

Kurisu Apprenticeship Program

WHAT: Kurisu's Apprenticeship Program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study intensively with Master Designer Hoichi Kurisu. The Program runs for three years and covers the best practices of two major traditions, ancient Japanese garden design and construction, and modern healing garden design and programming. You will learn by doing, and upon graduation will possess the skills needed to project manage landscape design/build projects in the \$m range, either as a project manager for Kurisu, or as an independent subcontractor to the firm.

WHY: The program was created to meet a need caused by the convergence of several modern trends. First, low tenure and specialization in all industries reduces workers' skill depth, limiting their ability to problem solve and to work for system efficiency. In Kurisu's view, reversing this trend reduces alienation and reestablishes a positive relationship to work, increasing enjoyment and reviving a threatened tradition of quality craftsmanship. Second, environmental degradation has challenged businesses to "do more with less" and to protect financial, social and natural assets. Kurisu believes the only route to sustainable business is with the help of highly trained employees who understand the landscape's broad function within society. Third, scientific research in the last 20 years has quantified the role that green space plays in healing. Kurisu believes outcomes can be improved even further with strategies from Japanese garden design, and requires employees trained in both traditions to realize those gains.

HOW: The Program functions similarly to a traditional employment relationship, though a three-year commitment is required:

- **Detchi:** First-years work entirely hands-on via *minarai*—"seeing, learning."
- **Chukochu:** Second-years assume job site responsibilities similar to those of a Foreman.
- **Koko:** Third-years assume project management responsibilities, and begin to learn design, business, and communication skills.
- **Shokunin:** Graduates are considered skilled tradespersons and may continue within Kurisu as employee or subcontractor in their own ventures.

WHO: Kurisu International has for over 30 years designed and built gardens of the highest caliber, and its residential and healthcare projects take it across the US and abroad. Founder and CEO Hoichi Kurisu conducts Kurisu's Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Kurisu was twice honored at the White House and is recognized internationally as one of the most influential designers working today.

Ideal candidates for the Program will have a lifelong interest in plants and gardens, four years of academic training in Landscape Architecture, a passion for serving the public, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

WHERE: Kurisu International is based in Portland, OR. The majority of its work is in OR, CA, FL, IL, HI. Travel requirement for Apprentices can be as high as 50% - 75%.

WHEN: Kurisu is accepting applications immediately for an April 1, 2006 start.

COMPENSATION: First-years are paid minimum wage; Second-years are paid \$11 - \$15/hr; Third-year and up are paid \$20+/hr. All employees are eligible for benefits: Vacation, Health, Dental, 401(k).

APPLICANTS: Please send cover letter and resume to kw@kurisu.com or attn: Kristine Wyckoff, P.O. Box 12510, Portland, OR, 97212.

