Ginkakuji Temple
(Silver Pavilion)
Location: Kyoto, Japan
Build: 1484
Opened: 1490
Founder: Ashikaga Yoshimasa
Function: Temple
Deity: Shaka Nyorai (Śākyamuni)
Ginkakuji Temple (Silver Pavilion) is a Zen temple located in eastern Kyoto on the Higashiyama mountain side. Ashikaga Yoshimasa designed and built his retirement villa in 1482. The Silver Pavilion was based on Kinkakuji (Golden pavilion), his Grandfather's retirement villa. The temple was turned into a Zen temple in 1490 after Yoshimasa's death. The temple today is really beautiful with moss and unique dry sand. It was an organic, natural feel with circular and angled walkways that give you beautiful views of the garden. The garden has secret elements within. The Silver Pavilion was never covered in silver. It got its name from the moonlight on the buildings that reflected a silver glow off the dark exterior, giving it the silver appearance. There are only two buildings on the Ginkakuji grounds that have survived unfortunate events over the years, including fires and earthquakes. They kept the buildings under maintenance over the years for renovations to keep it well preserved. The one thing that fascinates me about this garden is the elements that come into play have unique organic shapes and beautiful colors that complement each other from the pawn, to the trees, to the moss, to Zen garden, and building. The churning through the garden through all the seasons is a different experience every time just to see the changing colors of the plants. The one thing that's beautiful is the Cherry Blossom. They have one of the oldest tree blossoms on site in Kyoto. The Zen garden is also fascinating too, but they also have areas where they have some pathways that correlate with the sidewalk. They also have a collection of forty-eight moss samples. There are certain things used around the garden that are hidden. One moment you’re walking on the path, the next moment it disappears just to see the range of beauty all around.
Crispelmich Japonica
Japanese Black Pine
Japanese White Pine
Japanese Red Pine