

(Get free) Minka: My Farmhouse in Japan

Minka: My Farmhouse in Japan

John Roderick

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1116696 in Books 2015-06-30 2015-06-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .63 x 6.00l, .80 #File Name: 1616894512256 pages | File size: 79.Mb

John Roderick : Minka: My Farmhouse in Japan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Minka: My Farmhouse in Japan:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book!By Jesse E. AdamsIn July 2012 Spiritual Cinema Circle marketed a short 15 minute film called "Minka." I was glued to this movie, and after watching it a second time, I cried. When I found out that John Roderick had written a book about minkas, I had to have it! The book shed more light on the relationship between John and Yochan. The movie and the book both complement each other. If you read this book and you find it inspiring or interesting, I recommend the DVD as well. I may not ever read the book again,

but because it so reverberated with my soul, I doubt if I ever get rid of it. Just seeing this book on my bookshelf gives me comfort. I, like John, am an older Caucasian male, and I also have been in a relationship with an Asian male 16 years my junior. This book and movie have given me much validation to my relationship with my friend. My conclusion is that John and Yochan were not a gay couple, but their deep friendship was based on love of the purest kind. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A glimpse into another culture
By Karen C
The book is subtitled "My Farmhouse in Japan" but it's not really a book about a house. I would say that the house is a thread through 40 or 50 years of John Roderick's life, but the book is about several things - moving and reassembling the house, for sure, but also Roderick's career as a journalist, learning about Japanese life and culture, building relationships with Yochan and his family, understanding convoluted Japanese bureaucracy, and other themes too. John Roderick was referred to as a VCW (Veteran China Watcher) and I read this book because I am an Amateur Japan Watcher. I've lived in Japan, visited Gifu and other places Roderick mentioned, and visited houses like his minka (in historic villages - not ones that anybody was actually living in!). What a unique home to create, a modern living space in a traditional Japanese house. Imagine having to design living space in the attic which formerly housed the silk worms! What an adventure Roderick lived in his minka. It's a great story and I recommend it. (I read the Kindle version.) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. an autobiography of the author, not really about architecture
By archfan
I was very eager to read the creative process about converting a minka into a modern home and the pictures that accompany the restoration. This is published by Princeton Arch Press. This is a book that is more of a memoir of life in Japan and an autobiography of the author and his companion living in the minka in Japan. Nothing wrong with that, if you are expecting to read about the author's time spent in Japan and his autobiography. I was expecting more of a book on minka architecture with emphasis on restoration with full colour pictures rather than having the restoration be in the background of the storytelling. No offense to John Roderick who has passed away, just expected something else.

In 1959 journalist John Roderick joined the Tokyo bureau of the Associated Press. There, he befriended a Japanese family, the Takishitas. After musing offhandedly that he would like to one day have his own house in Japan, the family unbeknownst to John set out to grant his wish. They found Roderick a 250-year-old minka, or hand-built farmhouse, with a thatched roof and held together entirely by wooden pegs and joinery. It was about to be washed away by flooding and was being offered for only fourteen dollars. Roderick graciously bought the house, but was privately dismayed at the prospect of living in this enormous old relic lacking heating, bathing, plumbing, and proper kitchen facilities. So the minka was dismantled and stored, where Roderick secretly hoped it would stay, as it did for several years. But Roderick's reverence for natural materials and his appreciation of traditional Japanese and Shinto craftsmanship eventually got the better of him. Before long a team of experienced carpenters were hoisting massive beams, laying wide wooden floors, and attaching the split-bamboo ceiling. In just forty days they rebuilt the house on a hill overlooking Kamakura, the ancient capital of Japan. Working together, they renovated the farmhouse, adding features such as floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors and a modern kitchen, bath, and toilet. From these humble beginnings, Roderick's minka has become internationally known and has hosted such luminaries as President George H. W. Bush, and Senator Hillary Clinton. John Roderick's architectural memoir "Minka" tells the compelling and often poignant story of how one man fell in love with the people, culture, and ancient building traditions of Japan, and reminds us all about the importance of craftsmanship and the meaning of place and home in the process.

Fifty years ago, journalist John Roderick bought a small farmhouse in Japan for \$14, then had the whole thing dismantled and put into storage. Minka tells the story of that house's reassembly, its visit by a U.S. president, and Roderick's often-amusing struggles to bridge the cultural divide. -- Dwell, April 2008
The book, published in Roderick's 10th decade of life, is also a testament to the possible joys of longevity. It celebrates a life well lived and is an accomplishment that serves as an inspiration for anyone entering advanced age with fear there may be no more of a life's story worth telling. -- Associated Press, February 1, 2008
About the Author
John Roderick was an Associated Press foreign correspondent in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East for almost forty years. He lives part of the year in Hawaii and part of the year in his minka in Kamakura, Japan.