

Mt Fuji World Heritage Site (Shigeru Ban Architects) 2016

JAPAN
2023

ARCHITECTURE TOUR

Architecture Tour Guide of Japan 2023

Malcolm Carver
Limited Edition Tour Guide

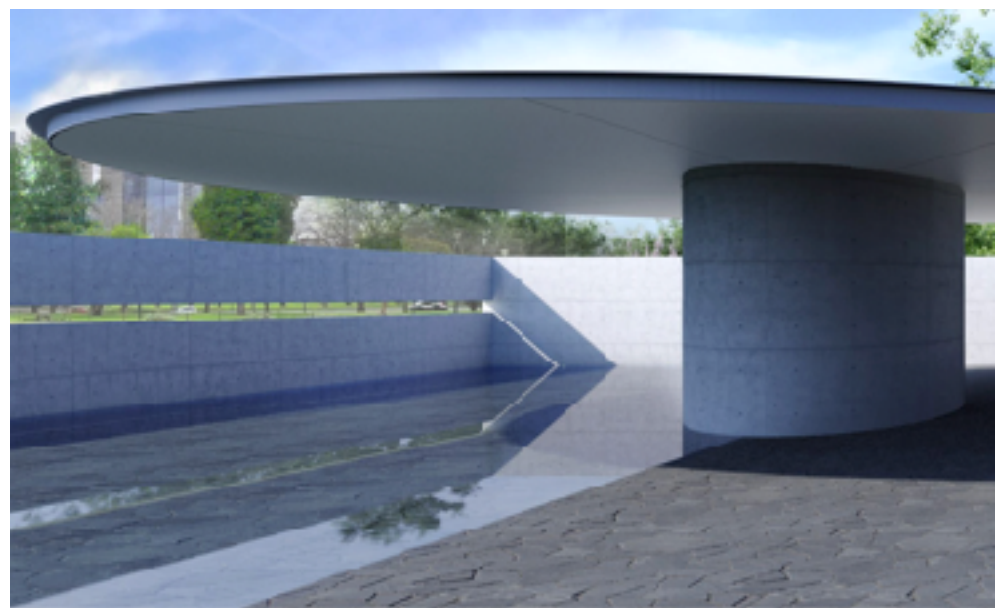
My deep gratitude to Jim Webber, our original Project Coordinator and Tour Director for the past 20 Years supported by his wife Kay. Jim has now retired, yet continues to provide us with his in depth touring experience and has planned every minute detail for this architecture tour from his home in Melbourne.

Special thanks to our Japan local guide Yasuko Miyamoto plus our Travelrite team of Ashlea Lewis, Sharee Mitchell & Nigel Walliss. Let's not forget it was Neville Walliss whose original vision created the concept of contemporary and modern architectural pilgrimages.

Particular thanks must also include the many volunteers and tour guides in those sites we visit. Guides local knowledge and experience of the buildings is so valuable and enriches our appreciation and understanding.



MPavilion 10, is architect Tadao Ando's first project in Australia, which will occupy a site in Queen Victoria Gardens in the centre of Melbourne. It has been designed as a deliberately pared-back space suitable for gathering and contemplation, evoking a traditional Japanese walled garden and a reflective pool. "I wanted to create an experience that will last forever in the hearts of all who visit. I imagine an architecture of emptiness, that lets light and breeze enter and breathe life into it. TA place that resonates with the environment, becomes one with the garden, and blossoms with infinite creativity," Ando said. The MPavilion will open on 16 November



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This Brochure and Tour Guide provides an overview in printed form but it is also designed to be best read on an ipad if you travel with one. The pdf formatted E-Guide with internet links can be downloaded from my website www.carverstudio.com. The E-Guide can then provide a greater insight into specific buildings through web links listed under 'web' on the project list at the end of this E-Guide. This enables access to articles drawings, video, sketches and photographs. You may enjoy a book "Contemporary Japanese Architecture" by Philip Jodidio available from [Amazon](#) and there are Youtube videos on Japanese Architecture. To stay connected to the internet whilst travelling in Japan, it is recommended that you rent a **wifi pocket router** either online or at arrivals at airports or at city train stations @ a cost per day of \$6 AUD for up to 6 devices. Each project in the guide has one of 3 different tour types and is marked in the colour codes on back page of this guide **Type 1** Includes External and Internal viewing with a Special Guide. **Type 2** includes external and internal walk and wander with Yasuko and Malcolm. **Type 3** External views mainly.



ARCHITECTURE TOUR 2023

Following [Travelrite](#)'s many successful architecture tours over the past 2 decades, Wendy and I are delighted you are joining us on our next tour of insights into Japan. We will all have an opportunity to discover this land of contrasts where tradition, modern wonders and rich culture come together and provide a varied, authentic and unique experience.

November in [Japan is the middle of Autumn](#), which is a time when a stunning transformation occurs. Trees change seemingly overnight from green to red, orange and yellow, turning the landscape into a picture of natural beauty and magnificent autumnal colours.

While we have retained the best, most popular and spectacular sites from guest feedback of our 2014 tour of Japan, we have also added 20 new and recent examples of architecture, gardens and art that Japan now offers.

We will visit not only significant modern and contemporary work but also traditional architecture and outstanding landscape designs. Timeless and traditional design has been the leading inspiration for the modernists world wide through the influence of Japanese modular principles. [Walter Gropius](#), the modernist architect from the Bauhaus era, considered Japan to be the first country in the world to introduce modular design emanating from their isolationist period of the 18th Century. Many of our previous architecture tours, particularly in America, have focused on [Frank Lloyd Wright](#), who was influenced by Japanese architecture and art. So we now have an opportunity to extend the study of Wright, by visiting a couple of his buildings in Japan, including part of the [Imperial Hotel Tokyo](#).

We also focus on the brilliant career of eminent Japanese architect [Tadao Ando](#) along with major projects of 9 Japanese and 3 significant, international contemporary architects, many of whom have either won the AIA Gold Medal or are [Pritzker Prize](#) Winners or both.

Japanese architects have won the prestigious [Pritzker Prize](#) 7 times since 1979 with 5 being in the past decade, beginning with Kenzo Tange in 1987, then Tadao Ando, Maki, Toyo Ito, Shigeru Ban, Sanaa, and Arata Isozaki in 2019. Renowned international architects, Renzo Piano and Norman Foster, have also been recipients and we will see some of their work as well.

Our tour includes the top 6 destinations in Japan as recommended by the 'Japan Guide', namely [Tokyo](#), [Kyoto](#), [Osaka](#), [Nara](#), [Mount Fuji](#) and [Hiroshima](#) all with outstanding modern and heritage architectural landmarks often in remarkable locations with serene gardens.

We hope that this trip will prove to be a journey of a lifetime, that's not just about having fun but also about sharing this extraordinary country and experience with like minded people, who appreciate outstanding architecture, art, gardens, cuisine and culture.

Along with our valued new guests, we especially welcome back and feel fortunate to have many return guests from previous tours, who wish to continue their architectural pilgrimage to see and visit the many new sights incorporated in our 2023 Tour of Japan.

So together with Yasuko, our Japan Guide, from 2014, who will accompany us from Day 1 until the tour concludes, we hope you enjoy this journey, through cities and countryside, capturing memorable moments and gaining an in-depth look at the real Japan. We very much look forward to sharing this experience with each and everyone on the tour.

Happy travels
Wendy n' Malcolm Carver



OSAKA - HIROSHIMA



1 [MOCA Gallery](#) 1989 Kisho Kurokawa

Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art was the first public art museum in Japan devoted exclusively to contemporary art, it is located in the Hijiya Park which has a splendid view of Hiroshima. The style reminiscent of, among other things, as a colonnade, an agora and a Japanese storehouse (Kura), it presents an image not restricted to a single country or era.

As the building rises from its foundations the natural fabric of stone gives way to man-made tiles and aluminium, reflecting the development of civilisation from the past to the future along the stream of time. [Article](#)



2 [Hiroshima Museum of Art](#) 1978

The main building was built in order to pay homage to the Atomic Bomb Dome. The museum's motto, "For Love and Peace," raises a prayer for the many precious lives lost in the atomic bombing in 1945, seeking peace for their souls and expressing a longing for world peace.

Flowers bloom in the garden, near the Fountain of Marronniers. A pond of carp, the symbol of Hiroshima, swim in the fountain and add to the colour palette of the front garden as the fountain spouts refreshing water into the air.



3 [Hiroshima Chapel](#) 2014 Nikken Space Design

The design concept was to create a distinctive, unrivalled space. a new wedding chapel that opened in the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel located in Hiroshima. Since this chapel faces the hotel's courtyard, the garden can be seen directly behind the pulpit when sitting inside the chapel.

The wooden lattice panels were used to create a wonderful, sun-dappled chapel that is integrated with the garden. The design intent was to showcase Japan's peaceful spirituality, history, traditional arts and crafts, and refined workmanship.



4. [Simose Art Museum Hiroshima](#) 2023 Shigeru Ban

Overlooking the Seto Inland Sea, Simose Art Museum is a lively complex that hosts a gallery, an ensemble of houses, and a restaurant. Scattered within a lush rectangular plot right in front of the shore, the structures offer visitors a multi-sensorial journey through exquisite craftsmanship and a wide range of art, accomplished through meticulous detailing.

By visiting the facility, guests can experience the immersive art museum with its eight movable galleries that appear to float on a water basin, as well as spend their night in one of the ten recreated villas that bear Ban's signature design.

HIROSHIMA

5 [Itsukushima Shrine](#) 1168

Formally named [Itsukushima](#), the island is more popularly known as "Miyajima", literally "shrine island" in Japanese, thanks to its star attraction. The shrine is known worldwide for its iconic "floating" torii gate.

The shrine and its torii gate are unique for being built over water, seemingly floating in the sea during high tide. Adjoining the shrine on the island are multiple buildings, which are connected by boardwalks and supported by pillars above the water. Beware of the deer on the island who just love to steal paper bags from tourists. Best not feed them!



6 [Peace Museum](#) 1955 Kenzo Tange

This memorial museum is located in central Hiroshima and is perhaps one of the most emotional experiences of my travels. Established in 1955 and receiving more than 1 million visitors each year, the museum is dedicated not just to document the atrocities of the atomic bomb but with the additional aim of world peace.

Warning... the graphic imagery recording this world event is stark and confronting. However the reality suggests that your views on nuclear war may be influenced, not just by the event itself, but also by the lasting impacts which are often dismissed. [Drawings](#) [Essay](#)



7. [Ribbon Chapel](#) 2013 Hiroshi Nakamura & Arup

The chapel is situated at one of Japan's leading resort hotels, Bella Vista Spa and Marina, Onomichi which overlooks the Seto Inland Sea.

Inspired by a flying ribbon, two interlinking spiral stair cases start at different locations before ascending and connecting at the 15.3m high rooftop platform to form a single ribbon, symbolising two paths ending in marriage. The intertwining stairways also form the roof, eaves and walls, enclosing the central space that can seat up to 80 guests. [Drawings](#)



8 [Kohtei Gardens](#) 2016 Sandwich

The Kohtei pavilion was added to the gardens in the campus of Tenshinzan Shinshoji temple in Fukuyama city, Hiroshima, which was established as a tribute to workers who lost their lives at sea or as a result of industrial accidents. Building currently closed during renovations.

"Kohtei's distinctive form was inspired by the roots of the temple's establishment, which led to create a building that resembles the motif of a ship," said the architects. "It is an architecture that floats on waves surrounded by mountains and is themed to work with three fundamental materials: wood, stone and water."



KURASHIKI / NAOSHIMA ISLAND



9 [Ohashi House](#) 1796

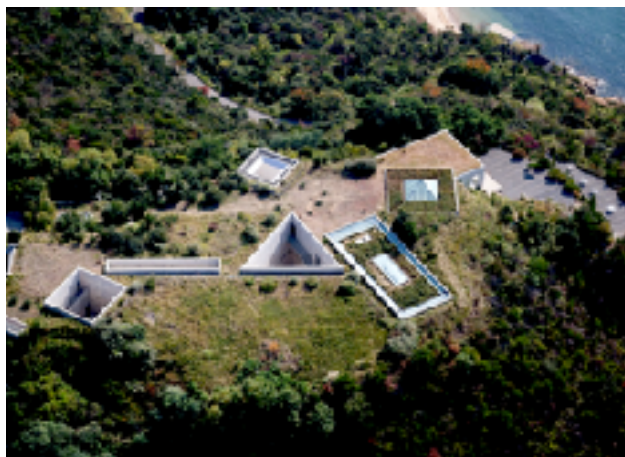
A former traditional merchant house. The Ohashi family was foremost amongst the merchant class of [Kurashiki](#), and this is the residence they built for themselves in 1796. The house is typical of the machiya (Japanese for "town house") of Kurashiki's wealthy merchants. There are [tatami](#)-floored rooms with elegant sliding doors and hanging scrolls for entertaining guests as well as private quarters, storage rooms and a kitchen. One striking difference with other machiya is its not built directly on the road but has a front gate and an open area, which was an architectural style exclusive to [samurai](#) residences.



10 [Ferry Terminal](#) 2017 **SANAA**

This is a project by Japanese architects Ryue Nishizawa and Kazuyo Sejima known as [SANAA](#). Most of their projects are spread across the globe. They are known for designs with clean modernist elements such as slick, clean, and shiny surfaces made of glass, marble, and metals. They also use squares and cubes, which can be found in their designs in various degrees.

Following successful completion of the Glass Pavilion, and the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio USA, SANAA have recently built a significant project known as the new Sydney Modern Art Gallery in 2023. Some similarity.



11 [Chichu Art Museum](#) 2004 **Tadao Ando**

Built on idyllic Naoshima Island, the intention of this subterranean museum was to "rethink the relationship between nature and people". The Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum is located on the southern edge of Naoshima island between a high hill covered with deep woods and a promontory of rocks and beach.

The museum has paintings from Monet's "Water Lilies" series as well as a James Turrell's unique lightroom. Whilst the majority of the building is underground, its skilful positioning by Ando was to ensure it receives an abundance of natural light to illuminate the exhibited artworks. [Drawings](#)



12 [Benesse House](#) 1992 **Tadao Ando**

An integrated museum and hotel opened in 1992. The facility consists of 4 buildings and is based on the concept "coexistence of nature, art and architecture".

The emergence of modern art and architecture in this relatively remote location can largely be attributed to the generous donations from the Benesse Corporation. Soichiro Fukutake, the billionaire art lover and company chairman, is a local and without his longstanding support this would not have been possible. Whilst not on our schedule, Ando's latest addition, a small gallery (96sqm) [Valley Gallery](#). is a maybe, if time permits.

NAOSHIMA / HYOGO

13 [Yellow Pumpkin Sculpture](#) 1994

Naoshima is a small island, located in the Setouchi Sea. With three modern and contemporary art museums, it is known as an “art island”. The yellow pumpkin, which contrasts with the blue sea, has long been a popular site for Instagram photos. Yayoi Kusama’s sculpture is back after being swept out to sea in a typhoon. The sculpture, which is 2m tall, 2.5 m wide and made of fiberglass-reinforced plastic, was swept away into the sea and broken into three pieces in August 2021. After evaluating the extent of the damage, Kusama’s team opted to create a brand new yellow pumpkin sculpture, while staying true to the original.



14 [Tadao Ando Museum](#) 2013 Tadao Ando

A traditional house with a contemporary interior described by Ando ... “I nestled a concrete box within the old minka house. The box has a gently curved ceiling. One of its walls aligns with the main axis of the house and is tilted towards the ridge beam to generate a feeling of openness that extends dynamically into the space above. Sunlight descends down through the deep space from a skylight opening at the top of the wooden roof. We created a space that conjures a rich sense of depth despite its small size, where oppositional elements such as the past and present, wood and concrete, and light and shadow clash intensely as they are superimposed against each other.”



15 [Tazaemon Yamamura](#) 1924 Frank Lloyd Wright

The Yodoko Guest House was built as a summer villa for the wealthy sake brewer, [Tazaemon Yamamura](#) and is the only remaining FLW residence in Japan.

Wright’s use of textile block, his Mayan influence, is clearly evident in the exterior of the building, although in this instance it is Oya stone, not concrete. Overlooking the Port of Kobe, the villa is 4 storeys high but cleverly, in stepping the building into the hill, at no point is it more than 2. In 1974 the building was named as an Important cultural Property and in 1989 it was opened to the public as Yodoko Guest House. [Video](#) [Photo](#) [Drawing](#)



16 [Hyogo Museum of Art](#) 2002 Tadao Ando

Much of the traditional Hyogo was devastated during WW2 and further damaged in the earthquake of 1995. Ando sought to recover the city's relationship with the sea. It was a happy coincidence that both the Museum as well as the [Kobe Waterfront Plaza](#) were designed by Ando, who treated them as an integral concept. This urban development included a complex of housing, a Museum of Art and an extensive park around the Port. The interior is remarkably minimalist, the neutrality and austerity in the use of materials stresses the majesty of space and light, yet creating sensations of scale and tone, and at the same time provides a grand setting to host often colourful and striking modern art. [Drawings](#)





17 [Chapel Rokko Mountain](#) 1986 Tadao Ando

The small Chapel known as Church of the Wind faces the Pacific Ocean, and is composed of several elements - a bell-tower, a long colonnade with a glazed promenade, a landscaped courtyard and a free-standing wall that partially obscures the view.

All these lead to a massive concrete structure similar to many of Ando's other works. Ando has, in fact, designed a building that is essentially western - a church, into which he has integrated Buddhist and Shinto architectural concepts, thereby creating a fascinating intercultural synthesis. [Drawings & Sketches](#)



18 [Water Temple](#) 1991 Tadao Ando

The Water Temple is the residence of Shingon, the oldest sect of Tantric Buddhism in Japan, founded in 815. Far from the wooden structures of the classic Buddhist temples, this is Ando's unique contribution to the culture of his country.

Built on a hill on Awaji Island, with sweeping views over Osaka Bay, the temple hall is placed below ground, beneath a large oval pond filled with green lotus plants. The interior of the halls and its pillars are stained vermilion as this is a traditional Buddhist colour which becomes more intense at sunset with reddish glow. [Dwg](#)



19 [Architecture Research Centre](#) 2000 Tadao Ando

This is a huge project covering over 28 ha of land previously flattened to create other islands such as the one for the Kansai Airport. Based on the concept of Japan's first combination resort and conference centre, the Awaji Yumebutai Centre is surrounded in greenery, and the Westin Awaji Island offers rest and relaxation, restaurants and shops. You can also enjoy nature from close up, at the Observation Terrace, Oval Forum and Circular Forum. The project is a one-of-a-kind "environmental creation" project, equipped with facilities that blend in with the magnificent landscape that takes advantage of the dynamic slope. [Aerial Photo & Site Plan](#)



20 [Zen Wellness Centre](#) 2022 Shigeru Ban

The project features a bridge-like wooden structure suspended above the lush landscape, providing visitors with a zen experience. The vierendeel timber girder allows for a 21-metre span and a significant cantilever on one end of the 90-metre long structure.

Elevated on steel columns, the project occupies a lush green site on the northern part of Awaji Island. The project will feature a restaurant and accommodation, while the open-air observation deck is intended as a studio for zazen, a form of meditation. [Architects Work Sheet](#)

OSAKA / KYOTO

21 [Koshino Hiroko House](#) 1981 Tadao Ando

KH's former residence in Ashiya, has turned what was a rugged concrete building, into an art gallery, to house some 35 of her paintings. The "KH Gallery Ashiya" is attracting visitors, who are interested in both art and architecture, from all over the country. The gallery stands tucked inside the hilly mountainside of Rokko Mountain, surrounded by a leafy forest. For the opening, Koshino revealed six new paintings done in rich bright colors, all inspired by Mexico. The paintings are based on her experience in Mexico, where she visited the bright and colorful buildings. "It feels as if I added a violent burst of colour to this building that was created by Ando" [Drawing](#)



22 [Azuma Row House](#) 1976 Tadao Ando

Azuma House was one of Ando's first works. The project is located in between two constricted party walls in Osaka. Ando approached the concept of the house differently from the way other architects might have. He created a social theme that no one else did at the time.

Ando presented a cement box in the middle of a row of old wooden houses. By making a concrete box in such a crowded area, he created a highly self-sufficient living space within the concrete box. With internal courtyards he was then able to open the house to the sky for sunlight and wind. [Video](#) of the Interior. [Drawings](#)



23 [Oyamazaki Museum](#) 2001 Tadao Ando

The architecture of the Oyamazaki Museum consists of both old and new. The old part is Oyamazaki Villa, a 1920's Tudor style compound established by Shotaro Kaga, an Osaka entrepreneur. It was an important meeting point for Kyoto's elite and intellectuals in its day.

The new (1995) Ando addition, built to house an excellent art collection, is nestled into the surrounding landscape in order to avoid overwhelming the villa. This new addition is as much a part of the landscape as it is an exhibition space [Drawings](#)



24 [Garden of Fine Arts](#) 1994 Tadao Ando

The open air museum was conceived as a traditional Japanese stroll garden, where an unfolding journey gradually reveals objects, often in unexpected ways.

What is important, is how this building, compact in size, surprises visitors with its distribution of spaces and the way walls mark boundaries into the semi-labyrinthine as paths intersect and flow. The interplay of light and shadows, chasing each other at different times of day and season brings a certain kind of unpredictability. The building is mostly below ground level to maintain the view from the botanical gardens and the mountain vista. [Dwgs](#)



KYOTO



25 [Apple Store Kyoto](#) 2018 Foster Partners

Inspired by its context the building was designed to be in harmony with its environment. Modular in its local design and seemingly traditional materials, with the upper levels clad in a translucent envelope inspired by Japanese lanterns. The use of a lightweight timber frame and special paper on the upper facade also draws reference to the country's traditional houses.

Apple now has some 500 retail stores around the globe with most having unique facades inspired from their location. The adaptation of the model flagship store is unique to each location and always designed by well known architects. [3D Dwgs](#)



26 [Arashiyama Bamboo Grove](#)

This is one of Kyoto's top sights and for good reason, standing amid these soaring stalks of bamboo is like being in another world.

This is one of the most photographed sights in the city. But no picture can capture the feeling of standing in the midst of this sprawling bamboo grove – the whole thing has a palpable sense of otherness that is quite unlike that of any other known normal forest. A gentle wander through an awesome space.



27 [Ryōan-ji Temple.](#) 1450

One of Japan's most famous rock gardens, which attracts hundreds of visitors every day. Originally an aristocrat's villa during the Heian Period, the site was converted into a Zen temple in 1450 and belongs to the Myoshinji school of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism, whose head temple stands just a kilometre to the south.

The garden consists of a rectangular plot of raked pebbles surrounded by low earthen walls, with 15 rocks laid out in small groups with patches of moss. An interesting feature of the garden's design is that from any vantage point at least one of the rocks is always hidden from the viewer. [Drawings](#)



28 [Nishijin Lifestyle Museum](#) 1999

The original building was a kimono workshop and warehouse with a living space in the rear built in 1885. It was registered as National Culture in 1999 and also as Structure of Landscape Importance in Kyoto in 2007.

Currently, Tondaya is open as Nishijin Lifestyle Museum to promote the education of traditional Kyoto lifestyle culture. As it was a warehouse, it's different from traditional modern Japanese houses. It's characterised by a building structure which has a narrow entrance and a long interior.

KYOTO

29 [Kyoto Concert Hall](#) 1995 Arata Isozaki

The Concert Hall is adjacent to Ando's Garden of Fine Arts. Designed by an internationally renowned Japanese architect, Arata Isozaki who recently received the Pritzker Prize 2019. The 5 storey building, planned to commemorate the 1200 year anniversary of the founding of Kyoto City. There are 2 concert halls. The main hall has a capacity of 1833 seats and the smaller hexagonal one caters for up to 500 people. It is noteworthy that the building is entered not from the main façade, but from the side. As Isozaki himself recalls, "the approach to a temple in Kyoto is never straight. It bends and turns". [Drawings](#)



30 [Shisendo Temple](#) 1641

Shisendō is a delightful little temple in the northern part of the Higashiyama hillside.

It was built in 1641 by the poet Ishikawa Jōzan (1583-1672) as a mountain retreat for hermits. It now belongs to the [Sōtō sect of Zen Buddhism](#).

The temple is famous for its Japanese azalea ("tsutsuji") garden in autumn and its peacefulness, away from the hordes of tourists. The garden is impeccably sedate and tranquil. A great place to squat and meditate.



31 [Kiyomizu-dera-Dera Temple](#) 780

Added to the world heritage list in 1994 this is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan. and derives its name from the waterfall's pure water. Best known for its wooden terrace that juts out 13 meters above the hillside below.

The stage affords visitors a nice view of the numerous cherry and maple trees below that erupt in a sea of colour in autumn as well as a spectacular view of the city. The main hall, which together with the stage, was built without the use of nails, houses the temple's primary object of worship, and a small statue of the eleven thousand armed Kannon. Great walk up to the temple through shops in the area of Gion [Drawings](#)

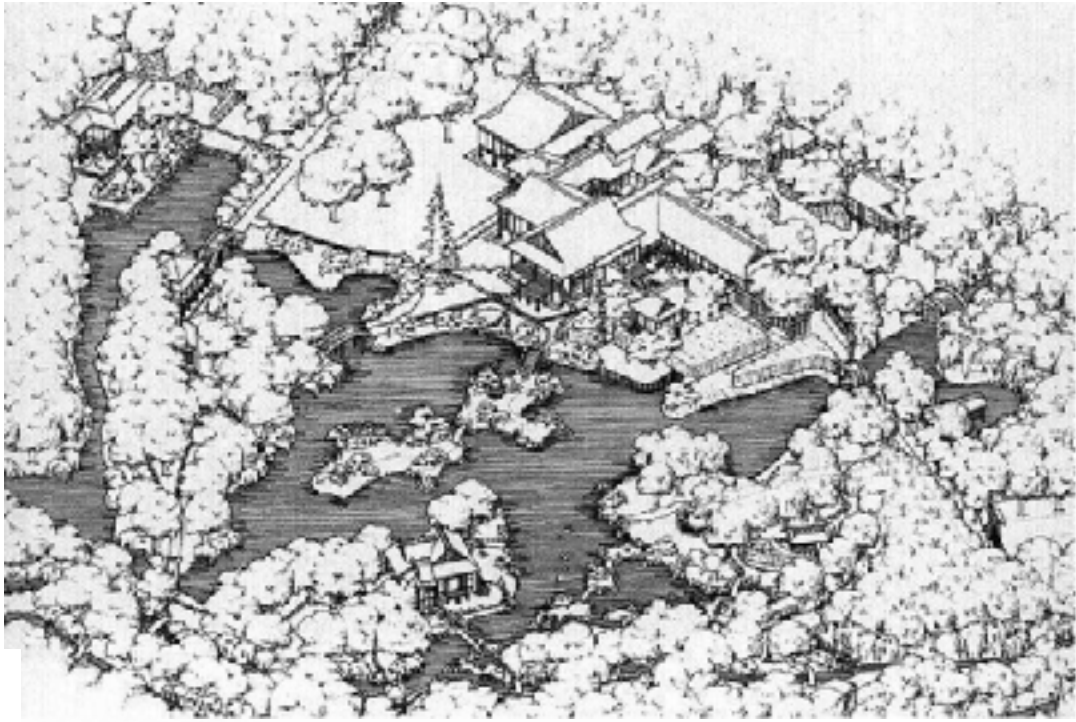


32 [Kinkaku-ji "Golden Pavilion"](#) 1397

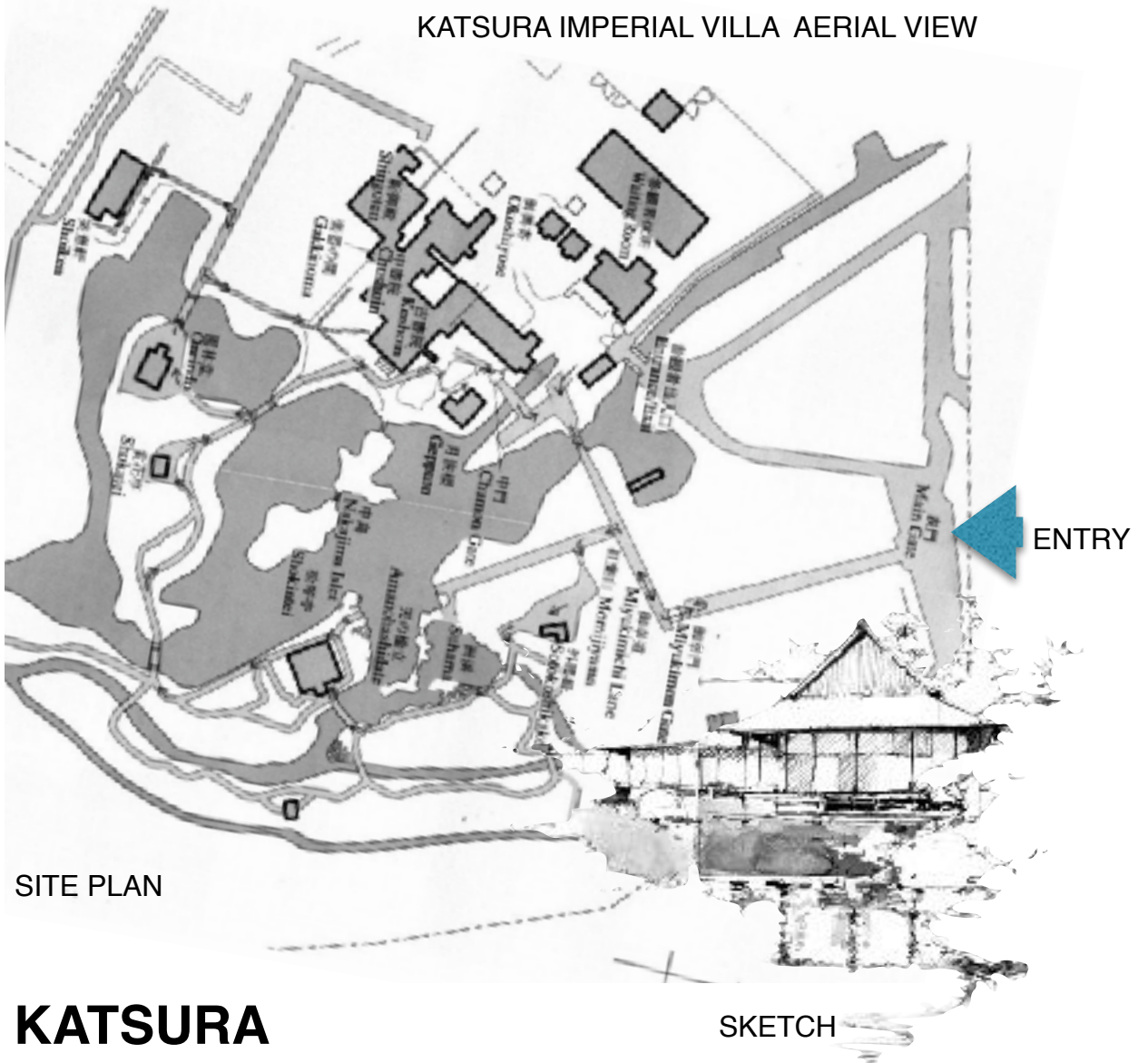
The Golden Pavilion is the popular name for one of the main buildings that make up the Zen Buddhist Temple and one of Kyoto's most popular tourist destinations. It is designated as a National Special Historic Site and part of the Ancient Kyoto World Heritage Site. This includes the magnificent strolling garden that weaves a path down to the pavilion.

The top 2 floors are literally covered in gold - pure gold leaf set on Japanese lacquer. The pavilion successfully incorporates 3 distinct styles of architecture, shinden, samurai and Zen, specifically on each floor.





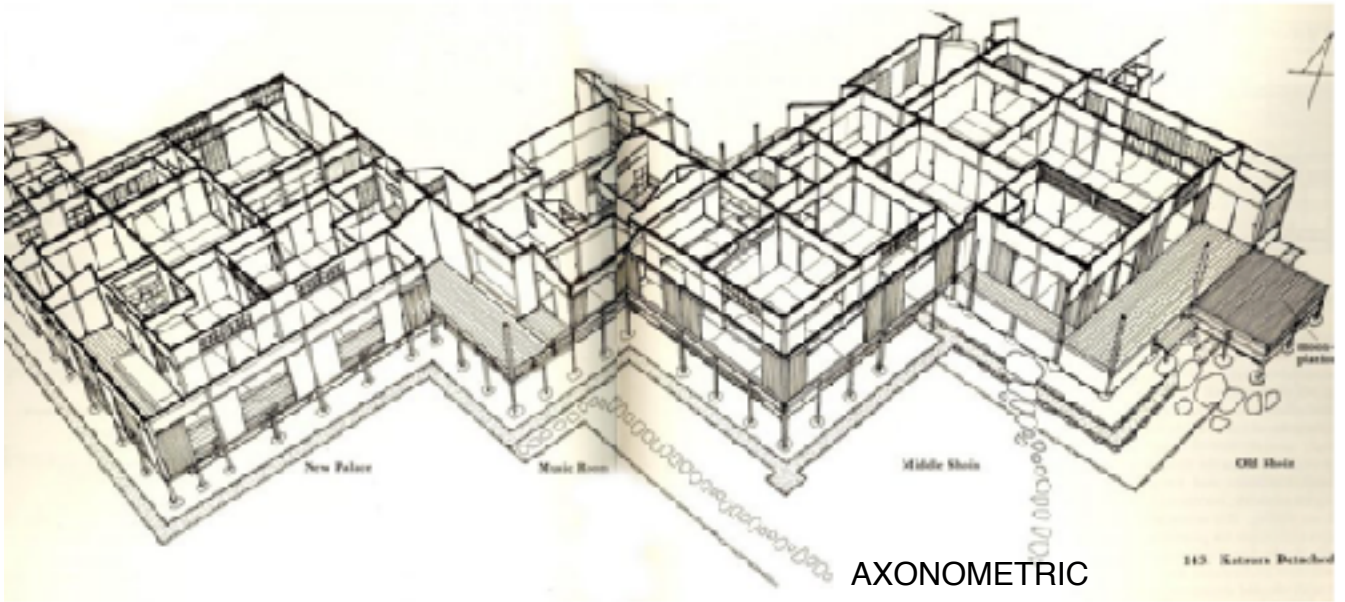
KATSURA IMPERIAL VILLA AERIAL VIEW



SITE PLAN

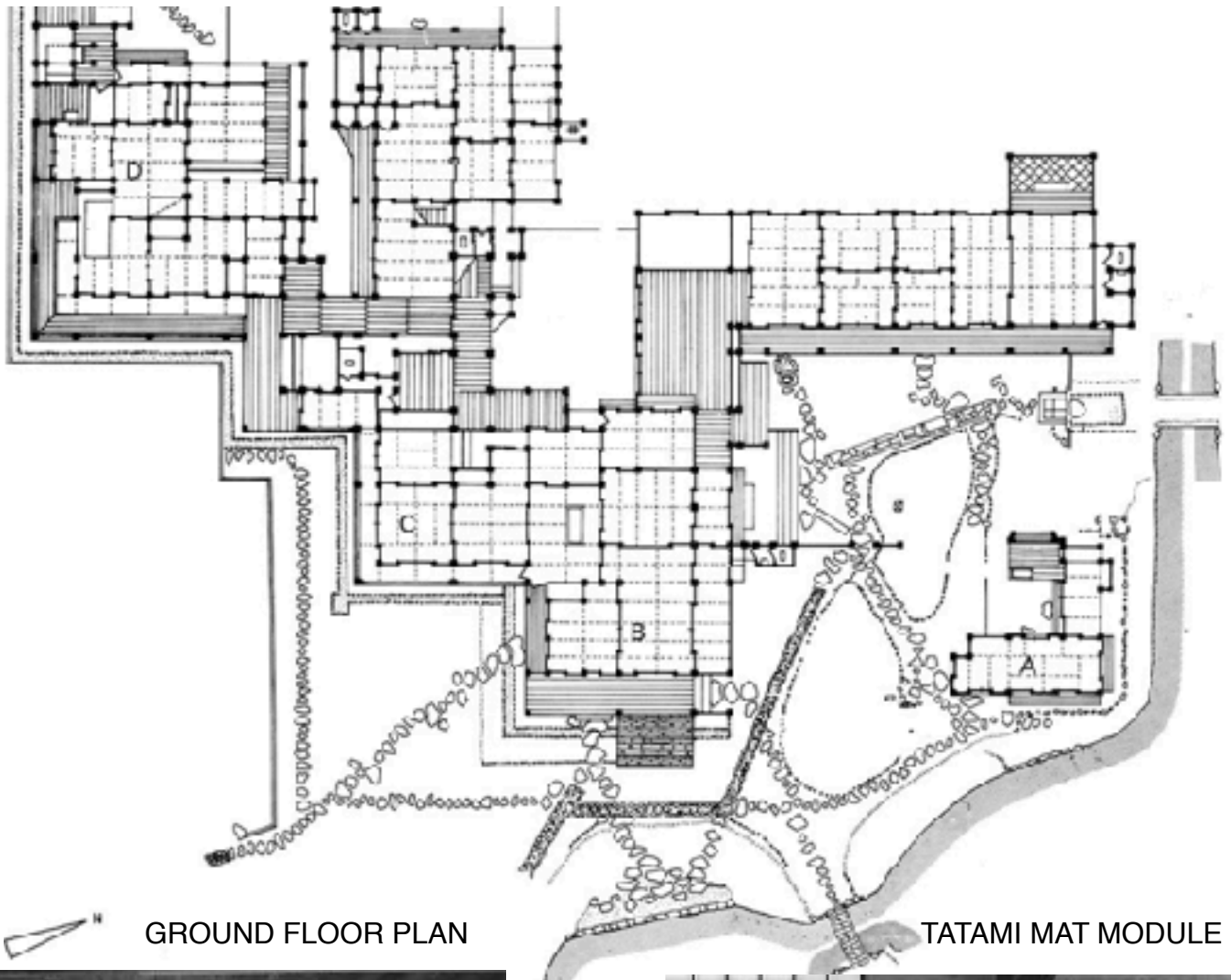
KATSURA

SKETCH



AXONOMETRIC

113 Katonno Detached



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

TATAMI MAT MODULE



KYOTO - NARA



33 [Katsura Imperial Villa & Gardens](#) 1700's

This [building](#) was a significant source of inspiration for the early modernists, which makes it an important precedent for contemporary architects. The 3ha site was favoured by many for its picturesque views and particularly as a place from which to view the moon. Although built primarily as a nobleman's villa for relaxation and contemplation, the villa is innovative both within its time period and in its use of simple materials and minimalist space that work together to integrate the interior of the villa with the exterior. This integration of interior with exterior gardens, in terms of space and aesthetics and the use of modules based on the tatami mat, marks a significant milestone in the development of modern architecture. [Article](#) [Dwgs](#) [Video](#)



34 [Miho Museum](#) I M Pei

The museum stands deep in the forested hill west of Kyoto. It was designed by renowned Chinese-American architect, I. M. Pei, who died recently aged 102 (Pritzker Prize Winner 1983) and is named after Koyama Mihoko.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the museum is the design of its structures and how they are integrated into their natural surroundings. The inside of the museum continues this theme by contrasting steel and glass with warm stone and panoramic views of the surrounding valleys. The museum's exhibits consist of works from ancient civilizations including the Egyptians, Romans, and various Asian cultures [Archdaily](#). [Dwgs](#)



35 [Naiku, Ise Grand shrine](#)

700

This shrine is particularly significant in the history of Japanese architecture, with a unique distinctive style. These shrines are rebuilt every 20 years and are completely faithful to the original design so that they would not change too much over time.

They are made of wood and often have beautiful gardens to accompany them. The style also influenced western architecture, with architects like Frank Lloyd Wright using them as a basis for his own work. Originally Japan was influenced by China yet went through evolutions of innovation to develop their own style in their isolationist period 1639 to 1853. [Model and 3D Dwgs](#)



36 [GC Prosth Museum](#) 2011

Kengo Kuma

"This is architecture that originates from Cidori, an old wooden Japanese toy. Cidori is an assembly of wood sticks with joints having unique shape, which can be extended merely by twisting the sticks, without any nails or metal fittings. Parts are 60mm sq in 2 & 4m lengths forming a grid of 500mm square. This cubic grid also becomes the grid on its own for the showcase in the museum. An engineer verified that even the device of a toy could be adapted to 'big' buildings. "This architecture shows the possibility of creating a building by hand in the hope that the era of machine-made architecture would be over, and human beings would build them again by themselves". [KK Pavilion Design using Wood](#) [Video](#)

NAGOYA / TOKYO

37 [Imperial Hotel Lobby](#) 1906 Frank Lloyd Wright

Whilst the majority of FLW work was built in America, Wright was commissioned to design the [Imperial Hotel in Tokyo](#), together with about 6-10 buildings in Japan. With a unique footing structure, the building withstood the violent earthquake in 1923 and remained, until the building was demolished in 1968, despite world wide efforts to retain it, due to demand for more intensive land use in Tokyo. The foyer was removed piece by piece and reconstructed in Nagoya. Nevertheless it provides an opportunity to at least appreciate the detailing of the foyer, a unique part, of one of the most significant Wright buildings of its time. The next Imperial Hotel in Tokyo announced recently. [Link](#). [Website](#) [Drawings](#)



38 [World Heritage Centre](#) 2017 Shigeru Ban

The building, with glass walls & latticed wood, is based on an inverted image of Mt. Fuji, which, when reflected in the large pool of water, looks like a symbolic representation of Fuji as a “mountain of water.” Inside the building shaped like an inverted mountain is a spiral curved slope which leads to the top floor. Viewing the exhibits as they ascend the slope, visitors can enjoy a virtual taste of the experience of climbing the mountain. When they reach the top floor, there is an observation hall with a large picture window offering a breathtaking panoramic view of the real Mt. Fuji, which changes its expression from moment to moment. [Drawing](#)



39 [Atami House](#) 2017. Kidosaki Architects

The property was on a high hill, and the client wanted the brand new residence in the familiar environment. The east side was a steep slope with an open front, and his top priority was the “dwelling space with the living room with the extensive view over the Pacific Ocean, where he can spend his extraordinary life. The client was well aware of my design style to details, and was convinced that the dwelling space of my wish and your style resonate each other.” (HK) With intricate detailing and use of perspective, the house results in an outstanding and dramatic solution to the site.



40 [Tokyo International Forum](#) 1996 Rafael Vinoly

This multi purpose exhibition hall and conference centre features a beautiful atrium with great sweeping curves in glass and steel in the shape of a ship. Within the atrium are suspended walkways which criss-cross the light filled volume.

Located alongside the main Tokyo rail line between Marunouchi, Tokyo's central business area and the Ginza shopping and entertainment area. One hall seats 5,000 and in addition to seven other halls, it includes an exhibition space, a lobby, restaurants, shops, and other related facilities. A great tranquil public open space that has become an oasis in an urban context. [Video](#)



TOKYO



41 [House Studio Senzokuike](#) 2015 Kidosaki

This introverted house had to meet not just the strict laws and regulations for the protection of quiet cityscapes, but also due to the slope differential, it required adaption to changes in level. This might have caused the windows to face other houses' windows so it required an internal theme to integrate levels between the sky and the underground.

So with this theme in mind, materials were carefully selected, and the house was built with a universal design language using three elements; stone & concrete, steel panels and glass. (KA)



42 [Showcase Tour of Flagship Stores](#)

Tokyo like other major world cities has spectacular flagship retail stores all freestanding and each individually designed by Japanese and other international architects. The opportunity to see these stores late afternoon and partly at night for a vivid lighting experience is on Friday 17 by coach and some walking. This will give an insight into the shopping scene- unfortunately not enough time for shopping just photos! About 10-12 stores including the Hugo Boss, Uniqlo, Hermes, Prada, Pigment Arts, Fender, Apple, Tods, Omotesando Hills, & Mikimoto. (See images at rear of guide)



43 [Architecture Museum Edo West](#) 1993

Located in a quiet corner of Koganei Park in a western suburb of Tokyo, the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum provides a fantastic opportunity to see the history of Tokyo's architecture all in one place. Created in 1993 by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the park is a branch of the Edo-Tokyo Museum in Ryogoku and focuses on buildings of historical architectural value from the region.

In a nation where buildings are lost to fire, earthquake, war or just modernisation, this park aims to protect properties of interest for future generations. [Layout](#)



44 [National Art Centre](#) 2007 Kisho Kurokawa

The National Art Center, Japan's largest exhibition facility, connects with Roppongi downtown as an extension of the street. As the trees surrounding the building grow, the atrium has become a forested public space. The large atrium is enclosed in an undulating glass curtain wall, with exterior glass louvres to block direct light and ultraviolet rays.

Kurokawa also designed the new glass curtain wall for the existing library building. The reflection of the new Art Centre on the facade makes a visual connection between the two buildings. [Drawings](#)

TOKYO

45 [Design Insight 2121](#) 2007 Tadao Ando

Design Insight 2121 is a gallery/workshop created for fashion designer Issey Miyake “The idea was to create not only a museum that shows exhibits,” says Ando, “but also a place for researching the potentiality of design as an element that enriches our daily life, a place that fosters the public’s interest in design by arousing in them different sights and perspectives on how we can view the world and the objects surrounding us”.



46 [Nezu Museum](#) 2006 Kengo Kuma

The Nezu Museum is a cultural and scenic highlight of Tokyo's fashionable [Aoyama](#) district, combining sweeping modern architecture with elegant traditional landscaping.

The Museum is at the end of the upmarket [Omotesando](#) boulevard. The Nezu Museum, is an art museum in the Minato district of Tokyo, Japan. The museum houses the private collection of pre-modern Japanese and East Asian art of Nezu Kaichirō. [Architects Statement](#)

The traditional gardens include a tea ceremony house.



47 [Sumida Hokusai Museum](#) 2016 SANAA

A stunning museum designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning firm [SANAA](#) in 2010 was opened in Tokyo in 2016. It was established to highlight the work of [Katsushika Hokusai](#), a world-renowned ukiyo-e woodblock painter who was born in Japan in 1760 and spent most of his 90 years in Tokyo,

The other goal of the museum, was to create a new cultural landmark for the city. The five-story building, envisioned as a monolithic block, is broken up by angular cut-outs designed to bring light into the structure. The geometric forms of the facade reappear inside, with triangular walkways and apertures. [Video](#). [Web Page and Video Tokyo Ride](#)



48 [Sky House](#) 1958 Kiyonori Kitutake

Kiyonori Kitutake was a prominent Japanese architect known as the founder of the Metabolist group. He was a mentor and employer of numerous important Japanese architects, including Toyo Ito.

This single dwelling house (1958) remains an impressive project that has often been described as “the meeting of East and West”. During this time Le Corbusier was the figurehead of Congrès International d’Architecture Moderne (CIAM) and his influence is unmistakable

[Drawings](#). [Article](#)



TOKYO

49 [St Mary's Cathedral](#) 1964 Kenzo Tange

Although built more than 50 years ago to replace the original structure that was destroyed in the air raids of WW2, this remarkable cathedral has become a classic Tokyo icon on the skyline and looks like it could have been built yesterday. On closer inspection it's clearly a great example of 20th century architecture and represents one of Tokyo's most impressive contemporary architectural achievements. [Drawings](#)

Kenzo Tange also designed the Yoyogi National Gymnasium for the 1964 Olympics.

[Website Link](#) [Drawings](#) [Video](#)



50 [New National Stadium](#) 2019 Kengo Kuma

Our visit in November follows the Olympic Games Event in August 2021. The three-tiered stadium was expected to seat 68,000 during the games and 80,000 when it was converted into a home field for the Japan National Football Team. The steel roof over the elliptical stadium void is supported by a lattice of exposed timber beams and joists. Kuma has rimmed the track and field building with open-air loggias and clad the edges in a screen of vertical wood, creating a breezy, naturalistic setting that was perfect for the summer games, [Link](#) to other venues and architects. [Video](#) [Earlier Scheme for Stadium designed by Zaha Hadid 2014](#)



51 [Sunnyhills](#) 2013 Kengo Kuma

The architect used a traditional Japanese joint system in wood structure construction called "Jigoku Gumi" to create a soft warm human space that feels like a forest or cloud. The adoption of a 3D structure system enabled the cross section of one member to be reduced to as thin as 60mm x 60mm.

The shop, specialises in selling pineapple cake, in the shape of a bamboo basket. This same type of wood structure, that is as thin as branches, was used.

[Drawings & Photos](#) [Video](#)



Our [Hotel Metropolitan Ikebukuro Tokyo](#)

Please enjoy your last day and night in Tokyo.

We hope you have experienced a wonderful insight into Japan over the past few weeks

Thanks for sharing your thoughts at our Farewell Dinner
We wish you a safe return home.





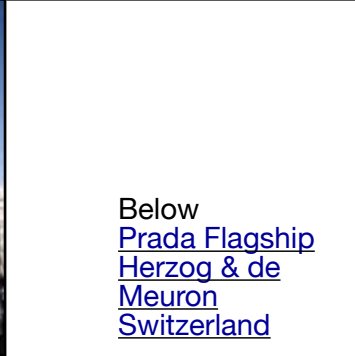
Left
[Omotesando Centre](#)
Tadao Ando



Left
Mikimoto Store
Ginza
[Hiroshi Naito](#) Japan



Right
Tods Store
[Toyo Ito](#) Japan



Below
[Prada Flagship](#)
[Herzog & de Meuron](#)
Switzerland



Above
Fender Flagship
[Klein Dytham](#) Japan



Left
[Hugo Boss](#)
[Noi Hiko Dan](#)
Japan



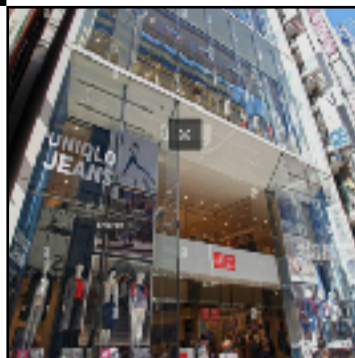
Right
Apple Store
Omotesando
[Bohlin Cywinski Jackson](#). USA



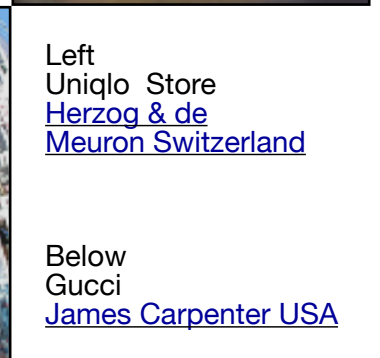
Left
Uniqlo Store
[Herzog & de Meuron](#) Switzerland



Left
Pigment Store
[Kengo Kuma](#) Japan



Below
Christian Dior
[SANAA](#) Japan



Below
Gucci
[James Carpenter](#) USA

SMH Article on [Flagship Stores in Tokyo](#) by [International Architects Link](#)



42 **SHOWCASE**
TOKYO FLAGSHIP
STORES



SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTS



1 [Tadao Ando](#) (1941-)

One of Japan's most eminent architects [Tadao Ando](#). Coincidentally, unlike most contemporary architects, Ando did not receive any formal architectural training. Neither did Frank Lloyd Wright. Instead, Ando trained himself by reading and traveling extensively through Africa, Europe, and the United States. In 1970 he established [Tadao Ando Architect & Associates](#), in opposition to traditional Japanese architecture. He won the [Pritzker Prize 1995](#), RIBA Gold Medal 1997, AIA Gold Medal 2002 and the UIA Gold 2005 & Medal UIA. [Ando's Sketch books](#) [Video on Tadao Ando](#) [Video](#) by Ando



2 [Shigeru Ban](#) (1937-)

[Shigeru Ban](#) is a renowned Japanese architect, who is best known for inculcating the designs of both American and Japanese architecture in his work. He is known as the pioneer in introducing cardboard tubes to building construction. "Shigeru Ban is a tireless architect whose work exudes optimism. Where others may see insurmountable challenges, Ban sees a call to action. Where others might take a tested path, he sees the opportunity to innovate. He is a committed teacher who is not only a role model for younger generations, but also an inspiration." Citation [Pritzker Prize 1998](#). [Video Emergency Structures](#). You Tube [10 Iconic Buildings](#)



3 [Toyo Ito](#) (1941-)

A Japanese architect known for creating conceptual architecture, in which he seeks to simultaneously express the physical and virtual worlds. He is a leading exponent of architecture that addresses the contemporary notion of a "simulated" city, and has been called "one of the world's most innovative and influential architects."

Ito was awarded the [Pritzker Prize 2013](#). The award to Toyo Ito is seen as recognition of a lifetime's achievement in architecture. [Ito's Philosophy video](#)



4 [Arata Isozaki](#) (1931-2022)

He graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1954. Isozaki **worked under Kenzo Tange** before establishing his own firm in 1963. In 2005, Arata Isozaki founded the Italian branch of his office: Arata Isozaki & Andrea Maffei Associates. Recent projects from this office, CityLife office tower, a redevelopment project in the former trade fair area in Milan, and the new Town Library in Maranello, Italy. He was awarded the RIBA Gold Medal in 1986 and has only recently been awarded the [Pritzker Prize 2019](#). [Article Art Tower Mito](#)



5 [Kisho Kurakawa](#) (1934-2007)

Was one of [Japan's](#) leading architects of the 20th century. After completing his studies at the University of Tokyo under Japanese master [Kenzo Tange](#) in 1959, Kurakawa helped to establish the Metabolist movement, a loosely-affiliated group including [Kiyonori Kikutake](#) and [Fumihiko Maki](#), with Tange himself connected to the group as both a member and a mentor. The principles of the Metabolists revolved around ideas of impermanence and change, and as the name suggests the movement was intended to have more in common with natural processes. Kurakawa also designed the [Nakagin Capsule Tower Building](#) in Tokyo which was sadly recently demolished.



6 [Kenzo Tange](#) (1913-2005)

He was one of the most significant architects of the 20th century, combining traditional Japanese styles with [modernism](#), and designed major buildings on five continents. Tange was also an influential patron of the [Metabolist movement](#). Influenced from an early age by the Swiss modernist, [Le Corbusier](#), Tange gained international recognition in 1949 when he won the competition for the design of [Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park](#). Tange inspired a generation of architects many who worked with him in their careers He was awarded the [Pritzker Prize 1987](#). Kuwait Embassy Tokyo [Video](#) 1970

SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTS

7 [Hirotaka Kidosaki](#) (1942-)

Hirotaka graduated in architecture at Nihon University 1966-1979, MHS Planners, Architects & Engineers 1977 received master's degree at The University of Sheffield 1979-1993 **Vice-president in Kenzo Tange Associates** 1993-2005 joint supervised Architect 5 Partnership. In 2000 established Kidosaki Architects Studio. During the past twenty years Hirotaka Kidosaki has created a number of outstanding timeless houses with high standards of workmanship. [Arch Daily](#)



8 [Kengo Kuma](#) (1954-)

Kengo is a Japanese [architect](#) and professor in the Department of Architecture (Graduate School of Engineering) at the [University of Tokyo](#). Frequently compared to contemporaries [Shigeru Ban](#) and [Kazuyo Sejima](#), Kuma is also noted for his prolific writings. Outstanding recent buildings include the Tokyo Skyscraper over Shibuya Station, V&A Museum in Dundee, Scotland. New National Stadium in Tokyo, [LVMH Group Japan headquarters, Osaka](#), and the Nezu Museum in Tokyo. [Interview with KK](#)



9 [SANAA](#) [Kazuyo Sejima](#) and [Ryue Nishizawa](#)

SANAA is an architectural practice based in Tokyo, founded in 1995 and were awarded The **Pritzker Prize in 2010**. Notable works include the Toledo Museum of art's glass pavilion in Toledo, Ohio; the new museum of contemporary art in New York; the Rolex learning centre at the EPFL in Lausanne; the Serpentine pavilion in London; the Christian Dior building in Omotesandō, Tokyo; the 21st century Museum of contemporary art in Kanazawa; and the Louvre-lens museum in France. [Archdaily](#). Video



10 [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) (1867-1959)

FLW was an American architect, who believed in designing structures that were in harmony with humanity and its environment, a philosophy he called organic architecture. This philosophy was best exemplified by Fallingwater (1935), which has been called "the best all-time work of American architecture". His work includes original and innovative examples of many building types. Wright was recognised in 1991 by the American Institute of Architects as "the greatest American architect of all time" His only international projects were in Japan and he was a great collector of Japanese woodblock prints.



11 [I M Pei](#) (1917 -2019)

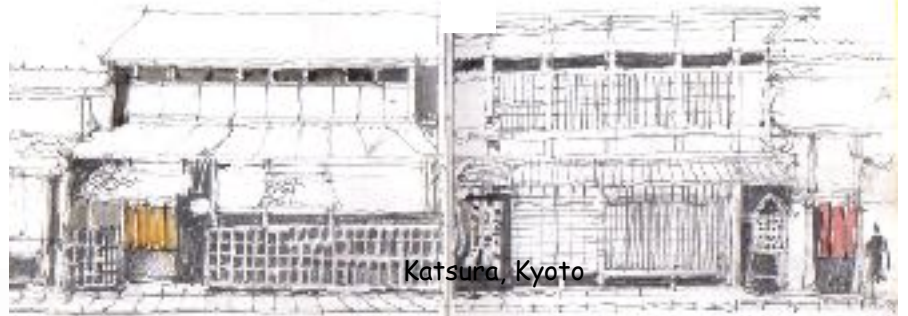
Born China, moved to USA where he studied under former Bauhaus masters Gropius and Breuer and began practice in New York 1855. His architecture is identifiable through its strict geometries – combinations of circles, squares and triangles. Notable buildings in his career include the Louvre Building in Paris, Bank of China Hong Kong, Museum of Islamic Art. Qatar, Miho Museum Kyoto, Kennedy Library and National Gallery USA. Awards include AIA Gold Medal in 1979, the **Pritzker Prize** in 1983, and the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal for architecture in 2010.



12 [Rafael Vinoly](#) (1944 - 2023)

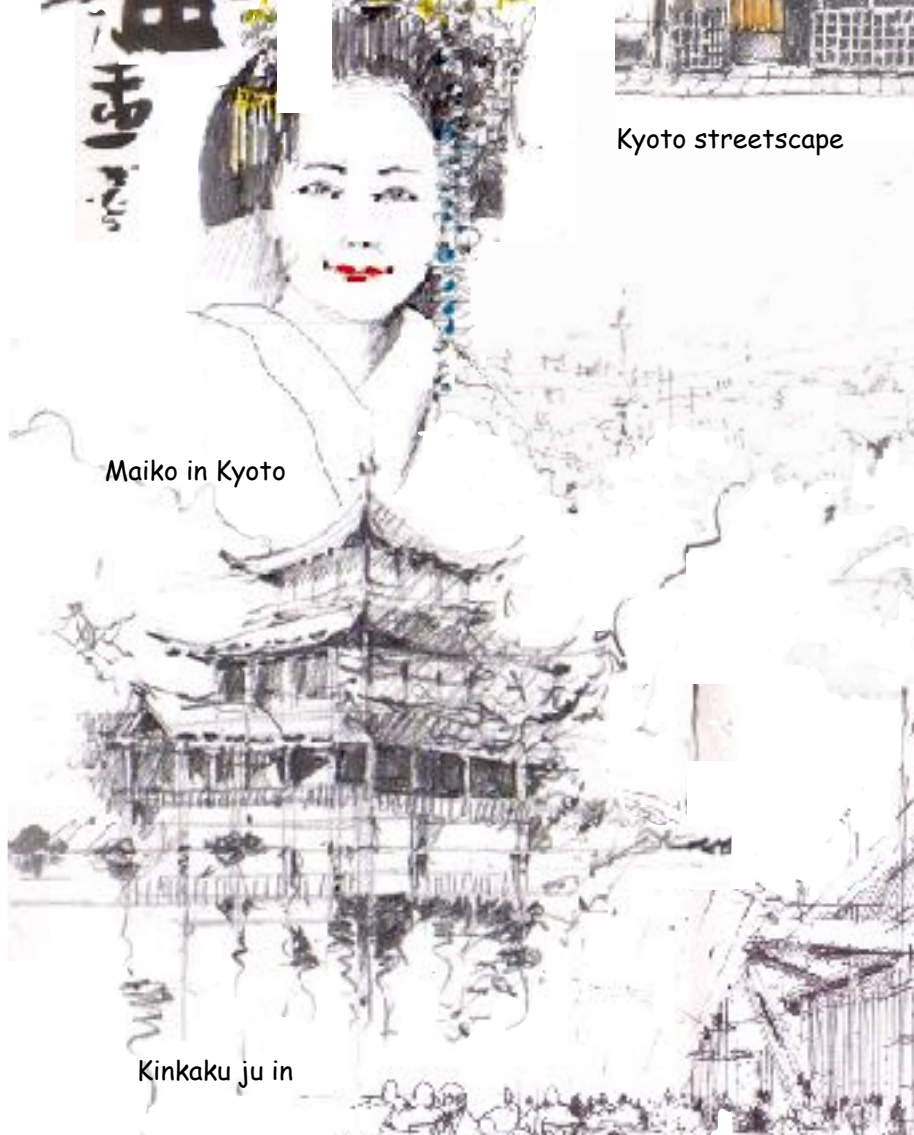
Vinoly was born in Montevideo, Uruguay and grew up and was educated in Argentina. He attended the University of Buenos Aires, receiving a Diploma in Architecture in 1968 and a Master of Architecture from the School of Architecture and Urbanism in 1969. He founded the firm [Rafael Viñoly Architects](#) PC in 1983. His first major project in New York was the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His practice has completed numerous projects all over the world including significant multi storey office towers. [Projects](#)





Katsura, Kyoto

Kyoto streetscape



Maiko in Kyoto



Kiyomizu-dera-Dera Temple,



Doorway in Kyoto



Kinkaku ju in

Sketches from Japan 2006, & 2014

National Art Centre, Tokyo



Bring a small sketch book and try sketching along the way. Malcolm's fascination with architecture is only matched by an absolute passion for sketching. With an eye for simplification of detail and an obsession with light, he draws constantly in sketchbooks during his tours of painting, teaching and travelling. He is always seeking to capture moments by taking a line for a walk, with discrete care to suggest rather than state. His article in 'International Artist' June 2012 on 'The Art of Seeing' can be downloaded from his [website](#) and may help anyone, to learn how to sketch along the way. Picasso said "Sketching is another way of keeping a diary" (Picasso). Also watch You Tube [Colour in Your Life Video](#) & [The Art of Watercolour French Article](#) 2019.

PROJECT LIST

No	Name	Architect	City	Date	Web	No	
1	MOCA Gallery	Kisho Kurokawa	Hiroshima	1989	Web	1	
2	Museum of Art Hiroshima		Hiroshima	1978	Web	2	
3	Hiroshima Chapel	Nikken Space Design	Hiroshima	2014	Web	3	
4	Simose Art Museum	Shigeru Ban	Hiroshima	2023	Web	4	
5	Itsukushima Shrine	Heritage	Hiroshima	1188	Web	5	
6	Peace Museum	Kenzo Tange	Hiroshima	1955	Web	6	
7	Ribbon Chapel	Hiroshi Nakamura	Hiroshima	2013	Web	7	
8	Kohtei Pavilion	Sandwich	Hiroshima	2016	Web	8	
9	Ohashi House	Heritage	Kurashiki	1796	Web	9	
10	Ferry Terminal	Sanaa Kazuyo & Ryue I	Naoshima	2017	Web	10	
11	Chichu Art Museum	Tadao Ando	Naoshima	2004	Web	11	
12	Benesse House	Tadao Ando	Naoshima	2006	Web	12	
13	Yellow Pumpkin Sculpture	Yayoi Kusama Artist	Naoshima	1994	Web	13	
14	Tadao Ando Museum	Tadao Ando	Naoshima	2013	Web	14	
15	Tazaemon Yamamura House	Frank Lloyd Wright	Ashiya	1924	Web	15	
16	Hyogo Museum of Art	Tadao Ando	Hyogo	2002	Web	16	
17	Chapel Mount Rokko	Tadao Ando	Mt Rokko	1986	Web	17	
18	Water Temple	Tadao Ando	Awaji	2000	Web	18	
19	Yumebutai	Tadao Ando	Awaji	2000	Web	19	
20	Zen Wellness Center	Shigeru Ban	Awaji	1989	Web	20	
21	Koshino Hiroko House	Tadao Ando	Ashiya	1984	Web	21	
22	Azuma Row House	Tadao Ando	Osaka	1976	Web	22	
23	Asahi Oyamazaki Museum	Tadao Ando	Osaka	2001	Web	23	
24	Garden of Fine Arts	Tadao Ando	Kyoto	1994	Web	24	
25	Apple Store Kyoto	Foster Partners	Kyoto	2018	Web	25	
26	Arashiyama Bamboo Forest	Heritage	Kyoto	-	Web	26	
27	Ryōan-ji Temple	Heritage	Kyoto	1450	Web	27	
28	Nishjin Lifestyle Museum	Heritage	Kyoto	1999	Web	28	
29	Kyoto Concert Hall	Arata Isozaki	Kyoto	1995	Web	29	
30	Shisendo Temple	Heritage	Kyoto	1641	Web	30	
31	Kiyomizu-dera-Dera Temple	Heritage	Kyoto	780	Web	31	
32	Kinkaku ji "Golden Pavilion"	Heritage	Kyoto	1397	Web	32	
33	Katsura Imperial Villa	Heritage	Kyoto	1700	Web	33	
34	Miho Museum	I M Pei	Kyoto	1997	Web	34	
35	Naiku, Ise Grand Shrine	Heritage	Nara	690	Web	35	
36	GC Prosth Museum	Kengo Kuma	Nagoya	2011	Web	36	
37	Imperial Hotel Lobby	Frank Lloyd Wright	Nagoya	1923	Web	37	
38	Mt Fuji World Heritage Site	Shigeru Ban	Hakone	2017	Web	38	
39	House at Atami	Kidosaki Architects	Atami	2018	Web	39	
40	Tokyo International Forum	Rafael Vinoly	Tokyo	1966	Web	40	
41	Hirotake Kidosaki House	Kidosaki Architects	Tokyo	2015	Web	41	
42	Showcase Retail Tokyo	Various Architects	Tokyo	2023	Web	42	
43	Architecture Museum. Edo		Tokyo	1993	Web	43	
44	National Art Centre	Kisho Kurokawa	Tokyo	2007	Web	44	
45	Design Sight	Tadao Ando	Tokyo	2007	Web	45	
46	Nezu Museum	Kengo Kuma	Tokyo	2009	Web	46	
47	Sumida Hokusai Museum	Kazuyo Sejim	Tokyo	2016	Web	47	
48	Sky House	Kiyonori Kitutake	Tokyo	1958	Web	48	
49	St Mary's Cathedral	Kenzo Tange	Tokyo	1964	Web	49	
50	New National Stadium	Kengo Kuma	Tokyo	2019	Web	50	
51	Sunnyhills	Kengo Kuma	Tokyo	2019	Web	51	

JAPAN 2023



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Architecture Tour of Japan
November 2024

A Study Tour of Japan similar to
the 2023 Tour with a focus on
Contemporary Architecture
+ Gardens + Art and Cuisine