

Chadō: The way of tea



Contemporary travelling tea set, from left to right: acrylic capsule, silk tea caddy bag, plastic whisk case, glass tea bowl, bamboo whisk, glass tea scoop, silk cloth, glass cloth container, glass tea caddy, glass sweet container, crocheted sweet container bag, and silk tea scoop satchel.

Mariko MORI 森 万里子
Japanese 1967–
Tea capsule ティー カプセル
2003 Japan
translucent synthetic polymer resin, glass, silk, bamboo, ed. 36/50 (a-k) 21.5 x 17.0 cm diameter (overall)
Purchased with funds donated by Joan Clemenger, 2010 (2010.2.a-q)
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UCHIDA Shigeru 内田 繁
Japanese 1943–
Mountain retreat tea house (Chashitsu sankyo 茶室「山居」)
2002 (designed), 2010 (made) Japan
polyurethane on stained Oak (*Quercus sp.*) (Nara) and Ash (*Fraxinus sp.*), bamboo, straw
231.0 x 284.6 x 284.6 cm
Purchased with funds donated by Pauline Gandel, 2010 (2010.287)
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The influence of tea ceremony on contemporary art, craft and design

Many contemporary cutting-edge artists and designers are also influenced by the tea ceremony. The Tokyo designer Shigeru Uchida, who reinterprets Japanese historical design philosophies for modern-day living, is the creator of modern tea houses made from wood and bamboo lattice walls. They include aspects of traditional tea houses in the form of straw matting (*tatami*), an entrance alcove to hang calligraphy and a hearth (*ro*) to heat water for tea. Uchida's tea houses are designed to be simple, beautiful objects in the spirit of Zen, as well as functioning tea houses that allow guests to relax in a contemplative, intermit space.

Tea can be seen as a practice of the past, the present and the future, whose essence can be found in the contemporary art of Mariko Mori. Mori, who most notably was selected to represent Japan at the 2005 Venice Biennale, uses tea and its transcendental nature as an important element in her artwork. Her futuristic *Tea capsule* (travelling tea set), with parts made from opal glass, frosted resins, silk and bamboo can be all packed into the large capsule container, wrapped in a silk cloth and taken with us on our next picnic to the countryside, or perhaps even on our next intergalactic journey to the future.