

Decorative gardens were common in most samurai castles and Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582) had large ornamental gardens built inside Gifu Castle. During recent excavations of the castle grounds, archaeologists have discovered rocks and colorful stones that likely lined the bottom of a garden pond. This discovery helps confirm the accuracy of Portuguese missionary Luis Frois's (1532–1597) account of the palace and its gardens. Archeologists also discovered shards of gold-leaf-covered roof tiles which are thought to have been used on the second floor of the palace.