Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kyoto

Kiyomizu-dera Temple was founded by Enchin Shonin in 778. The temple took its name from Kiyomizu of Otowa falls. The temple structures are said to have been originally built in 798 by Sakanoue-no-Tamuramaro, the Great General who led the campaign to control Ezo (today’s Tohoku and Hokkaido).

The principal deity depicted in the temple artworks is Juichimen-SENJU-KANNON-BOATSU, the Kannon Bodhisattva with eleven faces and a thousand hands. Kiyomizu-dera has played a central part in the worship of Kannon as one of the Thirty Three Sacred Places in Western Japan since the Heian era.

The temple has been ravaged by repeated fires over the centuries. Many of the buildings and towers remaining today, including the main temple, a National Treasure, were reconstructed in 1633 by Iemitsu Tokugawa, the third shogun.

Kiyomizu-no-butai, the elevated stage located south of the main temple, is in the style of kakezukuri. The platform projects over a precipice, supported only by a wooden framework made of 139 tabane-bashira (a series of central pillars, each surrounded by smaller pillars) reinforced by nuki (battens that pass through the pillars horizontally).

清水寺（京都府）

元亀九年（778）、延暦上人によって開山され、寺名は、音羽の渓の清水に由来する。延暦二十七年（798）、征夷大将軍坂上田村麻呂の創建と伝えられる。

十一面千手観音菩薩を本尊とし、平安時代以来、西国33ヶ所観音霊場のひとつとして、観音信仰の中心地となった。

しばしば火災にあい、国宝の本堂など堂塔の多くは、寛永一〇年（1633）、徳川三代将軍家光によって再建されたものである。

本堂の南に造られた「清水の舞台」は、139本の束柱に貫を組み込んだ木組だけで支えられ、急峻な崖に大きく張りだした懸造りである。
No. 13
Kiyomizu-dera Temple
清水寺

No. 14
Kiyomizu-dera Temple
清水寺
Enryaku-ji Temple, Shiga

Enryaku-ji Temple was built by Saicho, or Dengyo-daishi, in 788 on Mt. Hiei. The temple is located northeast of Heian-kyo, the nation's capital from 794 to 1192. The temple was actually venerated as a guardian temple for the capital because of its location at the northeast, a direction considered unlucky and known by some as "the demon's gate."

Enryaku-ji is divided into three areas: To-to, Sai-to, and Yokawa. A great many buildings and towers once stood on the grounds, but almost all were destroyed in a fire set by Nobunaga Oda.

Konpon-chuudo, the main building of the temple built by Iemitsu Tokugawa in 1642, is a reconstruction of Ichijo-shikan-in founded by Saicho. Today it is designated as a National Treasure. The large Buddhist temple, one of the most prominent in Japan, is comprised of three structures enclosed in one another; Naijin, the innermost building is enclosed in Chujin, the middle building, which is enclosed in Gejin, the outermost building. Naijin has an earth floor, and Gejin and Chujin floors of wood. In front of Yakushi-nyorai, the main principal, a holy lantern has been kept lit since the days of Saicho.

延暦寺（滋賀県）

延暦七年(788)、最澄（伝教大師）によって比叡山に建てられた延暦寺は、延暦三十三年(794)に遷都した平安京の東北の鬼門にあたり、王城鎮護の寺として崇敬された。

東塔、西塔、横川の3地域からなり、多くの堂塔が建てられたが、織田信長によって焼き討ちにあい、ほとんどすべての建物を焼失した。

本堂にあたる国宝の根本中堂は、最澄が建立した一乗止観院の再建であり、寛永一九年(1642)、徳川家光によってなされた。国内屈指の大仏は、板敷きの外陣、中陣と、土間の内陣で構成され、本尊の薬師如来像の前には、最澄以来の不滅の法灯がともっている。
No.15
Enryaku-ji Temple
延暦寺
Daigo-ji Temple, Kyoto

Daigo-ji was originally built by Rigen-daishi (the great Master of Holy Treasures) as a temple of the Shingonshu sect of Buddhism. More than eighty buildings and towers are dispersed over the slopes of the mountain. The front building of Seiryu-gu and Yakushido, a National Treasure, are both in the Kami-daigo, the upper part of Daigo, the mountain area of the temple. The five-storied pagoda, the oldest pagoda in Kyoto, built in 951, is in the Shimo-daigo (the lower part of Daigo). Sanboin is the principal monastery of Yamabushi-Shugendo Tozanha, a sect of mountain asceticism.

醍醐寺（京都府）

貞観一六年（874）、理源大師聖宝が創建した真言宗寺院。上醍醐には、国宝の薬師堂、清滝宮の拝殿、下醍醐には、天暦五年（951）に建造された京都で最古の五重塔といった堂塔が、全山にわたって80余り建ちならぶ。三宝院は山伏修験道当山派の総本山。
No.16
Daigo-ji Temple
醍醐寺
Ninna-ji Temple, Kyoto

The construction of Ninna-ji Temple was begun by the Emperor Koko and completed in 888 during the reign of the Emperor Uda. The Emperor Uda abdicated, renouncing the world and taking up a priesthood at the temple. Over the next ten centuries up to the Meiji Restoration, the head priests of the temple were tonsured sons of the imperial family. The principal temple subscribes to Shingonshu Omuroha, a Buddhist faith.

The buildings were burned down during the War of Onin, but the main temple was restored with the help of the Tokugawa shogunate during the Kan-ei era and completed in 1646.

Kondo Hall, a National Treasure, was originally constructed as a Shishinden of the Imperial Palace during the Momoyama era and donated to Ninna-ji Temple by Iemitsu Tokugawa. It is the oldest existing remnant of shishinden, a building style that incorporates the features of both a palace and temple.

仁和寺（京都府）

光孝天皇が着工され、宇多天皇により仁和四年（888）に完成をみる。宇多天皇は退位後、出家されて、それより明治維新まで、皇子皇孫が仁和寺門跡を続ぐことになった。真言宗御室寺の総本山。

応仁の乱に際して建物は焼失したが、江戸寛永年間に徳川幕府の援助をうけて伽藍が整備され、正保三年（1646）に完成された。

国宝の金堂は、桃山時代に建造された紫宸殿を徳川家光が寄進したもので、宮殿と仏堂の特色をあわせもった、現存最古の紫宸殿の遺構である。
No. 17
Ninna-ji Temple
仁和寺

No. 18
Ninna-ji Temple
仁和寺
Byodo-in Temple, Kyoto
The building was originally constructed as a villa for the nobleman Minamoto-no-Toru and later donated to Fujiwara-no-Michinaga. In 1052, Michinaga's son Yorimichi converted the building into a temple and named it Byodo-in. A year later, Ami-dado, the building housing the Amitabha statue, was constructed on the small island in Ajiike pond. The Amitabha inside was sculpted by the master Jocho.

The pond surrounding Ami-dado is situated near the banks of the Uji-gawa River. A pair of Chinese pho-nixes forged in copper and gilded, sit atop the roof of Chudo, the middle of the main hall, facing each other and outstretching their wings. These creatures are designated a National Treas-ure, and it is from them that the building derives its name, Ho-oh-do (Phoenix Hall).

The lavishness of the decorations inside the building reflects the perfection of the Buddhist paradise, the Pure Land.

Rebuilt in the Kamakura era, a bell tower and Kannondo supporting a statue of Kannon, the goddess of Mercy, remain as remnants of the old buildings that once stood alongside Ho-oh-do.

平等院（京都府）
源融の別荘として建設されたものを藤原道長が譲り受け、その子頼通が寝殿を仏堂として寺院に改め、平等院と命名した。永承七年（1052）のことである。天喜元年（1053）、阿字池の中島に阿弥陀堂を建立、安置された阿弥陀如来像は定朝作。

阿弥陀堂は宇治川に沿って周囲に池が配され、中堂の屋根には国宝の金銅製鳳凰が対峙して揭げられている。鳳凰堂といわれる由縁である。

極楽浄土の世界を現出するため、内部装飾も荘厳をきわめる。

鎌倉時代に再建された観音堂と鐘楼が、鳳凰堂とともに遺構として残されている。
No.19
Byodo-in Temple
平等院

No.20
Byodo-in Temple
平等院
Ujigami-jinja Shrine, Kyoto

Honden, the main hall built in the Heian era, is the oldest existing shrine building. It is uniquely designed, enclosing three Naiden buildings arranged together in the nagarezukuri style of ohiya. Haiden Hall, the front shrine built during the Kamakura era, is the oldest existing structure of its type. Both are National Treasures.

宇治上神社（京都府）
平安時代に建立された本殿は、流造りの覆屋の中に、内殿3棟を併立させて収めるというユニークな形をもった、現存最古の神社建築。また拝殿は、鎌倉時代の建立で、拝殿としては現存最古。ともに国宝である。
No. 21
Ujigami-jinja Shrine
宇治上神社
Kozan-ji Temple, Kyoto
Kozan-ji Temple, built on the banks of Kiyotaki-gawa River deep in the mountains of Toganoh, a region famous for its Kitayama-sugi cedar, was founded in 774 under an Imperial Decree of the Emperor Konin. In 1206, Myoe restored the temple as a school of Kegonshu, a Buddhist sect, changing the name to Kozan-ji.

Sekisui-in was the Emperor Gotoba’s Kamo-betsuin (a smaller temple built at a distance from the main temple), which was removed and reconstructed here. It is renowned as one of the most beautiful residential buildings from the early Kamakura era and is designated as a National Treasure. Sekisui-in is also extraordinary for its functions; for the building was used both as the main shrine for the Kasuga and Sumiyoshi-myojin Deities, and as a kyozo, a storehouse for holy Buddhist scriptures (mikkyozu and kenkyozu, kyozo). Much of the building has been destroyed and remodeled over the centuries, but remnants of the original style from the Kamakura era remain, such as the eaves of sugaru-hafu, and also the kaeru-mata, the traditional foundation for temple and shrine structures.

Many of the buildings were lost in the wars at the end of the Muromachi era, but the temples were restored by Nagai Shuyu Shonin in 1636.

The main temple houses four volumes of Cho-ju-giga, a series of exquisite scrolls depicting frolicking animals in the hakubyo style.

高山寺（京都府）
北山杉で著名な桐尾の山奥、清滝川に臨んでたたずむ高山寺は、宝亀五年（774）に光仁天皇の勅願によって創建され、建永元年（1206）、明恵が華厳宗の道場として再興、寺号を高山寺と改めた。

石水院は、後鳥羽天皇の賀茂別院を移築したもので、鎌倉時代初期の住宅建築の傑作として知られ、国宝。春日・住吉両神を祀る社殿と、経蔵（密教蔵と顕教蔵）を兼ねる異例の建物である。大きく改造されているが、墓殿や縁破風の屋根は鎌倉時代の特色を示している。

室町時代末の戦乱で多くの建物が焼失したが、寛永一三年（1636）、永井秀融上人によって再興された。

白描の戯画絵巻『鳥獣戯画』4巻が、寺宝として伝わる。

32
No. 22
Kozan-ji Temple
高山寺

No. 23
Kozan-ji Temple
高山寺
Saiho-ji Temple, Kyoto

Enjoined by Imperial Decree of the Emperor Shomu, Gyoki founded the temple during the Tenpyo era. Later, at the beginning of the Muromachi era (1339), Muso Soseki restored it as a Zen temple and renamed it Saiho-ji.

The Kamakura-shiki (Kamakura style) garden is composed of two parts. The upper part is done in the karesansui style, a dry landscape garden comprised of rock arrangements halfway up Mt. Koinzan with Ryo-ensui and Zazen-seki (meditation stone). The lower part is done in the chisen-kaiyu-shiki style (a style of garden arranged around a central pond), enclosing Ohgonchi Pond.

Shounan-tei, Tanhoku-tei and similar structures are arranged around Ohgonchi Pond, which is shaped like the Chinese character kokoro (mind). The temple grounds are blanketeted in a thick covering of over 120 moss species.

西芳寺（京都府）

天平年間、聖武天皇の勅願により、行基が創建し、室町時代の初期、暦応二年(1339)に、夢窓疎石によって禅寺として再興された時に、寺名を西芳寺と改めた。

鍔倉式庭園は二段で構成され、上段は、隠宿山中腹の石組、龍淵水、坐禅石などがある枯山水式庭園、下段は、黄金池をめぐる池泉回遊式庭園となっている。

「心」字形をした黄金池のまわりには、湘南亭、淡泊亭などの建築物が配され、境内は120種類を超えるコケでおおわれている。
No. 24
Saiho-ji Temple
西芳寺

No. 25
Saiho-ji Temple
西芳寺
Tenryu-ji Temple, Kyoto

Tenryu-ji Temple was built by Takaui Ashikaga to console the spirit of the Emperor Godaigo and mourn the fallen soldiers of the Nanboku-cho Dynasty. The founder, Muso Soseki, held the Buddhist memorial service to celebrate the completion of the buildings.

Many of the original buildings were destroyed by repeated fires, and most standing today were built during the Meiji era or after. Fortunately, the Hojo-teien garden arranged by Muso Soseki remains in its original form, well exemplifying the temple's former appearance.

Sogenchi Pond, the oldest kaiyu-shiki garden (a style of garden arranged around a central pond), is famous for harmonizing the styles of two different cultures -- suibokuga painting (Indian ink painting) from Zen culture and yamatoe painting (painting on Japanese scenery) from traditional Japanese culture. Sogenchi Pond had a tremendous influence on both the Kitayama and Higashiyama cultures.

天龍寺（京都府）

貞和元年（1345）、夢窓疎石を開山として落慶法要が営まれた天龍寺は、後醍醐天皇の慰霊と南北朝の戦没者追悼のために、足利尊氏によって建立された。

度重なる火災により、現在の建物はほとんどが明治以降のものであるが、夢窓疎石の手になる方丈庭園が、当時の面影を伝えている。

最古の回遊式庭園である曹源池は、水墨画的表現の禅文化と、大和絵的伝統文化の融合といわれ、北山・東山の両文化に多大な影響を与えた。
No.26
Tenryu-ji Temple
天龍寺
鹿苑寺／金閣寺（京都府）

応永四年(1397)、足利義満は、西園寺公経の別荘、北山第を譲りうけ、山荘の建築にかかった。衣笠山を借景とした庭園は、鏡湖池を中心に名石が配され、浄土庭園をくんだ池泉回遊式庭園となっている。庭園には、3層の舎利殿（金閣）、会所、泉殿が建てられ壮麗をきわめた。

この北山殿は、義満の死後、無窓破石を勧請関山として寺に改められたが、応仁の乱で金閣を除く建物は焼失し、金閣も昭和二十五年(1950)、放火によって失われた。

現在の金閣は復元されたものであるが、初層の法水院は庵殿造り風、2層の潮音洞が書院造り風、3層の究竟頂は禅宗様仏堂風となっており、2層と3層には漆の上から金箔が貼られている。
No. 27
Rokuon-ji (Kinkaku-ji) Temple
鹿苑寺（金閣寺）

No. 28
Rokuon-ji (Kinkaku-ji) Temple
鹿苑寺（金閣寺）
Jisho-ji (Ginkaku-ji) Temple Kyoto

In 1482, Yoshimasa Ashikaga founded Higashiyama-dono mountain villa, following up on his grandfather Yoshimitsu's Kitayama-dono Kinkaku-ji. After his death, it became a Zen temple of the Buddhism sect Rinzaishu in accordance with his wishes.

The temple was a center of Higashiyama culture. The arts of the Higahiyama culture were a paragon of subdued refinement and delicate beauty, quite unlike the elegant yet somewhat brasher works produced by the Kitayama culture. Lamentably, the temple was burned to ground during the War of Onin. The only structures standing today are the Tohokujo and Kannonden (the Silver Pavilion).

Shinkuhden, the lower part of Kannonden, adopts the shoinzukuri style of residential architecture, and the Choontaku, the upper part, adopts the zenchi-butsuden style for Zen temples.

Yoshimasa's mortuary tablet is enshrined in the Tohokujo temple. Dojinsai, the four-and-a-half-tatami-mat room inside the temple, is Japan's oldest structure in the shoinzukuri style.

Like all gardens in the chisen-kaiyu-shiki style, the temple garden is arranged around a central pond, Kinkyocho Pond. The white sand garden, called Ginshadon or Kogetsudai, is said to have been created in the early Edo period.

慈照寺／銀閣寺（京都府）
文明四年（1482）, 足利義政は、祖父義満の北山殿金閣寺にならって、山荘東山殿を造営したが、義政の死後、遺言により臨済宗の禅寺となった。

華麗な北山文化に対し、枯淡幽玄の世界を現出す拠点となったが、応仁の乱で焼失、現在残されている建物は、観音殿（銀閣）と東求堂だけである。

観音殿は、下層の心空殿が書院造り、上層の潮音閣が禅宗仏殿形式となっている。

東求堂は、義政の持仏堂であり、そのなかの四畳半の同仁斎は、現存最古の書院造り。

庭園は、銅鏡池を中心とした池泉回遊式庭園。銀沙礫、向月台とよばれる白砂の庭は江戸時代初期の作といわれる。
No.29
Jisho-ji (Ginkaku-ji) Temple
慈照寺（銀閣寺）

No.30
Jisho-ji (Ginkaku-ji) Temple
慈照寺（銀閣寺）
Ryoan-ji Temple, Kyoto

Ryoan-ji Temple was originally founded in 1450 under the patronage of Katsumoto Hosokawa, who was offered the villa by the Tokudaiji family. The temple was destroyed by two fires, the first during the War of Onin and the second in 1797. In the 19th century, the Hojo building (residential building of the chief priest) was removed from Seigen-in and reconstructed at Ryoan-ji.

The front garden of Hojo building is a world-famous rock-garden in the style of karesansui (a garden that depicts hills and waters using only the shapes of dry rock and earth), bordered on three sides by low earthen walls. Fifteen rocks of various sizes are arranged on white sand in five groups. The first group, at the far left, is made up of five rocks, and the next groups, moving one-by-one to the right, are made up of two, three, two, and three rocks. The only plant life in the garden is a light covering of moss that has been allowed to grow over some of the rocks. The world depicted by the shapes and arrangement of the rocks is simple, symbolic, and highly Zen.

龍安寺（京都府）

宝德二年（1450），徳大寺家の別荘を譲り受けた細川勝元によって創建された。応仁の乱、寛政九年（1797）の火災で焼失後、西源院の方丈を移築、再建された。

方丈の前庭は世界的に有名な枯山水の庭で、白砂の上に向って左から、五・二・三・二・三と、合計15個の大小の石が配され、3方を低い土壁で囲まれた内には草木1本生えていない。石の形と配列によって表現された世界は、簡潔かつ象徴的で、禅の空間といわれる由緒である。