

Kamil Drzewiński,  
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*The architecture of the cycle in the Japanese art of building*

SUMMARY

Author: M. Sc. in architecture and urban planning Kamil Drzewiński

The subject of the doctoral thesis is *Japanese architecture of the cycle*, the concept of holy architecture in the tradition of sacred objects in Japanese Shinto religion, created on the basis of the ritualized inseparability of space and cycle (space and time). The aim of the work is to prove both the existence of Japanese sacred architecture as defined by the author's definition of the *architecture of the cycle*, as well as to build a coherent information base serving to understand the processes responsible for the creation of archetypes of ancient Japanese sacred architecture.

The main selected case study is the Shinto shrine Ise Jingū (located in Ise city, Mie prefecture). The architecture of the shrine, its cyclical renewal ritual (*shikinen-sengū*), as well as theories about the probable beginnings of the shrine and the symbolic and social significance of rituals associated with its architecture, were analysed. The case study also includes a description of temporal buildings constructed during the cycle of ceremonies related to the enthronement of the emperor, Daijo-kyū Palace, as well as references to other characteristic architectural objects of the Japanese *sacrum*.

The Dissertation begins with the presentation of concepts related to the perception of time and space in Japanese culture, language, and architecture, as well as an attempt to define the term *architecture of the cycle*. The beginnings of Japanese civilization, the natural conditions of the Japanese archipelago, and presumed prototypes of utility and residential architecture are also presented, as are issues related to the characteristics of so-called *Japanese-ness* in architecture. There is also interdisciplinary information that creates a necessary background for selected cases of *architecture of the cycle* – the context of subjects related to the culture, religion, and history of Japan, as well as archaeology and anthropology. All information is related to the issues of the beginnings of Japanese civilization and its later achievements in the field of sacred architecture in Shinto religion.

The general architecture of Shinto shrines was also analysed, starting with the presentation of the socio-historical background that gave rise to Shinto rituals and their sacred objects and spaces. The transformation of the sacred ancient Japanese temporary architecture into buildings of permanent Shinto shrines is subject to separate analysis, which ends with a description of contemporary classification and architectural styles, which are results of historical evolutions.

**Keywords:** *architecture of the cycle, Shinto architecture, Japanese sacred architecture, Shinto shrine Ise Jingū, cycle of shikinen-sengū.*