

## Muryōkōin Temple Tiles

Excavations revealed that the ground in front of Muryōkōin Temple's main hall was originally covered with square tiles. This feature is unique to Muryōkōin and has not been found in any other Pure Land garden of this style. While the temple was modeled directly after another famous Buddhist temple near Kyoto, the Phoenix Hall (Hōōdō) at Byōdōin Temple, the latter does not possess this tile feature.

Most of the unglazed, fired ceramic tiles that have been excavated were badly broken and difficult to reassemble into their original form. Through reconstruction, the tiles are thought to have each measured 40 centimeters long and 7 centimeters thick.