Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Cyprus
5, Esperidon Street
Strovolos 2001
Nicosia, Cyprus

A Photo Exhibition: Wood and the History of Japanese Architecture
- From Environment to Sustainability -

20 November 2026

The Embassy of Japan in Cyprus, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, present the photography exhibition "**Wood and the History of Japanese Architecture – From Environment to Sustainability**," curated by Japanese architect Kohei Hayashi-Allemann.

The exhibition will take place **from Saturday, 5 December, to Tuesday, 8 December** at the **Architecture Research Centre of the University of Nicosia**.

Wood is one of the oldest materials used by humankind in architecture. In Japan, a country blessed with abundant forest resources and a rich natural environment, wood has played a central role in its architectural culture throughout its long history.

Japanese architecture has evolved through encounters with different cultures, drawing on Buddhist thought and architectural techniques from the Asian continent, as well as influences from Western architecture from the late nineteenth century onwards.
By embracing and reinterpreting these influences, Japanese architecture has developed along its own distinctive path. This experience of cultural exchange is shared by Cyprus, where diverse influences have shaped the island's distinctive cultural landscape over the centuries.

"Wood and the History of Japanese Architecture – From Environment to Sustainability" traces the history of wood and Japanese architecture through fifteen timber architecture projects, spanning from prehistoric times to the present day. From early settlements and traditional temples to tea rooms and contemporary timber architecture, the exhibition explores how Japanese architecture has evolved over the centuries, adapting to its natural environment, the changing needs of each era, and influences from different cultures.

Beyond its historical perspective, the exhibition draws attention to the value of traditional woodworking craftsmanship and the knowledge passed down from generation to generation.
Through practices of maintenance, repair, and rebuilding, it explores how preserving architectural heritage and using wood can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Kohei Hayashi-Allemann is a Swiss-based architect working across architecture, heritage conservation, and Japanese spatial culture. His professional journey began in Kyoto as a traditional Japanese architect.
He has designed numerous tea rooms in Japan and internationally, including projects in Singapore, Ukraine, and Russia. He explores how Japanese architectural principles can engage with and enrich local architectural cultures beyond the notion of "Japanese style" and actively contributes to architectural exchange through the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Japan Institute of Architects (JIA).

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Exhibition Details :

Date: December 5 – 8, 2026

Time: December 5 – 6, 10:00 - 18:00 | Dec 7, 15:00 - 18:00 | Dec 8, 13:00 - 18:00

Guided Tours: December 5-7, 15:00-16:00

Venue: Architectural Research Centre of the University of Nicosia [Michail Georgalla, Engomi, Lefkosia 2409]

Admission: Free | Reservations not required

Organisers: Embassy of Japan in Cyprus and University of Nicosia

Curator: Kohei Hayashi-Allemann, HAYASHI ALLEMANN KENCHIKU ATELIER,
Frauenfelderstrasse 82, 8252 Schlatt, Thurgau, Switzerland

Sponsors: FURUNO (CYPRUS) LTD
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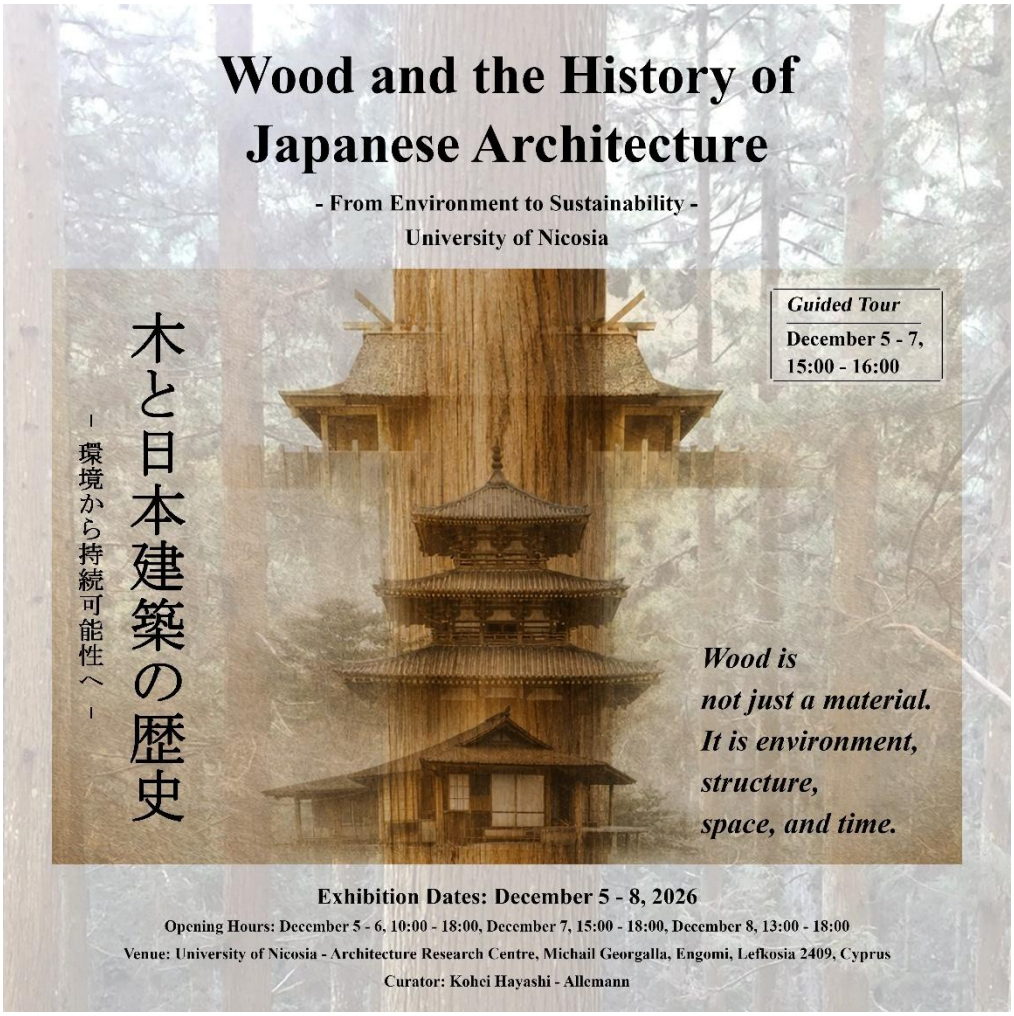
Supporter: Japan Institute of Architects (JIA)



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Established in 2018, the Embassy of Japan in Cyprus is committed to its ongoing mission of introducing Japanese culture in Cyprus through events, educational activities, and grant programs.

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