

Dwelling III: Space, privacy and dominion in Japanese architecture from farmhouse to imperial villa

Japan architecture

- ❖ Highly influenced by landscape- earthquakes
- ❖ Construction was primarily timber
- ❖ Reinforced concrete helps building become stronger
- ❖ All joint is achieved without nails (kind of like teeth connecting)
- ❖ Fireproof windows
- ❖ Construction is exposed, surface is not paint with some lacquering of details

Plan of Chang an, China

- ❖ Oriented to the cardinal directions
- ❖ In surrounding wall to the city
- ❖ 3 gates
- ❖ City grid
- ❖ Moat
- ❖ No public space such as plaza, agora etc.

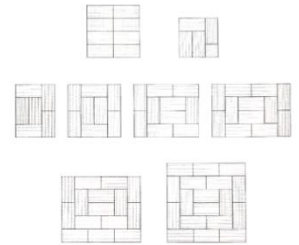
Tatami – rice straw mats, covered with woven Rush, generally 3 feet (0.9m) by 6 feet to 6 feet, 7 inches (1.8 - 2.0m – 1 ken) and at least 2 inches thick (50mm)

Shoji – fixed or sliding screen with translucent Paper, proportions of the grid, made of thin timber strips, are variable

Fusuma – sliding panel with black lacquer frame and inset finger grip. Layers of opaque paper pasted to both sides of a wood grid that resembles that of the shoji. Fusuma are generally 6 feet high (1.8m), i.e. the same as the length of a tatami.

Ramma – timber lattice screen

Nageshi – horizontal member/beam, which also houses grooved tracks for shoji and fusuma



Plan of the Heian capital (now Kyoto), Japan

- ❖ Same north south orientation as Chang an
- ❖ Same position of imperial palace at the head of axis
- ❖ Same grid plan
- ❖ No public spaces
- ❖ Houses on the streets
- ❖ Walk into house through gate into courtyard
- ❖ Shops flank houses

Tatami, fusuma, shoji, nageshi, ramma, engawa (verandah) Section, Japanese Exhibition House, MoMA, New York

- ❖ Place tatami mat above floor
- ❖ Post sitting on rocks so building moves with earthquake
- ❖ Importance of tactility through movement through rooms

The Japanese House Having tea, 1920's

- ❖ Tatami
 - Rice straw woven floor mats used as a standard design unit of floor measurement in Japan
 - You sit on the floor
- ❖ Fusuma
 - Opaque sliding doors
- ❖ Zabuton
 - Flat silk cushion
- ❖ Hibachi
 - Portable charcoal brazier to warm hands and keep water warm
- ❖ Nageshi
 - Horizontal member/beam which also houses grooved tracks for shoji and fusuma

The Japanese House Woman in room, 1890

- ❖ Zashiki
 - Formal rooms for guests
- ❖ Tokonoma
 - An alcove in the house where treasured objects are displayed
 - Has a natural timber log/post
 - Sometimes a statue of god or scroll or vase
- ❖ Zabuton