







The Phoenix Temple, learn about the Miidera

This papercraft reproduce in 1/150 scale the beautiful Central Hall of the Miidera National Treasure. The Miidera is known as one of the most beautiful landscape of the Shiga Lake (Ōmi hakkei) with the name of "Mii no bansho" (Miidera evening bell).

Enjoying our papercraft you can learn about the Japanese characteristic architecture of *hiwadabuki*, the technique popular in the XVI century of make a roof weawing *hinoki's* twigs.

It will be our pleasure if you could feel the Miidera and its Central Hall right in your hands.

The Miidera

The Miidera is the main temple of the Buddhist sect called Tendai Jimon (Japanese school of Mahayana Buddhism), its formal name is Onjō-ji.

It's been told that the temple was founded in 686 by Emperor Tenchi near the Ōmi Ōtsu Palace. The name literally means "The Three Wells". It comes from the springs at the temple which were used for ritual bathing of newborns, and in honor of Emperors Emperor Tenchi, Emperor Tenmu and Empress Jitō who contributed to the founding of the temple.

During the Heian Era, under the guidance of the chief abbot (Tendai Zasu) Enchin (814-891) it became one of the most important temple of the Tendai sect. After, it gained power as center of Tendai Jimon sect but it split away from the other Tendai main temple, the Enryakuji, the center of Tendai Sammon sect. It was burned during the war between the two temples and rebuilt from the ashes just like the Phoenix. Now it's known as one of the most important cultural spot and is temple number 14 in the famous Kansai Kannon Pilgrimage.

The Kondo, main structure of the temple

One of the most astonishing National Treasure is the majestic Central Hall of the temple, known as Kondo. The actual Central Hall was rebuilt in the 1599 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi's legitimate wife, Kita no Mandokoro.

Its' a big structure with the characteristic Irimoya roof (a hip roof sloping down on all four sides typical of China). Inside the Hall there are three separated areas, the central one (naijin) is one level lowered and it enshrine a statue of Miroku (Maitreya Bodhisattva) which was Emperor Tenchi's sacred personal belonging, as it's been told.

With its ancient Tendai style and its spectacular hiwadabuki roof it's an exquisite example of Japanese XVI century's architecture.

[Formal name] Onjō-ji
[Address] 520-0036 Shiga-ken, Ōtsu-shi, Onjōji-chō 246
[Object of devotion] Miroku bosatsu (Maitreya Bodhisattva)
[WEB] http://www.shiga-miidera.or.jp





[Central Hall (lateral): elevation and cross section]