

TOKIWASO MANGA MUSEUM

Map of Building Highlights

This museum was constructed by replicating a mid-20th-century apartment building called "Tokiwaso." It was home to many manga artists who worked, ate their meals, enjoyed their free time, and spent their days here. The building offers glimpses into the lifestyles of those manga artists. Come and explore its secrets!

① Telephone Booth

In the days of the Tokiwaso apartment building, not all homes had a telephone, and letters and telegraphs were still common means of communication. To contact their publishers, the manga artists used a public telephone located next to the "Tokiwaso" signpost. The telephone booth outside is the same cream color that it would have been back in the day, and even the blue color of the telephone itself has been reproduced.

② "Tokiwaso" Signpost

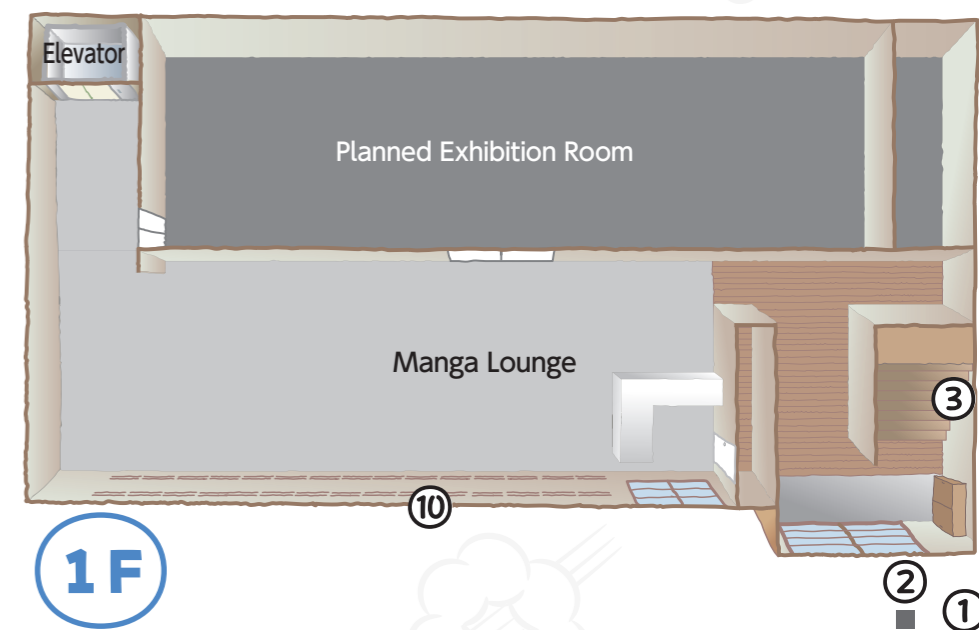
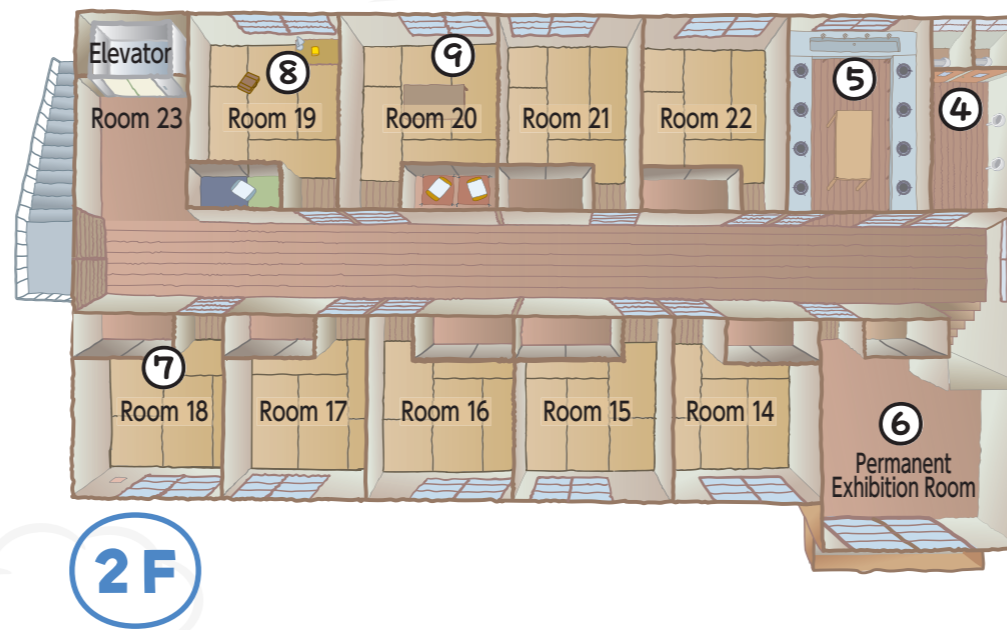
"Tokiwaso" was written in large characters on a signpost that stood at the corner of the path in front of the building. The sign post was remade several times, and the museum has replicated it as a square pillar with writing in two different styles. Did you notice the differences in the fonts? This signpost is the museum's most popular spot to take pictures. How about getting into the spirit of a manga artist and taking a commemorative shot?

③ Staircase

The stairs of the original Tokiwaso building creaked loudly underfoot, a sound effect that also appears in manga. This museum replicates even the creaking of the original stairs. The sound apparently alerted the manga artists to the arrival of their editors. Whether they were straining under the pressure of deadlines or eagerly awaiting news of a job offer, the creaking of the stairs must have made the manga artists' hearts pound with anticipation. Now, you can experience it, too.

④ Toilet

The building's toilets were unisex, and in the days when the manga artists lived there, they were pit latrines. Waste dropped through earthen pipes running from the second to the first floor and into a vault below.



⑤ Communal Kitchen

Tokiwaso had two kitchens, one on each floor, which were shared by the residents. The sinks were also used for face-washing and doing laundry. This kitchen has been faithfully reproduced under the supervision of manga artists who lived in Tokiwaso, so you can enjoy a replicated space that is true to life.

⑥ Permanent Exhibition Room

This room introduces the history of the Shiinamachi neighborhood, where Tokiwaso was located. Exhibits such as graphic panels, dioramas, and photographs of the neighborhood in bygone days provided by local residents reveal its history from the Edo period (1603-1868) to the 20th century. If you get down to eye level with the dioramas, you can enjoy a realistic recreation of how the neighborhood would have looked back in the day.

⑦ Room 18 (Johji Yamauchi's Room)

This is a reproduction of the room of Johji Yamauchi, who was Shotaro Ishinomori's assistant. The books and film canisters on the bookshelf are actually Ishinomori's. When his own room got too full, he apparently stored them in Yamauchi's room next door.

⑧ Room 19 (Hideko Mizuno's Room)

This is a reproduction of the room of Hideko Mizuno, the only female manga artist to live in Tokiwaso. She lived in this room to collaborate on manga with Shotaro Ishinomori and Fujio Akatsuka under the joint penname "U. Mia." She moved to Tokyo with just a single wicker suitcase and lived in Tokiwaso for only seven months.

⑨ Room 20 (Tokuo Yokota's Room)

This is a reproduction of the room of Tokuo Yokota, who lived with Fujio Akatsuka before he moved into Tokiwaso. Yokota waited for a room in Tokiwaso to open up and then moved into this room, as if he were following Akatsuka. He apparently watched professional sumo matches and baseball games, his favorite pastimes, on a television that he had purchased himself.

⑩ Exterior (Artisanal Aging Treatment)

Considering that this building was constructed only a few years ago, doesn't it look a bit old? Actually, it's been subjected to aging treatment to recreate how Tokiwaso would have looked a decade after it was built. The exterior walls have been made to look as if they are stained by rain and dirt. This attention to detail extends even to the furniture and equipment in the rooms, which have also been marked with signs of wear and tear.