Tōgudō

The Tōgudō is one of two buildings remaining from the Higashiyama-sansō villa commissioned by Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1436–1490). It was completed in 1486 and is a registered National Treasure. The building exemplifies the rustic *wabi-sabi* aesthetics of Higashiyama culture.

One of the four rooms inside the Tōgudō, the Dōjinsai, is important for its influence on Japanese architecture. This four-and-a-half mat (*yojo han*) room was Yoshimasa's personal study. It is built in a style known as *shoin-zukuri*, inspired by Zen Buddhism. The style is simple, characterized by features including a built-in desk (*tsukeshoin*) for which it is named. The room has staggered shelves to display precious Chinese objects, tatami flooring, sliding paper screens to let in light, and views over a garden. The *shoin-zukuri* style became the predominant form of residential architecture during the Edo period (1603–1867) and still forms the basis of traditional Japanese architecture today. The Dōjinsai is the oldest extant four-and-a-half mat *shoin-zukuri* room and is seen as a precursor to the tearooms that followed the same design features and small dimensions.

The room diagonally across from the Dōjinsai houses two altars, one enshrining a standing image of Amida Buddha (also called the Buddha of Infinite Light) and the other a life-like wooden statue of Yoshimitsu in his priestly robes. The rooms of the Tōgudō are usually closed to the public.