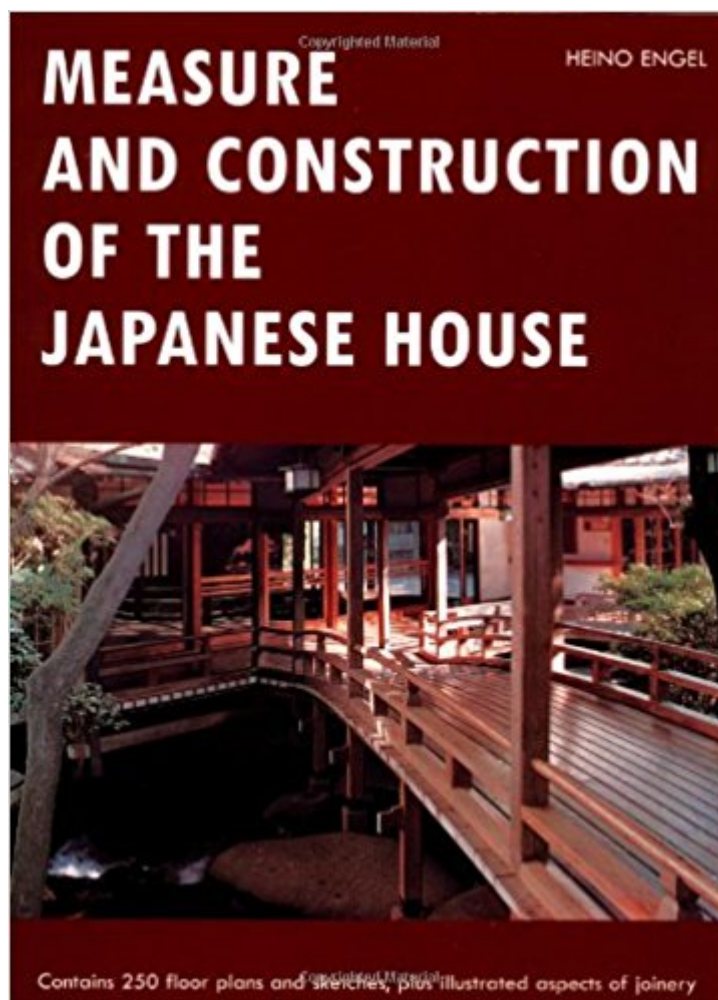




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Measure And Construction Of The Japanese House (Contains 250 Floor Plans And Sketches Aspects Of Joinery)



Synopsis

A remarkable classic work on traditional Japanese architecture and its general integrative quality, the order of space and form, the flexibility of partitions and room functions and other important or unique qualities. The author describes in detail, and with numerous architectural plans and drawings, the influence of the anatomy of the Japanese human body on traditional units of measurement and on house construction. This work is not simply a description of the features of the Japanese house, but "an invitation to probe the possibilities of utilizing this architectural achievement of the Japanese . . . in modern living and building," according to the author, who further believes that the unique features of the Japanese house are better suited to serve as a pattern for contemporary housing than any other form of residential structure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Heino Engel studied architecture in Germany immediately following the end of World War II, then traveled through Egypt and Arabia, spent more than a year in India, Burma, Malaysia, and Thailand, before arriving in Japan. There, in his own words, he "realized that the Japanese house is as invaluable an experience for the contemporary architect as are the ancient Acropolis of Athens in Greece and the modern high-rise office towers of the United States." He remained in Japan for three years, concentrating on the study of the Japanese house, people, life, language, and culture, and also becoming a member of the Architectural Institute of Japan.

This great book shows the thought process and technique behind traditional Japanese architecture. Whether you are an architect or simply have an interest in the fine details of this process, this book is one of the best. It is filled with over 56 b/w designs, floor plans, joinery and schematics. As this style of building requires a dedicated apprenticeship, people should not necessarily view it as a "how-to" book, even though it does explain the process in fine detail. There is excellent coverage of measurement, and I especially like the detailed section on tatami layout. The wealth of floor plans alone justify the purchase. There is also 4-pages worth of b/w scrolls, depicting a palace layout (and one frame displaying some high quality calligraphy), and the "architect's scroll" which shows a fairly comprehensive collections of joints. There are numerous joints shown throughout the book, and together with "The Complete Japanese Joinery" and "The Art of Japanese Joinery" anyone interested in this subject should be set. The book describes what the Japanese house is and how it is built. The author argues that the traditional Japanese house seems better suited as a pattern for contemporary housing than any other residential architecture form. He bases this argument on the following distinctive features: -modular order of system and form -flexibility of space partition and room function -compositional potential of tatami mats -expressive diversity within comprehensive standardization -integrative qualities of Japanese design. The book presents considerations of the form, system, and detail of space layout, the dimensions and measurements, and how the various components are combined. The book is great for anyone with an appreciation for this form, but the author seems to have clearly geared it towards architects, whom he challenges to explore this form for integration into modern design. There are few books that cover the process like this, and I highly recommend it. Be sure to look inside and check out the table of contents to make sure it is what you are looking for, as this is a technical book that is not for everyone.

This is a great book about the technique used in Japanese house design (who knew it was so modular?) and also much about the type of joints used and where in the house they are used. Not a whole lot about how to actually do that kind of construction but plenty about how the designs and layout work and why.

The book, taken from the larger volume "The Japanese House: A Tradition for Contemporary Architecture", describes exhaustively how the traditional Japanese house is built. Every topic from plan layout down to shoji or tokonoma proportions is covered in detail, with amazing technical drawings and lot of examples: you will be able to build your own Japanese house, from foundation stones to the top of the roof. Particularly interesting are the schemes of joints needed for every part

of the house, and the continuous focus on some particular features like modular order, flexibility or standardization. If you are not used to technical drawings the book may appear a bit complex, since there are no photos illustrating the building, but everything is very well done. I recommend this book to everyone with a strong technical interest in Japanese traditional buildings.

In all fairness I was expecting a little more than detailed spec drawings. In fact, this was not the book I wanted. On the other hand, if you are seriously in love with Japanese architecture and are a carpenter, architect or general contractor... this is the book for you. Lots of "how to"... a smattering of "why", but no eye candy to inspire you. Definitely for someone who is already a hardcore fan of the art of the Japanese house. It lost a star for me simply because even a 'how to' book needs more than line drawings of joint work to be great.

I have always admired the beauty of Japanese architecture and construction, and I love this little book for all of the pictures and plans. It is easy to read and any novice or architect wannabe like me will appreciate this very thorough introduction to the art form.

Amazing book, for everyone who wants to build or design with the Japanese craft principles. Very useful for designers and architects. Excellent delivery...even far away, in Chile

Fascinating. Loaded with detail. And the drawings are beautiful pre-CAD. I referred to it regularly in the design and building of a very spare back-yard covered deck. And this is only part of the originally published book. Mr. Engel is one of those great intellectual resources - a knowledgeable, sharp intellect brought to bear on a special subject.

I think I am looking for a magazine version of layout for the perfect Japanese House, and this book has much more detail.

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