The City of Kyoto’s Cultural Properties Preservation Policies

Culture and Citizens Affairs Bureau,
Culture and Arts City Promotion Office,
Cultural Properties Preservation Section
The cultural properties system

**Tangible cultural properties**
- Buildings: Works of art (pictures, sculptures, crafts, written materials, documents, etc.), materials, historical materials
- Intangible cultural properties: Drama, music, artistic techniques, etc.
- Folk cultural properties: Tangible folk cultural properties, intangible folk cultural properties
- Monuments: Inheritance, shell mounds, burial mounds, castle sites, old residences, etc.
- Cultural landscapes: Landscapes formed by the lives or livelihoods of those who live in the region, or by regional customs
- Groups of traditional structures: Market towns, castle towns, farming and fishing villages, etc.
- Cultural property preservation techniques: Production of materials and tools needed to preserve cultural properties, repair and restoration techniques, etc.
- Buried cultural properties: Cultural properties buried in the soil

**Intangible cultural properties**
- Designated: Important intangible cultural properties
- Selected: Important intangible cultural properties

**Folk cultural properties**
- Designated: Important folk cultural properties
- Selected: Important folk cultural properties

**Monuments**
- Designated: Important monuments
- Selected: Particularly important monuments

**Cultural landscapes**
- Designated: Important cultural landscapes
- Selected: Particularly important cultural landscapes

**Groups of traditional structures**
- Designated: Important preservation districts for groups of traditional structures
- Selected: Particularly important cultural landscapes

**Cultural property preservation techniques**
- Designated: Important preservation districts for groups of traditional structures

**Act on Protection of Cultural Properties**
- 1950: City of Kyoto Cultural Properties Preservation Ordinance
- 1982: Ordinance on Cultural Properties
More than 3000 national treasures, important cultural properties, and city- or prefecture-designated tangible and intangible cultural properties

- National treasures: 212 (19.1% of national total)
- Important cultural properties: 1,879 (14.3% of national total)

These are closely related to the lives of city residents.

→ Tourism, scenery, community promotion, etc. They are linked to various policy fields.
1962
Cultural Properties Team established in Facilities Section of Tourism Bureau

1965
Reorganized as Preservation Team in Cultural Properties Section of Culture & Tourism Bureau

1970
Reorganized as Cultural Properties Preservation Section of Culture & Tourism Bureau

1972
Cultural preservation engineers (specialists) assigned to Cultural Properties Preservation Section

* Structure: 1 Dept. Manager, 1 Team Leader, 3 administrative staff members, 1 cultural preservation engineer
The Current Structure of the Cultural Properties Preservation Section

Cultural Properties Preservation Section Manager

Administration Team
(1 Team Leader, 3 team members)

Planning Team
(1 Team Leader)

Arts & Crafts/Folk Cultural Properties Team
(4 team members)

Monuments Team
(1 Team Leader, 3 team members)

Buried Cultural Properties Team
(1 Team Leader, 8 team members)

Architectural Team
(1 Team Leader, 3 team members)

Cultural Heritage Promotion/Utilization Team
(1 Team Leader, 1 team member)

Manager for
Cultural Heritage Promotion/Utilization

Motorikyu Nijojo Office: 1 Manager for Architectural Preservation, 4 team members

Total: 30 persons
Including 20 preservation engineers
Activities of the City of Kyoto Cultural Properties Preservation Section

1. Preserving cultural properties under the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties
2. Preserving cultural properties under the Kyoto Cultural Properties Preservation Ordinance
3. Preserving historical sites, scenic sites, and natural monuments under city management
4. Promoting projects to preserve cultural properties
5. Promotion and educational activities related to cultural properties
6. Preservation, promotion, and educational activities related to cultural properties under Kyoto’s unique systems
Buildings and Gardens that Lend Color to Kyoto (Established 2011)

Buildings and gardens that city residents wanted to preserve as Kyoto’s heritage were proposed by the public and selected by the Examining Committee. 346 properties selected

- Kwasan Observatory
- Former Residence of Hideki Yukawa
Kyoto’s Intangible Cultural Heritage
(Established 2013)
Intangible cultural heritage selected by the Examining Committee as Kyoto’s living cultural heritage connecting Kyoto residents across the generations

- Food culture of Kyoto
- Culture of Kyoto Hanamachi
- Jizobon of Kyoto
- Kimono culture of Kyoto
- Confectionery culture of Kyoto
- Kyoto’s annual events

6 properties selected
Kyoto’s Cultural Heritage
(Established 2016)

Approved by the Examining Committee as a group of properties that have

Local, historical, and narrative properties

related to individual themes.

“Traditional Culture Thrived and Spread in Kitano and Nishijin area”

“Garden Culture Developed in 1,000-year Capital with Scenic Beauty”

“Worship and Festivals of Fire Inherited for Generations”

“The Progress of Modernization in the Meiji Period”

“Water Culture of a 1,000-year Capital”

“Culture of Traditional Kyoto Homes and Living in Them”
World Heritage Site: Ancient Kyoto

- Kiyomizu-dera Temple
- Nijo Castle
Preservation Management of the World Heritage Site
“Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto”

Preservation of property area

→ Restrictions under the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties

Preservation of buffer zone

- Restraints on development
- Building height restrictions
- Preservation of natural and historical landscapes
- Preservation of streetscapes
- Preservation of historical cityscape
- Preservation of scenic views and borrowed landscapes

→ Restrictions under various laws and regulations

(Act on Special Measures concerning Preservation of Traditional Scenic Beauty in Ancient Capitals, City Planning Act, Scenic Zone Ordinance, Natural Landscape Preservation Ordinance, Urban Landscape Development Ordinance, Landscape Act, Scenic Views Creation Ordinance, Act on Protection of Cultural Properties)

Furthermore, a comprehensive preservation management plan regarding integrated preservation management of cultural heritage as a whole, including diverse properties, which was not requested when “Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto” were added to the list, is being prepared.
Site Management Plan of Nijo Castle

Conservation and Restoration Plan
- 5 buildings under long-term restoration
- 2 to 5 years, or longer
- Large-scale investment for future

Visitor Management Plan
- Queuing area management
- Parking and access management
- Visitor flow and safety management

Institutional Arrangements
- Management office
- In-house restoration teams
- Ticketing and revenue