**HAA 18j: Japanese Architecture**

Lecture 16: Nikkō Mausoleum

**Nikkō Mausoleum (Nikkō Tōshōgū; 1636)**

The Tokugawa Mausoluem on Mt. Nikkō (Tochigi Prefecture) enshrines **the deified spirit of Tokugawa Ieyasu**, known as the **“Great Shining Avatar of the East”** (Tōshō Daigongen). The word “Tōshōgū” in the Japanese title for the mausoleum derives from this deified name and means “Shrine That Illuminates the East.” Although it might be thought of as a type of Shinto shrine, in fact it mixes and matches Shinto and Buddhist influences in a ritual complex set into the rising mountainside of Nikkō, and can be considered a new typology of architecture (mausoleum). Originally built in 1617, it was refurbished into its present form by Tokugawa Iemitsu from **1634-1636**. It consists of a highly ornamented sequence of gates—the Front Gate, the **Yōmeimon Gate**, and the **Karamon Gate**—that lead to the Main Precinct, where a nine-by-four bay **Worship Hall** (Haiden) is connected to a five-by-five bay **Main Sanctuary or Hall** (Honden) by a stone-floored chamber known as the **Enclosed Corridor** or **Stone Room** (Ishinoma). The entire set of buildings in the Main Precinct is enclosed under one set of roofs, an unusual feature that is based upon Hideyoshi’s **Hōkoku Mausoleum** (now Toyokuni Shrine) in Kyoto and, before that, the **Kitano Tenmangū Shrine** (1607) in Kyoto, which also enshrined deified historical figures.

**Other Tokugawa Mausolea**

Taitokuin (destroyed in WWII), 1632, Edo, for Tokugawa Hidetada (1579-1632)

Taiyūin, 1653, Nikkō, for Tokugawa Iemitsu (1604-1651)

**Other Sites Mentioned**

Tanzan Shrine, Nara, 7th century, for deified spirit of Fujiwara no Kamatari (614-669)

Kitano Tenmangū Shrine, Kyoto, 12th century, rebuilt 1607, for deified spirit of Sugawara

Michizane (845-903), known as Tenjin

Hiyoshi Shrine, 1586, Ōtsu, Shiga Prefecture

Hōkoku Mausoleum, Mausoleum built for the deified Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537-1598),

subsequently dismantled by the Tokugawa

Toyokuni Shrine, Kyoto, a revived version (late 19th c) of Hideyoshi’s Hōkoku Mausoleum

**Other Figures Mentioned**

Fujiwara no Kamatari (614-669), deified founder of Fujiwara lineage

Sugawara Michizane (845-903), courtier deified at Kitano Tenmangū Shrine

“Most Bright God of Our Bountiful Country” (Toyokuni Daimyōjin), deified name of Hideyoshi

**Further Reading**

Naomi Okawa, *Edo Architecture: Katsura and Nikko* (Heibonsha, 1975)

Herman Ooms, *Tokugawa Ideology* (Princeton University Press, 1989)