

This room is the spiritual heart of Zuiganji Temple and houses the mortuary tablets of the Date clan. Buddhist rituals are held here, including memorial services for the Date lords. The importance of this room can be seen in the height of its coffered ceiling. The room is also known as the Kujaku no Ma, or Peacock Room, after the magnificent peacocks painted on the doors. The four seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter are depicted running counterclockwise from the entrance on the right. The banners hanging from the ceiling represent the Four Heavenly Kings, deities who guard the cardinal directions. On the transoms over the sliding doors are carvings of musical half-bird, half-human creatures called Karyobinga. These landscapes and creatures represent Jodo, the realm of enlightenment also known as the Pure Land.