

NORTH AMERICA TOUR

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SAMURAI

THE WAY
OF THE WARRIOR



MUSEO
STIBBERT

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Organization

CONTEMPORANEA PROGETTI srl
Via del Campofiore 106
50136 Florence
Tel. +39 055 6802474
Fax. +39 055 6580200
www.contemporaneaprogetti.it
l_carioni@contemporaneaprogetti.it

Executive Coordination

Eugenio Martera
Patrizia Pietrogrande
Linda Carioni

In collaboration with

Museo Stibbert

SAMURAI
THE WAY
OF THE WARRIOR





SAMURAI, the Way of the Warrior

It was with great pride of accomplishment that Contemporanea Progetti of Florence, Italy in collaboration with the Museo Stibbert inaugurated the North American tour of *Samurai, The Way of the Warrior* in November, 2014. Drawing from the rich and renowned Japanese collection of the museum located in Florence Italy, the exhibition features some 100 exquisite objects that relate to the legendary samurai warriors and characterize the period from 1185 – 1868 when Japan was ruled by the samurai military class that embodied the ideals of and lived by the code of Bushido (Way of the Warrior). The exhibition traveled to five US venues where it was greeted by great public enthusiasm and critical acclaim.

Curated by Riccardo Franci, noted specialist of the subject and head of the Oriental Section of the museum, the exhibition unfolds in sections organized according to the typology of the objects - full suits of armor, helmets, swords, sword-hilts, saddles to be sure - but also exquisite objects, some intended for more personal use such as lacquered writing boxes and incense trays, others, delicate works of art such as screens and scrolls that portray a way of life.

A series of suggestive graphic panels accompany the objects and the visitors. Not only do the panels provide informative information regarding the history of the samurai and the objects on view, but they also serve to magnify the exquisite details of the craftsmanship hidden in the objects. Other state-of-the art, multimedia elements, newly designed by Contemporanea Progetti enhance the immersive experience.

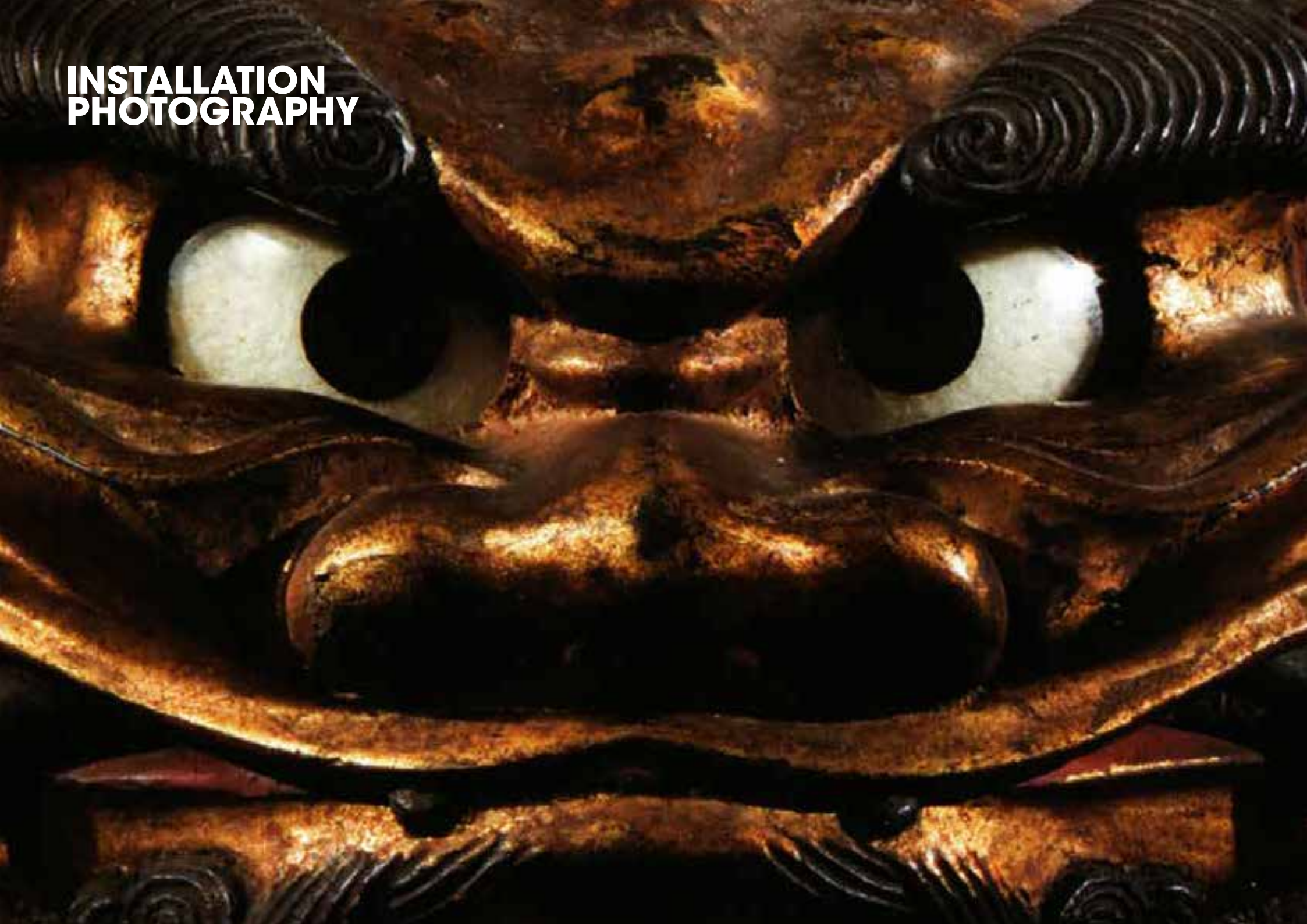
The exhibition concludes with a video and illustration about the Museo Stibbert. Frederick Stibbert was born in Florence in 1838, but educated in England. His grandfather had been the Commander in Chief of the British East India Company in Bengal and governor there for many years in the late 1700s, amassing a great fortune and estate that was inherited by Frederick Stibbert. This enabled Stibbert, an astute and sophisticated financier and collector to dedicate his life to collecting works of art and antiques but in particular, armor and weaponry. Although he started collecting in 1861, his passion and attention turned towards the Far East and in particular Japan in the early 1870s. This coincided with the opening of Japan towards the West after centuries of isolation and the end of the political power of the Samurai class. Consequently, Japanese works of art and artifacts began to appear at European art markets such as the Universal Exposition in Paris of 1867.

Documentation of the Stibbert Collection corresponds to the systematic acquisition of objects through such fairs, antiquarians, private collections and then directly from Japan through agents. One of earliest, largest and most important collections outside of Japan, the Stibbert Japanese Collection contains some 2000 numbers of inventory and includes 95 suits of armor, 200 helmets, 285 swords (long and short), daggers and spears, 880 sword guards, some firearms, in addition to lacquered objects, furnishings, porcelain, screens and scrolls.

According to his own criteria, Frederick Stibbert transformed his Florentine hillside villa and park into the museum today known as the Museo Stibbert that conserves magnificent collections of nearly 50,000 items, including the Japanese Collection considered one of the earliest, largest and most important collections outside Japan.

It is also with great enthusiasm that Contemporanea Progetti in collaboration with the Museo Stibbert announce the launch of an upcoming World Tour.

**INSTALLATION
PHOTOGRAPHY**



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Houston Museum of Natural Science

Houston, Texas

November 2014 - September 2015

theHoustonMuseumofnaturalscience

SAMURAI
THE WAY
OF THE WARRIOR





SAMURAI
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THE CRAFT OF THE SWORD SMITH

The craftsmanship of the curved iron-edged blade of the Japanese katana is a testament to the skill and artistry of the swordsmith. The blade is forged from a single piece of iron, which is then folded and reforged many times to create a blade of exceptional strength and durability. The process of forging the blade is a labor-intensive one, requiring the swordsmith to work with the metal at temperatures of over 2000 degrees Celsius. The blade is then polished and finished, and the hilt is attached. The katana is a symbol of the samurai spirit and is highly valued as a work of art.

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These
helmets were used by
samurai warriors
during the Edo period.

The
helmets were made
of iron and
steel.







THE ART OF LACQUER

Lacquered objects such as the ones on display here exemplify a rich, colorful aesthetic that has been part of Japanese life since the Edo Period. They are the result of an intricate, labor-intensive process of painting and lacquering, which has been passed down through generations of master lacquer artists.

In essence, lacquer or urushi (漆) in Japanese is a chemical compound that appears in nature as a white resin. It is obtained from incisions into the outer bark of the Asian rainforest tree, also commonly known as the Lacquer Tree. In response, the tree produces a protective sap to seal the wound. Each year, it grows to be 100 inches in diameter or to maintain its shape. The extracted sap is then filtered and dried to produce a solid, clear lacquer. It is then used to create a variety of objects, including furniture, decorative items, and architectural elements. A lacquer finish is known for its durability and resistance to water, heat, and dry weather.

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Georgia Museum of Art
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia
October 2015 - January 2016



SAMURAI
THE WAY
OF THE WARRIOR





CONSTRUCTION
OF SAMURAI ARMOR

SAMURAI WEAPONS

Although samurai were skilled in the use of various weapons, their iconic trademark is a long, curved sword or *katana*. Wearing a long sword together with a shorter sword such as a *wakizashi* or *tantō* became an expression of being samurai, and this combination is known as a *daishō*. By the later Edo Period, although largely ceremonial, only samurai were permitted to wear a *daishō*.

Samurai were also very proficient in the use of pole weapons, staff weapons, clubs, spears and chain weapons. On the battlefield, the *yari* (槍), a 7-ft. long spear replaced the older *spears* (鉾), a long wooden stick with an attached blade, traditionally used against horses. By the 16th century, a lighter *spears* became the weapon that women used to defend themselves and *spears* (長刀) became the trademark of the female martial arts.

Since the earliest of times, samurai were renowned for their skill at mounted combat and integral to this was exceptional skill with the longbow or *yumi* (弓). Because of its unique, asymmetrical shape, it was very effective from horseback.

By 1543 through trade with the Portuguese, the matchlock firearm or *arquebuse* (火縄銃) was introduced to Japan, and Japanese gunsmiths were soon producing these weapons on a large scale, permitting warlords to raise armies from masses of peasants. The new weapons replaced the traditional ones and forever changed the battlefield strategy of the samurai. By some accounts, by the end of the 16th century, there were more firearms in Japan than in most European nations.





THE YUMI

Although the Yumi is the basic representation of the samurai, their proficiency with the longbow or yumi was rarely being demonstrated in the same way as the Yumi. The samurai were known for their mastery of the bow, and the Yumi was the most highly respected weapon. The Yumi was used by samurai in the 16th century, and it was made of bamboo, wood, and silk.

The Yumi is a long bow, made of bamboo, wood, and leather. It was used by samurai in the 16th century. The Yumi is a long bow, made of bamboo, wood, and leather. It was used by samurai in the 16th century. The Yumi is a long bow, made of bamboo, wood, and leather. It was used by samurai in the 16th century.

The importance of the Yumi to samurai culture and history is quite evident. The Yumi is a long bow, made of bamboo, wood, and leather. It was used by samurai in the 16th century. The Yumi is a long bow, made of bamboo, wood, and leather. It was used by samurai in the 16th century.

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The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Sarasota, Florida

January 2016 – April 2016

The Ringling



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660
Introduction of Buddhism to Japan

720
Introduction of the sword as a symbol of status

1002
Minamoto no Yoritomo is the first shogun of the Kamakura shogunate

1180-1185
Minamoto no Yoritomo is the first shogun of the Kamakura shogunate

1281
Mongol invasions of Japan

1465-1615
Sengoku Jidai Period

1467-1477
Ono no Imoto

1542
Portuguese arrive

1603
Shogun's headquarters moved to Edo

1615
Battle of Sekigahara

1639
Edict of Expulsion

1700
Introduction of Western culture

1853
Opening of Japan

1854-1868
EDO PERIOD

1868-1912
MEIJI PERIOD

1912-1926
TAISHO PERIOD

1926-1989
SHOWA PERIOD

1989-2019
HEISEI PERIOD

1989-2019
REIWA PERIOD



FREDERICK STIBBERT & THE JAPANESE COLLECTION OF MUSEO STIBBERT

Frederick Stibbert was born in Florence in 1856, the son of a banker and a woman of letters. He was a collector of Japanese art and a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome. He was also a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome. He was a collector of Japanese art and a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome. He was also a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome.

Although he moved to Florence in 1881, he remained in Rome until 1884. He was a collector of Japanese art and a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome. He was also a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome.

His collection of Japanese art was the largest in Europe at the time. It included a wide range of objects, from lacquerware and silk to metalwork and ceramics. He was a collector of Japanese art and a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome. He was also a member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome.




THE TSUBA

The tsuba is a decorative guard for the blade of a Japanese sword. It is often made of metal, but can also be made of wood, stone, or lacquer. The tsuba is often decorated with intricate designs, including floral motifs, animals, and figures. It is a work of art in its own right, and is often collected as such.

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THE KATANA SWORD OF THE SAMURAI

The katana is a curved sword that was used by samurai in Japan. It is made of two pieces of metal joined together. The blade is made of a harder metal, and the hilt is made of a softer metal. The katana is a symbol of the samurai spirit.

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KAWARI KABUTO SPECTACULAR HELMET

In the year of the dragon and representing the Kawanishi Monastery, Hasekura Tsunenaga (1571-1629) was awarded the title of Marquis in 1600. He is credited with the construction of the castle of Osaka. He was a prominent figure in the Japanese court and a member of the aristocracy. He was also a patron of the arts and a collector of books. He was a member of the court and a member of the aristocracy. He was a member of the court and a member of the aristocracy.

The Kawanishi Kabuto is a type of helmet that was used by the samurai. It was made of iron and was decorated with various designs. It was a type of helmet that was used by the samurai. It was made of iron and was decorated with various designs. It was a type of helmet that was used by the samurai. It was made of iron and was decorated with various designs.

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Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Nashville, TN
November 4, 2016 – January 16, 2017

THE FRIST
CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

SAMURAI
THE WAY
OF THE WARRIOR



SAMURAI

THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR

November 4, 2016–January 16, 2017

Organized by Contemporary Program in collaboration with
the Museo Stibbert, Florence, Italy

Platinum Sponsor



Supporting Sponsors



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Julie and Breck Walker

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FIVESTONE
STUDIOS

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts is supported in part by





Informational text label for the armor on the left.

Informational text label for the armor on the right.

WOMEN OF THE SAMURAI CLASS







KABUTO SAMURAI HELMET

Exhibiting and historic comparison of the samurai art of armor to the modern world of technology.

Samurai armor, the kabuto was one of the most important parts of the samurai's armor. It was made of iron plates and was often decorated with gold and silver. The kabuto was also a symbol of status and power. The kabuto was made of iron plates and was often decorated with gold and silver. The kabuto was also a symbol of status and power.



KAWA KABUTO SQUID-LIKE HELMET

Exhibiting and historic comparison of the samurai art of armor to the modern world of technology.

The Kawa Kabuto is a type of samurai helmet that is shaped like a squid. It is made of iron plates and is often decorated with gold and silver. The Kawa Kabuto was used by samurai in the late Edo period. The Kawa Kabuto was used by samurai in the late Edo period.







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Chazen Museum of Art
Madison, Wisconsin
April 18, 2017 – July 23, 2017



Chazen Museum of Art

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THE KABUTO
THE SAMURAI HELM

The kabuto is the most important piece of armor worn by a samurai. It is made of iron and steel and is decorated with lacquer and metal ornaments. The kabuto is worn by the samurai on his head and is used to protect his head from blows. The kabuto is also used to identify the samurai and his rank. The kabuto is a symbol of the samurai's status and is a key element of his identity.



Good samurai armor was made of iron and steel and was decorated with lacquer and metal ornaments.

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via del Campofiore 106
50136 Florence
Tel. +39 055 6802474
Fax + 39 055 6580200
I_carioni@contemporaneaprogetti.it