Press Release

For Immediate Release

Kominka Preservation Alliance Launches U.S. Seminar Series to Highlight Preservation and Adaptive Reuse of Japan's Traditional Wooden Architecture

"Giving Japanese Kominka Farmhouses & Other Traditional Structures a Second Life in Japan & Overseas"

Boston, MA – [September 21, 2025] – The **Kominka Preservation Alliance**, a collaboration of preservation leaders and timber framers from Japan and North America, is launching a U.S. seminar series this October to highlight efforts to protect and revitalize Japan's endangered traditional wooden structures — from kominka farmhouses and kura storehouses to temples and shrines.

Japan's wooden heritage buildings represent centuries of craftsmanship, community life, and cultural identity. Yet many are now at risk of demolition due to rural depopulation, shifting lifestyles, and economic pressures. The Kominka Preservation Alliance seeks to address these challenges by combining traditional building knowledge with international collaboration and innovative approaches to adaptive reuse.

About the Seminar Series

This autumn, the Alliance will present seminars in:

- **Martha's Vineyard, MA** – October 16
- **Boston, MA** – October 18 and 19
- **New York City, NY** – October 21
- **Suquamish, WA** – October 23–26 (Timber Framers Guild Annual Conference)
- **San Francisco, CA** – October 28

Full venue details and registration information are available at:
www.kominkapreservationalliance.com

Each program will explore the cultural significance of kominka and other historic structures, traditional carpentry and craft techniques, current preservation challenges, and creative examples of adaptive reuse in both Japan and abroad. Participants will also hear stories of relocation and restoration, as well as perspectives from younger generations engaged in these efforts.

Voices from the Alliance

Koji Toda, Managing Director of **Toda Komuten**, said:
"Our family carpentry company has been dedicated to traditional Japanese construction since the

Taishō era. It is a profound honor to share these time-tested techniques with international colleagues and to see kominka find new life abroad while still honoring their origins."

Billy Dillon, Partner at **Kominka North America**, said:
"In North America, there is growing appreciation for sustainability and cultural authenticity. Relocated kominka embody both, offering a chance to live within history while shaping vibrant, cross-cultural futures. This seminar series is an invitation to be part of that journey."

Lauren Scharf, Communications Director of the **Minka Preservation Society**, said:
"These seminars are about more than learning—they are about building bridges. By sharing the beauty and resilience of Japan's wooden heritage, we hope to spark new collaborations that support rural revitalization and cultural exchange."

Andrea Carlson, Director of the **Kominka Collective** and Programs & Initiatives Director of the **Minka Preservation Society**, said:
"Kominka are more than houses—they are vessels of memory, community, and craftsmanship. By preserving and reimagining these structures, we ensure that the skills and stories they hold continue to inspire and connect future generations, both in Japan and across the world."

About the Kominka Preservation Alliance

The **Kominka Preservation Alliance** is a collaborative platform that unites four organizations in Japan and North America with a shared mission:

- To preserve Japan's disappearing farmhouses, machiya, kura, temples, shrines, and other traditional wooden structures.
- To pass on the building arts and craft traditions that sustain them.
- To support the revitalization of rural communities.

Together, the Alliance demonstrates the power of collaboration — showing that by working across borders, cultures, and generations, more can be achieved.

Alliance members include:

- **Kominka Collective** | kominkacollective.com
- **Toda Komuten** | todasanchi.com
- **Kominka North America** | kominkanorthamerica.com
- **Minka Preservation Society** | minkasociety.com

Media inquiries and further information:
Andrea Carlson
Kominka Preservation Alliance
contact@kominkapreservationalliance.com