



Number One and Number Two

American friends are amused. They are content with corncobs and Sears catalogs. Japanese friends sympathize and approve entirely. Do-it-all toilets with warm seats are rare in America but ubiquitous in Japan. The “fancy toilet” pictured at above left has been operating in the master bathroom for years. But one was not enough. Yoshi and I fought over it. The sullen loser had to sit on a cold seat in the guest

bathroom – on a primitive throne with no control panel. The solution was obvious: In the interest of domestic harmony, I bought a \$400 seat with attached control panel for the guest bathroom, as seen in the photo at right. That was the easy part. If you need a new dishwasher, as we ourselves did recently, just order one and somebody will bring it in and slide it into place, and immediately it is ready to go. The problem with fancy toilets, however, is that they require electricity, and there is never an electrical outlet in just the right place in American bathrooms. Americans don’t need to plug in their simple slop jars. So an electrician had to be called to install a fault-tolerant electrical outlet. Another \$400. Also, the damned toilet shutoff valve in the guest bathroom had to be replaced. It had been doing its job for decades, letting water flow into the tank after a flush. But now it wouldn’t shut off completely. This didn’t cost much. I’ve got a personal plumber who is reasonable and doesn’t expect to retire on what he gets from me. Finally, Yoshi and I possess enough fancy toilets.



Anniversary card from Stewart & Michelle Moore

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