

Rōseitei

This structure is just behind the Tōgudō and was originally created by Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1436–1490), for enjoying incense. Incense has been used in Japan for centuries in purification ceremonies and for relaxation and recreation.

The Rōseitei was rebuilt in 1895 and refurbished in 1996. The interior screens feature seasonal murals by Japanese artist Okuda Genso (1912–2003) which were completed in 1996. Born in Hiroshima, Genso became one of the most famous Nihonga painters of the Showa era (1926–1989). Nihonga (Japanese-style painting) is the name given to paintings done after 1900 that followed traditional Japanese conventions and techniques. Okuda's paintings of the seasons are vivid and dynamic, conveying a sense of depth through washes of color.

One mural depicts lush flowering peonies, while a wraparound mural in another room features the Oirase Gorge (in Aomori) in spring, shaded by blossoming cherry trees. The most striking mural represents autumn, with a bold landscape of brilliantly colored maple trees around a placid green pond. As the doors to the garden are opened, the natural light makes the colors appear to glow. The Rōseitei is not usually open to the public.