

## TAILORED GENKAN

One day a client got stunned at my word "what about a house without Genkan?" He was afraid that he might have to sneak into his own house through a window like a burglar. I suggested omitting a formal entrance called "Genkan," not the simple front-door or entryway, but he took it as Genkan. "Would you find it difficult to live without Genkan?" he answered to my question in an oddly passive way, "No... if we have a place to take our shoes off at least."

It seems that we start to see what we really want beyond our stereotypical idea about Genkan. Many Genkan look similar, depersonalized and anonymous, despite the common belief that they are the "faces" of the houses. Aren't you trapped by dogma such as "Genkan should be like this and that." We can come up with a more fun, liberated and unique entryway, if we try with a clean slate. This is not only the case for Genkan, but also for the whole house. Why don't you reimagine your own housing?

Genkan is more than a place just to enter, exit or take off shoes. It might serve as an umbrella stand in rain, a hold for the elderly trying to stand up or wear and take off their shoes, or an inhibitor of the kids dirt. Agarigamachi might look obsolete in the times when people no longer welcomes a guest a by making a respectful bow with three fingers of each hand on the floor. Ever-glaring lights for those kids coming home late, can be replaced with a programmable timer lights.

You can make your own unique Genkan, according to your lifestyle and personality. The richness of the inhabitants will be reflected on the architectural face, Genkan, and comfort the visitors.