

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KYOTO

An area along the Kamo River, the place where Heian nobles formerly had a villa in order to admire the moon rising over Higashiyama, the place where the Suminokura clan of the Momoyama Period was based, and the place where the mansion of Baron Denzaburo Fujita came to be located in the Meiji Period.

The fact that there is a place as charming as this in Japan, and that the essence of such beauty is in Kyoto. That is what we want guests to feel when they visit. We elaborated a design that slips into the environment as if it had stood there since long ago. The seasonal landscapes of Higashiyama represent Kyoto itself, and the 130-meter-long building facing the river was designed with the above-ground floors being entirely guest rooms equipped with windows having single panes that are as large as possible so that guests can fully enjoy the scenery. Since all facilities such as banquet halls, restaurants, pool, etc. are all located on below-ground floors in order to make the building fit the strict height regulations. The building with its entire height kept low maintains a human scale suitable to the cityscape of Kyoto. Inside, we created a spatial expression with Kyoto, using latticework and sashes, woodblocks, cloisonné patterns, etc. as design elements.