

JAPAN

TRAVELING THROUGH ART,
DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE



99
+1

art.japan.travel

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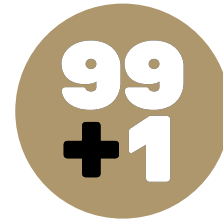
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INTRODUCTION

"In my world, people, locations, and concepts change all the time. This keeps me focused and excited, especially the pressure not to miss out on anything," says Hiroshi Nakamura, summing up what young architects think about their work in Japan. Six years as a student under the wings of celebrated building designer Kengo Kuma have certainly eased his way to stardom, but that's not the only reason for his success. More important is Nakamura's unique sense to wed his structures with nature, such as designing a reception hall roof like a volcano to let plants grow rampant in its crater. His mentor Kuma, on the other hand, expresses closeness to nature with intrinsic wood structures as modest as SunnyHills (*spot #22*), or as big as the stadium for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

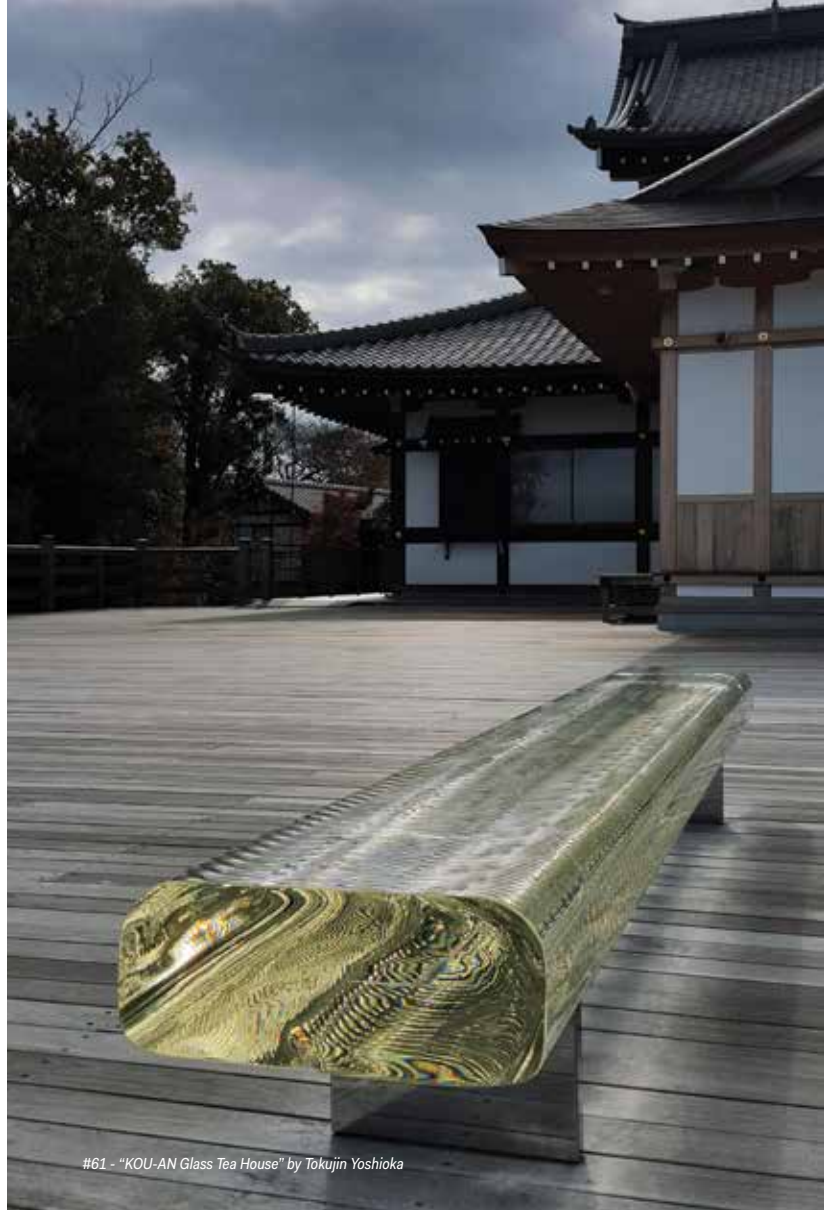
In the same spirit – being aware of nature – architects, designers, and artists all over Japan have created pockets, corners, and islands full of their imagination. From the northernmost island of Hokkaido to the sunny beaches of Okinawa, we've compiled 99 spots to spark your imagination as a traveler – be it a museum, a shop, a building, an art installation, or even everyday stopping points like Hiroshi Hara's imposing Kyoto Station (*p.68*).

We also made sure to get out of the cities and into more rural areas up north in Tohoku, and down to Kyushu with its majestic volcanoes (*p.104*). With all that in one compact booklet, as well as on our homepage, what spot will you discover along the way – by and for yourself? What will be the +1 that makes it 100? We leave it up to you and wish you a safe trip home – packed with unforgettable memories.

–Roland Hagenberg



Hiroshi Hara and Roland Hagenberg



#61 - "KOU-AN Glass Tea House" by Tokujin Yoshioka



"House K" in Sapporo by Yoshichika Takagi

HOKKAIDO



01



Window view at Suiboku with Mt. Yotei

LUXURY RETREAT INSPIRED BY INK

SUIBOKU | 水墨

Not many homes in this world were designed for a 2,000 meter volcano to fit into their window frames, but Suiboku is such a building – a stylish retreat for vacationers with ten loft-size luxury apartments facing the slopes of Mt. Yotei. It was developed under the supervision of architect Koichiro Ishiguro, who had previously worked with star architect Hiroshi Hara on the 40,000 seat Sapporo Dome stadium. “What water does to ink, light does to concrete,” he explains, referring to suiboku – an ancient Chinese ink-drawing technique. Inside and outside Ishiguro left the concrete walls of the five story building uncovered, with the imprints of wood-casings serving as design patterns. It is “most beautiful when moonlight reflecting from the volcano’s snowy slopes casts shadows,” says the architect.

191-29 Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 044-0081
+81-136-21-6133
Hokkaido | Niseko
Hotel

02



PROTECTED FROM THE ELEMENTS THE BARN

A bistro-style restaurant, bar and café in Niseko, the Barn is a modern, minimalist take on the heavy-snow proof, gambrel-roofed farm structure typical of Hokkaido. Its facade and back wall are faced with glass to allow the guests an unhindered view outside – almost like a cozy, protective tunnel. Whether in daylight or at night, spring or winter, with its superb food and service, experiences are sure to be special at the Barn.

170-323 Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 044-0081
+81-136-23-0888
Hokkaido | Niseko
Restaurant



PLAYING IN THE MOUNTAINS

MOERENUMA PARK

モエレ沼公園

03

Moerenuma Park is a treat to visit all year round. Situated just outside Sapporo City, this public park infuses the surrounding nature with brightly colored playground equipment and sculptural art by Isamu Noguchi. The park project was initiated in 1988 to realize Noguchi's lifelong dream of creating a park for children. Although the artist had a fundamental role in the planning of this museum, he did not live to see its completion in 2005.

1-1 Moerenuma-koen, Higashi-ku,
Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 007-0011
+81-11-790-1231
Hokkaido | Sapporo
Park



ART AND MUSIC SAPPORO INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL

札幌国際芸術祭 2017

04

Sapporo International Art Festival, the first of its kind in the region, launched in 2014 with musician Ryuichi Sakamoto as its Guest Director. It makes its return in 2017 with artist and musician Otomo Yoshihide in that leading role. The next edition will incorporate an open call component to further involve the public.

Across Sapporo City
+81-11-211-2314
Hokkaido | Sapporo
Event



Ryuichi Sakamoto + Daito Manabe, "Sensing Streams - invisible, audible", 2014, at Sapporo International Art Festival 2014



SERENE HOT SPRING RESORT

ZABORIN | 坐忘林

Australian photographer, producer and art director Shouya Grigg turned Zaborin into a stylish ryokan spread over 15 villas. His art works – a dreamy interpretation of Hokkaido's nature – are on permanent view throughout the buildings that also feature a gallery, library, and private indoor and outdoor hot spring baths. The architecture's serene atmosphere seems to have influenced even the meticulously prepared kaiseki meals by chef Yoshihiro Seno.

76-4 Hanazono, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 044-0084
+81-136-23-0003
Hokkaido | Niseko
Hotel



Shouya Grigg



CASTLE OF DREAMS

SPACE 1-15

Space 1-15 was formerly a residential building called “Château de rêves” (Castle of dreams) in which a soap dealer decided to open shop in one of the rooms. Since that simple beginning, the vintage structure is now a complex of intimate stores that hosts numerous destinations for art and design lovers alike. Its offerings range from handmade ceramics to cheese, artist books to used records, organic clothes, and even photography classes. Open only on weekend afternoons, Space 1-15 also organizes seasonal events such as morning markets and summer festivals.

15-1-319 Minamiichijo-nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 060-0061
Hokkaido | Sapporo
Complex



#08 - "Wish Tree for Towada" by Yoko Ono at Towada Art Center, © Yoko Ono All Rights Reserved

TOHOKU



+1

RETHINKING RECONSTRUCTION

"Home-for-All" for children in Soma City by Toyo Ito and Klein Dytham architecture



Toyo Ito at Sendai Mediatheque

When Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Toyo Ito started work on his Mediatheque in Sendai he envisioned the seven-story glass library as an artificial forest, where people could stroll around, electronic gadgets in hand, meeting friends or retreating to hideouts to study – all the while communicating with

the world. He completed the building in 2001 with 13 inner tubes branching out from bottom to top like giant tree stems. “We live inside two bodies. One is virtual, created by communication technology expanding continuously. The other is primitive, limited, and has not changed for thousands of years,” explains Ito.



“We live inside two bodies. One is virtual, the other is primitive. Between them, architecture can be the interface.”

—Toyo Ito

"We still need sleep and food and cannot escape gravity, but architecture can be the interface between those bodies." The Tohoku Earthquake 10 years later proved him right, as the Mediatheque withstood the devastating seismic shocks and the people inside survived – their "virtual bodies" connected to the whole world.



"Besides designing, affordable housing is one of my main concerns. That explains my interest in new construction materials."

– Yasuhiro Yamashita

To support the reconstruction efforts, Ito and like minded contemporary architects started Home-for-All, a Japanese NPO that creates houses in disaster stricken areas around Tohoku, with 15 buildings finished so far. These are gathering spaces for those in temporary housing, for kids to play in, and for farmers and fishermen to get back on their feet. At the same time Home-for-All also serves as a role model. "Shelters and support facilities should not be dull containers or warehouses but places with a pleasant, uplifting design," says architect Mark Dytham. He and partner Astrid Klein created a building

for children in Soma City with an intricate wooden ceiling and roof structure. Home-for-All members Toyo Ito, Kumiko Inui, Sou Fujimoto, and Akihisa Hirata even used debris and trees broken by the tsunami to create a building in Rikuzentakata where 1,800 people had lost their lives. It was so unusually designed that the prestigious Venice Biennale architecture event exhibited the structure.

Others, like Tokyo-based architect Yasuhiro Yamashita, went out on their own



"Earth Bricks" – Japan's first earth structure house by Yasuhiro Yamashita

to help. High salt levels had made farmland along the coast non-arable, but since Yamashita and his practice, Atelier Tekuto, had experience using earth as a construction material, he developed a new method to make use of the damaged earth of Minamisanriku for an emergency supply warehouse.

Shigeru Ban too put his ingenuity to work (spot #11). For decades, the award-winning architect helped out all over the world where destruction, war, or famine threatened survival: with emergency structures made of simple paper tubes. The

technique he developed makes transport easy and assembling of building structures quick and painless, with the bonus of being a creative design alternative to nondescript shelter containers. –RH



Recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize and disaster relief innovator Shigeru Ban



**DESIGN MEETS
ARCHEOLOGY**
AOMORI MUSEUM
OF ART | 青森県立美術館

07

The museum is situated next to the excavation site of the Sannai-Maruyama ruins from the Jomon Period (10,000 - 300 BC). Architect Jun Aoki's idea was to dig trenches as if they were from an excavation site. Works of domestic and international artists make up the permanent collection – among them Yoshitomo Nara, Shusaku Arakawa (*spot #59*), Marc Chagall, and Paul Klee. A theater, restaurant, and shop are also part of the four-story structure.

185 Chikano, Yasuta, Aomori-shi,
Aomori 038-0021
+81-17-783-3000
Aomori | Aomori
Museum



WHITE CUBES
TOWADA ART CENTER
| 十和田市現代美術館

08

Occupying an entire block on the city's main avenue, Towada Art Center is comprised of 16 white cubes interconnected by glass hallways. The cubes, some themselves with walls of glass, allow for a dialogue between city and museum, between passersby looking in and museum goers looking out. Ryue Nishizawa's unique design creates an open, inviting space that serves to highlight the museum's 38 site-specific works.

10-9 Nishi-nibancho, Towada-shi,
Aomori 034-0082
+81-176-20-1127
Aomori | Towada
Museum



**FOUJITA'S
MASTERPIECES**
AKITA MUSEUM
OF ART | 秋田県立美術館

09

Centrally located in Akita, this museum designed by Tadao Ando houses Masakichi Hirano's collection of significant works by Leonard (Tsuguharu) Foujita (1886-1968), which the local businessman had amassed through a relationship with the expatriate artist in the 1930s. Hirano later established a foundation that eventually merged with the state museum, and today the comprehensive collection includes paintings, watercolors, and sketches.

1-4-2 Nakadori, Akita-shi, Akita 010-0001
+81-18-853-8686
Akita | Akita
Museum



**THE BOOK
COLOSSEUM**
AKITA INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY NAKAJIMA
LIBRARY | 国際教養大学
中嶋記念図書館

10

This magnificent university library designed by Mitsuru Senda is open to serve its students 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is held together with bare wood beams and columns made of local cedar, forming what resembles a large umbrella. With rows of bookshelves in the stadium seats, watching over the students and their desks situated in the arena, the building is conceptually referred to as a "book colosseum".

193-2 Okutsubakidai, Yuwa-
Tsubakigawa, Akita-shi, Akita 010-1292
+81-18-886-5907
Akita | Akita
Library



SHIGERU BAN IN TOHOKU

ONAGAWA STATION | 女川駅舎

Onagawa Station on the JR Ishinomaki Line was one of the many train stations that lost its buildings and trains to the 2011 tsunami, and less than a decade since, the Onagawa Station area has been revamped through the town's revitalization efforts, with the station itself as a shining example. Designed by Shigeru Ban, the wide and soaring three-story structure features a latticed wood ceiling that yields generous amounts of light. It also functions as more than a train station, with retail shops and a spacious hot bath "Yupoppo" decorated with contemporary murals. New businesses, such as the Seapal-Pier Onagawa shopping center, are opening near the station as well. Onagawa Station may be the last stop on the train line, but today the building stands as a starting point for many.

1-10 Ohara, Onagawahama, Onagawa-cho, Oshika-gun, Miyagi 986-2261
Miyagi | Onagawa
Station



SEE THE WORKS OF JAPANESE MODERN MASTERS

IWATE MUSEUM OF ART | 岩手県立美術館

Opened in 2001 within Morioka City's Chuo Park, the Iwate Museum of Art holds a large collection of works by artists from the region, namely Tetsugoro Yorozu, Shunsuke Matsumoto, and Yasutake Funakoshi; all important figures in shaping Japanese modern art. The museum also organizes exhibitions with contemporary artists, as well as young artists from Iwate. Nearby in Chuo Park are the Study Museum of Archeological Site, the Children's Science Museum, and the Morioka Memorial Museum of Great Predecessors, all worth visiting.

12-3 Matsuhaba, Motomiya,
Morioka-shi, Iwate 020-0866
+81-19-658-1711
Iwate | Morioka
Museum



HOT WATER

GINZAN HOT SPRING FUJIYA INN | 銀山温泉 藤屋

This historic inn is situated in a valley just broad enough for a noisy creek and a row of dreamy ryokan on either side. 400 years ago the village was booming with 30,000 miners trying their luck in silver, but when the last piece of metal had been extracted and carted off, the fortune hunters disappeared. Today there are a mere 120 people living in Ginzan, pumping and sharing the same 60°C hot spring water from 10 meters underground as their ancestors did for centuries. Fujiya Ginzan's original 300 year old structure was redesigned by Kengo Kuma, whose cozy minimalism immediately catapulted the village onto the pages of international lifestyle magazines. "Anybody from the street is now welcome to step in," says the proprietor, "not only guests, and they can have a cup of tea in the lobby to enjoy the architecture." Doors to the guest rooms seem to disappear and blend into the surrounding walls, as do drawers and cupboards, which keep you prisoner in a labyrinth of relaxation.

443 Shinpata, Ginzan, Obanazawa-shi, Yamagata 999-4333
+81-237-28-2141
Yamagata | Obanazawa
Hotel



ART IN THE MOUNTAINS

YAMAGATA
BIENNALE 2018

| みちのおくの芸術祭 山形
ビエンナーレ 2018

The second edition of this art festival in Yamagata Prefecture took place in 2016, with the Tohoku University of Art and Design campus and the Yamagata Cultural Center at the center of operations. The festival invited artists of various mediums, both local and new, to explore the area through fine arts, music, fashion, food, poetry, as well as nature. The third installment of the Biennale is scheduled to take place in 2018.

Across Yamagata City
+81-23-627-2091
Yamagata | Yamagata
Event

A PHOTOGRAPHER & HIS FRIENDS

KEN DOMON
MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

| 土門拳記念館

Ken Domon (1909-1990) is perhaps one of the most prolific 20th century photographers, having worked in a wide range of fields from photojournalism to portraits of cultural icons and Buddhist statues. The museum collection consists of 70,000 of Domon's works, gifted by the photographer himself to his hometown of Sakata. It opened in 1983 in scenic Iimoriyama Park.

2-13 Iimoriyama, Sakata-shi, Yamagata
998-0055
+81-234-31-0028
Yamagata | Sakata
Museum





Butterfly Stool by Sori Yanagi



ART OF PLYWOOD

TENDO MOKKO
YAMAGATA HEAD
OFFICE SHOWROOM

天童木工 本社ショールーム

16

In the town of Tendo, where there has been a long tradition of woodcraft, Tendo Mokko developed its own bent plywood technology in 1947, and has been fabricating plywood furniture with renowned designers and architects including Sori Yanagi, Arata Isozaki, Bruno Mathsson, and Kenzo Tange. Factory tours are also available, though reservations are required.

1-3-10 Midarekawa, Tendo-shi,
Yamagata 994-8601
+81-23-653-3121
Yamagata | Tendo
Showroom

EVERYBODY'S

GLASS PALACE
SENDAI
MEDIATHEQUE

せんだいメディアテーク

17

This Toyo Ito-designed cultural institution with galleries, cinema, and a library is one of Japan's modern architectural masterpieces, and has received international acclaim. The intrinsic glass structure withstood the massive earthquake that shook the Tohoku region in 2011, and became a symbol for Japanese engineering ingenuity that doesn't compromise great design.

2-1 Kasuga-machi, Aoba-ku,
Sendai-shi, Miyagi 980-0821
+81-22-713-3171
Miyagi | Sendai
Interactive Library



GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SENSES

KANKAKU MUSEUM

感覚ミュージアム

18

Opened in 2000, visitors of all ages come to the Kankaku Museum, designed by Kijo Rokkaku, to explore all five bodily senses. In collaboration with artists and engineers, the museum has incorporated new technology with basic ideas to create fun, interactive installations, as well as a meditation area for cultivating one's inner creativity with those honed senses.

100 Shimokawara-machi, Iwadeyama,
Osaki-shi, Miyagi 989-6434
+81-229-72-5588
Miyagi | Osaki
Museum



TO NEW BEGINNINGS

HAJIMARI ART

CENTER | はじまりの美術館

19

Located in a renovated 19th century sake brewery, the Yoshiji Takehara-designed Hajimari Art Center is a unique art brut art center which opened in 2014 to foster a better understanding of the works of artists not commonly placed within the traditional and institutional trajectories of the fine arts. It is also one of the very few art centers around the world operated by a support facility for individuals with disabilities.

4873 Ara-machi, Inawashiro-machi,
Yama-gun, Fukushima 969-3122
+81-242-62-3454
Fukushima | Inawashiro
Art center



Fuji TV building by Tange Associates

TOKYO & KANTO





+1

THE INFINITY OF LIMITED SPACE

Tokyo International Forum by Raphael Viñoly



TOD'S building in Omotesando by Toyo Ito

Visitors to a mega-city like Tokyo are always fascinated how buildings fit into the most unlikely places, with a high rise structure next to a three-story family home next to a designer shop or a shrine. Just walk along the Omotesando shopping avenue with its narrow side streets, and you understand why space management is one of the biggest challenges for any contemporary architect in Japan. How can they design an appealing structure on a plot of land confined to a small corner, and how can tiny rooms project largeness and individuality? Does nature even have a chance within these confines?

“I concluded that spaciousness is not so much a matter of how far you put walls apart. More important is to provoke new and unfamiliar feelings,” says Makoto Tanijiri, one of Japan’s successful new-generation architects, whose practice SUPPOSE DESIGN OFFICE has branches in Tokyo and Hiroshima. “As if you suddenly see a pink or purple apple falling from a tree!” That’s why Tanijiri designs rooms boxed into each other to form a maze of surprises where floor levels and ceilings often overlap.

A case in point is SunnyHills by Kengo Kuma (*spot #22*), which looks like a giant fabric



"Garden and House" in Tokyo by Ryue Nishizawa

of chopsticks, or perhaps a wooden porcupine. The rooms inside appear bigger with the help of elaborate design patterns and witty surprises like the microscopic garden sneaking into the entrance area. Translucent paper walls give way to alcoves where one can catch a view of Tokyo's skyline: packed but spacious. Kuma decided to become an architect in 1964 at age 10. "The way Kenzo Tange had designed the gymnasium for the Tokyo Olympics, and how he explained it on TV, convinced me to choose his profession," remembers the famous architect. The irony of

history would have it that, half a century later, Kuma himself is giving shape to the stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

And then there's the flagship store of Italian shoe manufacturer Tod's, with its skin of criss-crossed concrete braces that mimic the zelkova trees lining Omotesando. Toyo Ito built it on an L-shaped lot in 2004, and nine years later Norihiko Dan faced the challenge of squeezing another flagship store into the space inside Ito's "L" – the Hugo Boss Keyaki Building. The two structures, with the eight-

story Keyaki building slightly higher, seem only centimeters apart as if hugging each other. "Competing for attention, they nevertheless had to project synergy," says Dan. "Otherwise both would look awkward." Dan's solution was to let multiple leaf-shaped columns form a funnel that breaks out from the "L" towards the sky. It is space management at its best: practical and compromising, vying for attention, and breaking out of norms. Summed up, it defines Tokyo's sophistication.

Yoshiharu Tsukamoto and Momoyo Kaijima represented Japan at the 2010 Venice Biennale under the name Atelier Bow-Wow. Their architecture is often compared to M.C. Escher's drawings, where everything starts and nothing ends – always in the service of space illusion. In Tokyo's Shinjuku district, the couple built a family residence that's only three meters wide, called Split Machiya (split townhouse). "For every design detail, we took the building's three-meter-width into consideration," explains Tsukamoto. "The furniture

is slightly lower and the restroom under the stairway. Copper partially covers walls to reflect the garden outside." Multifunctionality is an effective architectural tool, as also demonstrated in the entrance area, where the wardrobe serves as a piano room. As for their source of inspiration, Tsukamoto and Kaijima refer to a meditation room on top of their studio building not far from Split Machiya, a room just big enough for a person to sit down and absorb the never-ending horizon of Tokyo and its endless possibilities of limited space. -RH



"I concluded that spaciousness is not so much a matter of how far you put walls apart. More important is to provoke new and unfamiliar feelings."

- Makoto Tanijiri



CURATED POP CULTURE CREATIVITY

TOKYO CULTUART BY BEAMS | トーキョー カルチャート BY ビームス

Located on the 4th floor of the new BEAMS JAPAN flagship store in Shinjuku, TOKYO CULTUART by BEAMS hand-picks an ever changing selection of art, fashion, and design products from famous and underground Japanese artists and designers. Their collection includes everything from skate decks to vinyl figures, prints, books, graphic t-shirts, and even refurbished Japanese boomboxes from the 70s and 80s. It's a great place to find contemporary art for everyday life, and discover something to take home that you won't find anywhere else.

BEAMS JAPAN B1F-5F, 3-32-6, Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022
+81-3-5368-7300
Tokyo | Shinjuku
Shop



RAWR!!!

KAWAII MONSTER CAFÉ

After window shopping in Omotesando with its domestic designers and international flagship stores, relax in a fantasy world reminiscent of *Alice in Wonderland*. Kawaii Monster Café features manga-inspired waitresses, food in psychedelic colors, and an oversized décor of glowing mushrooms and blinking cakes for just the right degree of fashionable weirdness.

YM square building 4F, 4-31-10 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001
+81-3-5413-6142
Tokyo | Harajuku
Café



Kawaii Monster Café

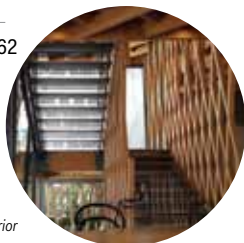


ALL THE COZINESS OF A PINEAPPLE

SUNNYHILLS AT MINAMI-AOYAMA | サニーヒルズ南青山店

From the outside it looks like a giant nest made of randomly piled up wooden planks, and absent any signage or even a hint of what's inside. Positioned along a side street leading to the Prada flagship store on Omotesando, one might assume that it has something to do with fashion, but of all things it's a sweets shop owned by Taiwanese pineapple cake maker SunnyHills. Architect Kengo Kuma playfully recreated the rough surface of a pineapple, and inside the stylish environment visitors can enjoy pineapple cake and tea while they take in the atmosphere.

3-10-20 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062
+81-3-3408-7778
Tokyo | Omotesando
Shop



SunnyHills interior



**PRE-MODERN
ASIAN ART IN A
MODERN
JAPANESE CONTEXT**
NEZU MUSEUM | 根津美術館

Nezu Museum was founded in 1941 to conserve and exhibit the collection of pre-modern Japanese and East Asian art that businessman Nezu Kaichiro (1860-1940) had accumulated. Among the 7,400 items are paintings, ceramics, and sculptures. Architect Kengo Kuma designed and supervised the re-building of the museum in 2009, which carries his signature style of vertical lines. The adjacent Japanese garden is one of the most exquisite in Tokyo.

6-5-1 Minami-aoyama, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 107-0062
+81-3-3400-2536
Tokyo | Omotesando
Garden, Museum



**CONTEMPORARY
JAPANESE ART**
TAKA ISHII GALLERY
| タカ・イシイギャラリー

This leading contemporary gallery specializes in photography and has a branch in New York. Taka Ishii lists dozens of Japanese as well as foreign artists – among them Daido Moriyama, Martin Kippenberger, and controversial photographer Nobuyoshi Araki. Publications and editions add to the variety of the gallery program.

3F, 6-5-24 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
106-0032
+81-3-6434-7010
Tokyo | Roppongi
Gallery



Nobuyoshi Araki

23

24



JAPAN'S LEADING ARCHITECTURE GALLERY

TOTO GALLERY・MA
| TOTO ギャラリー・間

25

Among the founding members of TOTO GALLERY・MA in 1985 were design luminaries such as Tadao Ando and Ikko Tanaka. Since then every Japanese architect that has left a footprint on the international stage started out here, or was rewarded with an exhibition. TOTO provides two floor spaces and an open terrace for experimental presentations that sometimes even involve constructing sections of a building.

TOTO Nogizaka Building 3F, 1-24-3
Minami-aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo
107-0062
+81-3-3402-1010
Tokyo | Nogizaka
Gallery



ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN MECCA 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT

26

The establishment of this space was realized by the Japanese design world's dream team: initiated by Issey Miyake, architecture by Tadao Ando, and currently co-directed by Miyake, Taku Satoh, and Naoto Fukasawa. 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT opened in 2007 on the grounds of Tokyo Midtown with the goal of making a space to hold programs based on everyday things. The three directors take turns organizing and curating exhibitions of their specialties, including architecture, craft, product design, and more.

9-7-6 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo
107-0052
+81-3-3475-2121
Tokyo | Roppongi
Exhibition space



27

KUROKAWA'S STATE OF THE ART MUSEUM

THE NATIONAL ART CENTER, TOKYO | 国立新美術館

The National Art Center, Tokyo, opened in 2007, boasting one of the largest exhibition spaces in Japan. It doesn't have its own permanent collection, but is capable of organizing a wide variety of art exhibitions, in addition to artist associations and competition exhibitions unique to Japan. The building, completed in 2007, is the last museum designed by the architect, Kisho Kurokawa.

7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8558
+81-3-5777-8600
Tokyo | Roppongi
Museum



Kisho Kurokawa



Louise Bourgeois' "Maman" and Mori Tower

ART IN THE SKY

MORI ART MUSEUM | 森美術館

Mori Art Museum, a contemporary art museum founded by real estate developer Minoru Mori in 2003, has come to be an important and indispensable presence in the art scene today. Known for organizing solo and group exhibitions of incomparable quality and scale, the museum also actively works with young emerging artists, stages discourses on historical movements, and publishes handsome catalogs.

Roppongi Hills Mori Tower 53F, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-6150
+81-3-5777-8600
Tokyo | Roppongi
Museum



ART HISTORIES 101
THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART, TOKYO
| 東京国立近代美術館

29

The MOMAT, Japan's first national art museum, boasts one of Japan's largest art collections of more than 13,000 works, and presents modern Japanese art from the 20th century to the present. The museum's "A Room With a View" relaxation space offers a must-see view of the Imperial Palace grounds, and the Craft Gallery is housed in the former Imperial Guard headquarters, an Important Cultural Property.

3-1 Kitanomaru-koen, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
102-8322
+81-3-5777-8600
Tokyo | Takebashi
Museum



**LUXURY RYOKAN
IN THE CITY**
HOSHINOYA
TOKYO | 星のや東京

30

Hoshino Resorts has a history of managing luxury hotels in numerous vacation spots around the country. This is its first ever branch in Tokyo, much less an urban setting. Centrally located near the Imperial Palace, the hotel offers a traditional Japanese inn setting with modern touches and impeccable hospitality. It also offers natural hot spring onsen on the 17th floor (yes, with a view), perfect for unwinding after a long day out in the city.

1-9-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-0004
+81-50-3786-1144
Tokyo | Otemachi
Hotel



MEIJI RESTORATION

MITSUBISHI ICHIGOKAN MUSEUM, TOKYO | 三菱一号館美術館

Located in the center of a bustling business district, Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo offers an escape from the rush of city life. The building opened in 2010 within Marunouchi Brick Square, surrounded by offices, shops, and restaurants. The complex is a reconstruction of Mitsubishi's previous home, first built in 1894 by Josiah Conder and in use until 1964. Programming at the museum reflects the period of modernization undertaken by Japan during the 19th century, and holds exhibitions themed around the era. The museum's permanent collection is home to works by Redon, Toulouse-Lautrec, and many other turn of the century Western artists.

2-6-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005
+81-3-5777-8600
Tokyo | Marunouchi
Museum



HOUSE OF TOMORROW

JIYU GAKUEN
MYONICHIKAN
| 自由学園明日館

Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan was built in 1921 as the main building of a private all-girls' school established by publishers Motoko and Yoshikazu Hani. Designed by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, his prairie-style architecture is implemented here to create a warm, domestic learning environment with basic materials of wood and plaster, large windows, and low, approachable structure.

2-31-3 Nishiikebukuro, Toshima-ku,
Tokyo 171-0021
+81-3-3971-7535
Tokyo | Ikebukuro
Event space



FOR ALL MINGEI ENTHUSIASTS

THE JAPAN
FOLK CRAFTS
MUSEUM | 日本民藝館

Tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood is a museum with a traditional wood and stone structure, dedicated to the folk art movement Mingei. It was initiated in the 1930s by thinkers and artists Soetsu Yanagi (who coined the word "mingei"), Shoji Hamada, and Kanjiro Kawai (spot #65). The museum strives to preserve and research traditional forms of arts and crafts particularly those found in various parts of Japan and in Asia.

4-3-33 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo
153-0041
+81-3-3467-4527
Tokyo | Komaba
Museum



Mandarake Nakano Store Henya

OTAKU HAVEN

NAKANO BROADWAY | 中野ブロードウェイ

Nakano Broadway is where the real anime geeks hang out in Tokyo now. With Akihabara's otaku scene exhibiting mass cultural tendencies, this shabby shopping arcade/mall has become Tokyo's character culture mecca. Manga? Check. Anime? Check. Kaiju? Double-check. Whether it's a record store devoted to progressive German and Japanese music, vintage and indie bookshops, or Tokyo's tallest soft serve ice cream cones, you'll find it all next to everything from fortune tellers to a Takashi Murakami gallery. Only a responsible, sensible adult would skip an hours-long trek through Nakano Broadway and a coffee or drink at Bar Zingaro.

5-52-15 Nakano, Nakano-ku, Tokyo 164-0001

+81-3-3388-7004

Tokyo | Nakano

Mall



INTOXICATING VIEW OF THE CITY

THE PEAK BAR

| ピーク バー

There are many locations around Tokyo where one can gaze at the city in its twilight and night-time glory, and The Peak Bar is one of the best. Situated on the 41st floor of the Park Hyatt Tokyo in Shinjuku (also home to the famed New York Bar from *Lost in Translation*), guests are invited to walk through a bamboo grove to get to this view, unhindered by construction cranes or other buildings.

Park Hyatt Tokyo 41F,

3-7-1-2 Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 163-1055

+81-3-5323-3461

Tokyo | Shinjuku

Bar

WESTERN ART IN JAPAN

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF WESTERN ART, TOKYO

| 国立西洋美術館

Situated at the main entrance of Ueno Park, the National Museum of Western Art is a symbol of French-Japanese cultural relations. The museum exhibits works from the Matsukata Collection as well as works created from the Renaissance through the early 20th century. In July 2016, 17 works by Le Corbusier, including the NMWA Main Building were designated by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

7-7 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007

+81-3-5777-8600

Tokyo | Ueno

Museum





TREASURES FROM THE 7TH CENTURY

TOKYO NATIONAL MUSEUM, THE GALLERY OF HORYUJI TREASURES | 東京国立博物館 法隆寺宝物館

The dramatic approach to The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures foreshadows the equally dramatic use of space and lighting that awaits inside the spacious foyer, halls, and galleries that give an otherworldly experience to visitors. Designed by Yoshio Taniguchi and opened in 1999, the museum houses over 300 valuable pieces dating from the 7th to the 8th century that were gifted from the Horyuji Temple in Nara to the imperial family in 1878, and then transferred to the museum after World War II. Boasting state-of-the-art conservation technology, the museum also has a digital archive featuring the entire collection.

13-9 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8712

+81-3-5777-8600

Tokyo | Ueno

Museum



PUTTING FUN IN SCIENCE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE
| 国立科学博物館

NMNS is the nation's only state-administered comprehensive science museum, as well as the largest, with over 4.4 million specimens in its collection. Established in 1877, the main activities of the institution are to research, collect and preserve, and educate through exhibits and programs, with a goal to deepen the public's appreciation for science. Over 10,000 items are on permanent exhibition in the two main buildings (Japan Gallery and Global Gallery), in addition to a special temporary exhibition. The museum also contains "Theater 360", featuring spatial, audio, and visual presentations on themes such as space, dinosaurs, and evolution.

7-20 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8718

+81-3-5777-8600

Tokyo | Ueno

Museum



ART IN THE PORT CITY

YOKOHAMA MUSEUM OF ART | 横浜美術館

The Kenzo Tange-designed Yokohama Museum of Art opened in 1989 in one of the pavilions built for the Yokohama Expo that had taken place earlier that year. The Tange structure stands immense, and the Grand Gallery entrance hall is particularly cavernous and overwhelming in scale. The museum is home to a large collection of Japanese and Western artworks from the 19th century up to present day. It also has a strong photography collection which upholds the city's reputation as one of the birthplaces of photography in Japan.

3-4-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 220-0012

+81-45-221-0300

Kanagawa | Yokohama

Museum



Shinro Ohtake, "Retinamnesia Filtration Shed", 2014, at Yokohama Triennale 2014

GLOBAL ART DISCOURSE

YOKOHAMA TRIENNALE 2017 | ヨコハマトリエンナーレ 2017

Since its inauguration in 2001, the Yokohama Triennale has become a staple destination in the international art exhibition circuit. It's not an exaggeration to say that of all the art exhibitions in Japan, Yokohama does its best at addressing contemporary global issues while attempting to contextualize the Japanese art scene within the discourse. The 6th installment takes place from August 4 to November 5, 2017, with the theme "Islands, Constellations & Galapagos". The main venues are Yokohama Museum of Art by Kenzo Tange and Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No.1, which will be linked together by shuttle bus service.

Yokohama Museum of Art / Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No. 1

+81-45-663-7232

Kanagawa | Yokohama

Event



ART UNDER NATURAL LIGHT

THE HAKONE OPEN-
AIR MUSEUM

| 彫刻の森美術館

Hakone has more to offer than just hot springs, and the unique Open-Air Museum takes typical art viewing out of the box and places it under the open sky. It is filled with monumental art by modern to contemporary artists such as Rodin, Calder, Moore, Hepworth, Okamoto, Niki de Saint Phalle, and Vangi. Some of the collection, including Brancusi's Kiss sculpture, Giacometti bronzes, and Picasso's ceramics, are housed indoors.

1121 Ninotaira, Hakone-machi,
Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa
250-0493
+81-460-82-1161
Kanagawa | Hakone
Museum

41

ULTRA-PRECISION SAYAMA FOREST CHAPEL

| 狭山の森 礼拝堂

Sayama Forest Chapel by architect Hiroshi Nakamura is part of the Sayama Lakeside Cemetery. Ultra-precision construction technology was used to create a frame that doubles as the building's surface, and the altar was positioned so worshippers can face the forest where, during morning services, the sun lights up the surrounding trees. Pillars join at the top to form a "sasu" (truss-like) frame, and the roof was thatched with sand-cast aluminum tiles handcrafted by local artisans. "Creating a comfort zone or the feeling of comfort does not mean we have to exclude the harshness of nature," explains Nakamura. "Of course we should protect ourselves from storms, cold



Hiroshi Nakamura

42

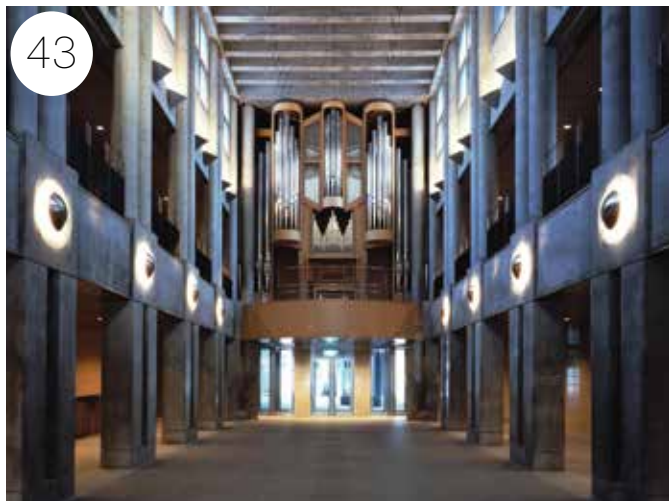


#42 - Sayama Forest Chapel



winds, and hot summers, as long as we don't forget to contemplate how they have always been part of our existence. Doing so provides the ultimate feeling of comfort." Nakamura's unique sense to wed his structures with nature is a concept that was also observed by Wallpaper magazine, whose editors honored the 42-year-old innovator with their prestigious Design Award in 2015. For Nakamura, the link to nature is wood. "When we touch it, we can feel its grooves and this reminds us of our own skin, the pattern of our fingerprints. Wood creates a constant feedback-loop between us and a natural environment that we run danger of cutting off completely from our city lives." No wonder that Nakamura created the first 3D computer program that helps protect roots and branches when houses are built between trees. It can simulate and predict the growth of the plant, as well as the swaying of branches during typhoons, and also suggests how to best place foundations to protect roots.

2050 Kamiyamaguchi, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama 359-1153
+81-4-2922-4411
Saitama | Tokorozawa
Chapel



THE CITY'S SYMBOL

ART TOWER MITO | 水戸芸術館

Art Tower Mito, a multi-art complex designed by Arata Isozaki consisting of a theatre, a concert hall, and a contemporary art museum, was opened in 1990 as a means of revitalizing the area. Each of the three major facilities has an active programming to promote its respective field. The museum is widely known for its exhibitions with subject matter unconventional to the white cube environment, such as graffiti/street art, fashion, and young up-and-coming artists from Asia.

1-6-8 Goken-cho, Mito-shi, Ibaraki 310-0063

+81-29-227-8111

Ibaraki | Mito
Museum



Architect Arata Isozaki at Art Tower Mito



#43 - Art Tower Mito

CHUBU





SPEED ARTING

GENBI SHINKANSEN | 現美新幹線

The new Genbi Shinkansen is the “fastest museum” yet conceived. Running close to 210 km/h down Japan Railway’s Joetsu Shinkansen line, it allows the passengers to relax in an art-clad environment during their 54 minute ride between Echigo-Yuzawa and Niigata stations. Eight contemporary artists were tapped to decorate the seven cars with their artwork, ranging from photography (Mika Ninagawa), paintings (Kentarō Kobuke), fabric (Nao Matsumoto), video work (Brian Alfred) and, perhaps most befittingly, a plastic train rail installation (Paramodel). In addition, the train is equipped with a nursery for children, and a café that offers local Niigata snacks and coffee.

Niigata Station to Echigo-Yuzawa Station

Nigata | Niigata / Echigoyuzawa

Transportation



ART FOR ALL SEASONS

ECHIGO-TSUMARI SATOYAMA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART / KINARE

| 越後妻有里山現代美術館 [キナーレ]

Architect Hiroshi Hara (Kyoto Station, Sapporo Dome) decided on pure geometric shapes, exposed concrete, and lavish use of glass to give the museum a quiet appearance. “Rooms are boxed inside each other, a traditional form in Japanese architecture found in sacred places such as temples and shrines,” explains Hara. “In summer, cultivate the fields – in winter, cultivate the mind” is an old Japanese saying and the leading theme for the museum. It organizes festivals and outdoor shows in summer, and enriches the exhibition programs inside with lectures during cold seasons. 200 permanent art works are scattered outdoors in the region.

6 Hon-cho, Tokamachi-shi, Niigata 948-0003

+81-25-761-7767

Niigata | Tokamachi

Museum



Hiroshi Hara

46



AWARD-WINNING DESIGNER HOTEL

SATOYAMA JUJO | 里山十帖

Satoyama Jujo is a hot spring resort with a 150 year old wood building that creative director Toru Iwasa meticulously restored. High-tech utilities are hidden behind handcrafted wood, and chairs by legendary designers such as Finn Juhl and Arne Jacobsen enrich the lobby. Iwasa's other passion is to gently educate his guests how to live a healthier and more balanced life. "That's why I grow my own rice, promote local farm produce, and develop my own recipes," he says. "Less cooked, less salty, but with more flavor."

1209-6 Osawa, Minami-uonuma-shi, Niigata 949-6361

+81-25-783-6777

Niigata | Minami-uonuma

Hotel, Shop

47



BAUHAUS EXPERIMENT

KYU-HYUGA-BETTEI AT ATAMI HYUGA VILLA

| 旧日向別邸 ブルーノ・タウト「熱海の家」

Rihei Hyuga was a successful businessman who made his riches supplying match factories in Japan with phosphorus. When Hyuga wanted a room extension for ping-pong tables, he met one of the most important city planners, designers, and architectural thinkers of his time: Bruno Taut. The German polymath had found himself out of work when fleeing Nazi Germany in 1933, and Hyuga's job offer was a gift from heaven. The centerpiece of Taut's annex became a ballroom that he equipped with light bulbs on a string used by Japanese fishermen to lure fish. The ping-pong tables never had a chance.

8-37 Kasuga-cho, Atami-shi, Shizuoka 413-0005

+81-557-81-2747

Shizuoka | Atami

Museum



ROOMS WITH NOH VIEW

ASABA | あさば

Half a millennium ago, Yakuro Yukiada Asaba founded Shuzenji temple. At the gate he positioned monks as guards and housed them in a lodge which still exists today, albeit as one of Japan's most exquisite hot spring resorts, featuring a small lake, a café salon with minimalist art, Harry Bertoia chairs, and a Noh theater from the 19th century. A seventh generation Asaba family member assembled the theater with parts from an old shrine that he transported all the way from Tokyo, and today the gold masks of the actors reflect in the surrounding waters while guests enjoy the Noh performances directly from their rooms.

3450-1 Shuzenji, Izu-shi, Shizuoka 410-2416
+81-558-72-7000
Shizuoka | Shuzenji
Hotel



PHOTOGRAPHY AND PEACEFUL GARDENS

IZU PHOTO MUSEUM

Izu Photo Museum opened in 2009 to explore works of photography and film. Since then, it has organized a wide range of exhibitions addressing the many issues surrounding photography and time-based media. The interior space and garden were designed by artist Hiroshi Sugimoto, and the details that belie this can be readily spotted: crystal glass, shadow and light, and tearoom-like tranquility. Plan your trip to include visits to the other museums at the Clematis no Oka art complex, such as Bernard Buffet Museum, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, and Yasushi Inoue Literary Museum. Be sure not to miss the restaurants either.

347-1 Clematis no Oka, Higashino, Nagaizumi-cho, Shizuoka 411-0931
+81-55-989-8780
Shizuoka | Nagaizumi
Museum



A TEAHOUSE TO MEDITATE

TAKASUGI-AN | 高過庵

50

With its archaic simplicity, Takasugi-an (too-high-house) is one of Terunobu Fujimori's best known creations. It is a teahouse on stilts that stands on a property belonging to his family, now turned into an outdoor museum. Fujimori has designed dozens of buildings in Japan with the same playfulness as Takasugi-an, yet doesn't consider himself an architect; rather an architecture historian.

Jinchokan Moriya Historical Museum
389-1 Miyagawa, Chino-shi, Nagano
391-0013
+81-266-73-7567
Nagano | Chino
Teahouse



ART IN THE ALPS JAPAN ALPS ART FESTIVAL 2017

| 北アルプス国際芸術祭 2017

51

The first Japan Alps Art Festival is slated to take place from June 4 to July 30, 2017, with the promising theme "Shinano-Omachi Food and Art Corridor". The organizers have tapped curator Fram Kitagawa to take the directorial position and to put together an exhibition with artworks and projects that reflect the history, culture, and nature found in and around Omachi City, located at the foothills of the Japan Alps.

Across Omachi City
+81-261-22-0420
Nagano | Omachi
Event



52

FABRICS FROM A FARMHOUSE MARU FACTORY

In the mountainous region of Nagano, textile designer and artist Tadashi Maruyama brought a 300-year-old farmhouse back to life and turned it into "Maru Factory". With a keen eye for details, he restored the wood structures, the original furniture, and even the fireplace in the kitchen floor. The traditional lifestyle of a bygone era inspires him when creating delicate kimono fabrics with a minimalist touch, and the coloring and the sewing are all done by hand.

4762 Ookaotsu, Nagano-shi, Nagano 381-2703
+81-26-266-2890
Nagano | Nagano
Shop



STEEP YOURSELF IN ZEN

D.T. SUZUKI
MUSEUM | 鈴木大拙館

53

Daisetz T. Suzuki (1870-1966) was a Buddhist philosopher who was crucial to the spread of Zen teachings in the West. Opened in 2011, the architect Yoshio Taniguchi designed the space to reflect the landscape in Kanazawa, as the museum is surrounded by stone walls and a reflective pond while set against impressive plateaus. The museum is structured so that the visitor goes through stages of observing, learning, and contemplating about the ideas and achievements of D.T. Suzuki.

3-4-20 Honda-machi, Kanazawa-shi,
Ishikawa 920-0964
+81-76-221-8011
Ishikawa | Kanazawa
Museum



TIPPING POINT

SUZU 2017:
OKU-NOTO
TRIENNALE
| 奥能登国際芸術祭 2017

54

Located at the very tip of the Noto Peninsula on the northern coast of Japan, the small city of Suzu will be hosting its first triennale. The festival plans to invite more than 40 artists and designers from around the world to make works in the context of the city's diverse and plentiful nature (designated as one of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems), as well as its current issue of depopulation, and has incorporated an open call program as well.

Across Suzu City
+81-768-82-7720
Ishikawa | Suzu
Event



ART OF ICE

NAKAYA UKICHIRO
MUSEUM OF SNOW
AND ICE

| 中谷宇吉郎雪の科学館

55

Dr. Ukichiro Nakaya (1900-1962) is renowned for his research on snow, and for being the first to create artificial snowflakes. The museum, dedicated to the life and research of the physicist and science writer, and to foster a deeper understanding of snow and ice, is housed in architecture by Arata Isozaki.

i-106 Ushiozu-machi, Kaga-shi,
Ishikawa 922-0411
+81-761-75-3323
Ishikawa | Kaga
Museum



A MERCHANT'S HOME

YOSHIJIMA
HERITAGE HOUSE
| 吉島家住宅

56

The Yoshijima Heritage House, a nationally designated Important Cultural Property, was built in 1907 by renowned traditional carpenter Isaburo Nishida as a house and shop for a sake merchant (p.52). There are many architectural elements worth noting: the large central pillar around which beams and pillars are structured to create a lofty foyer, the high windows that allow dramatic presence of light and shadow, and the rich tones of wood from varied polishing and use.

1-51 Oshin-machi, Takayama-shi, Gifu
506-0851
+81-577-32-0038
Gifu | Takayama
House, Museum



MERGING ART & ARCHITECTURE

21ST CENTURY MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART,
KANAZAWA | 金沢 21 世紀美術館

57

Designed by the Pritzker Prize winning architect team SANAA (Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa), the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art is centered in Kanazawa City and designed as a park for people to gather and meet. The circular glass structure allows accessibility from multiple directions, the starting point for many of their creations are dozens of models. “After that, we compare and think about more options,” says Sejima. “We repeat this process several times. Somewhere along the way ideas evolve that will shape the character of a building,” say the architects.

1-2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa-shi, Ishikawa 920-8509

+81-76-220-2800

Ishikawa | Kanazawa

Museum



#57 - 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa



BACK TO EARTH | MOSAIC TILE MUSEUM TAJIMI

| 多治見市モザイクタイルミュージアム

The area around Tajimi City has the country's largest production output of mosaic tiles, so it comes as no surprise that a museum recently opened to house 10,000 artifacts relating to the history of this building material, collected over the years by local volunteers. In Terunobu Fujimori they found the perfect designer and historian to put the design of the building in the right context. "In ancient times the human dwelling in its most reduced form has always been made of earth piled in the shape of a simple mound," says Fujimori. "Earth is the source of tiles, and so I gave the museum the appearance of an ancient mound."

2082-5 Kasahara-cho, Tajimi-shi, Gifu 507-0901

+81-572-43-5101

Gifu | Tajimi

Museum



Terunobu Fujimori inside "Flying Mud Boat"



ART YOU CAN WALK ON

SITE OF REVERSIBLE DESTINY - YORO PARK, GIFU

| 養老公園 養老天命反転地

Outdoor sculpture museums usually don't allow walking and climbing on art works, but Site of Reversible Destiny is an exception. Conceived by the late New York based artists, Shusaku Arakawa and Madeline Gins, it features caves, walls, hidden enclosures, and secret rooms. From the names that Arakawa and Gins bestowed on the numerous and carefully designed environments you can sense that they are conceptual artists: Exactitude Ridge, Critical Resemblance House, or Kinesthetic Pass to name a few. The couple could not foresee that their work, built in 1995, would still be one of the most popular art adventure spots in Japan, even 22 years later.

1298-2 Takabayashi, Yoro-cho, Yoro-gun, Gifu 503-1267

+81-584-32-0501

Gifu | Yoro

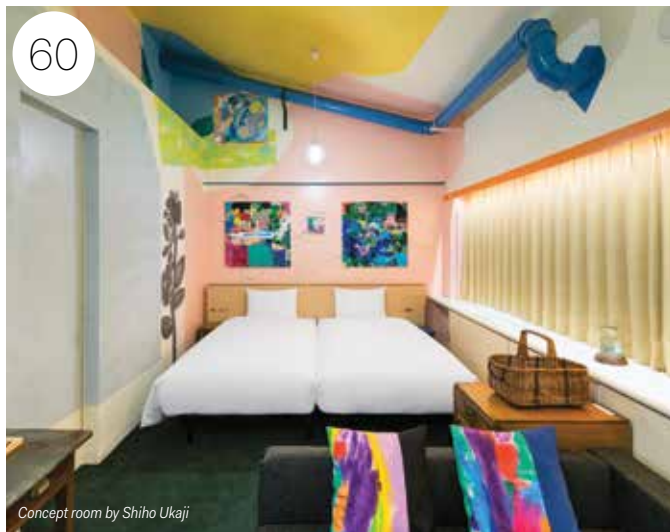
Park



KANSAI

Kyoto Station by Hiroshi Hara

60



Concept room by Shiohi Ukaji

CONCEPT ART HOTEL HOTEL ANTEROOM KYOTO

Just one stop south of Kyoto Station, this hotel has turned its reception area into an exhibition space, the entrance into a sculpture museum, and the comfortable guest rooms into galleries: A cherry blossom-wallpapered room by Mika Ninagawa, for instance, or a double-bed with a giant silver wardrobe hook overhead by Kenji Yanobe. Even the smokers' corner underwent a witty transformation reminiscent of Pop Art installations of the 1960s.

7 Aketa-cho, Higashi-kujo, Minami-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 601-8044

+81-75-681-5656

Kyoto | Kyoto

Hotel



TRANSLUCENT MODERNITY ON TEMPLE PLATFORM

KOU-AN GLASS TEA HOUSE

| ガラスの茶室 - 光庵

The transparent structure, constructed of thick glass panels, is a modern exploration of traditional Japanese culture designed by Tokujin Yoshioka, whose creations are displayed in permanent exhibitions such as MoMA and the Musée d'Orsay. Glass Tea House currently stands on the wooden observation deck of Seiryuden Temple in the eastern mountains of Kyoto overlooking the ancient imperial capital.

28 Zushiokukacho-cho, Yamashina-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 607-8456

+81-75-771-0390

Kyoto | Kyoto

Teahouse

61

JAPANESE SWEETS IN MODERN WOOD AMBIENCE

TORAYA KYOTO ICHIJIO SHOP

| 虎屋菓寮 京都一条店

Toraya Confectionery was founded in the early 16th century in Kyoto, but with the move of the imperial family to Tokyo in 1868, the headquarters of the company followed suit. Hiroshi Naito, a specialist in intrinsic wood structures, redesigned the old store opposite the Kyoto Gyoen National Garden. His expertise shows in the curved ceiling of tearoom, and his open design lets the garden optically flow into the building.

415 Hirohashidono-cho, Ichijo-kado, Karasuma-dori, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 602-0911

+81-75-441-3111

Kyoto | Kyoto

Shop, Café

62



HAVEN OF TRANQUILITY

SOMUSHI | 素夢子

Handmade curtains, old doors from condemned buildings, flowers and plants – everything is a reflection of architect Katsumi Yasuda's own warm and sensitive personality. Located in Kyoto's historic quarter for kimono makers, Somushi is a haven of tranquility with a meditative quality. "When you design something, it is vital to allow time to go over everything in detail," explains Yasuda. "Here in Kyoto, the pace of life is just that bit slower, so there's always time!"

73 Ogura-cho, Nishi-iru, Karasuma-sanjo, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 604-8166
+81-75-253-1456

Kyoto | Kyoto
Café



Katsumi Yasuda



CONNECTING VISUAL HISTORIES

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF MODERN ART, KYOTO

| 京都国立近代美術館

MOMAK was established in 1963 to link traditional arts and crafts to 20th century ideas and vision, and Japanese modern art movements to those of the West. The current building was designed by Fumihiko Maki, and today is host to many high-calibre exhibitions such as the recent Mary Cassatt and James McNeill Whistler retrospectives.

Okazaki Enshoji-cho, Sakyo-ku,
Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 606-8344
+81-75-761-4111
Kyoto | Kyoto
Museum

64

MINGEI HOUSE KAWAI KANJIRO'S HOUSE

| 河井寛次郎記念館

The potter Kanjiro Kawai (1890-1966) was one of the central figures of the Mingei movement, which strove to bring out the aesthetic beauty in everyday traditional crafts and readily available nature. The museum offers a thorough survey of Kawai's wide range of works, including ceramics, calligraphy, woodwork, brasswork and furniture, as well as his selection of artifacts from around the world.

569 Kanei-cho, Gojozaka,
Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto
605-0875
+81-75-561-3585
Kyoto | Kyoto
Museum

65





MODERNIST TEMPLE

HIGASHI HONGANJI

| 真宗大谷派 東本願寺

66

To commemorate the 500th memorial of its priest Rennyo (1415–1499), the unifier of the Jodo Shinshu school, the temple Higashi Honganji built a new visitor center. Designed by Shin Takamatsu, the structure is rare for its modern design, and was made three-stories deep in order to preserve the temple's historic scenery. The circular ceiling symbolizes the sun and the moon, and after dark the light pouring from the underground construction creates a crescent.

Shichijyo-agaru, Karasuma-dori,
Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto
600-8505
+81-75-371-9181
Kyoto | Kyoto
Temple



JEWELBOX OF A GALLERY

KAHO GALLERY

| カホ・ギャラリー

67

One of Kyoto's best-kept art secrets, this residential gallery opened in 2012 near the Tofukuji Temple grounds. Its commercial gallery programming has shown works by masters such as painter Toshio Arimoto and sculptor Katsura Funakoshi, as well as young contemporary Japanese artists. The intimate and intense space creates for an ideal location to immerse oneself in art.

15-778-1 Hon-machi,
Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto
605-0981
+81-75-708-2670
Kyoto | Kyoto
Gallery



KYOTO'S NATIONAL TREASURES

KYOTO NATIONAL
MUSEUM, HEISEI
CHISHINKAN

| 京都国立博物館 平成知新館

68

The Yoshio Taniguchi-designed Heisei Chishinkan wing of the Kyoto National Museum opened in 2014. The new structure was built to house and exhibit its collection of over 12,500 artworks and treasures from over 12,000 years, many of which are National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties.

527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku,
Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 605-0931
+81-75-525-2473
Kyoto | Kyoto
Museum



SCULPTING TEXTILES

KATAYAMA
BUNZABURO SHOTEN

| 片山文三郎商店

69

Shibori is the Japanese word for techniques that shape textiles and preserve their form, even when dyed. Kazuo Katayama is the third-generation president of this company that keeps up the century-old tradition. “Shibori tie-dye’s concave-convex characteristics achieve unique and daring designs,” he says. “Fashion and art fuse and thereby turn into a complete new form of wearable art.”

221 Hashibenkei-cho, Takoyakushi-dori,
Karasuma Nishi-iru, Nakagyo-ku,
Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 604-8151
+81-75-221-2666
Kyoto | Kyoto
Shop, Museum



GET SCHOOLED IN MANGA

KYOTO INTERNATIONAL MANGA MUSEUM

京都国際マンガミュージアム

Kyoto International Manga Museum opened in 2006. Its main role is to record, preserve, and present the long history of comic books and cartoons, and how humor has helped humankind overcome some challenging times. The museum's growing collection currently consists of some 300,000 books and rare prints, and many of the current titles can be picked up from the "manga wall" to be read in any part of the former elementary school building, and outside on the lawn.

Oike-agaru, Karasuma-dori,
Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 604-0846
+81-75-254-7414
Kyoto | Kyoto
Museum



SCHOOL'S OUT

KYOTO ART CENTER | 京都芸術センター

In 2000, Kyoto Art Center opened as a means to bring artists of all genres, from traditional to contemporary, to work under the same roof. Established in a former elementary school, today the classrooms function as art studios, galleries, and workshop rooms. There are exhibitions and performances that are open to the public, as well as a library and a café. The wooden hallways of this Showa Era building make it a great place to wander.

546-2 Yamabushiyama-cho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 604-8156
+81-75-213-1000
Kyoto | Kyoto
Cultural Center



WHEN IN NARA...

NARA NATIONAL MUSEUM | 奈良国立博物館

The Western-style structure of the “Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall” is representative of the Meiji Era. The new wing, designed by Junzo Yoshimura in 1972, houses one of the most important collections of Buddhist art in Japan. The museum frequently changes its permanent exhibition display of statues, sculptures, and scrolls, and offers the opportunity for Buddhist art lovers to return frequently to its galleries.

50 Noborioji-cho, Nara-shi, Nara 630-8213

+81-50-5542-8600

Nara | Nara

Museum



UNDERGROUND ART MUSEUM

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART, OSAKA | 国立国際美術館

First established in 1977, the museum was relocated to its current space in 2004, and the César Pelli-designed building is a primarily underground structure. Visitors can only see the wing-like arch structure protruding from the ground at first, and have to descend to the basement floors for more. The museum offers stellar in-house exhibitions.

4-2-55 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 530-0005

+81-6-6447-4680

Osaka | Osaka

Museum



#74 - Blacksmith and sharpener in Sakai



THE WORLD'S SHARPEST KNIVES

SAKAI CITY TRADITIONAL CRAFTS MUSEUM

| 堺伝統産業会館

600 years ago, when Kyoto was still the imperial capital, nearby Sakai City in Osaka was where the best blades in the world were forged. Even today, local community blacksmiths and sharpeners work in pairs to keep up the tradition, and Sakai City Traditional Crafts Museum explains the forging process. A great variety of knives are exhibited and available in the museum and shop for those interested in learning about this important craft.

1-1-30 Zaimokucho-nishi, Sakai-ku
Sakai-shi, Osaka 590-0941
Osaka | Sakai
Museum, Shop

74



THE ULTIMATE SPA GETAWAY

AQUA×IGNIS

| アクアイグニス

Situated deep in the mountains of Mie, this modern hot spa complex is focused on providing the ultimate forms of healing and dining for its guests. Aqua×Ignis consists of Kataoka Onsen and its natural hot spring bath and spa facilities; restaurants run by three award-winning chefs all using their own organically grown produce; and spacious hotel rooms and villas. The impeccable attention to detail will be a treat for both the body and the mind.

4800-1 Komono, Komono-cho,
Mie-gun, Mie 510-1233
+81-59-394-7733
Mie | Komono
Hotel

75



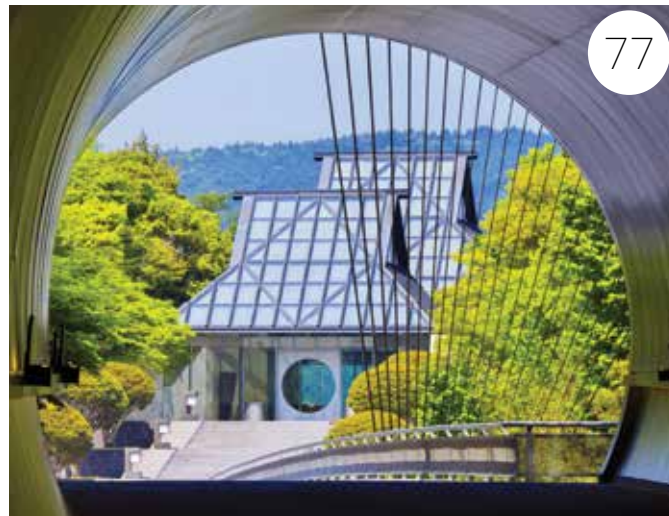
FAIRY TALE ARCHITECTURE

TANEYA CLUB HARIE AT LA COLLINA OMIHACHIMAN

たねや クラブハリエ ラ コリーナ近江八幡

Since 1872, the Taneya Group has been producing sweets based on local agricultural products, recipes, and nature. Architect Terunobu Fujimori designed the company headquarters “La Collina”, and the giant facility includes restaurants and shops surrounded by rice fields. Grass grows on roofs and walls curve like mushrooms, just like something out of a fairy tale.

615-1 Kitanosho-cho,
Omihachiman-shi, Shiga 523-0806
+81-748-33-6666
Shiga | Omihachiman
Shop



ART SHANGRI-LA

MIHO MUSEUM

This private museum was opened in 1997 to house close to 2,000 pieces of art, from Ancient Greek to Roman, and Middle Eastern to Asian works. Located high in the mountains of Shigaraki, 80% of the museum structure was built underground so as not to hinder the natural landscape. The architectural marvel was designed by I. M. Pei, who envisioned creating a “Shangri-La” for the museum’s collection.

300 Tashiromomodani, Shigaraki-cho, Koka-shi, Shiga 529-1814
+81-748-82-3411
Shiga | Koka
Museum

CHUGOKU



Townhouse in Kurashiki covered with clay tile roofing



CYCLE IN. CYCLE OUT. ONOMICHI U2

Situated in a small town facing the Seto Inland Sea, Onomichi U2 opened as a complex to suit the various needs of the avid modern cyclist. The hotel has rooms equipped with bike racks; the restaurant, bar and café menus were planned with athletes in mind; and there is, of course, a shop with bike rental service. The complex is in a renovated warehouse built in 1943, with a minimal and warm interior designed by architect Makoto Tanijiri.

5-11 Nishigoshō-cho, Onomichi-shi,
Hiroshima 722-0037
+81-848-21-0550
Hiroshima | Onomichi
Complex

78

ZEN GARDENS SHINSHOJI ZEN MUSEUM AND GARDENS

| 神勝寺 禅と庭のミュージアム

With structures dating back as early as the Kamakura Period, the Shinshoji Zen Museum and Gardens offers a tranquil environment to experience various practices of Zen Buddhism. Opened in September 2016, the vast grounds of the Shinsho Temple have much to offer: a reconstruction of the teahouse designed by master Sen no Rikyu, the temple office building by Terunobu Fujimori, and an art pavilion and installation work by Kohei Nawa | SANDWICH are just a few of the architectural marvels to be found amongst its strolling gardens.

91 Kamisanna, Numakuma-cho,
Fukuyama-shi, Hiroshima 720-0401
+81-84-988-1111
Hiroshima | Fukuyama
Temple, Garden, Museum

79

#79 - Shinshoji Zen Museum and Gardens





NOGUCHI'S BRIDGES

PEACE BRIDGE,
WEST PEACE BRIDGE

| 平和大橋、西平和大橋

Isamu Noguchi visited war-ravaged Hiroshima in 1950 when Kenzo Tange invited him to design bridges connecting the river island that is home to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to the rest of the city. The two bridges are both grandiose, organic forms looking upwards to the sky; the West Peace Bridge titled Yuku (to depart) was designed to resemble the bow of a Japanese ship, and the Peace Bridge or Tsukuru (to build) symbolizes the rising sun.

Hiroshima Peace Boulevard
Hiroshima | Hiroshima
Bridge

AWARD WINNING GARDEN

ADACHI MUSEUM
OF ART | 足立美術館

81

The Adachi Museum of Art was founded by local businessman Zenko Adachi in 1970, in the hope of sharing his love for Japanese art and gardens with the people of Japan. Adachi himself assembled its traditional arts and crafts collection, which is most famous for 120 quality works by the master Taikan Yokoyama, and he was also deeply involved in the landscaping of the rolling gardens.

320 Furukawa-cho, Yasugi-shi,
Shimane 692-0064
+81-854-28-7111
Shimane | Yasugi
Museum

#81 - "The Dry Landscape Garden", Adachi Museum of Art





Onsaka no ie in Kurashiki

GUESTHOUSE CLOSE TO TRADITION, MODERN IN STYLE

ONSAKA NO IE | 御坂の家

Traditional townhouses are disappearing. To preserve this part of Japanese culture, NPO Kurashiki Machiya Trust restores historical buildings and turns them into

guesthouses – like Onsaka no ie (house on Onsaka slope) – a great alternative to staying in a conventional hotel room. Modern facilities and a contemporary design blend into traditional interior, make experiencing Japan both comfortable and unique. Some of Machiya Trust's restored buildings were

originally constructed one hundred years ago. Onsaka no ie stands on massive granite blocks arranged like a castle fortification that bear witness to a long history. Inside, however, the atmosphere is light because of wood and paper walls and the high, sloped ceiling with exposed beams. From Onsaka no ie it

takes 15 minutes to the center of Kurashiki with its landmark townhouses covered by clay tile roofing.

11-16 Hon-machi, Kurashiki-shi,
Okayama 710-0054
+81-90-7999-6682
Okayama | Kurashiki
Townhouse, Hotel



BOOKS AND OTHER TREASURES

MUSHI BUNKO | 蟲文庫

Miho Tanaka loves design, art, and music. Her store, Mushi Bunko second hand bookshop, is hidden away along a dreamy street of Kurashiki. On display are rare books, postcards, photographs, CDs, and art objects which she carefully selects. If you're looking for something out of the ordinary to bring back home, this is the place. Tanaka's other love is moss, and her observations about this fragile plant are published in books and magazines.

11-20 Hon-machi, Kurashiki-shi, Okayama 710-0054

+81-86-425-8693

Okayama | Kurashiki

Shop



Inujima Seirenscho Art Museum

PEOPLE LIVING WITH ART, ART LIVING WITH PEOPLE

INUJIMA | 犬島

Inujima is a remote island of Okayama in the Seto Inland Sea with a population of 50 people and average age of 70, now coexisting with contemporary art and architecture. Of note is the museum by Hiroshi Sambuichi that houses works by Yukinori Yanagi, and scattered across the island is the "Inujima Art House Project" with works by artists such as Kohei Nawa, Haruka Kojin, and Olafur Eliasson.

Inujima, Higashi-ku, Okayama-shi, Okayama 704-8153

Okayama | Inujima

Island



SHIKOKU



HOME FOR WIND, LIGHT AND WATER

TESHIMA ART MUSEUM | 豊島美術館

Teshima Art Museum is a concrete shell in the shape of a waterdrop. Two oval openings allow wind, sound, and light to enter the space – a collaborative effort between architect Ryue Nishizawa and artist Rei Naito (her installation “Matrix” is the only work on view). “It was a structural challenge,” explains Nishizawa. “A space that equals nine tennis courts, has no supporting columns, and is only 4.5 meters high would normally collapse. The minimum is 10 to 15 meters, but then you lose the visual impact!” Nishizawa’s solution was to have the static program rewritten for stability.

607 Karato, Teshima, Tonosho-cho, Shozu-gun, Kagawa 761-4662
+81-879-68-3555
Kagawa | Teshima
Museum



Ryue Nishizawa



INOKUMA-SAN'S LIFE & WORK

MARUGAME GENICHIRO-INOKUMA MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY ART | 丸亀市猪熊弦一郎現代美術館

Artist Genichiro Inokuma (1902-1993) is known for his paintings and drawings of animals and people, depicted in bold lines and colors in a style that masterly fuses both the abstract and the figurative. The museum celebrates the life and work of this artist. Designed by Yoshio Taniguchi in conversation with Inokuma, the facade of the building features a large mural by the artist that also plays as a backdrop to the outdoor sculptures and the town square. The museum houses 20,000 pieces of work in its permanent collection and a vibrant exhibition program.

80-1 Hama-machi, Marugame-shi, Kagawa 763-0022
+81-877-24-7755
Kagawa | Marugame
Museum



Marine station "Naoshima" by SANAA

ART ISLAND HOPPING

SETOUCHI TRIENNALE | 瀬戸内国際芸術祭

Set against the scenic waters of the Seto Inland Sea, the Setouchi Triennale first launched in 2010 to bring domestic and global awareness to the area and its issues of declining population. The 2016 edition took place on 12 islands and 2 ports from spring to autumn, with site-specific works by 226 artists. Many of these are large-scale outdoor installations that remain even after the festival, and become a part of daily life for the island's inhabitants.

Islands in the Seto Inland Sea and the coastal cities of Takamatsu and Uno

+81-87-813-0853

Kagawa | Setouchi

Island, Event



THE STUDIO THAT NOGUCHI BUILT

THE ISAMU NOGUCHI GARDEN MUSEUM JAPAN

| イサム・ノグチ庭園美術館

Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) first visited Kagawa in 1956 on a trip to source material for a landscape commission from the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Taken by the scenic mountains and the isolation in which he could concentrate on his art-making, he founded a studio in the town, and divided his time between New York and Takamatsu until his death. The museum can only be visited by booking a tour, which allows the visitor to walk inside the artist's studio (formerly a sake cellar) with his final works just as he had left them, around his home, and up to the sculpture garden which the artist built himself.

3519 Mure, Mure-cho, Takamatsu-shi, Kagawa 761-0121

+81-87-870-1500

Kagawa | Takamatsu

Museum



EAST MEETS WEST

KAGAWA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE EAST WING

香川県庁舎

Completed in 1958, the East building was formerly the main hall of the Kagawa Prefectural Government office building, designed by Kenzo Tange, who incorporated many elements inspired by Le Corbusier. Tange was introduced to the then-governor through artist Genichiro Inokuma, which led to a collaboration of sorts, with Inokuma creating vibrant tile murals installed in the lobby.

4-1-10 Bancho, Takamatsu-shi, Kagawa 760-8570

+81-87-831-1111

Kagawa | Takamatsu

Government office



#89 - Kagawa Prefectural Government Office East Wing



Toyo Ito

PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE FOR ITO FANS

TOYO ITO MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE, IMABARI

| 今治市伊東豊雄建築ミュージアム

Imabari is the hometown of Japan's great postwar architect Kenzo Tange, so when Pritzker Architecture Prize winning architect Toyo Ito was offered the opportunity to build a museum there in his own name, he was hesitant out of modesty. The mayor, however, convinced him, and now the town has two landmark structures that make up the Toyo Ito Museum of Architecture: Steel Hut for exhibitions and Silver Hut for workshops - both overlooking the Seto Inland Sea.

2418 Urado, Omishima-cho, Imabari-shi, Ehime 794-1308

+81-897-74-7220

Ehime | Imabari

Museum



THE FEATS OF THE FATHER OF JAPANESE BOTANY

THE KOCHI PREFECTURAL MAKINO BOTANICAL GARDEN

| 高知県立牧野植物園

First opened in 1958 to honor the achievements of Tomitaro Makino (1862-1957), the “father of Japanese Botany” and a Kochi native, this botanical garden sprawls across six hectares on the mountainside of Godaisan. Within are 3,000 species of plants, many of which Makino himself studied, a conservatory (opened in 2010), an exhibition hall, shops, a café, and a restaurant open to the public. The garden also has a herbarium and a research center with limited access to the public.

4200-6 Godaisan, Kochi-shi, Kochi 781-8125

+81-88-882-2601

Kochi | Kochi

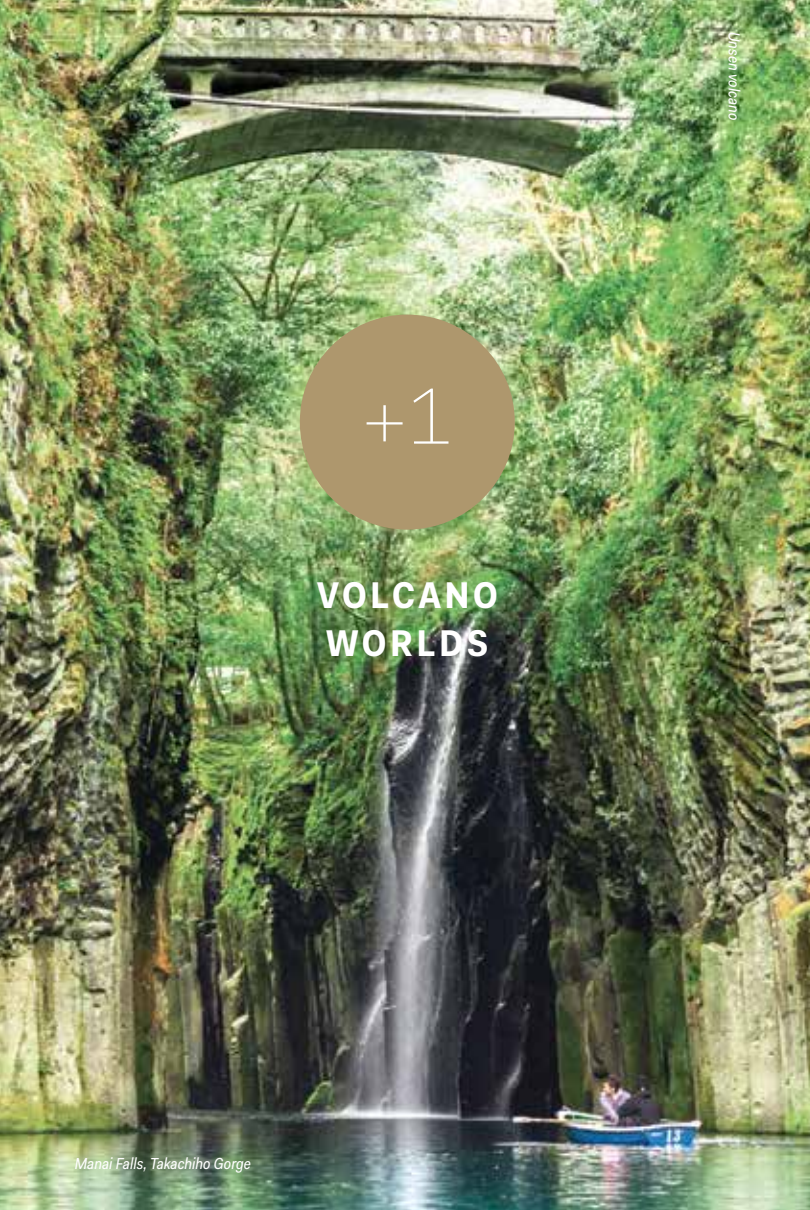
Garden



**KYUSHU &
OKINAWA**

Aso volcano





Unzen volcano

+1

VOLCANO WORLDS

Manai Falls, Takachiho Gorge



Unzen volcano

In the late 1960s, the American artist Robert Smithson coined the term “land art.” Works are not simply placed outdoors, but created as part of nature and the landscape (*spot #59*). One of the proponents of this movement, James Turrell, even turned an entire volcano in Arizona into an art installation. Which brings us to the southern island of Kyushu with its 30 active and inactive volcanoes. They are part of a fascinating landscape, where nature has created its own version of land art that visitors to Japan should not miss. It is the awareness of powerful forces designing nature that is so inspiring when hiking along crater rims, especially for architects or artists.

Our tour begins in Kagoshima, a city with 600,000 inhabitants and a picturesque bay facing Sakurajima – the “cherry blossom island” that is also an active volcano. Around here, the fruit hanging from the trees is wrapped in white paper to protect it, graves in cemeteries have their own roofs, and people carry umbrellas despite the sunshine, all in case it suddenly starts raining ash. And when it does, there’s a slight tingling on your skin as if you were being bombarded by tiny insects, and your lower arms are soon covered in grey powder the consistency of finely ground pepper. It’s a bizarre sensation. Often the powdery precipitation stops after a few



Aso crater

minutes, but if it doesn't and the rain comes, it's like India ink dripping from the sky.

From there, the tour continues in the direction of Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park. Where there are volcanoes in Japan, hot springs are rarely far away, and with them ryokan, traditional Japanese inns - many with their own spring water supply. And that's another thing that sets volcano walkers apart from ordinary mountain hikers: after the rigors of the day, you can take a leisurely soak in a sulfurous hot tub beneath the stars, sake bottle within

comfortable reach. One example is Myuken Ishiharaso, which was partly created by Japan's renowned interior designer Takashi Sugimoto of Super Potato. Here he playfully unites postmodern elements with traditional Japanese features - double glass walls, for example, filled to the ceiling with colored bottles. Some have walls made of stacked-up driftwood, or a polished granite rock weighing a ton; perfect for setting your cocktail glass upon.

On to Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park, which features dozens of craters scattered

across the landscape, some of them filled with turquoise lakes. At Mt. Io, the sulfur mountain, heat hits you in the face, and stones crumble underfoot to reveal their yellow innards. After that, it's back again to fragrant meadows and woods, and on across the water. To get from Amakusa to the Unzen volcano massif, the ferryboat has to churn through wind and waves for 40 minutes, pursued by gulls who dive-bomb you to snatch potato chips from your outstretched hands. After mooring, it's another hour's drive to Unzen, "the cloud mountain". It's currently rated as "safe", but it wasn't always that way.

An eruption around 200 years ago sparked a chain of events which led to 15,000 deaths. From another blast 26 years ago, bizarre remnants stand every few hundred meters like an outdoor installation of a sculpture park. This is where you'll find roadside barriers wrapped around trees like the curled lid of an open sardine can, or a light-blue



Shelter at Aso crater rim

washing machine half-mired in petrified volcanic dust. To get a better view of Unzen you had better take to the skies in a helicopter from Nagasaki. After 20 minutes, you can circumnavigate the awe-inspiring volcano at an altitude of 2,000 meters.

There's also no ignoring Mt. Aso, Japan's largest active volcano with a sizable, bowl-shaped caldera that's not only estimated to be 380km², but is home to a population of 50,000 living directly on top of it. The most popular of Aso's peaks, Nakadake, can be reached by cable car and looks like a barren moonscape, with a crater rim lined with concrete shelters in case of an unexpected eruption. Together with the majestic surroundings, they might as well go for land art as well. -RH



ART EXPERIENCE IN A SHOPPING MALL

MITSUBISHI ESTATE ARTIUM | 三菱地所アルティアム

92

MITSUBISHI ESTATE ARTIUM is an art gallery on the 8th floor of Inter Media Station (IMS), a giant shopping mall in the heart of Fukuoka. The gallery has a genre-free approach to curation, featuring a range of art in addition to photography, fashion, design, architecture, and film. Exhibitions generally run for a month at a time and feature local artists, as well as those active in Tokyo and internationally.

IMS 8F, 1-7-11 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 810-0001

+81-92-733-2050

Fukuoka | Fukuoka

Gallery



GATEWAY TO ASIA

FUKUOKA ASIAN ART MUSEUM

| 福岡アジア美術館

93

Fukuoka Asian Art Museum is a unique institution which focuses its collection and exhibition programming on modern and contemporary Asian art. This museum opened its doors in 1999, with hopes to elicit dialogues across Asian visual cultures. In addition to residency and public education programs, the museum organizes the Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, an international contemporary art exhibition.

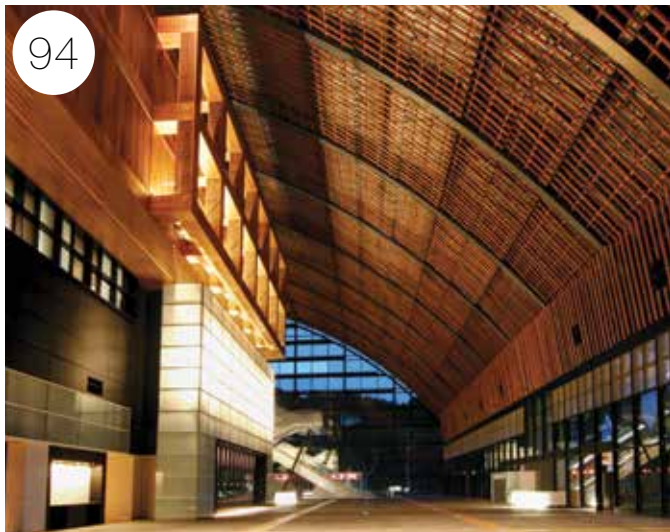
Riverain Center Building 7F & 8F,

3-1 Shimokawabata-machi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 812-0027

+81-92-263-1100

Fukuoka | Fukuoka

Museum



JAPAN AND ASIA

KYUSHU NATIONAL MUSEUM | 九州国立博物館

Seeing and walking into the impressive structure is worth the slight hike from the station. Set against the mountains, the exterior glass walls of the museum, designed by Kyushu native Kiyonori Kikutake, mirror the surrounding trees and skies. The museum's exhibition program strives to address the history and the relationship between Japan and its Asian neighbors.

4-7-2 Ishizaka, Dazaifu-shi, Fukuoka 818-0118

+81-92-918-2807

Fukuoka | Dazaifu

Museum



LOCAL CULTURE CENTER OF GLOBAL SCALE

KYUSHU GEIBUNKAN | 九州芸文館

This public multi-purpose town cultural center, designed by Kengo Kuma, was opened in 2013 to provide a flexible public space for the community to come and grow together. Today, it offers art, craft, and language classes in addition to music events and art exhibitions. There are permanent works of art installed indoors and outdoors.

1131 Tsushima, Chikugo-shi, Fukuoka 833-0015

+81-942-52-6435

Fukuoka | Chikugo

Museum



SCENIC COEXISTENCE

NAGASAKI PREFECTURAL ART MUSEUM | 長崎県美術館

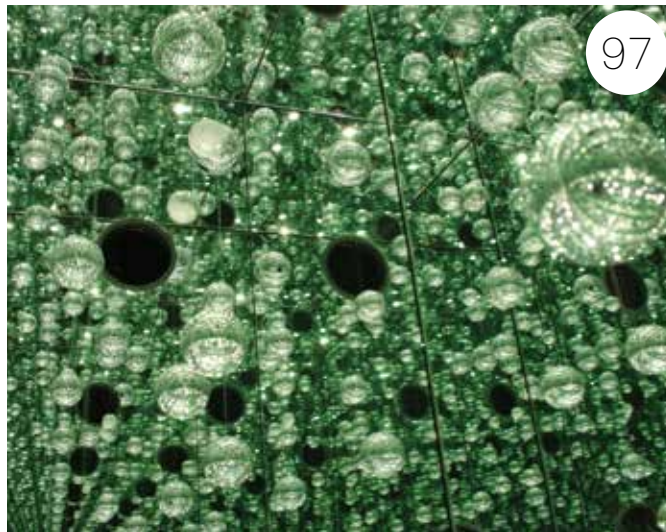
Located at the edge of the Nagasaki Seaside Park, this Kengo Kuma and Nihon Sekkei-designed institution opened in 2005 with the concept of a “breathing museum”: To inhale what surrounds, and to coexist with the collective output of new ideas. The enormous yet elegant glass and stone structure is surrounded by a moat connected to the sea, and is in visual harmony with the sky and the nearby waters.

2-1 Dejima-machi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki 850-0862

+81-95-833-2110

Nagasaki | Nagasaki

Museum



Yayoi Kusama, “INFINITY MIRRORED ROOM — early spring rain 2002 —”, 2002

MUSEUM FOR THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM, KUMAMOTO

| 熊本市現代美術館

Located in central Kumamoto, CAMK is one of the few contemporary art museums in Kyushu. Opened in 2002, its goal is to bring art closer to people’s lives, and to bring the community closer through art. Today, it is actively engaged in providing events for the community, and functions as a community center of sorts. Work by James Turrell is permanently installed amongst the unique bookshelves designed by Marina Abramovic.

2-3 Kamitori-cho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi, Kumamoto 860-0845

+81-96-278-7500

Kumamoto | Kumamoto

Museum



ART AND NATURE IN ITS FULLEST

KIRISHIMA OPEN-AIR MUSEUM | 鹿児島県霧島アートの森

Situated on a hillside 700 meters above sea level, the Kirishima Open-Air Museum is host to many site-specific sculptures and art installations by contemporary Japanese and foreign artists. Iconic works by Jonathan Borofsky, Dan Graham, Yayoi Kusama, and Noboru Tsubaki are just a few of the works seen on the grounds. Its indoor space, designed by Kunihiro Hayakawa, houses many more sculptures by notable artists such as Anish Kapoor, Marisol, and Takashi Murakami. In addition to its impressive permanent collection, the museum holds temporary exhibitions and events.

6340-220 Koba, Yusui-cho, Aira-gun, Kagoshima 899-6201
+81-995-74-5945
Kagoshima | Yusui-cho
Museum



Yayoi Kusama



OKINAWA'S HISTORY IN A GUSUKU

OKINAWA PREFECTURAL MUSEUM AND ART MUSEUM

| 沖縄県立博物館・美術館

This museum complex in Naha has an expansive programming geared at preserving and researching its local history and culture. Artifacts embedded with unique Okinawan folklore and traditions are on display, while the art museum elicits active dialogues regarding Okinawa's complicated modern history through exhibitions of contemporary works by local artists.

3-1-1 Omoro-machi, Naha-shi, Okinawa 900-0006
+81-98-941-8200
Okinawa | Naha
Museum

CONTRIBUTORS



ROLAND HAGENBERG
EDITOR IN CHIEF, WRITER



RENNA OKUBO
WRITER



MIMMO CANGIANO BELCUORE
CREATIVE DIRECTOR



IAN LYNAM
DESIGNER



MICHAEL KEFERL
DIRECTOR



YOKO KITAKOGA
PROJECT MANAGER

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99+1 JAPAN: Traveling through art, design & architecture is a pocket publication borne out of our love for integrating creative experiences with travel. The “+1” for any trip in Japan is the unexpected location that makes the trip extra special, from a backstreet bookstore to a mountain hike into inspiring scenery. What’s your +1?

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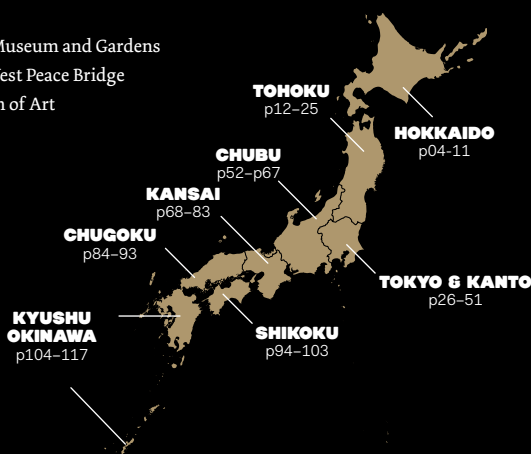
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