



● 1850-1900

● 06-ÉCONOMIE

● MÉTIER

● INDUSTRIE

● JAPON

● KIRYU

● 07-  
COMMUNICATION

● APPARENCE

● TEXTILE



# Nokogiri-yane-koujou

The “sawtooth-roofed factories” (Nokogiri-yane-koujou | ノコギリ屋根工場) are among Kiryu’s architectural landmarks. Their distinctive silhouette is the result of an ingenious adaptation to the needs of the modern textile industry. The north-facing glass walls provide the steady light essential for thread work and fabric inspection. In Kiryu, these buildings became ubiquitous during the period of industrial expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They embody a convergence of architecture, production, and artisanal craftsmanship. While large chimneys often symbolize Western industry, the sawtooth roofs here represent a different image of modern manufacturing. Their preservation in the urban landscape still allows us today to understand the city’s economic organization. These buildings are to Kiryu what the spinning mills are to Manchester or the canuts to Lyon.

