

The living quarters of a Zen temple, called a *kuri* in Japanese, contain the kitchen, the monks' rooms, and the reception and sleeping areas for guests. Having been commissioned by a wealthy feudal lord, Zuiganji's *kuri* is grander and more ornate than that of other seventeenth-century temples, with decorative carvings under the gables and other ornate features. The open atrium allows smoke from cooking fires to escape and exposes the structure's columns and beams, which are fitted together without nails. This traditional Japanese construction is both strong and flexible, allowing the building to absorb the vibrations of earthquakes. The Zuiganji *kuri* was designated a National Treasure in 1959.