

## A Bay Area Artisan with a Green Attitude

### Ahead of the curve

If “Think Globally, Act Locally” is a strategy for combating global warming, it’s a concept that’s been in the artisan’s tool kit for a long time. Reusing, recycling, and repurposing are the cherished methods of Vince Meyer, owner of Table Asia Gallery in San Francisco.

Meyer’s global sights are set on the elegant woodwork originally found in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Japanese buildings. For over twenty years, Meyer has been acquiring and repurposing these vintage Japanese wood transom panels (*ranma*), along with antique doors, windows, and screens, into elegant tables. The tables are set in custom metalwork bases of Meyers’ own design and are finished with glass.

“The ranma is a piece of art,” he says. “I want people to focus on the artistry within the table. At the same time, the *ranma* is made ‘re-usable’ and functional.”

In a sense, Meyer has had a green business all along. In addition to the repurposed woodwork, the steel base plays no havoc with the environment.

“Steel is the most recycled material on earth,” he says. “The powder coating I use is a baked-on finish. There are no solvents and so no out-gassing. In addition, no trees have been cut down for a hundred years, and it’s all assembled locally.”

It's always nice when a trend catches up with an already committed practitioner.

### Table Asia Gallery: Showcasing ranma through Artful Reuse

Meyer began transforming vintage *ranma* and other Japanese architectural gems into unique consoles, coffee, side and dining tables in his home studio in San Francisco’s Lake District. The demand for his tables grew through word-of-mouth. Later, his work was made available through many of San Francisco’s leading purveyors of antique Japanese furniture.

Today, Vince Meyer displays his work at his own boutique, Table Asia Gallery, near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. The gallery, in a quiet residential neighborhood, is a perfect tribute to the serene strength of the Japanese aesthetic and to the creations displayed inside. Table Asia Gallery itself is an example of Meyer’s passion for repurposing. Meyer designed and oversaw the conversion of what was originally a corner grocery store into a showcase for these treasures that are Japanese in origin and spirit.

Meyer has a degree in Environmental Design from the University of California at Berkeley. His pieces can be found in homes, offices, and hotels throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, and New York, and in collections around the world, including Japan.

Meyer’s work is available from Table Asia Gallery, 1101 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. (415) 750-9955. [www.tableasia.com](http://www.tableasia.com).