

Into the Dojo

The do-jo: A place (jo) to follow a way (do).
A Buddhist place of worship (rather than our westernized gym)
Embujo: A demonstration place.
Prior to the 16th Century, it was outdoors.

Kamiza or Kamidana (upper side), or shomen.

Water bathes the area in accumulated wisdom, seriousness,
tradition, and focus.

Gichin Funakoshi at the shinden (founder's seat)

Joseki

Wood (Wisdom - Senior deshi)
Not power, but knowledge,
experience, virtue, and charity.
Not privilege but responsibility.

Commitment and Obligation to Juniors

Shimoseki

Metal (Malleable - Junior deshi)

Moral rightness, belief in seniors.

Is it worthwhile to continue?

Yoko-za

Embujo (Act·Martial·Place)

Earth (Honesty)

Conflict initiated, engaged, and resolved here.

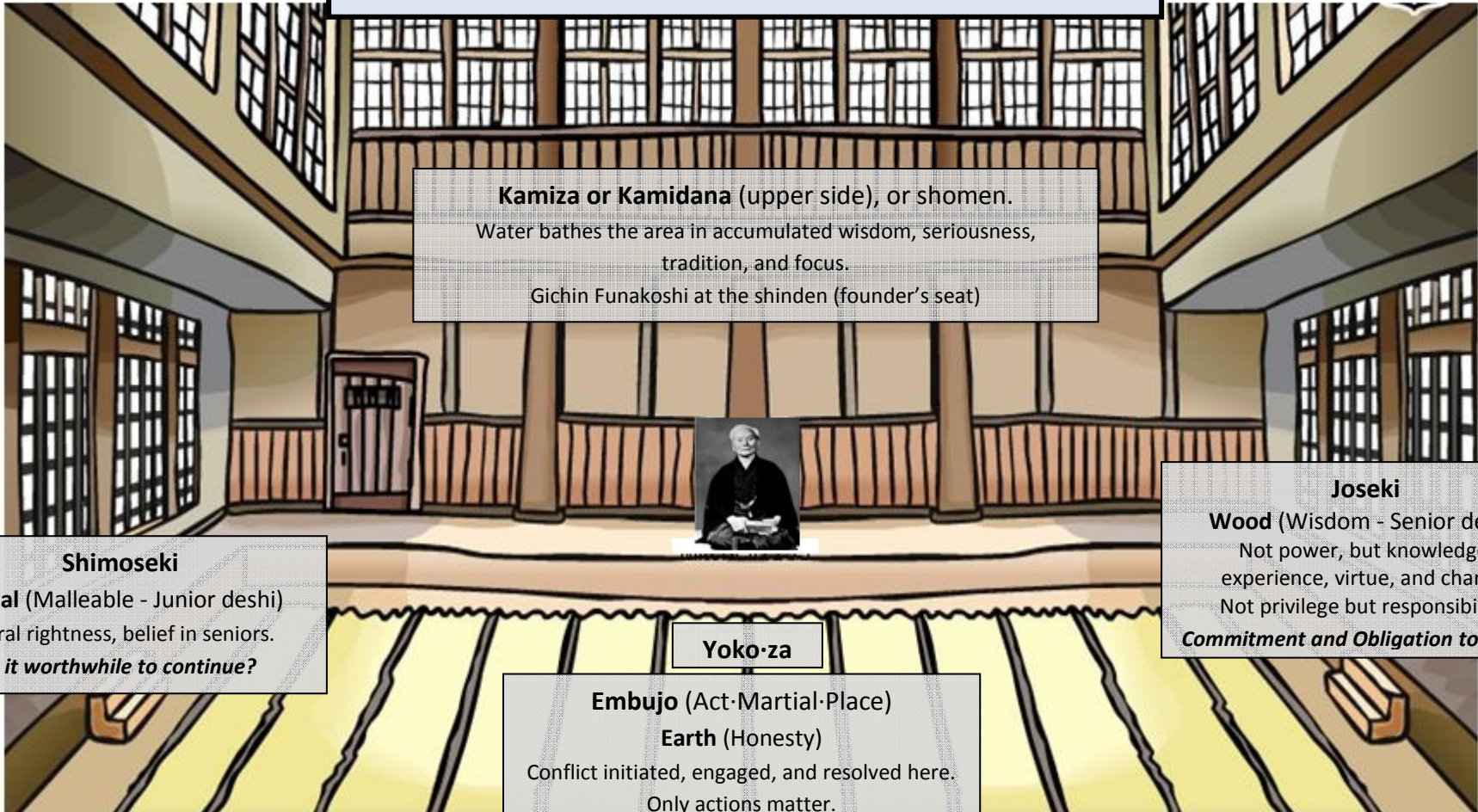
Only actions matter.

Produce your best, no excuses.

Shimoza (lower side)

Fire (Intellect) South. The place of entry and of rei.

Desire to learn. Perceptions: drop them off here!



Students first learn dojo etiquette by rote, later by investigation. Much of it is between the observable (omote) and the hidden (ura).

Kawaigari: The tender care of the dojo.

By tradition, the army or group steps forward toward kamiza on a particular foot. Most weapons are worn or carried on this same hidari side.

Students are placed in a line across the embujo between sensei and the shimoza. This affords maximum protection of sensei. It shields sensei from those looking from the shimoza.

The army must be strong as a whole, not simply by the strength of its leaders. Special attention to the weaker links, usually the beginning deshi, is critical.

The juniors elevate the seniors (in their perceptions and respect), and seniors have an obligation to fulfill. It is the seniors' responsibility to approach juniors via the yokoza.

We are dedicated to each individual being the best martial artist that they can be.

Please observe the following courtesies within the dojo.

1. Always show courtesy to all.
2. Address your instructor as sensei.
3. Bow to the dojo when entering and leaving.
4. Ask permission to leave during class sessions.
5. Keep your uniform clean.
6. Keep fingernails and toenails short.
7. No gum chewing.
8. Remove all jewelry.
9. Refrain from misusing your knowledge.
10. Strive to promote the true spirit of the martial arts
 - Learn with respect
 - Concentrate and focus on your own development
 - Practice, practice, practice
 - Develop personal power
 - Master the techniques
 - Live the do
 - Be the best martial artist you can be
11. Always show courtesy to all.