

Fabulous Fans

Welcome to #MuseumMake - a fun craft activity inspired by The Powell-Cotton Museum. Today we are looking at Japanese fans. The folding fan has been around for 1200 years.

You will need: a folded paper fan and colouring pens

We bought a ready made fan but you can make your own folded fan from a piece of paper.

How to make a folded fan

1. Take a piece of paper. Start at one end of the paper. Fold a one inch crease, and follow that by another one inch crease in the opposite direction. Repeat this until the entire paper is folded.

2. Take one end of the folded paper and pinch it together. This will leave the other end open. Just fan out this end.

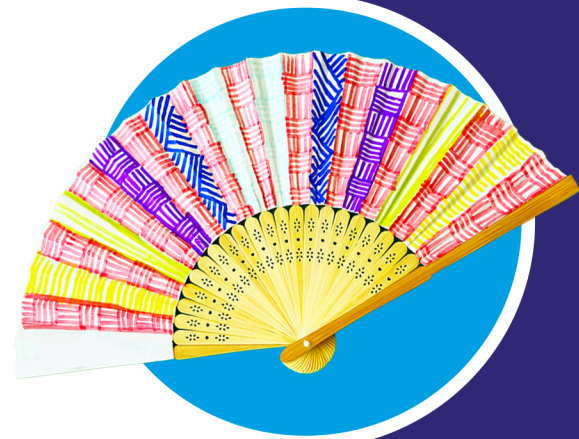
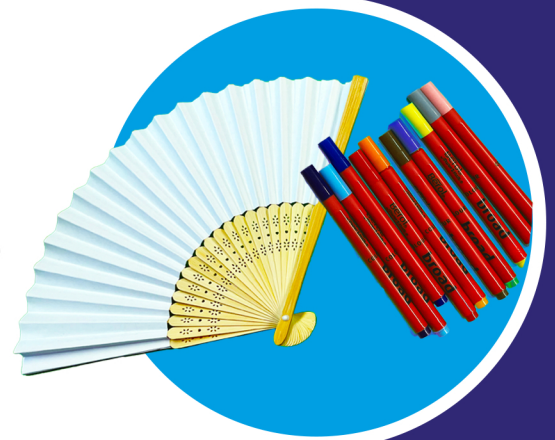
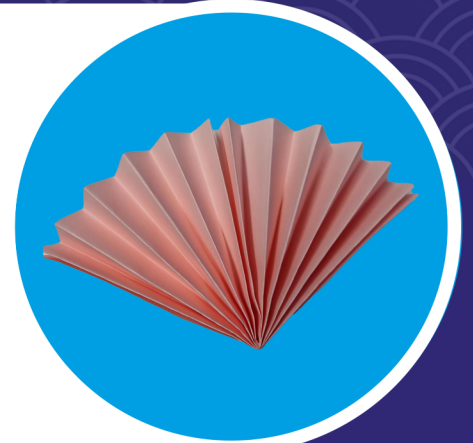
How to decorate your fan

1. Choose your pattern from the help sheet .

2. Take a blank piece of paper and have a go at designing your fabulous fan.

3. When you are happy with your design draw it on to your fabulous fan.

4. Give your fan a wave.



Pattern Decider

Not sure what pattern to create?
Choose a design from some traditional Japanese
patterns below.

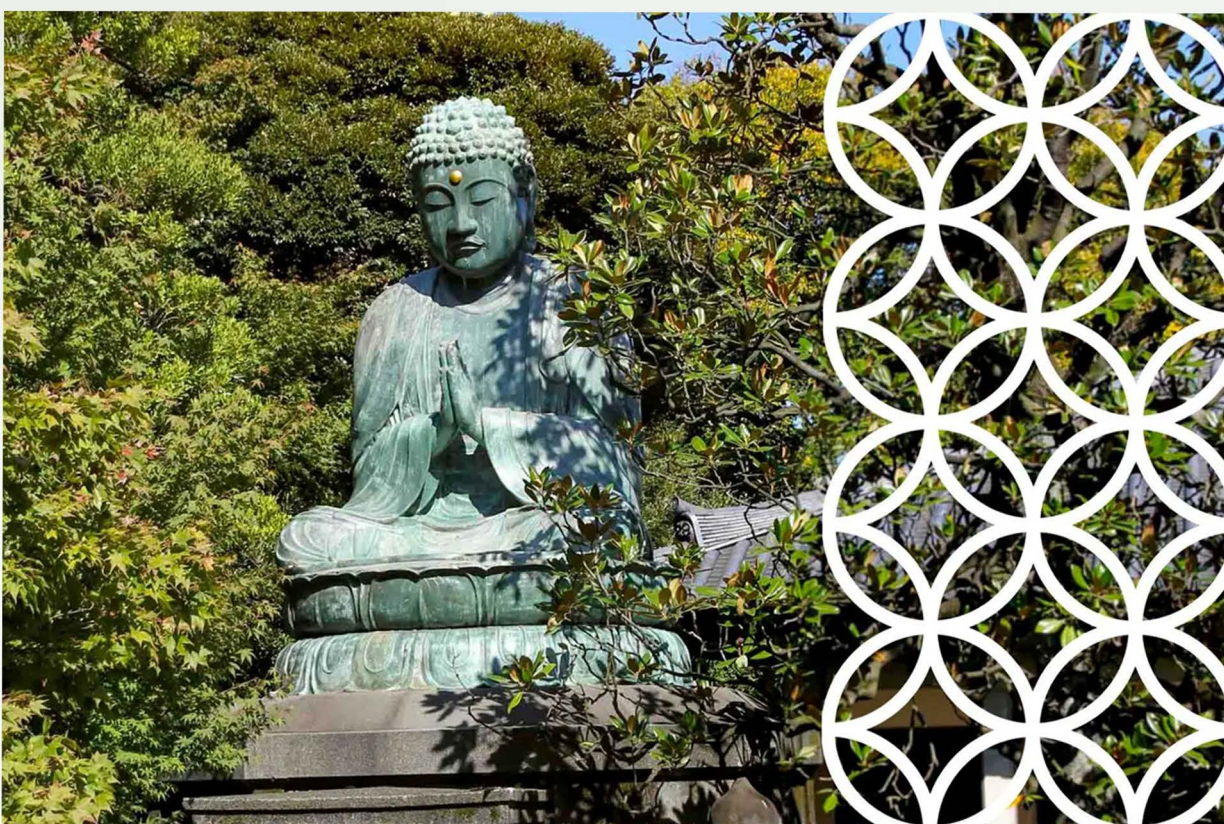


Uroko

Uroko meaning “scales”, is a pattern of alternating dark and light triangles.

The scales are thought to have a protective quality when symbolizing a dragon on a kimono or obi.

The design is also used in theatre to represent a snake in the costumes of villains.



Shippou

Shippou is a pattern of interlocking circles.

It's based on the seven Treasures of Buddhism: gold, silver, lapis lazuli, agate, seashell, amber and coral which each represent a quality Buddhists strive to uphold.

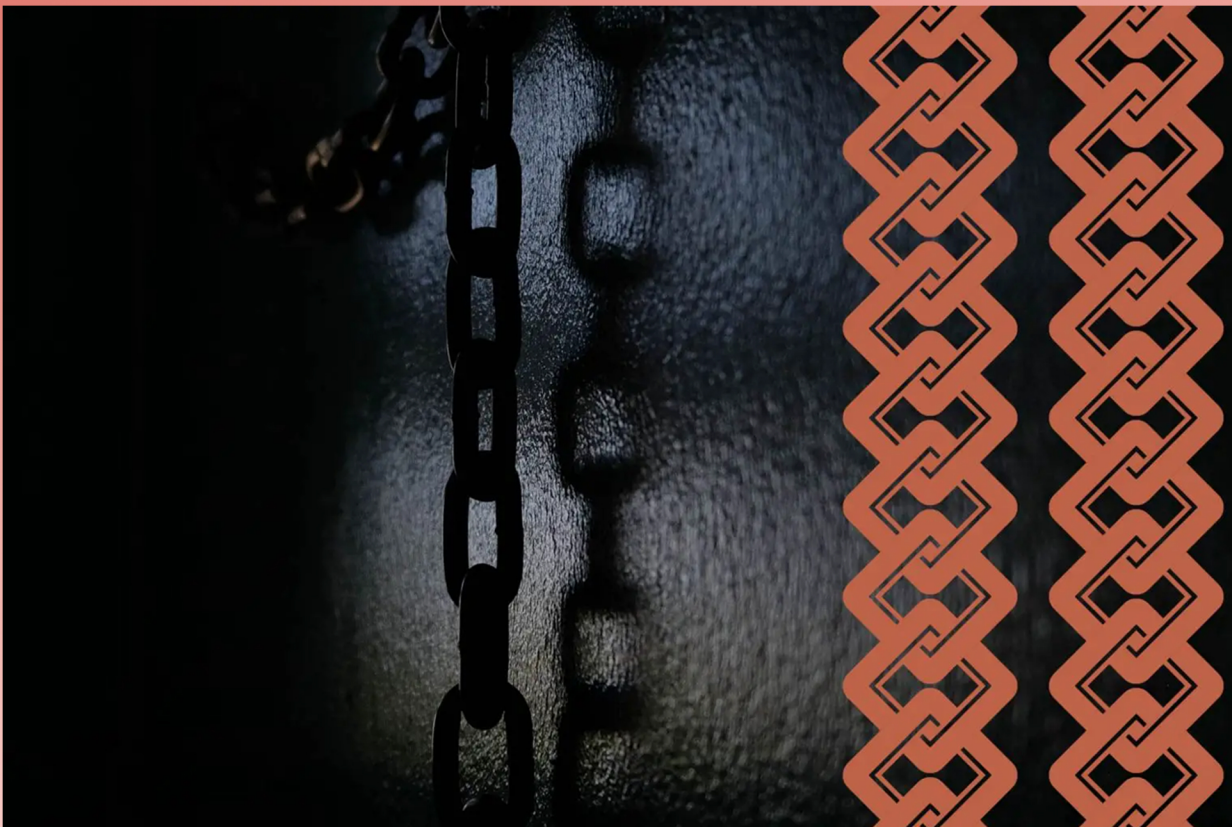
The pattern is sometimes adorned with other motifs such as flowers.



Ichimatsu

Ichimatsu is a simple check or plaid design named after an 18th-century kabuki actor who wore the pattern.

Since these traditional designs emerged, many more have followed. Today, designers will blend modern motifs with traditional patterns to create new Wagara. Here are some other commonly seen patterns that appeared over time.



Shima

Shima simply means “stripe.” A variation of the pattern is Yoshiwara Shima, vertical stripes or chains formed by interlinking diamonds. Yoshiwara is the name of the Tokyo red-light district during the Edo Period (early 17th century).

Back then the chains were probably more symbolic of the life of a courtesan in Yoshiwara rather than their wealthy clients who wore the design. Now the chains are thought to represent the links of a community and the pattern is good luck.



Yagasuri

Yagasuri or Yabane is an arrow design that is strongly associated with the Japanese saying that an arrow fired, never returns.

The pattern is often worn at weddings as a symbol of good luck and at graduations to represent unwavering determination.

Arrow-shaped charms are sold at shrines around New Year to repel bad fortune.



San Kuzushi

San Kuzushi or Sannojikuzushi is a crosshatch pattern made up of alternating horizontal and vertical sets of three lines.

These lines come from the character san 三 (often added to a name as a mark of respect).

The design is another basketweave derivation and is commonly used in architecture.



Tatewaku

Tatewaku is a design of vertical waves that resemble the rising of steam, thought to be favourable. The pattern was likely adapted from similar Chinese designs and has also been compared to mist rising off waterways in the spring.

The meaning of Tatewaku is “rising above” circumstances. During its infancy in the Heian period, the design required advanced techniques to create and therefore was only worn by those who could afford it.



Hishi

Hishi is the abbreviation of hishimon and is a diamond design that symbolizes prosperity.

The pattern is inspired by the leaves of the water chestnut, an aquatic plant that exhibits high productivity.

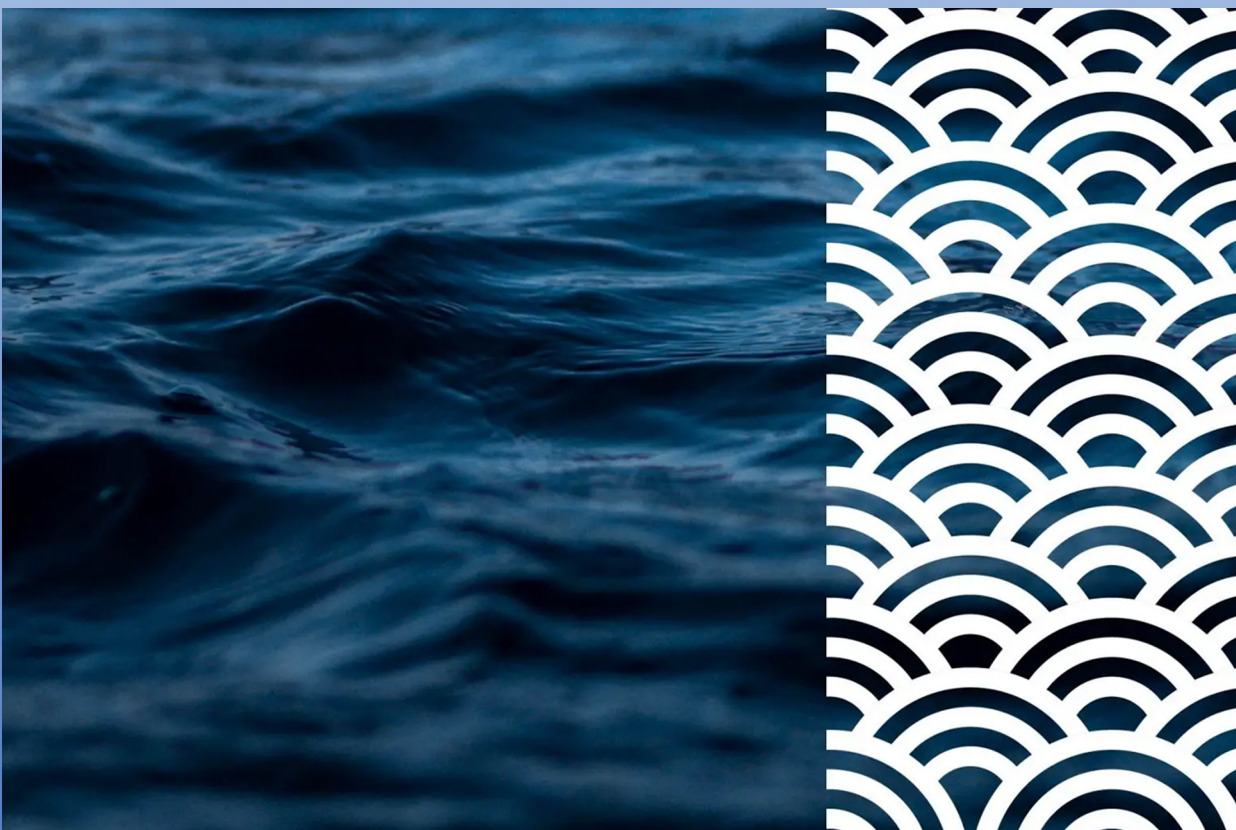
The design can be seen in many different variations including construction where roof beams or lattice cross to form the repeating diamond shapes.



Kikkou

Kikkou is a tortoiseshell design that represents intellect and long life. Kikkou began as a Chinese motif that was adapted by the Japanese during the Heian Period (794 – 1185) when it was used in the decoration and dress of the imperial court.

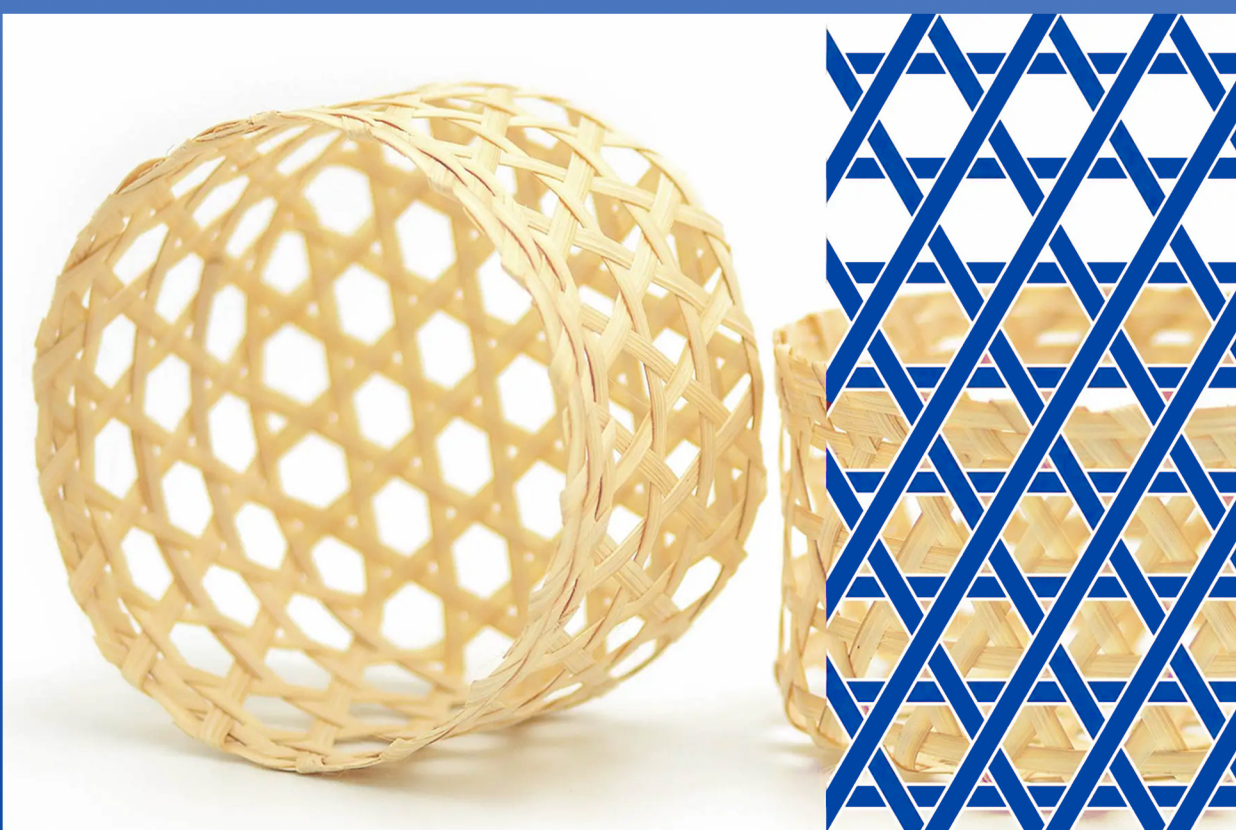
The hexagonal pattern was later used in warrior kimono, weapons and armour. Kikkou's auspiciousness comes from its association with "tsurukame" (crane and tortoise motif) – a symbol of longevity.



Seigaiha

Seigaiha translates to "blue ocean waves" and is a geometric design representing water. It is formed using overlapping circles to form a series of arches or scales. The Japanese pattern was historically used to depict the sea on Chinese maps.

Versions of this pattern also appeared in other ancient civilisations such as Egypt and Persia. In Japan, the pattern symbolizes peace and good luck.



Kagome

Kagome is a hexagonal design inspired by a traditional bamboo basket weave. This Wagara is thought to ward off evil.

Kagome crest, a star shaped symbol related to the lattice design and present in many Shinto shrines.