



inden
From 印伝 tradition to “inden”
Elegant and durable white leather



Yamanashi Prefecture's wild deer transformation project

Currently, deers are being captured, because of the agricultural and forestry damage they are causing all across Japan. Yamanashi Prefecture's wild deer transformation project Koshu-Inden's idea of using captured deer leather in designing goods is part of a large-scale project aimed at finding a solution for the problem. Transporting the captive deers has proven to be extremely difficult and costly. The project began in mid 2014 and has been expanding since. As part of it, local businesses from cities and villages around the prefecture are cooperating to create high quality products. Starting with local food manufacturers, later hunter groups, leather processing companies, designers, artists and leather workers, many more have joined the project. Japan has been struggling to control the fast-growing deer populations across the country. Deers have caused severe agricultural and forestry damage and are being captured as a means of stopping the numbers growing. However, as part of this project local businesses in Yamanashi Prefecture are working together to solve this serious issue.



brand concept

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Yamanashi Prefecture's efforts to control the wild deer population has inspired Koshu-Inden to create these design goods as a way to preserve the local tradition and provide a solution to this problem. The delicate deer hide is treated with utmost respect and is carefully crafted into the stunning white leather goods. They are soft to the touch and sturdy at the same time proving the quality of the URUSHINASHIKA brand and 'Koshu-Inden' technique continued since the Edo pe-riod. We made the URUSHINASHIKA good to last and fit your needs.

inden

Koshu-Inden - the unique technique of putting Urushi lacquer on deer skin



Made from soft and light deer hide these products are decorated using traditional techniques whereby various lustrous patterns are applied in lacquer with patterned paper to the surface of deerskin. This method uses the traditional Urushi lacquering technique. The bags and wallets are enjoyed by many as daily life necessities and beautiful accessories which brighten up every day.

vermin damage



Koshu-Inden - a solution to Yamanashi Prefecture's wild deer problem

Currently as many as 70,000 wild deers are living in Yamanashi Prefecture alone. The prefecture has introduced a policy under which 13,000 deers are captured each year in an effort to cut the population and protect the forestry and agriculture within the area. However, as little as 1-2% of these captured deers are used by food companies and manufacturers. Our company is trying to find a solution to this problem and to respectfully treat the captured deers. This project is connecting local businesses and is aiming to help the local agriculture, forestry and community.

domestic white deer leather

Japan's first locally made white captured deer leather goods

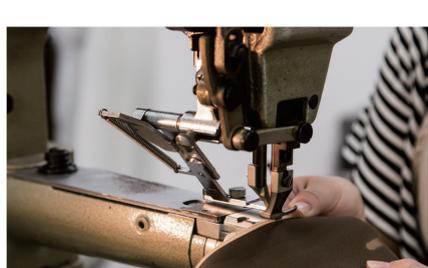
The highest quality white deer leather is made by Koshu-Inden has no match. Unlike the mass produced leather goods tanned using chromium dominating the current market, Koshu-Inden's deer hide leather is carefully crafted using unique natural techniques with no artificial coloring or bleaching within the process. Chromium is known for being harmful to the environment and people. Our leather is made by collaborating with local Yamanashi hunter and we select only the finest quality deer hide which is when lightly tanned and made into the light, soft to the touch, but durable white leather.



urushi coating

Delicate Urushi patterns revived by Urushi craftsmen

The stunning patterns are applied in lacquer with patterned paper to the surface of deerskin using the traditional technique of 'Urushi' lacquering. This traditional looking, creative design is Koshu-Inden's signature and a tribute to the long standing history of crafts in Japan and specifically the Yamanashi Prefecture.



sewing

Highest quality leather sewing work by craftsmen who are not scared of a challenge

The wallets are designed with utmost care to hold cards, money and other daily items. These wallet designs have been created using extensive research into design and customer needs. These designs make it easy to put in and take out coins without damaging the leather and keeping the wallet's shape in fact. The wallets come in various sizes, patterns and types of leather. Each type of leather has different thickness and softness which gives each wallet a unique feel.

profile

urushi coating

印伝の山本
Inden Yamamoto



Inden Yamamoto Representative
Lacquered Deer Hide Leather craftsman

Yusuke Yamamoto

The founder of Koshu Inden, Yamamoto Kinnoyuki, was Yusuke's grandfather. His father Yama-moto Makoto is the creator and first Lacquered deer hide leatherworker in Japan. Yusuke started leather working professionally in 2001 and his vision for Koshu Inden is to continue the tradition while adapting to new times. He actively takes part in collaborations and exhibits, and works to make Inden more widely known and familiar.

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sewing

Studio Kiichi
Kiichi
KOBE



Studio Kiichi Representative
Leatherworker

Kiichiro Katayama

Kiichiro's family has been running a shoe store in Kobe's Motomachi since 1917. After graduating university he worked at the FC headquarters as merchandiser and learned about purchasing, sales planning and managing product design, advertising and distribution. After retiring from this job, Kiichiro went to learn leather working. In 2010 he launched 'Studio Kiichi' which sells leather goods and works hard towards spreading the knowledge about them aim to make leather goods a part of normal daily life.

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produce

CEMENT
PRODUCE DESIGN



Cement Produce Design Representative
Creative Director

Tsutomu Kanaya

Graduated from Kyoto Seika University's Faculty of Humanities. In 1999 started Cement Produce Design. Tsutomu has since worked on large scale projects such as designing PARCO adverts, and directing UNIQLO's 'Corporate Collaboration T-shirt' campaign. He has been actively funding and supporting local businesses and promoting local crafts. The work of Cement Produce Design has been featured on TV shows such as 'Gaiya no Yoake' and NHK World.

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