



# Envisioning Heijokyo: 100 Questions & Answers about the Ancient Capital in Nara, Japan

*Yoko Hsueh Shirai*

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One of the first planned capitals in Japan, Heijokyo in Nara developed into a major city during the eighth century and was home to as many as 100,000 residents. In *Envisioning Heijokyo*, archaeologists provide readers a comprehensive view of daily life at the Heijo palace, government offices, aristocratic mansions, and Buddhist temples by explaining excavation results over several decades. Topics range from musical instruments, food, architecture, street layout, shoes, and even toilets. *Envisioning Heijokyo* is a translation of a Japanese book published by the prestigious Kashihara Archaeological Institute, Nara prefecture. This book will be essential reading for travelers to Japan, as well as students of early Japan. As part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the ancient capital celebrated its 1300th anniversary in 2010.

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