

Explaining Japanese architecture

Choose one term from below. Explain it so that someone who knows nothing about Japan would understand. Your partner will listen and ask questions and/ or add more explanation.

- “2LDK”
- Akachochin
- Amado
- Amido
- “Apart”/ Apaato
- Bonsai
- Butsudan
- Byoubu
- Chabudai
- Chashitsu
- Fusuma
- Futon
- Genkan
- Getabako
- “Heights”
- Hibachi
- Hoshounin
- Ikebana
- Kamidana
- Koban
- Kotatsu
- Kura
- “Live house”
- Machiya
- “Manshon”
- Minka
- Onsen
- Oshiire
- Reikin
- Ryokan
- Sentou
- Shichirin
- Shouji
- Tansu
- Tatami
- Tokonoma
- Torii
- “Unit bath”
- UR
- Washitsu
- “Washlette”
- Youshitsu
- Zabuton

Match these definitions to the words on the previous page.

- A cheap, wooden, usually two-storey, apartment building, and the apartments in it.
- A combined toilet and bidet.
- A gate to a Shinto shrine with a distinctive double curved top, usually red painted wood but sometimes made of concrete or even metal.
- A guarantor, meaning someone who will promises to pay your rent if you cannot.
- A Japanese cottage, often thatched.
- A Japanese-style hotel or inn where people sleep on the tatami floor on futon mattresses.
- A Japanese-style sliding window made from small panels of translucent waxed paper.
- A Buddhist household shrine, usually with photos of your ancestors. You leave offerings of food and light joss sticks and candles there.
- A lobby area in a Japanese home just inside the door where shoes are taken off and put on, usually at a lower level than the rest of the house.
- A paper lantern, usually red, and also the kind of small local bar where this is usually hung outside.
- A police box, a kind of very small local police station.
- A small or medium-sized live music venue.
- A small table used while sitting on the floor.
- A traditional storehouse, which was fireproofed to keep things safely in.
- A wooden chest used to store things such as kimono.
- An alcove in a traditional Japanese-style room such as a tearoom, where a hanging scroll and a flower arrangement is usually put.
- Net screens, used to keep out insects such as mosquitoes.
- Rush matting, used as flooring in a traditional Japanese room.
- Sliding screens, used instead of a door and wall.
- The name literally means “wind wall”. They are Japanese folding screens made from several joined panels bearing decorative painting and calligraphy, used to separate interiors and enclose private spaces.
- Japanese-style flower arranging, with a name literally translated as “living flowers”.
- Traditional Kyoto-style wooden terraced houses.
- Two bedrooms and a combined, open-plan living room, dining room and kitchen.

Underline useful language for explaining above and see if you can add any more details.

Compete to write the best descriptions of other things, including details like:

- colour(s)
- decoration
- history
- literal meaning/ word-for-word translation
- materials
- parts/ construction
- position/ place
- shape(s)
- size(s)/ dimensions
- uses/ actions/ movements/ functions