

A highly practical guide that shows readers how to add Japanese style to their home one room at a time

Provisional

# Japanese Style at Home

*A Room-by-Room Guide*

Olivia Bays, Cathelijne Nuijsink, Tony Seddon

Illustrated throughout

21.0 x 16.0cm

192pp

ISBN 978 0 500 294994

Flexibound

£14.95

June 2019

A4

Book



Also being published in Spring 2019

Provisional



978 0 500 294987

## Key Sales Points

- Includes in-depth case studies to demonstrate the essential elements of Japanese style
- Highlighting classic items of furniture and signature accessories, from tatami mats and paper lanterns to *shoji* (dividing screens)
- ‘Signature Colour’ spreads explore colour combinations and provide inspirational colour palettes
- ‘Key Piece’ spreads discuss classic items of furniture and accessories

# The living room



▲ A five story warehouse built in 1872 in the Tribeca area of Manhattan, NYC, houses this apartment with a number of rooms influenced by Japanese style.

▶ A calm oasis with a distinctive futon style bed and classic shoji screen. This apartment is located in a northern suburb of the city of Berlin, Germany.

Japanese interiors focus primarily on one simple philosophy, Zen. All the rooms in a traditionally furnished Japanese home strive to achieve a balance of peace and simplicity; their interiors are steeped in centuries of cultural influence and the bedroom is arguably where a sense of peacefulness is most important, given the function of the room.

The most characteristic design element commonly associated with a traditional Japanese interior is the dividing screen, called a *shoji*. They stem from the practical need to maximise available space as Japanese homes tend to be relatively small. A standard swing door requires extra space to open, while sliding screens do not, plus they allow much more natural light to enter from the outside. Authentic *shoji* are made from translucent paper stretched over a wooden frame, but modern versions are now more often made with opaque glass panels.

An interior at one with nature is also key to a Japanese interior and the calmness this provides is particularly important in the bedroom. One of the best ways to achieve this is through the use of natural wood elements, the most common of which are maple, cypress, and red pine. Bamboo is also used extensively for decorative as well as structural purposes.

The typical color palette for a Japanese style bedroom tends towards the neutral with the expected references to natural materials. This means browns and pale greys with hints of blue; floors are usually wooden (the hardness of bamboo makes an ideal hard wearing flooring material) or grey slate. Furniture, plants, and accessories provide opportunities to inject extra signature colors to a bedroom. Artwork can also add color, but paper or glass screen dividers can limit options



# Case study

Owners Florence and Jean Marc > Year(s) 2016 > Place Mollans, France



If you wish to recreate Japanese style in your own home but your rooms lack the typical proportions of a Japanese house, do not be put off. This delightfully eclectic bedroom, part of a traditional farmhouse in Mollans, France, successfully mixes architectural features such as blackened beams and a low ceiling with ethnic Asian character.

The Japanese futon with its distinctive carved headboards which are placed behind, rather than connected to, the bed sets the style. Small mismatched paper lanterns placed on either side of the bed help to reinforce the message while a raised tatami floor mat finishes off the larger Japanese influenced elements of the room.

Tatami mats are a kind of rush flooring used in traditional Japanese homes and are made from woven rush grass. They are fairly firm but also gentle underfoot, and are used to designate seating areas as well as for sleeping. A sleeping mat is called a *goza*.

The fabric covering the ceiling is not typical but does work in this context. It is likely that a ceiling which would otherwise detract from the zen feeling of the bedroom has been obscured by the fabric which, in a nod to Japanese style, is supported by a bamboo pole.



**Planting and display** These carved free-standing headboards provide one of the best ways to recreate the feel of a traditional Japanese bedroom. The paper lanterns flanking the bed add to the style statement.



**Paper lanterns** The fabric covered ceiling is not necessarily typical or traditional, but the supporting bamboo pole helps make it feel more harmonious with the overall approach to the styling.



**Asian accessories** Asian accessories can be mix-and-matched to support the overall styling of any room; they do not have to be purely Japanese in origin and sometimes a little eclecticism will add rather than detract.

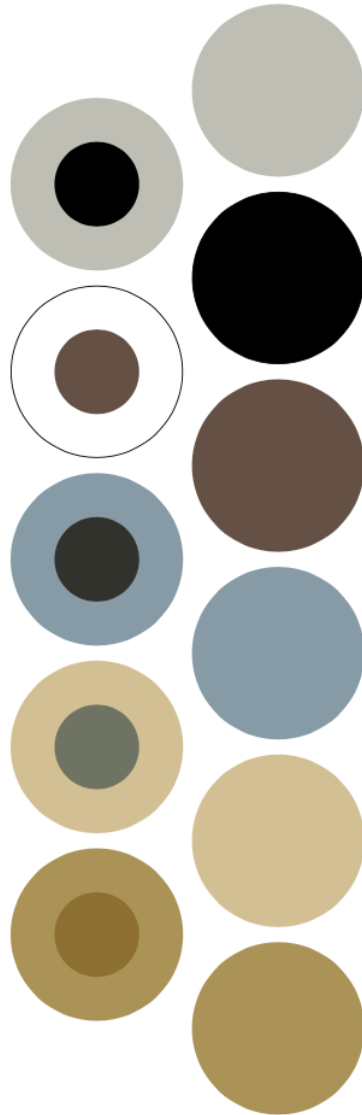


**Bare wooden floors** Tatami mats, or goza, are used as both seating areas and for sleeping. They are made from rush grass and have some give, though Westerners used to a softer mattress may find sleeping a little uncomfortable when a comfy futon is nearby.

# Signature colours

Pa quost, sequi di con pa net, non consequata quae doluptasped quidem ma simposti quosape ritatis molessit eum, qui bea sum re modipit harum consequo cor anderit laut officiatiate voluptusapid que in pelit, totat essenis sit, ea consed elesed ut liasime et volorit quatiur, seditate doluptur moluptassit pores et, sitaqui delici ipici adis nem voloribus et is rem velique nam unt que vellaut faccus aliquo mosam verae optatur modi dollam, quuntet aut et aut eum eaquiatias quibeat urenatiatem rescima gnatus sent a velenes tioremp orestis ad exerore pererum fugit fugiae.

Si occaest ionsequis volo que volorum as magnimi, sum fugiatur rem quiberum autes diandae rehent a doles rera quissim invenimpora sandipiciet, andaerum fuga. Poria sinctes restrum quaeper emporpo rrundem volut volectius accum eossimpore estiatium, sus quatusda qui ad quam endae comnis dolupta ium harum asperum aut eatia quam, idebit vellita dolenimilit presenime sum nihicimaio doluption culparumque volupta turesto endiandam, quatio dolupta spiende llendellita verest inci rerepratet vollibus volores alitam qui auda dolo verro ma ditusae.





## Futon sofa bed

The futon has been used throughout Japan for centuries and was little known outside of the country until relatively recently. Traditional futons consist of a just mattress, or *shikibuton*, and a duvet, or *kakebuton*, and were designed to be folded and stored away during the day, thus allowing the room to be used for other purposes. The *shikibuton* would normally be laid on top of a tatami floor mat (a softer option than bare floorboards) rather than the constructed wooden frames that we are used to seeing in the West.

Futon-style sofa beds appeared in the 1980s and were 'invented' by William Brouwer, a carpenter based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Brouwer had travelled in Japan and had developed a fondness for Japanese design, and developed the idea of a folding bed which utilized the flexibility of the traditional futon mattress. In no time, small flats and bedsits around the world were being furnished with futons, a Western version of the traditional tatami futon.

Folding futons can of course be used in bedrooms as well as other living spaces, but it is also easy to source futon-style beds which are constructed as a solid bed frame. A thicker mattress can be used on solid frames as there is no requirement for folding.

**Designer**

Various

**Manufacturer**

Various

**Year**

N/A

**Place**

Various

**Materials**

Various

**Total Height** – 37 cm

**Width** – 166 cm

**Length** – 212 cm



A highly practical guide that shows readers how to add Japanese style to their home one room at a time

Provisional

# Japanese Style at Home

*A Room-by-Room Guide*

Olivia Bays, Cathelijne Nuijsink, Tony Seddon

Illustrated throughout

21.0 x 16.0cm

192pp

ISBN 978 0 500 294994

Flexibound

£14.95

June 2019

A4

Book

