

Nakajima, Central Island Remains

This island was originally constructed near the center of the Dancing Crane Pond (Maizurugaike) in accordance with architectural principles established in the *Sakuteiki*, the first published treatise on Japanese garden design. The *Sakuteiki* dates to the Heian period (794–1185) and contains detailed teachings for garden design, including instructions for the creation and placement of upright stones, islands, ponds, waterfalls, and rivers.

A rare iron sutra container found on the island is currently on display in the Treasure Hall Museum of Motsuji Temple. Although the Kanjizaoin Temple pond was used as a rice field after the original temple fell into ruin, the island itself was never used for farming. Instead, artifacts revealed during excavations suggest the island was used as a burial ground.