No.31
Ryoan-ji Temple
龍安寺
Nishihongan-ji Temple, Kyoto

Nishihongan-ji Temple was commissioned by Kakushin-ni, the daughter of Shinran Shonin. It was originally a small memorial chapel enshrining an image of Shinran, and now is the head temple of Jodoshinshu Honganjiha, a Buddhist sect.

The land on which the temple was built, a donation from Hideyoshi Toyotomi in 1591, formed a jinaichou, a town enclosing a temple and protected by moats. The north Noh stage, a prominent structure from the Momoyama era removed from Jurakudai and reassembled at its present location, is the oldest Noh stage in Japan. The Hiunkaku Pavilion, another structure moved from Jurakudai, epitomizes the multi-storied style of sukiya architecture. The building has elegant exteriors and sophisticated interior ornamentations.

Karesansui, the rock garden within the Garden of Kokei (Tiger Valley: a valley in China), is famous for its unique rock arrangements. Miei-do, rebuilt in 1636, is the repository of the wooden statue of Shinran Shonin. Hondo, the main temple Amidado, was rebuilt in 1760.

西本願寺（京都府）

文永九年(1272)、親鸞聖人の娘、覚信尼によって建てられた聖人の廟を起源とする、浄土真宗西本願寺派の総本山。

天正九年(1571)、豊臣秀吉から寺地の寄進をうけ、寺内町を形成した。聚楽第から移築された北能舞台は、現存最古の能舞台で、桃山文化の代表的建造物である。同じく聚楽第から移築された飛雲閣は、数寄屋風の楼閣建築で、優美な外観と凝った内部意匠をもつ。

虎渓の庭の枯山水は、その大胆な石組で著名。聖人の木像を安置する御影堂は寛永三年(1636)に再建されたもの。本堂は阿弥陀堂となばれ、再建されたのは宝暦一〇年(1760)。
No.32
Nishihongan-ji Temple
西本願寺

No.33
Nishihongan-ji Temple
西本願寺
Nijo-jo Castle, Kyoto
Nijo-jo Castle was established as the residence in which Ieyasu Tokugawa was to receive the official announcement appointing him to the shogunate. The third shogun Iemitsu brought Fushimi-jo Castle to the grounds at Nijo-jo, expanding the Castle complex to its present scale.

The Ninomaru Palace is the only group of palace buildings remaining within the castle. The structures epitomize the gorgeous and luxurious shoinzukuri style of the Momoyama era.

Ninomaru-teien garden, considered one of the finest gardens in Japan, is said to be a work of Enshu Kobori.

It was at Nijo-jo Castle that Yoshinobu Tokugawa, the fifteenth Shogun, announced his resolution to relinquish his administrative power to the Imperial Household in 1867.

二条城（京都府）
慶長八年(1603)、徳川家康が将軍宣下を受けるための居館としてつくられ、3代将軍家光によって伏見城が移築されて、現在の規模となった。

二の丸に残っている殿舎群は、城郭内に設けられた御殿の現存唯一の遺構であり、桃山風の豪華な書院造りの代表的建築物である。

二の丸庭園は、小堀遠州が作庭したと伝えられ、名園のひとつに数えられる。

慶応三年(1867)、徳川慶喜によって大政奉還が上表されたのも、この城である。
No. 34
Nijo-jo Castle
二条城

No. 35
Nijo-jo Castle
二条城
Gokayama Villages, Toyama and Shirakawa-go Villages, Gifu
The three Gassho-zukuri Villages in Ogimachi (Shirakawa-mura, Ono-gun, Gifu Prefecture), Ainokura (Taira-mura, Higashitonomi-gun, Toyama Prefecture.), and Suganuma (Kamitaira-mura, Higashitonomi-gun, Toyama Prefecture) have been recently designated as World Heritages.

The village houses are built on mountain foothills and the river terraces along the Sho-gawa river flowing from south to north. The gables face north or south, depending on the direction of the prevailing winds. The thatched gable roofs are very steep and supported by a sasu structure (a series of triangular frames, each composed of two sloped members called sasu, attached by pin connections to the bottom chord of the truss frame). No nails or clamps are used.

The attics in the Gassho-style houses are divided into two to four levels and actively used for raising silk worms. In feudal times, when Gokayama belonged to the domain of Kaga, the space below the floor level was used for the production of niter, the main ingredient of gunpowder.

Under harsh natural conditions and with a scarcity of arable soil, the villagers had to cooperate in large family units. The unique arrangements of rooms within the houses were designed to accommodate dozens of family members.

五箇山（富山県）、白川郷（岐阜県）
現在、岐阜県大野郡白川村荻町と富山県東礪波郡平村相倉および上平村菅沼の3ヶ所の合掌作り集落が、世界文化遺産に登録されている。

南北に流れる庄川に面した山麓や河岸段丘上に、川に沿って吹く風を考慮して妻を南北に向けて建てられた家は、2本の柱を山形に組みあわせた杖首によって急勾配の茅葺き屋根が支えられている。釘やかすがいは使用されていない。

屋根裏は、2段から4段に分かれ、養蚕にあてられている。また加賀藩領だった五箇山は、火薬の原料である暖硝の生産を、床下で行なった。

自然条件がきびしく耕地の少ないこの地域は、大家族の協同作業が必須であり、数10人が住むための、独特の間取りをうんだ。
No. 36
Gokayama Villages
五箇山

No. 37
Gokayama Villages
五箇山

No. 38
Shirakawa-go Villages
白川郷
Genbaku Dome, Hiroshima
At 8:15 A.M. on August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb was dropped onto the city of Hiroshima. It was the first atomic attack in human history. Within seconds, the city and its people were utterly devastated.

The dome structure did not collapse under the shockwave, but it was stripped to its framework of reinforced steel. The building, the Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall, had been commissioned to the Czech architect Jan Letzel and completed in 1915. The main structure stood three stories and was constructed from brick and reinforcing steel. The round dome-covered tower adjacent to the main structure was five stories high.

The design was a combination of neobaroque and the secessionist style prevailing in Vienna at the time.

The A-bomb Dome was registered as a World Heritage after the Auschwitz concentration camp. Both were designated as cultural heritages representing tragic blunders of the human race. The dome symbolizes our pledge to pursue lasting peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

原爆ドーム（広島県）
昭和二〇年(1945)八月六日、午前八時一五分、人類史上最初の原子爆弾が広島に投下され、一瞬にして都市を破壊した。

倒壊はまぬかれたが、鉄骨がむきだしとなったドームは、広島県産業奨励館であった。広島県の依頼によって、チェコの建築家ヤン・レツルが設計し、大正四年(1915)に完成した物品陳列館は、一部に鉄骨を使用したレンガ造りの3階建てで、楕円形のドームをもった5階建ての建物と組み合わされている。

当時ウィーンで流行したセセッション式にネオパロック様式を融合させたデザインであった。

人の過ちを伝える「負の文化遺産」としてアウシュヴィッツ強制収容所に次いで登録され、核兵器廃絶と恒久平和を求める誓いのシンボルとなっている。
No. 39
Genbaku Dome
原爆ドーム

No. 40
Genbaku Dome
原爆ドーム
Itsukushima-jinja Shrine, Hiroshima
The first temple of Itsukushima-jinja was originally constructed back in 593. During the last days of Heian Period, Taira-no-Kiyomori worshiped the enshrined goddess as a goddess of the sea. With his help, the shrine building was renovated on a large scale.

Over ensuing centuries, periodic fires repeatedly damaged the shrine. The present Honden (Main Sanctuary) of the main shrine was constructed in 1571 by Motonari Mouri.

Prominent among the many structures in the shrine complex are the main shrine buildings and Marodo Shrine (shrine for the Guest Deity), connected together by long corridors. The Honden, the Main Sanctuaries of both the main shrine and Marodo Shrine are constructed in the Ryonagare style of Japanese architecture.

Otorii, the vermilion-hued Grand Gate made of raw camphor timber, stands in the sea as a symbol of Aki-no-Miyajima (Miyajima Island in Aki Province).

The zone designated as a World Heritage is vast, encompassing the Itsukushima-jinja Shrine and its outlying buildings, the sea surrounding the shrine, and the Misen-genshirin primeval forest behind the shrine.

厳島神社（広島県）
厳島神社の創建は推古天皇元年（593）にさかのぼるが、平安時代末期、平清盛が海上鎮護の神として信仰し、その援助を受けて大修築がなされた。

その後、たびたび火災に遭い、現在の本社本殿は元亀二年（1571）、毛利元就によって造営されたものである。

本社や客神社をはじめ数多の建築物は長い回廊によって結ばれている。本社、客神社はともに本社は間流造り。

海上に建つ大鳥居は、クスノキの自然木をそのままに用い、「安芸の宮島」とのシンボルとなっている。

世界文化遺産として登録された区域は、社殿を中心とした厳島神社と海、そして背後の弥山原始林をふくむ広大な地域である。
No. 41
Itsukushima-jinja Shrine
厳島神社

No. 42
Itsukushima-jinja Shrine
厳島神社

No. 43
Itsukushima-jinja Shrine
厳島神社
Todai-ji Temple, Nara

By Imperial Decree of the Emperor Shomu, Todai-ji was established as the cardinal temple of Kokubun-ji, a system of temples dispersed one-by-one in each of Japan's political regions to guard the nation and hold worship for rich harvests. Todai-ji is a renowned temple of Kegonshu and was founded by Ryoben. The principal creation is Rushana-buto. The Daibutsu-den, within which a massive figure of Buddha is housed, was completed in 751. Reconstructed in the Edo period, Daibutsu-den is the largest wooden structure in the world.

A year after the completion of the temple, the Kaigen-kuyo ceremony was held to paint eyes on the great statue as a welcoming beacon for the soul of Buddha. Two years after Kaigen-kuyo, Ganjin, a visiting emissary from Tang China, established Kaidan-in, a building with a special platform to give admonitions.

Nandai-mon, the main south gate reconstructed during the Kamakura era, is a good example of the daibutsu-yosiki structure, designed in the multi-layer-irimoyazukuri style.

Tegai-mon gate is a hakkyaku-mon (eight-legged gate) with a gabled roof overlaid in the hongawarabuki style (an arrangement of flat tiles and round ones placed alternately). It is one of the few remaining structures from the original construction of Todai-ji. According to historians, there were only two hakkyaku-mon gates built during the Tenpyo era -- Tegai-mon and the Todai-mon gate at Horyu-ji Temple.

The Shoso-in storehouses were built during the Nara era. There are three principal structures: Hoku-so (north house), Nan-so (south house), and Chu-so (middle house). The houses are best known for their log construction in the azekura-zukuri style.

東大寺（奈良県）
聖武天皇の開啓により、総国分寺として創建された。華厳宗の名利で、開基は良弁。本尊は盧舎那仏。天平勝宝五年（751）に大仏殿を完成する。大仏殿は世界最大の木造建築だが、現在のものは江戸時代に再建されたものである。

翌年、開眼供養が行なわれ、さらに2年後、唐から来朝した僧侶によって戒壇院が設立された。

南大門は長篠戦に母屋造りで大仏様式の代表作とされる。鎌倉時代の再建である。

転害門は切妻造り本瓦葺きの八脚門で、創建当初からの数少ない遺構である。ちなみに、天平時代の八脚門は転害門と法隆寺の東大門だけである。

正倉院正倉は、奈良時代の建物で、北倉・南倉・中倉に分かれ、校倉造りで知られている。
No.44
Todai-ji Temple
東大寺

No.45
Todai-ji Temple, Kofuku-ji Temple
東大寺 興福寺
Kofuku-ji Temple, Nara

Kofuku-ji Temple was originally constructed as Yamashina-dera temple by the widow of Fujiwara-no-Kamatari to fulfill the will of her late husband. Later, Yamashina-dera was moved to Asuka where it became Umayasaka-dera Temple. Then, when the capital was moved to Heijo-kyo in 710, Fujiwara-no-Fuhito moved the temple with it and renamed it Kofuku-ji. Over the next centuries Kofuku-ji flourished as a temple of Fujiwara family.

Tokondo, the main east hall, is done in the yosemunezukuri style and is thought to have been commissioned by the Emperor Shomu. The existing building is a reconstruction from the Muromachi era. The original north Hokuendo (an octagonal or hexagonal shrine building) was said to have been built by the Emperor Genmei and Emperor Gensho, but the structure today is a renovation from the Kamakura era. The five-storied pagoda was reconstructed during the Muromachi era. Though none of the original buildings actually remain, all of the reconstructions at Kofuku-ji retain the original style of the Tenpyo era.

興福寺（奈良県）
藤原鎌足の遺志により夫人が建てた山階寺が起りで、飛鳥に移って藤坂寺となり、平城京遷都とともに不比等によって移され、興福寺と改称し、藤原氏の氏寺として栄えた。

聖武天皇の創建といわれる東金堂は、寄棟造りで室町時代の再建。北円堂は、元明・元正天皇の創建と伝えられるが鎌倉時代の再建。五重塔は室町時代の再建だが、いずれも天平様式をよく伝える。
No.46
Kofuku-ji Temple
興福寺
Kasuga-taisha Shrine, Nara
Kasuga-taisha Shrine was constructed in 768 to worship the deity of the Fujiwara family. The pathway to the shrine is lined on both sides with some 2,000 stone lanterns.

Honden (the main shrine, designated as a National Treasure) is made up of four smaller shrines lined up from east to west. The gabled roof is in the hiwadabuki style, thatched with bark of Japanese cypress. The eaves at the gables form a gohai (a section of the eaves that hang over the steps for visitors), and the ridge of the roof is elaborately configured with chigi (the wooden tips of the gables, which cross over the roof) and katsuogi (wooden ornaments lined horizontally on the ridgepole). This ornate style, known as kasugazukuri, is an excellent example of the shrine architecture prevalent at the time of Honen's construction.

The Chu-mon, the middle gate, is colored in vermilion and has aisles on both sides. The ascending aisle to the north aisle is called nejiro because of its angled form. Reputed to be the work of the legendary sculptor Jingoro Hidari, Chu-mon has been designated as an Important Cultural Property.

春日大社（奈良県）
神護景雲二年（768）、藤原氏の氏神として造営された。参道の両側には、石燈籠が約2,000基立ち並んでいる。

国宝に指定されている本殿は、4棟の神殿が東西に並ぶ形で配されている。切妻造り総檜葺きで、妻入りに筒を付して向拝とし、階段を付け、棟に千木と蟻木を設ける形は、春日造りとよばれ、神社建築の代表となっている。

中門は丹塗りの楼門で、左右に御廊が続くが、北御廊に向かう登廊は、斜めになっているので捻廊といわれている。左甚五郎作と伝えられ、重要文化財に指定されている。
No.47
Kasuga-taisha Shrine
春日大社
Gango-ji Temple, Nara

Founded by Soga-no-Umako in 588, Asuka-dera Temple was built in 596. When the capital moved to Heijo-kyo the temple was moved to Nara, where it flourished as one of the Seven Great Temples of the Southern Capital.

Gokuraku-bo was part of the monks' residences. In the Kamakura era the building was reconstructed into the Honden (the main shrine) and Zen meditation hall. They are both designated as National Treasures. The roof is covered with marugawara (a cylindrical tile shaped like a half-pipe tiled) in the Gyoki-buki style.

元興寺（奈良県）

588年、蘇我馬子によって創立され、596年に完成した飛鳥寺が、平城遷都とともに奈良に移り、南都七大寺のひとつとして栄えた。

極楽坊はその僧坊の一部で、本堂と禅室に改築されたのは鎌倉時代。ともに国宝である。屋根は丸瓦を重ねた行基葺き。
No. 48
Gango-ji Temple
元興寺
Yakushi-ji Temple, Nara

The Emperor Tenmu issued an Imperial Decree to build Yakushi-ji, a place to pray for the recovery of the Empress, who was suffering from an illness. Tenmu passed away before the temple construction was completed, and the Empress Jito succeeded his will. Moto-yakushi-ji was completed in 698 in Fujiwara-kyo, where its foundation stones still remain. Later, when the capital was transferred to Heijo-kyo, the temple was moved to its present location.

The buildings burned down one after another, and the only one that remains in its original form is the To-to, the east tower. Each floor in this three-storied pagoda is constructed with a mokoshi, an eave-shaped section projecting from the wall. The architectural style is called ryuguzukuri. The sorin, a decorative part of the uppermost roof, has four suien, each with 24 openworked flying angels.

Kondo, the main temple, was reconstructed in 1976 in exactly the same style as the original.

The west tower was reconstructed in 1981, so the temple today has reconstructions of both of its original towers at the east and west.

薬師寺（奈良県）

天武九年(680)、天武天皇が皇后（後の持統天皇）の病気平癒を祈念して建立を発願したが、仏舎完成の前に崩御、持統天皇がその遺志を引き継いだ。完成は天武二年(698)、これが藤原京に礎石を遺す本薬師寺である。その後、平城遷都に伴い、現在の地に移された。

火災で次々に焼失し、創建当時の唯一の遺構が東塔である。各階に裳階が付いた三重塔で、龍宮造りといわれる。頂上の相輪につけられた水煙は4枚からなり24体の飛天が透かし彫りされている。

昭和五一年(1976)、創建当初の様式のままに金堂が再建された。

続いて五六年(1981)、西塔が再建され、ここに東西両塔がそろうことになった。
No.49
Yakushi-ji Temple
薬師寺

No.50
Yakushi-ji Temple
薬師寺
Toshodai-ji Temple, Nara
Ganjin, the renowned priest of Tang China, was invited to Japan by the Emperor Shomu. The sea proved a great obstacle, and Ganjin was unable to reach Japanese shores until his fifth voyage, by which time he had lost his vision.

Toshodai-ji Temple was founded by Ganjin in 759 as a private temple for priests and students of Buddhism. The temple had no government affiliations.

The roof of Kondo, the main temple, is built in the tanso (single-layer)-yosemunezukuri style. It is covered with tiles in the hongawarabuki style, with an arrangement of flat tiles and round ones placed alternately. The building is the largest remnant of the old buildings during the Tenpyo era, as well as the only main temple remaining from that era. The eight columns are built in the entasis technique. The ornamental tiles placed at the ends of the ridges on the rooftop on the west side remain as originally constructed, from more than 1,300 years ago.

The kyozo (storehouse for sacred scrolls) and hozo (storehouse for temple treasures) were built some years before the temple. They are Japan’s oldest structures in the azekurazukuri style and designated as National Treasures.

The auditorium was built by bringing over Higashi-choshuden (east palace located in the Imperial Palace). It is the only remaining example of palace architecture from the Tenpyo era, and it is designated as a National Treasure.

唐招提寺（奈良県）
唐の高僧鏡真は、聖武天皇の招きで来朝したが、それが実現したのは5度目の航海であり、東大寺に着いた時には失明していた。

唐招提寺は、天平宝字三年（759）、鏡真によって開かれたが、官寺ではなく、和上と学僧の私院であった。

単層寄棟造り本瓦葺きの金堂は、天平時代唯一の金堂遺構で、現在最大の天平建築物である。8本の柱はエンタシスをもつ。また大棟に飾られた鶴尾のうち、西側のものは創建当時のままである。

また経蔵、宝蔵は、唐招提寺が建立される以前からあったもので、日本最古の校倉造りの建築物で国宝。

講堂は東朝集殿を移築して建てられており、天平時代の宮殿建築としては現存唯一のもので国宝。
No.51
Toshodai-ji
唐招提寺