

KANEJI DOMOTO, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
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AUDIO

Music

waterfalls
wind sounds
rustling leaves
(nature tape TBD)

Kan speaking: (ad lib—along these lines)

I am Kaneji Domoto, Architect and Landscape Architect. Just call me Kan.

I was born in Oakland California in 1912. I am an American, although I look Japanese. My designs are American-Japanese”

Father/Nursery

My father came from a farming family in south Japan. He learned the nursery business in America working

VIDEO

TITLE:

**KANEJI DOMOTO
ARCHITECT,
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT**

**Designs
Harmonious
Homes and
Gardens
•Natural Rock
Sculptures
•Musical Falling
Waters
•Environmental
Integrity**

Camera on Kan

Baby picture

Father in

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for others. Then he started out on his own. His brothers joined him in the nursery business and they became known as Domoto Brothers Nursery. It ended a large nursery. He brought workers over from Japan and taught them the business, so the nursery became known as 'Domoto College'.

Greenhouse

Photos from
books—Brothers ad

Schooling

I went to elementary school and then high school, and learned propagation in the greenhouses at home. Then I went to Stanford, and studied science and physics. I also played on the freshman soccer team, on the end wing when we played Berkeley, and was lucky enough to kick the ball for a goal that won the game for Stanford. I was proud that it was written up in the yearbook.

Schoolboy photo

Stanford scene

Kan speaking

The economy got tough, and I returned home to work in the nursery for some years with my father and then with my brother.

I read an article in a small magazine called 'Coronet' about Frank Lloyd Wright, the Architect, and his teaching program at Taliesin. I wrote to Mr. Wright, and he answered "Come on out."

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I drove my Model T Ford to Wisconsin and learned a lot about architecture, drafting, kitchen work and landscaping. When winter came, Wright packed up a caravan to go to Taliesin West, a warmer climate for the rugged months. I came along in my Ford and joined the continuation of construction, then worked mostly in landscaping in line with the buildings going up. I used natural desert materials and plants. We learned a lot by working at Taliesin.

Photo with Ford?

Taliesin Scenes

I returned home determined to become an architect, and decided to attend Cal Berkeley, our old soccer rival, since there were no architecture studies at Stanford. I found the architecture classes crowded but very interesting. So I looked around and found an appealing part of the campus near the hill, for Landscape Architecture. There were only ten people in the class, so I registered for that too, and studied both.

Berkeley scenes

**Architecture
classes**

**Landscape
Architecture**

In the late 1930's, I worked on the construction of the Japanese exhibit at the New York World's Fair. Then I returned to California and worked on the San Francisco World's Fair at

**NY World's Fair
Japanese Exhibit**

**SF World's Fair
Japanese**

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Treasure Island on the Japanese Garden exhibit.

Gardens, if possible

Afterward, I interested Berkeley in building a Japanese Garden at Strawberry Hill, and helped raise money to transport rocks from the World's Fair grounds. That garden still stands. It was recently cleaned up, and a new bridge added at the entrance. I was shown through this by the current directors and it looked great.

Berkeley Japanese Garden

**Kan at Bridge
Group shot at new
bridge—Japanese
Garden
Photo at Garden
from garden
publication**

I also designed Japanese Gardens for Jackson Park, Chicago and Columbus, Ohio among others. Also later designed natural habitat aquarium for seals at Mystic, Connecticut and Coney Island, New York. The penguins were so happy with the rocks in their natural environments that they began to reproduce for the first time.

Kan

Penguins

In 1941, the Japanese-Americans were removed from California into internment camps. We had to leave our life behind, or I never would have left California. I worked in constructing barrack homes and dining rooms at camp. After the

Internment Photos

**Any camp
photos—call**

internment, I went East to find work, with my wife, Sally, daughters Miki and Kathie, son Anyo. My youngest daughter Kris was born in New York.

I worked with Raymond Loewy and William Lescaze in New York, and Philip Johnson in Connecticut.

Frank Lloyd Wright was working on the Usonia Sign Usonia Project, originally designed as a model cooperative community in Pleasantville, New York. This ended up being bought by individual purchasers.

I became the architect for five houses in the development. Mr. Wright, who built three grand houses, had to approve all the other architectural blueprints.

Wright with blueprints

When he looked at my plans, he said "Here's a lad who wants to run before he can walk." We did get approval, the houses were built, and still stand—some owned by a second or third generation of occupants. Let's visit one now.

Usonia picture with Wright

Approach to Usonia, and #14

SIEGEL HOUSE

I planned and designed this house at

Camera on Kan

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14 Usonia Road for Bob and Norma Siegel, who have since retired to North Carolina. He became so interested in architecture when were working together on his house that he has since become an architect. This house now has a third generation of owners.

outside entrance to house.

Beautiful Photos
as discussed

CHRISTINE ALVIS:

Welcome. I am Mrs Christine Alvis. My husband Robert and I and our daughter are very happy here---let me show you through. I must tell you it was wonderful to meet Mr. Domoto and to have his comments and approval on the very few changes made--mostly painting. Here is the entrance living area...

Living Roon and
Kitchen
Lighting, etc.

2nd indoor Garden

**DESCRIPTION OF ROOM ROCKS
WATER. FEELINGS ABOUT IT.
CONVENIENT LAYOUT**

Next we open into the living room, totally accessible from the living room
**COMMENTS ON PRACTICALITY OF
LAYOUT AND EASE OF MOVEMENT,
CALLING ATTENTION TO HIGH
CEILING LIGHTING IN KITCHEN AND
LR, FIREPLACE WALL. NOTE
CONTINUATION OF ROCKS AND
WATER INDOORS, THEN LEAD OUT**

Pool areas as
described

Alice in pool if
possible

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**INTO GARDEN, THE BEGINNING OF
ROCKS AND WATER
ARRANGEMENT THAT FLOWS INTO
THE HOUSE, TREES AND OTHER
PLANTINGS, FIREPLACE WALL
EXTERIOR**

**Photo as
discussed**

**OPEN WOODEN GATE TO POOL
AND DECK AREA. ALL WOOD
CONSTRUCTION, SCULPTURAL
ROCKS AT THE ENDS. THEY SHOW
UP BEST WHEN WET.**

**Follow her talk with
camera.**

**DESCRIBE ALICE'S EXPERIENCES
IN THE POOL.**

**Camera pick up
Christine**

**INTERESTING VERTICAL
STRUCTURE IN THE FAR CORNER
OF THE POOL AGAINST THE
LANDSCAPE IS REALLY
UTILITARIAN HOUSING FOR THE
WATERPUMP.**

**Camera on
Christine**

Comment on chairs and terrace area.

**Now let's leave the pool and pick up
with the remaining area of the house,
bedrooms and play area, a convenient
access. DESCRIBE CHILDS
BEDROOM, PLAYROOM (with child)**

**Camera: follow
descriptions**

MASTER BEDROOM.

We have completed the circle of traffic through the house, garden and pool. They are as practical as they are beautiful. It gives us great joy to live here.

Come again, Mr. Domoto!

KAN SPEAKING:

We'll take a quick look at some of the other house I designed here in Usonia. Pick up Kan

KEN or MICHAEL:

THIS IS # _____ USONIA, BUILT FOR
_____ CURRENT OWNERS _____.
BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

ANOTHER DAY, MILLWOOD

KAN SPEAKING:

Our next stop is the most unusual house I've ever done, MILLWOOD, WESTCHESTER. It looks like a two-story covered bridge with a wall of simple wood, built over a stream.

It took several years to convince the

Show drawings,
plans

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building authorities here that this was legal in accordance with their regulations, although I did the initial drawings quickly. This is the home of Drs. Ekanath AND Vijay (V.J.) MALAVADE, and here they are.

Camera to Ekanath and VJ in doorway

EKANATH:

Follow Ekanath talking.

DESCRIBE DISCOVERY OF KAN IN AN OFFICE MAGAZINE, MEETING HIM TO DISCUSS THE GARDEN, KAN'S DISAPPROVAL OF EXISTANT ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, AND YOUR SUGGESTION THAT HE DRAW SOME UP. HIS APPEARANCE THE NEXT WEEK, WITH COMPLETE SET OF PLANS FOR HOUSE, WATERFALLS, AND PROPOSED GARDENS COMPLETE WITH CLERESTORY WINDOWS, WINDOW WALL LOOKING OUT ON THE WATER, EXPOSURE TO THE NORTH SO SPARKLING WATER WOULD MAKE THE ROCKS SHINE.

Top Floor, clerestory windows, lighting.living room, dining area

Camera: follow descriptions. Exterior views.

Waterfalls
VJ waterfalls

TOUR THROUGH THE HOUSE. TOP FLOOR, LIVING ROOM, DINING AREA, KITCHEN, INFORMAL SEATING AREA WITH TV AND MUSIC.

Bedrooms

Ekanath speaking

STEP OUT TO BALCONY. VIEWS OF VJ on camera

**WATERFALLS, LIGHTS PLAYING
ETC.**

**V.J. SPEAKS. RE: PLEASURES THE
HOUSE, WATERFALLS AND POOL
HAVE GIVEN THE FAMILY GROWING
UP, AND THE GRANDCHILDREN
NOW (POSS GRANDCHILDREN
PLAYING IN WATER)**

Waterfalls

Girls in pool

**VJ LEADS DOWN TO BEDROOM
AREA AND BATH.**

**BACK ON BALCONY, WITH EKNATH
DESCRIPTIONS— HIS COLLEAGUE
WHO WONDERED WHY HE
COMMUTED EACH DAY TO
PRACTICE IN NEW JERSEY , “Until
she came here to my Kanchan’s
graduation party after completing her
medical internship. My friend looked
at the waterfalls and said ‘Now I
understand. You never told me you
lived in a palace....’ You tell the story
of the rock.**

**Ekanath against
the rock waterfall.**

**VJ “My co-workers also wonder why I
drive to a Long Island hospital every
day. When I come home, this is like
heaven.”**

(another day)

**NEXT STOP BILL AND LINDA KAYE'S
IN POUND RIDGE.....**

**Bill and Linda Kaye 212-517-6981
445 East 80th St 764-4075
New York City, New York 10021**

**Pound Ridge. Home, green
gardens, rock framed pool within a
lake. Recent wall that integrates
with environment and keeps out
deer. New barbecue area**

**Phil and Lynn Straus 698-3525
1037 Constable Drive
Mamaroneck, New York 10543**

**Japanese-style bonsai sculpture
of grown trees, garden that frames
Long Island Sound**

**Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wellner 698-6660
1065 Seahaven Drive
Mamaroneck, New York 10543**

**Home with entry at the sunken
indoor swimming pool, looking out**

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to the gardens and Sound

Mr and Mrs. Mark Lynton 834-8456
961 Fenimore Road
Larchmont, NY 10538

Home and Landscaping

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lynton 834-9376
971 Fenimore Road 212-421-9591
Larchmont, New York 10538

**Home and Landscaping—different
in personality from Mark Lynton
(no relation)**

Shirley Durst SC3-5797
71 Griffen Avenue
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Pool within a pond. Magnificent
trees, bamboo and gardens.
Beautifully lit at night.**

Louise Loeb 694-1878
**The Crossing at Blind Brook 212-734-
7915**
Purchase Street
Harrison, N.Y. 10528

A pool with waterfall and small

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garden in gated community.

Dr. Larry Paredes 835-5796
4 Palma Drive
Harrison, NY 10528

Pool and large rocks form mini
Grand Canyon with falling waters
visible from the living room.

Still-Aquarium
Parks
St. Maartins