

# Study on the fittings, furniture and tools in medieval Japanese houses, and their circulation throughout East Asia

Chief Researcher: Shunichi NOMURA  
(Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Eng., Tohoku University)  
Collaborator: Hideki NISHIMATSU  
(Nagano Prefectural Government)

## [Synopsis]

The fittings, furniture and tools seen in medieval Japanese houses and temples, and that information – how did they circulate throughout eastern Asia? In this study, as the basic research for asking this question, I have exhaustively investigated and summarized how fittings were drawn in historical pictures.

Research relating to fittings, furniture and tools is not a particularly new thing. However, with the introduction of the viewpoint of how each of these ‘circulated’, one can open up the possibility of an entirely new field of architectural history. This is because the ‘whole’ reality of architecture is connected to asking a bigger question; in what way did ‘parts’ of it separately cross land and sea, and how were they relayed to distant lands?

Constructions are huge; they cannot be carried around. This is one of the great characteristics of the field of architecture. Because of this characteristic, to relay the actual state of architecture to distant lands, said actual state must be handled as information through representing it in letters, drawings, models, etc, as well as internalizing dimensions and techniques from spatial and constructional experience. Alternatively, by dismantling the whole into parts, it must be taken apart, transported, and reconstructed. Fittings are one unit cited as being able to obtain that portability, and in particular in the case of crossing the sea to relay architecture, and in the case of relaying wooden buildings, many of which are constructed throughout East Asia, this phenomenon is remarkably apparent.