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The next big thing(s)

Grab your shopping basket.
2007 has much in store...

Sushi is SO last year!

Look for more sushi restaurants to expand menus to include (can we take it?) cooked Japanese food! Slow-cooked chicken dishes or soy-simmered eggplant or squash will compete with raw fish on menus. Noodles will shine: Witness Takashi Yagihashi's new fast-food noodle shop in Macy's on State Street.

And home cooks finally will get a chance to move from takeout sushi to home-cooked dishes, with the help of such cookbooks as Elizabeth Andoh's "Washoku: Recipes from the Japanese Home Kitchen" and others.

Washoku means "harmony of food," by the way, and we're ready for a little more harmony on the Japanese menu. It's all part of our ongoing love affair with all things Asian and our expanding global tastes, according to trendwatchers Marian Salzman and Ira Matathia, authors of "Next Now: Trends for the Future" (Palgrave Macmillan, \$26.95). --Carol Mighton Haddix