

LIVING HERITAGE

Japanese buildings designated as national treasures and important cultural properties are not merely prized relics of the near or distant past, they are vulnerable, often organic structures, lovingly maintained by skilled craftsmen, custodian managers and ordinary people alike, including the visitors who pay for their upkeep.

In this issue we visit a variety of such buildings and look at the ways in which the properties have been and continue to be protected, preserved, lived in and enjoyed.

Photo: Tadashi Aizawa