

Sekisuiin

Sekisuiin is the only building remaining at Kosanji from the time of founder Myoe (1173–1232). With its one-story hip-and-gable roof, it remains a prime example of Kamakura-period (1185–1333) architecture. Today, Sekisuiin is the center of temple activities and home to many of its most famous artworks.

Near the west entrance is a small wooden statue of the bodhisattva Zenzai-doji (Sanskrit: Sudhana). Myoe loved the story of Zenzai-doji's journey on the path of enlightenment. This statue recreates an image that Myoe is believed to have kept in his living quarters.

The emperor's decree ordering the temple founding, including lines from the Flower Garland Sutra that gave Kosanji its name, hangs in the southern part of Sekisuiin. A view of Mt. Mukai and the Kiyotaki River to the south is framed by wooden pillars and latticed shutters.

Sekisuiin was originally intended for the storage of sutras and located to the east of Kosanji's main hall, or Kondo. A flood in 1228 destroyed the original structure, but it was later replaced using a residence that formerly stood on the grounds of the court. Kasuga Daimyojin and Sumiyoshi Myojin, Shinto deities that were particularly important to Myoe, were enshrined at Sekisuiin after its reconstruction. At that time, Shinto and Buddhism were loosely integrated, and Shinto deities were often interpreted as manifestations of Buddhist deities.

In 1889, Sekisuiin was dismantled and reconstructed at its present location.