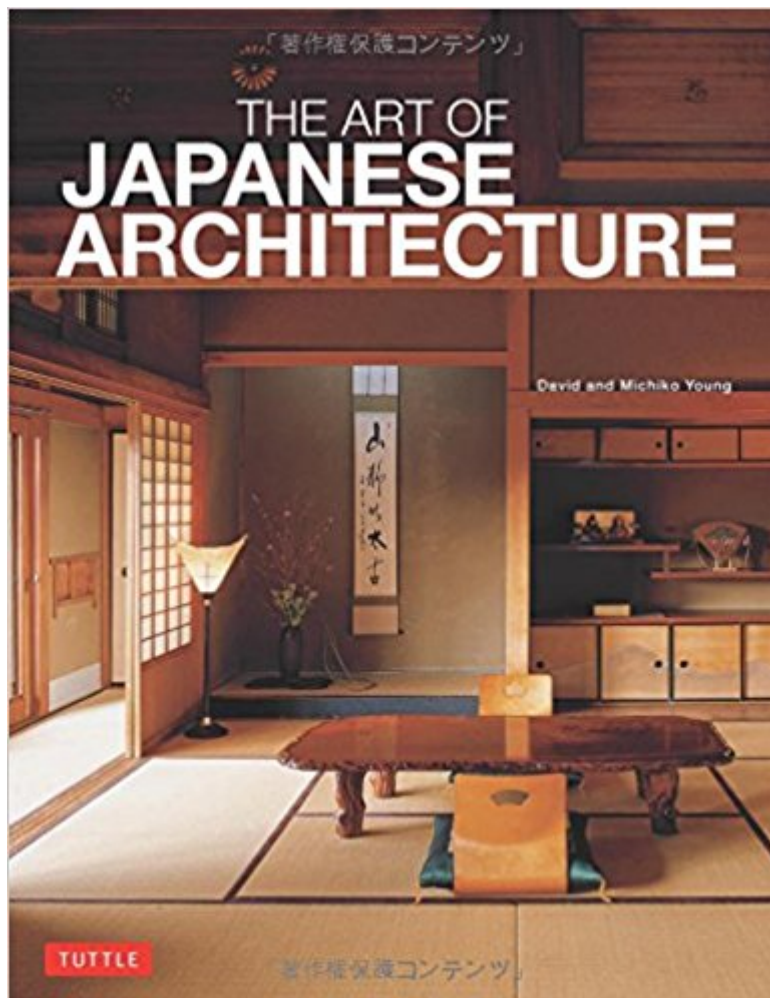


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The Art Of Japanese Architecture



Synopsis

By examining the Japanese history of buildings and building designs from prehistory to modern day, lovers of Japan will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of this island country. Simplicity, sensitivity to the natural environment, and the use of natural materials are the hallmarks of Japanese architecture. The Art of Japanese Architecture provides a broad overview of traditional Japanese architecture in its historical and cultural context. It begins with a discussion of prehistoric dwellings and concludes with a description of modern Japanese buildings. Important historical influences and trends— notably the introduction of Buddhist culture from Korea and China, the development of feudalism, and the influence of modern Western styles of building—are all discussed in detail as facets of Japanese design. Through all of these changes, a restrained architectural tradition developed in marked contrast to an exuberant tradition characterized by monumentality and the use of bold colors. The book provides tremendous insights into the dynamic nature of Japanese architecture and how it reflects an underlying diversity within Japanese culture. The book is profusely illustrated with over 370 color photographs, woodblock prints, maps, diagrams, and specially commissioned watercolors. A classic in the making, The Art of Japanese Architecture will be sure to enlighten and delight readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A tribute and rich entree to a beautiful architectural form; highly recommended. Library Journal" The Japanese aesthetic remains one of simple asymmetry, imbued with respect for the natural environment. Here's a compelling history of Japanese architecture, from ancient dwellings to

spectacular, modern urban towers." Åçâ –â •From House to Home blog "If you are interested in Japanese culture, architecture (both traditional and modern), and/or beautiful photographs of Japan, then this book will be of interest to you!" Åçâ –â •Tokyo Five blog "The book gives you a comprehensive survey of the history of Japanese architecture, from the prehistoric period to the present day. What I especially liked about it is the way it unpacks the design and construction techniques used with easy-to-follow diagrams and explanations." Åçâ –â •Sequins and Cherry Blossom blog "The Art of Japanese Architecture is an ideal book for those studying and already have knowledge about Japanese architecture, and for those who are simply looking for a good introduction on the subject. It is also indispensable for those who are interested in Japanese culture and aestheticism, as architecture of any culture reflects the culture in which it exists. Both a visual and educational delicacy, make sure this book finds its way onto your bookshelf to enrich the variety of your reading pleasures." Åçâ –â •Sejiaku blog

David Young obtained his Ph.D. from Stanford before teaching anthropology at the University of Alberta in Canada. Michiko (Kimura) Young graduated from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies before moving to Canada, where she worked for many years in the international affairs office at the University of Alberta. The Youngs co-authored *The Art of the Japanese Garden*. They now live on Gabriola Island off the west coast of Canada. www.JapaneseAesthetics.com Tan Hong Yew obtained a degree in fine arts in 1996 from the Kuala Lumpur College of Art in Malaysia. Since then he has contributed to many group exhibitions. He works as a freelance illustrator, specializing in architectural illustrations.

This is a fantastic, beautiful, and comprehensive overview of the evolution of Japanese architecture. Do yourself a favor, though, and buy the paperback/hardcopy. The Kindle version doesn't do it justice at all. I bought the Kindle version first, returned it, and got the "real" book. That's the only way to appreciate the format, illustrations, and incredible photography. Not to mention, timelines and labeled info are way too tiny to read in the Kindle version. I got this book as part of a college project/research on Japanese architecture and I was thrilled with how thorough it was. Definitely worth the money for its contribution to my project but also just to enjoy for what it is. Great summation of important info, helpful illustrations, and just beautiful photography of representative buildings and structures.

After an extensive search, I found the above description of THE ART OF JAPANESE

ARCHITECTURE in a Library Journal listing. While there is nothing in book itself or on to indicate that it is but a revision of *What is Japanese Architecture*, as a result of comparing the two books in their entirety, line by line and illustration by illustration, I can assure you that this is indeed the case. In general, both books give one who is not knowledgeable about it an excellent overview of Japanese architecture from its beginnings through modern times via a well-written, easy-to-grasp text. What will also appeal to those just beginning to study Japan is that the architecture is discussed in context--i.e., in a narrative that includes details about locations, gardens, statuary, historical events/people, and religion. Both books also abound in illustrations, all in color. Of ART's 370, 216 are photographs, 39 of which are 1-to-2-pg. spreads, 80 of which range from 3 x 5 to 3/4ths of a page. Included, too, are the following, which, with 9 exceptions, also appear in INTRO: -24 watercolors of sites showing their structures and landscaping, often at least 1/2 a page in size; -20 layouts/floor plans; -88 drawings/watercolors of individual structures, construction and architectural details; -19 paintings and woodblock prints. As for the differences between the two books-- While ART is 48 pages longer than INTRO, what accounts for most of these pages is the addition of 51 photographs, 32 of which are full- or 2-page spreads, 10 of which are 1/2- to 3/4th-page ones. In regards to the text, ART adds only approximately 368 lines, the equivalent of 3.5 pages (two 56-line, 2.5-inch-wide columns per page). Though most do add information about the architecture, the additions are scattered throughout the 173-page book and typically amount to but a phrase here or a sentence or two there of descriptive detail. In only 21 instances is a paragraph or two added. And only occasionally is the information a result of findings made since INTRO was published. ART also omits the equivalent of a page of text because it excludes INTRO's section on Tomb Mounds. (Excerpts from it, however, comprise the first "comment" on this review.) So which book do I recommend? Currently, it really depends on which is more important to you: price or photographs. Be aware, however, that both books paint Japanese architecture in broad strokes--i.e., the details about the architecture of specific structures rarely exceed a paragraph. If you are looking for a book that goes into technical detail, *What is Japanese Architecture?: A Survey of Traditional Japanese Architecture* will probably be more to your liking even though its illustrations are limited to line drawings. --B. Evans, 1/19/08

Note: If you are trying to compare ART/INTRO with other books, a printable copy of the Table of Contents is in the commentary following my review of *What is Japanese Architecture*. Unfortunately, neither book has an index.

I have only had time to flip through the pages of this book, and am digesting it slowly. As an

amateur aficionado of all things Japanese, I bought this book to use as a reference for a day in my future when I may be able to afford a small meditation sanctuary or small traditional Japanese tea room in my home. The chapters appear to be well-written, and the photography is sumptuous and nicely representative of the styles the authors wish to discuss. Definitely recommended.

I decided to buy this book after having taken it out of the local library last summer. It is a good overall survey of Japanese architectural styles down through the centuries of Japanese civilization. If (like me) you are just looking for something that will give you an idea of the different styles of Japanese architecture, get this. It is very clearly written and well illustrated with excellent photographs and color drawings. If you are looking for more specific information on temple/shrine architecture of the Edo period for example, or for ideas for your own dream home, it would be best to choose something else, possibly also by the Youngs.

I have several books on this topic and this is by far one of my favorites. This book has more of the photos that I was looking for in it.

Just bought the latest edition. Nice layout and easy to browse through.

Rather than being just another coffee-table volume of beautiful Kyoto photographs, this (beautifully illustrated) work includes Ainu architecture and delves into the geopolitical changes that drove periods of architectural style. It includes the pseudo-Western styles of the Meiji era and even the Jōmon period. The section on contemporary architecture is very brief, but otherwise it is a wide-ranging survey of Japanese architecture with a great balance of information and illustration.

I know little about Japanese architecture but found this book very instructive and easily readable for the novice. I shared it with friends who have lived in Japan for over 20 years. They were quite impressed at the authentic quality of the research and the wonderful illustrations. Another friend, a landscape architect, was delighted that so many of the fine photos showed how important landscaping is to Japanese architecture. The photos and illustrations are superb. The book doesn't just dwell in historicism but brings you up to date with modern Japanese works as well. I feel it is one of the best purchases I've made in a long time.

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