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JAPAN WITH PAUL VINCENT WISEMAN
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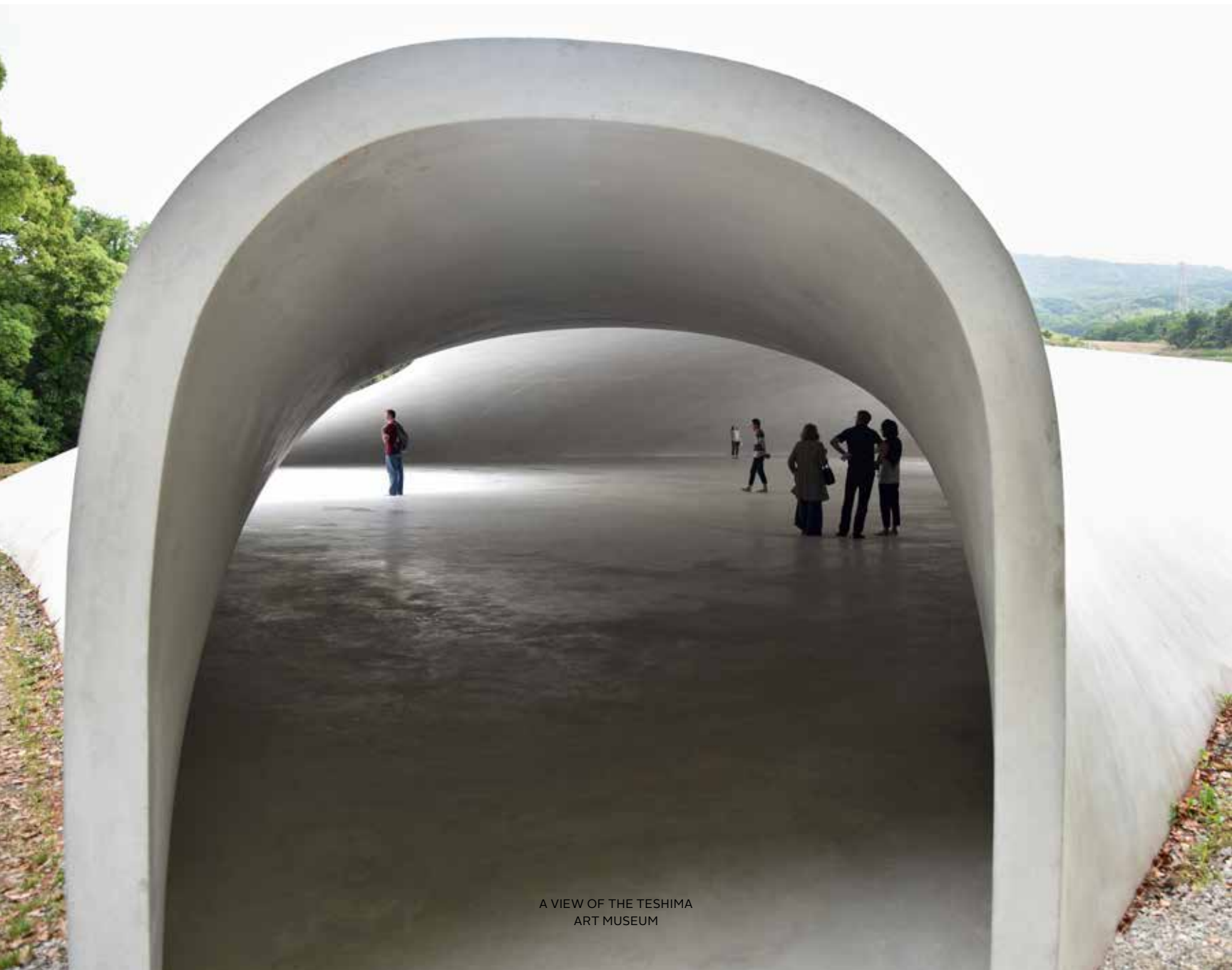
SPRING 2017

DESIGN DESTINATION

JAPAN

With Paul Vincent Wiseman

TRAVEL TO JAPAN THROUGH THE LENS OF CALIFORNIA
DESIGN ICON PAUL VINCENT WISEMAN.



A VIEW OF THE TESHIMA
ART MUSEUM



1. "BECAUSE OUR FOCUS ON THE TRIP WAS ANCIENT AND MODERN ARCHITECTURE, TOKYO WAS A GOLD MINE OF INNOVATIVE STYLES, LIKE THE STELLA MCCARTNEY AND PRADA STORES."

2. "THIS IS TESHIMA ART MUSEUM ON THE INLAND SEA OF JAPAN. WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY STRUCTURE THAT SEEMS TO GROW OUT OF THE LANDSCAPE. WHEN YOU ENTER, YOU ARE MOVED TO ANOTHER UNIVERSE. THE "ART" IS THE STRUCTURE, AND FEATURES A WATER SCULPTURE ON THE FLOOR THAT NEVER REPEATS. YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING AS WATER APPEARS FROM NOWHERE."

3. "THIS EXTRAORDINARY MUSEUM DESIGNED BY I.M. PEI IS ON A VERY LARGE LAND PRESERVE OUTSIDE OF KYOTO. WE ENTERED VERY SLOWLY THROUGH A STAINLESS STEEL TUNNEL AND BRIDGE, FINALLY ARRIVING AT THE LOBBY WITH THIS JAPANESE SCREEN VIEW. IT WAS TRULY AN EXAMPLE OF ART ARCHITECTURE AND NATURE AS ONE."

4. "I AM A PASSIONATE GARDENER AND JAPANESE GARDENS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN ATTRACTION AND GUIDE TO MY OWN SENSIBILITIES FOR GARDEN RETREATS. I WAS PARTICULARLY ATTRACTED TO THE WAY THIS BUDDHA WAS PLACED IN THE GARDEN—NOT TOO SYMMETRICAL. SO I DRESSED TO THE NINES IN ISSEY MIYAKE AND POSED ASYMMETRICALLY!"

5. "THIS WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXPERIENCES OF THE TRIP. WE HAD A TEA CEREMONY UNDERGROUND IN THIS INCREDIBLE MUSEUM WHERE THE MONK PREPARED THE TEA WHILE WE ALL SAT ON THE CEDAR LOGS THAT PERFECTLY MATCH THE WIDTH OF THE PLANKS ON THE FLOOR. WE WERE SERVED IN UNIQUE RAKU CUPS MADE BY THE SAME FAMILY FOR 300 YEARS, WHO ARE STILL MAKING POTTERY. THE TEA IS WHIPPED AND WHEN YOU DRINK THE TEA TO THE LAST DROP YOU SEE THE FORMATIONS OF THE TEA RESIDUE THAT ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GLAZED DRIPS IN THE POTTERY. LAYER UPON LAYER OF PERFECT IMPERFECTION."

6. "MY FAVORITE PART OF THE TRIP WAS VISITING NAOSHIMA ISLAND FOR THE TADAO ANDO ARCHITECTURE. THE MUSEUM IS MOSTLY BURIED UNDERGROUND WITH EXTRAORDINARY RESURFACING AS YOU TOUR. WE STAYED OVERNIGHT AT THE BENESSE HOUSE ALSO DESIGNED BY ANDO. EVERYWHERE IS ART, NATURE, AND ARCHITECTURE IN PERFECT HARMONY."

7. "WHILE TRAVELING WITH THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FROM LONDON, WE HAD ACCESS TO PRIVATE HOMES IN KYOTO. THIS WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITES, AS THE GARDEN DESIGN WAS OF ANOTHER WORLD AND THE ARCHITECTURE WAS SO SIMPLE AND SPOKE TO THE ANCIENT CULTURE OF JAPAN THAT RUNS DEEP IN THEIR VEINS, EVEN TO THEIR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS."



2017

Paul Vincent Wiseman

DESIGN
ICON



“I think the best projects happen when you have the best team.”

—Paul Vincent Wiseman

TO REFER TO PAUL VINCENT WISEMAN, founder of The Wiseman Group, as an icon is being modest. An accomplished designer, author, art collector, gardener, and chef, his classically cool style has inspired many, for decades.

Before launching The Wiseman Group in 1980, Wiseman spent time traveling and residing in some of the world’s most robust cities, during which he discovered he was destined to live a life of imaginative ingenuity. “I live a creative life; I can’t help it,” says the designer. “I travel creatively, I cook creatively, I garden creatively, and I am creative.”

To date, his work has led him to collaborate with notable architects from around the globe such as Frank Gehry, Peter Bohlin, Ricardo Legorreta, Joel Barkley, Oscar Shamamian, Richard Beard, Ken Linsteadt, and more. “I think the best projects happen when you have the best team,” says Wiseman. “Some of my favorite projects, past and present, are when I get to work closely with great architects.”

Throughout Wiseman’s work are nods to iconic architectural elements infused with connections to alluring cultures. Traveling to remote locations has led him to uncover countless craftspeople and artisans whose objects he effortlessly pairs with fine furniture. “I feel designers need to know the history of great furniture design in order to be great designers themselves. We are only as good as the shoulders we stand on,” says Wiseman

when referring to a few of his own personal favorites, including: William Kent; William Morris; Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Jean-Michel Frank, Jacques Adnet; and Ray and Charles Eames, just to name a few.

And like those who inspire him, Wiseman’s contributions have influenced the careers of designers, makers, landscapers, and more. “Paul has inspired me with his nature as a true practitioner of design and detail,” says Shannon Jue, designer at The Wiseman Group. “He has a given ability to create the most refined spaces often with the most simple gestures. It has been an honor to watch, learn and collaborate with this truly kind, gracious, and gleefully funny gentleman,” says Jue. They have learned not only from his educated approach to design but also his no-nonsense business acumen. “We are not designing our own house over and over again for our clients; we are designing their houses with them, and for them. We are in service to the design process,” says Wiseman. “I get to follow my passion on many levels. I like people and like to make them happy.”

What’s behind this level of passion is a combination of discerning taste, tireless curiosity, and dedication to craft. Paul Vincent Wiseman’s iconic style has long been intrinsic to California’s design influence around the globe, with much more on the horizon. “My career has been a blessing, and it’s not over yet.” —Lindsey Shook



PHOTO: MATTHEW MILLMAN

OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: THE DESIGNER, PAUL VINCENT WISEMAN. RIGHT: A PROJECT IN CALIFORNIA THAT HOUSES A LOVELY COLLECTION OF ENGLISH ARTS AND CRAFTS DESIGNS AND ANTIQUES. THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT: A VIEW OF THE POOL AREA AT A HOME IN HAWAII DESIGNED IN COLLABORATION WITH RICARDO LEGORRETA. LEFT: AN ARTISTIC DINING ROOM IN PACIFIC HEIGHTS. BOTTOM: INSIDE PAUL’S HOME IN BELVEDERE.