

2020-10-19 - Lecture 23

12.3 Edo Japan :: Isolation from the World // Integration with Nature

- 1) **Japan's National Unification** by 1600
 - **Three powerful shoguns** (military generals who ran the country) achieved unity, ending centuries of civil wars
 - **Oda Nobunaga** (1534-1582) - (no-bu-NAG-A)
 - **Toyotomi Hideyoshi** (1536-1598) - (heed-YEAH-oh-see)
 - **Tokugawa Ieyasu** (1542-1616) - (ee-YEAH-ah-suh)

 - The **shogun** was the leader of an administration called a **shogunate**
 - The **daimyo** were the feudal lords (daimyo meaning "great names")
 - The **daimyo** controlled the **samurai**, a distinctive class of swordsman (military noble) devoted to the **shogun**.
 - The Emperor was a largely symbolic role (although hereditary), yet conducted affairs of state in a theatrical symbolic fashion, not unlike Louis XIV of France

- 2) Permanent architecture, about 1550-1600
 - The shoguns built permanent castles called **tenshu**, similar in form and type to the castle keep or the donjon
 - **Tenshu** were tall structures as high as seven stories of pagoda-like stories with deep shaped concavely eaves. A-framed gables, hipped roofs, high, battered, dry laid base foundation walls. Very intimidating on high ground.
 - High ground is the universal best defense

- 3) **Nobunaga** built the first **tenshu** at **Azuchi** - a strategic high point overlooking Kyoto, which was the capital at the time (c 1576)

- 4) **Hideyoshi** succeeded Nobunaga from **1585-1598**
 - Hideyoshi built a luxurious palace in Kyoto called Jurakudai
 - **He blurred the separation between art and life**
 - His shogunate sponsored **Noh Theater** - a classical, Japanese musical theater since 1400. Very scripted, traditional stories of history, morality, and Japanese tradition
 - **chanoyu** (CHAN-oh-yuh) tea ceremony (Zen Buddhist tea ceremony conducted by a Tea Master.
 - **wabi-sabi** is a rustic simplicity of design that celebrated heightened consciousness. The aesthetic of the wabi-sabi is:
 - **imperfect**
 - **impermanent**
 - **incomplete**

 - tea ceremony (**chanoyu**) conducted in a **tea house** reflected that simplicity: **planar, minimal, rustic, self-effacing**
 - Zen - Buddhist meditation:
 - "The river flows on without cease yet its waters are never the same"
 - **wabi-sabi aesthetic**
 - **contemplation of nature or miniaturized nature**

- 5) **Ieyasu** succeeded Hideyoshi from **1598-1616**
 - Third of the three shoguns to complete unification
 - Best preserved example of **tenshu** west of **Kobe**: **Himeji tenshu (1610)** nicknamed the **White Heron** is built by Ieyasu's ally Terumasa
 - **Ieyasu's tenshu** in **Edo** no longer exists but is depicted on the painted screen in a museum - the painted screen is called the **Edo-za byobu**
 - **Ieyasu's palace in Kyoto: Ninomaru (1610)** was of the **shoin palace type**, and followed the plan of a "**flock of wild geese**" on an oblique axis

- **Ohiroma Hall** interior (oh-HEAR-oh-MA. Typical screens that opened to landscape, raised platforms (shogun sat on tatami mat on the upper level). Behind is the niche for a painting - in this case a gnarled solitary pine - a symbol for enduring authority
- **tokonoma** - the formal alcove with the painted scene (to-KO-no-MA
- **shoji screen** - translucent screen of rice paper
- **tatami mat** - established modular system based on a sleeping person
 - one tatami = double square
 - Sleeping person is oriented to the vertical axis (the axis of time), oddly the western modular system, Vitruvian Man, is oriented to the horizontal axes (the axes of space) RC
- Ieyasu's shrine: Toshogu in Nikko
 - Designed by Kora Munehiro, Master Builder
 - Kora Munehiro developed for the shogun an architectural treatise called: **Shomei** (show-MAY) indicating proportions, joinery, and so forth, similar to Yingzao Fashi

6) Japanese Gardens

- **Dry Garden (Zen Garden)**
- **Stroll Garden** (similar to Scholars' Gardens of Suzhou)
- **Ideas** behind the gardens:
 - frequently changing points of view
 - symbolic, miniaturized
 - poetic, metaphorical artifact of nature
 - enlightenment through meditation
 - time's unstoppable advance
- **Forms** that are manifest in the gardens:
 - avoided formality such as axis, symmetry
 - raked white gravel symbolic of water
 - **shakkei** — *borrowed landscapes* in distant background or framed views
 - **wabi-sabi** aesthetic and rustication
 - **bonsai** trees and worn materials
 - **moon-viewing platform**