**FINAL COVER** 

A major overview of Japanese residential architecture of the past five years by big names (including three Pritzker prize-winners) and emerging architects, now available in paperback.

# The Japanese House Reinvented

Philip Jodidio

Illustrated throughout
28.0 x 20.3 cm
288pp
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Book





### **Key Sales Points**

- An expert author: Philip Jodidio, one of the foremost architecture writers, has travelled extensively to Japan to familiarize himself with these projects and their architects
- An incisive presentation of the factors that create the incredible forms of most of these houses: very small sites, mandated seismic prevention features, local/ cultural response to minimalism, and measures to invite light and air while retaining privacy in dense urban settings
- This overview of 50 recent houses powerfully demonstrates Japan's enduring commitment to design innovation

#### Inner Freedom

Small residential spaces that has developed over time due to conditions of crowding and the cost of land are nearly omnipresent in Japanese residential architecture. Some exceptions of course occur, but mainly outside of the major cities. Crowding may also at least partially explain another form of ambiguity present in Japanese houses. While architects carefully design walls and other barriers to preserve the privacy of their clients, it seems that the interiors of these houses are frequently very open and empty by Western standards. Where closed rooms with specific functions may still be much more frequent in the West, Japan has long mastered the art of the sliding rice paper screen (shoji) that both filters light and allows interior spaces to be redefined as required. Surely pressed by extreme conditions of density and limited size, many talented Japanese architects have come to view the task of designing a house as being one that obliges them to look back to the origins of architecture and forward to its future. Houses filled with numerous tiny spaces, or floor levels that are varied with a disconcerting freedom, spaces that intentionally have no specific function: these are all devices used by architects to create what can be seen as a fundamentally free interior space, contrasting with the powerful constraints of space imposed by Japanese cities, but also perhaps the very systems of the society that make each person respect forms of order.

Philip Jodidio April 2014

#### Entryways

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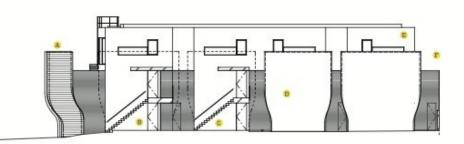


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#### ARTechnic Architecture

Kataro Ide was torn in Tokyo in 1965. He worked in the office of Ken Yokogawa Architects from 1989 to 1994 and established his own office in 1994.

www.artechnic.jp



### Houses at the Edge

Japan, like the United States, has long shown a preference for houses as opposed to apartments. Recent surveys indicate that about 60% of Japanese dwellings are single-family homes. Those who have travelled in Japan, notably on such rapid train lines as the Shinkansen that links Tokyo to Osaka can comprehend the sheer quantity of such structures, often marked by a vaguely understood "Criental" style, or tiled roofs for example. Clearly, the majority of these houses are of a repetitive or architecturally uninteresting nature, but by way of contrast, there are also a high number of inventive contemporary houses in the country, some of which are the subject of this publication. Faced with the constraints of very dense urban areas, and a lifestyle that has long taken into account small spaces, Japanese architects and their clients have shown a surprising willingness to experiment. While Western eyes see little presence of nature in Japanese cities, the Japanese themselves perceive views of the sky, or sunlight inside a house as manifestations of nature, an important element in day-to-day existence. A clear trend has emerged in recent years to open interior spaces of Japanese houses, much as sliding shoji screens allowed a high degree of flexibility in the past. Intermediate floor levels, and spaces that are surprisingly open characterize many contemporary houses, with privacy being expressed in more succinct terms than in many Western homes. This openness obviously is one way of addressing the small spaces that even relatively wealthy Japanese must make do with, especially in cities such as Tokyo and Osaka. What makes Japanese houses original and interesting is surely a matter of culture and lifestyle, but is also driven by a large number of persons who are ready to take risks, either in designing these houses, or in living in them. Some may feel that a culture is expressed in superficial details like

#### Courtwards

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