

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
INTRODUCTION	1
The Japanese House?	1
Ethnographies of the Home: Anthropology of the Everyday	4
Japanese Pioneers in the Study of Domestic Material Culture	5
The Fieldwork Setting: 'Japan Is not Tokyo'	8
The Participants: Family, Class and Homeownership	15
Material Methodologies: There Is More to Understanding than Meaning	18
Other Ways of Telling	21
Synopsis of Chapters	24
<i>Spread 1: Thirty Homes in the Kansai Region</i>	12
I FEELING AT HOME	27
'A Happy Family Together'	27
From Tatami-based to Chair-based Living	29
The Post-war 'LDK Home'	31
Bathing and Belonging	38
Tatami Mats: Multifunctionality and Nostalgia	41
Japanese and Western styles	43
A Home-like Atmosphere	46
Conclusion: Affectionate Ties	47
<i>Spread 2: The Choreography of Domestic Slippers</i>	50
2 HOME AND THE COMMUNITY	53
Gates, Fences and Walls	53
'We Would Rather Have a Nice English Garden'	56

	'Everyone Needs a Garage'	57
	Between the Window and the Hallway	60
	Red Buckets and Neighbourhood Cooperation	63
	Local Communities of Limited Liability	69
	Conclusion: Homes Inside Out	74
	<i>Spread 3: Street Gardens</i>	76
	<i>Spread 4: Wifely Duties and Neighbourhood Surveillance</i>	78
3	DOMESTIC SPIRITUALITY	81
	Bonds with the Ancestors	81
	The Duty of Care of the Eldest Son	83
	Domestic Cycles of 'Annual Events'	83
	God Shelves and Auspiciousness	86
	Zodiac Animals and the Temporality of Luck	91
	Tensions between the Generations	94
	New Family Models and Female Rebels	95
	Conclusion: Threats to the Spiritual Defence System?	98
	<i>Spread 5: Religion as Action</i>	102
4	TATAMI TASTES	105
	From Male to Female Domestic Taste	105
	Full-time and Part-time Housewives	107
	A National Domestic Taste?	108
	Eclectic Alcoves	112
	'New Is Just Better': Traditional and Modern Aesthetics	113
	Male Minimalist Design	114
	An Overall Aesthetic Scheme	117
	'We Have "A Son in a Box"'	120
	Male Domestic Stereotypes: 'Japanese Fathers Have No Holidays'	122
	Do-it-yourself	124
	Conclusion: Humour and Gender Stereotypes	125
	<i>Spread 6: Contemporary Alcoves</i>	128
5	STUFF AND STORAGE	131
	The Ideology of Tidiness	131
	Storehouse Living: Circulation Versus Accumulation	133
	Storage Strategies	134
	Furniture Walls: Storage and Display	139
	Dowries and Furniture Provisioning	142
	Starter Homes	143

	Life Cycle Rupture Points: 'If I Had a House Like a Castle, I Would Take Everything'	146
	Conclusion: Conduits and Containers, Circulation and Accumulation	149
	<i>Spread 7: Women and Their Kimonos</i>	152
	<i>Spread 8: Rebuilding the Family Home</i>	154
6	TROUBLESOME THINGS	157
	Domestic Disarray?	158
	Souvenir Cabinets: Objects Frozen in Time and Space	161
	The Tyranny of Ornaments	164
	Commemorative, Decorative Gifts and Unique Relationships	165
	Ephemeral Gifts and the Renewal of Value	170
	Surplus, Divestment and Informal Sociality	172
	Conclusion: Possibilities and Constraints of Japanese Gift Exchange	174
	<i>Spread 9: The Dolls' Festival</i>	178
	<i>Spread 10: Recycling Domestic Goods</i>	180
	CONCLUSIONS: FRICTIONS, GAPS AND BLOCKAGES	183
	Domestic Frictions: Between Duty and Desire	183
	Slippages between People and Things: Material Culture and the Messiness of Everyday Life	186
	State Interference, Religious Interventions, and the Creative Possibilities of Constraints	188
	The House: A Model for Studying 'Common Constraints across Diverse Cultural Environments'	192
	GLOSSARY: JAPANESE VOCABULARY	197
	NOTES	201
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	215
	FIGURES	227
	SUSAN ANDREWS'S PHOTOGRAPHS	231
	INDEX	235