

BANRAISHA

After the destruction of Fukuzawa Yukichi's Banraisha building during World War II, Taniguchi Yoshiro was commissioned by Keio University to design the *Dai Ni Kenkyushitsu* building. He asked Isamu Noguchi to design in the building a new Banraisha (Shin Banraisha), which came to be known as the "Noguchi Room", dedicated to the memory of his father, Yone Noguchi, who taught at Keio University. This building together with the Noguchi Room, despite objections, negotiations and a court case initiated by the Isamu Noguchi Foundation of New York, was demolished in 2003 to clear the site for the new Law School building.

The Noguchi Room was designed to be a Site Specific Work of Art with carefully considered and sensitive indoor/outdoor relationships to Enzetsukan, the adjoining garden and to the sculptures, *Mu*, *Gakusei* and *Wakai Hito*. The replica located on the roof of the new Law School, although it incorporates original Noguchi elements, is not the Noguchi Room which no longer exists as a work of art.

As students gather and socialize in this space with the knowledge and understanding of the above circumstances one can only hope that its use will raise public awareness of the importance of site specific considerations in defining a work of art.

The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, June 2016