

# Japanese Textiles

The term “textiles” refers to the woven materials used in apparel and interior décor. Since ancient times, progressive developments in textile and fiber technologies have given birth to a vast range of textile cultures around the globe.

In Japan, the spinning and weaving industries were core sectors that propelled Japan’s modernization and growth. The Tomioka Silk Mill—established in 1872 as Japan’s first full-fledged silk-reeling factory—contributed to the country’s modernization as well as the silk industry’s technological innovation and dissemination, and was registered as a World Heritage site in 2014. It is well known that Britain’s Industrial Revolution took off with advancements in spinning machinery, and Japan was no exception: industrialist Sakichi Toyoda developed Japan’s first automatic power loom, ushering in a new era for textile machinery. Further advancements in this technology led to the automotive industry and what is known today as the Toyota Motor Corporation.

Japan’s textile culture has undergone numerous transitions; today, it is a fusion of traditionally hand-dyed work and cutting-edge production and weaving technologies that give Japanese textiles a unique sensibility and value all their own. In this issue, we delve into the fascinating wonders of Japanese cloth.

