

SHIJONAWATE GAKUEN MAIN BUILDING

100th Anniversary Edition



n a r r a t i v e



SHIJONAWATE GAKUEN

since 1926

GREETING

In 2026, Shijonawate Gakuen celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Since its establishment in 1926, generations of people have gathered here to learn, each adding their own time and memories to the story of the school. The Main Building, too, has a story to tell.

Completed in 1929 and expanded twice thereafter, the Main Building has stood at the heart of everyday life at the Gakuen to this day.

The theme of this book is narrative. Through photographs of the building as it appears today, together with a small number of surviving images from the past, we invite you to trace the passage of time engraved in this place.

On the occasion of our centennial, we hope that this volume will allow each reader to discover and feel a story of their own within these pages.

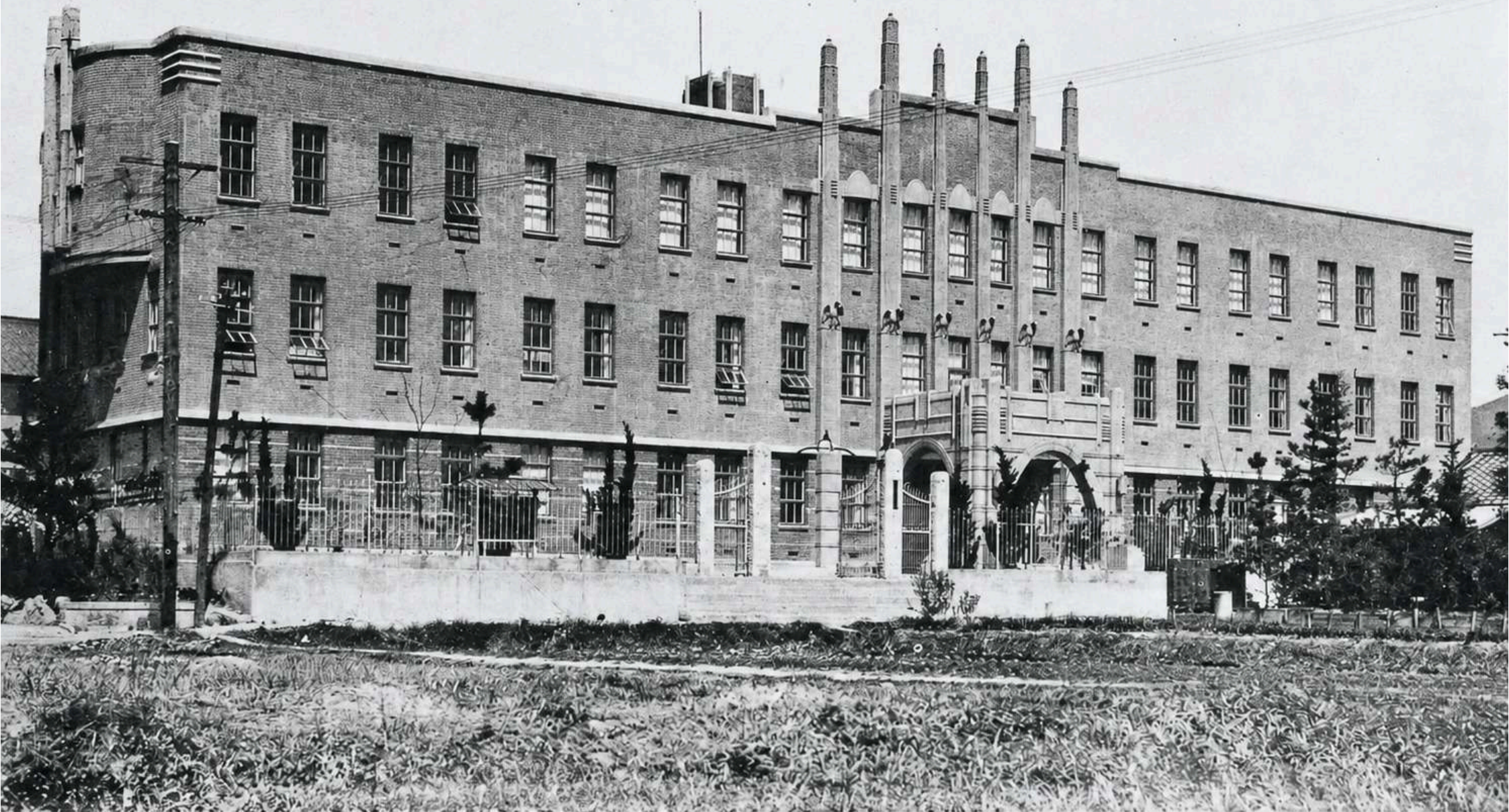
Shijonawate Gakuen

Akira Kotani
Chairman of the Board

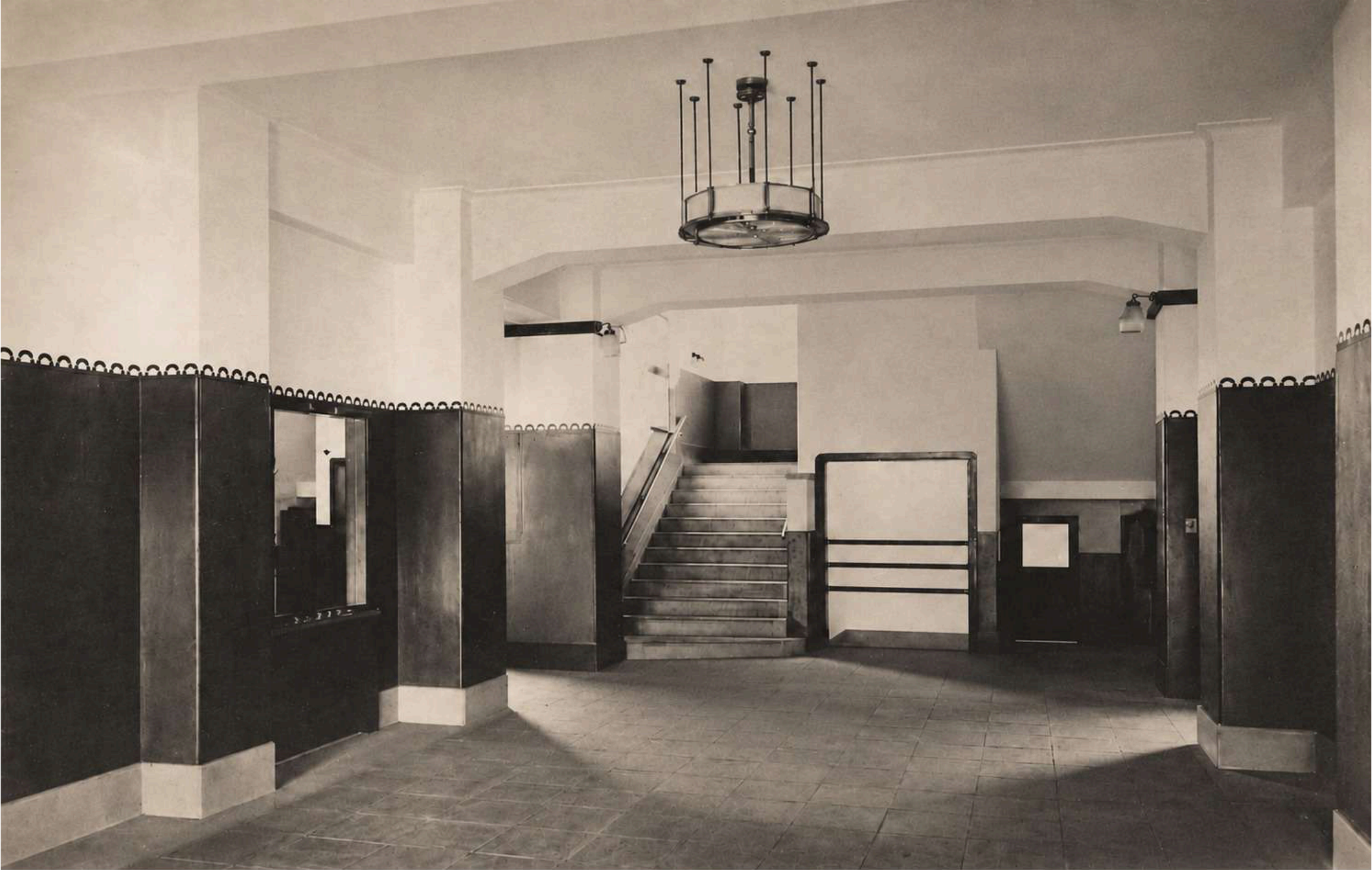
October 1, 2026



The Main Building stands at the heart of Shijonawate Gakuen - an enduring landmark that has watched over generations of students for nearly a century.



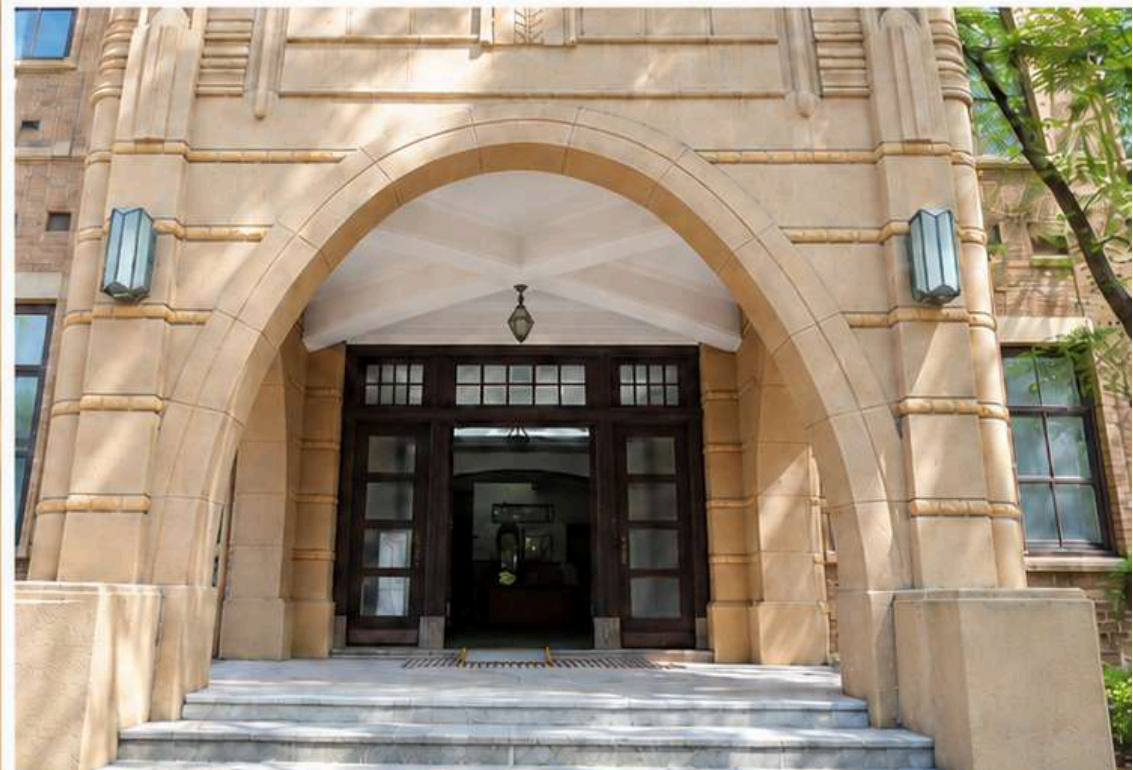
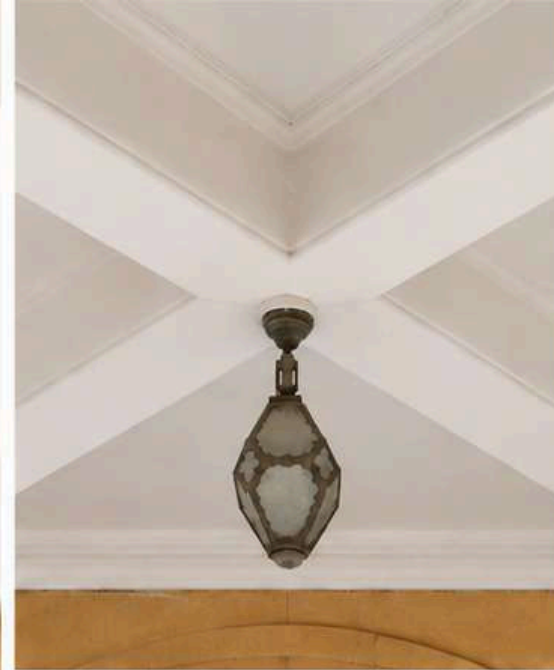
The same Main Building, photographed shortly after its completion in 1929. Remarkably, the building seen today still preserves the form established almost one hundred years ago.



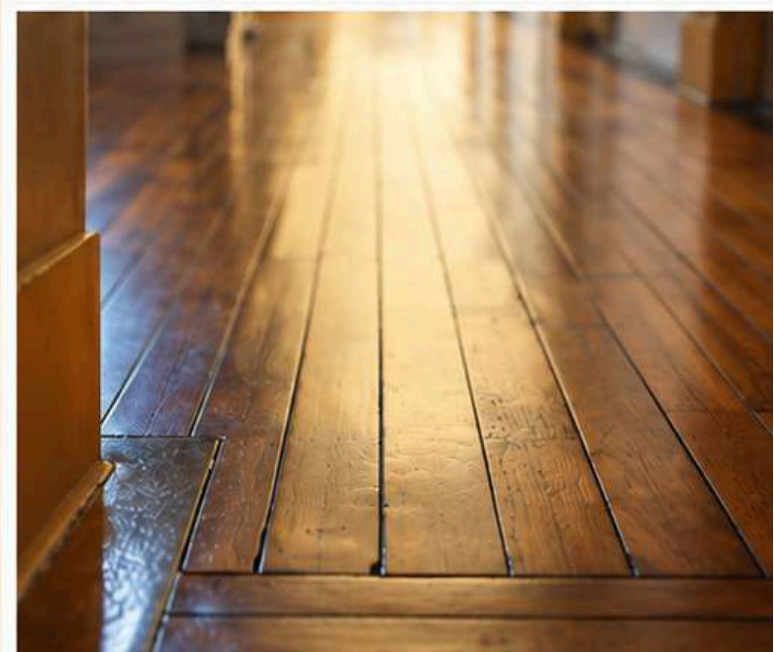
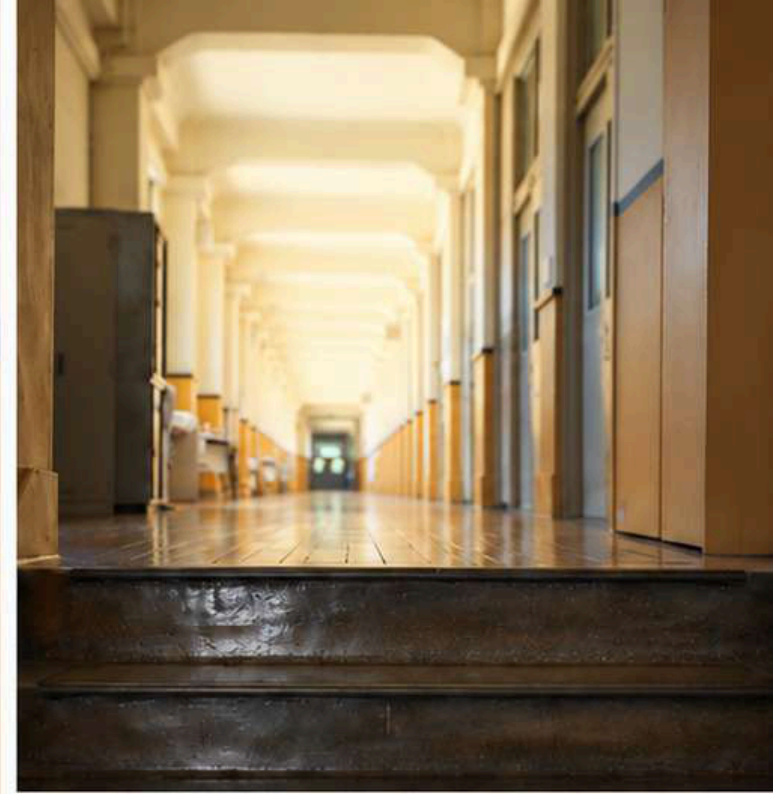
Entrance hall, 1929. Historic fittings, wall treatment, and lighting around the entrance hall are believed to preserve much of the building's original design.



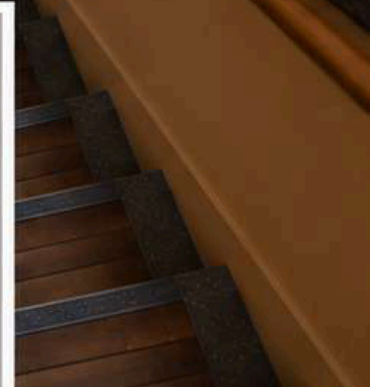
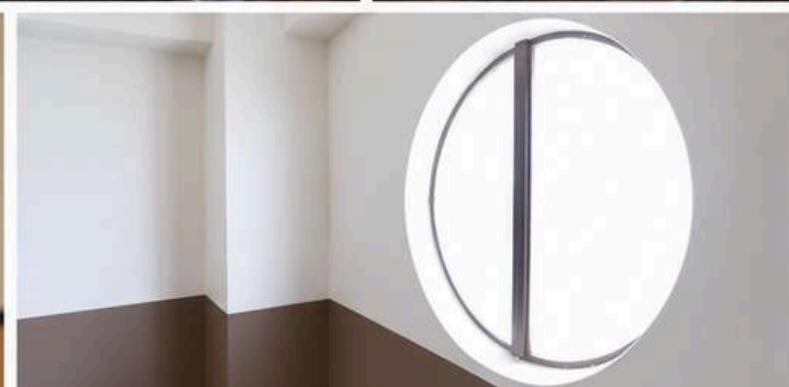
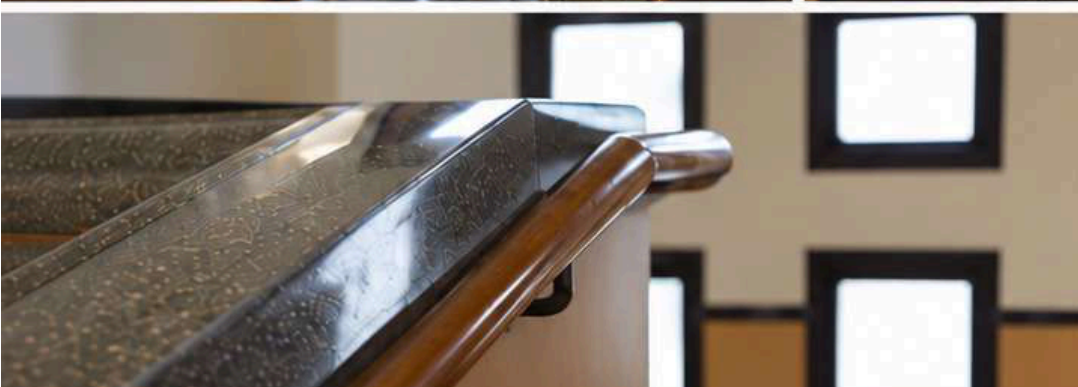
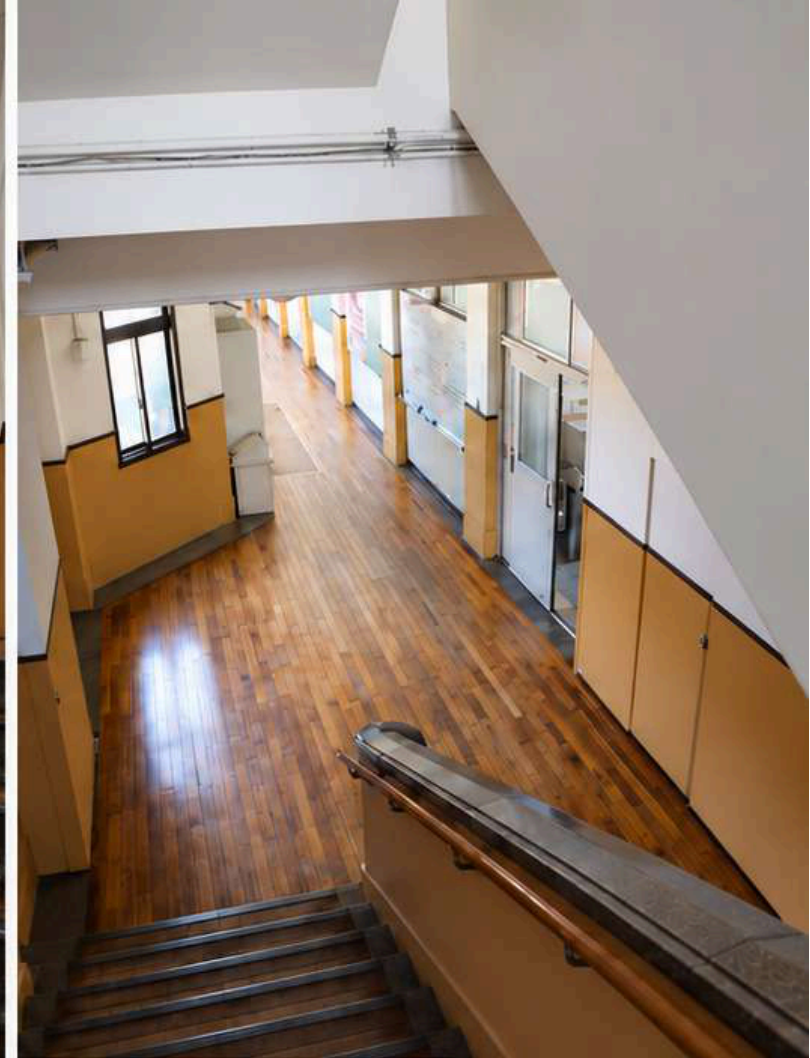
The entrance hall today. Its retained finishes and architectural details show how the 1929 building continues to function as part of everyday school life.



The entrance portico combines parabolic arches and geometric ornament associated with Art Deco, while strong vertical elements add a Gothic note - a distinctive feature of the building's design.

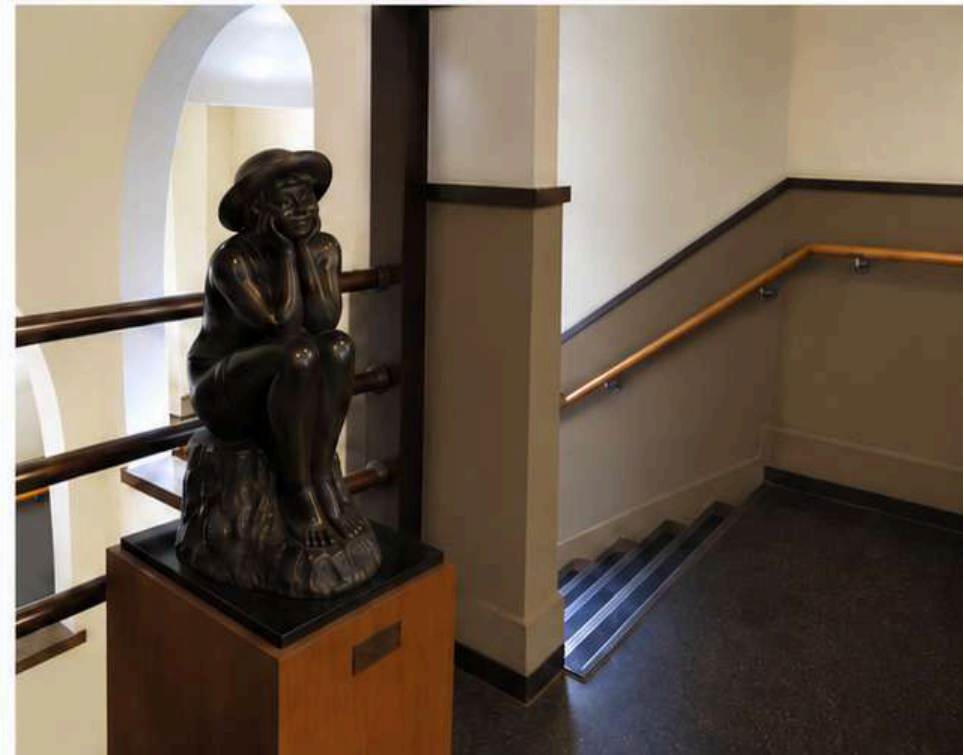


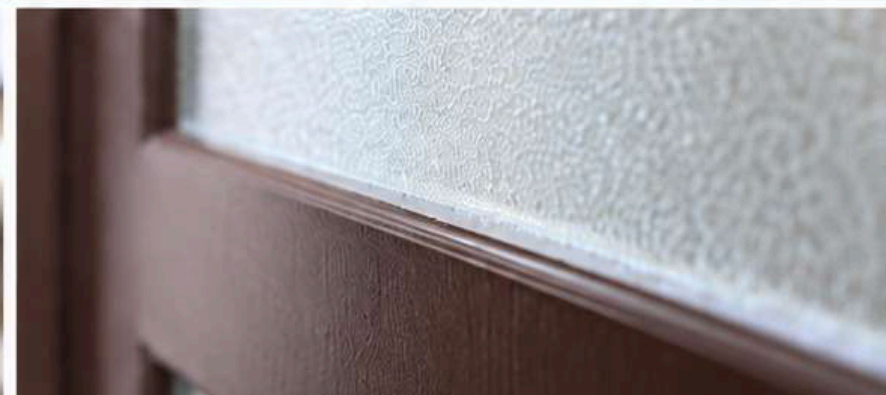
In the 1930s extension, moulded column heads and haunched beams create a high, colonnade-like corridor. The consistent treatment of walls and woodwork reinforces its long rhythmic perspective.



Parabolic arches also appear around the stairwell and became an important interior motif. Wooden handrails and geometric window openings contribute to the building's distinctive character.

The parabolic-arch motif continues around this central stairwell. The open vertical void is said to have been planned with a future elevator installation in mind.

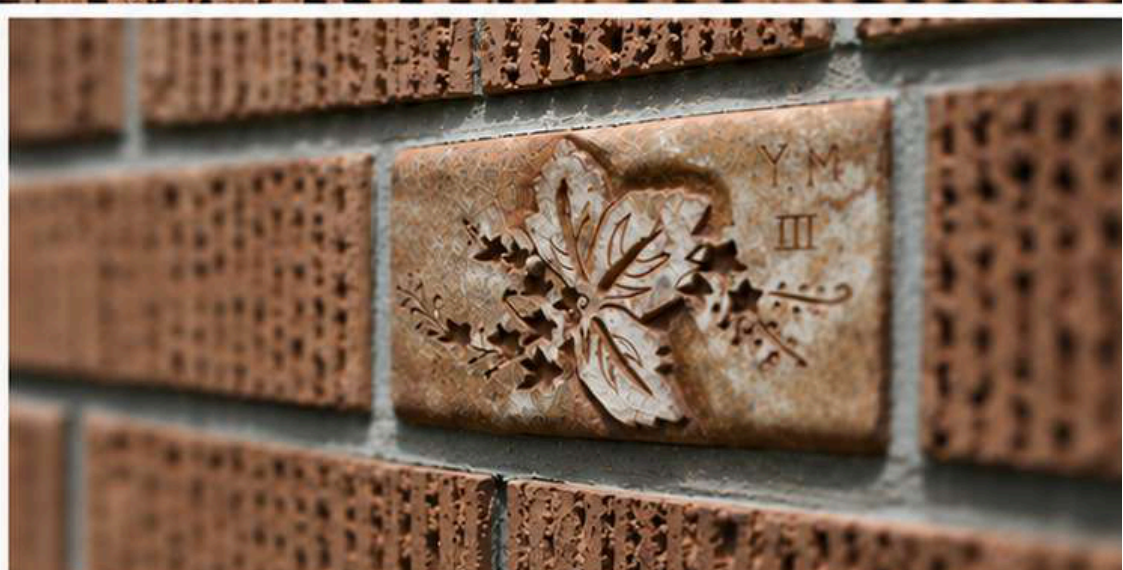




Historic rooms around the entrance and second-floor reception areas retain original-style color schemes, wall details, doors, hardware, and lighting fixtures.



Foundation plaques record the Main Building's original completion in 1929 and the two later extensions completed in 1934 and 1936.



The brickwork also preserves inscriptions connected with the school's educational ideals. Beside the English phrase 'Manner Makes Men' is a classical Japanese maxim emphasizing conduct and putting principles into practice.



Six pilasters with bird sculptures rise above the central parapet. The stepped skyline and strong vertical emphasis add a Gothic character to the building's Art Deco composition.



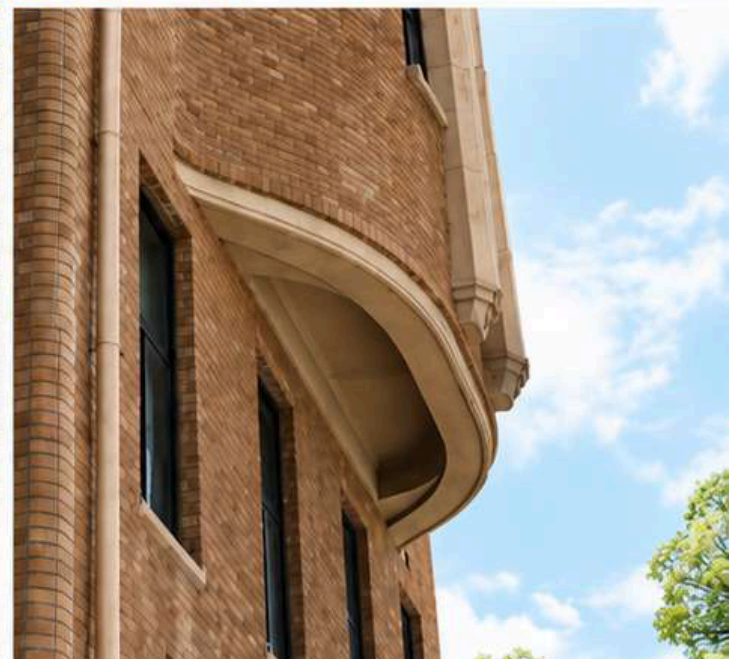
Classrooms have been altered over time, but many renovations deliberately retain original beam profiles, proportions, and color schemes, preserving the atmosphere of the historic school building.



From the 1937 graduation album
1937年卒業アルバム掲載



Former Main Gate, completed around 1929: four granite pillars frame the main and side gates across a width of about 6.4 m. The iron arch and lamp were conceived as a symbolic school entrance, and the basic composition survives today.



The exterior is faced with scratch tiles in subtly different tones, darker at the base and lighter above. Rounded corners soften the massing, while shadows on the textured tiles give the facade its calm character.



A quiet inner courtyard and pond create a sheltered green space within the historic school complex.





Exterior lanterns at the entrance are repeated across the facade, becoming a distinctive visual motif by day and by night.



At night, the entrance and corridors take on a different atmosphere as the retained lighting and architectural forms are brought into relief.



The illuminated main entrance emphasizes the building's arches, brickwork, and relationship with the tree-lined campus at night.

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A wide-angle photograph of a university campus. On the left is a large, multi-story brick building with many windows. In front of it is a large, leafy green tree. To the right of the tree is a paved walkway and a red running track with white lane markings. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Since 1926
Narrative for the Next Century

SHIJONAWATE GAKUEN

Educational Foundation