

Modern Architecture of Japanese Tearoom 日本茶室的當代建築



Japanese Architect – Terunobu Fujimori

Many Japanese architects take up the challenge of the tearoom despite its severe formal constraints. Terunobu Fujimori, a famous Japanese architect is one of them. Since his wife is a Japanese tea ceremony teacher, he has special enthusiasm to

建築師藤森照信

日本茶室是傳統的建築，但有趣的是，許多日本建築師即使面對日本茶室嚴格的設計限制，依然願意挑戰建造茶室。藤森照信就是其中一位。他是日本著名的建築師；而由於太太是茶道講師，因此他亦對茶室情有獨鍾。他多年來在世界各地建造了不同的茶室，近至日本、台灣，遠至澳洲、歐洲。藤森照信相信由於茶

Japanese tearoom. He has built tearooms all around the world throughout the years, including Japan, Taiwan, Australia and Europe.



室的空間有限，因此才能吸引建築師接受挑戰，把極有限的空間發揮得淋漓盡致。在世界各地的云云建築中，日本茶室就是滿足建築師的熱情與好奇心最完美的平台 (Fujimori, 2007)。以下就是藤森照信茶室建築的傑作。

Fujimori suggested that as those architects are fascinated with exploring architectural space limited to extreme, with the possibilities inherent in the smallest spatial unit, therefore they are willing to take up the challenge. Of all the World's structures, the tearoom is the perfect medium for satisfying their passion and curiosity (Fujimori, 2007).

Here are some masterpieces of Fujimori's tearooms.



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Takasugi-an 高過庵

Takasugi-an was built in Nagano Prefecture (長野県) in 2004. The name of the tearoom literally means “a tearoom [built] too high”. The tearoom is located on the top of two standing chestnut trees making it totally elevated from the ground for around 6.5m, which was identified as one of the 10 most dangerous structures in the world by the Time magazine in 2010. The special design of the tearoom allows the tea guests enjoying a perfect



view of Chino in Nagano Prefecture (長野県茅野市) during the practice of tea ceremony. In this sense, the tearoom relates the natural environment with the guests inside the tearoom (Hyatt, 2011).

高過庵位於長野縣茅野市，建於2004年。「高過」在日語的意思就是「建造得太高的茶室」。高過庵建築在兩棵栗樹的樹頂，離地約六點五米，曾在2010年被美國《時代》雜誌選為全球十大不穩建築之一。茶室離地的特別設計可讓客人在參與茶會時飽覽長野縣茅野市的景觀。如是者，客人與自然環境均透過茶室連成一線。



Source:

http://keyakihiroba.cocolog-nifty.com/photos/uncategorized/2007/08/03/070801_089.jpg



Chashitsu Tetsu 茶室徹

This gorgeous teahouse was built in the forest and is another masterpiece of Fujimori.

Chashitsu Tetsu was built in Yamanashi Prefecture (山梨県) in 2006, which is similar to Takasugi-tea room that it is elevated from the ground. The teahouse was originally planned to be built much higher in order to command a view of the entire forest during the cherry blossom season. However, the owner of the teahouse was afraid that it would be too difficult to climb up and therefore lowered the height eventually. The teahouse in the photo is concealed in the cherry blossoms and visitors are able to enjoy the beauty of sakura-fubuki (桜吹雪/sakura blizzard) during spring in late March and Early April.



圖中在櫻花花海中的茶屋是藤森照信的另一傑作。茶室徹位於山梨縣，建於 2006 年，與高過庵無獨有偶，在建築時均採用了離地的設計。原本茶屋的構想是以居高臨下之勢俯瞰櫻花，但因業主擔心過高難以攀爬而降低高度，讓茶屋隱沒在一片櫻花林間。客人於春天到訪時可以欣賞落櫻繽紛的浪漫景致，不禁令人想起櫻吹雪的艷麗美感。



Flying Mud Boat 空飛ぶ泥舟（飛行泥舟）

The Flying Mud Boat is a recent work of Fujimori. It was originally displayed in his exhibition at Chino City Museum of Art in 2010 and it has been moved to Jinchokan Moriya Historical Museum.

The Flying Mud Boat is indeed a 2 tatami mats tearoom, weighing about 600kg and it is supported with wooden materials and anchor ropes only, as if it is floating in the air like a flying boat.



飛行泥舟是藤森照信較近期的作品，原本是2010年他在茅野市美術館個人展覽中的展品，後來在展覽完結後移到附近的神長官守矢史料館，也是由藤森照信所建築。

飛行泥舟裏面是一個只有兩疊寬的茶室；雖然整個建築重約600公斤，但只是由兩邊木構支撐纜繩，將茶屋懸浮在空中，猶如一個飛行中的泥舟。



Sources: <http://livedoor.blogimg.jp/schizou/imgs/7/e/7e734705.jpg>
http://blogimg.goo.ne.jp/user_image/42/63/a63df8ada49680ba3524f59c7e35b022.jpg
http://blogimg.goo.ne.jp/user_image/33/e2/85e7e1ea78ff54a8abd29aafe91f6a82.jpg

Except building teahouse, project like mobile tearoom has been brought out to promote the Japanese tea culture.

除了建造茶屋，亦有人開展了流動茶室的計劃了，以推廣茶道文化。

丿庵 (へちあん)

丿庵 (Hechi-An) is a project of a mobile tearoom. It is a tearoom of 2 tatami size and is built inside a vehicle. It began with an interesting idea, "instead of the guests going to the tearoom, why not let the tearoom going to the guests!"

流動茶室的計劃...丿庵為一個建於車上，只有二疊的茶室。計劃起源自設計者的一個想法：「與其讓客人前來茶室，何不讓茶室前往客人的所在？」

The name 丿庵(Hechi-An)

The tea room is named after a tea person during Rikyu's period called 丿貫 (Hechi-Kan). Hechi-Kan was a rich man of the period. One day, he felt tired of his life and gave up everything he had, headed to the mountains taking only a tea kettle and a tea bowl with him.

丿庵名字的由來...丿庵命名自一位於千利休時代的富人丿貫 (Hechi Kan)。一天他對自己的生活產生了厭倦，於是放棄了自己所擁有的一切，只帶著一個茶釜和一個茶碗便到了山裡隱居起來了。



Why a minivan?

Hechi-An was built on a minivan instead of larger vehicles like trucks for two main reasons. First, the designer thought it would be much less interesting if it was built on a truck instead of a minivan. He wanted to surprise people the moment they open the door of the van. Second, thanks to the small and compact size of the van, a sense of comfort could be provided to the guests inside the tea room.

為甚麼建於客貨車上?

設計者是基於兩個原因最後決定把丿庵建於客貨車上而非更大型的載具之上。首先，設計者認為假如把茶室建於客貨車上的話會比大型載具上更有趣，同時更能為客人帶來驚喜。其次，客貨車狹小的空間亦能為客人帶來一種安心、舒適的感覺，於是最後便決定將茶室建於客貨車之上了。



Not only Japanese, foreign architects were also attracted by the Japanese Way of Tea and designed their own tearooms. 不僅是日本建築師，就連外國的建築師也被日本茶道所吸引，並設計屬於自己的茶室...

The Minimalist Tea House 極簡茶屋

This minimalist teahouse was designed by David Maštálka, a Czech architect. Maštálka completed in 2008 at Prague, the capital of Czech Republic.

As seen in the photo, the teahouse occupies an area of 23 square feet and is constructed using the natural materials. Maštálka was greatly interested in Japanese tea culture. Though this teahouse does not strictly follow the standard design of traditional Japanese tearoom, it still shows the Japanese tradition of minimizing space and is intended as a place to meet with guests with a bowl of tea in harmony with the nature.



極簡茶屋是由一位來自捷克的建築師David Maštálka設計，於2008年建成，座落於捷克共和國的首都布拉格。茶屋只有約23呎，由天然物料建築而成。這位捷克的建築師鍾情於日本茶道，雖然他設計的茶屋並沒有嚴格遵守日本茶室的傳統設計，但依然與茶道的思想一脈相承，盡量減少茶屋的空間，在茶屋中感受大自然的和諧，與客人相聚品茶。



Sources: <http://o.homedsgn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/teahouse-by-a1-architects-06.jpg>
<http://o.homedsgn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/teahouse-by-a1-architects-10.jpg>
<http://o.homedsgn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/teahouse-by-a1-architects-05.jpg>

Conclusion

William Somerset Maugham, a famous English writer once said, "Tradition is a guide and not a jailer." From the above examples, we can see that a well blend between Japanese Way of Tea and modern architecture helps to promote traditional culture in modern world. No matter how creative do the architectures look like; the ideologies of Japanese Way of Tea can still be identified throughout the generations. Hope you would also enjoy the harmony of Japanese Way of Tea brought by these modern architectures!



著名的英國作家 William Somerset Maugham 曾說過：「傳統乃嚮導而非獄卒。」從上述例子可見，日本茶道與現代建築的融合促進了傳統文化在現今世界的推廣。無論建築如何創新，它們仍可毫無保留地反映傳承了多個世紀的茶道精神。希望你也能透過這些創新的建築感受日本茶道帶來的和諧！

Source: <http://o.homedsgn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/teahouse-by-a1-architects-03.jpg>

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