

JAPAN

Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities)

II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription * 1994

Organisation Responsible for the Report

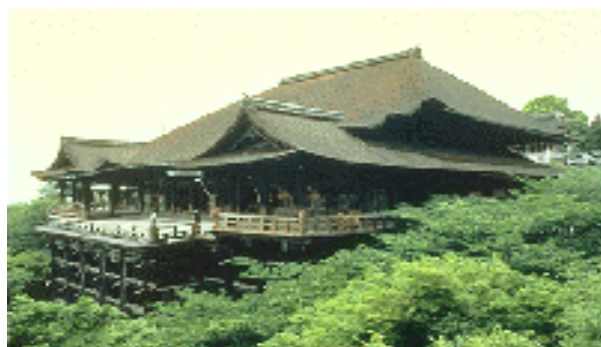
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II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C ii, iv

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:
"Kyoto, as the Imperial Capital of Japan from the end of the 8th century to the middle of the 19th century, with its political economic and cultural backgrounds, fostered the advancement of Japanese culture in each age of Japanese history. The inscribed properties thus greatly influenced Japanese architecture, gardens and the development of cities. [...] They are important for clarifying the social structure under both the aristocratic culture and the *samurai* culture. these outstanding examples of wooden architecture in their natural historic settings – stand witness to the great traditional culture which is in danger of disappearing from modern Japan. They are truly a precious resource for inheritance of the knowledge of traditional construction techniques. [...] The ancient city of Kyoto has always had the role of a religious city, as the pilgrimage destination of many religious followers. Kyoto has thus greatly influenced the formation of religious culture in Japan. [...] Gardens cannot be ignored in the history of Japanese culture as an art form in which nature and human endeavour come together and are artistically purified. Furthermore, the artistic value of the "Japanese Garden" is widely recognised throughout the world."



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Status of Site Boundaries

- Borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage values considered to have been maintained, no changes are foreseen.
- "In the light of the Japanese tradition of restoration and reconstruction, it can fairly be claimed that the buildings and gardens that are included in this nomination are authentic. Although in only very rare cases have entire buildings or even portions of them survived intact from their construction, the rigorous respect for the original form, decoration, and materials that has prevailed in Japan for a millennium and more has ensured that what is visible today conforms in almost every detail with the original structures. This tradition has been maintained during the present century, when those responsible for this work have taken great pains to ensure the use of traditional materials and techniques, to the extent of reproducing original tool."

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The property is protected by the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, which prohibits alteration to the existing conditions without permission from the National Government.
- Various laws determine the designation and preservation conditions of buffer zones and special protection zones: (i) the Natural Parks Law; (ii) the Law Concerning Special Measures for the Preservation of Ancient Cities; (iii) Scenic Zones under the Shiga Prefecture Scenic Zone Ordinance, the Kyoto Prefecture Scenic Zone Ordinance and the Kyoto City Scenic Zone Ordinance; (iv) Regulated Areas under the Kyoto City Urban Landscape Formation Ordinance.

- “It is the owners who are responsible for the direct management of the cultural assets included in the property that are located in Kyoto City, Uji City and Otsu City. Each asset has its own conservation management plan.

Present State of Conservation

- Conservation/restoration work undertaken since 1990 include: (i) Kyouougokoku-ji - repair of Kagamon (completed in 1990), repair of Kitadaimon (completed in 1992) and repair of Rengamon (completed in 1995); (ii) Kiyomizudear - repair of Kyodo (completed in 2000) and repair of Amidado (completed in 2002); (iii) Daigo-ji - repair of Kaizando (completed in 1999), repair of Nyoirindo (completed in 1999), repair of Dojo (completed in 1998) and repair of Shuzoko (completed in 1998); (iv) Ninna-ji - repair of Hitotei (completed in 1999); (v) Enryaku-ji - repair of Temporindo (completed in 1999), repair of Jokodo and Hokkodo (completed in 1999), repair of Sorindo (completed in 1999) and conservation work for slope behind Rurido (completed in 2000); (vi) Nijo-jo - repair of moat stonework (completed in 2000); and (vii) Byodoin - improvement work for a garden (completed in 2001) and construction of a treasury (completed in 1999).

Staffing and Training Needs

- There is a total of 90 persons involved in the preservation, conservation and interpretation of the property working within the various prefectures and city government bodies responsible for this property. This level of staffing is considered adequate.
- Staff training is envisaged in the fields of “conservation repair of cultural property” and “excavation of buried cultural properties.”

Financial Situation

- “The Agency for Cultural Affairs and relevant local governments provide subsidies for repair works, technical advice, and instruction on the management. The prefectural governments of Kyoto and Shiga have experts for repairs for the designated buildings in their own offices to undertake the repair works. The subsidies from the Agency for Cultural Affairs are granted through governments of Kyoto Prefecture and Shiga Prefecture.”
- “Sufficient finance for the conservation of the property is available from subsidies from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Kyoto Prefecture and Shiga

Prefecture together with admission fees to the cultural assets included in the property.”

- * International Assistance from WHF: none.

Access to IT

- There are 80 PCs available to staff responsible for managing the property.
- Internet and email access available on site.

Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics are kept for the site. The latest available figures are: Kyoto City 38.991 million (1999), Uji City 4.061 million (2000), Otsu City 11.106 million (2000).
- There are exhibition facilities at the Byodoin Hoshokan and Enryaku-ji Kokhokan and elsewhere.
- In general, visitor facilities are considered adequate.
- Kyoto City has its own website www.city.kyoto/bunshi/bunkazai
- Elementary schools are encouraged to develop their own heritage teaching materials and to undertake site visits.



Byodo-in Garden

- In terms of a visitor management plan, “Kyoto City has prepared a plan for tourism promotion in Kyoto City, called ‘Okoshiyasu Plan 21’, aiming to attract more tourists by utilizing the World Heritage and other resources for the purpose of enhancing co-ordination between culture and tourism and by providing information to people inside and outside Japan.”

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- As the property exists within an urban context, it is exposed to dangers such as fire and other natural disasters.
- Development pressure and projects, particularly those initiated by the private sector in the vicinity of

the protected areas also pose a threat to the integrity of the property.

Counteractive Plans

- A risk management plan exists for the property and various buildings and facilities are equipped with fire fighting equipment, fire alarms, and other security devices. An emergency communication network exists and disaster drills are routinely carried out, although the need for improvements in the system's efficiency is acknowledged.
- With regard to counteracting development pressure, the city government enforces building codes in the buffer zones. The city government also engages actively in facilitating stakeholder discussion and finding compromise solutions that accommodate the need for urban development (housing in particular) while ensuring the protection of the property's integrity. The complexity and difficulty of achieving these goals is acknowledged.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- A monitoring system is in place, consisting of an annual review of the state of conservation of the component "assets" of the property, based on a set of key indicators.
- Partners involved in monitoring include: (i) Kyoto City Culture and Citizens' Bureau; (ii) Uji City Board of Education (Uji History Museum); (iii) Otsu City Board of Education; (iv) Kyoto Prefecture Board of Education; (v) Shiga Prefecture Board of Education; (vi) The Agency for Cultural Affairs .
- The existing monitoring system is considered adequate.

Monitoring Indicators

- Monitoring is based on a series of "key indications for monitoring the state of conservation."

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- "Since inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, its value as (...) World Heritage has been appropriately maintained through the strict implementation of procedures based on the domestic laws."
- Attention will continue to be paid to: (i) "conservation repair" of historic structures; (ii) fire prevention and other urban disaster management; (iii) management of development, especially in buffer zones.

*** No State of Conservation Reports**