



## Camp Santanoni: Adirondack Ho-o-den

One of the features that makes Camp Santanoni unique among the Adirondack great camps is its deliberate reflection of the Japanese *ho-o-den*, or “villa (den) of the phoenix (ho-o).” In Japan, the classical ho-o-den is a palace whose ground plan conforms to the shape of a bird in flight. The architectural devices used in designing several Adirondack great camps took inspiration from some of the Japanese forms to which the West had been exposed since the opening of Nippon by Commodore Perry in 1854. Robert C. Pruyn, first master of Santanoni, wanted the main lodge of his wilderness retreat to be his very own Adirondack ho-o-den, like the Japanese imperial retreats that had so impressed themselves upon him as a boy when he lived for a year in Edo (now called Tokyo) with his father, who served as Abraham Lincoln’s second ambassador to the Land of the Rising Sun. The ho-o-den form of the Main House at Santanoni may not be so obvious at ground level, but when seen from above the allusion cannot be mistaken. The Santanoni lodge perches on the shore of Newcomb Lake like a great bird, wings extended, ready to leap into flight over rocky alpine fastnesses of the nearby Adirondack High Peaks.