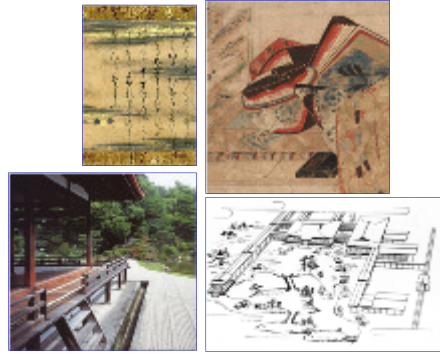


Welcome

Japanese Art History
ARTH 2071
Chapter Three: Capital of Peace
And Tranquility

The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art



1

Chapter Three: Capital of Peace and Tranquility

Chapter Three Introduction

- Many art historians believe that the Heian period was the height of Japanese artistic achievement
- As we discuss this chapter, consider your definition of art and decide if you agree or disagree with this statement.
- Check the definitions of art with your fellow students. Do their ideas help you better understand art and artists?

2

Chapter Three: Capital of Peace and Tranquility

Chapter Three Introduction

- Early Heian 794 – 951
 - Politics: Emperor Kanmu moved the capital to Heiankyo to escape powerful Buddhist institutions
 - Politics: the han (smaller political divisions) were distributed to aristocratic families, especially Fujiwaras
 - Religion: Buddhism loses some of its influence over social and political life.

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Chapter Three: Capital of Peace and Tranquility

Chapter Three Introduction

- Early Heian 794 – 951
 - Artistic: Japanese looked inward at their own artistic achievements and revived old styles and techniques
 - Artistic: There is a movement to develop a separate Japanese aesthetic and cultural forms
 - International: the Japanese felt they had surpassed the Chinese; broke off embassies in 894. The Tang dynasty, riddled with corruption, collapsed in 904.

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Chapter Three: Capital of Peace and Tranquility

Introduction to Heian Period

- Middle Heian 951 – 1086
 - Politics: the Fujiwara family became most powerful by marrying into the imperial family
 - Religion: Esoteric cults developed based on complex rituals; savior cults spread to the common people.
 - Economics: A time of peace and prosperity, culture flourished
 - Artistic: Aristocrats had time and money to pursue the arts. Court women devoted themselves to writing

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Chapter Three: Capital of Peace and Tranquility

Introduction to Heian Period

- Late Heian 1086 – 1185
 - Politics: Imperial family wrested wealth and power back from Fujiwara through bribes
 - Religion: Many temples founded, to gain merit in this life and the next
 - Artistic: Handscrolls became a major art form, ie. The Tale of Genji. Women devoted themselves to painting

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

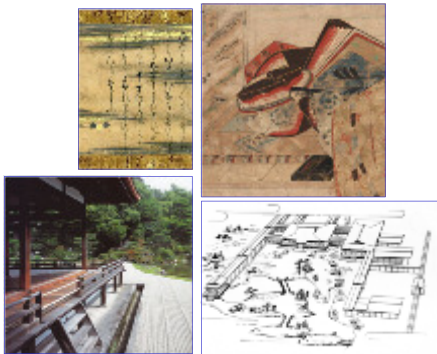
Introduction to Heian Period

- Genpei Civil War 1180 – 1185
 - Taira and Minamoto families gained wealth and power
 - Yamato (emperor) and Fujiwara (aristocrats) turned to Taira and Minamoto during the civil war
 - The epic Tale of Heike is about this war, named for the losers – the Taira/Heike
 - The Heian Period ended when the Minamotos established a military dictatorship and moved their capital to Kamakura.

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art



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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Lecture Summary: Heian Period

- Kyoto was laid out on a strict grid system, again following the Chinese model
- There were only 1,000 aristocrats, but they drove the life of the culture
 - Men and women had a strict code of personal and artistic behavior
 - Artworks show an ideal face and figure, not an individual
- Kyoto was the only city in the country with a total population of 60,000 people.

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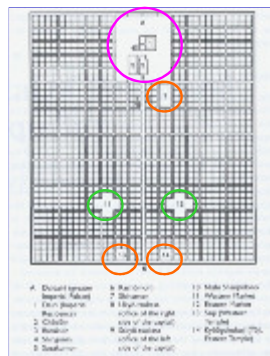
Lecture Summary : Heian Period

- Shinden architecture developed for aristocrats' homes
 - Decorative arts were highly developed
 - Gardens became a highly developed art form and an integral part of homes and temples
- Hiragana, syllabic writing system developed
- Poetry was a central part of court culture

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



Plan of Heiankyō
Built 794
(Modern Kyoto)
Mason fig. 125

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



Heian Imperial Palace
Web: Asian Historical Architecture

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



Heian Imperial Palace
Web: Asian Historical Architecture
Mason fig. 126 *

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



Heian Imperial Palace
Web: Asian Historical Architecture

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



Heian Imperial Palace
Web: Asian Historical Architecture

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



- Ideals of Beauty – Women
 - Round face, small features,
 - Face powdered white, redrawn eyebrows.
 - Many layered kimono
 - Her time devoted to music, calligraphy, festivals and rituals



One of Genji's Consorts
Tale of Genji, 12th century

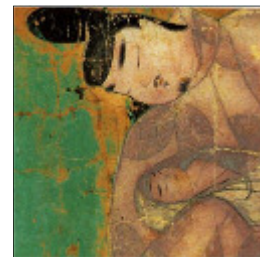
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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Period 794 - 1185



- Ideals of Beauty – Men
 - Small features in a round face
 - Dressed in many layered robes
 - Polygamy was the norm, to insure heir and protect women
 - Calligraphy and poetry a sign of high achievement



Prince Genji
Tale of Genji, 12th century

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Shinden Architecture Heian 794 – 1185

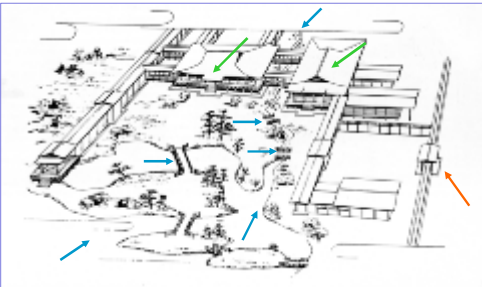


Diagram of Shinden Zukuri Architecture
Mason fig. 128

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Shinden Architecture Heian 794 - 1185



Heian Imperial Palace
Web: GoJapanGo.com

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Shinden Architecture Heian 794 – 1185



Kitano Tenjin-engi, c. 1219
Mason fig. 133

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Gardens Heian 794 - 1185



Ninnaji Temple Garden
Edo Period
Scan: Gardens in Kyoto

21 Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

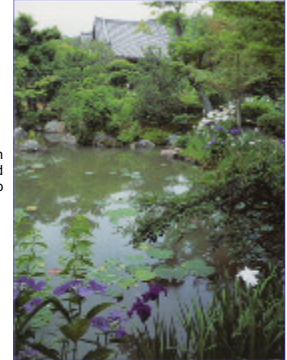
Shinden Architecture Heian 794 - 1185



Heian Imperial Palace
Web: Wiki Commons

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Gardens Heian 794 - 1185



Hokongoin Temple Garden
Heian Period
Scan: Gardens in Kyoto

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Gardens Heian 794 - 1185



Shinnen Temple Garden, Established 794
Scan: Gardens in Kyoto

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Shinden Architecture Heian 794 - 1185



A

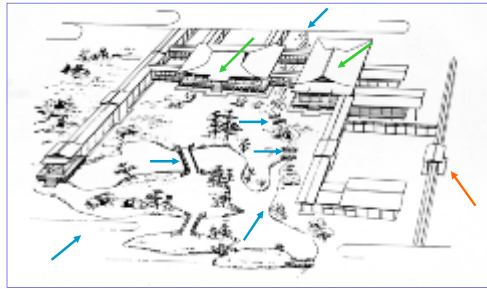


Diagram of Shinden Zukuri Architecture
Mason fig. 128

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Interior Decorations Heian 794 - 1185



Food Stand
Lacquer
11th - 12th century
Mason fig. 129

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Interior Decorations Heian 794 - 1185



Daimyo's Room With Lacquer Table
18th Century (restoration)
Futagawa Honjin
Photo: H. Rindsberg, 2008

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Interior Decorations Heian 794 - 1185



Cosmetic Box, Lacquer, 12th century
Mason fig. 130

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Interior Decorations Heian 794 - 1185



Mirror - Birds and Flowers
Heian Period Bronze
Freer & Sackler Galleries

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185

- Poetry was a necessary skill and a major form of communication for court nobles from the 7th century through the Heian Period.
- It was intimate, written for one person
- Originally Chinese forms, now Japanese forms developed.
- Numerous poetry anthologies were published under the patronage of the imperial family or a noble family.
- *Thirty-Six Immortals of Poetry* was compiled by Fujiwara no Kinto with poems from the 7th – 12th centuries.
- *One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets (Hyakunin Isshu Uta)* was collected in the 13th century by Fujiwara no Teika.

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Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185



Karuta: One Hundred Poems Game, hand-colored woodblock prints, late 19th century Web: endebrook.de

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185

- Poem #9 Ono no Komachi (825-900)
The vibrant flower's
Face has faded –
While I gaze in vain
As the world grows old
And the long rains fall.

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185



Gravemaker Moon (Ono no Komachi as an Old Woman)
Series: *100 Aspects of the Moon*
Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, 1839-1892
Woodblock print, 1886
Web: Wikipedia Commons

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185

Ishiyama Gire Calligraphy
(Thirty-Six Immortal Poets)
c. 1100
Freer & Sackler Gallery

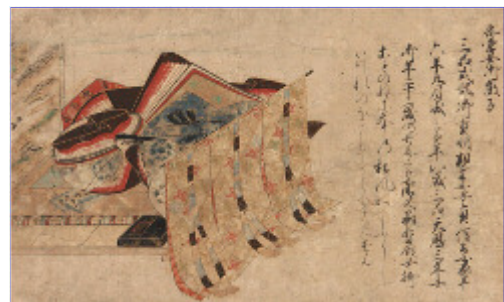


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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185

A



Portrait of the Poetess Saigo Nyogo Yoshiko
Late 12th/13th century, Mason fig. 137

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Poetry

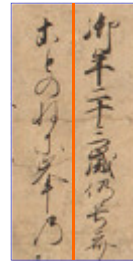


- Poem by Saigo Nyogo Yoshiko from the portrait
"With the sound of the koto
The wind in the pines of the mountain peak
Seems to communicate.
With which notes shall I begin?"

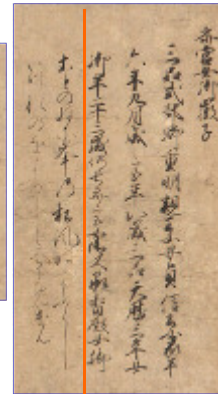
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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Heian Calligraphy



Hiragana on left - Japanese
Kanji on right - Chinese



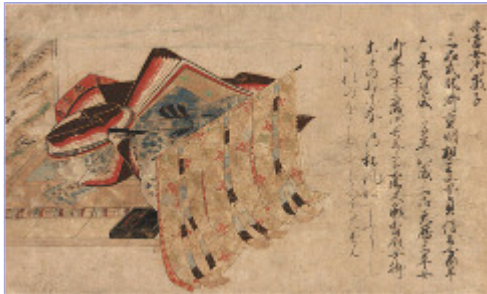
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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Literature & Calligraphy Heian 794 – 1185



A



Portrait of the Poetess Saigo Nyogo Yoshiko
Late 12th/13th century, Mason fig. 137

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility

Shinden Architecture Heian 794 – 1185



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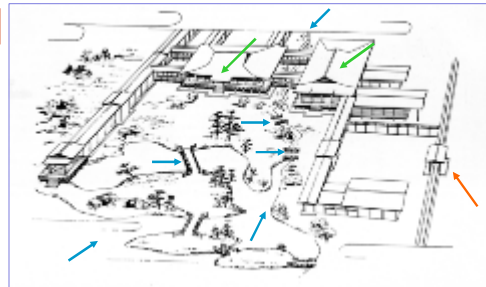


Diagram of Shinden Zukuri Architecture
Mason fig. 128

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Chapter Three: Capita of Peace and Tranquility