

# Rendering of Shurijo Castle

## Shurijo Castle; Future Construction Plans

Looking at the roles played by Shurijo Castle in its past era, we can identify three different areas of function. The "Administration Area," with the Una, or the royal garden at its core, political and diplomatic affairs were handled at the Seiden's First Floor, Nanden / Bamdokoro, Hokuden, and Shoin / Sasunoma.

The "Ceremonies and Rituals Area" of the Kyo-no Uchi, was believed to be the most sacred site out of the numerous areas of worship within the Castle grounds.

Finally, the "Residential Area" called Ouchibara, which was the living and ceremonial space where the King and his royal family resided.

The picture below shows the rendering of the completed Shurijo Castle.



- ① Administration Area
- ② Ceremonies and Rituals Area
- ③ Living and ceremonial space



※Completed image diagram, there is a possibility it will change.

※ Indicates areas not open to the public.

## Ouchibara ~The Emerging Image of Ouchibara~

The area on the east side of the Seiden was called Ouchibara, where men were forbidden to enter. This was the residential area of the King, his kin, and their female court attendants. On the west side of the Seiden was the "outer" world, where politics and diplomacy were handled, whereas here, on the east side was the "inner" world where everything was exclusively managed by women. Let us introduce you to each of the structures within Ouchibara.

- Shukujunmon** This side gate, also known as Onaka-Ujo, was an access route into the Ouchibara, and was used by the court ladies attending the King and his family.
- Kugani Udun Yuinch** Inside the Kugani Udun was the sitting room and sleeping chamber for the King and Queen. Their meals were prepared in the Yuinchi.
- Kinju Tsumesho (Station)** This structure connected the Nanden, Kugani Udun, and the Oku Shoin, and was where the Kinju, the attendants who received requests for the King's audience, worked.
- Oku Shoin** The Oku shoin has a secluded feel to its architectural style, and being one with the Oku Shoin Garden, we can envision this area played an important role in providing peace and calmness to the King.

- Shinbyoden** This was where the remains of the deceased King was temporarily laid to rest.
- Agari-no Azana** An observation area on the east side of the Castle, where one can see the whole Shurijo Castle grounds along with the outer areas of the Castle.
- Ni-ke Udun** A sitting room where the King spent his time daily. A hallway leads directly to the Seiden.
- Bifukumon** One of the entrances to Ouchibara, and before the construction of the Keiseimon, it functioned as the Castle's east gate. It originally faced Akata, and therefore was called the Akata Ujo.
- Keiseimon** This was normally a side gate, but when a King passed away, a Prince who lived outside of the Castle would pass through this gate, on his way to officially ascend to the throne.
- Yohokoriden** This was where the ascension ceremony took place when a King passed away and the next King took over the throne. At other times, this area was the sleeping chamber for an unmarried princess.
- Hakuginmon** This was the main gate leading to Shinbyoden, and only the King was permitted its passage. This gate is also known as Shirogane Ujo.