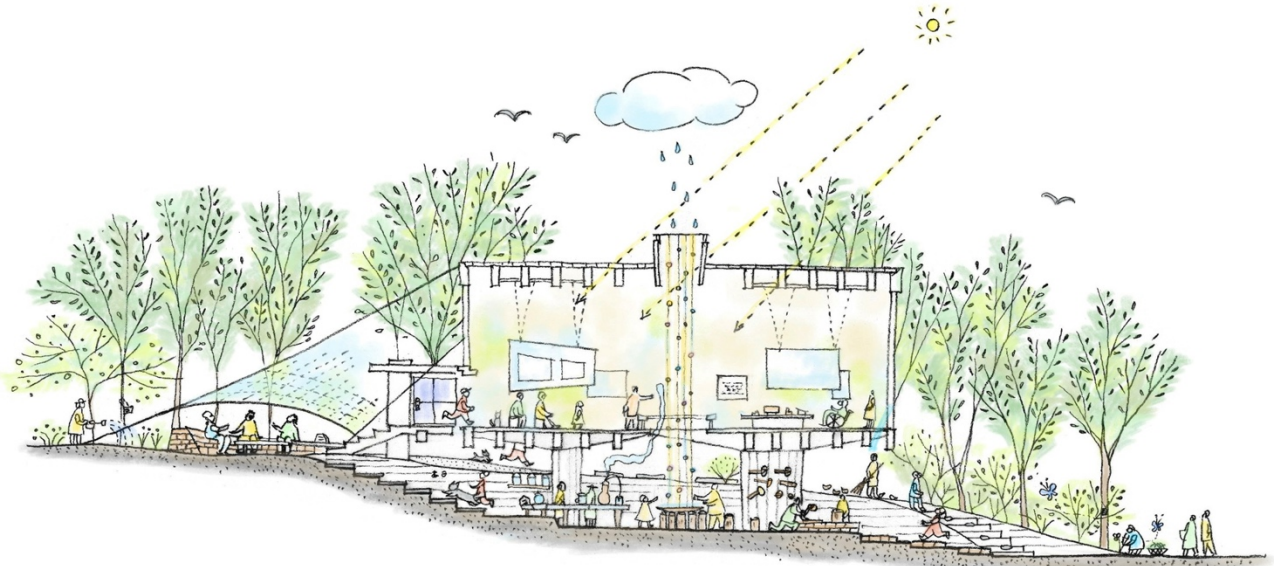




The Japan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia

Architecture, a place to be loved when architecture is seen as a living creature



Exhibition design concept drawing, 2023 ©o+h

The Japan Foundation will organize the Japan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, which will take place from May 20 to November 26, 2023. With architect Maki Onishi serving as curator and Yuki Hyakuda as deputy curator, co-directors of the architecture office o+h, this year's Japan Pavilion will shine a spotlight on the Japan Pavilion itself, the representative work of architect Takamasa Yoshizaka, in an exhibition titled *Architecture, a place to be loved*.

Takamasa Yoshizaka, who studied under Wajiro Kon and modern architecture pioneer Le Corbusier, was active from the post-war reconstruction period until 1980. The Japan Pavilion, Yoshizaka's masterpiece, was completed in 1956 and has served as a base for introducing Japan's art and architecture to the rest of the world for over half a century. In this exhibition, team members with expertise in diverse fields that include not only architecture but also textiles, ceramics, design, editing, metal work, and animation, will consider the architecture of the Japan Pavilion itself, designed by Yoshizaka, as the focus of various exhibits based on "Architecture, a place to be loved," a theme that Onishi and Hyakuda have pursued for many years.

The tent roof attached to the building facade; the mobiles hanging from the apertures; the piloti space serving as a bar-like resting area where people can intersect; the animated works projected onto the structural wall, which is essential to any discussion about the characteristics of the Japan Pavilion, in addition to the models, fixtures, re-edited books and other objects on display inside, made in response to the concept and forms of the building—through the design of the space and exhibits, a diverse range of creators have taken a thoughtful look at the Japan Pavilion to create a space where visitors can consider the meaning of "Architecture, a place to be loved."

In addition, talks, workshops, and various other events will be held throughout the exhibition period with the aim of ensuring that the Japan Pavilion continues to be nurtured as a *living place*.

Before the exhibition opens to the public, a pre-opening will be held on May 18 and 19, 2023. An opening reception will also be held on May 18 at the Japan Pavilion.

Curator's Statement

As of early summer 2023, sixty-seven years have passed since the completion of the Japan Pavilion. The pavilion has welcomed many people over the years, and is still standing today. The exhibition we present here this year has the theme of "Architecture, a place to be loved," and has been carefully crafted and nurtured with a focus on the pavilion, as designed by Takamasa Yoshizaka.

A place to be loved is made possible when architecture includes its engraved memories and stories, when it embodies the scenery behind it and the activities that took place in and around it. That enables the architecture to take on a broader meaning. For that reason, we start by thinking of the architecture as a "living creature."

To quote Takamasa Yoshizaka, "Creating something involves giving it life." Regarding architecture as a life-form with an individual existence enables us to cherish and nurture it lovingly, embracing its defects and inadequacies. This goes beyond the appraisal of a building's functionality and performance. Accepting the individuality of architecture with an easygoing stance leads us to a tolerant and broad-minded world in which we can recognize and accept the differences between us, encompassing animals and plants as well as other humans.

It is interesting to wonder how our gaze—the way that we look at this place—would change if the Japan Pavilion were a living creature. Inside are a variety of suggestions and hints for ways of responding to the pavilion. We invite visitors to engage with them and think about what sort of architecture is a place to be loved. It is an opportunity to re-establish the relationship we have with architecture.

Maki Onishi

Japan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition—La Biennale di Venezia

Theme : Architecture, a place to be loved—when architecture is seen as a living creature

Commissioner: The Japan Foundation

Curatorial Team: Maki Onishi (Curator) / Yuki Hyakuda (Deputy Curator) / Tomomi Tada / Yuma Harada

Exhibitors: dot architects (Toshikatsu Ienari, Wataru Doi, Ai Ikeda, Keiko Miyachi) / Akane Moriyama / Futoshi Mizuno

Exhibition Designers: o+h (Shiho Eika, Makoto Furusawa, Kotaro Igo, Satoshi Maemoto)

Editors: MUESUM (Dai Nagae, Chiaki Hanyu)

Designers: UMA/design farm (Megumi Takahashi, Yuka Tsuda)

Collaborators: André Raimundo / Asami Hashimoto / Atelier Tuareg (Yuji Okazaki) / Dept. (Makoto Nakamura) / Good Job! Center KASHIBA / Julia Li / KASAHARA HOSOHABA ORIMONO (Naoki Kasahara, Hideki Iyoda) / Lighter but Heavier (Hiroshi Katayama) / MIZUNO SEITON CO., LTD. (Yoshioki Mizuno) / MIZUNO SEITON LAB. (Kazuki Imai) / moogabooga (Makoto Takano, Ayako Oda) / OWASHI TAPE (Yoshiyasu Owashi) / Ryohei Yoshiyuki to Job (Ryohei Yoshiyuki) / Shiho Shibagaki / SINKO INDUSTRY CO., LTD (Masanobu Ito, Atsushi Yokoyama, Yasuhiro Matsuda, Takashi Kato, Nguyen Thi Kim Tu, Nguyen Thi Yen Nhi) / SUPER-FACTORY + HIGURE 17-15 cas (Makoto Sano, Toshihiko Arimoto, Shinji Tanaka, Taihei Kimura) / Taiyo Kogyo Corporation (Norihiro Ikeda, Tatsushi Heguri) / Tanpopo-No-Ye / Yoshitaro Inami / Yoshiyuki Hiraiwa / Yo Katsura / Yokohama Graduate School of Architecture (Yoshinori Nagara, Hiromu Takebe, Kabuto Terui, Nozomi Ueda, Shu Matsubara, Sota Endo, Yuka Kanda) / Yosuke Taki / Yurika Kono

Coordinators: Tomoaki Shimane / Tatsuya Suzuki / Yuki Kozu / Yui Akagi / Yurina Tsurui Oue / Maria Cristina Gasperini

Local Coordinator: Harumi Muto

Special thanks to: Masakuni Yoshizaka / Yuko Saito

Archival sources: Arukitekuto / Takamasa Yoshizaka + Atelier U / National Archives of Modern Architecture, Japan / SHOKOKUSHA Publishing Co., Ltd. / Keiso Shobo Publishing Co., Ltd. / Kenchiku Shiryo Kenkyusha Co., Ltd. / Waseda Architecture Archives

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In Collaboration with: Taiyo Kogyo Corporation

Venue: Japan Pavilion, Giardini della Biennale / Castello 1260, 30122 Venezia

Exhibition period: May 20 (Sat.) to November 26 (Sun.), 2023

Japan Pavilion opening reception: May 18 (Thu.) starting at 3:45 pm (Italian time)

Guided tour and talking event by the Curatorial Team and Exhibitors

- Guided tour: May 20 (Sat.) starting at 1:00 pm (English)
- Talking event: May 20 (Sat.) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Japanese and consecutive English interpreting)
Topic: Dialogue about Architecture, a place to be loved

About the commissioner

The Japan Foundation (JF) is Japan's only institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a special legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In October 2003, it was reorganized as an incorporated administrative agency. The Japan Foundation has 25 overseas offices in 24 countries. To cultivate friendship and ties between Japan and the world, the Japan Foundation creates global opportunities to foster friendship, trust, and mutual understanding through culture, language, and dialogue.

Images for press use







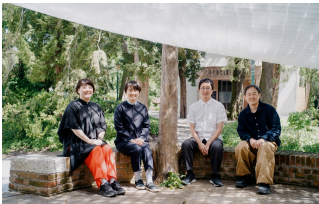
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<p>Facing with the Japanese Pavilion designed by Takamasa Yoshizaka (c)Yuma Harada</p>	<p>Portrait of Curator, Maki Onishi and Deputy Curator, Yuki Hyakuda</p>	<p>Portrait of Curatorial Team : (from left to right) Tomomi Tada, Maki Onishi, Yuki Hyakuda, Yuma Harada Photo: Yuma Harada</p>	

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Japan Pavilion archive website

<https://www.venezia-biennale-japan.jpf.go.jp/e/>

Supplementary material

Outline of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Dates: May 20 (Sat) – November 26 (Sun), 2023 10:00~18:00 Closed on Mondays

Tickets: Regular 25 euro

Venues: Giardini di Castello, Arsenale, and various other venues

Director: Lesley Lokko

Theme: The laboratory of the Future

Official Website: <http://www.labiennale.org>

Awards

- At the 13th(2012) International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

[Golden Lion for National Participation]

Japan Pavilion Commissioner: Toyo Ito

Exhibitors: Kumiko Inui, Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata (Architects), Naoya Hatakeyama(Photographer)

- At the 15th (2016) International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

[Special Mention]

Japan Pavilion Curator: Yoshiyuki Yamana

Exhibitors: Seiichi Hishikawa, mnm (Mio Tsuneyama), Osamu Nishida+Erika Nakagawa (Osamu Nishida, Erika Nakagawa), Naruse Inokuma Architects (Jun Inokuma, Yuri Naruse), Naka Architects' Studio (Toshiharu Naka, Yuri Uno), Nousaku Architects (Fuminori Nousaku, Junpei Nousaku), miCo. (Mizuki Imamura, Isao Shinohara), Levi Architecture (Jun Nakagawa), Shingo Masuda+Katsuhisa Otsubo Architects (Shingo Masuda, Katsuhisa Otsubo), Koji Aoki Architects (Koji Aoki), 403architecture [dajiba] (Takuma Tsuji, Takeshi Hashimoto, Toru Yada), BUS (Satoru Ito, Kosuke Bando, Issei Suma), dot architects (Toshikatsu Ienari, Takeshi Shakushiro, Wataru Doi)