

Nationally Registered Tangible Cultural Property

Gifu Park Three-storied Pagoda

Gifu Park's three-storied pagoda towers over the foothills of Mt. Kinka in the center of Gifu City, shining a strikingly bright vermillion color between the green of the trees. As a landmark of Gifu Park, it is well-loved by the citizens.

However, as about 100 years have passed since the pagoda was built, its age has become noticeable, showing damage all over. In order to leave the pagoda to future generations for many years to come, it has gone through large-scale restoration for 2 1/2 years between September 2014 and February 2017 to recreate the original image of the pagoda from when it was first built.

Below is a summary of the three-storied pagoda and its restoration.

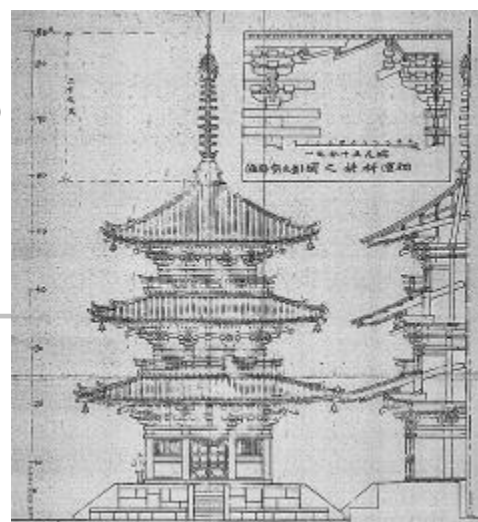
Three-storied Pagoda Summary

The construction of the three-storied pagoda in Gifu Park was planned in order to celebrate the ascension to the throne of the Taisho Period emperor. Gifu City collected citizen donations, and the pagoda was constructed on November 21, 1917 (the 6th year of the Taisho Period).

The idea of the three-storied pagoda came from the designer of the Meiji Shrine, Chuta Ito, who is credited with being the founder of Japanese Historical Architecture.

It is said that the location of the shrine was decided by Gyokudo Kawai, a Japanese artist who graduated from an elementary school in Gifu City.

- Construction Type Wood, 3-space-4-direction-3-floor stupa, tiled roof
- Total height 22.168m
- Intercolumniation 3 spaces all 4 directions (each floor)
First level 5.454m, second level 4.363m, third level 3.636m
- Construction Style Yagura style, Hanging (main) pillar



Three-storied Pagoda Chuta Ito Design Diagram

Special Characteristics ①



The wooden Nagara Bridge used from 1901 (34th year of the Meiji Period) to 1915 (4th year of the Taisho Period)

The Nagara River, which runs through the center of Gifu City, is crossed by a number of bridges. The oldest among those bridges is the Nagara Bridge. The wooden trussed Nagara Bridge was replaced in 1915 with steel.

This three-storied pagoda is confirmed to have used the old wood from Nagara Bridge as one of its building materials. Inside the tower you can see this for yourself.



A photograph of the three-storied pagoda taken at the time of completion



Pagoda before restoration (2014)



Pagoda after restoration was finished (2017)

Special Characteristics ②

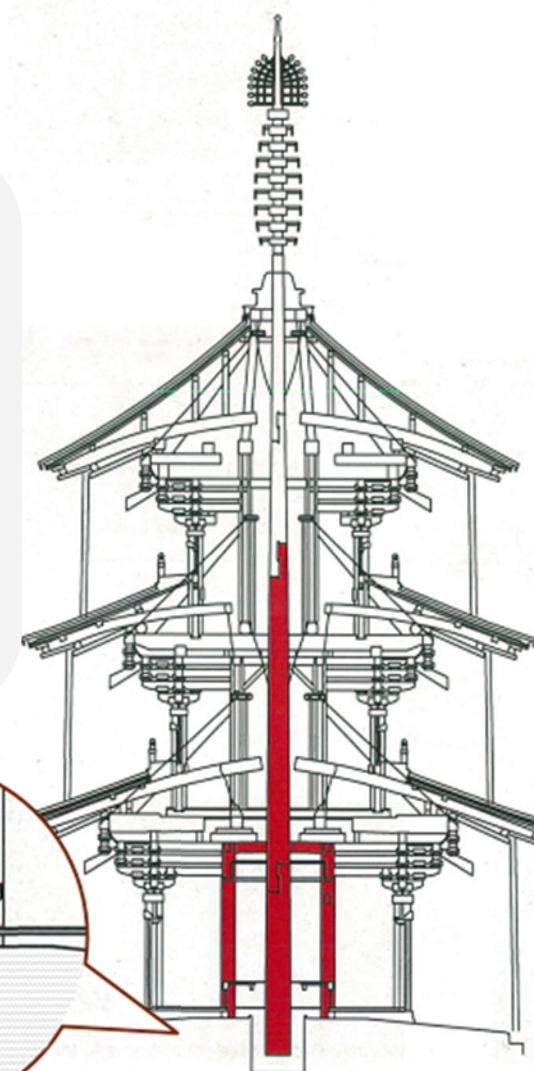
The main pillar of the three-storied pagoda is held suspended off the ground by chains in what is known as a hanging pillar style.

This style is seen in works from the late Edo Period through the Meiji Period, and out of the currently designated cultural heritage pagodas, this is the only one using this characteristic construction style.

Dais for a Buddhist image

Main pillar

You can take a closer look at these characteristics inside the tower!



Areas left without dismantling (part of main pillar, first floor shiten pillars: highlighted in red)

Trivia



About the frame hung above the main doorway:

Though the surface was weathered and the characters unable to be read, by deepening grooves and raised edges, we were able to restore it to its original design.

- Calligraphy 忍鑑 Ningai
- Calligrapher Honkai

Meaning forbearance (to calm the heart and endure hardships), it is speculated that this is a quote from a line of Kobo Daishi's (Kukai's) *Dainichikyokaidai*.

This was believed to have been sent as a donation from Mt. Koya along with a statuette of Kobo Daishi at the completion of the pagoda in 1917.

◆ Contact Us ◆

Historical City Development Division, Urban Building Department, Gifu City
40 Tsukasamachi, Gifu City, 500-8701
TEL 058-214-4596/ FAX 058-262-0512

Construction Summary

This restoration construction work left one part of the main pillar and the first floor level shiten pillars, and dismantled most other parts of the pagoda. The supporting pillars that held up the eaves were removed, as they were disruptive to the scenery.

Also, any places where the wood was rotting or damaged were repaired, weak structural areas were reinforced, and the whole building was reassembled.

【Overall Operating Cost】 About 4.2 billion yen

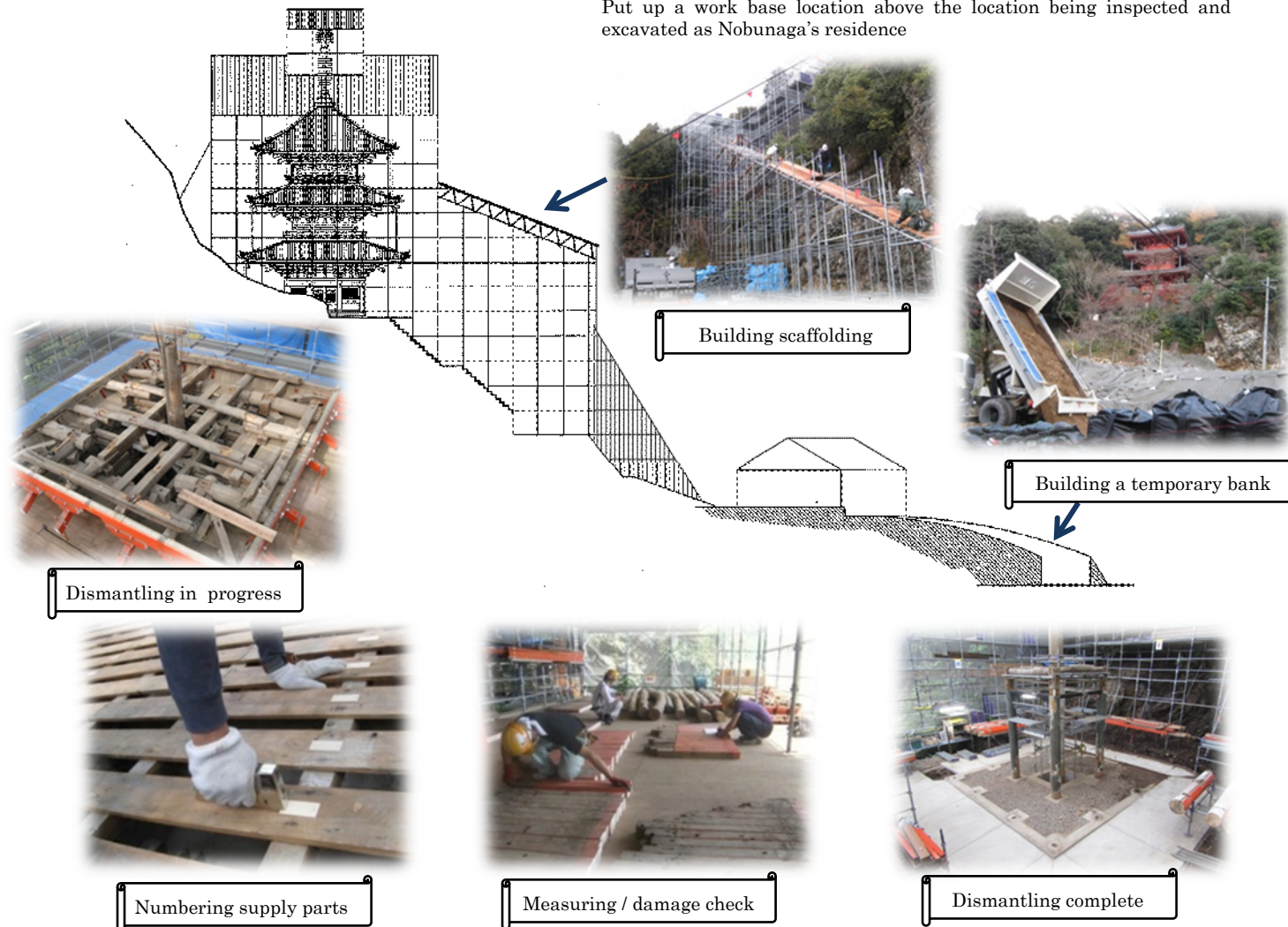
【Schedule】 2013 Preliminary inspection, detail design,
design guidance, geological survey
9/2014 Construction started
2/2017 Construction ended

【Cooperating Companies】

- Design inspection, Construction supervision Ito Heizaemon Architecture Office
- Design, Construction technique instruction The Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments
- Construction NAKASHIMA CONSTRUCTION CO.,LTD
- Geological survey Asahi Doshitsu Design Consultant Corp.
- Video recording Visual Information Center

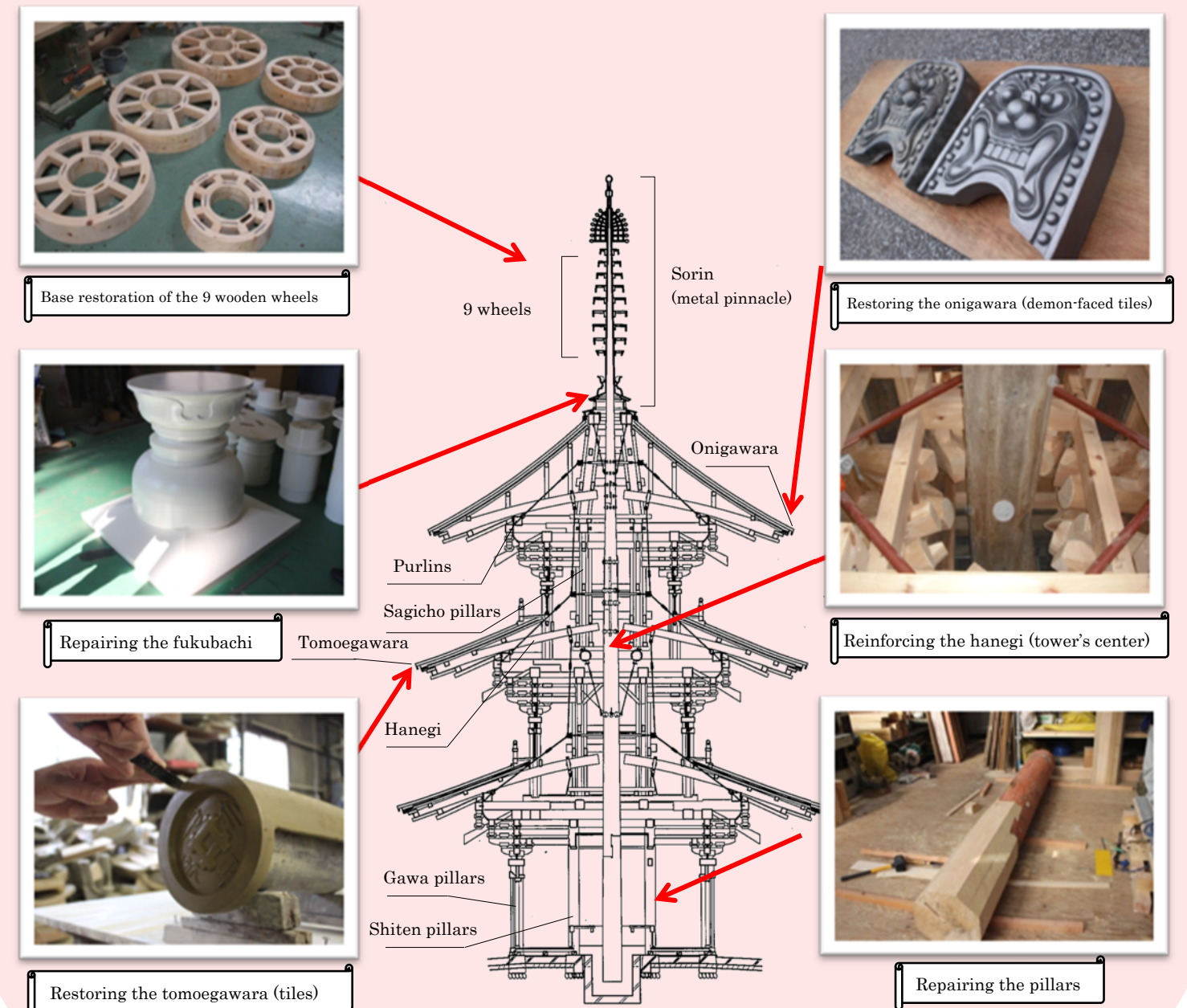
(1) Temporary Construction / Dismantling Inspection

Put up a work base location above the location being inspected and excavated as Nobunaga's residence



(2) Repair locations and reinforcement locations

We used as many existing components as possible, but replaced irreparably damaged parts with new components



(3) Construction Situation

