

Seated Statue of Amida Buddha (Repository, Chojuji Temple)

Housed in a repository behind the Main Hall, this 285.5-centimeter statue depicts Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Light and Life. The gilded, wooden figure is seated in the full lotus position with hands resting in the lap, forming the meditation mudra gesture. It is backed by double halos, which symbolize the Buddha's eternal radiance and enlightenment. Based on its style, the statue is believed to date to the Kamakura period (1185–1333). It is designated an Important Cultural Property.

The carving embodies the refined elegance favored by the nobility of the late twelfth century. The deliberate, restrained features convey meditative serenity and spiritual calm. The rounded face is marked by a small, delicately sculpted mouth and narrow, barely open eyes set beneath long, arched eyebrows. The garment exhibits the same subtlety, with its graceful flowing curves.

Structurally, the statue was created using the *yosegi-zukuri* (joined-wood) technique. This innovative method emerged in the eleventh century as an alternative to the older *ichiboku-zukuri* (single-block) technique. It involved assembling the figure from multiple, hollowed-out pieces of timber. This technique had several advantages: it mitigated cracking and warping caused by uneven drying in large, solid wood; enhanced the figure's structural integrity; and reduced its weight for easier sculpting and transportation.