

## Mōtsūji Temple

### Tsukiyama: Mountain-like formations

Rocks of various sizes specially arranged into a “constructed mountain” (*tsukiyama*), are an element of the harmony and design of Mōtsūji Temple’s Pure Land-style garden.

The combination of mountain-like rocks rises 4 meters from the water’s edge represents a rocky coastline. The formation uses a rock gardening technique described in the “Treatise on Garden Making” (*Sakuteiki*), one of Japan’s oldest garden manuals from the eleventh century. Natural landscapes such as mountains and waterfalls are created using only rocks and stones.

Pure Land-style imagery, seeking to represent a Buddhist paradise, was a popular choice for temple gardens during the Heian period (794–1185).