



*Kamakura, Japan*

*Kevin Anderson*

## Table of Contents

Creative Brief ..... 3

Navigation Map .....5

Wire Frames .....6

Styles .....

Credits .....

# Creative Brief

## *Project Summary*

City: Kamakura, Japan

Title: The Kamakura Shogunate

Topic: To provide information about cultural sites in the city of Kamakura, Japan.

Summary: The city of Kamakura is home to 2 grand structures, the Daibutsu (Great Buddha) and the Hasedera (Hase Temple). Both of these sites have immense cultural significance to the city and it's people. This site will explore the history and

## *Pages*

Page 1: History - briefly detailing the rich history of this embattled land. A side column containing information about the geography and topography of Kamakura (2 columns)

Page 2: The Kamakura period - 2 columns about the Kamakura period and the battles over the land that lasted almost 2 centuries. A side column will discuss the fall of the Kamakura shogunate (3 columns total)

Page 3: Buddhist Culture - information about the buddhist links to Kamakura from the 13th century (1 column)

Page 4: Hasedera (Hase Temple) - information about the temple and the shrines/catacombs at the Hase Temple. (1 column)

Page 5: Daibutsu (Great Buddha) - information about the site of one of the largest single structures in the city of Kamakura. A side column will contain statistics and interesting facts about the Daibutsu and the Kotoku-in temple that is housed at (2 columns)

Page 6: Kamakura Today - The Meiji period and the 20th century covers that restoration of Kamakura's cultural sites and assets

# Creative Brief

Page 7: Contact - this page will contain a list for various means of contacting the site creator.

Page 8: Credits - a table will contain the information for this page

Page 9: Thank You Page - this page will contain a form with questions and comments sections for the visitor to review the site.

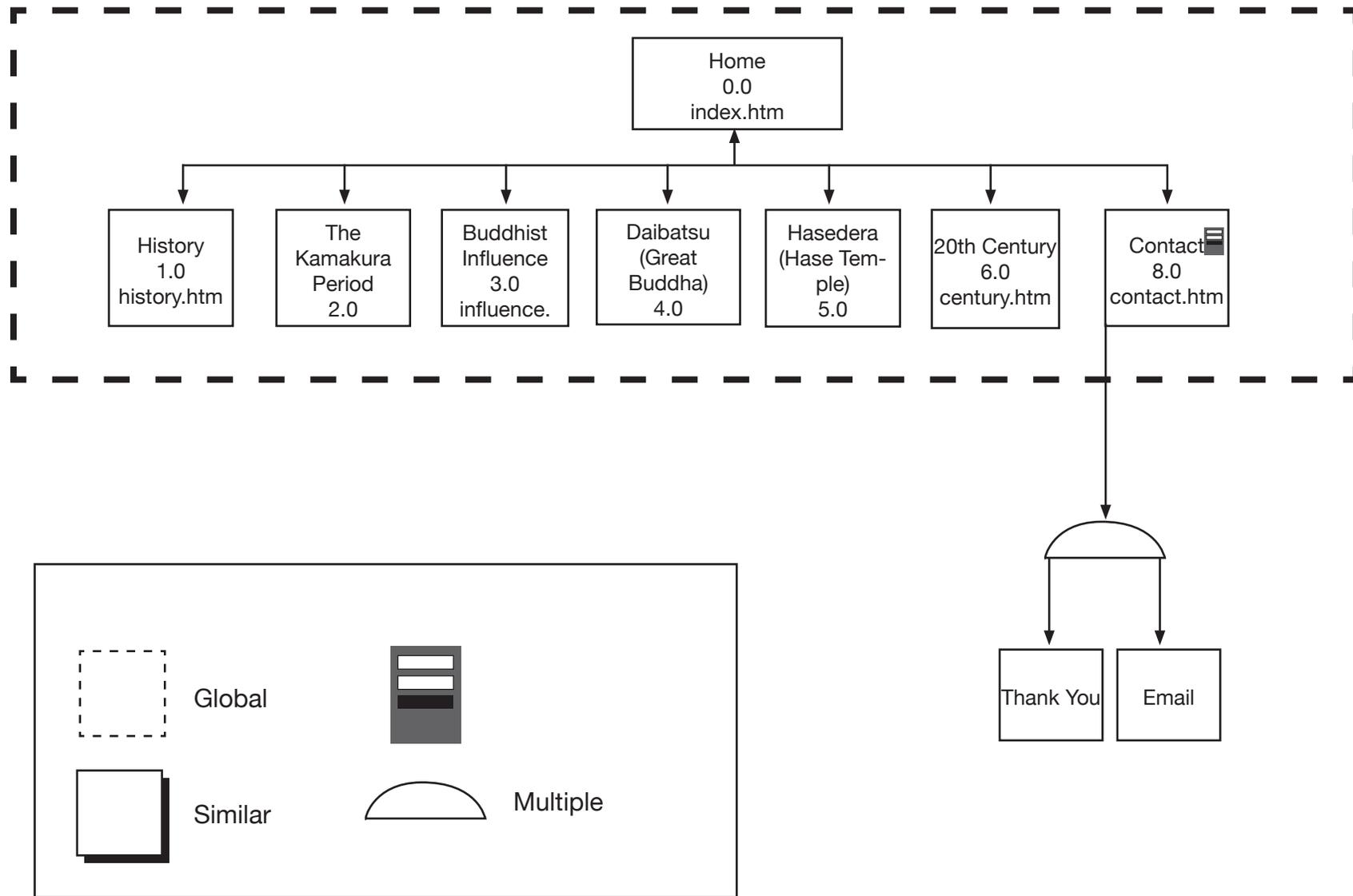
## *Audience/User*

Adult Travelers and enthusiasts of Japanese culture and architecture

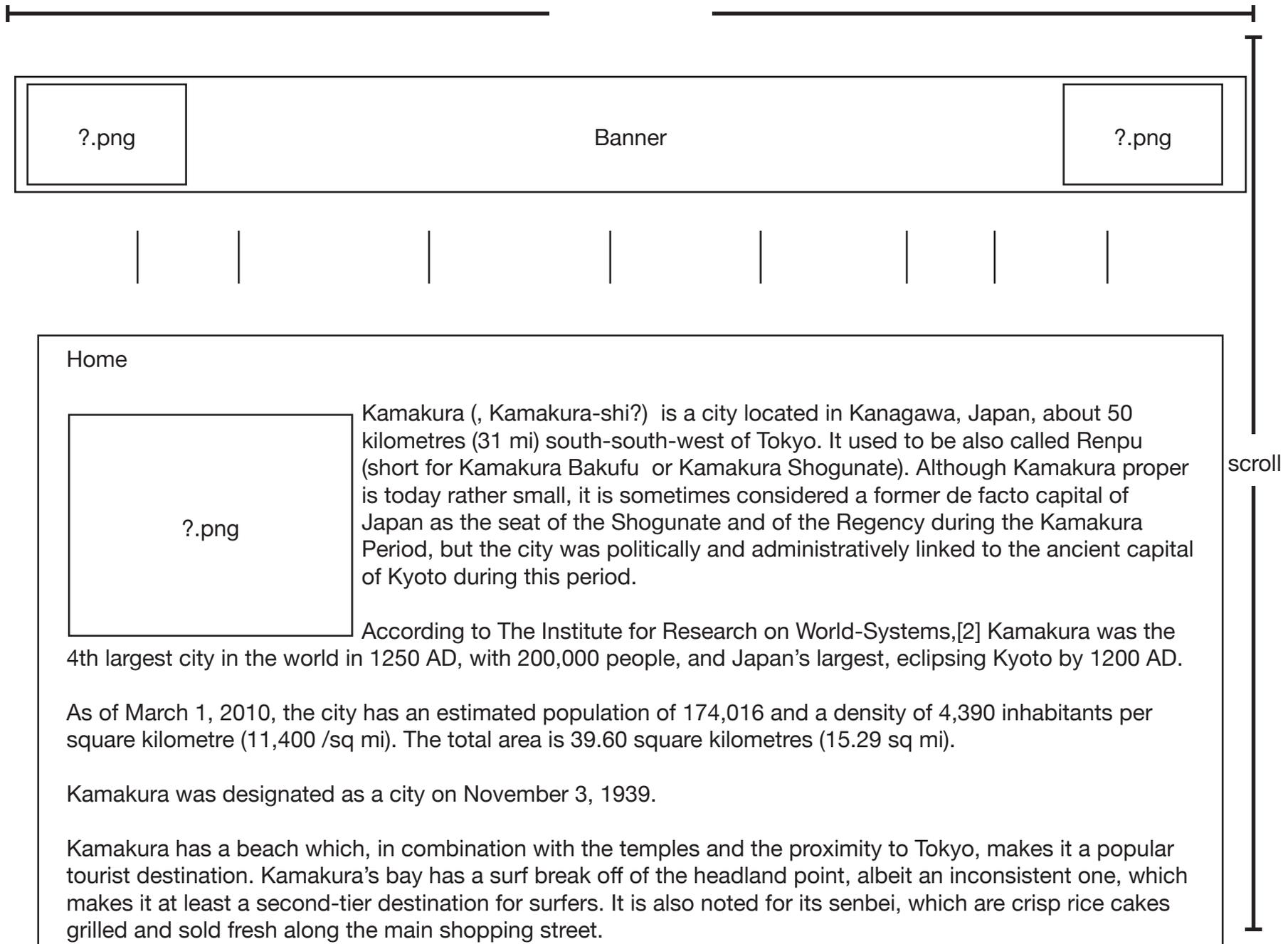
## *Tone*

Somber and Respectful

# Navigation



# Wire Frames



# Wire Frames

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Banner

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- History
- Kamakura Period
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### History

The earliest traces of human settlements in the area date back at least 10,000 years. Obsidian and stone tools found at excavation sites near Joraku-ji were dated to the Old Stone Age (between 100,000 and 10,000 years ago). During the Jomon period, the sea level was higher than

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now and all the flat land in Kamakura up to Tsurugaoka Hachiman-gu and, further east, up to Yokohama's Totsuka-ku and Sakae-ku was under water. Thus, the oldest pottery fragments found come from hillside settlements of the period between 7500 BC and 5000 BC. In the late Jomon period the sea receded and civilization progressed. During the Yayoi period (300 BC–300 AD), the sea receded further almost to today's coastline, and the economy shifted radically from hunting and fishing to farming.

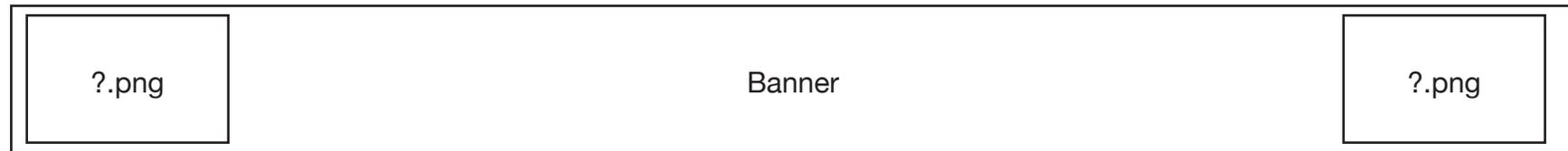
The Azuma Kagami describes pre-shogunate Kamakura as a remote, forlorn place, but there is reason to believe its writers simply wanted to give the impression that prosperity was brought there by the new regime.[9] To the contrary, it is known that by the Nara Period (about 700 AD) there were

### Geography

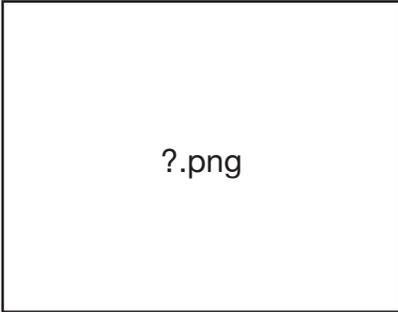
Surrounded to the north, east and west by mountains and to the south by the open water of Sagami Bay, Kamakura is a natural fortress. Before the construction of several tunnels and modern roads that now connect it to Fujisawa, Ofuna and Zushi, on land it could be entered only through narrow artificial passes, among which the seven most important were called Kamakura's Seven Entrances, a name sometimes translated as "Kamakura's Seven Mouths". The natural fortification made Kamakura an easily defensible stronghold. Before the opening of the Entrances, access on land was so difficult that the Azuma Kagami reports that Hojo Masako came back to Kamakura from a visit to Sotozan temple in Izu bypassing by boat the impassable Inamuragasaki cape and arriving in Yuigahama. Again according to the Azuma Kagami, the first of the Kamakura shoguns, Minamoto no

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# Wire Frames



### The Kamakura Period



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extraordinary events, the historical characters, and the culture of the century that goes from Minamoto no Yoritomo's birth to the assassination of the last of his sons have been throughout Japanese history the background and the inspiration for countless poems, books, jidaigeki TV dramas, Kabuki plays, songs, manga and even videogames, and are necessary to make sense of much of what one sees in today's Kamakura.

Yoritomo, after the defeat and almost complete extermination of his family at the hands of the Taira clan, managed in the space of a few years to go from being a fugitive hiding from his enemies inside a tree trunk to being the most powerful man in the land. Defeating the Taira clan, Yoritomo became de facto ruler of much of Japan and founder of the Kamakura shogunate, an institution destined to last 141 years and to have immense repercussions over the country's history.

The Kamakura shogunate era is called by historians the Kamakura period and, although its end is clearly set (Siege of Kamakura (1333)), its beginning is not: different historians put it at a different point in time within a range that goes from the

### Fall of the Kamakura Shogunate

On July 3, 1333 warlord Nitta Yoshisada, who was an Emperor loyalist, attacked Kamakura to reestablish imperial rule. After trying to enter by land through the Kewaizaka Pass and the Gokuraku-ji Pass, he and his forces waited for a low tide, bypassed the Inamuragasaki cape, entered the city and took it.

In accounts of that disastrous Hojo defeat it is recorded that nearly 900 Hojo samurai, including the last three Regents, committed suicide at their family temple, Toshō-ji, whose ruins have been found in today's Omachi. Almost the entire clan vanished at once, the city was sacked and many temples were burned. Many simple citizens imitated the

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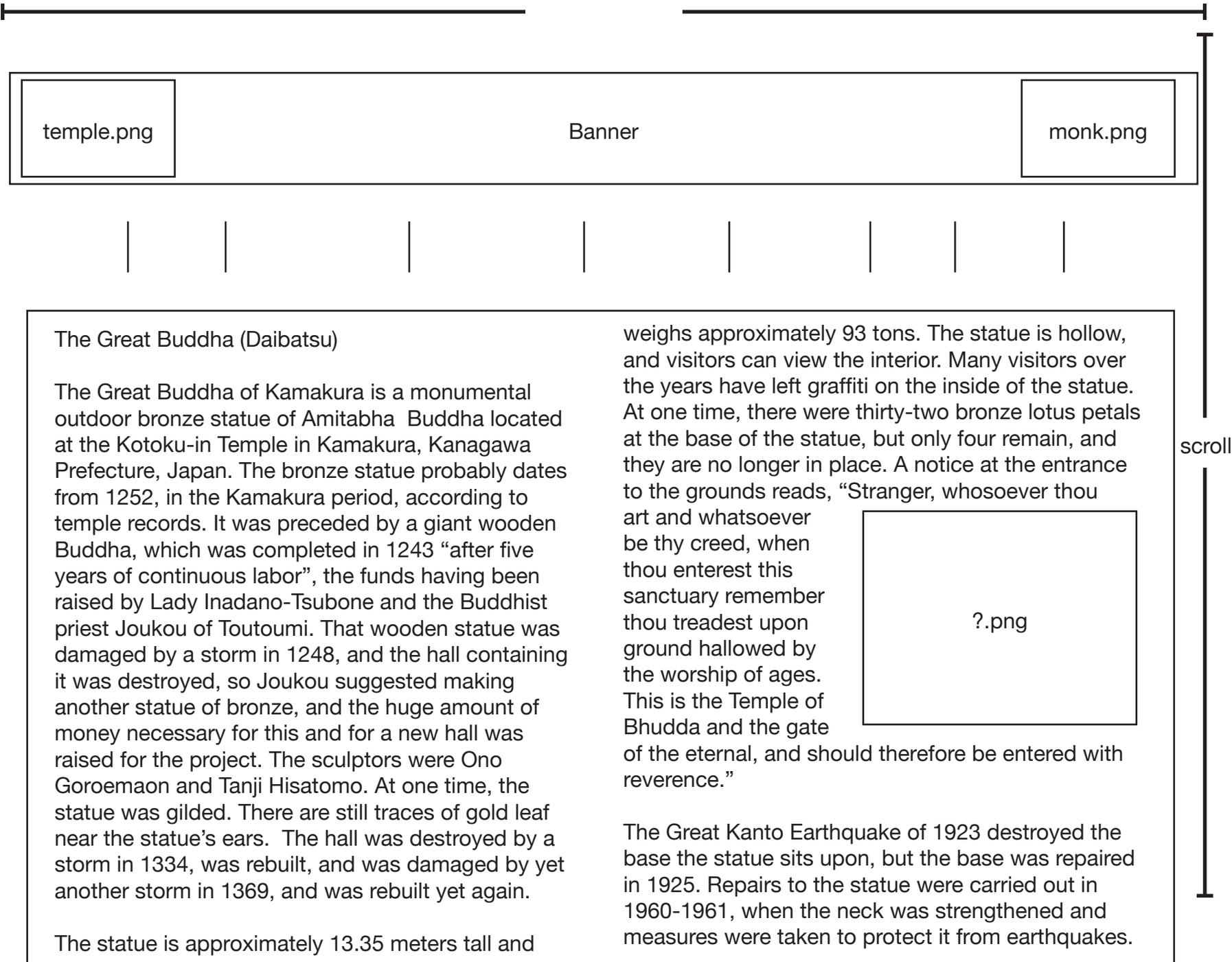
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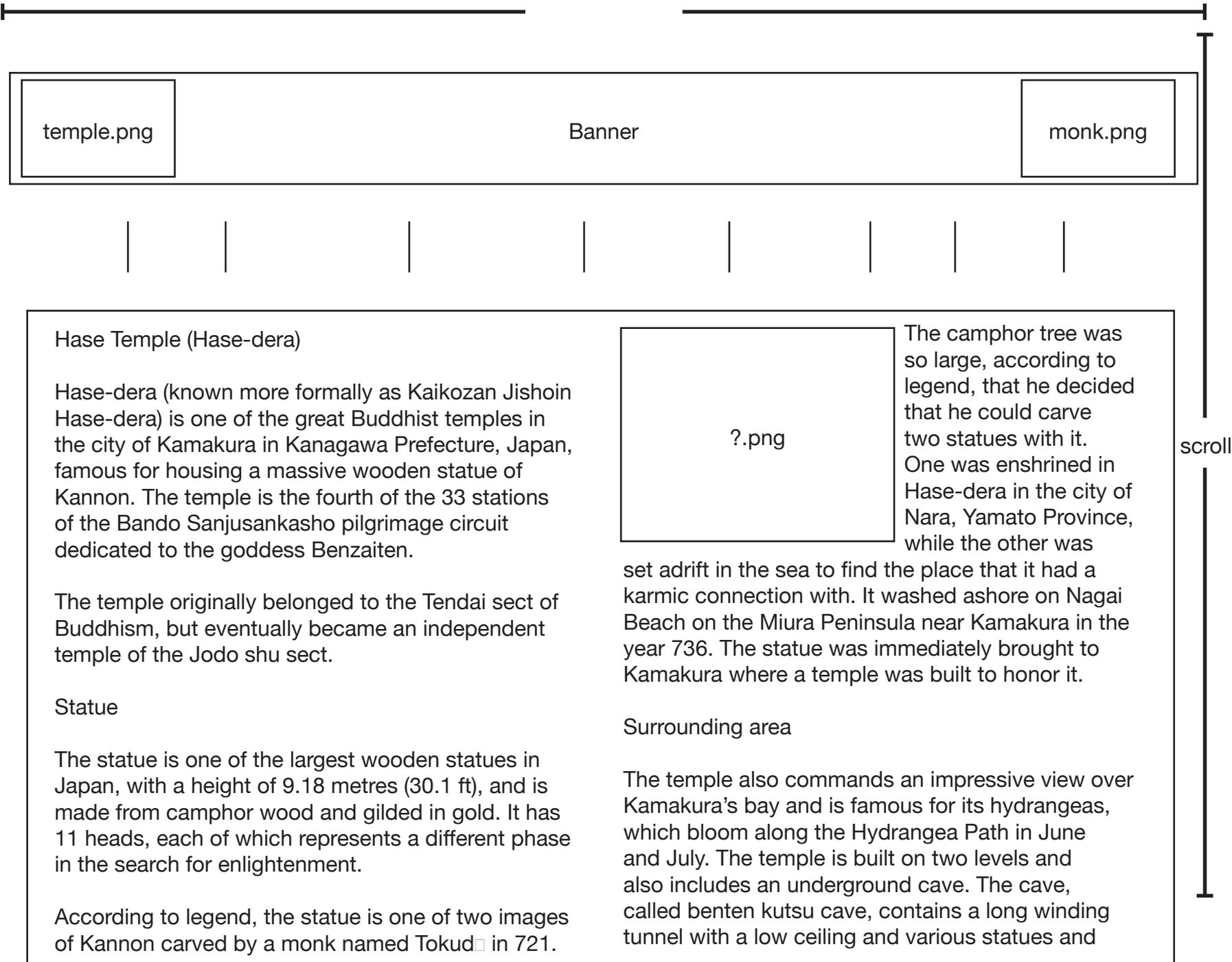
<h3>Buddhist Influence</h3> <p>Kamakura is known among Buddhists for having been during the 13th century the cradle of Nichiren Buddhism. Founder Nichiren wasn't a native: he was born in Awa Province, in today's Chiba Prefecture, but it was only natural to a preacher to come here because at the time the city was the political center of the country. He settled down in a straw hut in the Matsubagayatsu district, where three temples (Ankokuron-ji, Myoho-ji, and Chosho-ji), have been fighting for centuries for the honor of being the true heir of the master. During his turbulent life Nichiren came and went, but Kamakura always remained at the heart of his religious activities. It's here that, when he was about to be executed by the Hojo Regent for being a troublemaker, he was allegedly saved by a miracle, it's in Kamakura that he wrote his famous <i>Rissho Ankoku Ron</i>, or "Treatise on Peace and Righteousness", it's here that he was rescued and fed by monkeys and it's here that he preached.</p> <h3>Famous Locations</h3>	<p>Kamakura has many historically significant Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, some of them, like Sugimoto-dera, over 1,200 years old. Kotoku-in, with its monumental outdoor bronze statue of Amida Buddha, is the most famous. A 15th century tsunami destroyed the temple that once housed the Great Buddha, but the statue survived and has remained outdoors ever since. This iconic Daibutsu is arguably amongst the few images which have come to represent Japan in the world's collective imagination. Kamakura also hosts the so-called Five Great Zen Temples (the Kamakura Gozan).</p>  <p>The architectural heritage of Kamakura is almost unmatched, and the city has proposed some of its historic sites for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list. It must be remembered, however, that much of the city was devastated in the Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923 and that many temples and shrines, however founded centuries ago, are</p>
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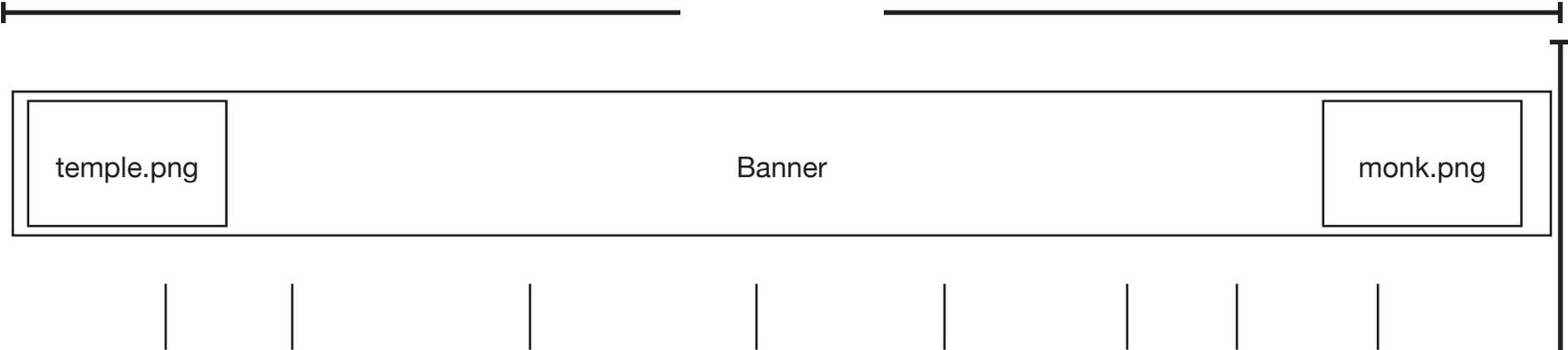


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## Kamakura In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

In 1890 the railroad, which until then had arrived just to Ofuna, reached Kamakura bringing in tourists and new residents, and with them a new prosperity. Part of the ancient Dankazura (see above) was removed to let the railway system's new Yokosuka Line pass.

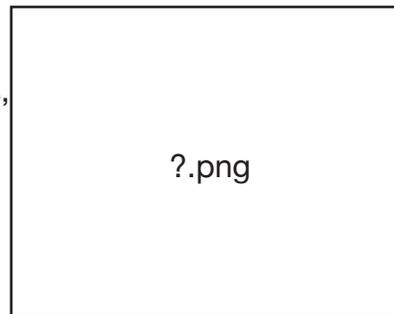
The volcanic eruption of Sakurajima in January 1914, covered the city in ashes. Lava flows connected the mainland with what had been a small island in the bay.

The damage caused by time, centuries of neglect, politics, and modernization was further compounded by nature in 1923. The epicenter of the Great Kantō earthquake that year was deep beneath Izu Ōshima Island in Sagami Bay, a short distance from Kamakura. Tremors devastated Tokyo, the port city of Yokohama, and the surrounding prefectures of Chiba, Kanagawa, and Shizuoka, causing widespread damage throughout the Kantō region. It was reported that the sea receded at an unprecedented velocity, and then waves rushed back towards the shore

in a great wall of water over seven meters high, drowning some and crushing others beneath an avalanche of water-born debris. The total death toll from earthquake, tsunami, and fire exceeded 2,000 victims.

Large sections of the shore simply slid into the sea; and the beach area near Kamakura was raised up about six-feet; or in other words, where there had only been a narrow strip of sand along the sea, a wide expanse of sand was fully exposed above the waterline.

Many temples centuries ago careful replicas, for this reason Kamakura has one National in the building (the Shariden Engaku-ji).



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Kamakura's heritage was for various reasons first lost and later rebuilt.

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# Styles

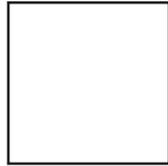
## Color Styles



#efb



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#fff



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#f03

## Text Styles

Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif

**bold**, *italic*

20px, 36px

# Credits

## Text:

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