

Architecture of Kanchi-in

Rebuilt in 1605 after an earthquake, Kanchi-in is considered to be a masterpiece of the architectural style that emerged during the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1568–1603). The broad roof of the guest hall (*kyakuden*) is accented by the curved gable over the entrance. Curved gables are an aesthetic touch particular to traditional Japanese buildings, and they have been a popular feature of temples, castles, and manor houses since the Kamakura period (1185–1333).

The design of Kanchi-in combines elements of established temple architecture with the *shoin-zukuri* style that was developing at the time of the temple's reconstruction. *Shoin*-style buildings are distinguished by their square posts and tatami-mat-covered floors and were often originally the residences of high-ranking samurai and Buddhist clergy.