



# WASHI: STRENGTH, BEAUTY & ENDLESS POTENTIAL

Processed by hand from locally harvested gampi, mitsumata and/or paper mulberry wood fibers, *washi* is traditional Japanese paper that has more than withstood the test of time. *Wa* (Japanese) *shi* (paper) is not only stronger than conventional modern paper made from wood pulp, it is also intrinsically beautiful and, being supple, can be applied to a wide variety of applications both practical and artistic. In this month's issue of *Highlighting Japan*, we take a look at a few examples, old and new, which showcase *washi*'s strength and beauty, and hint at its endless potential. We also show how Japan's culture of paper extends beyond *washi* to include such things as the paper-cutting art of *kamikiri*, novelty teabags, and recyclable beds fit for the world's top athletes.