



TRADITIONAL JAPANESE INTERIORS

*A tutorial to help you visualize the
little wooden cottage in which
Sachiko and Mariko live in A PALE
VIEW OF HILLS by Kazuo Ishiguro*

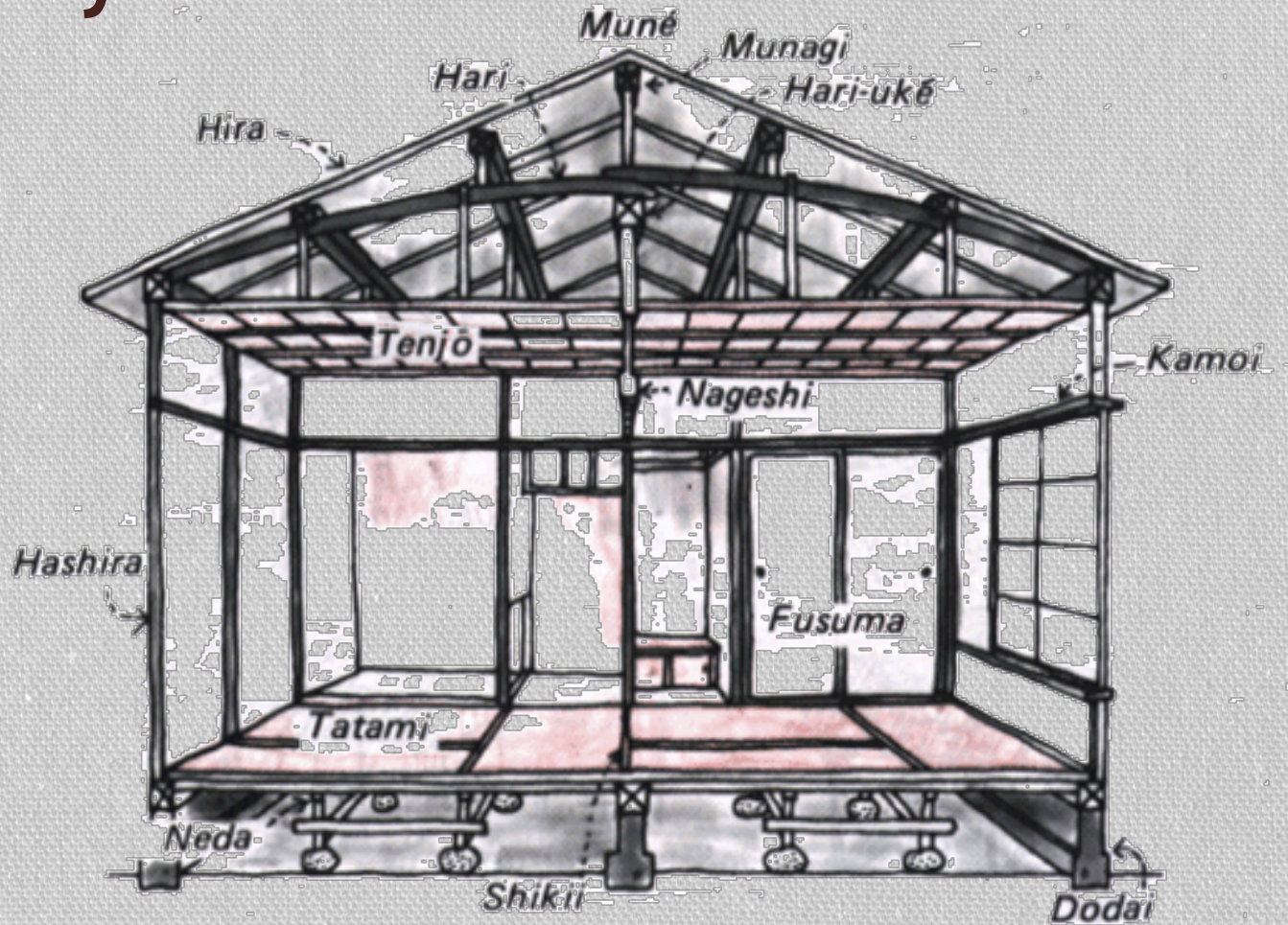


Think about an interior room in your house – any room – and consider the following:

- *How does the room meet needs for shelter, food, light, and warmth?*
- *Is the room mostly practical or for show?*
- *How is the room used – for relaxing, for work, for entertaining?*
- *What is functional in the room? What is decorative? Are some objects both functional and decorative?*
- *How are the walls and floors treated?*

DIRECTIONS: The following slides will teach you the practical, decorative, and traditional parts of a Japanese home. Use them to label the image on your study guide. The **bolded words** are the ones you should write and explain on your study guide.

Sachiko and Mariko's Cottage by the River



Construction of a small wooden house in the traditional style



2. ... the **fixed or sliding panels** that divided up the room into multiple other spaces.

1. In traditional domestic architecture, the Japanese characteristically use **wooden panels and rice paper shutters** as the chief building materials for the exterior, and for ...



3.

This main room of the house is the zashiki.

4. The adjoining room is customarily used by the mistress of the house.

5. Essential elements of the main room are the **two recessed areas at the back**.

6. The alcove on the left, houses artistically arranged **wall cabinets and shelves for art objects**.

7. The alcove on the right is used to **display a single work of art**—a scroll or a vase—chosen to be enjoyed for a day from a stock of such treasures kept in a fireproof storeroom.





8. The floor of the main room is always covered with **tatami, or straw mats**, each of which measures about three by six feet and is bound with cotton borders. About how wide is this main floor?



10. The floral motifs painted on the sliding screen doors that divide the zashiki from the mistress' room on the left also pull the natural elements outside, into the room



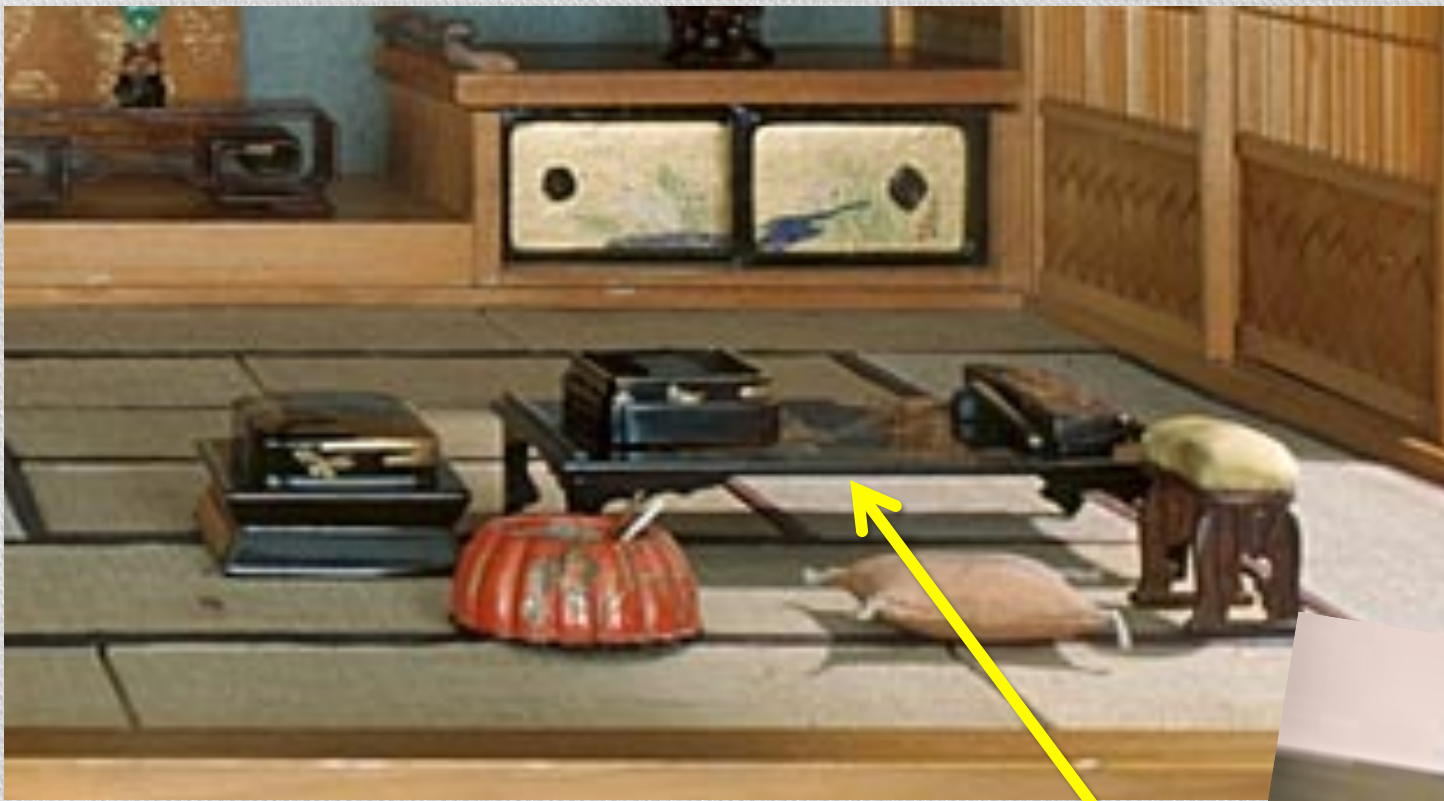
9. The translucent shoji (sliding doors) which give easy access to the garden also help to unite the architecture with the natural setting outside.



11. In the room at the left three **kimonos** hang over a traditional metal stand

12. The articles necessary for a woman's toilette await use on the **low table**.

13. The **mirror and stand** is made out of metal alloy (a mix of more than one metal).



14. The absence of furnishings other than the **lacquer writing desk and low tables** in the main room is typical.

15. Other accessories, including **bedding**, are brought into a room as the occasion demands.



Japanese Traditional Interior

Thorne Miniature Room, circa 1937

This Interior is one of 68 miniature rooms in the Art Institute of Chicago. Assembled between 1920 and 1940 on the scale of one inch to the foot, the miniature rooms were the creation of Chicagoan Mrs. James Ward Thorne and a team of 30 craftsmen. All but two of the rooms depict European or American Styles from 1600 to 1940.



ART SOURCE:

Thorne Miniature
Room, circa 1937

Art Institute of Chicago

The rooms are the result of Mrs. Thorne's extensive travels in Europe and the United States, her collecting of miniatures, and her careful study of actual rooms to copy. The Japanese and Chinese interiors were perhaps constructed in recognition of the important influence of Asian design on European decorative styles.





END Now begin Part 2.