**HAA 18j: Japanese Architecture**

Lecture 9: Kinkakuji

**Historical Eras**

Kamakura period (1185-1333)

Muromachi period (1333-1573)

Kenmu Restoration (1333-1336)

Northern and Southern Courts (1336-1392)

**Names Related to Medieval History**

Minamoto Yoritomo (1147-1199); Hōjō regents

Kenmu Restoration; Emperor Godaigo (1288-1339)

Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1408), 3rd Muromachi shogun

Ashikaga Yoshimasa (1436-1490), 8th Muromachi shogun

Musō Soseki (1275-1351)

**Architecture Sites Mentioned**

Golden Hall (Konjikidō), Chūsonji Temple, 1124, Hiraizumi (Iwate Prefecture)

Muryōkōin, 1170, Hiraizumi

Eifukuji, 1192, Kamakura

Great Buddha of Kamakura, Kōtokuin, 1252, Kamakura

Kenchōji Monastery, 1253, Kamakura

Hall of 33 Bays (Sanjūsangendō), 1266, Kyoto

Saihōji (“Moss Temple”), Kyoto, 1339, Kyoto (Lapis Lazuli Hall or Ruriden)

Tenryūji, Kyoto, 1345

**Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion)**

Kinkakuji (1397) was for many centuries the only remaining structure from Ashikaga Yoshimitsu’s **Kitayama Villa** (Kyoto), the shogun’s retirement villa that was converted into a mortuary temple known as Rokuonji after his death. Kinkakuji was burned down in 1950 and rebuilt close to its original form in 1955. It is a three-story structure with a double pyramidal roof covered with wood shingles. The second and third stories are entirely sheathed in gold leaf. Kinkakuji was referred to in its own time as a **Relic Hall** because of a relic worshipped on its third floor; the second floor consisted of a shrine to the Bodhisattva Kannon, and the first floor was for residential use. The idea of a multi- story structure facing a pond reflects the influence of Zen-style architecture, as do certain details such as the **bell-shaped windows**. Other characteristics such as the cypress-bark roofs and first-floor shutters reflect the influence of traditional *shinden* palaces. Kinkakuji originally served a function similar to the Fishing Pavilion in a *shinden* palace, but the gold leaf also reflects its use as a reception space for foreign emissaries within an evolving international order.

**Three Floors of Kinkakuji**

First Floor: Ablution Hall (Hōsu-in)

Second Floor: Tide Sound Cavern (Chō’ondō)

Third Floor: Peak of the Realm of Perfection (Kyūkyōchō)