ABSTRACT

In the metropolitan world we live in, the importance of culture and tradition has frequently taken a back seat due to technological progress. The resulting architecture from such a technology often mimics a lack of concern by an over-emphasis on technological prowess, innovation and wealth. It becomes all too common to see 'high-tech' looking buildings in countries that can afford to, and desire to reflect their status. They, however, usually lose their identity in the process.

In contrast, Japanese architecture has managed to maintain a high degree of intrigue. There is an incomparable diversity that has proven to be both visually exciting and contemporary, yet there is usually something fundamentally different about it.

It seems that the difference is culture and tradition. This paper attempts to study and elucidate the link between the traditional Japanese architecture, and its contemporary counterpart. It will identify certain traditional design traits that been renewed and readapted for contemporary use. More importantly, the paper will try to discover why such traditions still remain extremely relevant in Japan today.