

# The Xylarium Story

The Xylarium was officially registered as a facility for International Xylarium Index in 1978, and the current station was founded in 1980.

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Whoa, so this is where the xylarium exists!

Wow, what a woody fragrance!

Welcome to our Xylarium

Sugi floor, huh...

Feels like we're in a forest...

rattle rattle

We are the children of wood-culture. In the Japanese mythology, the thread of beard that Susano-o no Mikoto pulled out became the Sugi (cedar) tree. We have been planting trees to sustain our lives for as long as we can remember.

It has 350 annual rings! This is the real thing, right here.

Long-living trees last long too! Hinoki has been used for building structures.

Even the Horyuji is Hinoki built. Do you know about the centre pillar?

Wow, tell me!

The use of wood varies by type. You know the old saying, "correct wood for the correct use"?

Lasting strong for a 1,000 years, white cedar is used for large construction such as the Horyuji temple.. They're used for building baths too, for their fragrance and water resilience

What else do you find out?

Objective is to learn and hand down "Japanese wood culture"!!

These are some of the unique ways wood are used.

杉 Cypress wood

桐 Geta; our wooden clogs Paulownia wood

栴 Abacus beads Holly wood

Alrighty, we'll talk about tree rings.

Most trees grow between spring and autumn, and that repetition creates the rings.

Which means it contains tons of information regarding environment such as precipitation, temperature and abnormal weather, and it has been aiding studies on global warming too.

For example!  
We can know the age of the tree from the rings. From the center pillar of Horyuji, we can presume that the tree was cut a hundred years prior to the construction.

far out!

Which means that there may have been older temples!

How fascinating! How is it that trees are so long-lasting?

Yeah Was wondering too!

That does depend on the wood itself too, but it really is because people maintain them. The wood itself will slowly age and eventually deteriorate.

Oh yeah?

So we study the mechanisms of wood aging, in order to make use in preservation efforts!

What!? What do you do?

We purposefully age them!

New wood expand or shrink depending on changes in temperature and dampness, which can be dangerous when using in conjunction with the old original timber. Forcefully-aged wood do not morph, and becomes the same colour as the old wood.

180°C

The Buddhist statues like 'em too, because it's the right fit!

Studying Japan-specific cultures of wood is one of our missions here at the xylarium.

We are taking on the role of creating a new science around wood, in this 21st century.

See you!