Akebono Room Lamp Concepts
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Behind the concept

In the last decade, technology has made great progress. Smart phones, net books, auto drive automotive, etc. They are all invented for overcoming inconveniences in our daily lives. In theory, with the number of technological inventions, our modern lives should be more satisfactory than before. The less inconvenient our lives become, the happier we should be (or at least less stressful). However, this theory doesn’t seem to be true.

Advanced technology has overcome many inconveniences found in our daily routine. A decade ago, it was difficult to talk to someone who was not at home, but now we can easily reach them, thanks to the mobile phone. If we get lost in a city, you can instantly know where you are via Navigators. We can easily go straight to what we want, but if that convenience does not bring happiness, we probably have lost "something" while enjoying the so-called easy life. Is the "something" that is missing in our lives, the inconvenience itself? Or, being able to get what you want instantly just makes you unhappy? Making a detour itself is more like a life? Like John Lennon said "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans"? So I looked back at Japan 1,000 years ago when there was nothing that we can call technology as advanced as today. In literature we can find a number of things those people used to enjoy in their lives. What I’m going to introduce is a set of room lamps, all of whose concepts are based on something that impressed those people back then.
Introduction

"Makurano-Soshi" is an essay written by Sei-Shonagon, a little more than 1,000 years ago in Japan. The simple and succinct description of it impresses us with its deeply analyzed beauty in a daily life. The essay is referred to as one of the jewels of literature written in the Heian Period. It is so popular that almost all the Japanese people know it and are expected to learn it by heart, the first chart of the essay at school. Therefore, most of Japanese adults still remember at least the first few sentences.

This set of room lamps, "Akebono" has the concept of the beauty of the four seasons described by the writer of Makurano-Soshi.

"Akebono" or dawn in spring
"Yoru" or night in summer
"Yugure" or evening in autumn
"Tsutomete" or early morning in winter

Each of the beauty is crisply depicted with very impressive items found only in the season. There are four lamps with the same concepts in this set. The very reason of choosing these concepts is to bring what is happening outside into the house and to enable those most beautiful moments to be everlasting.

Essentially I tried to bring back:
1) the subtle feeling of happiness that is rarely felt in busy modern daily lives
2) the comfort you can get after long patience

Those feelings have long disappeared thanks to technologies that instantly satisfy out needs. I would be delighted if I could experience the same feeling by using the lamps.
"Akebono“ floor lamp
Mountain Skyline at Sunrinse in Spring

春は、あけぼの。やうやう白くなりゆく山ぎは 少し明りて紫だちたる雲の細たくたなびきる。
"In spring, the dawn with mountain skylines gradually whitening along with thin lines of purple clouds floating in the sky."
The mountain rim is expressed by the curved frame. It is lit by a gentle light behind it, just like a mountain at sunrise. In order to see the real view of this, you have to patiently wait for the sun rise in the cold. It is a floor lamp used against or close to a wall. The light is thrown towards the wall behind it, so you can see the wall lit upwards, with the shade of a curved body. By using a few of this lamp put side by side, you can enjoy a panoramic view of mountains.
"Yoru" lamp stand
Crescent with Earthshine in Summer

夏は、夜。月の頃はさらなり。
"In summer, the night. Needless to say a full moonlit night."
As can be easily imagined, this represents the moon. Seen from right in front of it, it looks just like the crescent after the new moon, but you can also see "earthshine", which is sunlight reflected from the earth, causing the dark side of the crescent dimly visible. It is also known as "the old moon in the new moon's arms" and this bright and dark combination of the lights makes the moon even more beautiful. This dark side of the lamp is made slightly transparent so that it lights up very dimly just like the earthshine. In the modern world it is rare to take time looking up at the moon, much less this dimly lit part of it, but in ancient Japan, it must have been very often watched and fully enjoyed. This lamp brings the precious evening moment to your room.
"Yugure” floor lamp
Autumn sunset melting into the earth

秋は、夕暮。夕日のさして、山の端（は）いと近うなりたるに、
"In autumn, the evening of a sinking sun approaching very close to mountain lines."
The sunset in autumn is as red as the sun can be. When it approaches the horizon, it looks like the sun is melting into the earth. With its shape like a half melting ball, this lamp embodies the beauty of the sunset at the same moment. The lamp shade is made of opaque acrylic, but towards the bottom, it gradually becomes transparent. With this shade, the light reaches far longer around the lamp than towards above, so when the lamp is lit, it looks as if the shining ball is sinking into the floor, leaving the floor around brightly lit. The other secret of this brightness is the curved cylinder shaped mirror under the light bulb in the shade, which efficiently reflects the light from the light bulb and throws back towards sides.
"Tsutomete" floor lamps
Charcoal Fire Warmth in early winter morning

冬は、つとめて。雪の降るはいふべきにえらず。霜のいと白きも、またさらでも、いと寒きに、火など急ぎ煽して、炭もて渡るも、いとつきづきし。
"In winter, the early morning. Falling snow makes us speechless. It perfectly fits this season to see a whitest frost, or people hastening to carry charcoals with freshly built fires in the braziers."
A brazier, which was widely used in ancient Japan in winter to warm up a room, has charcoals on it. The brightly but gently burning red and orange charcoal was the only warmth back then. The atmosphere it creates can never felt by a modern heater that instantly heats up to the temperature you adjust. This lamp revives the reddish orange light just like a charcoal does: clumsily tinted in a corner as if it finally caught fire.
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