MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

EXHIBIT EXPLORER

Third Floor

Housing Styles from the Arctic to Asia

More than just shelter, houses function as safe, customized, personal spaces that we call "home." Examples of houses throughout the Arctic and Asia can tell us more about how other cultures create a home.

1. **Igloo:** Entering the Arctic Circle gallery on the third floor, you'll pass by the animals that call the Arctic Circle their home. The word *iglu* in the Inuit language means "house," regardless of building material. Enter the igloo made of snow; What animal skins do you think were used to line the walls and ceiling of this igloo? _____

2. **Japanese House:** Continue past the Arctic until you reach the Japanese house and garden on your right. Through the window you will see two women in traditional kimono playing The Game of One Hundred Poets. The poems used in this game are called tanka. Each line of the poem has a certain number of syllables: 5-7-5-7-7.

Haiku challenge! Haikus are another form of Japanese poetry that uses a 5-7-5 syllable pattern in three lines.

Example:	Your Haiku:
Wandering the floors	_____
Searching for clues may build one's	_____
Curiosity	_____

3. **Korean House:** Next door to the Japanese house is the Korean house with a green tile roof. Take a close look at the screen in the center that depicts village life. Besides reorganizing a room's space, screens were used as painting surfaces by artists. Common themes included mountains, water, wildlife and daily living. Name two or three village activities you see on the screen: _____

4. **Chinese House:** Look for the Chinese house at the end of the pathway. The two stone statues in front of the house are called Chinese guardian lions. They are used for protection and decoration of the building. The lions are always found in pairs standing on either side of a doorway, each lion holding something under one of its paws. Here, one lion holds a playful cub. Do you think this lion is the male or the female? _____

5. **India Market:** Walk through Southeast Asia until you reach the Indian marketplace. The music of the snake charmer mixes with bustling city noises. India has the second highest population in the world, and marketplaces must have many products for many customers. What are some items for sale in the marketplace that you might use in your home? _____

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What will you find around the next corner?

Every country and ethnic group has its own unique housing and decorating style. Take a moment to explore the homes of Europe in the European Village or the American housing styles of Native Americans on the 2nd floor. A closer look at life in Milwaukee's recent past can be seen in a walk through the Streets of Old Milwaukee.