**HAA 18j: Japanese Architecture**

Lecture 13: Himeji and Nijō Castles

**Historical Eras**

Momoyama (Azuchi-Momoyama) period (1573-1615)

Edo period (1600/1603/1615-1868)

**Warlords and Architecture**

Oda Nobunaga (1534-1582)

Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-1598)

Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616)

Tokugawa Iemitsu (1604-1651)

**Other Names/Terms/Sites Mentioned**

*shoin*: residential architectural style of warrior elite

Hideyoshi’s three castles: Osaka (1585); Jurakudai (1587); Fushimi (1594)

Kano Tan’yū (1602-1674); painter of Nijō Castle

**Himeji Castle**

Located in Himeji City, Hyōgo Prefecture, Himeji Castle’s main keep was built between 1601 and **1609** by the daimyo lord **Ikeda Terumasa** (1564-1613), a son-in-law of the warlord Tokugawa Ieyasu. It was the fourth largest castle built in Japan and the largest to survive, although currently only around a fourth of the surface area of the original compound still stands. The main keep (*tenshu*) measures 46.34 meters from the base of its stone foundation to its ridgepole. **Two continuous pillars** were employed to stabilize the structure against high winds and seismic movement.

**Nijō Castle** The Tokugawa shogunate established its capital in Edo (now Tokyo) far to the east of traditional cultural centers, but also built a grand castle residence in Kyoto for occasional use. Nijō means “Second Avenue,” and initially Nobunaga built a residence there for the last medieval shogun Ashikaga Yoshiaki in 1569. Later, Ieyasu built his own castle there in 1603, in order to hold a ceremony to receive the title of shogun. Finally, in 1626, Tokugawa Iemitsu, the third Tokugawa shogun, refurbished the castle to host a visit from the emperor. The paintings of the interior were overseen by the shogunal painter Kano Tan’yū. The version of the castle built by Iemitsu included a main keep or “Main Compound” (Honmaru) with a *tenshu* tower and a residential palace or “Second Compound” (Ninomaru), but the *tenshu* was destroyed by lightning in 1750 and never rebuilt. Most of the rest of the main keep was destroyed by fire in 1788.

The Second Compound represents the best surviving example of early Edo-period *shoin* architecture, and its most important entry is adorned with a formal gate known as a Karamon Gate. It consists of five buildings: 1) Reception Hall (Tōzamurai), 2) Formal Vestibule (Shikidai), 3) Grand Audience Hall (Ohiroma), 4) Informal Audience Hall (Kuroshoin), and 5) an Inner Hall (Shiroshoin).