

Tanazushi, Tanazushi wall shelf

In the Shosoin of Todai-ji Temple, a wooden shelf is treasured, which is known as Tanazushi. It is the oldest extant piece of Japanese furniture, and the prototype for shelves in Japan. Crafted from solid cedar, the shelf is said to have been used to store instruments and other furnishing goods. The appearance of the shelf, assembled without nails from wooden parts through the wisdom of the craftsmen and the pared-down sensibilities of the Japanese people at a time when saws did not yet exist, conveys an imposing dignity despite the unaffected and simple construction.

This shelved stand references the structures of classical architecture, such as the Todai-ji and Yakushi-ji temples constructed 1300 years ago, and the Horyu-ji temple that is the world's oldest extant wooden structure. We decided to reproduce this shelved stand in the same size and structure as existed back then. With no detailed documentation left behind, we relied on limited literature and photographs and created the item while imagining what the artisans of the past would have thought as they crafted. Recreating this Tanazushi allowed us to make contact with the thoughts of woodworkers of long ago, and led to a renewed appreciation of the technical abilities and the aesthetics of ancient Japanese woodworking.



Tanazushi, Tanazushi wall shelf

TIME & STYLE



Tanazushi

C-031 shelf

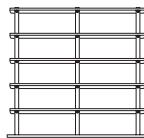
W2490×D668×H960



Tanazushi

C-032 shelf

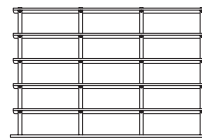
W2490×D668×H1405



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-041 shelf

W2490×D668×H2300



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-042 shelf

W3565×D668×H2300

W (width)
D (depth)
H (height)

Dimensions Unit: mm



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-043 shelf

W4639×D668×H2300



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-044 shelf

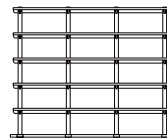
W2900×D668×H1410



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-045 shelf

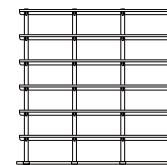
W2900×D668×H1855



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-046 shelf

W2900×D668×H2300



Tanazushi wall shelf

C-047 shelf

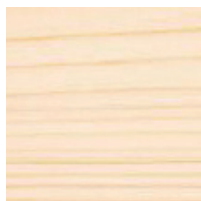
W2900×D668×H2745



Oak
Beeswax



Oak
Tannin black



Cypress