

Fortified Windows

The windows of the Great Keep were designed to protect defenders from attackers as well as the weather. The windows' thick frames and lattices offered a measure of cover from enemy fire, and they were also fitted with heavy shutters to keep out rain and snow.

Because dampness and moisture could lead to rot, rain could be as damaging to a wooden castle as a besieging army. To address this, the shutters could be propped open to let in air and light when circumstances permitted. As an additional countermeasure against rain, the sills of the windows are outfitted with gutters called *mizukiri* that have drainpipes to channel rainwater outside the building.