

Rinchitei and Tekisuiken Reception Halls

Shoseien's interconnected Rinchitei and Tekisuiken reception halls were traditionally used for tea (*chanoyu*) gatherings and other entertainment organized for guests visiting Higashi Honganji Temple. The Rinchitei building has a veranda overlooking the pond in front of it, and its name means "pavilion on the pond." Tekisuiken translates as "house by the stream" in reference to the small stream that flows into the pond from the artificial hill behind the building. Both halls are unostentatious in style, with few decorative features either on the exterior or inside the tatami-floored rooms.

In the past, guests would enter Rinchitei and Tekisuiken through the garden's north gate. Both buildings were lost to fire in 1864 and reconstructed in 1884. The north gate is no longer in use, but the reception halls can still be rented by groups visiting Higashi Honganji.