, the brand is redefining restorative luxury hospitality with a pipeline of new sanctuaries in Hakone, Yamanashi and Hakodate.

Tracing Japan's volcanic veins—from the mist-shrouded slopes of Mount Fuji to the rugged shores of Hokkaido—Shishi-Iwa House caters to a growing global demand for deep, personalized wellness and immersive nature escapes. Each upcoming retreat house continues the brand's philosophy: a curated blend of visionary design, culinary excellence and bespoke restorative experiences that foster deeper harmony with the land and one another.

Crafted by architectural luminaries as sanctuaries for reflection and rejuvenation, these new properties mark a bold new chapter for Shishi-Iwa House:

- **Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.05 (Opening in 2027):** Designed by award-winning architect Junya Ishigami, renowned for his profound emphasis on landscape design, Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.05 serves as a sanctuary for 21st-century travelers, seamlessly integrating wellness amenities with multifunctional event spaces. From state-of-the-art conference facilities to serene yoga and meditation rooms, the property caters to every aspect of a modern active lifestyle.
- **Shishi-Iwa House, Hakodate (Opening in 2027):** Nestled along Hokkaido's dramatic volcanic coastlines, this meticulously renovated 95-year-old heritage villa overlooks the Tsugaru Strait – Japan's premier source of bluefin tuna and exquisite seafood – while backing on majestic mountains, creating a picturesque haven for nature lovers seeking invigorating outdoor pursuits. This northern property celebrates the region's storied fishing culture, profound history, and unparalleled culinary delights, promising a rejuvenating escape like no other. More details to be announced later.
- **Shishi-Iwa House, Hakone (Opening in 2028):** Designed by Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate Kazuyo Sejima of Kazuyo Sejima and Associates and founding partner of the internationally acclaimed architectural studio SANAA, this linear-structured retreat hovers gently above the forested slopes of Hakone National Park, famed for its hot springs, lakes, and panoramic views of Mount Fuji. Featuring only 18 guest rooms, a natural onsen and a dedicated wellness space, this retreat offers a quiet presence where the architecture serves as a backdrop for human connection and personal reflection.
- **Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.06 (To be completed by 2028):** A bespoke residential getaway villa “Into the Wild” designed by the renowned Indian architect Bijoy Jain of Studio

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Mumbai. Located within walking distance of the Shishi-Iwa House campus, the villa boasts breathtaking views of Hakushu Park and Mount Asama. It offers a secluded alternative for elevated privacy while maintaining easy access to the hotel's first-class facilities.

- **Shishi-Iwa House, Yamanashi (To be completed by 2028):** Located in Hokuto, Yamanashi's hidden gem for art, food and nature escapes, the property offers a new perspective for guests to soak in one of Japan's biggest winemaking communities while venturing through the fruit-laden valleys near Mount Fuji. More details to be announced later.

"These retreats aren't just new destinations; they're threads in a larger tapestry, inviting guests to journey through Japan's volcanic heart and rediscover the quiet power of place," said Huy Hoang, founder of Shishi-Iwa House. "By following these natural veins, we're creating spaces that nurture the soul, spark connections and creativity, and honor the timeless beauty of our landscapes in ways that feel both intimate and expansive."

Stay tuned for more details as these projects unfold, each one a testament to Shishi-Iwa House's commitment to connecting active, sophisticated, creative individuals with beauty in its purest forms.

High-resolution press images are available [here](#).

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ABOUT SHISHI-IWA HOUSE

Shishi-Iwa House is an international hospitality brand deeply rooted in Japan. It is a collection of intimately crafted retreats, fusing a mastery of contemporary architecture, design, and art with culinary tastemaking and a deep connection with nature. With a monthly schedule of SSH Program, Shishi-Iwa House carefully curates bespoke events, tours and activities from art and architecture tours, organic farm visits, bespoke trail experiences, to insider introductions and fireside talks. A sponsor of sustainable architecture and its positive impacts on human emotions and the environment, Shishi-Iwa House's inaugural retreats are nestled in the national parks of Karuizawa, featuring three architectural masterpieces: Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.01 and Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.02 by Shigeru Ban; and Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.03 by Ryue Nishizawa. These properties have garnered prestigious recognitions for excellence in design, hospitality, and innovation, including:

- One Michelin Key Award – Michelin Guide 2024 and 2025
- Tatler Best 100 Hotels in Asia-Pacific 2024 and 2025
- Robb Report Hong Kong Best of the Best 2025 – Travel, Experiences & Hospitality Edition
- Design Anthology Award – Winner 2023
- Travel & Leisure's "The It List" 2020
- Dezeen's Architectural Award Long List 2020

Building on this acclaimed foundation, the brand is pursuing strategic expansion. This begins with the debut of Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.05—a wellness and event center by Junya Ishigami—in 2027. Opening the same year, Shishi-Iwa House, Hakodate promises a fresh northern retreat in Hokkaido. The pipeline continues with Shishi-Iwa House, Hakone, designed by Kazuyo Sejima, Shishi-Iwa House, Karuizawa No.06, a villa residence by Bijoy Jain; and Shishi-Iwa House, Yamanashi—all slated for 2028.

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For more information about Shishi-Iwa House, please visit:

<https://www.instagram.com/shishiiwahouse/>

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For media enquiries or interview opportunities, please contact **FINN Partners Greater China**.

Florence Leung (852) 2807 0222 florence.leung@finnpartners.com

Jade Sin (852) 2285 4407 jade.sin@finnpartners.com