

In the Ryukyu Kingdom period, the Seiden Main Hall was built of fine-grained sandstone (Niibinufuni), mainly from Okinawa Main Island. In the current restoration project, the fine-grained sandstone is sourced from Yonaguni Island. Local residents are watching the construction material leave the island, expecting their treasure to become a treasure of Okinawa.

After arriving in Okinawa Main Island, the sandstone is to be turned into balusters by contemporary stonemasons. It will also be used to create stone handrails, great and little dragon pillars, and lions.

The roof of the Seiden Main Hall was originally decorated with dragon head cresting. The restoration process starts with making clay models based on an analysis of old pictures. The shape of dragons is evaluated in collaboration with experts. Then, the clay models are pressed into plaster. Once plaster models are obtained, the process moves onto the actual restoration work.

The patterns of roof tiles recovered from the Seiden Main Hall site are digitally analyzed and evaluated with experts to develop molds. Tests are repeated to choose the right material, remove impurities, and determine the right firing temperature to reproduce the beautiful color of the roof tiles without sacrificing their durability. Thus, the process involves multiple steps, each of which requires high-level expertise and skills.

Timber

Okinawa Urajiro-gashi (*Quercus miyagii*) timber sourced from Kunigami

Peripheral foundations

Fine-grained sandstone quarried from Yonaguni and processed locally

Reiwa Shuri Castle Reconstruction Event “Yonaguni Festival” – Kiyari song and dance

Dragon head cresting

Plaster modeling