



Red Rose Garden at the New Otani Hotel



Japanese Garden at the New Otani Hotel

Important features of the Ikebana International 12th World Convention

- The **theme** of the Ikebana International 12th World Convention was

Honor the Past

Exhilarate the Future

Ikebana is very much a NOW activity, yet our thoughts and outlook naturally engage with what has gone before, and we may also find meaning in creative impulses that reach into the future. Ikebana itself may serve as a bridge to the future, a bridge between mankind and nature, a source of understanding and power. It is an often-repeated truth that ikebana is an affirmation of life; for the serious, committed ikebanist, negative emotions simply have no place. The flowers themselves are a focus, a source of calm, inner energy, and insight. Like all art, ikebana is a powerful medium of communication, through which we may influence the world around us, starting with ourselves. The positive energy intrinsic to this art form touches minds and hearts, and, perhaps, touches events. It is a medium of peace and understanding. Ikebana brings us closer to the beauty of our planet and our planet's beauty closer to us.

- The **theme color of the 12th World Convention was yellow**, signifying the sun, which stimulates all life on our planet.
- As a **logo, the green Ginkgo biloba tree leaf** was chosen. The leaf is the official logo of Tokyo, and the ginkgo is the oldest living tree on earth. The ginkgo species is found in fossils dating back some 250 million years. Today's Ginkgo biloba tree is the only remaining member of the species, with some living specimens claiming to be more than 2,500 years old. The ginkgo's medical virtues were discovered in China during the 16th century. The longevity of the tree and its properties represent wishes for a long and healthy life for everyone.