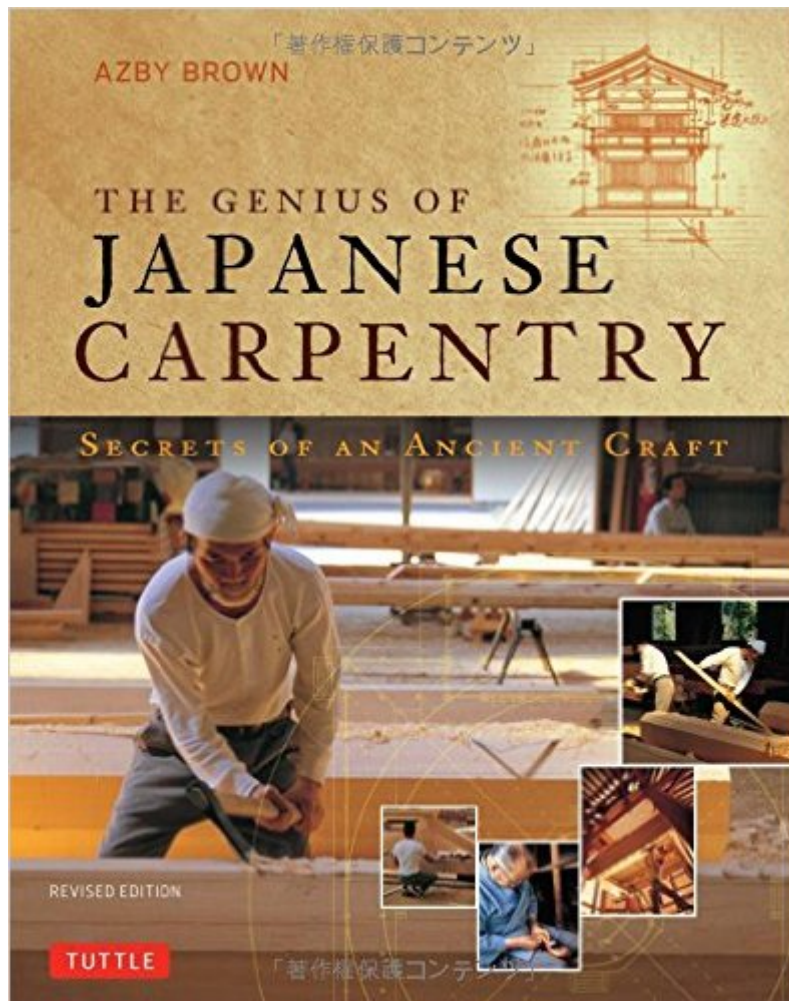


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The Genius Of Japanese Carpentry: Secrets Of An Ancient Craft



Synopsis

The Genius of Japanese Carpentry tells the story of the 1200-year-old Yakushiji monastery in Nara and the dedicated modern-day craftsmen who are working to restore what has been lost to the depredations of time, fire and warfare. Although the full monastery reconstruction will not be completed until 2030, one of the main temples, the Picture Hall, has been completely restored employing the same woodworking technology used to create the original building. This new edition of an architectural classic is by Azby Brown "one of the world's leading experts on Japanese architecture. It contains a new preface and many new text materials and photographs" most of them now available in color for the first time. Azby Brown chronicles the painstaking restoration of the temple through extensive interviews with the carpenters and woodworkers along with original drawings based on the plans of master carpenter Tsunekazu Nishioka. An inspiring testament to the dedication of these craftsmen and their philosophy of carpentry work as a form of personal fulfillment, The Genius of Japanese Carpentry offers detailed documentation of this singular project and a moving reminder of the unique cultural continuity found in Japan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am not a carpenter by trade, though I have worked in construction. My father, however, was a carpenter. I always found the concepts and rules of constructing buildings to be fascinating. A hardly, practical application of the physical sciences is necessary for the creation of buildings that stand the test of time. From that perspective, I have found traditional Japanese carpentry to straddle the line

between science and art. The intricacies of their woodworking techniques are not well understood in the west. This book was a pleasant glance into the practice of dedicated tradesmen from another land. I got to see some examples of joinery, and also the training and attitudes of the craftsmen. This was well worth the read and the asking price.

Right from the first page the reader is transported into the life of the master builder. A clear departure from Western architecture, where design is the inspiration of an individual, Japanese tradition follows rules created by the forest; the way trees grow their strengths and the specific use for each material. Azby's personal journey through the difficult and demanding world of the apprentice woodworker allows the reader a unique view of the culture of wood going back to ancient times. Well worth keeping and sharing. Karl Bareis - custom builder

This book is an amazing work that will appeal to anyone who has an appreciation of skilled craftsmanship. The Genius of Japanese Carpentry contains beautiful photographs and detailed drawings of Japanese woodworking and precise joinery. The main section of the book, Erection of the Picture Hall beautifully details a large scale, multi-man restoration project. Readers will feel as if they are right there, showered with wood chips among the smell of freshly hewn timber.

An excellent book. The author is able to capture the spirit of Japanese carpentry. I too was able to apprentice under a daiku. A bit on usual I admit but probably the best teacher I ever had

Not a 'how to' book at all. Ordinary carpenters may be mystified by it. Excellent at conveying the spirit and sophistication of the high level temple woodworkers of Japan. Well worth the time to both read and contemplate the history and tradition that inform and support the elegance of traditional building arts in Japan written by a long-term resident (Japan) American architect.

Great book, even better than his first one!

Reading this book is like taking a tour of a temple being built, very nice.

Photos are excellent. Content is just as good.

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