

moments of silence and stillness

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAGADA RITTENHOUSE



Gates, thresholds, screens and passages—intermediary zones created to gently separate the inside from the outside, the sacred from the profane, the safe and tamed from the unfamiliar.

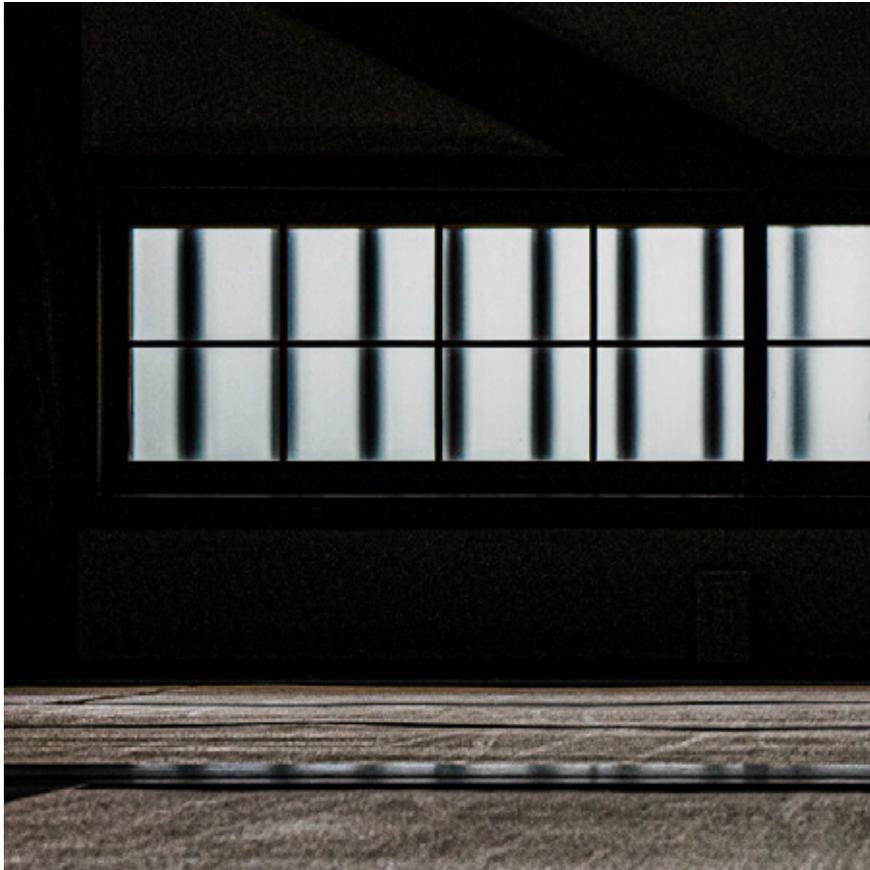
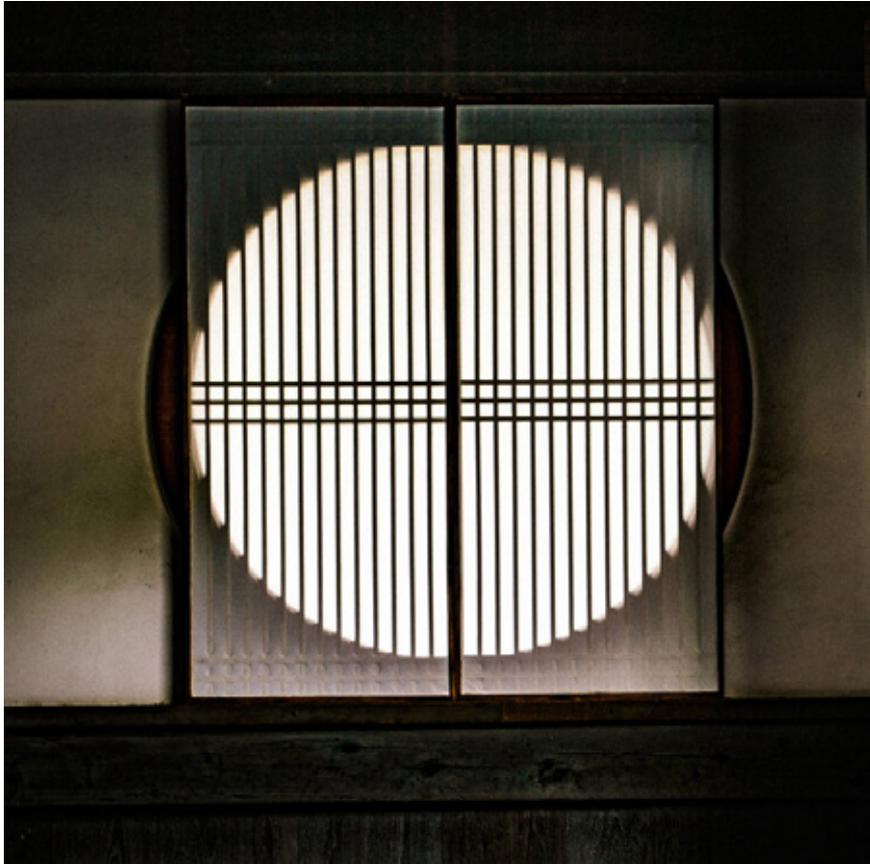
The *kanji* character for *ma*, 間, combines 門 “door” and 日 “sun.” A door through which beams of sun flow softly into a dark room? The zone where light and shade penetrate each other? An open veranda that is both sheltered and exposed? An intentionally empty *tokonoma*? Or perhaps a screened window—neither transparent nor opaque—which obscures the view of what’s beyond, but not quite?

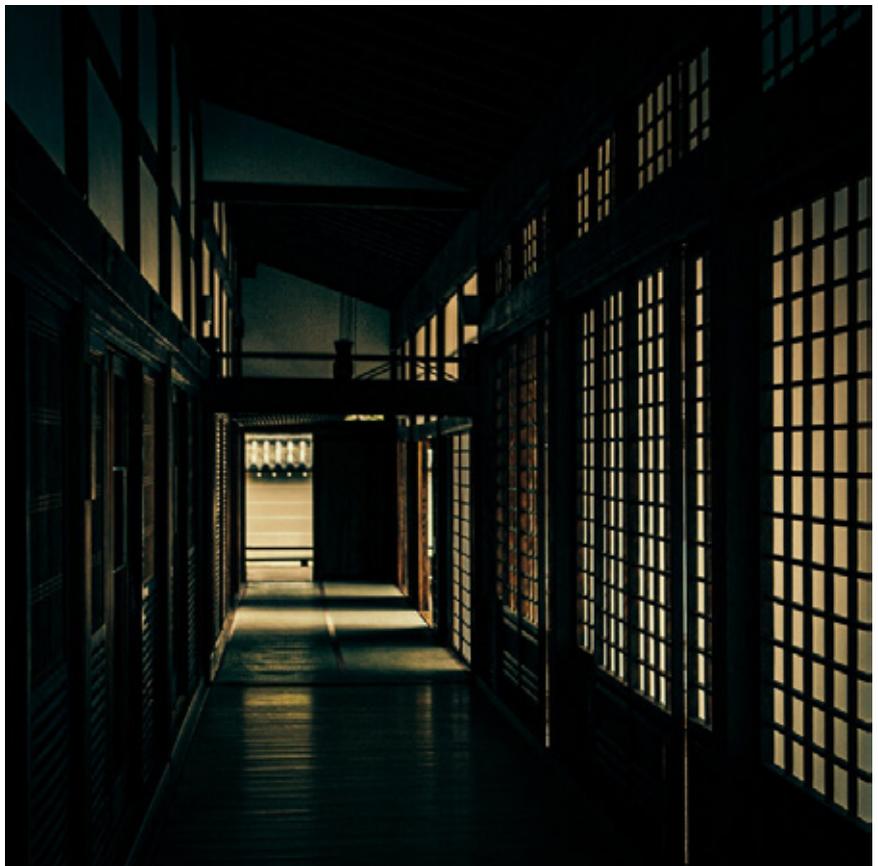
The space in between. *Ma* enables transitions. It’s about dividing and connecting; transcending differences and complexities. It is meant to create moments of silence and stillness.

Ma—the emptiness in which time and space are obliterated, opposites reconciled, thoughts suspended. An invitation to awareness.











Magda Rittenhouse, a writer and a photographer interested in cultural travel, art, design, architecture, urbanism and environmental issues. Her work has appeared in a number of publications in Europe and the US. She is currently based in Princeton, NJ, but says she lost her heart in Kyoto. www.magdarittenhouse.com instagram @magdarittenhouse