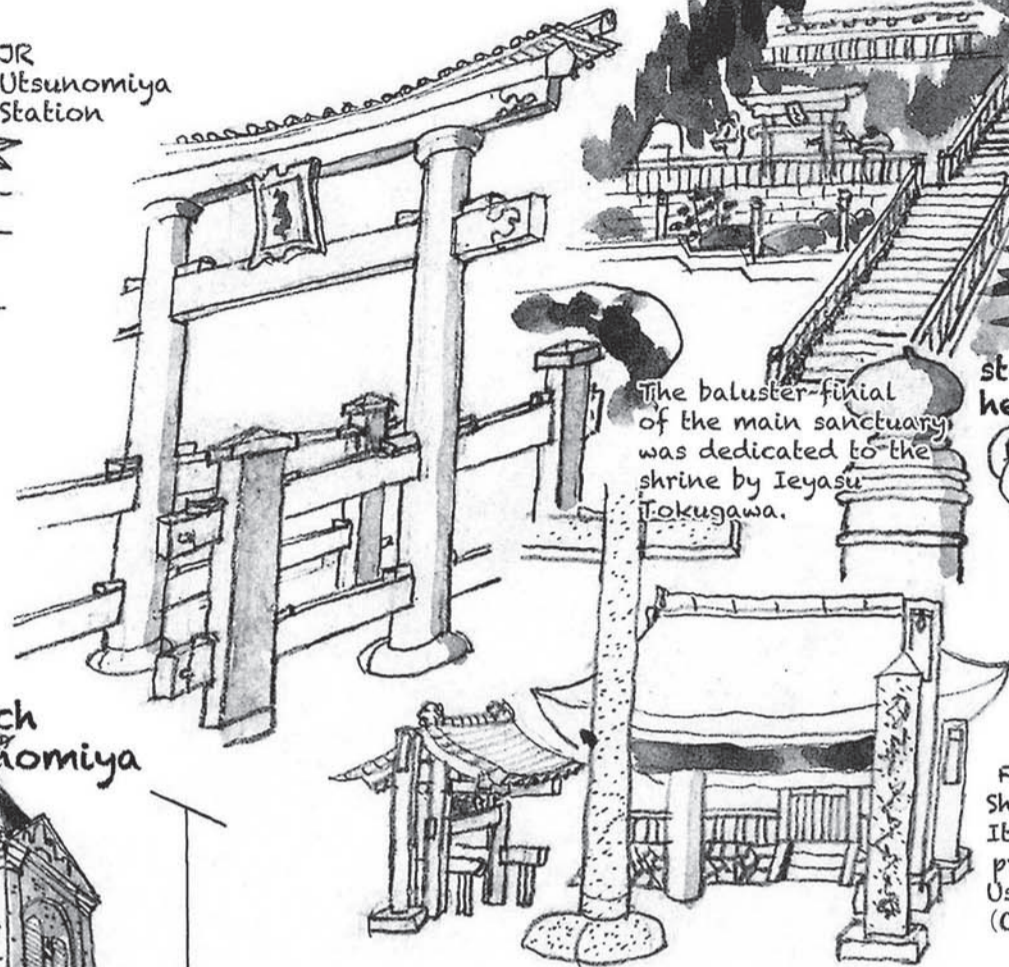
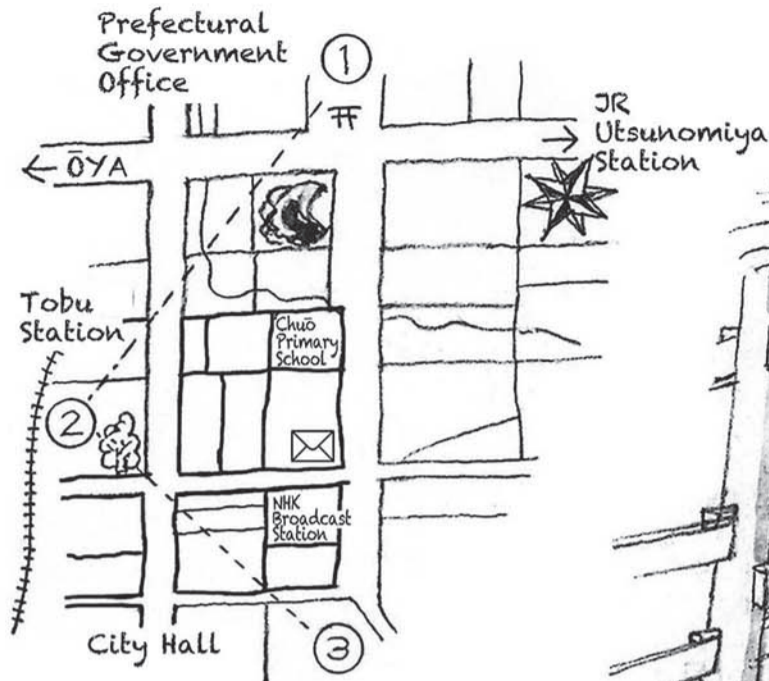


# UTSUNOMIYA CITY GUIDE

## ① Futaarayama-Jinja Shrine (First Shrine of Shimotsuke)

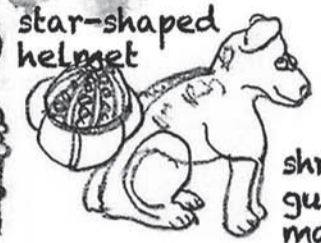
It is dedicated to Toyoki-Irihiko-no-Mikoto, the eldest prince of Emperor Sujin.



Situated in the center of the city, the shrine has influenced every aspect of the citizens' lives.

The baluster-finial of the main sanctuary was dedicated to the shrine by Ieyasu Tokugawa.

star-shaped helmet



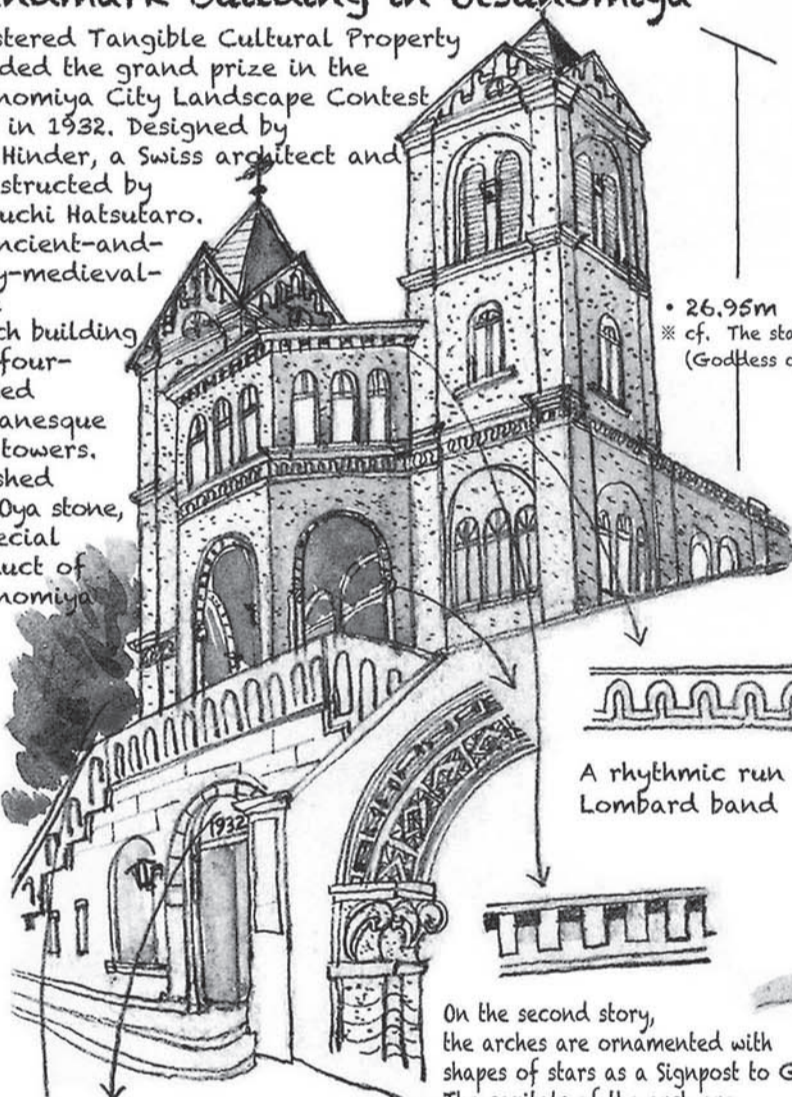
shrine guardian dog made of iron

### Shimono-miya

This is the birthplace of the Futaarayama-Jinja Shrine of Utsunomiya. It was moved to the present place in Usugamine in December 838. (Origin of the Otariya Festival)

## ② Matsugamine Catholic Church Landmark Building in Utsunomiya

- Registered Tangible Cultural Property
- Awarded the grand prize in the Utsunomiya City Landscape Contest
- Built in 1932. Designed by Max Hinder, a Swiss architect and constructed by Miyauchi Hatsutarō.
- An ancient-and-early-medieval-style church building with four-storied Romanesque twin towers. Finished with Oya stone, a special product of Utsunomiya.



• 26.95m  
※ cf. The statue of Oya Heiwa Kannon (Goddess of Peace) 26.93m

A rhythmic run of Lombard band

On the second story, the arches are ornamented with shapes of stars as a Signpost to God. The capitals of the arch are decorated with abstracted scrolls.

Tympanum with braided patterns and the completion year 1932

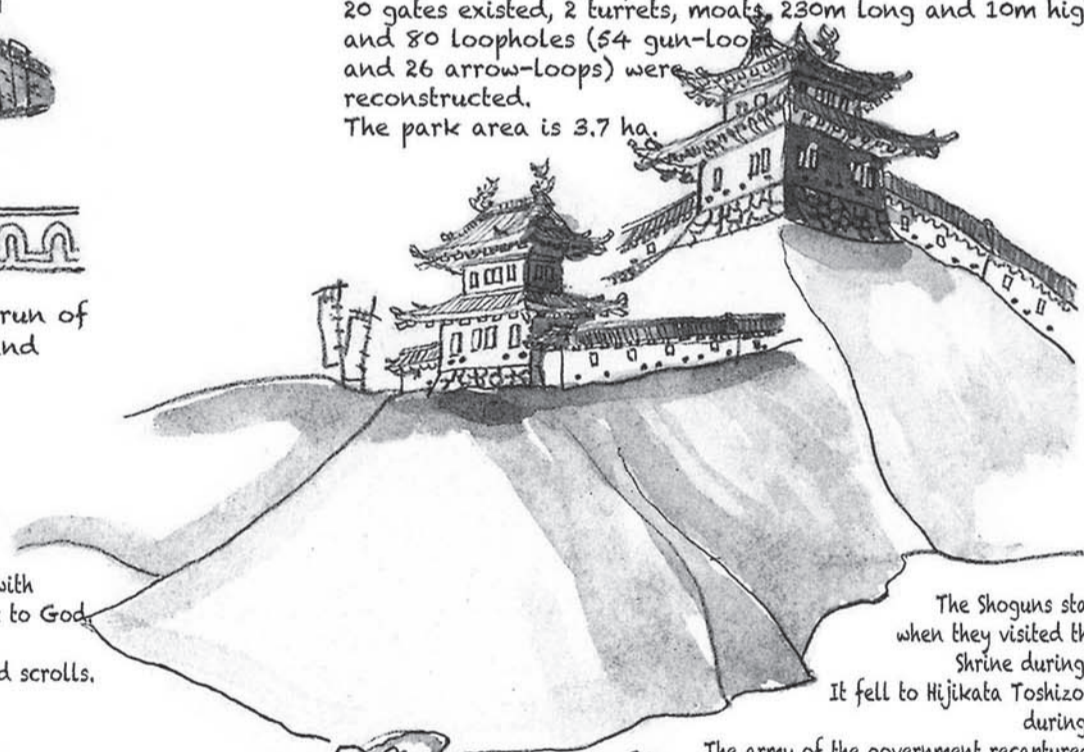


### Frog-shaped Gargoyle

Father Pouget and Kenji Miyazawa, the famous poet and author of children's literature, were friends since the time of Pouget's stay in Morioka. Rumor has it that Kenji's tale "Frog's Rubber Boots" has inspired him to create a gargoyle which looks like a frog.

## ③ Utsunomiya Castle Ruins Park

Opened in 2007 after reconstruction of a part of the main compound of Utsunomiya Castle. It was the northern defense of Edo Castle, a flatland castle, surrounded by earthworks and fourfold moats in its northwest, facing north and 1 square km without a donjon. Though 8 turrets and 20 gates existed, 2 turrets, moats, 230m long and 10m high earthworks, and 80 loopholes (54 gun-loops and 26 arrow-loops) were reconstructed. The park area is 3.7 ha.

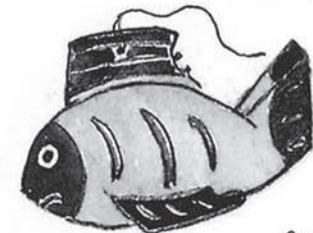


The Shoguns stayed at the castle when they visited the Nikko Toshogu Shrine during the Edo period. It fell to Hijikata Toshizo on May 11, 1868 during the Boshin War.

The army of the government recaptured it 4 days later. The castle was successively ruled by 22 generations of the Utsunomiya clan, and after the unification by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, by 25 generations of feudal lords in hereditary vassalage to the Tokugawa clan, such as the Asano, Gamo, Okudaira, Honda, Matsudaira, Abe and Toda clans until the Meiji period.



Gyoza City Utsunomiya



Yellow Carp

a papier-mâché folkcraft of Utsunomiya

UTSUNOMIYA  
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