

narrow passageway within the grounds of a large residence. First used to describe the pathway leading to the teahouse, it apparently came to be called *roji*. Sen-no-Rikyu defined *roji* as “the outside path in the mundane world”, in other words, a boundary separating the world of *cha-no-yu* (tea ceremony) from the world of the mundane. At some ryokans there are teahouses in the gardens, allowing you to appreciate the structural beauty of the *roji* which is evocative of *wabi-sabi* (see *wabi-sabi*).



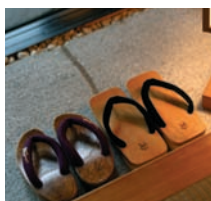
Tsukubai

This refers to the very low stone washbasin for washing one's hands (also known as *tearaibachi* and *chōzubachi*) in a *chaniwa* (tea garden). The name *tsukubai* derives from the practice in tea ceremony of bending oneself so low, almost crawling on the ground, to wash one's hands and rinse one's mouth. There is a wooden ladle (*hishaku*) for scooping up the water inside, but you must not touch it directly with your lips. The *tsukubai* is often located close to the teahouse or in the garden of a Japanese ryokan.



Geta (traditional wooden clogs)

Two pieces of supporting wood are attached to each of the wooden boards to produce these traditional Japanese clogs for outdoor use. Each clog board has three holes through which the cloth thong called *hanao* is threaded, and you wear the *geta* either in bare feet or wearing *tabi* socks, with your feet firmly fixed by grasping the *hanao* between your big toe and your second toe. The *zōri* and *setta* are of similar design, but *zōri* are made by weaving plant fibers such as straw, rushes and bamboo sheaths, whereas the *setta*, apparently conceived by Sen-no-Rikyu, originally had *tatami-omote* coverings on the top with animal skin fixed on the sole with iron nails. Today, *zōri* and *setta* are made of all kinds of materials. Such footwear is provided at Japanese ryokans for when you take a short walk or stroll in the garden in your *yukata*.



Tabi

These Japanese socks are designed in the shape of your feet, to be worn with *wafuku* - traditional Japanese clothing such as *kimono*. The big toe is separated from the other toes, so that you can wear *geta*, *zōri* or *setta* (see *geta*). They open at the seam above the heel where there is a row of metal hooks for fastening the *tabi*.



Wagasa

Japanese-style umbrellas, to be used when wearing *kimono*, are made by



covering a bamboo framework with greased *washi* (traditional Japanese paper). There are many types of *wagasa* such as *bangasa* and *janome-gasa*. The large-sized *bangasa* is for the common people. The word *janome-gasa* derives from the round ring resembling the eye of a large snake when the umbrella is opened up, and is slender and graceful compared with the *bangasa*. Some ryokans place these Japanese style umbrellas ready for use by the guests on rainy days.



Toko-no-ma (Alcove)

A traditional style of Japanese architecture, this is an alcove with a slightly raised floor built in one of the walls of the *tatami*-mat room (*zashiki*). The front wall is decorated with *shoga* (or *kake-jiku*, hanging scrolls), and an ornamental article or a flower vase is placed on the floor of the alcove. Although modern standards specify a width of 1 *ken* (about 1.8 meters) and depth of a *ken* (about 0.9 meter), it used to be wider and not so deep. You will find *toko-no-ma* in the majority of Japanese-style *zashiki* rooms, and the *kake-jiku* and flowers conveying the season form a fine interior decoration.



Kake-jiku (hanging scrolls)

Mounted *shoga* (works and paintings of calligraphy) which can be hung on the wall. The *kake-jiku* was first devised for the preservation of *shoga*. The hanging scrolls are changed in accordance with the season or traditional events, and are stored rolled-up.



Ranma (transom)

A *ranma*, installed between the upper part of a wall or a partition and the ceiling, is a transom for allowing daylight to stream in, for ventilation, and also for interior decoration, and comes in latticework or openwork. It is interesting to observe the motifs symbolic of the traditional Japanese architectural style used since the Heian Period. A *ranma* is often used so as not to cut off the adjoining room or the outside light. It plays an important role in the *tatami*-mat rooms of Japanese ryokans, and comes in a wide variety of styles such as *osa-ranma* (transom with closely spaced vertical bars), *take-no-fushi ranma* (transom having posts that are carved with knuckles resembling bamboo joints), *ita-ranma* (transom having thin boards with openwork designs), *shōji-ranma* (small sliding window-type transom covered with Japanese paper), *chōkoku-ranma* (sculptured transom), and so on.

