

KYO NO MACHIYA

JAPANESE HOUSE EXHIBITION

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



Kyo no machiya — urban houses of Kyoto

京の町家 *kyoh-no-mah-chee-yah*

Kyoto's urban houses. A *machiya* is an urban house where artisan or merchant families both live and work, found in many urban areas throughout Japan; *Kyo* is short for Kyoto. This style of house dates back 500 years.

KYOTO STREET

In the Nishijin area of Kyoto where this house came from, the street is always an important part of daily life. Without a front yard, neighbors gather, kids play, and communities hold festivities on the street.



◀ Battari-shogi — Wooden foldable bench/shelf

ばったり床几 *baa-tah-ree show-gi*

Bench or shelf that can be folded down to display merchandise being sold when the family business is open, and folded up when the store is closed.



◀ Hyosatsu — Family name plate

表札 *hyoh-sah-tsu*

Plaque on which the family's name would be written.

Inuyarai — Fence ▶

犬矢来 *ee-nu-yah-rah-ee*

Fence made of bamboo, commonly used for Kyo no machiya. It protects exterior walls from any damage caused by animals and/or people on the street.



◀ Kawara — Roof tiles

瓦 *kah-wah-rah*

The typical roof tiles of Kyo no machiya, slanted to allow rain to fall away from the house. When seen together, they create a beautiful traditional skyline.





◀ Komayose — Fence

駒寄せ *koh-mah-yo-say*

Fence to prevent any people or animals (commonly horses in the past) from entering private property.



◀ Miss Kyoto

ミス京都 *Miss kyoh-toe*

One of 58 dolls given to the United States by Japanese children in return for the over 12,000 American dolls sent to Japan in early 1927. For her journey to America, she brought trunks packed with toys, a tea set, lanterns, several pairs of shoes and, of course, her passport.

Shoki — Guardian statue on the roof ▶

鍾馗 *show-key*

The “Demon Queller” and legendary hero of a story from China. Traditionally, Shoki statues are placed on the roof of a Kyo no machiya to protect the family from illness and evil spirits, and to bring good luck to Kyoto.



◀ Yubinbako — Mailbox

郵便箱 *you-bee-n-baa-koh*

Mailbox, typically colored red in Japan. The symbol on the front 〒 is the Japanese postal mark.

MACHIYA ENTRY SPACE

The *genkan* serves as the entry space into a Kyo no machiya and the transition from outside to inside.

Genkan — Entry hallway ▶

玄関 *gay-n-kah-n*

Area in which one takes off one's shoes before entering the rooms of the home, and puts one's shoes on before going outside.



◀ Getabako — Shoe shelf/closet

下駄箱 *gay-tah-baa-koh*

Shelves in the *genkan* where shoes and house slippers are kept.

FRONT ROOM

The first room in a Kyo no machiya is usually used for family business and as a workspace during the day.



◀ Fusuma — Thick paper-covered sliding panel

襖 *foo-sue-mah*

Sliding doors that separate interior rooms. They have a wooden frame covered with several layers of paper. *Fusuma* can be removed completely to make rooms larger or can be closed to make smaller, private rooms.



◀ Manekineko — Lucky Cat

招き猫 *mah-nay-key nay-koh*

The “Lucky Cat” figurine. This *manekineko* is made of porcelain and welcomes people to the store with a paw raised up by its ear and curled down, the “come here” beckoning gesture used in Japan.

► Oriya Tansu Cabinets and drawers for silk rolls

織屋簞笥 *oh-ree-yah tah-n-sue*

Typical cabinets for storage for a silk store in a Kyo no machiya.





◀ Kigumi — Joinery

木組み *key-goo-me*

Woodworking technique used in the construction of traditional Japanese architecture, including The Japanese House. This process involves fitting together pieces of wood without the use of mechanical fasteners or adhesives.

Shoji — Thin paper-covered sliding panel ▶

障子 *show-gee*

Sliding doors that allow light into the rooms. They have a wooden frame covered with thin, translucent paper. *Shoji* serve as windows or curtains.



◀ Tatami — Straw floor mats

畳 *tah-tah-me*

Mats made of a tightly-packed core of rice straw covered with a fine layer of *Igusa* woven rush, and bordered on two sides with cloth. *Tatami* are typically about 2-1/2 to 3 inches thick, and 3 feet wide by 6 feet long. They are the main unit of measurement in traditional Japanese architecture, where the size of the room is determined by the number of mats that would fit.



◀ Zuihosho — Sacred Treasure Award

瑞宝章 *zoo-ee-hoe-show*

An award certificate. This award, hung on the wall, reads: "The Emperor of Japan confers upon Seizaburo Sumiyama the Fifth Rank of the Zuihosho [Sacred Treasure] Award on this Day, November 3, 1976, confirmed by Imperial Seal at the Imperial Palace." The owner of this house was recognized and awarded for his contributions to the silk and textile industry.

MIDDLE ROOM

The multi-functional and casual room of the house; this room also has a stairway hidden in the *oshiire* closet.



◀ Daruma

達磨 *dah-roo-mah*

Represents Daruma, the priest who created Zen Buddhism and who is a symbol of strong will and determination. Upon buying a Daruma doll, one sets a goal and colors in one of its eyes. When the goal is reached, the other eye is colored in.

Futon — Bed ▶

布団 *foo-toe-n*

Traditional Japanese bed, consisting of a padded mattress and a thick, quilted cover. *Futon* are designed to be laid out on *tatami* mats at night and then folded and stored away during the day, allowing for rooms to serve multiple purposes.



◀ Kamidana — Family Shinto shrine

神棚 *kah-me-dah-nah*

Home of Shinto spirits, where a family prays for good health, business, and happiness. Shinto is the indigenous religion of Japan.

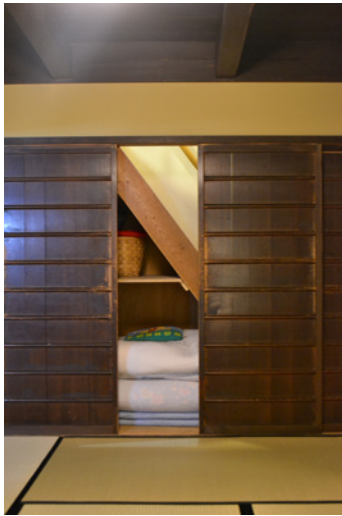




◀ Kotatsu — Low heated table

こたつ *koh-tah-tsu*

A square table with an electric heater attached to the underside. In the wintertime, people keep warm by sitting at the *kotatsu*, which has a quilt-like cover that is inserted between the tabletop and frame, to lock in the warmth of the electric heater.



◀ Oshiire — Closet

押入れ *oh-she-ee-ray*

Closet used for storing bedding (*futon*) and seating cushions (*zabuton*).

Tansu — Dresser ▶

箆笥 *tah-n-sue*

Chest of drawers to store clothing and other personal items.



FORMAL ROOM

Formal room or guest room of the house with a direct garden view.



◀ Butsudan

Family Buddhist altar

仏壇 *boo-tsu-dah-n*

Place where family pays respect to Buddha and family ancestors. It is not unusual to have both a *butsudan* and *kamidana* (see above) in one household.



◀ Tokonoma — Decorative alcove

床の間 *toe-koh-no-mah*

Alcove used for formal display of flower arrangements, a hanging seasonal scroll, or other seasonal objects.



▲ Zabuton — Cushions

座布団 *zah-boo-toe-n*

Traditional Japanese floor cushions, serving a similar purpose to chairs.



▲ Zashiki

Formal room

座敷 *zah-she-key*

Most formal room of the house, often with a *tokonoma* (see below) and a garden view. A family uses the *zashiki* for dining, entertaining, gathering, and as a guest bedroom, among other things.



Zataku — Low table ▲

座卓 *zah-tah-coo*

Traditional Japanese low table. The family would typically eat at this table.

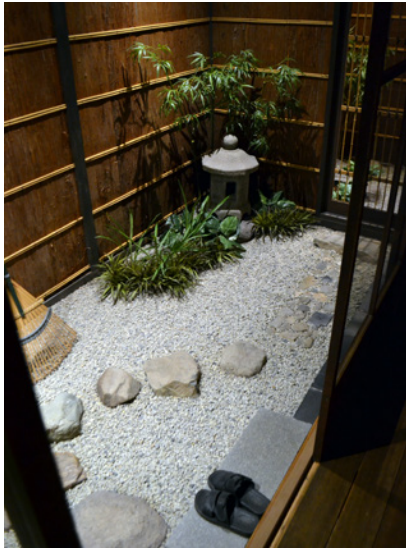
GARDEN

The appreciation of seasonal changes is very important in Japan, leading to the high value of a garden. Looking at a garden provides a sense of tranquility and a connection to nature. The garden also brings air and light into the house.

Engawa — Porch and passageway ►

縁側 *ay-n-gah-wah*

Narrow wooden floor space for sitting and enjoying the garden. The *engawa* also serves as the walkway to the room with sink (*senmenjo*), the bath (*furo*), the toilet (*toire*), and the kitchen (*daidokoro*).



◀ Niwa — Garden

庭 *ni-wah*

Traditional-style garden with stepping stones and a stone lantern. The plants in the garden are usually native plants, such as bamboo and pine. These gardens are designed with great care and attention to look and feel completely natural.

KITCHEN

Though most *machiya* kitchens, like ours, have been remodeled since the house was built, these high ceilings with crossing beams are typical of *machiya* style houses



◀ Daidokoro — Kitchen

台所 *dah-ee-doe-koh-roe*

Also called *Okudo-san*. The kitchen at the BCM was modernized in the early 1970s, with new appliances installed, such as a *yuwashiki* (see below) located above the kitchen sink.

Hotei-san ▶ God of wealth

布袋さん *hoe-tay-ee-sah-n*

One of the Seven Gods of Good Fortune (not to be confused with Buddha). Hotei-san statues are believed to bring good fortune to the family business. The family that originally owned this house had a collection of Hotei statues, which was donated along with the house.





◀ Mizuyadansu — China cabinet

水屋箆笥 *me-zoo-yah-dah-n-sue*

Cabinet where bowls, plates, and other dishes are stored.

Noren — Curtain ▶

のれん *no-ray-n*

Partial curtains that divide rooms, hung from the top of doorways. *Noren* are often split into two or three sections, and serve as visual room dividers. This one conceals the view directly into the kitchen from the street.



◀ Yuwakashiki — Hot water maker

湯沸かし器 *you-wah-kah-she-key*

Common style water heater in 1970s kitchens in Japan. These heaters are gas-powered and make hot water instantly, a method more conservative with energy than large boilers. Most Japanese households today use energy-efficient boilers instead of counter heaters like this.

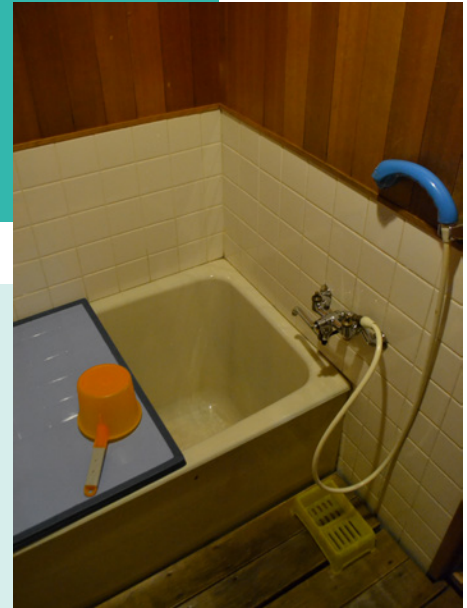
BATHROOM

In Japan the functions of the bathroom are separated into three rooms: the *senmenjo*, the bath (*furo*), and the toilet (*toire*).

Furo — Bath ►

風呂 *foo-roe*

Contains the showering mechanism and bathtub. Wooden drain boards are set above the tile floor where one washes and rinses with water from a small bucket before getting in the tub of hot water to soak. The whole family will share the same water. After getting out, one puts a cover over the tub to keep it warm for the next person.



◀ Senmenjo — Room with sink

洗面所 *say-n-may-n-joo*

The room in which one would wash the face, brush the teeth, and change clothes before and after bathing.

Toire — Toilet ►

トイレ *toe-ee-ray*

A squatting toilet. Instead of sitting, one squats over the toilet. When one flushes, water runs out of the spigot at the top, where hands are rinsed. This water is then stored in the tank, and becomes the water that runs through for the next flush. There is a big or a little flush. Today, many houses have sitting-style toilets and are often quite high tech. One always wears special bathroom slippers when using the *toire*, even today.



SECOND FLOOR

The 2nd floor rooms can be reached by the stairway in the closet.



◀ Chashitsu — Tea room

茶室 *cha-she-tsu*

Equipped for a formal tea ceremony.

Chigaidana — Ornamental shelves ▶

違い棚 *chee-gah-ee-dah-nah*

Shelves located in the smallest alcove adjoining the *tokonoma*.

These shelves display pottery, dolls, or other decorations. The presence of a *chigaidana* increases the formality or specialness of the *tokonoma*, and by extension, the room.



◀ Kazari-mado — Decorative window

飾り窓 *kah-zah-ree mah-doe*

Window with a bamboo lattice-work design behind it. When the sun shines, the window makes a beautiful pattern on the *shoji* paper.



◀ Mushiko-mado — Insect-cage window

虫籠窓 *moo-she-koh mah-doe*

Common style attic and storage windows for Kyo no machiya. They have narrow slats that preserve privacy, but still let the air in.



◀ Yaneura — Attic

屋根裏 *yah-nay-oooh-rah*

Space under the eaves of the roof generally used for storing unused and seasonal items such as New Year's decorations.

Yukimi-mado — Snow viewing window ▶

雪見窓 *you-key-me mah-doe*

Special *shoji* with snow-watching panels. These panels are at eye level when sitting. One can open them as much as desired to get a framed view of the outside without letting out too much warm air.

