

Furman University Living, Learning Labs

The Place of Peace

Summary:

Sustainability has a moral, spiritual, and cultural dimension that often gets overlooked. We recognize the importance of beauty and resilience, memory and place, spirit and culture to student learning and living and want to encourage students to develop the habits of mind, heart, and wellbeing that will foster lifelong sustainability stewardship.

The Place of Peace was donated to Furman University by the Tsuzuki family. The family has maintained residences in both Greenville, South Carolina and in Nagoya, Japan since the 1960s. It is the first authentic Japanese temple ever to be dismantled and fully reconstructed in America. Known in Japan as Hei-Sei-Ji, this Jodoshin-shu temple was originally built in 1984 in Nagoya, Japan. In 2004, it was dismantled into more than 2,400 pieces, transported through the Panama Canal, and fully reconstructed at Furman by Japanese craftsmen in 2008.

We are fortunate to have The Place of Peace as an iconic centerpiece for our commitment to international education, sustainability, and the development of mindfulness and the whole person.



Who to Contact: The Place of Peace is hosted by the Asian Studies Department. Contact Amie Buckmaster at amie.buckmaster@furman.edu, 864-294-2545, or scan the QR code to arrange a class visit.



Ideas for Class:

- Draw, paint, or sculpt the exterior of the Place of Peace.
- Analyze the expert craftsmanship in the design, construction, and physics of the temple.
- Host a meditation to promote mindfulness and wellbeing for your students.
- Consider the cultural and social dimensions and functions of the Place of Peace.
- Use the space for quiet personal reflection.
- Discuss the Japanese emphasis on wholeness and living in harmony with nature. Include a walk through the Asian Garden.
- Explore the importance of spiritual and cultural sustainability.