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Eriko Horiki Architectural Spaces With Washi Edited by A+U Publishing

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- Working for a company that developed washi products, Eriko Horiki witnessed the dying traditions of the industry
- Without experience in art, design, or running a business, she decided to start a studio devoted to modernizing the use of Japanese washi paper
- An interview with noted architect Toyo Ito describes how an early collaboration between the two led to the innovative forms and patterns her work is known for

The first special issue devoted to interiors commemorates Eriko Horiki's 20 years working with traditional Japanese washi paper. When making a career change and starting her company, Horiki had no experience in art, design, or running a business. Witnessing the dying traditions of the washi industry, she felt compelled to learn the process and made it her mission to reverse the trend.

Traveling to Fukui, which is the center of papermaking in Japan, Horiki learned the painstaking process of hand making washi. In turn she developed new methods modernizing the process, resulting in two patents. The studio can create single sheets 16m in length, which can require a whole month to complete.

Horiki pushed the use of washi beyond a craft material and searched for new applications in architecture. This led to a focus on light, transparency, and structure, leading to innovative forms. Her work for Disney, Yo-Yo Ma's stage art, and large scale exhibitions took washi to previously unseen venues and applications.

Text in English and Japanese.

a+u - Architecture and Urbanism - is a monthly architectural magazine established in 1971 that highlights the work and activities of top contemporary architects from around the world. *a+u* features architecture and a broad range of other new design sources in a well-presented format.