

Kyo-machiya Fixtures

The room atmosphere changes depending on the use of fixtures.

Kyo-machiya Fixtures

It is possible to vary the atmosphere of rooms in a Kyo-machiya by changing the material and design of its fixtures. The size of the tatami (straw mat) serves as the standard factor in the construction of the Kyo-machiya as the tatami is always the same size. For this reason, the placement of support pillars must be considered in relation to the tatami layout, and the width of the interior fixtures is also dependent on the standard tatami size. Nearly all interior dimensions measure approximately 1.73 m in height. This is one aspect of the wisdom behind the Kyo-machiya design. While at first glance the fixtures seem casually designed, such as the room partitions which may be easily removed to allow in ample sunlight, there is a great deal of traditional wisdom behind the fixtures.





Mairado door

Mairado (Wooden Door With Horizontal Slats)

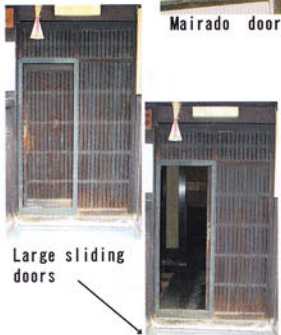
Mairado are wooden doors which were developed from the prototype yarido wooden doors, which appeared in the latter half of the Heian period (around 12c). They are constructed by fixing mairako - thin, parallel strips of wood - to the front and back of a door made of a single wooden panel. They are usually used for partitions for entrance halls and living rooms, where paper doors do not work for humidity reasons.

Large Sliding door (Ohdo)

Although Ohdo was originally a term for a door wider than approximately 90cm (hanma or half a ken - the Japanese traditional measurement for width -), it now signifies as the front door for the Kyo-machiya. There are various styles in Ohdo such as hikido (a sliding door), makiagedo (role - up door) and hirakido (hinged door) etc. At night the Ohdo is closed and a small door which is constructed within the main door is used (kugurido).



Protruding lattice (degoshi)



Large sliding doors

Large door with small sliding door open

Lattices (Koshi)

Koshi is a wooden lattice constructed with wood, bamboo, or metal strips. By attaching a koshi lattice, the inhabitants can look outside easily during the day, but passers-by cannot see inside. This serves for both crime prevention and privacy. The styles of koshi depend on the profession of the house owners, for example, the fuya (wheat gluten shop) and the komeya (rice retailer) have different koshi.



Metal lattice



Skylight

Skylight (Tenmado)

Tenmado is a skylight installed in a roof. Skylights allow three times the amount of light in as compared with sidewall windows.

Shoji (Gridded Paper Sliding Door)

Shoji was a general term for indoor fixtures in the Heian period (8c-12c) but now is used to describe a gridded translucent paper sliding door for light infiltration or a partition. One single sheet of paper is applied on the gridded crosspieces of shoji, which allows the shoji to have a variety of patterns depending on the arrangement of crosspieces.



"snow-viewing shoji", a shoji with glass windows which enables you to see outside



Paper sliding door

Fusuma (Paper Sliding Door For Room Partition)

Fusuma consists of a framework with an inner wooden board, covered with several sheets of paper to serve as a room partition. The designs of fusuma have numerous combinations of paper, door handles, frames, etc. including fusuma-e, a door painted with beautiful patterns and drawings.



A Door handle in the shape of a gourd



Decorative transom

Decorative Transom (Ranma)

Ranma is a small decorative board installed between the ceiling and the lintel, with wooden carvings, openwork, small shoji, or wooden strip patterns.



Sliding door paintings

■ Recyclable Kyo-machiya Fixtures

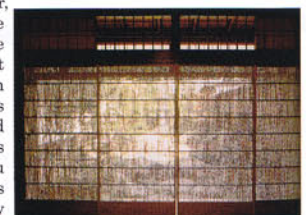


fixture shop which deals with second-hand as well as new

The fixtures of Kyo-machiya are standardised so that they can be recycled and reused in other machiya when they are no longer in use in the former one.

■ Summer Fixtures

As it is very hot in summer, Kyo-machiya have special fixtures to be applied during the season. Fixtures are changed on a clear sunny day at the end of June, usually within the rainy season and before the famous Gion Festival begins. The fusuma and shoji are exchanged with sudo (doors with bamboo or reed blinds) and misu (bamboo or reed rollscreens). This invention which was made by ordinary people lets in fresh breezes and allows the inhabitants to cool down during the hot summer in Kyoto.



Summer fixtures with bamboo or reed screens