

Kumamoto – Kita(North) Police Station



Architectural Outline

Known as the glass police station because reflective glass is used over the entire facade, this building has completely changed the public's image of the police. Basically it serves two different functions. The public areas such as the traffic department and the martial arts hall are on the western side (i.e. in the front) of the building, and spaces for official police business are on the eastern side. The eastern and western sides of the building have different structural systems, reflecting their different internal functions. The structure is steel frame on the western side and steel-framed reinforced concrete (SRC) on the eastern side. In front, the structure becomes progressively wider on the upper floors to accommodate a martial arts hall and galleries. Outdoor air conditioning equipment is contained in a black cylinder suspended from the side; the rooftop can thus be used as a place of assembly.



Architectural Data

Name	Kumamoto- Kita (North) Police Station
Location	5-13 Kusaba-cho, Kumamoto City
Main function	police station
Developer	Kumamoto Prefectural Police Headquarters
Architects	Kazuo Shinohara and Taiko Architects Office
General contractors	joint venture of Takenaka Corporation, Masunaga - gumi and Mitsuno Construction.
Site area	6,926 square meters
Building area	2,230 square meters
Total floor area	8,695 square meters
Extent	one basement floor, five aboveground floors
Structure	steel-frame construction and steel-framed reinforced concrete (SRC) construction
Construction period	March 1989 - November 1990
Total construction cost	2,521 million

Profile of architect



Kazuo Shinohara

- 1925 Born in Shizuoka Prefecture
- 1953 Graduated from Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT); assistant, TIT
- 1962 Associate professor, TIT
- 1967 D. Eng.; Nihon kenchiku no kukan kosei no kenkyu (Study of spatial organization in Japanese architecture)

- 1970 Professor, TIT
1986 Professor emeritus, TIT; visiting professor,
Yale University (1984) and Vienna University
of Technology (1986); Honorary Fellow,
American Institute of Architects (1988)

●Principal Works

House in White (1966); Tanikawa House (1974); House
in Uehara; (1976) Centennial Hall, TIT (1987); etc.

●Awards

- 1972 Architectural Institute of Japan Award
1989 Education Minister' s Art Award
1990 Purple Ribbon Medal
1997 Special Award, Mainichi Art Award
2000 Order of the Rising Sun

Photo : Shoichi Ishimaru