

Making Decorative Roof Tiles, Shachi-gawara

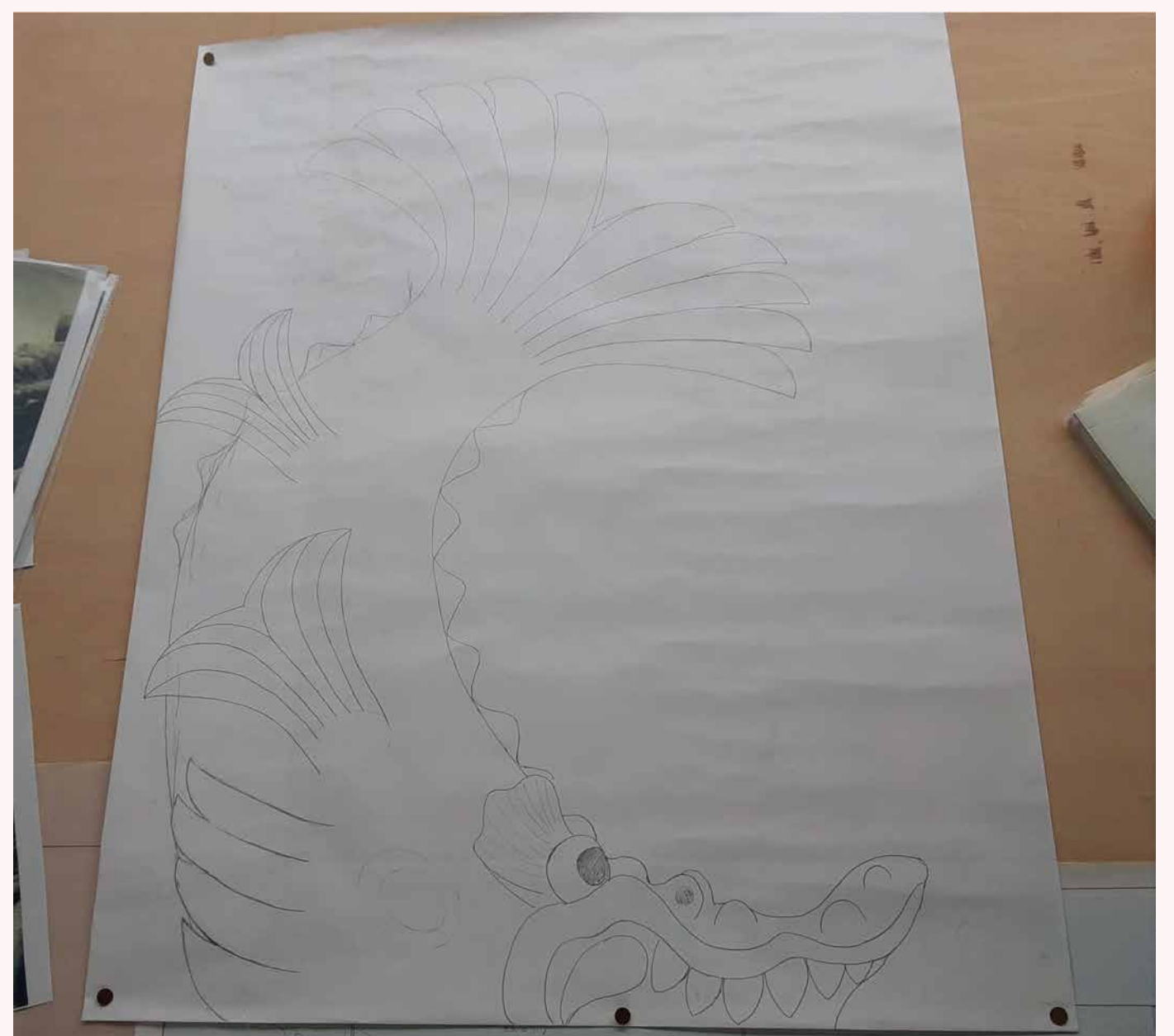
Shachi Protecting the Roof

In the old photo, you can see that Shachi, an imaginary sea creature, made of tile on the top of the roof of the Sakura Gomon. Based on this, new Shachi-gawara, an ornate ridge-end tile, was created with the details referring to other Shachi tiles in the castle. The production process begins with

1. Produce drawings based on the photograph and samples.
2. Make the half of the Shachi based on the drawings and a plaster mold,
3. Invert the plaster mold to make the other half to create a mold for one complete Shachi.
4. Remove Shachi from the mold, finishing touches are added by the tile master, and finally the entire piece is baked.



Shachi-gawara in Old Photo (Courtesy of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Enlarged)



Drawing of Shachi-gawara



Shaping by Tile Master



Shachi-gawara after Baking



Shachi-gawara on the Roof