

Japanese Woodworking : A Handbook of Japanese Tool Use & Woodworking Techniques



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This book contains step-by-step instructions for the much-admired craft of traditional Japanese woodworking. Written as a text for Japanese craftsmen and carpenters, it includes every practical detail and explains every procedure.

Traditional Japanese woodworking emphasizes the importance of the carpenter's tools - understanding their functions and giving them the best possible care. In fact, in ancient times in Japan, it was said that a worker 's skill could best be judged by observing his care of edged tools. This guide, therefore, devotes many pages to the use and care of tools. No step is overlooked: from explanations of the various types of tools to sharpening procedures (using the renowned Japanese sharpening stones), and including the best methods for their protection and storage.

Building techniques are also carefully explained, with drawings and instructions for measuring, marking, cutting and carving wood. The latter part of the book explains methods for framing traditional wooden structures.

Hideo Sato's exposition of the subject conveys a refreshing spirit of reverence for the work and for the tools - an atitude which is considered essential for the traditional Japanese craftsman.

The book was expertly translated by the Japanese architect Koichi Paul Nii.

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