

Inside the Founder's Hall

The interior of the hall is divided into the *gejin*, a worship area where visitors sit on tatami mats, and the *naijin*, the inner sanctum. This *gejin* is significantly more spacious than the *naijin*, which is unusual for a Buddhist hall. This design was chosen to accommodate as many worshipers as possible, especially on ceremonial occasions when devotees from throughout the country gather at the temple. A total of 90 giant pillars support the hall, both within the *gejin* and around the perimeter.

Scrolls with paintings of the temple's former head priests hang on both sides of the central altar on the back wall of the *naijin*. Further to the sides hang two scrolls describing the virtues and radiance of Amida Buddha, the central deity in Jodo Shinshu. Both ends of the wall are decorated with paintings of lotus flowers and other Buddhist motifs by Kyoto-based artists, including Kono Bairei (1844–1895) and Mochizuki Gyokusen (1834–1913).