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Welcome

Japanese Art History
247-01
Chapter Three: Heian Buddhist Temples

The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art

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1 Chapter Three: Heian Buddhist Temples

Lecture Summary

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- Muroji and Daigoji Temples, located in the mountains, shows influence of Shintoism on Buddhism and the movement to connect more to nature and sacred sites of natural beauty.
- There was a unique blend of Tantric Buddhism, Chinese Daoism and Japanese Shintoism that believed that solitary religious austerities will lead to great spiritual powers.
- Wooden sculptures dominant, single block and multi-block techniques, see page 134.
- Sculpted images of Buddha more solid, simplified; meant to be calming and reassuring.

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Heian Architecture 794 - 1185

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Dragon by Utagawa Kunisada II, 1860
Woodblock print

Plan of Muroji
Founded Late 700's
Mason fig. 161

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Heian Architecture 794 – 1185

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Muroji Pagoda
Late 8th or early 9th century
Mason fig. 162

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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185

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Muroji Seated Shaka
9th century H: 41 inches
Mason fig. 165 *

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Heian Architecture 794 – 1185

Hasedera Temple Main Entrance
Southeast of Nara
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Heian Architecture 794 – 1185

Hasedera, looking down covered stairs
Southeast of Nara
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Hasedera, view from top temple building
Southeast of Nara
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Hasedera, top temple complex
Southeast of Nara
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185

Hasedera Monks' Cemetery
Southeast of Nara
Photo: H. Rindsberg

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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185

Muroji Seated Shaka
9th century H: 41 inches
Mason fig. 165 *

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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185

Shaka Triad
Asuka Period

Muroji Seated Shaka
9th century H: 41 inches
Mason fig. 165 *

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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185

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Muroji Seated Shaka
9th century H: 41 inches
Mason fig. 165 *

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Lecture Summary

- Temple architecture was based on the shinden style – aristocrats mansions – arranged around garden and pond.
- Byodoin (Phoenix Hall) is a lovely example of an aristocrat's summer retreat, built in the shinden style then converted to a temple.
- The temple portrays the descent of Amida Buddha to welcome the deceased to paradise. It is the Western Paradise in architectural reality.

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Heian Architecture 794 – 1185

Plan of Byodoin Temple Aerial View, Founded 1053
Scanned: Arts of Japan

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Heian Architecture 794 – 1185

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Hoodo, Phoenix Hall, Byodoin
Mason fig. 172


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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185

- Amida carved by Jocho, foremost sculptor of Heian era, new proportions, calm.
- Amida in main hall is surrounded by apsaras, celestial nymphs, monks and musicians, graceful and serene, gentle, all on clouds – the heavenly host.
- The apsaras have come to greet the newly enlightened person and escort them to the Western Paradise.

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Heian Sculpture 794 - 1185



Amida Nyorai by Jocho
Byodoin Temple, Mason fig. 174 *

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Heian Sculpture 794 - 1185



Amida Nyorai By Jocho
Wood with lacquer & gold leaf
H: 9 foot 2 inches
Byodoin Temple
Mason fig. 174 *

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Heian Sculpture 794 - 1185



Interior of *Byodoin* with Apsaras
Mason fig. 173

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Heian Sculpture 794 - 1185



Apsara from Byodoin
By Jocho, 1053
Wood with traces of paint
Mason fig. 175 *

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Heian Sculpture 794 - 1185



Apsaras from Byodoin
By Jocho, 1053
Wood with traces of paint
Mason fig. 175 *

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Heian Architecture 794 - 1185



Hoodo, Phoenix Hall, Byodoin
Mason fig. 172

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Lecture Summary

- Late Heian Temples
 - Chusonji Temple, most extravagant late Heian temple surviving, has elaborate decorations of gold, lacquer and mother of pearl inlay.
 - Sanjusangendo Temple shows the belief in merit through conspicuous replication of images – 1,001 images of Kannon, Goddess of Compassion. Each statue is ostentatious in the extreme.

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Chusonji Temple, Konjikido, 1124
Mason fig. 185 & 186

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Heian 794 – 1185

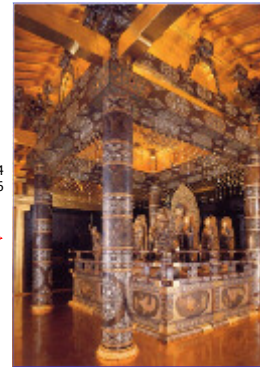


Chusonji Altar, Konjikido, 1124
Mason fig. 185 & 186

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Chusonji Altar, Konjikido, 1124
Mason fig. 185 & 186

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Zochoten
Kaidanin, Todaiji
Mid-8th century

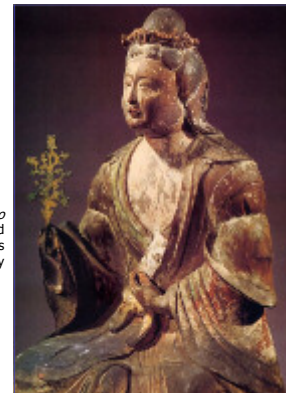
Jikokuten on Chusonji Altar
1124 Konjikido
Mason fig. 185 & 186

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Kariteimo
Colored Wood
H: 16 inches
At Todaiji, 12th century

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Sanjusangendo (Hall of Thirty-three Bays), Kyoto, Established 1132
Mason fig. 187 *
Web: Dan Hagerman

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Sanjusangendo Temple
Interior, 1132,
Mason Fig. 188 *
(Temple University)

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Sanjusangendo Temple, Established 1132, Interior
Mason Fig. 188 * (Temple University)

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Sanjusangendo Kannon
Sculptures, 1132,
Each sculpture 65 inches
Wood, lacquer and gold
Mason Fig. 188 *

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Sanjusangendo Kannon
Sculptures, 1132,
Mason Fig. 188 *
(Temple University)

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Heian Sculpture 794 – 1185 ◀▶

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Muroji Seated Shaka
9th century H: 41 inches
Mason fig. 165 *

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Hoodo, Phoenix Hall, Byodoin
Mason fig. 172