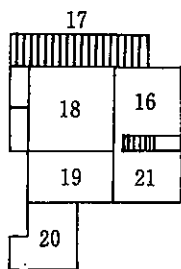


a money box with ink and brushes inside.

13 Office (private)

14 *Chashitsu* or a tea-ceremony room. A small lamp.

15 *Mizuya*, a room where preparations for tea-ceremony were made. A *sugoroku* or a kind of backgammon and a paper-covered lamp. The space under the stairs is used as drawers, a clever device to economize space.



THE SECOND FLOOR

16 A multi-purpose room. A round paper-covered lamp.

17 *Engawa* or verandah. The original wooden windows have been replaced by glass windows. A pot and a cabinet for account books.

18 *Zashiki* or a room for guests. On the *tokonoma* there is a *kakejiku* or a hanging

scroll of a map of the 18th century Kanazawa. Also *sake* kegs for ceremonies.

19 A multi-purpose room.

20 A living room. An old safe and a candlestick.

21 A multi-purpose room. A chest of drawers and a *sake* server.

ABOUT SAKE

Sake is traditional Japanese alcoholic drink made from rice. It is about 16 proof, wine being about 13 proof. There are a lot of local brands. The traditional way is to drink it warmed, but of late some brands are made for drinking cooled.

AN IMPORTANT
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野々市

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KITA-KE (KITA HOUSE)

A 200-YEAR-OLD
JAPANESE HOUSE AND SHOP
THE OLD HOME
OF THE KITA FAMILY

OPEN : EVERY DAY
9.00-17.00

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HISTORY

The Kitas were a *samurai* family in Fukui until 1685, when they became oil merchants and moved to Nonoichi near Kanazawa. Later in the middle of the 19th century they changed their trade, starting *sake* brewing. Since then they have been brewers of *sake* with the brand name of Shôjô. (Shôjô was an imaginary manlike animal in old China that liked *sake*.)

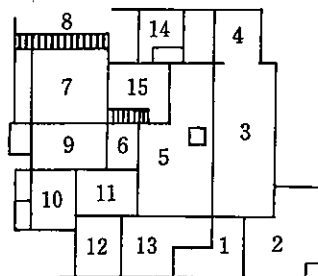
In a big fire in 1891 they had their house and shop burnt down, so they acquired a house in Kanazawa, having it moved to their place in Nonoichi. At that time it was already 100 years old and had belonged to rich soy sauce makers. It is built mainly with *keyaki* or zelkova, the best and most lasting wood. Most of the wooden parts in the house are lacquered. The whole house is built so strongly as to resist the weight of the snow in winter. The sections of Japan facing the Japan Sea are very snowy in winter, this region having a snowfall of two to five feet.

This is a typical house and shop for a rich merchant family, whose architectural style was completed in the Edo era. In 1971 the house was designated an Important National Cultural Property. In 1972 the family moved to their new house nearby and opened the old house to the public.

SHORT GUIDE

THE ROOMS AND PIECES OF FURNITURE EXHIBITED

THE FIRST FLOOR



- 1 The entrance hall. On the *noren* or a shop curtain on the shop front you will see their trademark. Over the door there are wooden buckets.
- 2 Kitchen (private)
- 3 Passage to the factory. In 4 there are *sake* crocks, lacquered

wooden *sake* kegs and a server for ceremonial occasions, a pot and a wheeled cabinet for money and important documents. The door leads to the factory (not shown).

5 *Oe* or a living room and drawing room. The family and their friends gathered around the fireplace and some of the business was carried on here. Above the fireplace you will see *jizai-kagi* or an adjustable kettle hanger. The central fire is surrounded with ash made from burnt charcoal. On the ash artistic patterns are drawn every morning by Mrs. Kita with an indented brass shovel.

The design on the *noren* in the doorways looks modern, but it is as old as the house itself. On the lintel behind the screen there are containers of paper lanterns, and on the floor *sake* kegs for ceremonial occasions.

Above, you will see impressive beams mechanically constructed to support the weight of snow.

6 A multi-purpose room. A chest of drawers and two lacquered water or *sake* jugs.

7 *Zashiki* or a room for guests.

8 Between *zashiki* and the garden there is a stone pavement, which is meant to provide space between the room and snow.

Here you can admire the beautiful garden planted with pines, an oak, azaleas, etc.

9 *Butsuma*, where *butsudan* or a richly gilded family Buddhist shrine used to be kept behind the folding paper doors. Their ancestors are enshrined in the *butsudan*, which is now in their new home.

10 A living room with a view of a small garden. A folding desk.

11 A multi-purpose room. A candlestick and a wheeled cabinet for important documents.

12 The room where the safe was kept and some of the business was carried on. A modern safe, *soroban* or abacuses, money box into which they put a day's profits, a writing desk, a medicine chest and