

# Kumamoto Municipal Shinchi Public Housing Complex – Block A



## Architectural Outline

Low-rise apartment buildings were introduced to create a sense of continuity with the surrounding residential district. Even the elevations of the five-story apartment buildings have been treated to make them resemble low-rise buildings. Inside the housing project, two- and three-story architectural elements give buildings a human scale and eliminate the usual perception of the south side of apartment buildings as the front and the north side as the back. The elongated five-story apartment buildings could have easily become walls, but two- and three-story high gates, provided at regular intervals, direct people's eyes through the buildings toward open spaces.



## Architectural Data

Name	Kumamoto Municipal Housing Estate, Shinchi Public Housing Complex, Block A
Location	1917-58 Shimizu-machi-shinchi, Kumamoto City
Main function	housing
Developer	Kumamoto City
Architects	Hayakawa Architect & Associates
General contractors	joint venture of Masunaga, Mizukami, Kawakami, Oda, Patio and Wakuda Construction; Kyurei Construction
Site area	45,306 square meters (includes 2nd phase work)
Building area	7,134 square meters
Total floor area	23,047 square meters
Extent	one basement floor, five aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction
Construction period	December 1989 - May 1991
Total construction cost	3,204 million

## Profile of architect



### **Kunihiro Hayakawa**

- 1941 Born in Tokyo
- 1966 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Waseda University
- 1971 Completed graduate studies, School of Art and Architecture, Yale University
- 1972 Worked for Takenaka Corporation
- 1978 Established Kunihiro Hayakawa Architect & Associates

●Principal Works

Akita Nissan Complex; Koga-city Sports Forum;  
Kumamoto-City Shinchu Housing A; Shimonoseki  
Hakuundai Public Housing; Setagaya-Ku All-season  
Swimming Pool; Kirishima Art Hall

●Awards

1985 Architectural Institute of Japan Award  
1994 Architectural Institute of Japan Award  
1997 Togo Murano Award

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