



FABULOUS FABRICS

Japan's age-old weaving and dyeing techniques have informed the development of a wide range of unique and evolving applications. The sophisticated techniques and richly decorative fabrics first used to make the robes worn in the imperial court are now used not only for kimono but also for interior furnishings and even as audio speakers. Meanwhile, elegant but durable *noren* still hang at the entrances to many of Japan's shops, and theaters continue to commission enormous handwoven *doncho* stage curtains in ever more ambitious patterns. As the *furoshiki* wrapping cloths of yore make a comeback in these environment-conscious times and the luxurious towels of Imabari become familiar products around the world, we take a look at these and more of the fabulous fabrics of Japan.

Photo: Courtesy of Yokoyama Isao