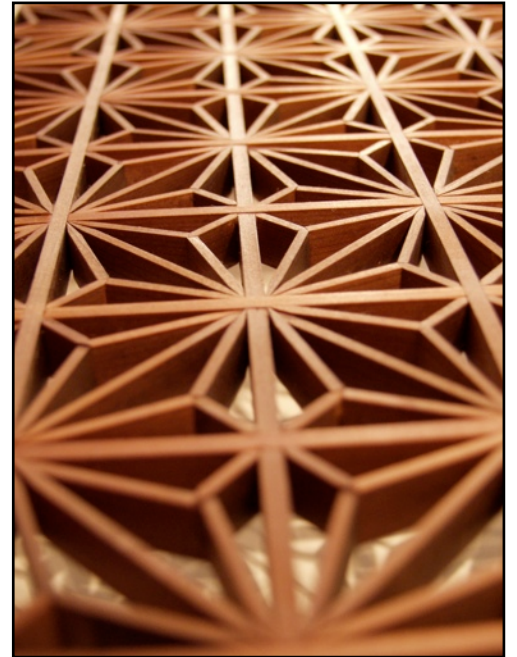
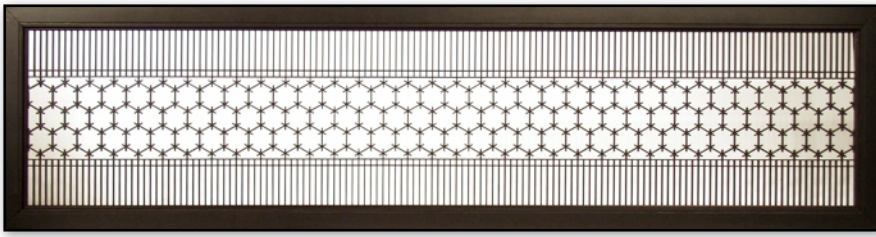


TABLE ASIA GALLERY - JAPANESE WOOD PANELS



Ranma - Transom Panels

Ranma (transom panels) have been used in Japan to artistically fill the wall space between the top of sliding doors and the ceiling for over a thousand years. They were introduced in the Heian Period (9th to 12th centuries) and placed above doorways to allow light and air to pass between interior rooms when the *shoji* or *fusuma* doors were closed. *Ranma* are used in all traditional Japanese buildings: homes, temples, public buildings, and palaces. Most of our *ranma* are from the late Meiji through Taisho periods (1890s through 1920s). Each of these authentic antique or vintage panels was constructed without the use of glue or nails.

Ranma can be categorized in three ways:

- ❖ geometric- slatted wood designs with endless variations
- ❖ organic- wood sections of trees
- ❖ carved- three dimensional pictorial scenes

Woods used in these fine Japanese antiques:

- ❖ *Hinoki* (Japanese Cypress) *Chamaecyparis obtusa*. Used for the perimeter frame.
- ❖ *Sugi* (Japanese Cedar) *Cryptomeria japonica*. Most typically used in the carved panel.
- ❖ *Kiri* (Paulownia) *Paulownia Tomentosa*. Sometimes used for flat panels within the frame.
- ❖ *Keyaki* (Japanese Zelkova) *Zelkova serrata*. Very rare. Sometimes seen as burl wood panels.

We take great pride in evoking the spiritual essence of Japan by giving *ranma* new life. The intrinsic beauty of these unique Japanese wood creations has the inspiration for Table Asia Gallery since 1984.

