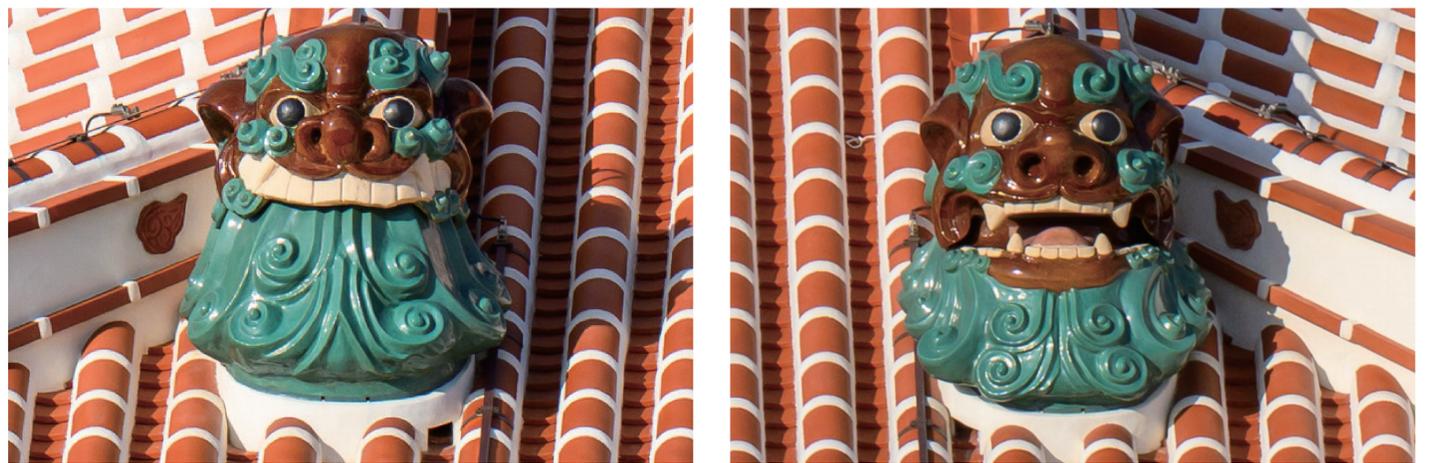


Onigawara tiles

Decorative tiles placed on the roof of the Seiden Main Hall. Although onigawara literally means "demon tiles," at Shuri Castle these tiles depict the faces of lions rather than demons.

Reiwa Era restoration

These were produced using funds from the Shuri Castle Reconstruction Fund, with contributions from both within Japan and internationally. High-resolution scans of pre-war photographs were taken for image analysis. Using clay models, the designs were finalized through repeated discussions between supervisors and artisans. The confirmed designs were then transferred to plaster prototypes, which served as the basis for this work. For the onigawara tiles, the clay was first bisque-fired in the kiln, followed by the application of colored glazes. Traditional Okinawan glazes and locally sourced materials were primarily used to recreate the historical color tones, followed by a second firing in the kiln. Six onigawara tiles were produced, of which four were selected for installation on the roof of the Seiden Main Hall. The remaining two are displayed here. Here you can enjoy up-close views of the scale and outstanding craftsmanship of the onigawara tiles on the roof of the Seiden Main Hall.



Onigawara tile production process

Through numerous stages carried out by skilled artisans, majestic onigawara tiles worthy of the Seiden Main Hall of Shuri Castle were brought to completion.



Remnants of Heisei-era onigawara tiles

The onigawara tiles that survived the Shuri Castle fire are partially displayed here. These onigawara tiles were also exhibited at the France Pavilion during the 2025 Japan International Exposition (Osaka-Kansai Expo), held from April 13 to October 13, 2025.

