

The Daishoin

The Daishoin was designed in 1916 by the famous architect Takeda Goichi (1872–1938), one of the architects of the National Diet Building in Tokyo. The Daishoin was the former residence of the industrialist Murai Kichibei (1864–1926). It was moved to this location in the autumn of 1928 to commemorate the enthronement of Emperor Showa, and to mark the 1150th anniversary of the establishment of Enryakuji on Mount Hiei. It is a typical example of Taisho period (1912–1926) architecture, including modern architectural features into a traditional *shoin* or study style. The very best materials were used in its construction, and the view of Lake Biwa from the building is magnificent.

Nowadays, the Daishoin serves as a guesthouse for important domestic and international visitors. It lodges imperial envoys participating in special ceremonies at Enryakuji, for instance the presentation of robes by the emperor during the week of April 4th to 11th. High-ranking monks stay here when they preside at ceremonies in the Daiko-do, such as the Lotus Ceremony for Broad Learning,

Daishoin (lit. Great Study) VIP Reception Hall
Daiko-do (Great Lecture Hall)