

B L E N D



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
TEAM MEMBER & PHILOSOPHY	2
TEAM LOGO	3
OUR FAMILY	4
CULTURE BACKGROUND	6
SHINTO	7
BUDDHISM	10
DESIGN OUTCOME	11
FACADE OF BACK WALL	11
GARDEN	16
CURTAIN	18
BIBLIOGRAPHY	20

*Our design will blends the culture of Japanese and Australian to give them a kind of emotional satisfaction in this strange country, helping them adapt to new life.*

## TEAM MEMBERS

## TEAM PHILOSOPHY

Jingwen Chen (Graphic Designer)  
Jingxue Luo (Product Designer)  
Sharvari Peshave (Architect)  
Wenhong Huang (Graphic Designer)  
Wenqian Liu (Architect)



B L E N D

## OUR FAMILY

This family will immigrate from Japan to Sydney due to father's work. They are facing many potential difficulties and challenges in the new environment, which the difference of language and culture is their biggest problem. Our project will help them adapt to this change.



**Yamashita Yoshiya  
(Father)**

Father, 40 years old, is a manager in a multinational online clothing company. He is calm and quiet, likes reading and fishing on weekends. He is used to drinking coffee at morning and drinking with colleagues after work to relieve work stress. Because of his work, his family needs to immigrate to Sydney. He can speak fluent English and has excellent work performance, but he needs to adapt to the differences in social culture between the East and the West.



**Yamashita Setsuko  
(Elder daughter)**

She is 17 years old and just graduated from high school. She is very close to his father and takes him as an example. She is introverted and likes drawing and reading. Although she has studied some English, it is not enough for a graduate degree, so she is applying for a language school. And she is worried that she will not be friends.



**Yamashita Erika  
(Mother)**

Mother, 38 years old, is a nurse at a local clinic. She is gentle and enthusiastic, likes to prepare meals for the family with her mother-in-law, decorating the garden and do ikebana in free time. She can speak some basic English and have a long working experience as a nurse. It is not too difficult for her to find a new job in Sydney, but she will not be involved in the work immediately, but will clean their new home and take care of the elderly and children who cannot adapt quickly to the new environment.



**Yamashita Yuiko  
(Young daughter)**

She is 10 years old, a primary school student, outgoing and a bit naughty. She likes watching cartoons and comic books, she is learning karate. She also has language problems, so she is also applying for a language school.



**Yamashita Yurina  
(Grandmother)**

Grandma, 65 years old with slight deafness and leg problems, but still optimistic and humorous, like cooking, knitting and watching drama. She is used to getting up early to walk around the house every morning and enjoys afternoon tea with friends. She also takes care of granddaughters when their parents are busy. When she comes to Sydney, the language barrier will be the biggest problem for her, she can not speak English at all, and no friends in this strange city. The home becomes the place where it may stay the longest.

## CULTURE BACKGRAOUD

Culture is an important system that influences human on the relationship, individual routines, worldview, beliefs...and so on. It is because of the difference of culture that contributes to the significant difference in individual reflective level (Donald Norman 2004). Therefore, understanding the cultural background of the client is necessary before design.

This is a new immigrant family from Japan, so we decide to choose Milsons Point as their new settle place in Sydney, which is a Japanese aggregation area that will provide them with a sense of intimacy. Their hometown is Nara, which also called as 'the capital of the temple', was an ancient capital of Japan from 710 AD to 794 AD ( Nara period ), located in the Kansai region.

It is easy to perceive from the epithet that one of the vital cultures in Nara is the religion. The religion in Japan is combining the idea from Shinto and Buddhism, which are Japan's two major religions. Unlike the western countries, the religion has a close connection with Japanese social and cultural values, it is a moral core, a way of living more than a doctrine. On the other hand, religion is rarely mentioned in common conservation and most of the Japanese do not worship frequently and declare to be religious. (Helen Hardacre 2017) But the majority of Japanese do partake in traditional practices, especially on important activities like celebrating a birth, marriage, or some important festivals.

Nara is an important center for Shintoist. As an indigenous spirituality, Shinto believes that every living in nature has kami, which means gods, and they were considered friendly to humans if satisfied human affairs, but if not, their wrath will result in natural disaster. In order to appease the kami, a great number of Shinto shrines are built to enshrine them.

Purity is the core of the Shinto faith, it determines the comprehend of good and evil (BBC 2009). Moreover, the purification stands for becoming one with the natural world (Riley Winters 2015). Thus, the pursue of pureness has infiltrated into Japanese spirit that lots of custom can be reviewed. For instance, everyone has to ensure cleanliness and pureness before entering the local shrine via a water place, and always take off shoes before entering a room. Furthermore, residents always seek support from Shinto by praying at home or by visiting shrines. A series of talismans are available in shrines for different supplication like safety, health, schoolwork, business...etc. Kasuga Grand Shrine is the most famous Shinto shrines in Nara, which is famous for the bronze lanterns and stone lanterns inside. These lanterns not only represent the other 3000 Kasuga shrines spread throughout Japan, but also a symbol of a guiding light. Residents believe that redemption from darkness will be efficacious if religiously following Shinto (Justin Velgus 2012).

There is an area of the Nara Park around Kasuga Shrine. Owing to a visit by one of the four gods of Kasuga Shrine, Takemikazuchi-no-mikoto, the deer are considered sacred, as the messengers of the gods. There is also a folklore that once sees a deer, the witness will be blessed with good luck. In retrospect, the indigenous villagers in Nara are practiced nature and ancestor worship for over 1000 years (Krista R. Burdine 2015).





Besides, harmony with nature is also an important value in Shintoism. Therefore, the residents are taught to live peacefully with nature from birth, having the utmost respect for those unrestrained city's protector. Because of the position of the deer and the coexist which extending back generations, the deer has permeated into every hole and corner in Nara's resident's life. From deer graffiti to restaurants serving the deer-shaped desserts to sculpture, flags, and other tributes to the deer (Tom Bricker 2017). The residents are highly proud of their abundant heritage as it pertains to deer, and regard the deer as a symbol of Nara.



Except for Shinto, Buddhism also plays an essential role in Nara, which as an origin place of Japan Buddhism. Buddhism came down to Japan from China through the Silk Road and began spread in 538 AD. While the Emperor Shomuto (724AD-756AD) promoted Buddhism by constructing temples and other religious buildings on a wide scale, he believed the power of Buddhism can save the country and eliminate social unrest of that time, which natural calamities and political changes and riots frequently occurred after the relocation of the capital to Nara (used name Heijo-kyo).

As soon, Buddhism can well coexist and complement with Shinto after a few initial conflicts. In addition, the Japanese people consider that birth is purity while death has impurity inclusion, hence Shinto practice goes through from the birth of life and Buddhism practice always in charge of the funeral. Nowadays, many households maintain a small niche for a statue of the Buddha in order to show their respect to the ancestors. Besides, there is plenty of Buddhist temple in Nara, and the Nanto Seven Great Temples is the most famous one, including Todaiji temple, one of the historical significant temples and landmark of Nara.

Zen Buddhism is one of the most crucial factions that affect Japanese culture and social life. Zen, which means meditation, focus on introspection to keep mental peace and tranquility as well as social harmony (Zen Buddhism). All Japanese art form like chado, ikebana, shodo, and martial art are influenced by the philosophy of Zen to great extent, as these arts are focused on calmness, simplicity, and self-growth, which is the spiritual discipline of Zen. It is the reason that Japanese has the ability to calmly withstand the greatest of natural calamities. On the other hand, Zen Buddhism enhance the respects of nature in Shintoism, it advocates not to manage or control nature but creates a profound spiritual bond with nature instead. To sum up, the combination idea of Shinto and Buddhism has involved in the forming of the spirit and social life of Nara residents.



## DESIGN OUTCOME

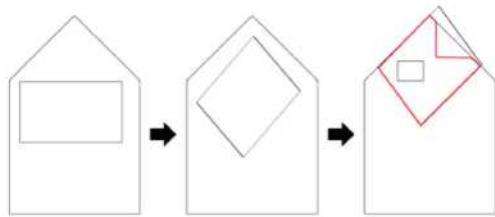
### FACADE OF BACK WALL

Japanese architecture has a long history, the early Japanese architectures were affected by traditional Chinese architectures, but also gradually developed into a unique style of Japan. The early architecture structure of Japan is similar to that of China, but the external color is not as bright as that of Chinese architectures. Japanese architectures have many simple colors, giving people a sense of delicate elegance. Early architecture in Japan sprang up in the temple of the Asuka period. In this period, the most Japanese buildings are concentrated in the southwest of Nara, which more than a dozen kilometers of turtledove area, including Falong Temple, Faqi Temple and Falun Temple (Covell, S. G., 2005). The traditional sloping roof of the temple has been still used today in Contemporary Japanese architectures.

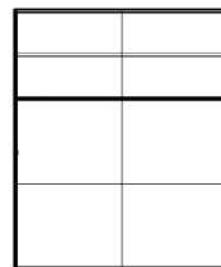
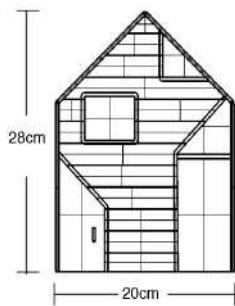
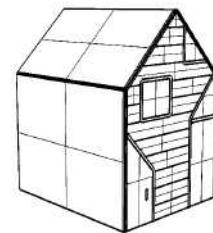
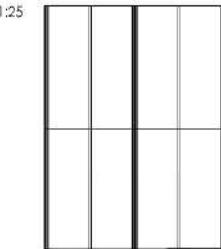


In addition, wooden structure is also a major feature of Japanese architecture. Japan is an earthquake-prone country (Mimura, N. et al., 2011). Because of its lightweight, wooden materials could prevent residents from being injured when collapsing. Furthermore, Nara was the first place where Buddhism was introduced to Japan, so the deers of Nara were regarded as the messenger of the gods. The Nara people believed that sika deer were the master of the place, and such animal was thought to bring good luck and happiness to human. It is said that the deer have lived here for thousands of years, so it is not human domesticating them, but they domesticate humans more appropriate (McCallum, D. F. et al., 1978). Nara has inherited the peace and quiet atmosphere of the temple and also has the general vivacious of the deer. I want to put these elements in the design.

Sydney Milsons point and Sydney Opera House locate at the two sides of the Parramatta River so this area has a great natural environment and cultural environment, which is suitable for the elderly to live here such as the grandma in this family who has poor healthy state. In addition, Sydney's houses are mostly tilted roofs with attics, which coincides with the Japanese style of housing. Therefore, the overall roof tilted would be used in facade design.



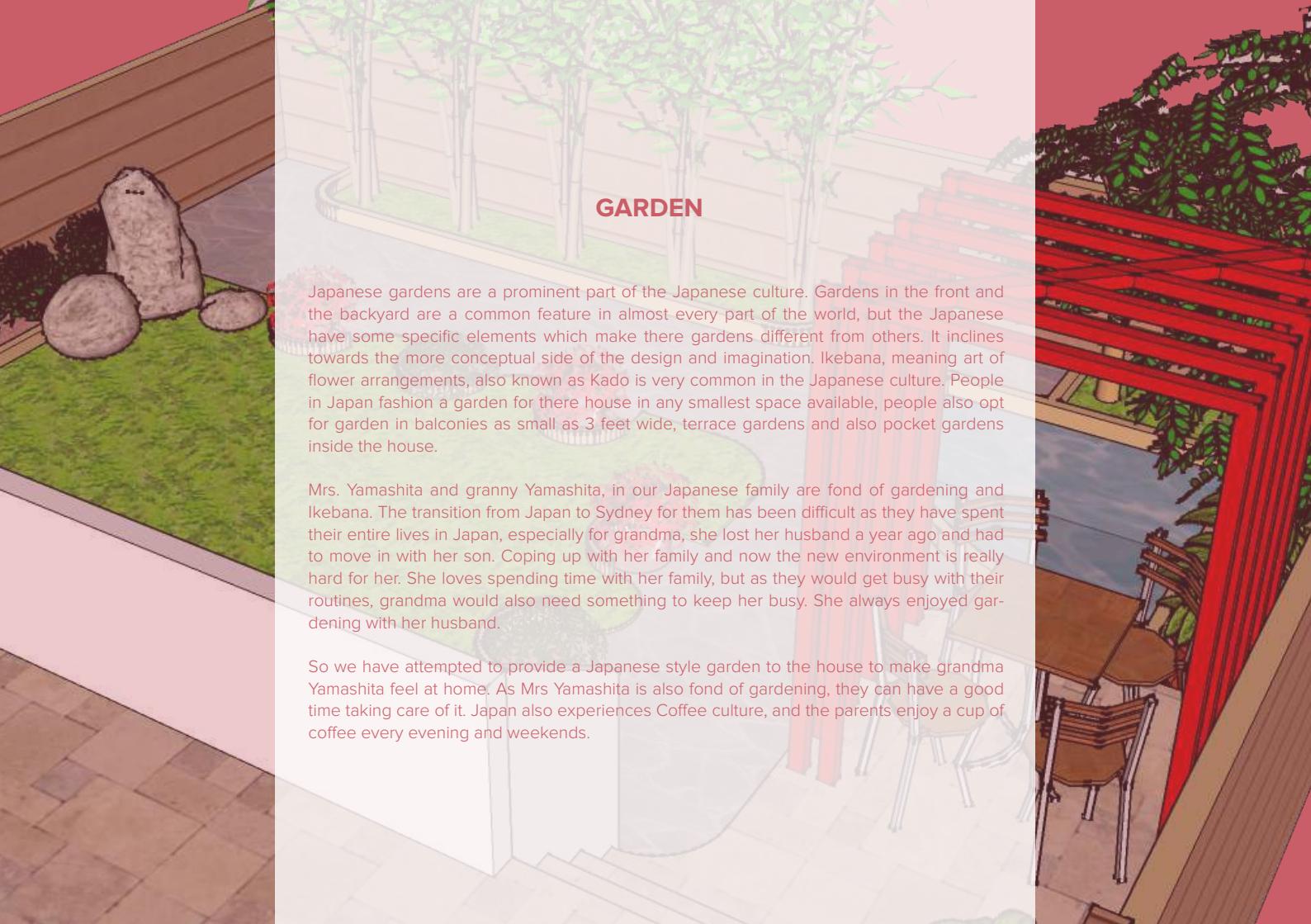
Scale: 1:25





Most of Sydney's houses are in front of the garden, so the back wall of the house is connected to the garden. We hope that family members can feel some elements of their homeland in the garden to ease their homesickness when they just moved out of Japan. Therefore, the design of the house's back wall is particularly important. Moreover, the youngest daughter's favorite animation is 'Princess Mononoke' created by Hayao Miyazaki the mythical Animals from this movie are based on the prototype deer of Nara (Mononoke, P. et al., 1997); the father and mother are devout Buddhists. Therefore the design of the back wall combines the vivacious of the deer with the quiet of the temple. Furthermore, in geometry, the square could give people a sense of calm and orderly (Saeed, A. et al., 2012), but tilt the square, it also gives people unexpected feeling. Therefore, I decided to use a tilted square to express the combination of quiet and lively. However, the simple square makes the structure too monotonous. After many attempts, a small window is opened in the upper right corner to make it look like deer's ears, and the middle window becomes the "eyes" which makes the whole layout more vivid. In addition, the materials used in the back wall are made of wood and glass commonly used in Japanese architectures. Because Australia is not a quake-prone area, the rest of the walls of the house still use the versatile cement of Australian architectures, which also symbolizes a cultural fusion.





## GARDEN

Japanese gardens are a prominent part of the Japanese culture. Gardens in the front and the backyard are a common feature in almost every part of the world, but the Japanese have some specific elements which make there gardens different from others. It inclines towards the more conceptual side of the design and imagination. Ikebana, meaning art of flower arrangements, also known as Kado is very common in the Japanese culture. People in Japan fashion a garden for there house in any smallest space available, people also opt for garden in balconies as small as 3 feet wide, terrace gardens and also pocket gardens inside the house.

Mrs. Yamashita and granny Yamashita, in our Japanese family are fond of gardening and Ikebana. The transition from Japan to Sydney for them has been difficult as they have spent their entire lives in Japan, especially for grandma, she lost her husband a year ago and had to move in with her son. Coping up with her family and now the new environment is really hard for her. She loves spending time with her family, but as they would get busy with their routines, grandma would also need something to keep her busy. She always enjoyed gardening with her husband.

So we have attempted to provide a Japanese style garden to the house to make grandma Yamashita feel at home. As Mrs Yamashita is also fond of gardening, they can have a good time taking care of it. Japan also experiences Coffee culture, and the parents enjoy a cup of coffee every evening and weekends.

Considering all the above factors, we have designed a garden which would blend the Sydney and Japanese style together. Without changing the house orientation or the planning of gardens, we can simply add the prominent features seen in a typical Japanese garden. The main elements consist of : 1. Rocks, which depict mountains, islands or waterfalls (depending on the type of garden i.e. dry or typical), 2. a Pond, which represents the sea, ocean or rivers and 3. Trees/shrubs which represent forests. Japanese gardens are all about creating natural sceneries around the house.

We have provided all the three features in the garden. For the family to enjoy a nice coffee or breakfast, a coffee table is been provided in the garden. Flowers are not very common in such gardens, so they are kept to a minimum. The coffee table is housed under pergolas, which are seen commonly in Japanese temple architecture.



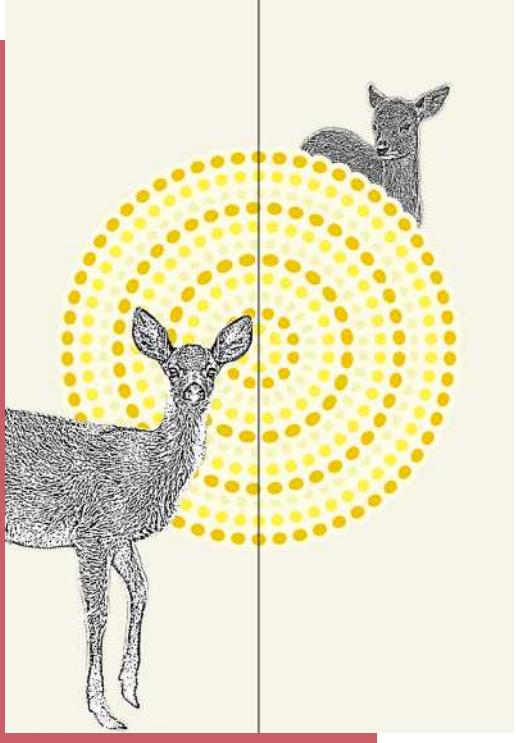
Curtain is a kind of accessory for the interior design, curtain generally follows the whole tone to set room design or become the finishing touch. Our house design focus on modern Australian style, then blend a little traditional Japanese style to give our family members a comfortable living environment. Therefore, the curtain design also is considered to refer to the principle.

The curtain style refers traditional Japanese design. It is originally used for the kitchen door. Our curtain design is made for the use on the window according to such this style.

We attempt to choose two main elements from Australian culture and Japanese culture. In addition, our family come from Nara, which is a quiet city near the Kyoto. Nara has a strong cultural background. It is famous for the Nara Park and deer in the park. In the local culture of Nara, deer represents luck, so using deer as a pattern put in the curtain design. The curtain could be used for window or door. Hope the design might help our residents meet the luck when they open the curtain every time.

Another element is golden wattle. The research shown the wattle is Australian national flower. Meanwhile, the color of wattle also helps us decide the main color of the curtain. Furthermore, put the flower pattern directly on the curtain seems to be a little boring, so switch to another interesting pattern as symbol would be better. Golden wattle has a round bud, tracing the basic round shape, then according to the feature of golden wattle to design the new pattern.





People live in Nara and Sydney like to be close to nature. They protect and believe in the deer, think them as the messenger of god. It reflects the relationship between the people of Nara and nature. Similarly, Australia people also respect the nature, and enjoy the gift of nature like sunshine, beach, animals and so on. Therefore, such the blending pattern will show the common characteristic for the two cultures.

Curtain is made from common cotton. It is inspired by the MUJI concept. As a famous Japanese brand, MUJI use their products to explain the unique philosophy "No brand quality goods" (MUJI Online 2018). They use raw materials to create a relatively comfortable feeling for the customers. As a result, choose original cotton and linen is tended to guide people do not forget the heart and focus on the nature of life.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

BBC, Purity in Shinto, accessed 27 August 2018, <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/shinto/beliefs/purity.shtml>>.

Beautiful Small Japanese Garden Designs, accessed 26 August 2018, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYzh6N1RoNM>>.

Bricker, T., (2017), The devious deer of Nara, Japan, accessed 26 August 2018, <<https://www.travelcaffeine.com/deer-nara-japan/>>

Burdine, KR 2015, Deer in Japan's Nara prefecture are meengers of the gods, accessed 26 August 2018, <<https://www.worldreligionnews.com/religion-news/deer-japans-nara-prefecture-messengers-gods>>.

Covell, S. G. (2005). Japanese Temple Buddhism: Worldliness in a Religion of Renunciation. University of Hawaii Press.

Documentary: Beautiful Japanese Gardens, accessed 25 August 2018,<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKpM132sE-Y>>.

Essential Element of Japanese Garden Design, accessed 25 August 2018, <<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/design/styles/elements-of-a-japanese-garden/>>.

Hardacre, H., 2016. Shinto, e-book, accessed 25 August 2018, <<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com.wwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190621711.001.0001/acprof-9780190621711-chapter-17>>.

Iichi, Japanese vase design, viewed on 17 August 2018, <<https://www.iichi.com/listing/item/823453>>.

Maruyama Mokkousyo, About, viewed on 17 August 2018, accessed 27 August 2018, <<https://www.maruyamamokkousyo.com/about>>

- McCallum, D. F., Paine, R. T., & Soper, A. (1978). The Art and Architecture of Japan.
- Mimura, N., Yasuhara, K., Kawagoe, S., Yokoki, H., & Kazama, S. (2011). Damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami-a quick report. *Mitigation and adaptation strategies for global change*, 16(7), 803-818.
- Mononoke, P., & Away, S. (1997). Hayao Miyazaki. Perf. Yōji Matsuda and Yuriko Ishida. Buena Vista.
- MUJI, Online 2018, accessed 27 August 2018, <<https://www.muji.eu/pages/about.asp?lan=uk&ShopSel=y&scrn=1280&wndw=1280&pt=29>>.
- Nara travelers Guide, accessed 27 August 2018, <<https://narashikanko.or.jp/en/>>.
- Norman, D. A. (2004). Emotional design: Why we love (or hate) everyday things. Basic Civitas Books.
- Saeed, A., Al-Hamadi, A., Niese, R., & Elzobi, M. (2012). Effective geometric features for human emotion recognition.
- Velgus J., (2012), The stone lanterns of Kasuga Shrine <<https://en.japantravel.com/nara/the-stone-lanterns-of-kasuga-shrine/3202>>.
- Winters, R., (2015), Purification as the Core of the Ancient Shinto Faith, accessed 27 August 2018, <<https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-ancient-traditions/purification-core-ancient-shinto-faith-003108>>.

## IMAGE

- Lawson, J., Image Reference, accessed 27 August 2018, <<https://eatspeakjl.blogspot.com/2014/06/kaisek-who.html>>.
- Nara Deer, (2016), digital photography, accessed 25 August 2018, <[https://www.instagram.com/p/BNmAzm6Dgw\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BNmAzm6Dgw_/)>.
- Williams, G., (2017), The golden wattle flag, accessed 27 August 2018, <<http://www.goldenwattleflag.com/why-the-wattle/>>.

