



Almost every year, I go to photograph the Tokyo Quilt Festival. It is held in January, at the Tokyo Dome baseball stadium.

About 250,000 people attend the show over one week.

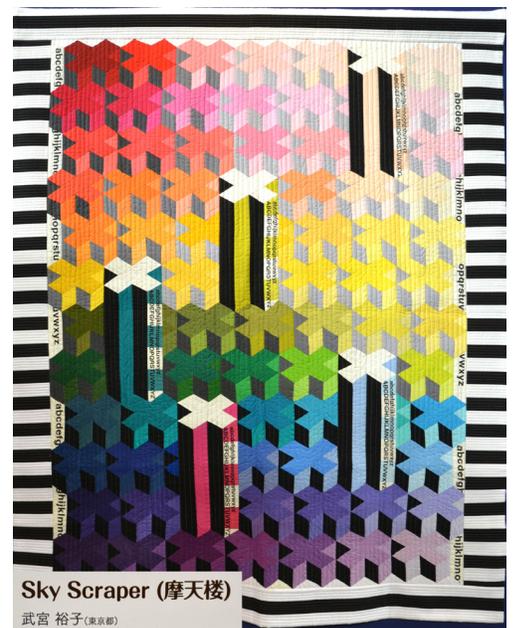
If you have gone to the Houston Quilt Festival, the Japanese quilts probably caught your eye. They are meticulously made by hand, with fine hand-applique and hand-quilt-stitching, and sometimes even pieced by hand.

Over the last few years I have noted that there is more and more machine quilting in Japan, and the Japanese quilters are exploring the possibilities of machine stitching, much as quilters did here in the US 10 or 20 years ago. Handwork has been the strength of quilting in Japan, so what does this mean in terms of quilt trends in Japan?



踊る三角

大野 恵子 (千葉県)



Sky Scraper (摩天楼)

武宮 裕子 (東京都)



The traditionally simple and spare Japanese design aesthetic has a lot of similarity with the Modern Quilt design aesthetic. One branch of Japanese quilting tradition uses traditional patterns, geometric designs, and recycles vintage clothing (Kimonos) to cut up and piece into quilts.

Also, there has been a recent trend of using natural linen and washed denim or chambray in Modern Quilts, which is a tight parallel with traditional fabric choices in Japanese quilts.



ABOUT LUANA RUBIN

Luana Rubin is the co-owner of eQuilter.com, and has worked as a designer in the quilt, textile and garment industries since 1980. She is a licensed designer for Robert Kaufman Fabrics, and a Bernina Ambassador. She is also a chairholder in the Color Marketing Group, an international color forecasting association. eQuilter donates 2% of sales to charity, and they have raised \$1.4 million for a variety of organizations. Over 12,000 donated comfort quilts have been received at eQuilter from customers, and these are distributed around the world for disaster relief, orphans, and medical patients.

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