

Applicant:

Kazumi Teune
Executive Director
JASGP
kteune@japanphilly.org



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JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY

OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

September 22, 2023

Project Address:

Lansdowne Dr &, Horticultural Dr, Philadelphia PA 19131

Submitted To:

Philadelphia Art Commission

Shofuso Japanese House & Garden, located in the Centennial Arboretum of West Fairmount Park, is an important historical and cultural asset of the City of Philadelphia - possessing a nature that often requires culturally-specific and specialized care. It has been continuously operated and maintained by our organization, the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, since 1982. During that tenure we have managed several successful large-scale restorations; including the complete replacement of the main *shoin* building's traditional hinoki bark roofing in 1999.

Japanese sites of this type are traditionally fully framed on their perimeters for various cultural, practical, and aesthetic reasons. When Shofuso was originally constructed and exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1954, it featured a full enclosure of plaster walls and bamboo fencing. When it was moved to its permanent home in Philadelphia in 1957, the budget only afforded to frame the property partially in traditional tile-topped plaster wall. Privet hedging was suggested to complete the enclosure as a lower budget option, though it, along with many other intended features, were ultimately never installed. Over the next several decades, the wide-open site was plagued by repeated vandalisms, including several arson attempts and near closures of the house. In 1993, a 5 ft. metal perimeter fence was installed. This fencing was helpful, but ultimately proved unsatisfactory for vandal deterrence due to its low height; while also detracting aesthetically from the otherwise traditional site. A classical Japanese-style fence was planned at the time, but the costs were prohibitive and specialized craftspeople were difficult to acquire.

This project intends to modify the existing 5 ft. metal perimeter fence by cladding it with native, weather-resistant Black Locust lumber and Madake bamboo, creating a traditional 7 ft. *kenninji-gaki* Japanese fence, using the existing fence as the structural core. Special exterior viewing windows will be incorporated into the design, to highlight the most picturesque vantages. Installation work will be completed under the direction of Shofuso's head gardener, Sandi Polyakov, who has specialized experience in Japanese fence building, including work at The Embassy of Japan, D.C.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazumi Teune
Executive Director, **JASGP**

Framing Shofuso - Project Budget

As we will be completing the construction of this project in-house, the primary associated costs of this project are the raw materials, which must adhere to highly specific traditional Japanese aesthetic principles.



On-Site Mock up

Supporting Funding:



- **The McLean Contributionship: \$40,000**
- **Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia:** remaining material costs, and specialist construction, in-house.

Project Costs:

- **Native Black Locust Lumber - Manayunk Timber Co. - Phila, PA / \$27,000**

[Approx. 700 linear ft.(350 ft. x Double-Sided) of fencing @ 7ft. Height / 4,900 sq. ft of material / \$5.50 per sq. ft]

This black locust lumber will form the bulk of the fencing material, namely the upright vertical portions. Using the decay-resistant wood of this native tree will allow the structural component of the fence to last upwards of 80 years, with surfaces aging gracefully. The Manayunk Timber company, Philadelphia's last remaining lumber mill, will be sourcing the logs locally, where it is readily available as a fast-spreading, non-threatened tree. We have worked with the company in previous black locust projects, and they have proven to be a dependable and like-minded partner of the garden.

- **Madake Bamboo - Brightside Bamboo - Chapel Hill, NC / \$14,000**

[650 three inch diameter poles / 10' lengths / \$21.50 per pole]

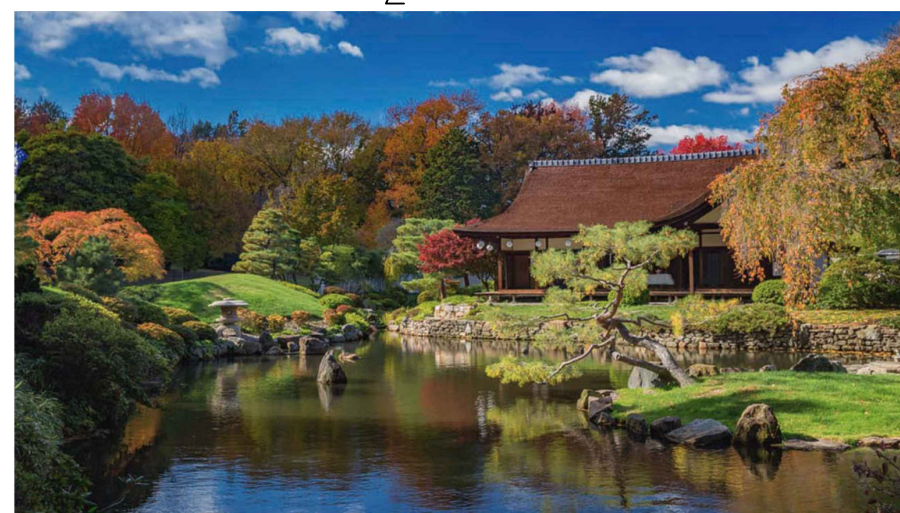
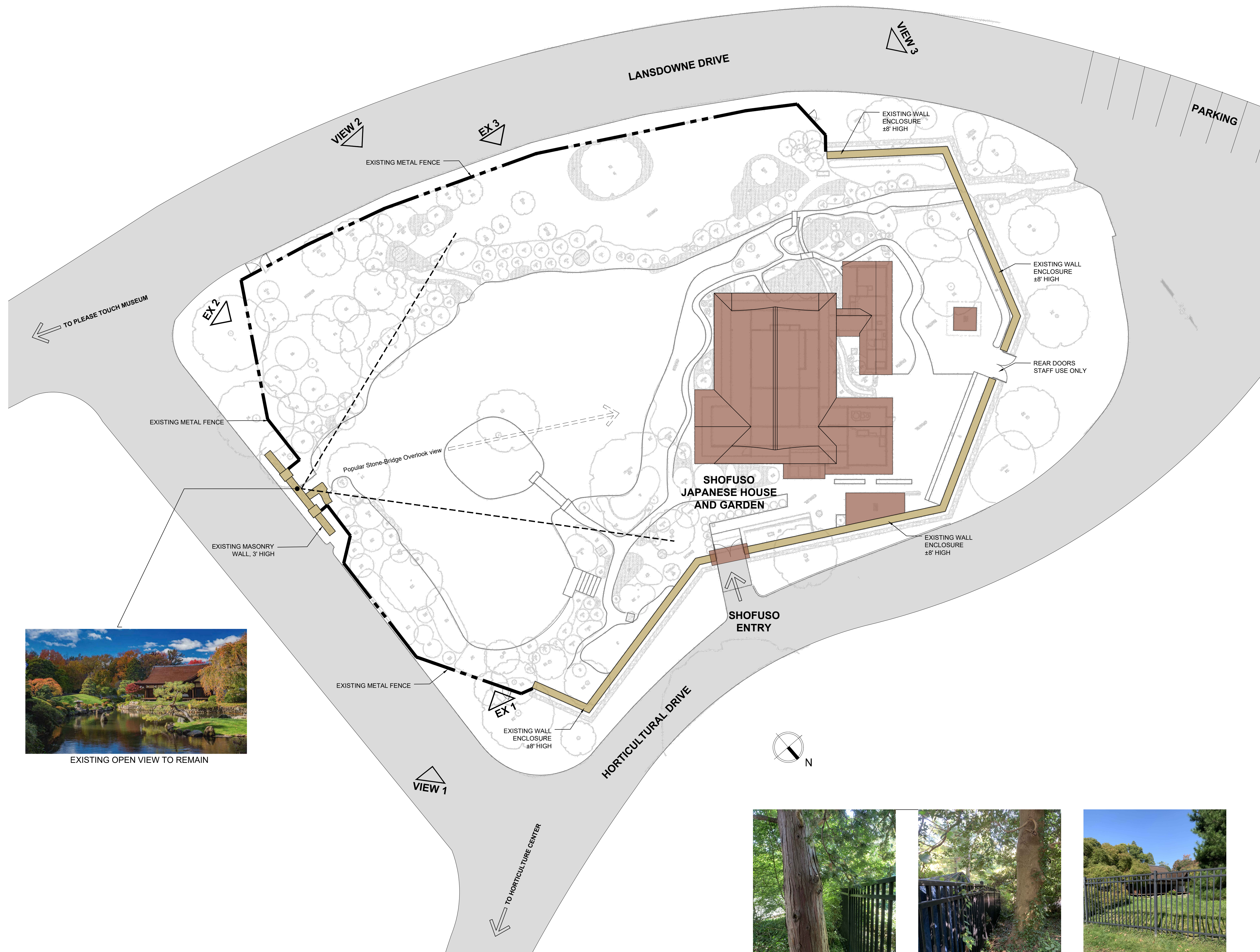
The traditional decorative component of the *Kenninji-gaki* fence, seen as the twine-tied horizontal lengths, is best made from madake bamboo. This species grows particularly straight, with dense structural walls and few defects. It is also the longest lasting species to use for fencing. Though difficult to source outside of Japan, Brightside Bamboo of North Carolina, grows premium poles of madake. They are considered the premier supplier of timber bamboo in the country, having most recently supplied the material for Longwood Gardens' bamboo sculptures exhibition. Poles naturally age from green to hay.

- **Shuronawa Palm Rope & Hardware / \$7,000**

Traditional Japanese palm-fiber rope, treated with soot from the candle-making industry, used for decorative *otoko-musubi* knots. Sourced from **Hida-Tool in Berkeley, CA**. Exterior wood fence hardware as needed.

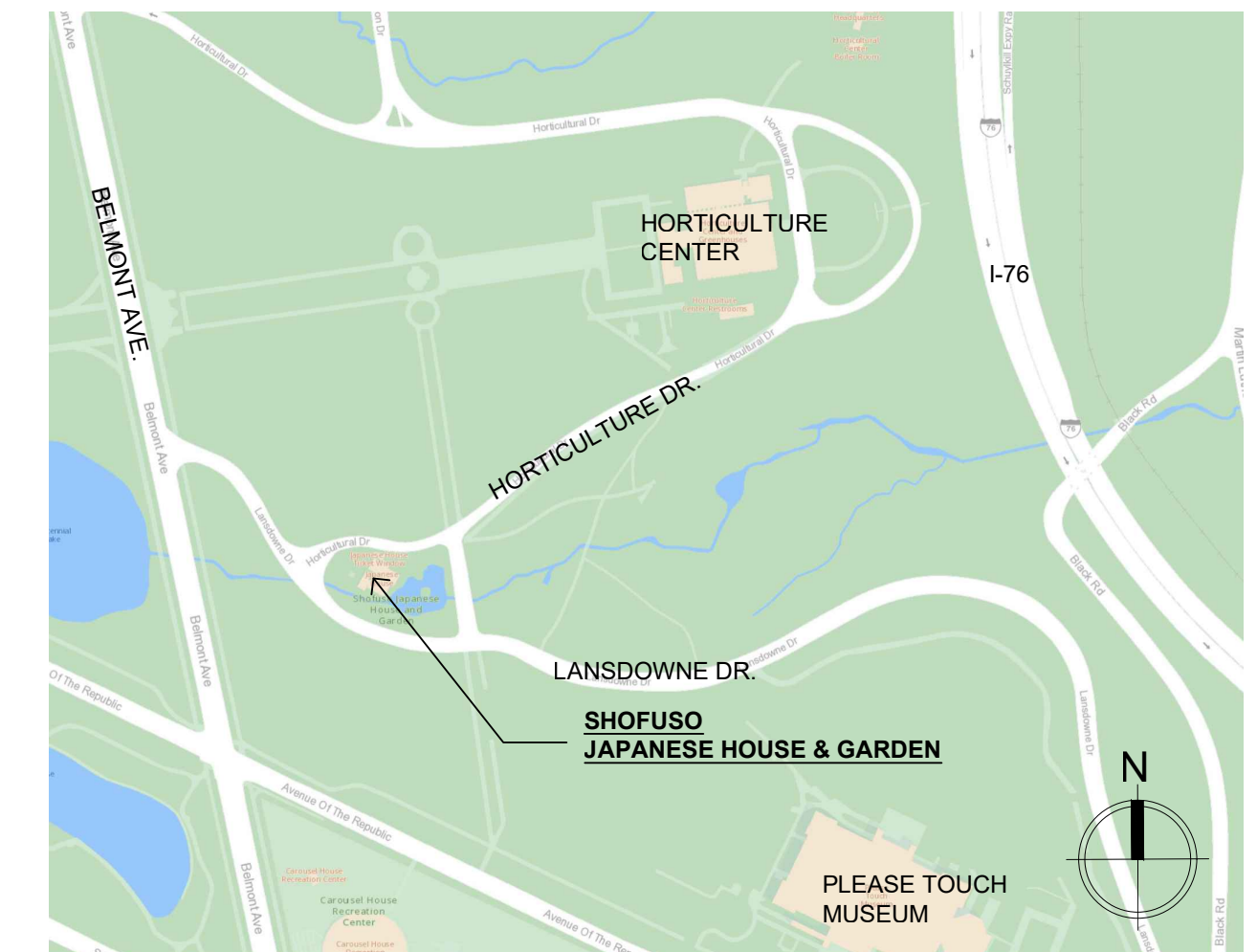
- **Shipping and Handling of Materials / \$2,000**

Total Project Cost : \$50,000



EXISTING OPEN VIEW TO REMAIN

BUILDING ADDRESS :	LANSDOWNE DR & HORTICULTURAL DR, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19131 (WEST FAIRMOUNT PARK)
ZONING DISTRICT	SP-PO-A (Active Parks and Open Space)
SCOPE OF WORK:	MODIFY EXISTING 5 FEET METAL PERIMETER FENCE BY CLADDING IT WITH WOOD AND BAMBOO, CREATING A TRADITIONAL 7 FEET JAPANESE FENCE, USING THE EXISTING FENCE AS THE STRUCTURAL CORE.
EXISTING FENCE PERIMETER LENGTH:	± 394'



PROJECT LOCATION : Shofuso, Japanese House and Garden
Lansdowne Dr & Horticultural Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19131



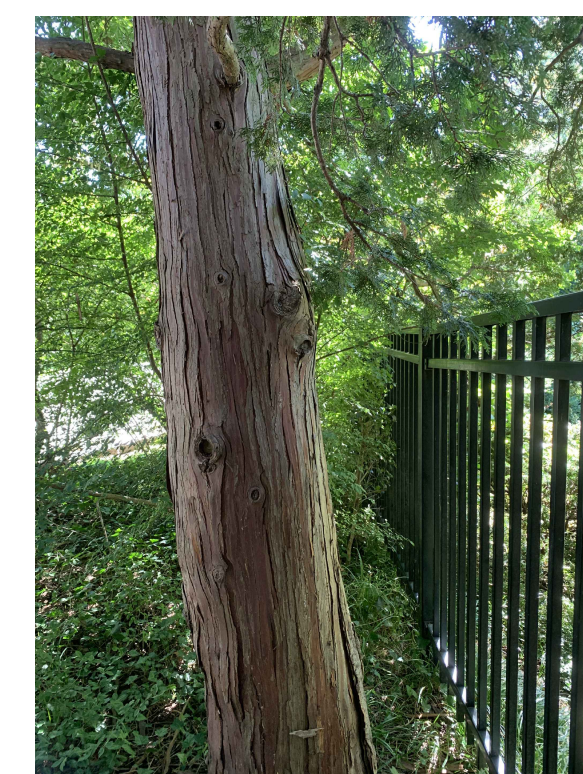
VIEW 1 (EXISTING)



VIEW 2 (EXISTING)



VIEW 3 (EXISTING)



EX 1



EX 2



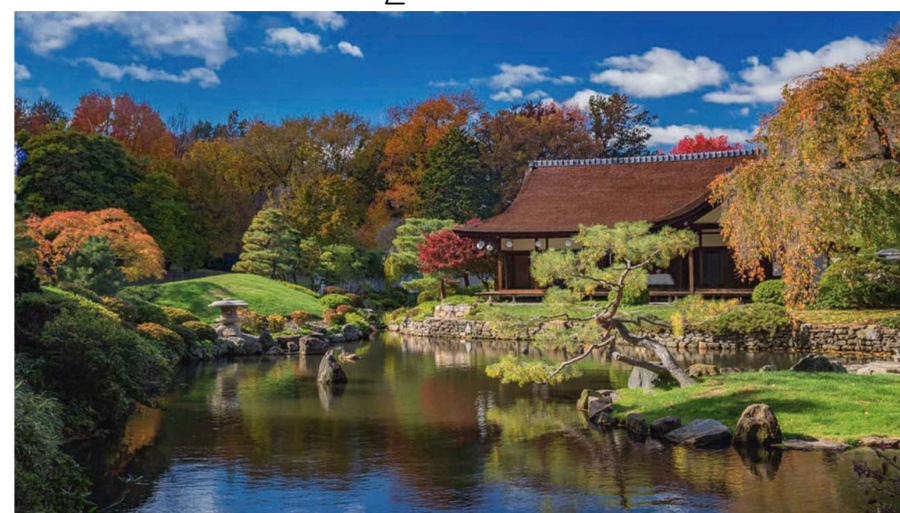
EX 3

EXISTING SITE PLAN

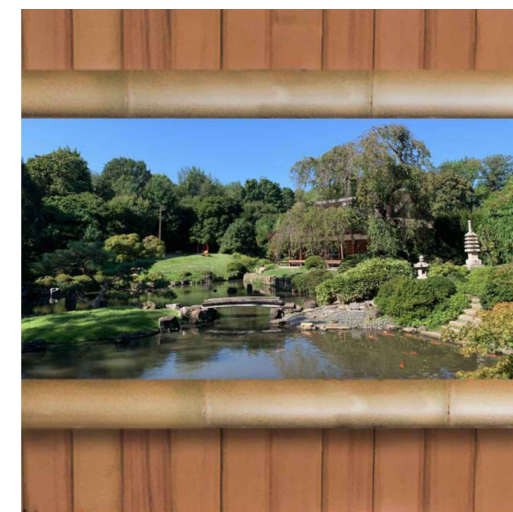
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



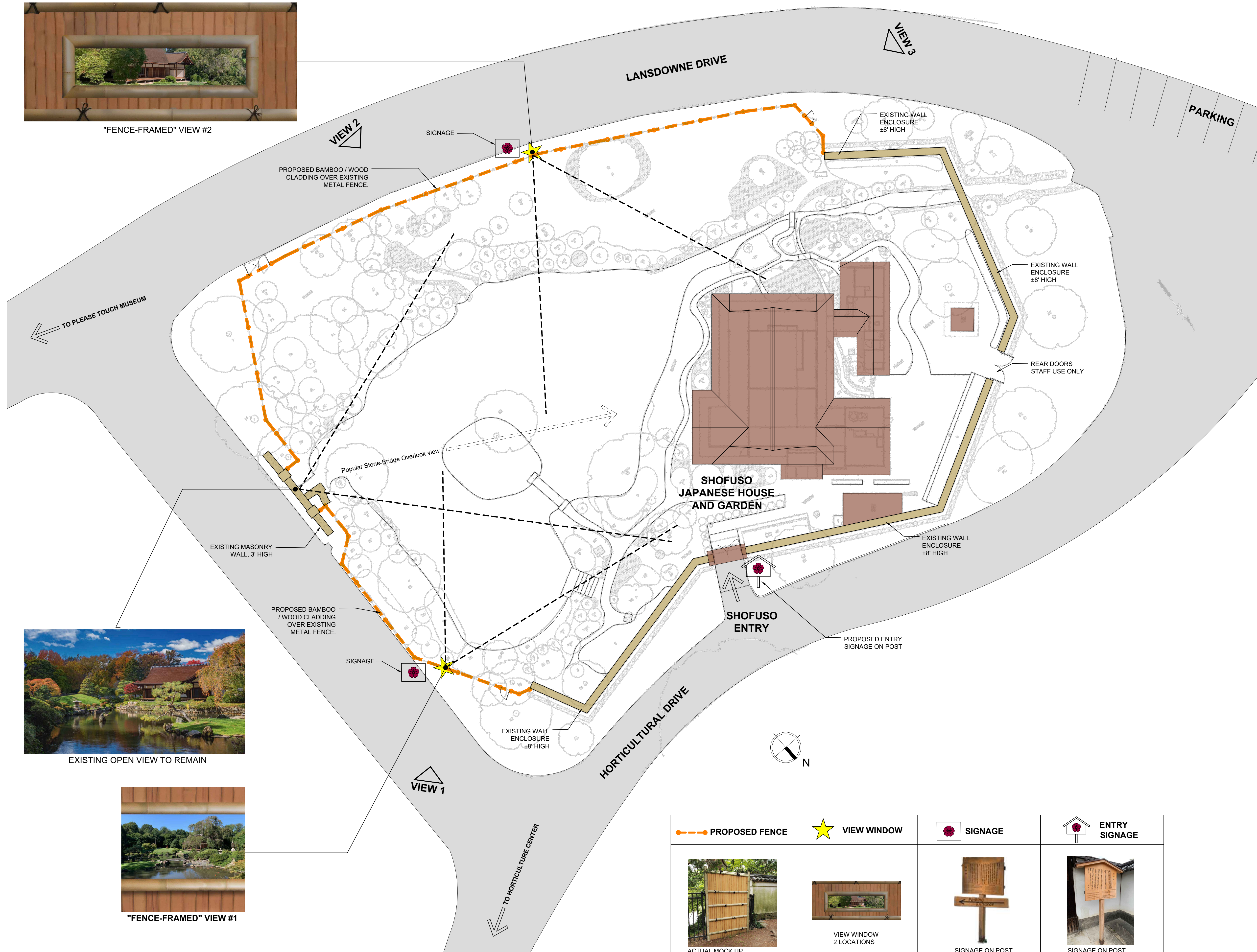
"FENCE-FRAMED" VIEW #2



EXISTING OPEN VIEW TO REMAIN

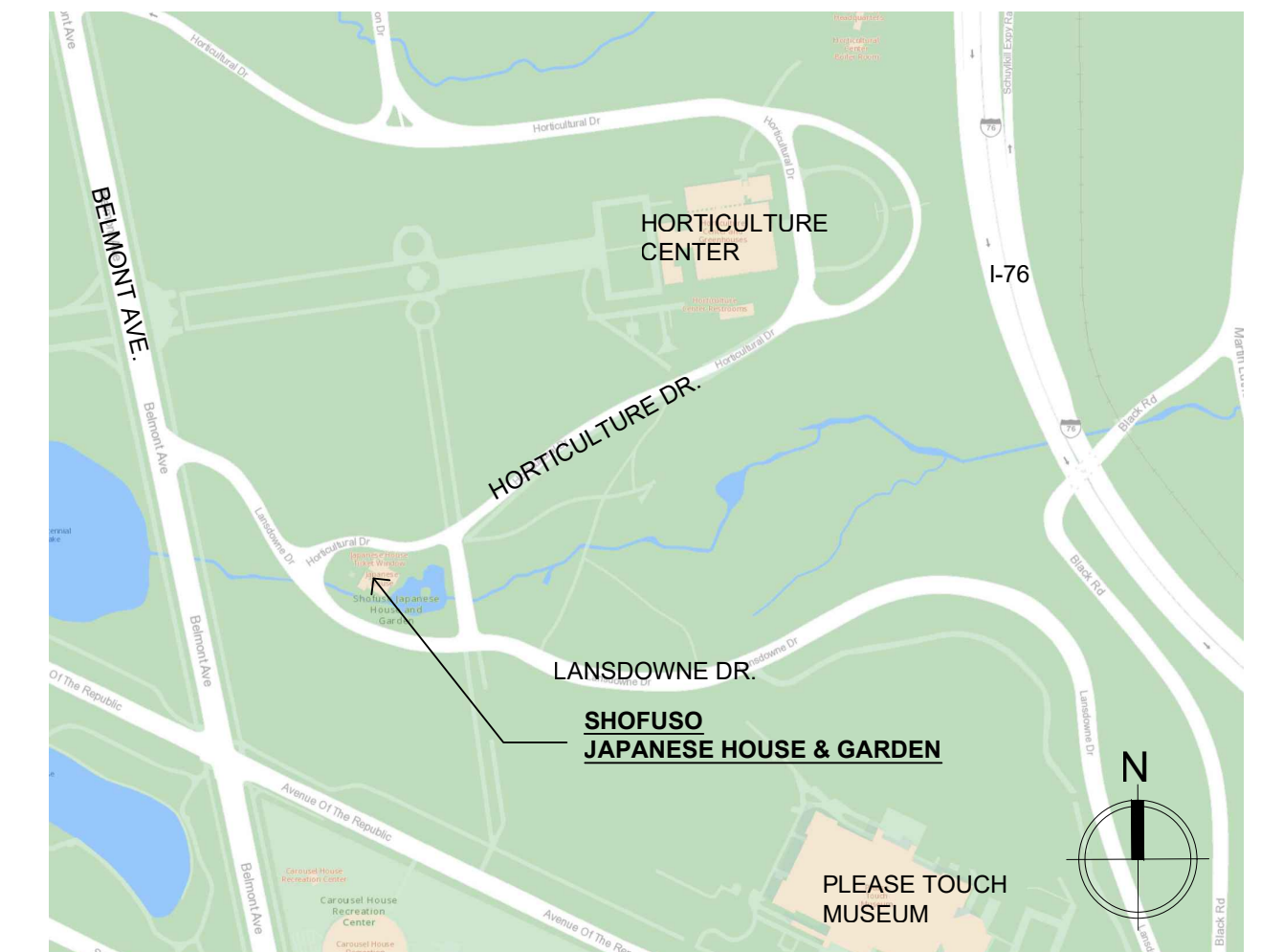


"FENCE-FRAMED" VIEW #1



PROPOSED FENCE	VIEW WINDOW	SIGNAGE	ENTRY SIGNAGE
ACTUAL MOCK UP	VIEW WINDOW 2 LOCATIONS	SIGNAGE ON POST	SIGNAGE ON POST

BUILDING ADDRESS : LANSDOWNE DR & HORTICULTURAL DR, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19131 (WEST FAIRMOUNT PARK)	
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VIEW 1



VIEW 2



VIEW 3



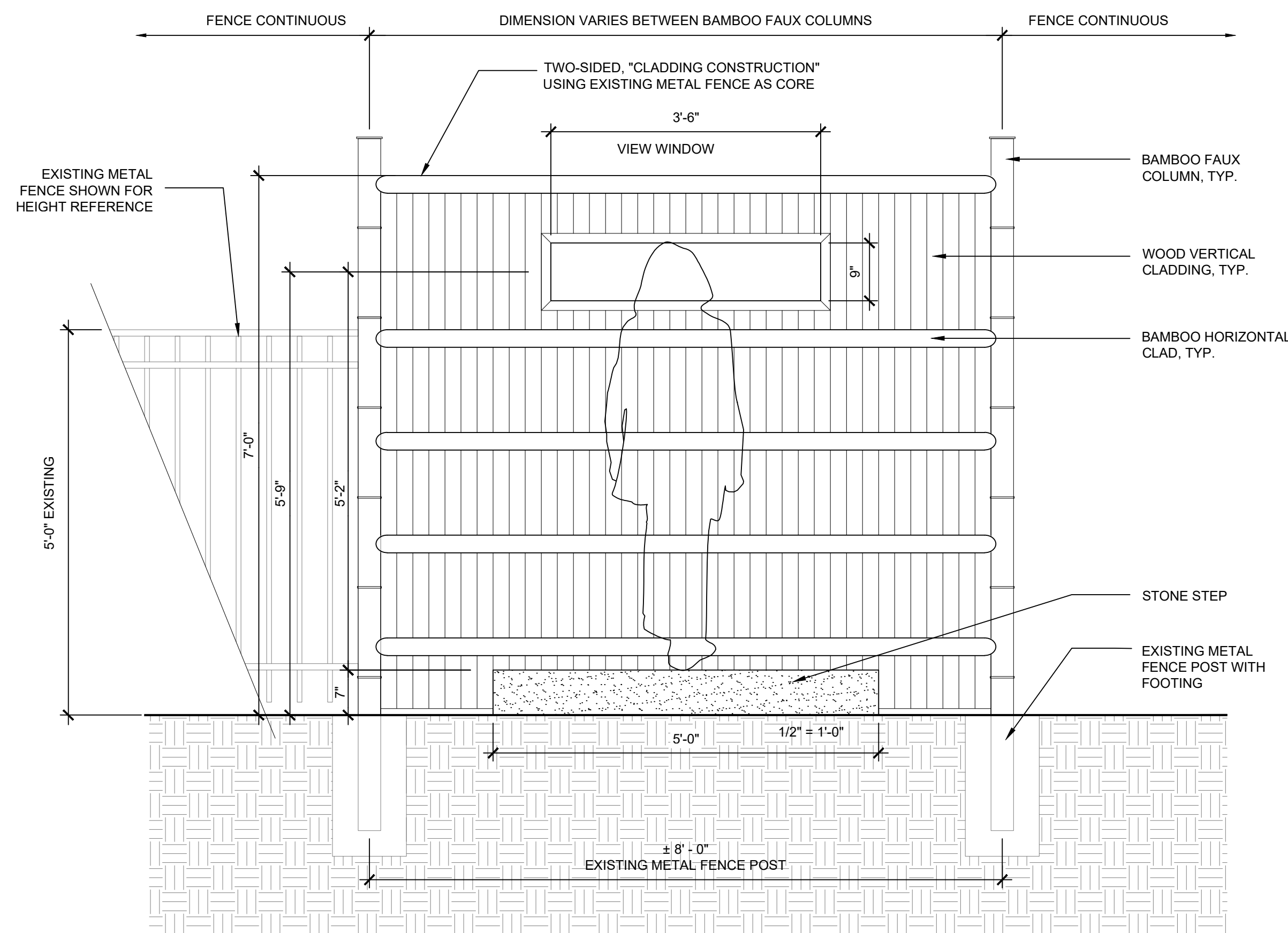
PROPOSED FENCE WITH A VIEW WINDOW & SIGNAGE ON POST



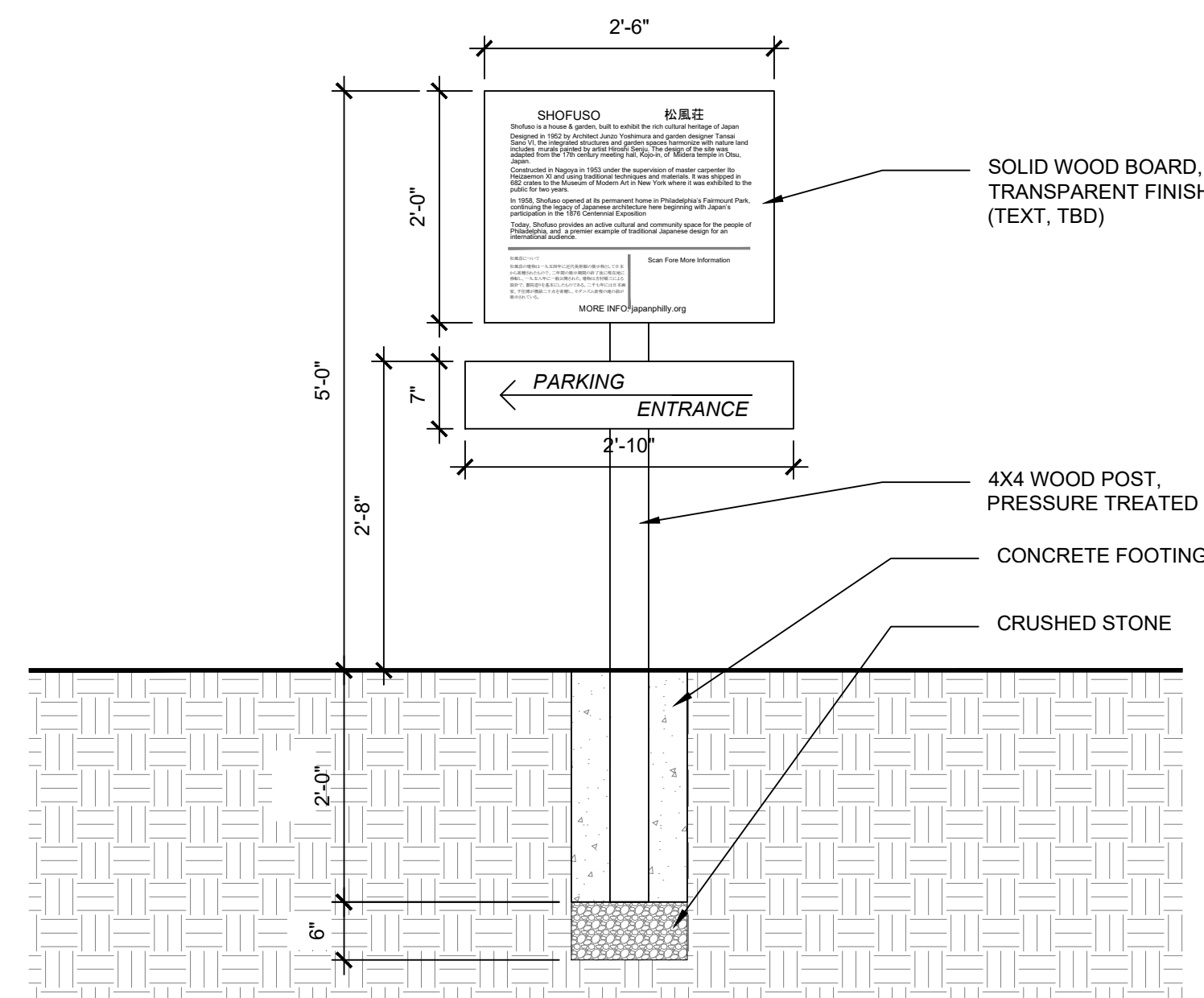
PROPOSED VIEW WINDOW DETAILS



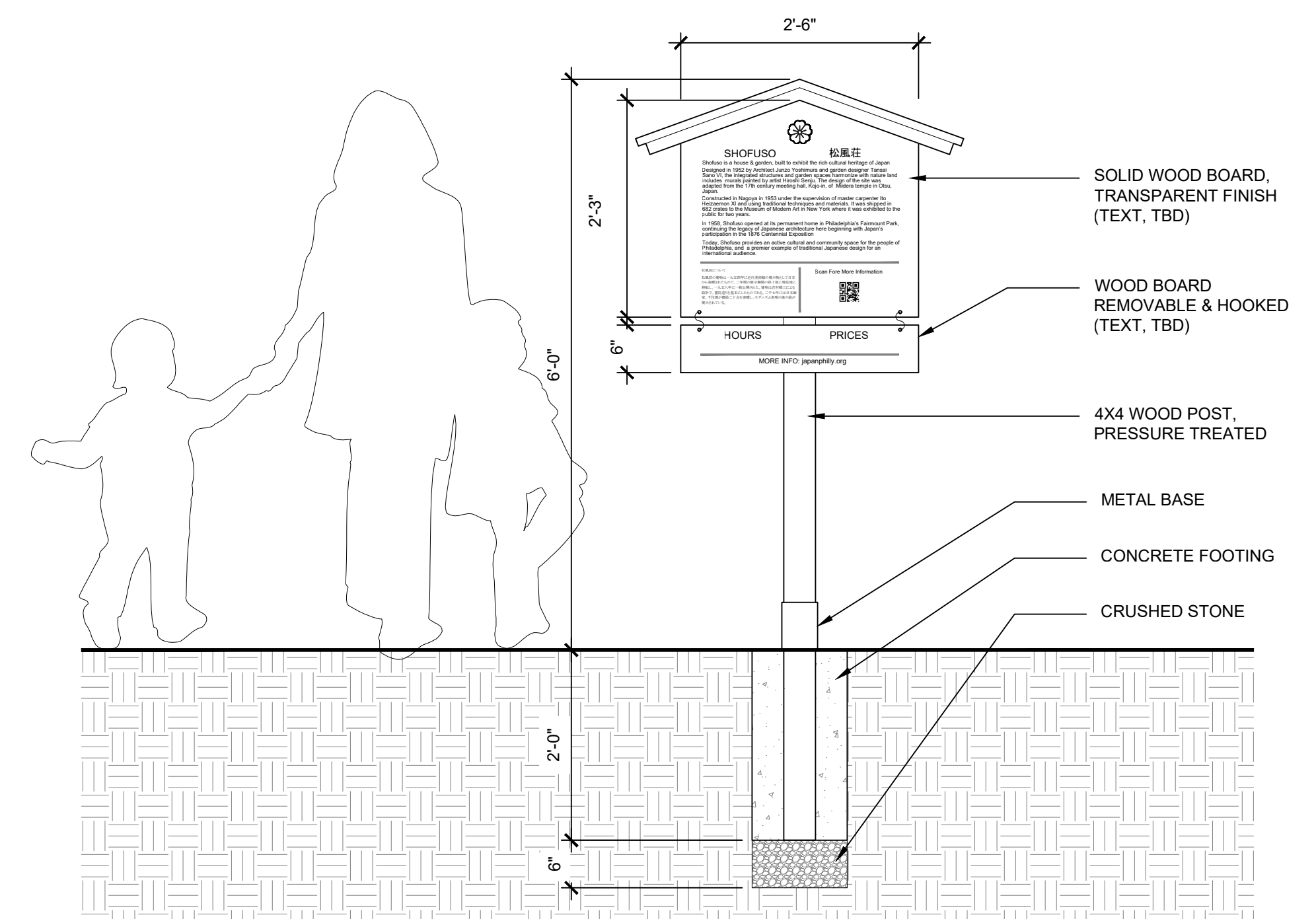
PROPOSED SIGNAGE @ FRONT GATE



PROPOSED FENCE WITH VIEW WINDOW
3/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED SIGNAGE @ FENCE
3/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED SIGNAGE @ ENTRY GATE
3/4" = 1'-0"



Framing Shofuso - Traditional Perimeter Fencing Project

● Supporting Information ●

Contextual Overview: *This project represents a culmination of long-standing, intersecting goals & its completion would address a multitude of needs: from historical preservation & authenticity concerns, to practical security implications. While the impetus for receiving funding and completing this project in the present tense was a result of the unfortunate vandalism we experienced in the summer of 2022, the intention and need for a garden perimeter at Shofuso has existed from its initial inception.*

Project Needs, Considerations, & Historical Precedent



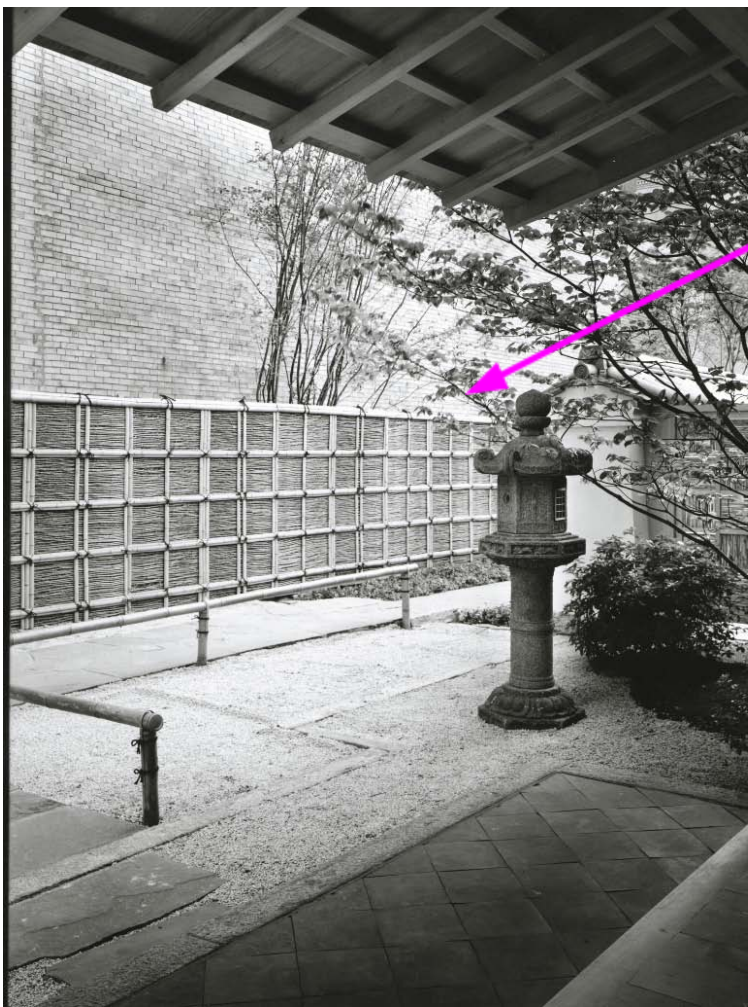
Shofuso / 1954 / Museum of Modern Art, New York

Historical Intention:	Cultural Authenticity:	Philosophical Underpinning:	Security Vulnerability:	Commitment to Accessibility:
Full perimeter walls and fencing included in the 1954 MoMA Garden & 1957 Original site plans by Junzo Yoshimura, Tansai Sano	Fencing of this exact type present in countless analogous shoin-zukuri & garden sites in Japan, including Kojo-in reception hall: the design basis of Shofuso	Demarcated Space and Boundaries important aspects of Shinto & Buddhist Tradition	Severe and Repeated History of vandalism & arson at the site dating back to early 20th century - project encouraged by insurance provider and security consultants	Entry free of charge to residents of surrounding zip codes. \$2 EBT/ACCESS, part of Philadelphia's Art Reach program. Cherry Blossom Festival is Free & Open to the Public. 80k+ visitors. Stone Overlook to Shofuso Remains Open; & designated viewing windows.

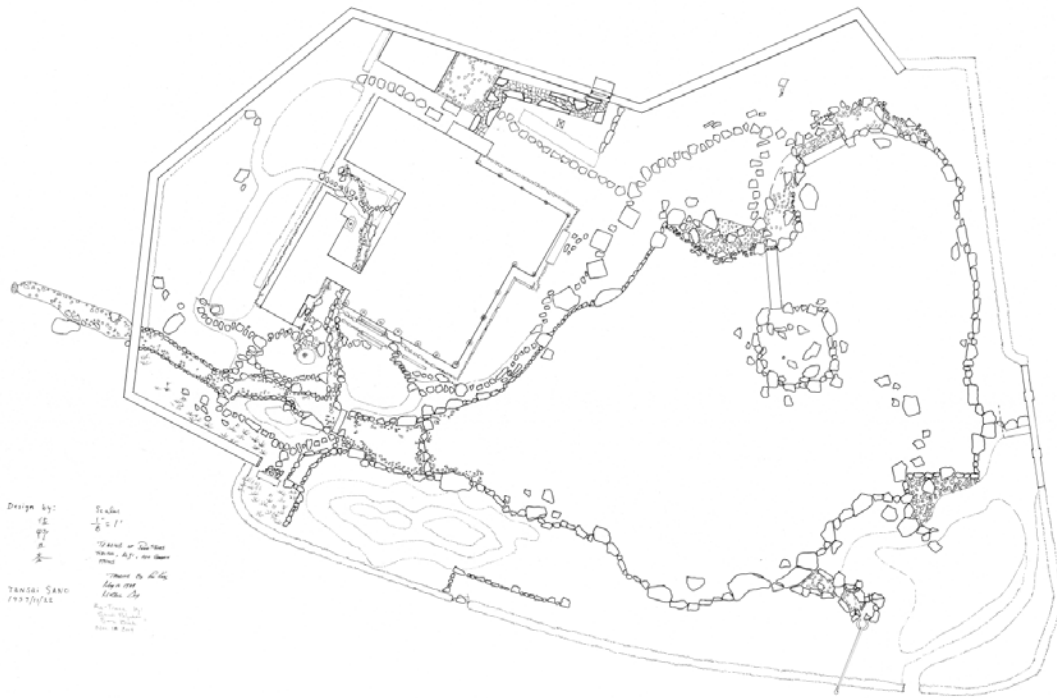
Shofuso at MoMA - 1954 / New York



Original Shofuso House Exhibit:
Fully Surrounded by Plaster
Walls and Bamboo Fencing



Original 1957 Site Plans - Philadelphia, PA



↑Note: Site Perimeter is fully enclosed ↑

(Proposed here as privet hedging, though non-viable in present day due to invasiveness, physical permeability, and maturation of existing tree roots in proposed planting zone. Japanese sites typically use Fencing, Hedging, and Plaster Walls interchangeably as site borders, depending on site requirements)

Analogous Historical Sites in Japan



↑Nijo-jo — Classic 1679 Japanese Residence in analogous style; Kenninji-gaki fence Perimeter ↑



⇨ Ginkakuji — Kyoto; Original Shogun Residence & Location of first Shoin-zukuri Building in Japan ⇨



⇨ Daitokuji — Kyoto; Fencing and Hedging as a Frame for the dry-style ocean theme garden ⇨

Demarcation & Boundaries of Spiritual Spaces in Japanese Culture

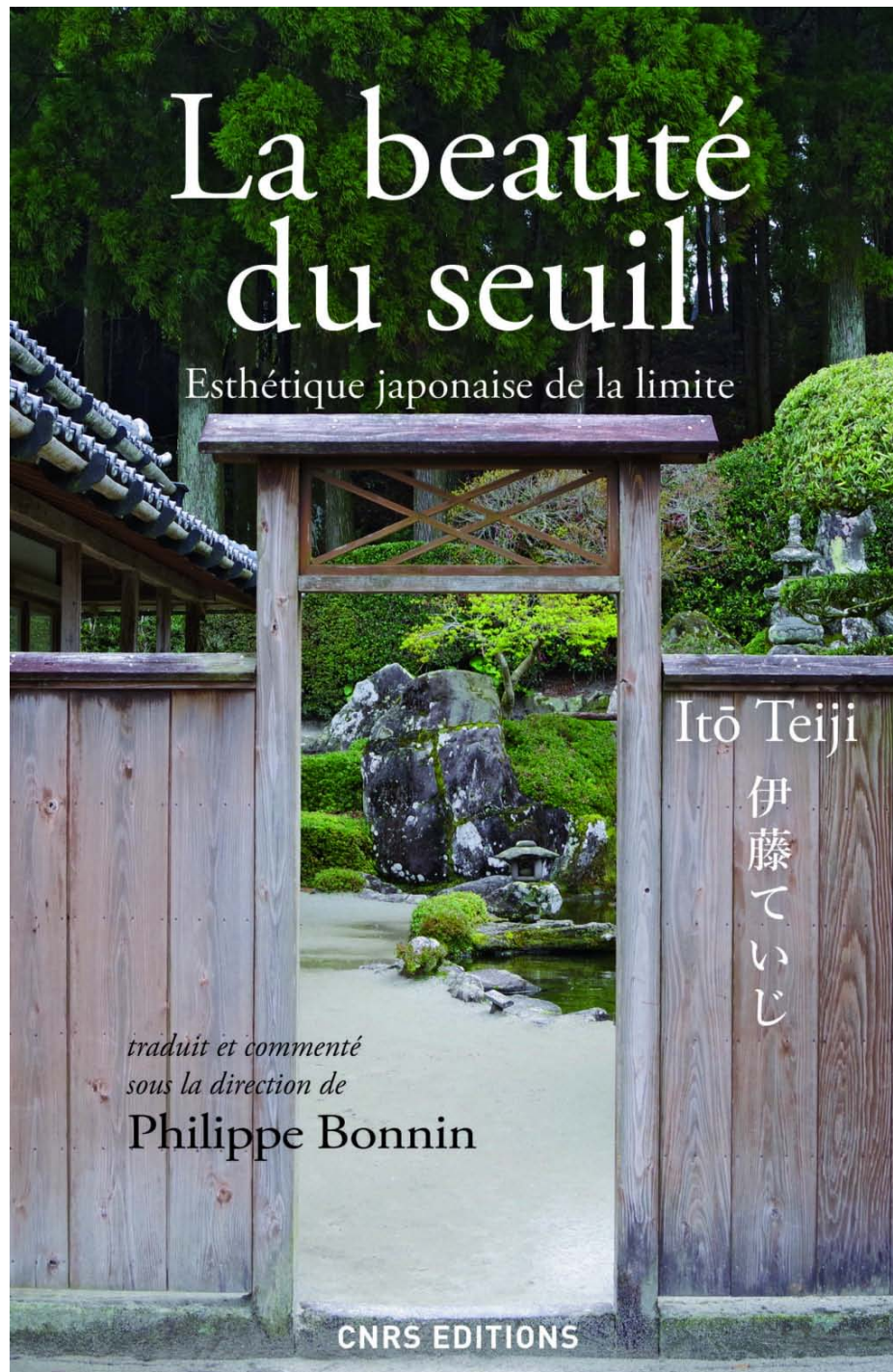


Yamanokami Site — Nara; Iwakara Yorishiro Stone housing “Kami” nature spirits; surrounded by rope as a spiritual enclosure. These types of sites are the cultural basis of traditional Japanese Gardens; to which the tradition of respectful and symbolic boundary enclosures extended.



Ise Grand Shrine — Ise; Shinto Shrine, Aerial View showing layers of boundary fencing

Kekkai - Metaphysical Boundaries



“The Beauty of Boundaries” - Book by Seminal Japanese Garden & Architecture Author Itō Teiji on the Japanese cultural and aesthetic concept of “*Kekkai*” or metaphysical boundary, prevalent in Japanese temples, gardens, and all traditional spaces in general.

Current Site Conditions:



Existing See-through Fencing allows Distracting Views of Street Activity, Breaking the Serenity and Intended Nature-Oasis Feeling of the Site



Low standing & Transparent Fence is an Inviting Entry for Trespassers, Leaving an Unprotected Impression.

Current Site Conditions:



Current view of proposed fencing area along Lansdowne Drive.



Current view of proposed fencing area along Lansdowne Drive.
Shrubs and branches to be trimmed back to existing fence line.

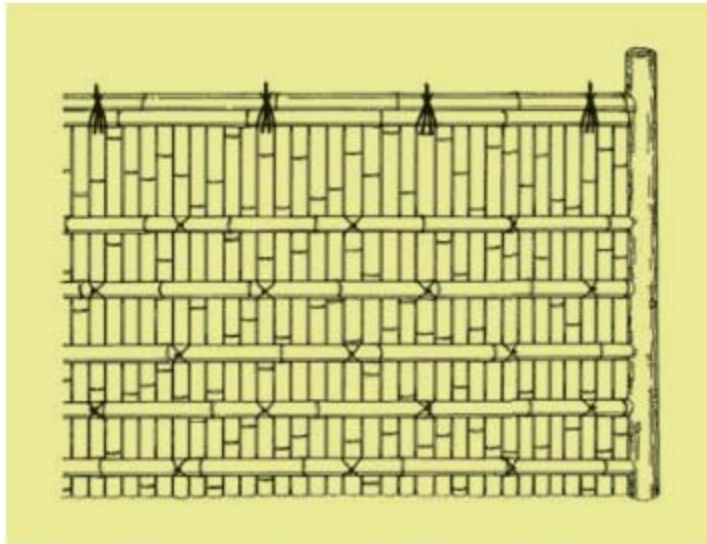
Fence Project, Scope & Proposed Solutions:

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KENNINJI FENCE

top Drawing of Kenninji fence: *shiri* style
bottom left Small five-tiered Kenninji fence, a continuation of a wall
Sankōin Temple, Kōgenzai

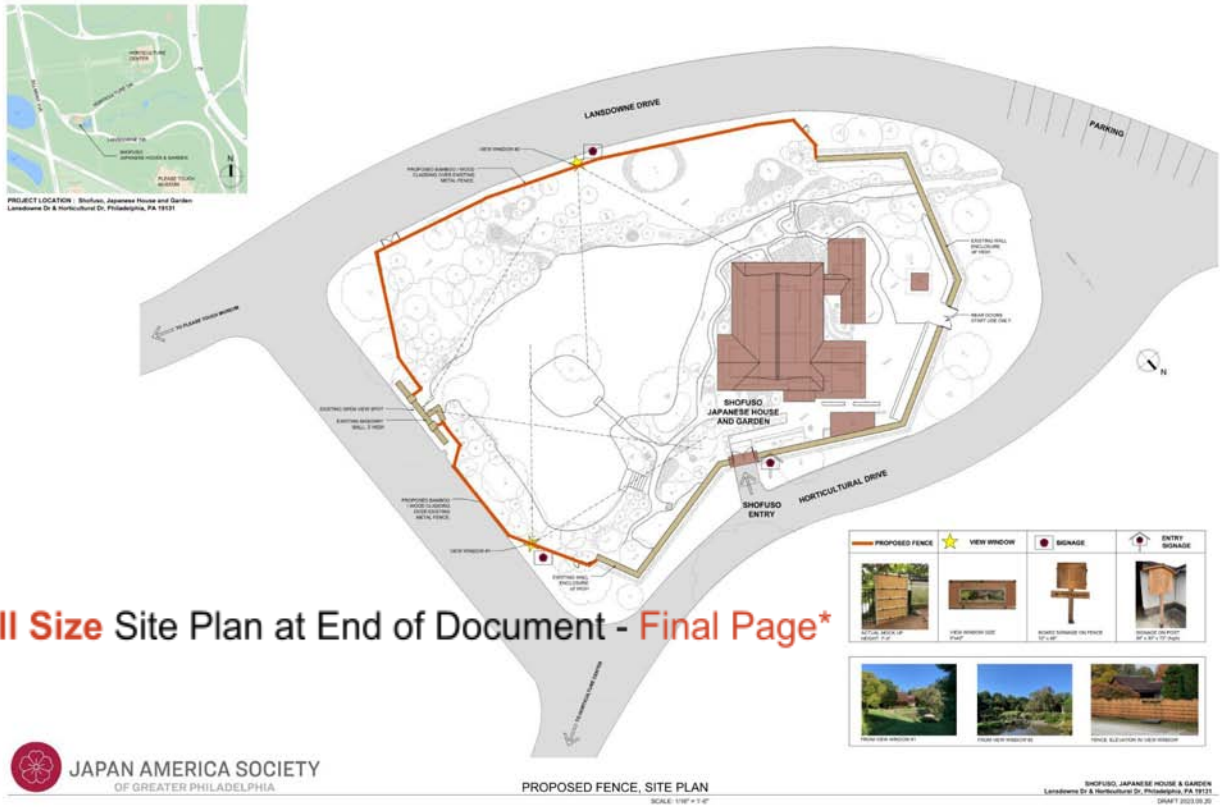
bottom right Kenninji fence used as a partition within a garden
Kannonzen'in Temple, Masashino



“Kinkakuji-Gaki” Fence Perimeter; The Classic Garden Perimeter Fence Style

● Scope of Work ●

Decoratively Clad the Existing Metal Fencing with 350 linear ft. of Black Locust & Bamboo Fencing To Bolster Current Inadequate Perimeter Lines



See Full Size Site Plan at End of Document - Final Page



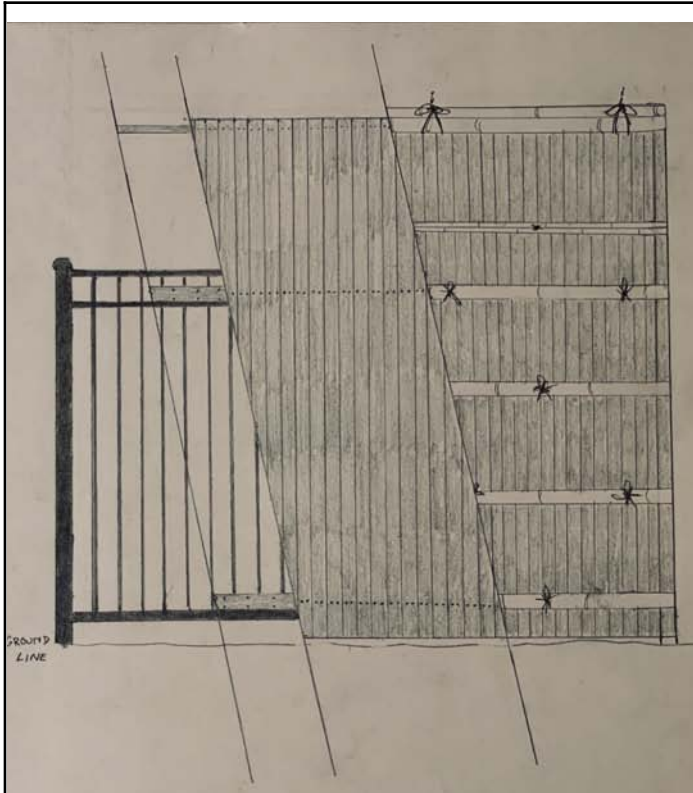
PROPOSED FENCE, SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

SHOFUSO, JAPANESE HOUSE & GARDEN
Lansdowne Dr & Horticultural Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19121
DRAFT 2023.09.20



Rendering of Proposed Fence Modification + Viewing Window - Lansdown Drive

Robust stretches of fencing will adequately protect and aesthetically elevate the site, both inside and out



Two-Sided “Cladding Construction” using existing iron fence as structural core.

All internal & structural components made from Sustainable & Local *Black Locust Wood Lumber*, milled in Philadelphia by Manayunk Timber.

Naturally Strong & Weather Resistant Material: Outdoor lifespan of 80+Yrs. / Unmatched Durability

Non-structural Decorative *Madake* bamboo components grown in USA; replacement every 10+ years as part of regular maintenance.

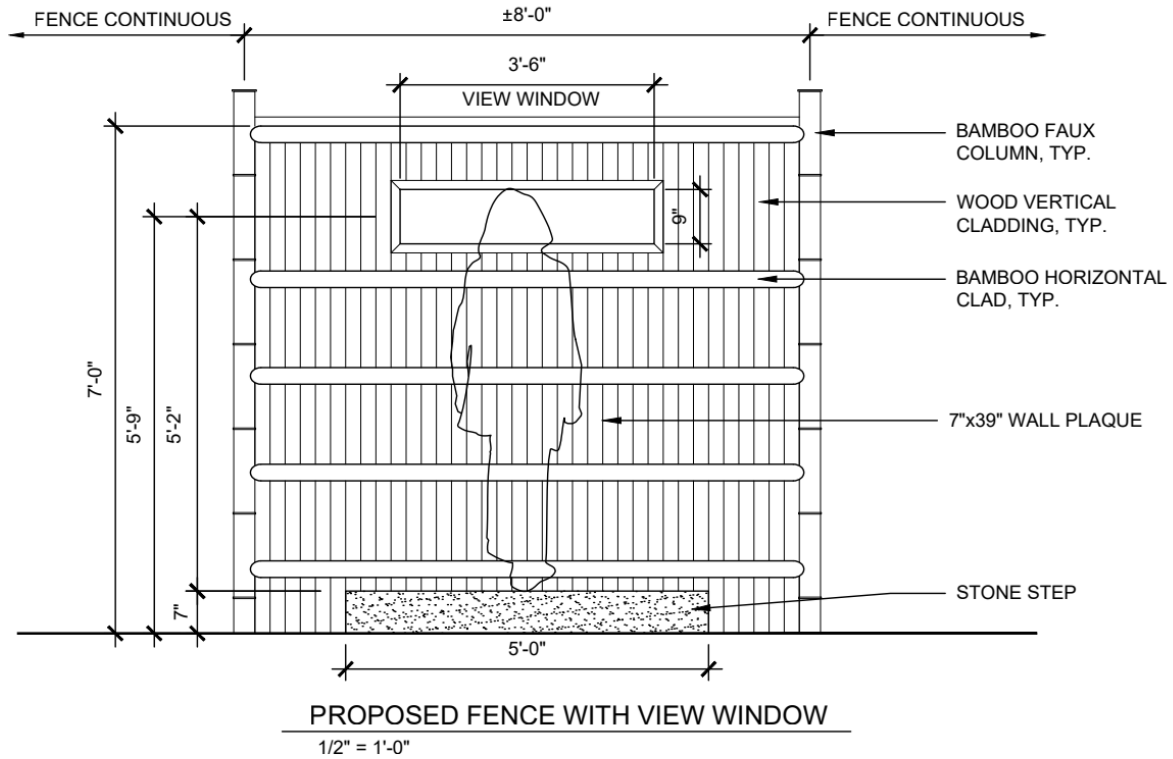


Completed Mock-up Sample Section

**Identical on Both Sides
No Visible Screws or Hardware
Structurally Rigid & Sound
Beautiful Traditional Appearance**

● View Preservation and Public Access ●

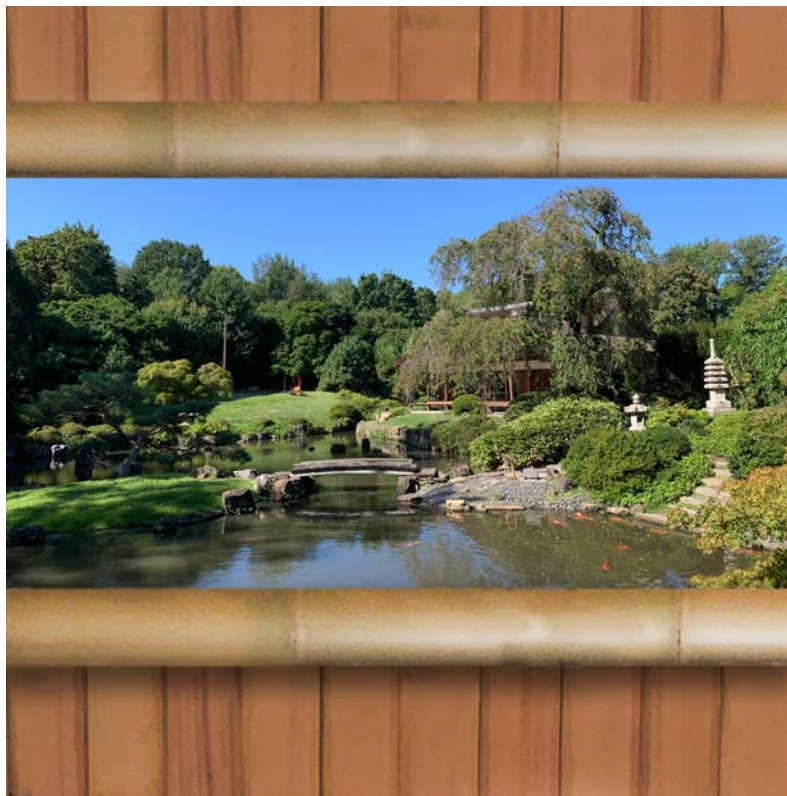
Several included viewing windows will provide picturesque framed views of the site, from the best available vantages. Additionally, the stone overlook along horticultural drive will remain unobscured, and openly accessible to all.



North Facing Framed View-Window



The Popular West Facing Stone-bridge Overlook view will be preserved - remaining unobstructed and publicly accessible as always.



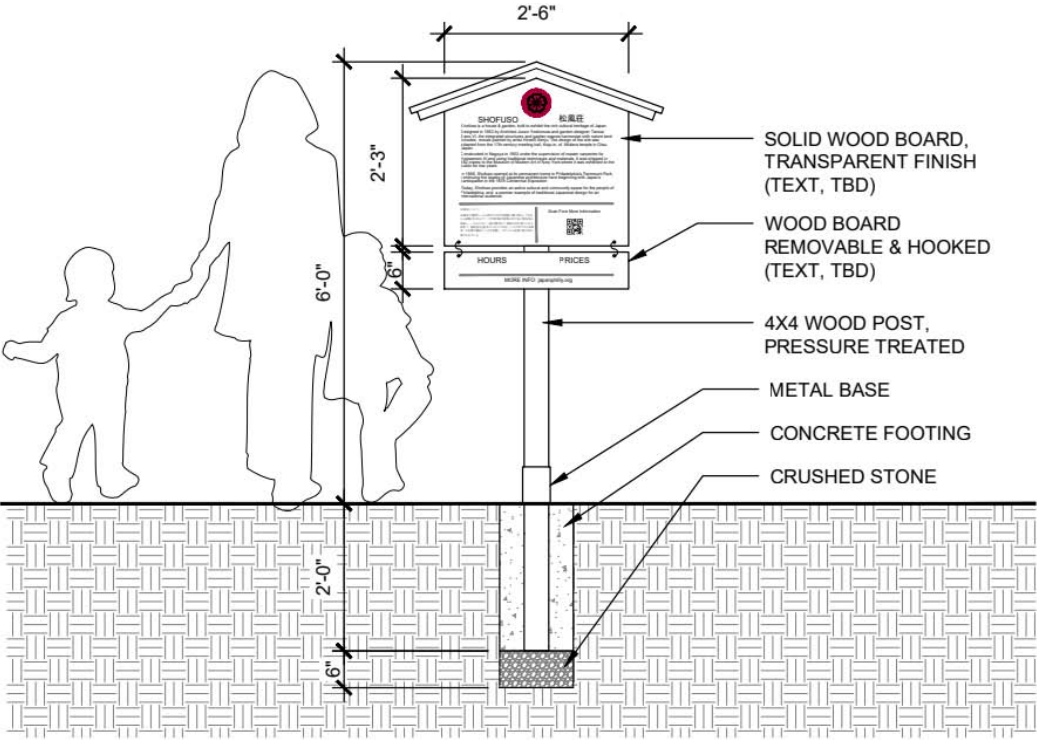
South Facing Framed View-Window



JASGP Provides *Free* Entry to the Garden for Residents of Neighboring Zip-codes, & \$2 Admission for ACCESS / EBT Card Holders

● Updated Signage ●

Signage to accompany the public view windows, to provide way-finding and site information.
 New traditional-style copper topped cedar front entry sign.



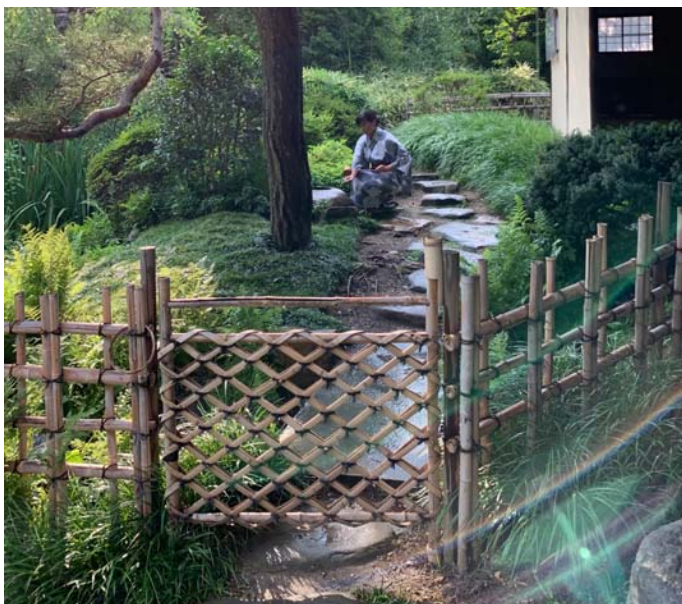
SIGNAGE @ ENTRY GATE

1/2" = 1'-0"

Recent Fence Renovation Work :



Shofuso Courtyard : Traditional Bark Fence using Local Tulip Poplar Bark & Cedar Wood



Shofuso Tea Garden: Traditional *Yotsume-Gaki*
Woven Bamboo Fence



Embassy of Japan; Washington DC:
Traditional *Taimatsu-gaki* Using Local Willow

Shofuso on the Cover of the International NAJGA Journal of Japanese Gardening:



Featuring our award winning *Su-hama* Pebble Beach historical restoration project, completed in 2020