

Times Capsule

Vol. 3: Frank Lloyd Wright

1967: Wife of Wright seeks to save the Imperial

On Oct. 22, 1967, when Frank Lloyd Wright's last wife, Oldivanna, came to Japan to appeal for the preservation of the Imperial Hotel, a Japan Times reporter asked why she was so interested in saving the hotel. She answered, "Because my husband put many years of work in it, and the best of him in it."

She added that it was great engineering work and her husband was very proud that it had saved many Japanese lives at the time of the 1923 earthquake by giving them shelter.

"It is a historic building. It is part of history. It shouldn't be destroyed," she said.

Two and a half years later, a ceremony was held at the Museum Meiji-mura in Aichi Prefecture to signal the start of the reconstruction of part of the Imperial Hotel.



The Times Capsule series will post topics related to sustainability that we have covered during the 125 years of The Japan Times.

Brand history & Archives

<https://sustainable.japantimes.com/brandhistory>

The main entrance of the Imperial Hotel designed by Wright, Apr. 19, 1960



The Japan Times

& Mail
AFTERNOON EDITION
Typewritten bulletins at Imperial Hotel every morning.
Issued with co-operation of Kokusai Service

TOKYO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1923

TOKYO WILL LIVE!

BULLETIN

Receipts for the relief of the victims of the earthquake are being received from all quarters. The sum is expected to be large.

Tokyo is a city that will not die. There is proof for the doubter in every barefooted space today. Small shacks are springing up on all sides—shacks which are but the forerunners of permanent buildings. San Francisco's story is to be told again in Tokyo.

The Japan Times can authoritatively announce that rumors of a change in the capital are without foundation. Such a change was discussed, but this will remain the capital of Japan.

Thousands of aged and stately cryptomeria trees are to be cut down by Imperial Order in order to facilitate the rebuilding of the city. In this is a symbol.

Yokohama likewise will be rebuilt at least in part. As a port for Tokyo it has a function which must be performed if Tokyo endures. Practically all of Yokohama businesses are setting up temporary headquarters in Kobe.

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Tokyo, Friday, Sept. 7, 1923
The Japan Times



Mrs. Oldivanna Llyod Wright poses for camera Sunday in front of the old building of the Imperial Hotel designed by her famous architect husband.

Monday, Oct. 23, 1967 The Japan Times