

## ⑦ INCOHERENT LIVING ROOM

Showrooms or gravure magazines always show us dining and living rooms kept clean, as in our dream home. However, when we visit a house where people actually lives, the dining table is usually too messy with scattered things to place a flower base or a tea set.

A living room usually has the largest space in the house, but it is often choked by a lounge set or a kotatsu. Looking at these consequences makes us wonder how dining and living rooms should exist.

As a matter of fact, they used to be the places where a family gather to eat, drink and chat. Then the western style with chairs was incorporated, but in winter people dragged again kotatsu they couldn't forget into the now-westernized living room. Western-style rooms are usually furnished with chairs, so it would be awkward and incoherent with sit-on-the-floor style. If you value kotatsu living, what about living room with tatami flooring? It definitely fits sit-on-the-floor or roll-around-the-floor style, but you must make an effort to level the eyes of those on chairs and of those on tatami floor in the case of a living-dining room.

A big dining table can work as a common place for family members to do their own chores or home works, but might cause distant relationships. Imagine and compare the case that you share a small table with other strangers, and the case you share a huge one. We share a dining table at our house, made of *Aphananthe aspera* and with 70cm-width and 210-length, and sit close to each other when dining. In summer, the table is transformed with longer legs to fit western chair style, and with shorter legs to adjust to sit-on-the floor style.

Rather than bothering to be swayed by advertising images, you might want to be creative with living and dining rooms of your own style based on the living context.