JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE
Introduction

- Heavily influenced by Chinese Architecture from the Tang Dynasty – Develop unique differences and aspects

Kinkaku-ji, Kyoto
Originally built in 1397
History

1. Prehistoric period
2. Asuka and Nara architecture
3. Heian period
4. Kamakura and Muromachi period
5. Azuchi-Momoyama period
6. Edo period
7. Meiji, Taisho, and early Showa periods
8. Modern architecture
1. Prehistoric period

- Excavations and researches show these houses had thatched roofs and dirt floors. Houses in areas of high temperature and humidity had wooden floors.
- (After the 3rd century): Developed a centralized administrative system.
  - Many keyhole-shaped Kofun were built in Osaka and Nara for the aristocracy.
Reconstructed pit dwelling houses in **Yoshinogari, Saga Prefecture**, 2nd or 3rd century

Reconstructed dwellings in **Yoshinogari**

Reconstructed raised-floor building in **Yoshinogari**
2. Asuka and Nara architecture

- The earliest structures still extant in Japan, and the oldest surviving wooden buildings in the world are found at the Hōryū-ji to the southwest of Nara.
  - The Kondo, in the style of Chinese worship halls, is a two-story structure of post-and-beam construction, capped by an irimoya, or hipped-gabled roof of ceramic tiles.

- growing wealth and power of organized Buddhism in Nara
Kondo and pagoda at Hōryū-ji, Ikaruga, Nara Built in 7th century

Hokkedō at Tōdai-ji, Nara, Nara
Completed in 743

Pagoda at Yakushi-ji, Nara, Nara
Built in 730
3. Heian period

- The priest Kūkai (Kōbō Daishi, 774-835) journeyed to China to study Shingon, a form of Vajrayana Buddhism, which he introduced into Japan in 806.

- At the core of Shingon worship are the various mandalas, diagrams of the spiritual universe which influenced temple design.

- Japanese Buddhist architecture also adopted the stupa in its Chinese form of pagoda.

- Temples were built on the mountains;
4. Kamakura and Muromachi period

- Japanese architecture made technological advances that somewhat diverged from and Chinese counterparts;
- Problems: Earthquake, wooden structure (native requirement), heavy rainfall – unique type of architecture.
- After Kamakura: architecture influenced by Samurai – simple house design.
- In the **Genpei War** (1180-1185): most of the buildings were damaged – rebuilt
- Development of Tea Ceremony and Tea House
  - Purpose: family and friends, Enjoy art, to cleanse the mind of the concerns of daily life, and to receive a bowl of tea served in a gracious and tasteful manner.

**Ginkakuji, Kyoto**
Built in 15th century
Daitō of Negoro-ji in Iwade, Wakayama, Completed in 1547
Butsuden of Kōzanji, Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi, Built in 1320
5. Azuchi-Momoyama period

- Objectives: (1) Defensive structure (lord + soldiers); (2) reception hall
6. Edo period
7. Meiji, Taisho, and early Showa periods