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Elements of Japanese Design

Boye Lafayette De Mente
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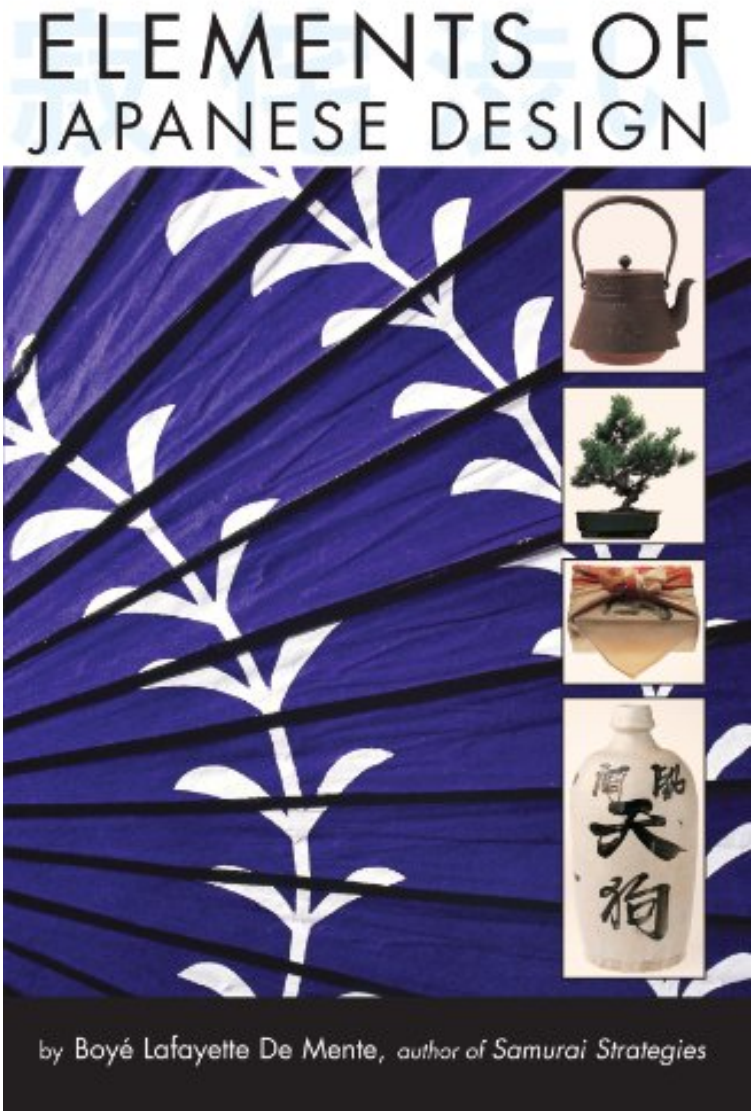

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Boye Lafayette De Mente : Elements of Japanese Design before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elements of Japanese Design:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. too generalized to contain real informationBy A readerI had really high hopes for this book, thinking it would truly explain Japanese design, instead it is a collection of superficially explained keywords. The articles are short, but you can convey a lot of information even in two pages if you choose to. The author decided after a translation of the Japanese keyword, to wander of into general statments, that leave the feeling of having been served cotton candy instead of the ordered steak. There are no references for further reading

and one source I was able to track down in the article on kimono was an old tourist library pamphlet from 1947, hardly an authorative text on kimono.I'm giving the book two stars because it is a nice collection of keywords to understand Japanese design, but if you truly want to understand the elements you will have to use these keywords to do your own research. I tried this approach for one of the keywords and found more helpful information on Wikipedia than in the book. I'm simply going to use this book as a springboard to do my own research.Very disappointing!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked this book for its simple clarity in describing some ...By Katie KarnsI liked this book for its simple clarity in describing some profound ideas and their expression in design, from bamboo to tatami to swords, from wabi-sabi to manga. Each short chapter explores a design element in the context of tradition, nature, spirit, energy, emotion, mindset, and product.I had already read it and bought this copy for my son.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Concise and well-written presentation of key elements of Japanese design and philosophyBy TanzerVery interesting, helpful, concise and educational. Easy to read and absorb.

Learn the elements of the timeless beauty that is Japanese design in this concise reference volume.Japanese design is known throughout the world for its beauty, its simplicity, and its blending of traditional and contemporary effects. This succinct guide describes the influence and importance of 65 key elements that make up Japanese design, detailing their originsmdash;and their impact on fields ranging from architecture and interior design to consumer products and high fashion.Learn, for example, how the wabi sabi style that's so popular today developed from the lifestyle choices made by monks a thousand years ago. And how unexpected influencesmdash;like tatami (straw mats) or seijaku (silence)mdash;have contributed to contemporary Japanese design.Elements of Japanese Design offers new insights into the historical and cultural developments at the root of this now international aesthetic movement. From wa (harmony) to kaizen (continuous improvement), from mushin (the empty mind) to mujo (incompleteness), you'll discover how these elements have combined and evolved into a powerful design paradigm that has changed the way the world looks, thinks and acts.Chapters include:Washi, Paper with CharacterIkebana, Growing Flowers in a VaseBukkyo, The Impact of BuddhismShibui, Eliminating the UnessentialKawaii, The Incredibly "Cute" SyndromeKatana, Swords with Spirit

About the AuthorBoye Lafayette De Mente has been involved with Japan, China, and Korea since the late 1940s as a member of a U.S. intelligence agency, student, trade journalist, editor, and author working out of Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, and Singapore. He is a graduate of Jochi University in Tokyo and The American Institute for Foreign Trade (now Thunderbird: The School of Global Management). His 70-plus books include Japan's Cultural Code Words, Business Guide to Japan, and Japan Unmasked.