

How did Japanese colonial buildings in Taiwan manifest
Japan's intention to change Taiwanese identity?

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Introduction

Architectures were used as a crucial tool to change Taiwanese self-identity during the Japanese rule of Taiwan because architecture is closely related to people's lives. Just as other colonialism did, during the 50 years of Japanese colonization of Taiwan (1895-1945), they not only extract timber offerings, commodities, and wealth from Taiwan but also changed Taiwan's economy. Although Japan is not the most prolonged colonial regime in Taiwan's history, there are still many traces of Japan left in life in Taiwan nowadays. Because the Japanese set the colonial blueprint more comprehensively on the entire Taiwan (not only on the flat land but also in the deep mountains where the aborigines lived), the scope of construction was relatively broad. They even carried out the 'emperor movement' -A movement that tries to turn Taiwanese self-identity into Japanese- on the people of Taiwan. Therefore, for different purposes, the types of buildings are diverse, and the scale of construction covers everything from urban planning to building material specifications. In this thesis, I will mainly study Japanese-style houses in Taiwan, which have accelerated the change of Taiwanese self-identity to a certain extent.

In the past, many architectural historians and researchers of Japanese architecture have discussed the differences between Japanese architecture in Taiwan and Japan, whether in terms of appearance, spatial function, or structural technology, such as *A Journey of Japanese Architecture in Taiwan* (Watanabe, 2019) and *Graphic Taiwan Japanese- style residential buildings* (Wu, 2018), both books have detailed findings. This thesis will study and integrate the following four types of sources: 1. Books related to Taiwan's history and Taiwan's architectural history, 2. Interviews the elderly who once lived in the Japanese colonial rule; 3. Collecting relevant group information in social media; 4. Movies and films during the Japanese control of Taiwan. Finally, exploring this theory: How did architecture built by the Japanese during Japan's colonial rule of Taiwan change the self-identity of the Taiwanese people? How did it contribute to making Japanese lifestyles beloved by the Taiwanese, and Japanese living habits continue to this day? On the other hand, it also parallelly contrasts to Korea, which is also ruled by Japan for a long term at a similar period but actively wants to get rid of Japanese culture and to demolish all buildings constructed during the Japanese occupation.

At the beginning of the essay, I will briefly introduce the historical background of the Japanese colonization of Taiwan, such as how Japan got the acquisition of Taiwan, explore why Japan wanted to change the self-identity of Taiwanese and what

measures they have implemented to achieve this goal. Next, the five different types of Japanese-style houses in Taiwan will be clearly classified and studied for users and purposes. Finally, it will sort out several Japanese-style elements that affect Taiwanese living habits, and then summarize how Japanese-style houses affect the psychological state of Taiwanese. Although colonization destroyed part of the local culture in the colony, it also injected new civilization at the same time. At the conclusion of this paper, the impacts of Japanese colonialism in the field of architecture in Taiwan will be integrated. By exposing the significance of Japanese colonial architecture for Taiwanese culture and society, I hope to contribute arguments for preserving the remaining Japanese buildings in Taiwan that are threatened by demolition.

Background

● Introduction

Before focusing on Japanese houses in Taiwan and how these houses gradually change Taiwanese self-identity, it is crucial to introduce the reasons why these houses are in Taiwan. Among them, the Japanese government's policies and mood changes are the most important factors. Therefore, this chapter will mainly be divided into three parts: 1. How did Japan gain the acquisition of Taiwan? 2. Why did the Japanese government want to change the self-identity of the Taiwanese people? 3. What methods did the Japanese government implement to reach their goal? After knowing the background, I believe we can better understand the hidden meaning behind the design of Japanese-style houses in Taiwan.

● The process of Japan's acquisition of Taiwan

In 1894, the Qing government of China and Japan launched a nine-month war, in order to seize control of the Korean Peninsula. The incident began with the Tushima naval battle on July 25, 1894, and officially started on August 1: The Qing Dynasty of China issued a war edict to Emperor Meiji of Japan. The war mainly took place in the Korean Peninsula, Liaodong, Shandong Peninsula, Taiwan and the Yellow Sea. It is known as the First Sino-Japanese War. In the end, Japan won the war with a large disparity in military power. The following will explain the more specific reasons why Japan won the war.



Map of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895¹

¹ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, March 1). 甲午戰爭. 維基百科，自由的百科全書.
<https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%94%B2%E5%8D%88%E6%88%98%E4%BA%89>

After the "Meiji Restoration"², Japan began to embark on the path of capitalism, aggressively invading and expanding abroad. The trend of "breaking from Asia and entering Europe" emerged, which was a significant turning point in Japan's modern history. The "Meiji Restoration" in Japan is very meaningful because it was one of the few countries that successfully reformed in Asia at that time. In contrast, the Qing dynasty at that time was only an empire that had been brought back to life through the Westernization Movement³, with political corruption, people's hardship, various factions in the officialdom fighting secretly, intrigues, and defense, military and discipline were quite loose.

At the same time, the world's major capitalist countries were gradually transitioning to imperialism, so Japan's aggressive behavior was supported by Western powers to a certain extent. Based on the above reasons, Japan clearly won the First Sino-Japanese War.

"The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895 was a turning point in Japan's transition from an "oppressed country" to an "oppressive country." Therefore, it was an epoch-making war in Japan's modern history, and it had a meaning comparable to that of World War II. "- Fujimura Michio⁴

On April 17, 1895, the Qing Dynasty and Japan signed the Shimonoseki Treaty, and the war finally ended. In the treaty, Japan not only required the Qing Dynasty to pay compensation and open various trade ports, but the most important thing was that the Qing Dynasty must withdraw from the Korean peninsula and cede Taiwan to Japan. Because Taiwan is located at the center of the East Asian island arc, it is a critical navigation hub for Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. It controls the passage of China's southeast coast into and out of the Pacific. During World War II, it was the base for Japan's southward advancement and played a pivotal role in its strategic position. This was the beginning of Japan's acquisition of Taiwan¹. This 50-year colonization did not end until after Japan's defeat in World War II.

² At the end of the Samurai ruling, Japan faced an unprecedented institutional crisis: unable to solve the problems of fiscal deterioration, inflation, and increase in the unemployed population, a series of major restoration measures carried out by Emperor Meiji of Japan were collectively referred to as the "Meiji Restoration."

³ The industrialization movement launched in China in the late Qing Dynasty aimed at learning advanced Western technology to resist the invasion of Western powers.

⁴ Fujimura. (1973). *Sino-Japanese War - a turning point in modern history East Asia* ISBN: 4004131278 [Japanese Import]. Iwanami Shoten.

- The reason why the Japanese government wanted to change Taiwanese identity

Taiwan is Japan's first colony since the implementation of the Meiji Restoration to enrich the country and strengthen its military forces. Just like parents treated their first child, Japan handled all matters of the colony carefully and systemically and attempted to treat Taiwan as an extension of the Japanese mainland. Taiwan had previously suffered under the rule of the Qing government of China. After all, the Qing dynasty failed to properly manage inland affairs, let alone the small island overseas. Therefore, the sanitary conditions in Taiwan at that time were poor, there was no clean and usable water system, and plagues often occurred. In order to solve the existing problems and welcome the modernization, most Taiwanese residents were very willing to cooperate with Japanese rule.

From 1937 to 1945, Japan even promoted the "Emperor's Movement" in Taiwan, also known as the "Japanization Movement", hoping to make these ethnic groups identify with Japan and the Emperor of Japan and assimilate them into complete Japanese. The reason for the implementation of this campaign originated from the Second Sino-Japanese War that broke out in 1937. In order to prevent the awakening of the Han consciousness of the Taiwanese and lead the Chinese government to cooperate with the people of Taiwan, the Japanese government began to advocate that Japan and Taiwan are the same, that is, Taiwanese are also citizens of the emperor and are equal to those of mainland Japan. The Government of Japan began to adjust its Taiwan policy and implemented a series of compulsory assimilation policies in Taiwan, and at the same time erased Taiwanese identification with China. On April 9, 1941, the emperor's movement moved into the second stage, the emperor's public service movement, which drove the Taiwanese to be loyal to the Japanese empire and serve the war.⁵

- The methods used by the Japanese government to change the self-identity of the Taiwanese people

For assimilating Taiwanese to convince them that they are Japanese, the Japanese government has taken several practical measures:

1. Promote Japanese and restrict the use of the original language;
2. Abandon the original surname and use the Japanese surname;
3. Ask Taiwanese to respect the Japanese flag and sing the national anthem together;

⁵ You, C. (2011, May 23). *Emperor's public service movement*. Encyclopedia Taiwan. <http://nrch.culture.tw/twpedia.aspx?id=26981>

4. Use the same educational materials as the Japanese people;
5. Abandon the original Taiwanese folk beliefs and burn down the ancestral tablets to convert to Shintoism, and build a large number of shrines;
6. Wearing Japanese clothing such as kimono;
7. Live in a Japanese-style house.⁶

Among them, the language that affects the people of Taiwan is more profound. At that time, the "Japanese-speaking family" policy was also implemented, which was defined as a family where all family members speak Japanese at home. The certification method adopted an application system. Japanese-speaking families can enjoy many benefits, such as children having more opportunities to enter elementary and middle schools with better equipment and teachers, priority appointments to public institutions, and more food rations. The "Emperor's Movement" weakened the Taiwanese language reading system, along with the long-term implementation of the "Mandarin Language Movement" by the Republic of China government after the war caused many Taiwanese to lose the ability to speak the Taiwanese language.

Except for the language, living in Japanese houses also affects a lot of Taiwanese. However, there was no strict rule on how you should decorate your home. But since most of the houses belong to the Japanese government, the houses' basic plane configuration cannot be changed. Therefore, to a certain extent, it still affects the living habits of Taiwanese. For example, most Taiwanese take off their shoes in the foyer and walk at home with slippers or barefoot. This is one piece of evidence that the influence of Japanese-style houses on Taiwanese continues to the present.

● Conclusion

After knowing the Japanese government's policies and geo-political strategies, we can see that the Japanese put much effort into colonizing Taiwan, whether it's depth or breadth. On the other hand, in order to improve their living environment and sanitation, most Taiwanese are also willing to accept this new regime. After all, survival is always the first consideration for humans. These two reasons have made Japanese-style houses widely established in Taiwan and accepted by the public. In the following chapters, the categories and details of Japanese-style houses will be introduced in more detail. Also, more evidence of Japanese-style houses affecting the people of Taiwan will be elaborated.

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. (2021b, March 20). 皇民化運動. 维基百科，自由的百科全书.
<https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%9A%87%E6%B0%91%E5%8C%96%E9%81%8B%E5%8B%95>

The different types of Japanese houses in Taiwan

● Introduction

Japanese-style houses in Taiwan can be roughly divided into five categories according to users: 1. Official residences; 2. Japanese company employee dormitory; 3. Private residence; 4. Immigrant laborers' housing; 5. Aboriginal houses. This chapter will give a detailed introduction to the causes of each type of residence and their respective characteristics.⁷

● Official residences according to hierarchy

The official residences were built by the Japanese official battalion department, and the residents are Japanese government officials or employees of official institutions. In fact, Japan not only has this kind of official residence in Taiwan. As early as the Meiji Restoration, the Japanese government built official residences to appease a large number of unemployed samurai to compensate them. Therefore, the samurai residences in modern Japan have also become the standard for the design of official residences in Taiwan.

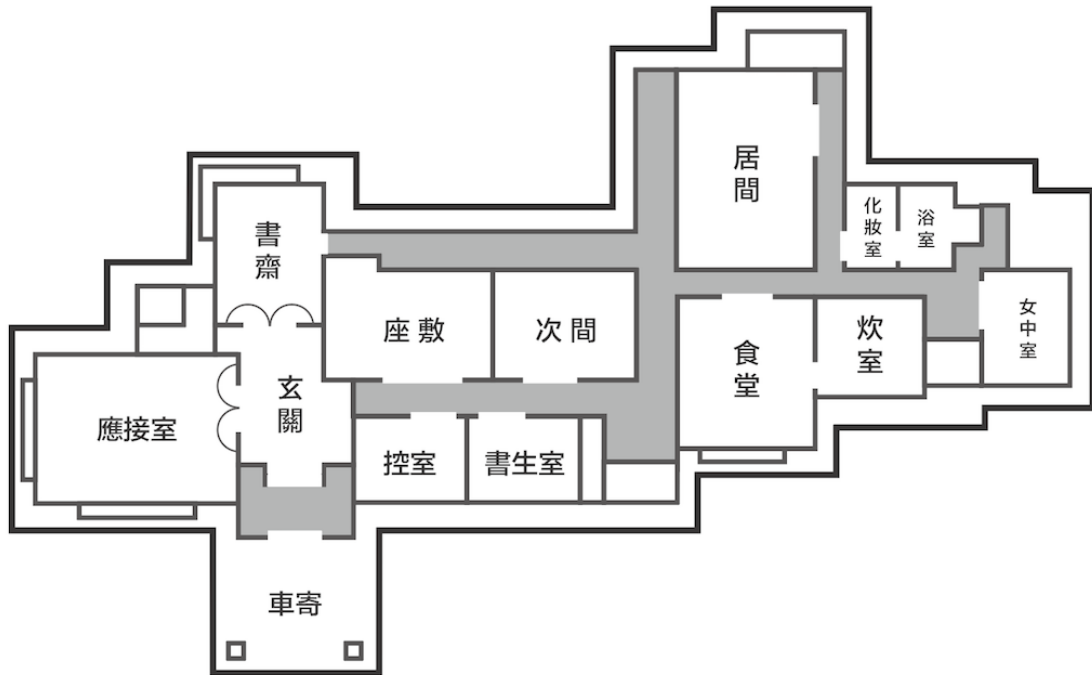
The official residence's most significant feature is that the official rank determines the residence, so the user's rank can be seen from the appearance, area, and space configuration of the residence. At that time, the levels of Japanese officials in Taiwan were divided into four classes from high to low: imperial official⁸, memorial official⁹, appointed official¹⁰, and basic-level civil servants. The imperial officials and the memorial officials will be assigned to a single-family residence, and the imperial officials' residence even exists at the same time as a Japanese mansion and a foreign mansion. The appointed officials live in a dual residence. Officials below these three levels will be assigned to a four-family-connected house and even need to share bathrooms and toilets.

⁷ Wu Y.-Y. (2018). *Graphic Taiwan Japanese-style residential buildings*. Morning Star Publishing Inc.

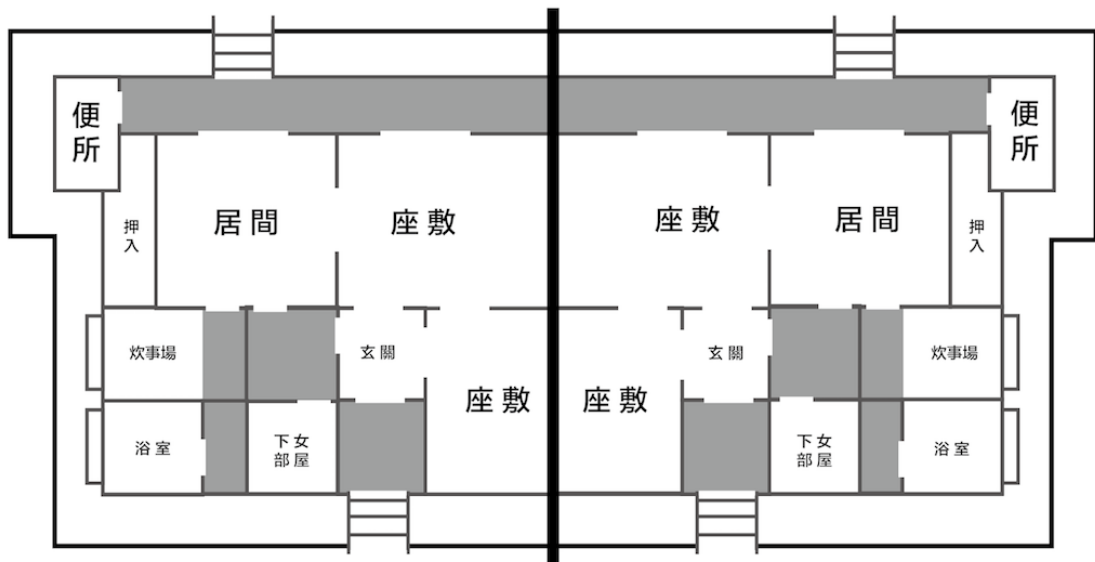
⁸ Officials were directly appointed by the Emperor of Japan.

⁹ Officials were appointed by the Cabinet Minister of Japan.

¹⁰ Officials were appointed by the Governor of Taiwan.



Memorial Official Residence Plan¹¹



Appointed Official Residence Plan¹²

¹¹ Mate Taiwan. (n.d.). *Memorial Official Residence Plan* [Illustration]. Spatial Native Language Foundation of Arts and Culture.

<https://kjm.u.org.tw/%E6%97%A5%E6%B2%BB%E5%AE%98%E8%88%8D%E5%BB%BA%E7%AF%89/>

¹² Mate Taiwan. (n.d.). *Appointed Official Residence Plan* [Illustration]. Spatial Native Language Foundation of Arts and Culture.

<https://kjm.u.org.tw/%E6%97%A5%E6%B2%BB%E5%AE%98%E8%88%8D%E5%BB%BA%E7%AF%89/>



Former: Official Residence of the Governor of Taiwan, built in 1901. (Imperial Official Residence)
Now: Taipei Guest House¹³



Former: The official residence of the principal of Yilan Agriculture and Forestry School, built in 1906.
(Memorial Official Residence)
Now: Yilan Literature Museum¹⁴

¹³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan). (n.d.). *Taipei Guest House* [Photograph].
<https://subsite.mofa.gov.tw/tgh/cp.aspx?n=4F8ED5441E33EA7B>

¹⁴ Yilan Literature Museum. (2015, March 11). [Photograph].
<https://as660707.pixnet.net/blog/post/413642107>



Former: Daxi County Office Police Dormitory, built in 1941. (Appointed official Residence)
Now: Craftsman Story House¹⁵



Former: The dormitory group of Tainan State Agricultural Testing Field, built in 1923.
(Four-family-connected house)
Now: Fudong Creative Forest Park.¹⁶

¹⁵ Taoyuan City Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum. (n.d.). *Craftsman Story House* [Photograph].
https://wem.tycg.gov.tw/home.jsp?id=6&parentpath=0%2C1&mcustomize=museums_view.jsp&dataserio=201904210003

¹⁶ Pbdragonwang. (n.d.). *Fudong Creative Forest Park* [Photograph]. Spatial Native Language Foundation of Arts and Culture.
<https://kjm.u.org.tw/%E6%97%A5%E6%B2%BB%E5%AE%98%E8%88%8D%E5%BB%BA%E7%AF%>

● Japanese company employee dormitory housing

In the early days of Japanese rule, the economic policy adopted for Taiwan was "Industrial Japan, Agricultural Taiwan", with particular emphasis on the production of rice and cane sugar to meet the needs of the Japanese mainland. Among them, the profit of the sugar industry is extremely high, which attracts many Japanese companies to invest. It also causes many Japanese to immigrate to Taiwan in order to make money, thus leaving many sugar factory dormitories. These areas usually are close to the sugar factories, like a small community, equipped with orderly streets, office areas, meeting places, shrines, and other public facilities. The residential area is clearly divided into a Japanese management area, a Japanese technician area, and a Taiwanese employee area.¹⁷



Manager Dormitory of Qiaotou Sugar Factory, built in 1905.¹⁸



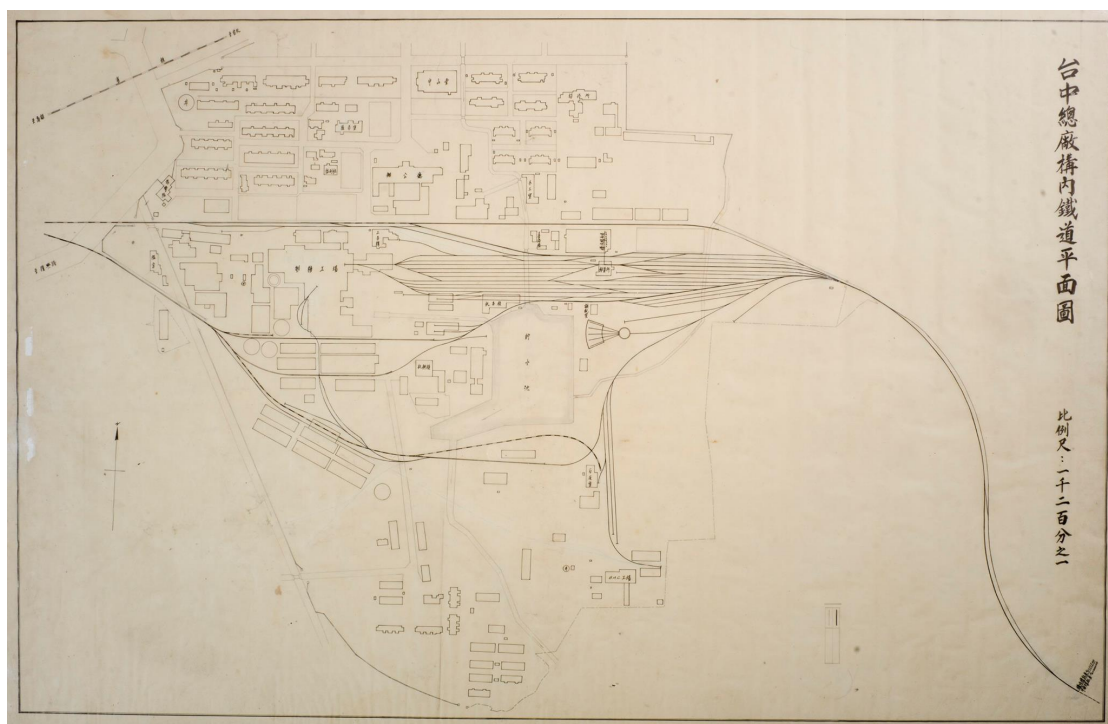
Staff dormitory of Garlic Sugar Factory, built in 1906.¹⁹

¹⁷ Wu Y.-Y. (2018). *Graphic Taiwan Japanese-style residential buildings*. Morning Star Publishing Inc.

¹⁸ Taiwan Sugar Corporation. (n.d.). *Manager Dormitory of Qiaotou Sugar Factory* [Photograph]. https://www.taisugar.com.tw/chinese/Attractions_detail.aspx?n=10048&s=10&p=2

¹⁹ Taiwan Sugar Corporation. (n.d.-b). *Staff dormitory of Garlic Sugar Factory* [Photograph]. https://www.taisugar.com.tw/chinese/Attractions_detail.aspx?n=10048&s=244&p=77#

In this plan, you can see the sugar factory on the south side, which is closely connected with the railway to facilitate the transportation of cane sugar. On the north side is the dormitory area, forming a small well-planned community by itself. The west side of the dormitory area is the staff dormitory, and toilets and bathrooms are shared; the east side of the dormitory area is a single-family or double-family dormitory for Japanese; the center of the dormitory area is equipped with public spaces such as assembly halls, convenience store, and playgrounds.

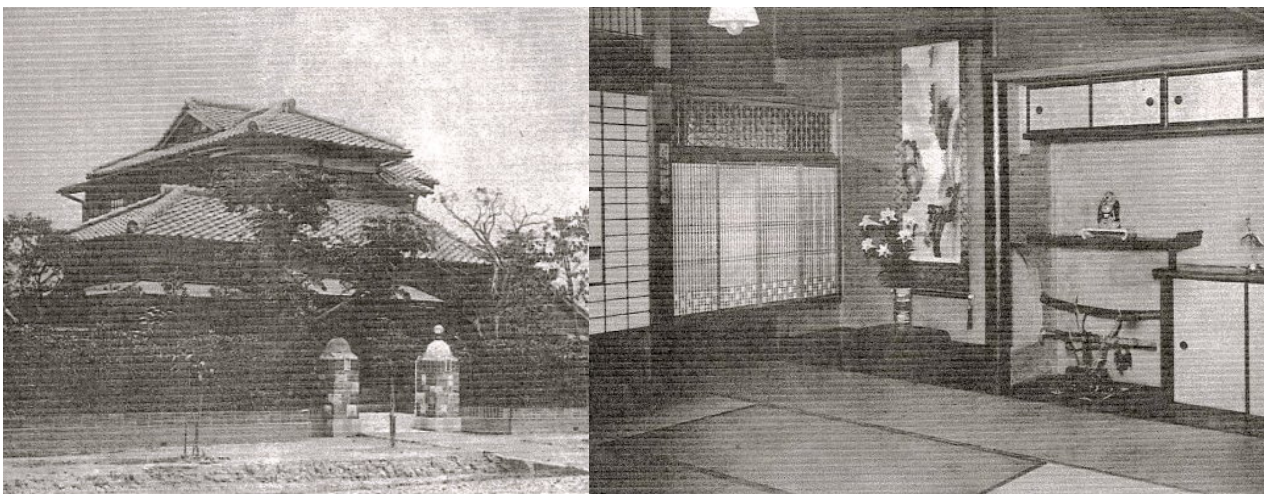


Taichung Sugar Factory Plan²⁰

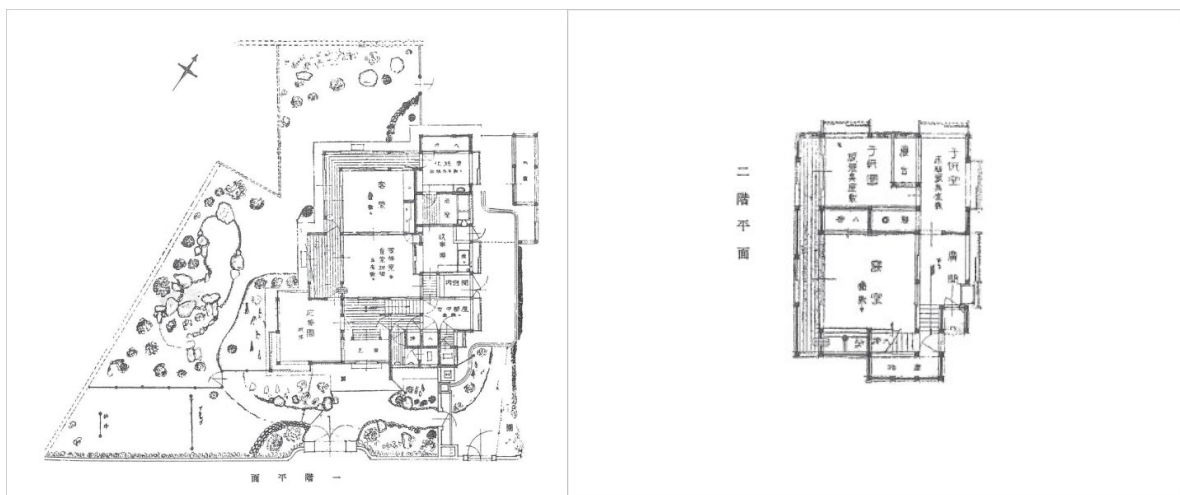
²⁰ Taichyu Factory of Teikoku Seitou K.K [帝國製糖會社台中營業所]. (2016, November 13). *HISTORY GUIDE: Guided tour of Taichyu Factory of Teikoku Seitou K.K "The mystery building on the back station pool* [Facebook status update]. Facebook.
https://www.facebook.com/tskkTaichyu/photos/a.1731069827178781/1819210181698078/?__tn__=%2C0*F

● Private residence

From 1929 to 1933, a global economic recession broke out, known as the "Great Depression" in history. In contrast, the suburbs of Taipei have the advantages of cheap land and well-developed urban construction, which attracted Japanese people to invest in real estate. The owners of these private houses are mostly senior intellectuals, such as officials, technicians and school professors. Compared with official residences, the architectural design of private residences has a lot more space to play, whether it is in the exterior or the configuration of the interior space, which adds diversity to Japanese-style residences in Taiwan. It can also be seen from the user's intentions for the design of private residential buildings that many Japanese have gradually developed the idea of taking root in Taiwan after Japan ruled Taiwan for 40 years.



The appearance of Otsuji Kuniyoshi's residence, built in 1930.²¹



The floor plans of Otsuji Kuniyoshi's residence, built in 1930.²¹

²¹ Taiwan Architectural Association. (1931). *Taiwan Architectural Association Journal (Vol. 2)*. Taiwan Architectural Association.

- Immigrant laborers' housing

At the end of the 19th century, the problem of overpopulation, arable land, and food shortage on Japan's main island became a thorny issue that was urgently resolved. The Japanese government encouraged the Japanese to immigrate to the newly acquired land, Taiwan, to solve the problem. But in the end, because of inadequate water and soil, poor sanitary conditions, selection of crops for cultivation, and the inability of immigrants to obtain ownership, they were similar to sugar factory tenants. And in 1945, after the defeat of Japan in World War II, all people were moved back to the main island of Japan.

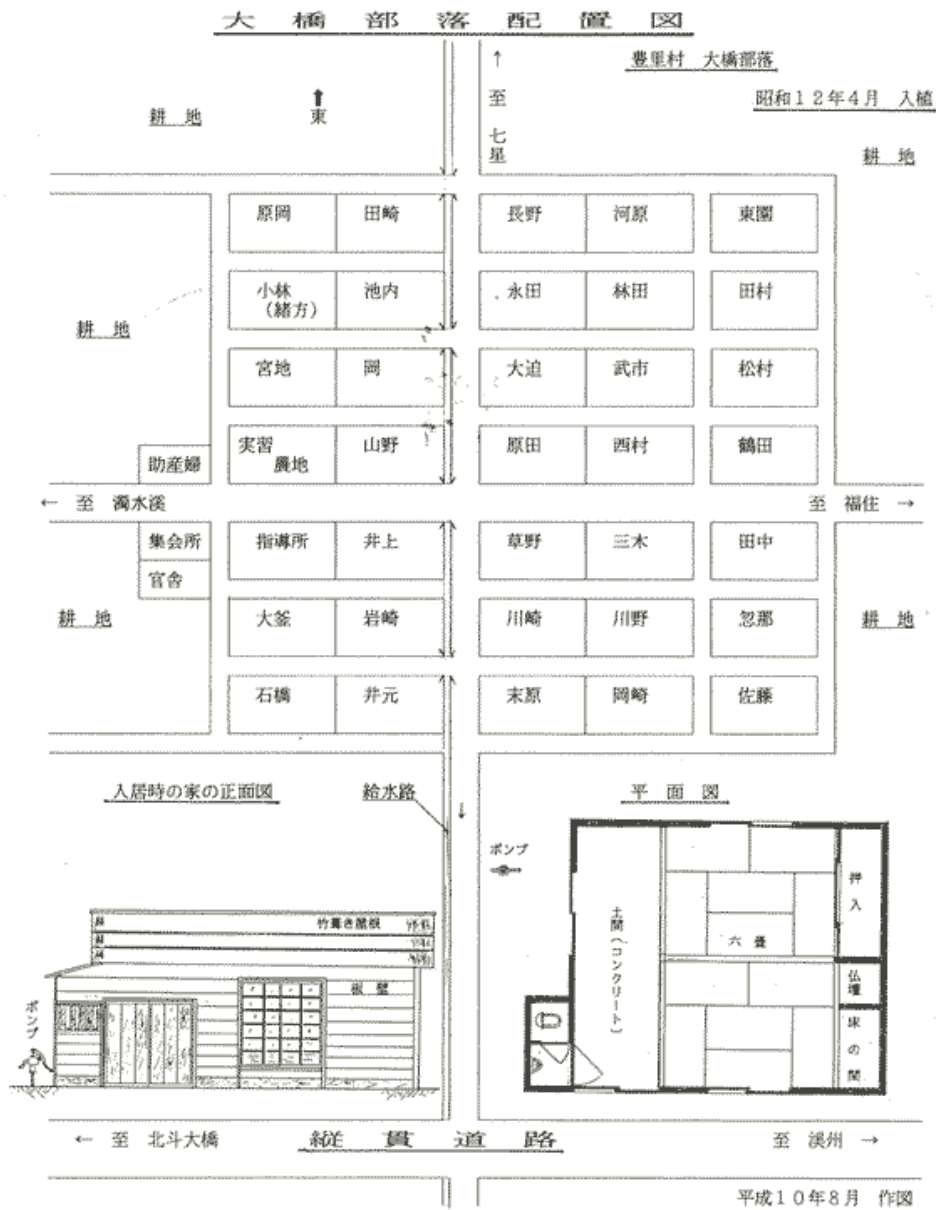
Most of these immigrants were recruited as laborers by the Japanese government for the development of eastern Taiwan. The housing form of the immigrant village imitates the "private house" form of Japanese rural housing. This type of immigrant village houses are mainly divided into two types of spaces, "Dirt Floor Room" and "Timber Floor Room". The "Dirt Floor Room" is paved with soil on the ground and used as a kitchen or farming space. It is an unclean space and is usually entered barefoot. The "Timber Floor Room" is a clean space, you need to clean your feet before you can enter.²²



Hetian Immigration Village, Built in 1899.²³

²² Huang, L. (1996). Study of Planning of Japanese Immigrant Village and Farmstead During Colonized Period in Hua Lian. *Taiwan History Studies*, 3(2), 52–91.
https://www.ith.sinica.edu.tw/quarterly_download.php?name=fulltext_3_2_2.pdf&filename=126734822212.pdf

²³ *Hetian Immigration Village*. (1908, January 1). [Photograph]. Wikipedia.
<https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E8%B3%80%E7%94%B0%E6%9D%91>



1

Site Plan, front elevation and floor plan of Daqiao Tribe Immigration Village²⁴

²⁴ Ministry of Culture of Republic of China (Taiwan). (n.d.). *Layout of Daqiao Tribe in Fengli Village* [Photograph]. Taiwan Cultural Memory Bank. https://memory.culture.tw/Home/Detail?Id=145235&IndexCode=online_metadata

● Aboriginal houses

Before Japan colonized Taiwan, most of the aborigines lived in the mountains. The Japanese government believed that the aborigines were savage and scattered in places where they were challenging to manage.²⁵ Therefore, in the 1910s, the "Five-Year Plan for the Management of Indigenous Peoples" was formulated and gradually forced the indigenous people to submit to the Japanese government by force.

After the 1920s, under the influence of government policies, the management turned to teach the aboriginal people agricultural techniques, of which rice farming was the most important. Therefore, the Japanese government transferred the aborigines collectively to the foot of the mountain suitable for re-manufacturing rice for centralized management. Besides, the aboriginals were trained to build a residential form based on the traditional aboriginal housing but improved in a Japanese style. For example: a. The height of the floor erected by the original house is too low, which makes it difficult to clean under the floor and is unsanitary; b. There is no room division in the house. Old people, children, couples, and singles live together. The Japanese government considers this to be a violation of morals. Therefore, the aborigines learned many new Japanese construction techniques at this time. Even after Japan was defeated and retreated, these techniques were still used by the indigenous people.²⁶ In this type of residential area, the police dormitory where the police who manage the aborigines lives is an indispensable landmark building.

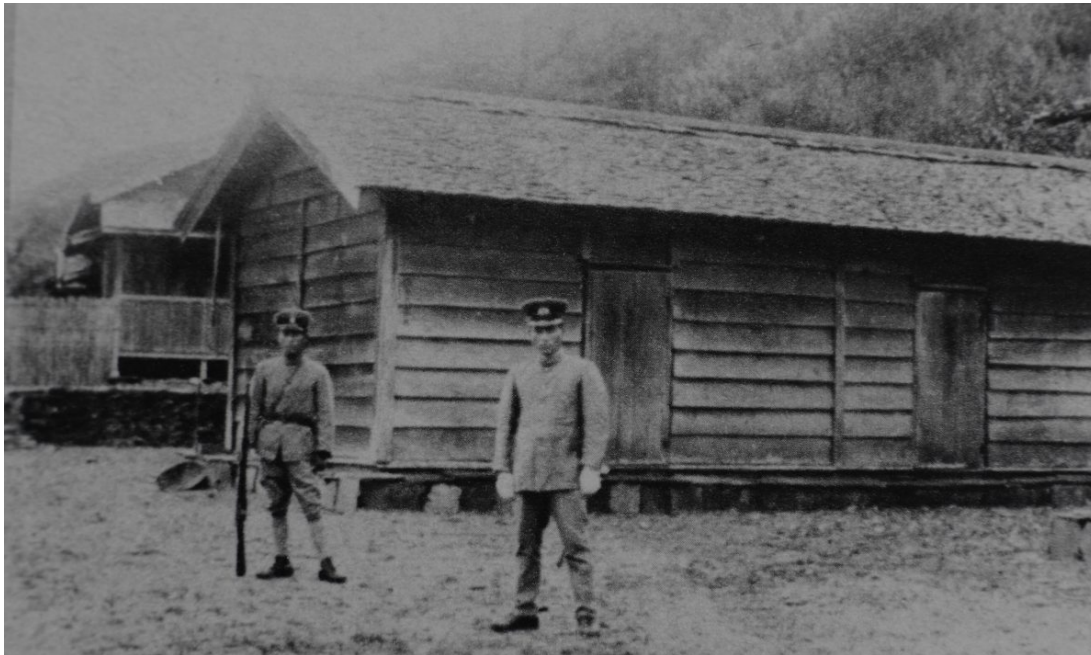


Aboriginal residential area in Hualien during the Japanese Occupation²⁷

²⁵ Chu, H.-C. (2012, September). *Interracial Antagonism and Intimacy under the Japanese Empire-Japanese Writers' Representations of Taiwanese Aboriginal Revolts in the Colonial Period*. [https://doi.org/10.6637/CWLQ.2012.41\(3\).51-84](https://doi.org/10.6637/CWLQ.2012.41(3).51-84)

²⁶ Wu Y. (n.d.). *Taiwan's aboriginal architecture under the Japanese policy of improving the fan house*. Spatial Native Language Foundation of Arts and Culture. Retrieved April 1, 2021, from <https://kjmu.org.tw/%E6%94%B9%E8%89%AF%E8%95%83%E5%B1%8B%E6%94%BF%E7%AD%96/>

²⁷ Taiwan Daily News. (1941, July 20). Aboriginal residential area in Hualien during the Japanese Occupation [Photograph]. In *Taiwan Daily News*, No. 14857, (4th ed.).



Tribal police officer's quarters²⁸

● Conclusion

The above are the five primary housing forms that Japan introduced to Taiwan during the colonial period. Each type of residence has very different backgrounds and uses. From the descriptions of these houses, we can understand the changes and ambitions of the Japanese government towards Taiwan's colonial policy. And then understand why these residential buildings can profoundly affect the lives and self-identity of the people of Taiwan. After understanding the more abstract stories of these houses, the next chapter will zoom in to a more detailed part, focus on the practical aspects of the houses and analyze how the Japanese-style house elements affect the living habits of Taiwanese until now.

²⁸ Taiwan Academy of Indigenous Nationalities Promotion Association. (n.d.). *Tribal police officer's quarters* [Photograph]. <http://mahebo.apc.atipd.tw/archives/portfolio-item/%E6%97%A5%E6%B2%BB%E6%99%82%E4%BB%A3%E8%88%8A%E7%85%A7>

Japanese-style house elements that affect the living habits of Taiwanese

● Introduction

In the early days of Japanese governance, Japanese officials lived in the buildings left by the Qing government in China, but they could not adapt to these brick and earth-built houses, so Japanese-style houses were introduced to Taiwan.²⁹ Initially, Japanese architects directly transplanted their architectural experience on the main island of Japan to Taiwan. Although there are some differences between Japanese houses in Taiwan and Japan due to the weather and natural disasters in Taiwan, it can still be found that Japanese-style houses have changed the living habits of Taiwanese subtly, and some of them are even in use today. In this chapter, I will point out which architectural elements of Japanese-style houses in Taiwan have influenced Taiwanese people's living habits and how they have affected them and explain the current status of these influences.

● Foyer

The foyer in the Japanese house is evolved from the "Dirt Floor Room" in the traditional Japanese house. The "Dirt Floor Room" has a wide range and is an extension of the outdoor space. It is usually used as a kitchen and space for crop processing. People in this space are usually barefoot or wearing outdoor shoes. The space in the house relative to the "Dirt Floor Room" is the "Timber Floor Room", a living space with a raised floor. In this space, people need to put on indoor shoes or wash their feet to enter. However, since most people no longer engage in farming, the area of "Dirt Floor Room" is gradually reduced and becomes the current foyer.³⁰



"Timber Floor Room" and "Dirt Floor Room" in traditional Japanese house³¹

²⁹ Wu Y.-Y. (2018). *Graphic Taiwan Japanese-style residential buildings*. Morning Star Publishing Inc.

³⁰ Dirt Floor Room. (2014, March 15). In *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*.

<https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%9C%9F%E9%96%93>

³¹ Shin, D. (2017, October). *Picture of Koma Residence, Hidaka* [Photograph]. Tripadvisor.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g1021408-d8262076-i282941441-Koma_Residence-Hidaka_Saitama_Prefecture_Kanto.html

In Japan, the height of the "bed" is generally around 45 cm. However, in Taiwan, due to the high temperature and humid climate, it is increased to more than 60 cm in order to ensure ventilation and improve durability. Therefore, the foyer in Taiwan is usually one step more than in Japan.³²



The foyer of a house in Japan³³



The foyer of The Liang Shih-Chiu House in Taiwan³⁴

Now when most Taiwanese enter the house, they still take off their outdoor shoes at the entrance and replace them with indoor shoes or barefoot. This is different from both Chinese and Western cultures. Although the indoor floor in Taiwan is not necessarily higher than the entrance nowadays, it may only be simply separated by cabinets, shoe racks, walls, or floor materials. Therefore, the foyer may not have a clear scope anymore, but an intangible space without borders defines the indoor and outdoor. This is the most powerful proof that the concept of the "foyer" of the Japanese-style house is left in Taiwan.



The foyer form by cabinet and floor material³⁵

³² Watanabe, Y. (2018). *A Journey of Japanese Architecture in Taiwan*. China Times Publishing Co.

³³ KASASHIMA Construction company. (n.d.). *Floor heating installation at the entrance* [Photograph]. KASASHIMA Construction Company. <http://kasashima.co.jp/gallery/6867>

³⁴ Geoforce, N. (2019, April). *The Liang Shih-Chiu House* [Photograph]. Google Map.

³⁵ Yu Chu Interior Design. (n.d.). 合石樂學 [Photograph]. <https://www.yuchudesign.com/%E5%BE%97%E7%8D%8E%E4%BD%9C%E5%93%81-%E5%90%88%E7%9F%B3%E6%A8%82%E5%AD%B8/>

● Sanitary equipment

Taiwan is located in the tropics and used to have the title of "land of miasma". The greatest resistance encountered by the Japanese army in the early days of colonization of Taiwan was not the anti-Japanese armed forces but the dead and wounded of the infection. As of November 1895, the total number of casualties in the Japanese Campaign for Taiwan was 164 people died in the battle, 515 people were injured in the war, 4,624 people died of illness, and 26,094 people fell ill.³⁶ Therefore, the first policy of the Japanese government is to improve Taiwan's public health system. By the 1910s, Taiwan's major infectious diseases such as cholera and plague were gradually brought under control, and urban environmental sanitation was greatly improved. This result not only consolidates colonial rule and is conducive to colonial political and economic development; at the same time, it also establishes the development of Taiwan's public health and contributes to the establishment of modern society.

Sanitary facilities include toilets and bathrooms in the house. The popularization of these facilities is attributed to the construction of a complete water and sewer system by the Japanese government. The Japanese have an extraordinary traditional habit: take a bath every day. There is also a shower space in Japanese houses, but in their concept, only bathing in the bathtub is the accurate completion of the bath. Therefore, most Japanese-style houses in Taiwan also have bathtubs, and some Taiwanese who have experienced Japanese rule still have the habit of bathing. Even though young Taiwanese no longer have the habit of taking a bath every day, most houses will be equipped with bathtubs as long as space permits. This can also be said to be a space habit handed down during the Japanese colonial period.



The bathroom of The Residence of Hsin Chih-Ping in Taiwan³⁷

³⁶ Taiwan National Library. (n.d.). *Medical and health history: Japanese colonial period*. Taiwan Memory Exhibition.

<https://tme.ncl.edu.tw/tw/%E9%86%AB%E7%99%82%E8%A1%9B%E7%94%9F%E6%AD%B7%E5%8F%B2%E7%AF%87#h2-5->

³⁷ Tera, M. (2019, May 12). *The bathroom of The Residence of Hsin Chih-Ping* [Photograph]. Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia.

<https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:%E8%BE%9B%E5%BF%97%E5%B9%B3%E6%A0%A1%E9%95%B7%E6%95%85%E5%B1%85%E9%A2%A8%E5%91%82.jpg>

● Tatami

Tatami is a very representative element in Japanese living space. You must enter the tatami room with clean bare feet, and you cannot even wear indoor shoes. Of course, this important element was also brought into Taiwan by the Japanese government. Tatami is susceptible to mildew and fleas. Usually, use a vacuum cleaner to keep it dry and avoid moisture. Tatami needs regular maintenance, and the entire tatami needs to be removed and re-maintained at a certain time.

The advantage of tatami is that it can be insulated, so it is very suitable for Japan's temperate zone. Nevertheless, even in the Japanese environment, it will be turned over in 2-3 years, and the surface must be replaced in 4-5 years. If used carefully, it can be used for 40-50 years. However, due to the humid weather in Taiwan, it has to be replaced once a year, which is very difficult to store.³⁸

For the above reasons, after the Japanese government left Taiwan, most of the tatami spaces were demolished and replaced with Japanese-style spaces with only wooden floors. Although tatami spaces are no longer common in Taiwan, in newly-built residential buildings, Japanese-style wooden floor spaces are often set up and separated by sliding doors. In such a Japanese-style space with wooden floors, you must take off your indoor shoes and enter barefoot. Therefore, the Japanese-style wooden floor space in Taiwan can be said to be a continuation of the tatami space.



Tatami room in Hehe-qingtian in Taiwan³⁹



Japanese-style wooden floor space in Taiwan⁴⁰

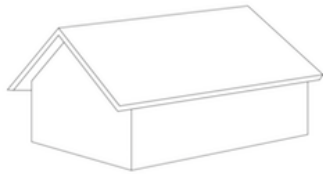
³⁸ Wu, Y. (2020, September 1). *How much do you know about tatami?* Vocus.
<https://vocus.cc/article/5b8e3a3dfd8978000151a892>

³⁹ Hsu, X. (2019, June 4). *Hehe-qingtian* [Photograph]. La Vie.
<https://www.wowlavie.com/article/ae1801164>

⁴⁰ Dwelling Design. (n.d.). *日式浴光宅* [Photograph]. Dwelling Design.
https://dwco.com.tw/portfolio_page/200604/

● Drainage design

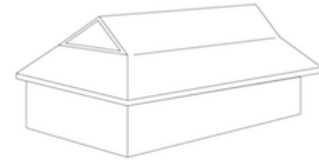
Japanese-style buildings are generally divided into three roof forms: “Suspension roof”, “Saddle roof” and “Hip roof”. Among them, “Suspension roof” is the most commonly used form of housing on the main island of Japan.



Suspension roof



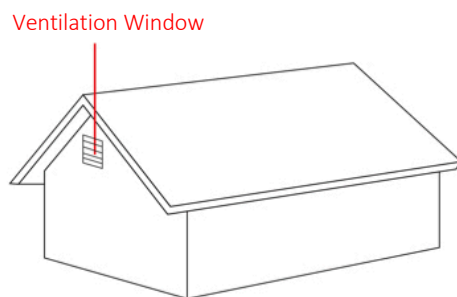
Hip roof



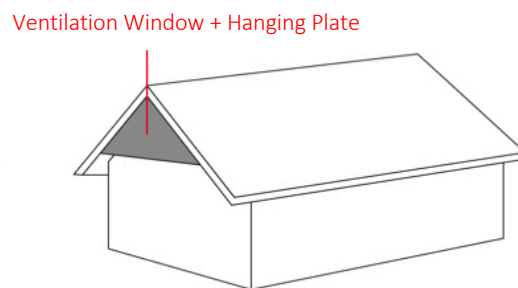
Saddle roof ⁴¹

The coastal zone of Taiwan has a rainy and strong wind climate. In order to achieve a good drainage effect, most houses use “Hip roofs” that can drain water in four directions, and the slope of the roof is relatively steep, allowing rainwater to drain faster. On the other hand, the inland of Taiwan has a hot and rainy climate. “Hip Roofs” were not used in the inland because although “Hip Roof” is good for drainage, it has the disadvantage of poor ventilation due to the inability to open skylights. Therefore, “Suspension roofs” and “Saddle roofs” were mainly used, and skylights are opened on the gable side to maintain ventilation. ⁴¹

In the form of Suspension roof, there is another difference between Japan and Taiwan: Taiwan's Suspension roof will add a hanging plate on the gable side to prevent rainwater from entering the room through the skylight.



In Japan



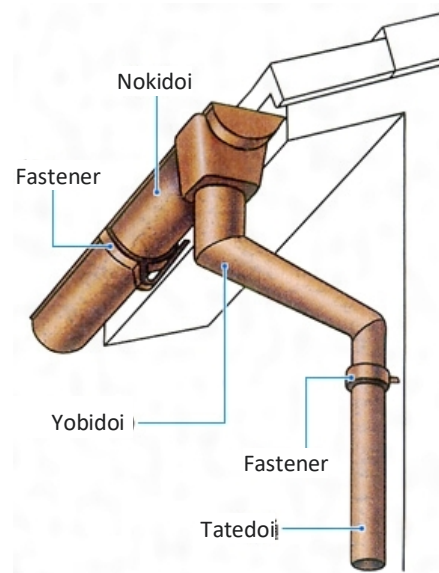
In Taiwan⁴¹

⁴¹ Mata Taiwan. (2020, March 25). *List of roof forms* [Illustration]. Spatial Native Language Foundation of Arts and Culture.

http://kjmu.org.tw/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/%E5%B1%8B%E7%93%A6%E9%A1%9E%E5%9E%8B_01_%E5%B7%A5%E4%BD%9C%E5%8D%80%E5%9F%9F-1-1024x261.png

Also, roof drainage pipes were installed to guide rainwater to the drain. This is a crucial design brought to Taiwan during the Japanese Occupation. In the "Taiwan House Construction Rules" promulgated by the Japanese government in 1900, it was clearly stipulated that the eaves of houses must have roof drainage pipes to guide rainwater to the drain.⁴²

This drainage design is called "toi" in Japanese and can be translated as gutter in English. "Toi" is mainly divided into three parts: "Nokidoi", "Tatedoi" and "Yobidoi". "Nokidoi" is a gutter set at the eaves, and the pipe is cut in half to receive rainwater. "Tatedoi" is an upright downspout that guides rainwater to the ground, and the number of installations will be determined according to the local rainfall. "Yobidoi" is the downpipe connecting "Nokidoi" and "Tatedoi".⁴³ This kind of drainage design introduced by the Japanese government has been used until now in Taiwan, and it is undoubtedly an exemplary method for roof drainage in rainy Taiwan.



Roof drainage pipes system⁴⁴

● Cement Material

Cement was the most crucial building material newly introduced to Taiwan during the Japanese Occupation. In the early days of the Japanese Occupation, the cement needed for major projects in Taiwan was imported from Japan. Later, the Japanese government decided to set up a cement factory in Taiwan because Japan's cement production was insufficient to supply Taiwan's demand and the import and transportation costs were high. The first modern cement factory in Taiwan was established in 1917 in Kaohsiung, which is rich in limestone. It was called "Asano Cement Co., Ltd.". Finally, the cement produced in Taiwan was also exported to Japan, China and various parts of Southeast Asia.⁴⁵

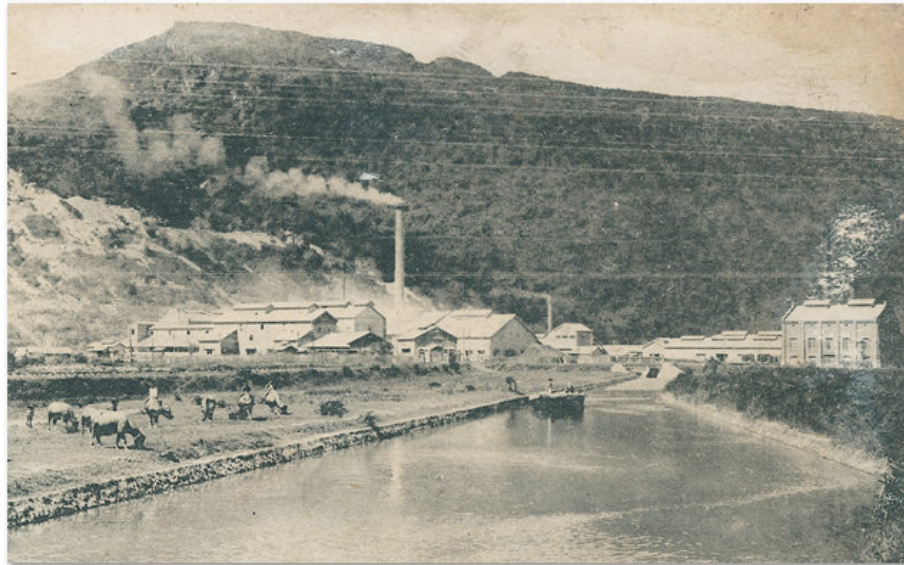
⁴² Institute of Environment and Art, Nanhua University. (2004, December). *Changes in the functions and characteristics of Taiwan's urban detailed planning legal system from the Japanese occupation to the postwar period Migration (1895–1973s)*. <http://nhuir.nhu.edu.tw/retrieve/9868/922415H343004.pdf>

⁴³ Wu Y.-Y. (2018). *Graphic Taiwan Japanese-style residential buildings*. Morning Star Publishing Inc.

⁴⁴ AOKI, TAKASHI. (n.d.). *Outer gutter of wooden building* [Illustration]. VOYAGE MARKETING, Inc. <https://kotobank.jp/image/dictionary/nipponica/media/81306024009519.jpg>

⁴⁵ Chen Y.-J. (2016, December). *The foundation of Kaohsiung's modern industry! Taiwan's first modern cement factory - Asano Cement Co., Ltd.* TLife. <http://foritech-tlife.cloudapp.net/archives/1118>

In the early days of Japan's colonization of Taiwan, Japanese-style houses used wood as the primary structural material. However, soon the Japanese government discovered that the wood was decayed due to a lot of termite damage. So they invited zoologist Oshima Masamitsu to study how to deal with the disaster caused by termites. Oshima Masamitsu developed the "termite-proof concrete" after research, and its ratio is cement: sand=1:3.⁴⁶ This type of concrete has also been used in Taiwan today and is one of the most critical building materials.



Asano Cement Co., Ltd. Factory⁴⁷

● Conclusion

The residential building elements listed above are all closely related to the lives of the people of Taiwan. If you don't think deeply about the origin of these elements, I believe that most Taiwanese who have not experienced the Japanese colonial period will not find that these elements were originally introduced to Taiwan by the Japanese. Perhaps the Japanese government that introduced these architectural elements at that time was just for temporary convenience. However, these elements quietly took root in Taiwan and even transformed into a new look. This is definitely a symbol of the Japanese inadvertently using Japanese-style houses to change the self-identity of Taiwanese.

⁴⁶ Wu Y.-Y. (2018). *Graphic Taiwan Japanese-style residential buildings*. Morning Star Publishing Inc.

⁴⁷ Kaohsiung City Museum of History. (n.d.). *Asano Cement Co., Ltd. Factory* [Photograph]. <https://blog.xuite.net/linchunsheng/lincs/21675545>

Conclusion

The colonists will always plunder something in the colonized land and leave something behind. The looted may be more practical things such as natural materials or human resources. However, more abstract things are left behind, such as the colonists' culture and wisdom or the tragic memories of conflicts during the colonial process. There are two main reasons for the stronger emotional connection between Japan and Taiwan. First, the colonization has lasted for 50 years; Second, the Japanese government regarded Taiwan as an extension of its own territory and tried its best to assimilate Taiwanese into Japanese. Therefore, the Japanese government has left a lot of abstract heritage in Taiwan, and some have even changed the living habits and self-identity of the Taiwanese people.

At the beginning of this paper, the research shows how Japanese buildings were introduced to Taiwan by the Japanese government. Also explained the reasons and background for these buildings to be widely constructed: The Japanese enthusiasm for the first colony and Taiwanese people long for their lives to be improved. The following analysis of the five types of Japanese-style houses in Taiwan allows us to understand the changes and ambitions of the Japanese government's policy towards colonizing Taiwan, and then to know the reasons why these houses can gradually change the self-identity of the Han Chinese and the aborigines in Taiwan. Finally, five Japanese-style residential elements that have affected the living habits of the people of Taiwan are cited, proving that the colonial government can indeed use buildings, especially residential buildings, silently changing the self-identity and life patterns of the colonized.

Architecture seems to be just a place for people to move around or a container for people, but it is not that simple. After all, the environment will affect the ideas and development of a person, a group, or even a country. What is more, the houses where people spend most of their lives every day must be the type of buildings that carry people's most mental and physical memories. From the third and fourth chapters of this article, it can be found that Japanese-style houses have indeed had a significant impact on the future residential buildings and living habits in Taiwan, which may have been unexpected by the Japanese government at the time. This is precisely the result that colonial culture will inevitably produce to the colonized country.

After Japan withdrew from Taiwan, these Japanese-style houses gradually became uninhabited and faced the fate of being dilapidated and demolished. It was

not until 2000 that the Japanese-style house preservation movement began to develop. The critical thing about Japanese-style houses is that these living habits during the Japanese rule have brought Taiwanese people an entirely different living experience from other countries. Many of them have even influenced Taiwan's modern housing culture in a subtle way. Although many conflicts and misunderstandings occurred during colonization and being colonized, historical criticism and preservation of historical exhibits are two different things. We should carefully preserve and restore these precious historic buildings because they are important records that shape our lives and our self-identity now.

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