

# Kanō Jigorō's *Kaiunzaka* estate

*Kaiunzaka* 開運坂 “Fortune Opening Hill”

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Kanō *shihan*'s estate atop *Kaiunzaka* 開運坂  
“Fortune Opening Hill” lies in Ōtsuka 6-chome  
(then known as Sakashita-chō 6)  
was where he built his home, the *Kōbun Gakuin*,  
Kodokan headquarters, and the Kodokan  
*Daini Dōjō* (Number 2 *dōjō*)

- Research based on materials gathered from published maps, land tax and ownership records from the Regional Tax Office of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, published photos and manuscripts, with recent photos by the author.
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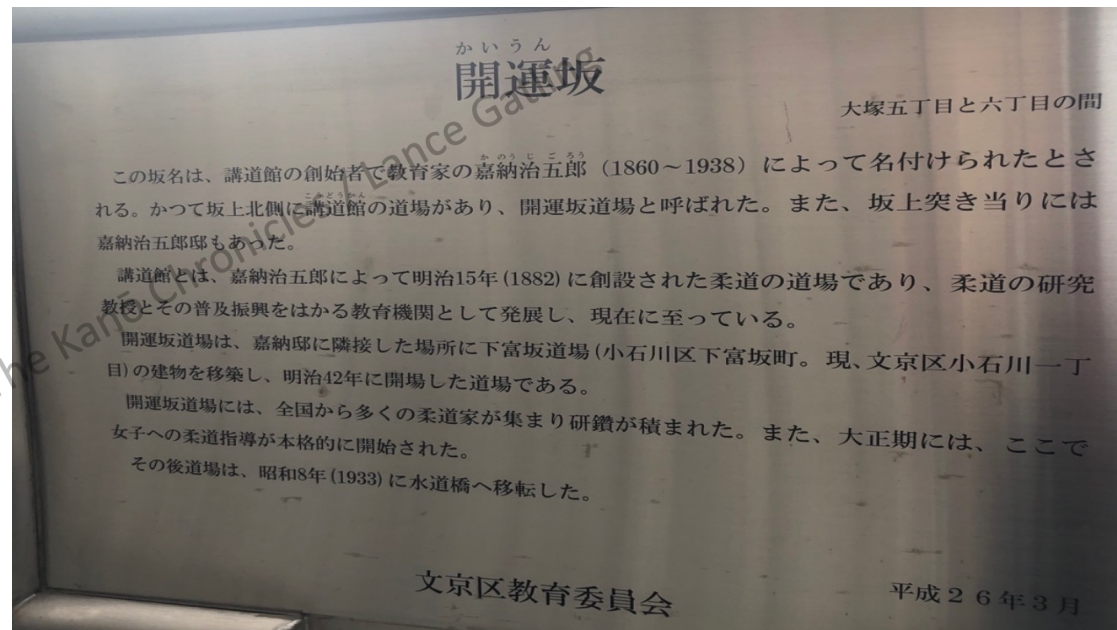
The view up  
Kaiunzaka from the  
traffic light at the  
base of the hill.  
The Kodokan  
Kaiunzaka  
Headquarters and  
*dōjō* stood on the  
right.





- Left – caution signs noting the steep slope ( $>10\%$ ) of Kaiunzaka, advising people to help the wheelchair bound
- Right – back of the historical marker (below) on the left, halfway up





Historical plaque on lefthand sidewalk of *Kaiunzaka* 開運坂 reads:

*Kaiunzaka* - "Open Fortune Hill"

Between Otsuka 5-chome and 6-chome.

This hill's name is said to have come from Kanō Jigorō (1860-1938), an educator and the founder of the Kodokan. There was a Kodokan *dōjō* called the *Kaiunzaka Dōjō* on the north side of the slope (NOTE: on the righthand side looking uphill). Also, Kanō Jigorō's residence was at the top of the hill. The Kodokan was founded by Jigoro Kano in 1882, and it has developed into an educational institution that researches and teaches *jūdō* and promotes its use. The *Kaiunzaka Dōjō* opened in 1902 by relocating the *Shimotomizaka Dōjō* (then at Shimotomizaka-cho, Koishikawa-ku, currently Koishikawa 1-chome, Bunkyo-ku) to a location adjacent to the Kanō residence. Judoka from all over the country gathered at the Kodokan *Kaiunzaka Dōjō* to practice their skills. Also, during the Taisho period (NOTE: 1912-1925), full-scale *jūdō* instruction for women began here. The Kodokan *dōjō* moved to Suidobashi in 1933. (NOTE: near today's Tokyo Dome Hotel.)

March 2014

Bunkyo Ward Board of Education

Photo, translation ©The Kanō Chronicles, 2024

NOTES added by translator.

Kanō named the hill to encourage Chinese students walking up the steep slope to attend the *Kōbun Gakuin* 宏文学院, a school built to educate nearly 8000 Chinese students. Kanō built his house next to the school atop the hill.

Other historical markers for “Ōtsuka Sakashita-chō”,  
the previous name of the area until 1966





1896-1909 map (left) with a modern map (right) from the  
great 今昔マップ <https://ktgis.net/kjmapw/index.html>

今昔マップ on the web

時系列地形図閲覧サイト「今昔マップ on the web」 埼玉大学教育学部 谷 謙二 (人文地理学研究室) [tweet](#)

検索 使用上の注意 使用データ デスクトップ版

1 2 4画面

☐ 図郭線表示

☐ 現在地表示

☒ 現在地中心

☒ 軌跡 GPX

地図記号 共有

地図不透明度 100%

重ねる地理院タイル

☒ 陰影起伏図

不透明度 70%

データセット選択

首都圏

- ☒ 1896~1909年
- ☐ 1917~1924年
- ☐ 1927~1939年
- ☐ 1944~1954年
- ☐ 1965~1968年
- ☐ 1975~1978年
- ☐ 1983~1987年
- ☐ 1992~1995年
- ☐ 1998~2005年
- ☐ 地理院地図
- ☐ 非表示

地理院地図

オープンストリート

The image displays a side-by-side comparison of two maps of the same geographic area in Utsunomiya, Japan. The left map is a historical black and white aerial photograph from 1896-1909, showing a dense urban layout with numerous small buildings and a network of streets. The right map is a modern color map from the OpenStreetMap project, showing the same area with updated street layouts, green spaces, and modern infrastructure. A blue location pin is placed on the same spot in both maps to facilitate comparison. The interface includes various controls on the left for map style, transparency, and data selection, and a top navigation bar with search and social media links.



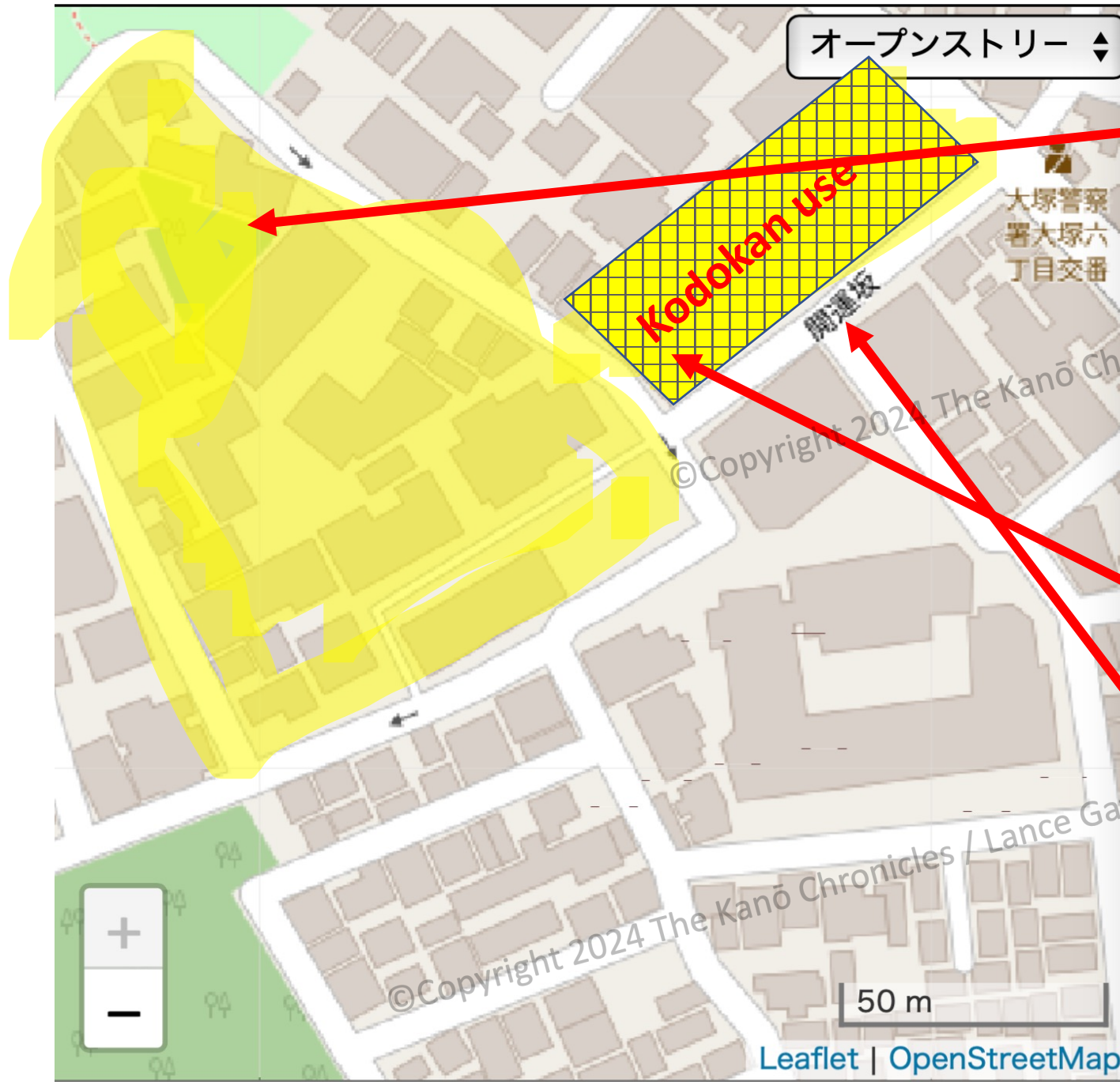


- Outline of Kanō Jigorō's property atop Kaiunzaka where his house stood, as well as the house of his training partner Yamashita Yoshitsugu
- The Kodokan Headquarters and the Kaiunzaka Kōdōkan dōjō were on the north side of the access road, which Kanō had built and donated to the city of Tokyo
- 文 bun symbol marks location of the *Kōbun Gakuin*, closed in 1909



- **Outline** of Kanō Jigorō's property atop Kaiunzaka where his house and the house of his training partner Yamashita Yoshitsugu stood
- Kanō transferred land to the Kodokan Foundation to build the *Kaiunzaka Kōdōkan* headquarters office on the north side of the access road, and the 107 mat *dōjō* nearby
- The Kaiunzaka Kodokan HQ and *dōjō* stood from 1909 to 1933, when they and the *Shimotomizaka Daiichi Dōjō* were consolidated in Suidōbashi
- **文 *bun* symbol** on the prior map marks the former location of the *Kōbun Gakuin*





Most of Kanō Jigorō's original *Shimosakashita 6-14* property (highlighted in yellow) lies in today's Ōtsuka 6-chōme-13, Ōtsuka 6-chōme-14, and a portion in Ōtsuka 6-chōme-11, Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo. It totaled more than 2759 *tsubo*, or over 100,000 square feet, not including land transferred to the Kodokan Foundation, probably another 10-20,000 square feet (900-1800 sq m)

The Kaiunzaka access road he contributed to Tokyo was another ~5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (465 m<sup>2</sup>)



# Kodokan Kaiunzaka headquarters on right; *Kōbun Gakuin* straight ahead atop the hill

かいうんざか  
講道館跡／開運坂道場



- The Kodokan headquarters offices (pictured) and Kaiunzaka *Daini* (No. 2) *dōjō* were downslope on the access road on the right
- After the massive fire and destruction of the Sep 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake, the HQ offices were loaned to the Imperial Army Military Police, and the 107 mat *dōjō* was opened to local refugees
- In Nov 1923, regular instruction of women began here (*Kano Sensei Den*, Yokoyama, 1941)
- Photo <https://yawaranomichi.jp> and The Kodokan



Easternmost portion of Kanō *shihan*'s former compound atop Kaiunzaka, where the *Kōbun Gakuin* stood, is now an empty lot (apparently preparing for major construction, May 2024)







先生晩年の温容と命夫人

Caption:

- 先生 晩年の温容と命夫人  
*The kindly face of Sensei in the later years of his life and his lifelong wife*
- Kanō in his Kaiunzaka estate garden
- By 1931, his estate was reduced to 94 *tsubo* / 3345 ft<sup>2</sup> (311 m<sup>2</sup>) after selling multiple parcels over years
- Upon his May 1938 death, his eldest surviving son Risei inherited his house and remaining land



# The End

## Kanō *shihan's* Kaiunzaka estate

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