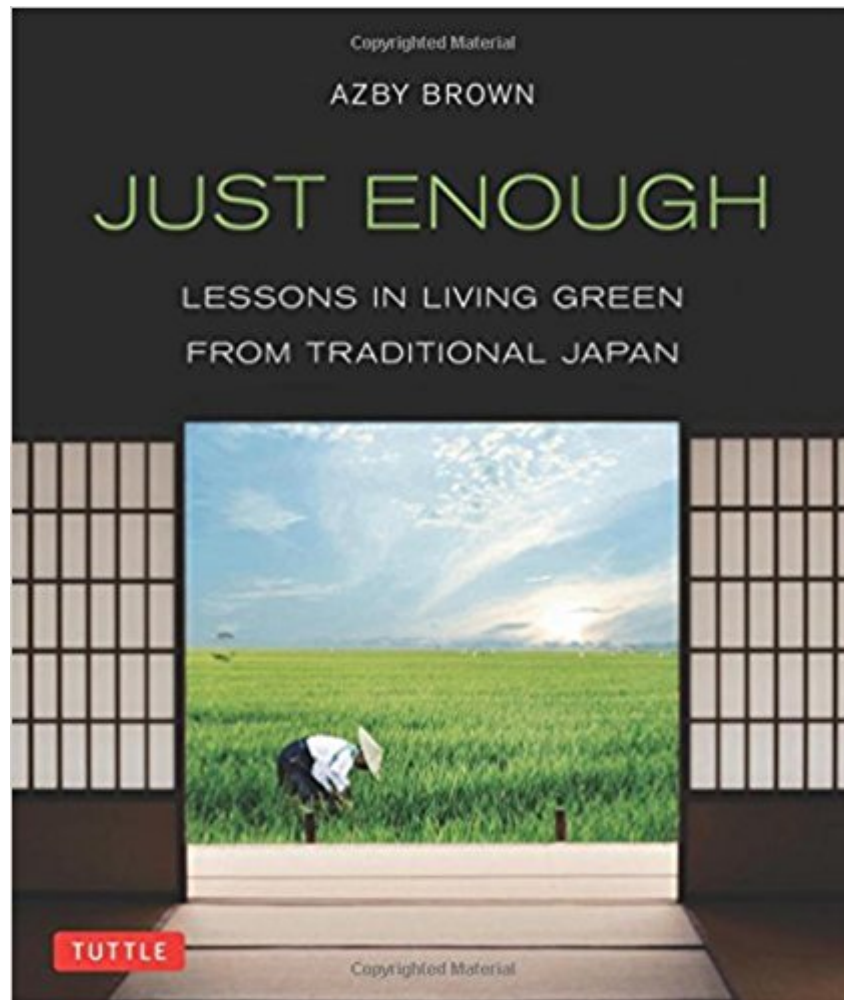




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Just Enough: Lessons In Living Green From Traditional Japan



Synopsis

"Brown's book *Just Enough* is a compelling account of how Edo Japan confronted similar environmental problems and created solutions that connected farms and cities, people and nature." [Huffington Post](#)

The world has changed immeasurably over the last thirty years, with more, bigger, better being the common mantra. But in the midst of this constantly evolving world, there is a growing community of people who are looking at our history, searching for answers to issues that are faced everywhere, such as energy, water, materials, food and population crisis. In *Just Enough*, author Azby Brown turned to the history of Japan, where he finds a number of lessons on living in a sustainable society that translate beyond place and time. This book of stories depicts vanished ways of life from the point of view of a contemporary observer, and presents a compelling argument around how to forge a society that is conservation-minded, waste-free, well-housed, well-fed and economically robust. Included at the end of each section are lessons in which Brown elaborates on what Edo Period life has to offer us in the global battle to reverse environmental degradation. Covering topics on everything from transportation, interconnected systems, and waste reduction to the need for spiritual centers in the home, there is something here for everyone looking to make changes in their life. *Just Enough* is much-needed beacon in our evolving world, giving us hope in our efforts to achieve sustainability now.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"If you have any interest in sustainable or traditional living, Japanese history, architecture, or agriculture (or all of the above!), *Just Enough* is an inspirational feast for the mind and eyes."

•The Year of Mud blog"Brown's book Just Enough is a compelling account of how Edo Japan confronted similar environmental problems and created solutions that connected farms and cities, people and nature." •Huffington Post"I read Brown's book with relish, and at the end of it felt that my mindset had shifted, from feeling that I never have enough, to feeling that I undoubtedly have too much." •New Yorker Online"Taking a lesson from this aesthetic, Brown's elegant and accessible text with its lucid illustrations make this a wonderful companion for students and professionals in the fields of design, civil engineering, farming, construction, or Japanese history, or any person interested in leaving a more delicate footprint on the planet." •ForeWord eNewsletter"As we all look forward with hope for a cradle-to-cradle world, Azby Brown honors us with the great gift of seeing the past of Japan with fresh eyes." •William McDonough, Designer, winner of the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development"This is an extraordinary book that holds the keys we're looking for to rebalance both our planet and our own lives. Read it, please." •Susan Susanka, architect and author of The Not So Big House series, and The Not So Big Life"An indispensable reference for anyone wanting to know the secret formula that make old Japan life what it was." •Alex Kerr, author of Dogs and Demons, Lost in Japan"Brown takes time to reinforce the lessons in his tales with more directly-instructive chapters where he lists the steps to becoming a sustainable society in a way that is easy to follow. The result is a book that is thought provoking and commanding in its purpose but written in a way that is humane, vicarious and a pleasure to read." •Kansai Scene Magazine

Azby Brown, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana is the director of KIT Future Design Institute in Tokyo. He studied architecture and sculpture at Yale College, graduating in 1980, and entered the Department of Architecture of the University of Tokyo in 1985 under a grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education. He received his master's degree in 1988 and completed his PhD research in 1995. He is the author of The Genius of Japanese Carpentry (1995), Small Spaces (1996), The Japanese Dream House (2001), and The Very Small Home (2005), all published by Kodansha International. He became an associate professor of architectural design at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology in 1995, and currently holds a position there in the Department of Media Informatics.

The book is great! it is formatted as a collection of three stories with a concise analysis and explanation of how facets of Edo period life can be applied to improving modern life and fighting climate change. The stories make the majority of the book and are fairly easy to read. I appreciate the diagrams and illustrations provided in the book, for they improve the readability of the book.

I give this book five stars because of the way he explains the living conditions of Edo Japan in story like format brings the reader into the world of Japanese culture during this period of time. I thought it was great how he explains everything in such detail that you can imagine the places he takes you to. I liked how he summed up at the end and explained the ways we can use the knowledge in the book in the environment that each of us now live.

A deep dive into the architecture, agriculture, sociology and soul of rural & urban Japan in the 18th century, just before the irruption of the "modern" times. Spiritually and technically inspiring for rethinking modern homes and life styles. An excellent surprise, congratulations to the author for this careful and thorough work.

Well written and interesting. Food for thought, about how we use our resources from the domestic to the urban scales.

Absolutely outstanding!

Excellent Book. Incredibly informational.

I am about 1/4 of the way through this book on my kindle. The book itself is wonderful, but I was very disappointed in the quality of illustrations in the kindle edition. The paper version of the book is beautifully laid out and illustrated, but little care was taken with the kindle transition. I would recommend not purchasing the kindle edition unless it gets updated with higher quality images.

great

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