

Amida Hall

Although the Amida Hall is somewhat smaller than the neighboring Founder's Hall, it is more ornate and has a larger inner sanctum (*naijin*). These characteristics reflect the dual purposes of the building: to enshrine a statue of Amida Buddha, the central deity in Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land) Buddhism, and to represent the brilliance and contentment of the Pure Land, the paradise that represents perfect enlightenment—the ultimate goal to which Buddhists aspire.

The current Amida Hall was completed in 1895, replacing the previous hall, which had burned down in 1864 along with the rest of the temple complex. The building's wide-sweeping hip-and-gable roof is supported by rounded pillars fashioned out of giant trees. These were procured throughout Japan during the 15 years it took to rebuild the temple and transported to Kyoto by followers of Jodo Shinshu. Visitors are welcome to attend the morning ceremony held in the hall daily from 7:00 a.m.