

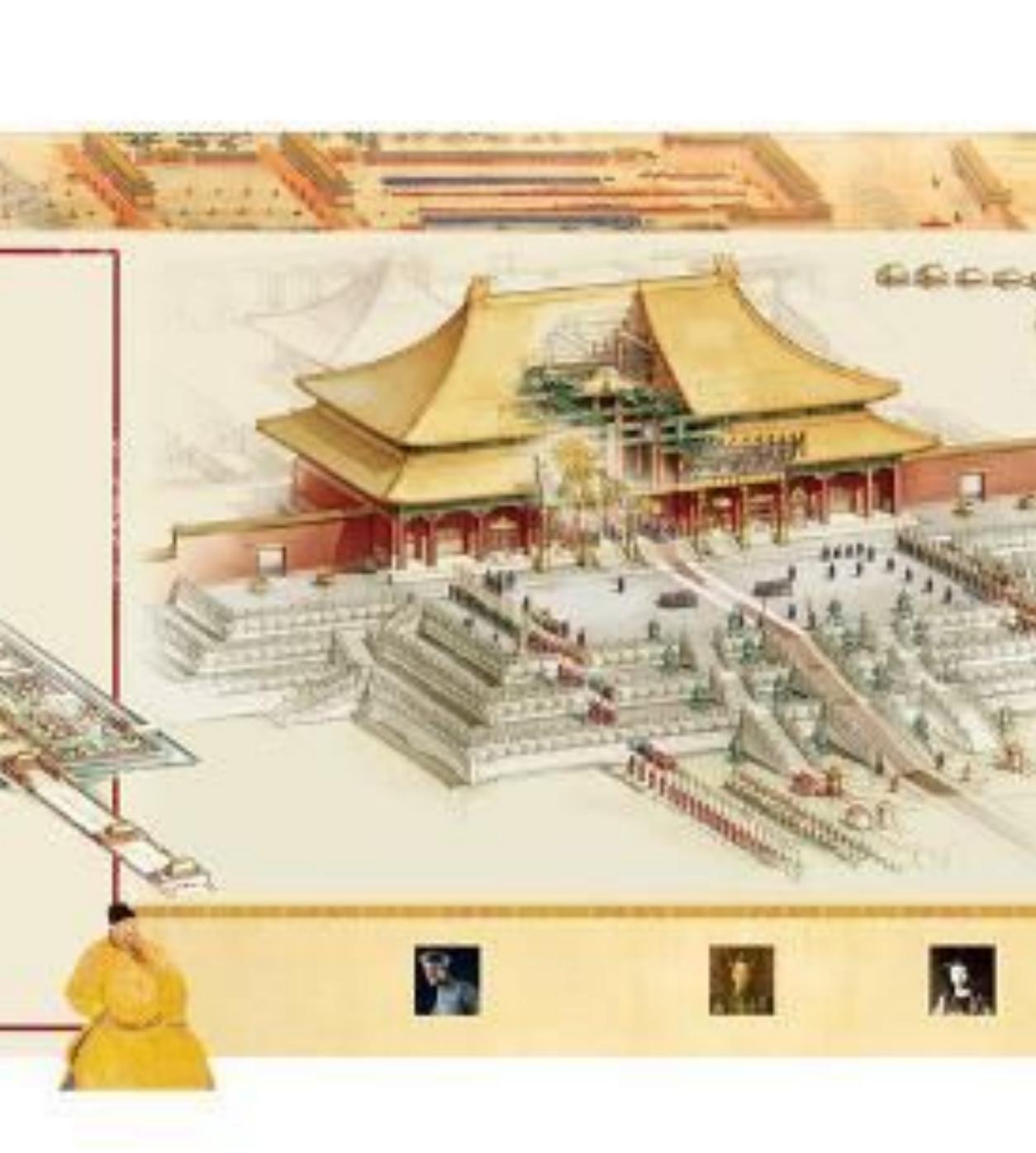


# THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF JAPAN AND CHINA

By Diego Lopez



THE HALL OF SUPREME  
HARMONY



## GENERAL INFORMATION

- This building was constructed in the year 1420 under the rule of Yongle and is located in the forbidden city in Beijing, China (Shea).
- It is measures to be about 64 by 37 meters or 210 by 114 feet (Britannica).
- It was originally used as an event center for occasions like, “the Emperor’s enthronement, the emperor’s wedding, and the ceremony for conferring the Empress. During these occasions, the emperor came to the hall to receive congratulations from from the civil and military officials. In addition, the emperor me high-ranking officials and dispatched to the battles from this place. (*Hall of Supreme Harmony (Taihe Hall)*)”

## MAIN FEATURES

- “Inside the halls is a richly decorated dragon throne, from which the emperor would preside over trembling officials. The entire court had to touch the floor nine times with their foreheads in the emperor’s presence. At the back of the throne is a carved Xumishan, the Buddhist paradise, signifying the throne’s supremacy. (Hall of Supreme Harmony: Beijing, China Attractions)”





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## THE HALL OF SUPREME HARMONY TODAY

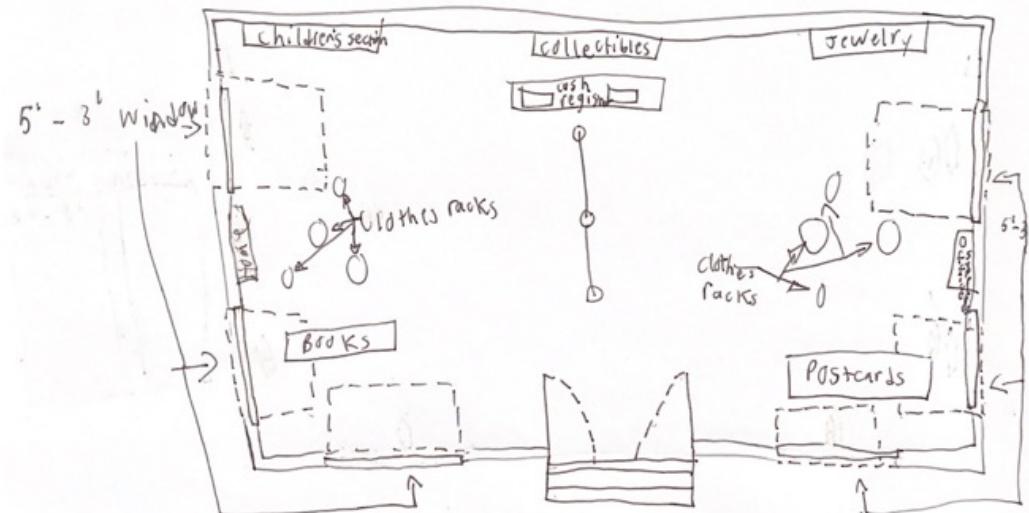
- The Hall of Supreme Harmony, as well as its location, The Forbidden City, is still standing and is now “used as a modern museum and a historical site.” According to smarthistory.org, “It strikes a balance by maintaining the structures and restoring the interiors of the palace compounds and in certain instances transforming minor palace buildings and hallways into exhibitions galleries for exquisite artwork of the imperial collections. (Peng)

## THOUGHTS ON THIS STRUCTURE

- If I was given the chance to change the purpose of the Hall of Supreme Harmony, I would keep it as it is. If I did change its purpose, it wouldn't have as big of an impact as it does today.
- One contemporary addition I would make is a little gift shop. Since the Forbidden City is like a museum, a gift shop would really give people a chance to bring home a souvenir.

# Forbidden city gift shop

Diego  
Lopez



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# ISE GRAND SHRINE

# GENERAL INFORMATION

- According to an online travel guide to Japan, it is possibly, “the most sacred site in all of Japan. (Gearhardt)”
- According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “The Inner Shrine was first constructed in near the city of Ise in Mie Ken (prefecture), Central Honshu, in 4 BCE; most likely, however, the earliest structure was dates from sometime later, possibly as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The Outer shrine was completed in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. (Pletcher)”
- It covers 5,500 hectares (Matsumoto).
- “The first shrine was erected by Emperor Temmu. (Eli)”
- The original purpose of this sacred place is that it was dedicated to sun goddess Amaterasu and Toyouke, the food goddess. (Cartwright)



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## MAIN FEATURES

- Shinto Shrine dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu with a separate shrine dedicated to Toyouke, the goddess of food. (Cartwright)



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## ISE GRAND SHRINE TODAY

- Today, the Ise Grand Shrine is “a major destination for pilgrims and tourists and has millions of visitors annually. (Pletcher)”
- In the Ancient History webpage of Ise Shrine, it is “exactly rebuilt every 20 years, the last occasion being 2013. (Cartwright)”

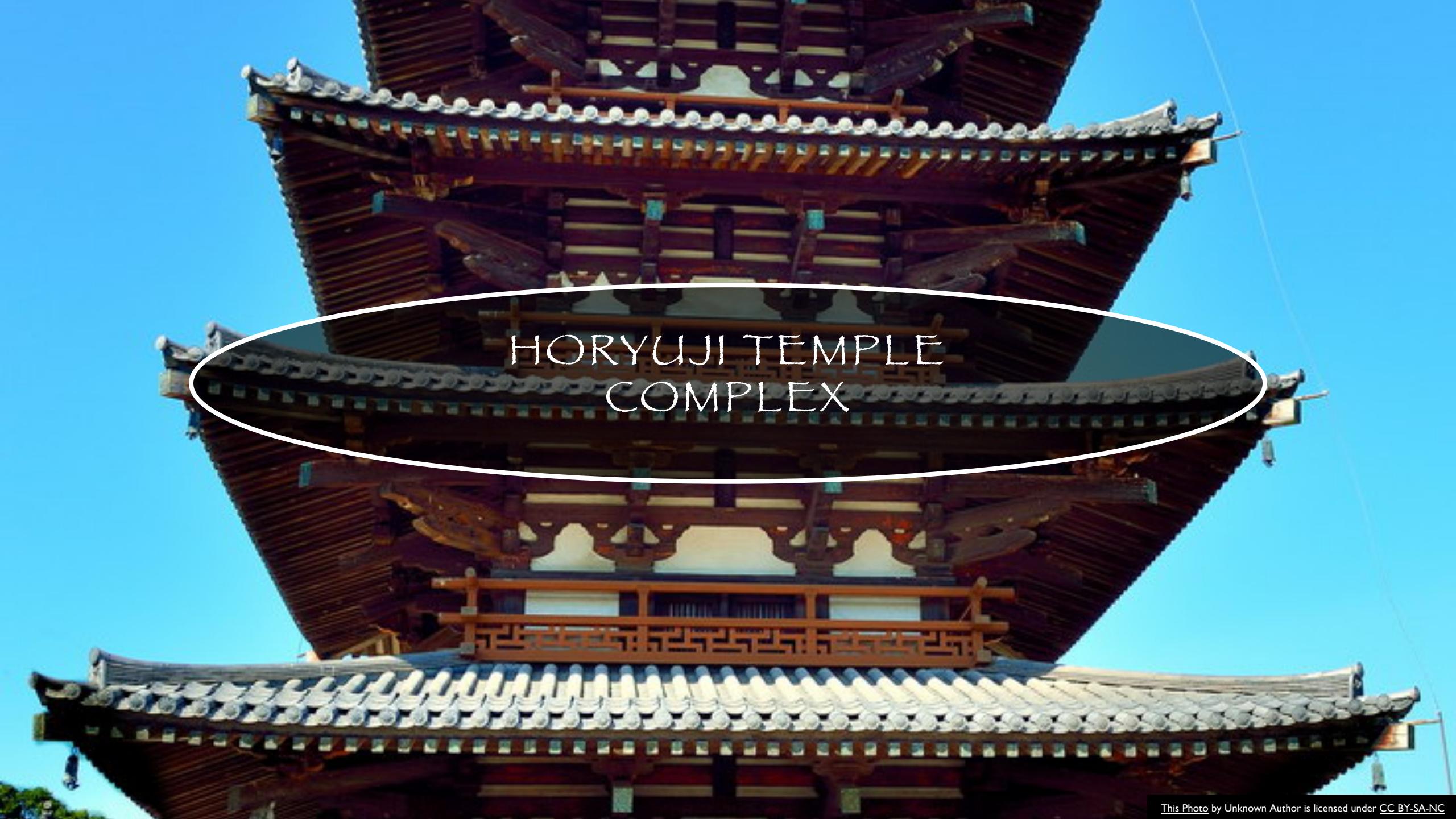


## GENERAL THOUGHT ON THE ISE GRAND SHRINE

- I believe the purpose of the Ise Grand Shrine should remain unchanged. As the most sacred shrine in all of Japan, people should respect its importance and not try to change it.

# ISE GRAND SHRINE SOURCES

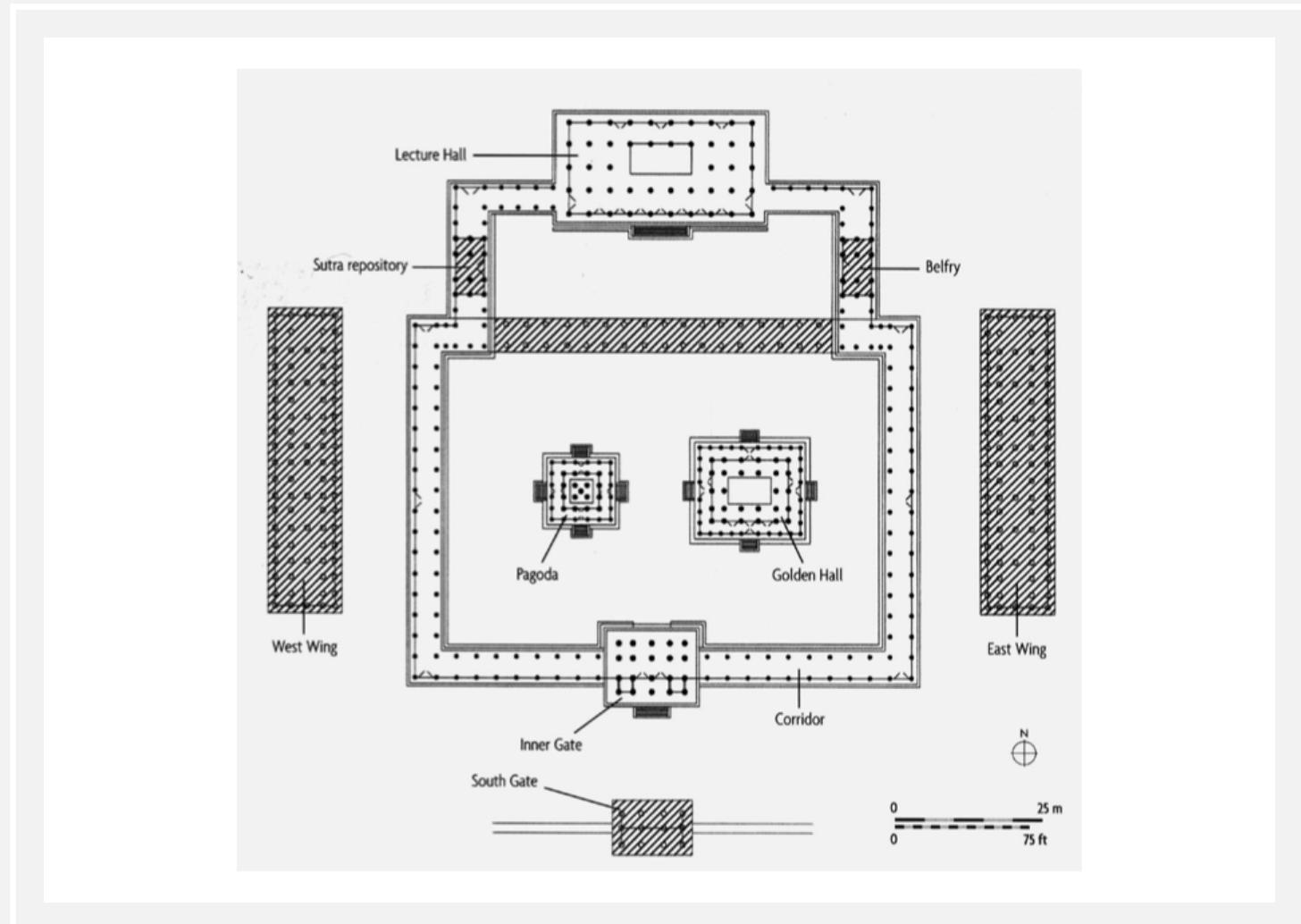
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HORYUJI TEMPLE  
COMPLEX

# GENERAL INFORMATION

- This temple was built in 607 CE near Nara in Japan.  
(Cartwright II)
- It was built under the rule of Prince Shotoku.  
(Cartwright II)
- Size: 187,000 square meters (Introduction: Horyuji Temple)
- According to Ancient History website, supposedly, Shotoku wanted to help spread Buddhism in Japan, which had arrived via Korea in the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century.  
(Introduction: Horyuji Temple)"
- "It is considered to be the oldest wooden structure in the world. (Horyu-ji)"



# MAIN FEATURES

- The four main components: the pagoda, the main or golden hall, the lecture hall and the Middle gate. (Horyu-ji)
- According to a website about the Horyuji Temple, “The Kudo, or lecture hall, aligns through the center with the ‘Nandaimon’, or Great South Gate, and the ‘Chumon,’ the Middle Gate along the main central axis but the pagoda and the ‘Kondo,’ or Buddha Hall, are symmetrically offset to the side.” It is believed that the reason for this is “to allow the viewer to see both simultaneously rather than as a sequence of buildings and because the proportions of the two buildings in addition to the colonnade offered a pleasing composition of varying heights and widths. (Horyu-ji)”



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## HORYUJI TEMPLE COMPLEX TODAY

- “It is home to over 2300 important cultural and historical structures including nearly 190 that have been designated as national treasures or important cultural properties. (Introduction: Horyuji Temple)”

## GENERAL THOUGHT OF THE HORYUJI TEMPLE COMPLEX

- The purpose of the Horyuji Temple Complex should stay the same. Like the Hall of Supreme Harmony and the Ise Grand Shrine, it has a big impact on humanity as well as being a part of history.

## HORYUJI TEMPLE COMPLEX SOURCES

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# CONCLUSION

- It is important respect and maintain historical buildings because they are a part of world history. We wouldn't know a lot about the past if it wasn't for these relics.
- Architectural Traditions are important because they teach us about the old architectural techniques people used in the past and how we could use them today.
- One example of local architecture includes the Alamo. The techniques used to build this Texan landmark are probably still used today. This building is still standing in San Antonio today even though it is surrounded by modern buildings.



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