

DEFINITION: FIBROCONSTRUCTIVE SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Fibroconstructive signs and symbols are artificially made forms set up at a particular sacred place before or during a traditional festival rite/ cult related to an established sanctuary or sacred place. **Such signs and symbols are constructed by elementary methods** of fixing fibrous materials together like binding, weaving and usually stand upright in space (huts, pillars, decorated poles etc.). They show essentially geo-metrical forms but can allude to plants ('artificial trees'), animals (snakes, dragons, fish, deer, horses, birds etc.) or humans (giants, dwarfs). Cosmo- (stars sun, moon) or geomorphos forms also exist (artificial mountains) are also found. Materials are grasses (rice, reed bamboo), twigs and branches taken from trees, wooden sticks, poles, or natural small trees in the centre. There can be a specific meaning of the main rope, since this holds the form together, thus is the basic condition of the whole form. Once set up at a particular sacred place, these constructions become sacred and form important centres of the rites/cults/festivals related. After the ceremonies are over, such signs are either destroyed (fire, dislocation and decay, destruction) or they are left standing at their place for one year and are renewed with fresh materials in the same form at the next cyclic rite/ festival.

The photographs show various examples photographed during a survey trip of the author. Particularly the example where a small temporary temple is built in the rice fields and where 21 stalks of rice represent the deity of Lakshmi is impressive. The sacred symbol is carried around through the village in procession. Groups of houses build small altars in the main street.

The following plates show:

- A plates 1 - 7:** Variety of fibroconstructive signs and symbols documented in Japan (use for comparison)
- B Typology of outer forms:**
 - 1 geometrical**
 - a cylindrical (pillar type)
 - b hourglass (hut type)
 - c pole type (with fibrous decorations)
 - 2 alluding to animal form (teriomorphic)**
 - a rope type (snakes, dragons, fish)
 - b sculptural type (horses, birds, phoenix etc.)
 - c others
 - 3 alluding to human form (anthropomorphic)**
 - a giants
 - b doll, dwarf etc.
 - c others

4 **technomorphic**

- a expressing mobility (boats)
- b others

5 **alluding to cosmic phenomena (stars, sun, moon)**

- a stars, sun moon
- b others

6 **alluding to forms of the earth (geomorphic)**

- a mountains
- b others

Ropes and cords

1 **spanned (between trees or poles)**

- a over path or road
- b other

2 **circumspanned**

- a quadrangular
- b other

3 **signetic (short rope as sign and symbol fixed to object)**

D Typology of inner form

1 **hollow**

2 **half full, half empty**

3 **full and compact**

Typology: relation to ground

1 **rooted**

2 **fixed to ground by special construction**

- a piles
- b other

3 independent from ground

- a standing on flat bottom
- b other

4 supported by poles

- a circular
- b rectangular
- c other

5 tightened by ropes

- a circular
- b rectangular
- c other

6 mounted on mobile cart

- a elaborated wooden cart
- b other

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Typology in regard to time

1 temporary (sign/symbol erected at beginning of festival/rite and destroyed after

- a by fire
- b by dislocation (throwing into woods, into river)
- c physical destruction
- d other

2 perennial (before new sign/symbol is constructed at beginning of festival, the old one is destroyed)

- a annual renewal (fire, dislocation, destruction, other; please underline)
- b other (fire, dislocation, destruction, other; please underline)









