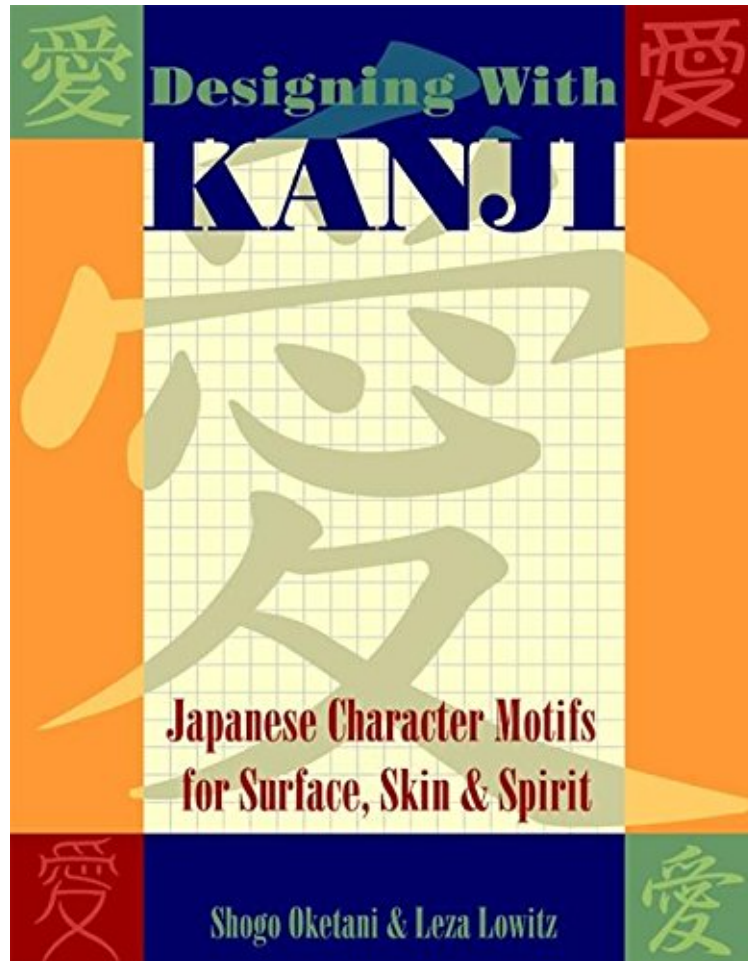


# Designing with Kanji: Japanese Character Motifs for Surface, Skin Spirit

Shogo Oketani, Leza Lowitz  
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**Shogo Oketani, Leza Lowitz : Designing with Kanji: Japanese Character Motifs for Surface, Skin Spirit** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Designing with Kanji: Japanese Character Motifs for Surface, Skin Spirit:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent format and descriptions By Antonio Sobalvarro I have been an admirer for Oriental Culture, and willing to understand Chinese and Japanese writing. This book is an excellent source which explains a lot of Kanji symbols, and has several notes about interesting facts about it. I recommend it to all people looking to introduce themselves into this enigmatic and wonderful language. Antonio Sobalvarro 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic resource By L. A. Kane Easy to read, follow, and use right away. Shows formal, modern, flowing, and stylish character sets. Describes the root, meaning, and nature of common Japanese words and phrases. The calligraphy is excellent. I only wish it was longer and more encompassing. Among

other things I use this book as a supplement to Write Your Name in Kanji text by Nobuo Sato to write the characters more elegantly. Lawrence Kane Author of Surviving Armed Assaults, The Way of Kata, and Martial Arts Instruction 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Stroke of Genius! By Donna Mendelsohn How lucky I was this holiday season to have received Designing with Kanji: Japanese Character Motifs for Surface, Skin and Spirit by Shogo Oketani and Leza Lowitz. From the beautiful cover to the exquisitely illustrated text Stonebridge Press has done it again! Oketani and Lowitz have taken an art form that is little understood in the United States and have made it accessible. I have always been drawn to "Asian things" in my home from artifacts to flower arranging, and the Kanji calligraphy and historical background helped me clarify my fascination with the genre. I had no idea there were other Kanji fonts such as modern and stylish for instance. I particularly appreciated the poetic description of each illustrated Kanji and the little Kanji Facts interspersed throughout the book. I have no tattoos and am not expecting to get any in the near future however, this book is for anyone wishing to understand the Japanese "character".

Japanese kanji characters combine meaning with beauty and thus offer a unique medium for artistic expression. But if you don't know the language, how do you find characters that say what you want and are not just a "kanji cliché"? You can start here. This attractive book has over one hundred thirty kanji presented in a simple format for easy use. For example: Post the kanji for kenshin on a mirror to remind you of your "devotion" to your studies. Embroider bussho on a meditation cushion to help you reflect on "Buddha nature." Tattoo the name Zatoichi on your upper arm as homage to your favorite blind swordsman hero. Show your "love" with a card decorated by ai. Pick from Warrior, Heart, Nature, and Spirit categories to find the characters that express your sentiments best. Each entry includes historical or etymological background, often with unusual "kanji facts." Then trace, photocopy, or even stencil the clear letterforms displayed in several different kanji "fonts" to get just the effect you want. Included is an introduction to kanji, writing tips, and a special supplement on Zodiac kanji (great for birthdays!). "People are always fascinated by different cultures, and we continue to be awed by the wonderful ways in which East and West have mingled in culture, lifestyle, design, art, and aesthetics. We hope this book will enrich your own experience of kanji in art and design and help you bring your creative gifts to bear in fresh, new ways." from the Authors Introduction Shogo Oketani and Leza Lowitz are writers and translators who live in the San Francisco Bay area.

"Designing with Kanji is an ode to the Eastern typographic element, a clip-art book and a short but focused history of the Japanese language itself. Tattoo artists, designers and those in need of selected 'spiritual ideograms' will enjoy this book." Northwest Asian Weekly, December 27, 2003 About the Author Leza Lowitz is an award-winning writer and translator, and Director of Sun and Moon Yoga Studio in Tokyo.