

# Kumamoto Municipal Shinchi Public Housing Complex – Block B



## Architectural Outline

The apartment buildings, which resemble a pair of whales swimming side by side, were given undulating facades and windows of different quality to create greater visual variety. The project was conceived as a theater, with the mall sandwiched between the buildings being the stage and the buildings being the seats. The toilets and bathrooms were concentrated in the middle of the housing units, enabling the more public spaces to look out over the mall. All stairs lead directly to the mall, assuring communication at every level: family, housing complex residents, and neighborhood. The "whales" head eastward, bearing a human community.



## Architectural Data

Name	Kumamoto Municipal Housing Estate, Shinchi Public Housing Complex Block B
Location	1917 Shimizu-machi-shinchi, Kumamoto City
Main function	housing
Developer	Kumamoto City
Architects	Riichiro Ogata Architects
General contractors	joint venture of Tatara, Tomishige and Taihei Construction; joint venture of Mitsuya, Chikada and Sakumura Construction
Site area	17,196 square meters
Building area	3,802 square meters
Total floor area	16,179 square meters
Extent	five aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction
Construction period	December 1990 - March 1992
Total construction cost	2,551 million

## Profile of architect



### Riichiro Ogata

- 1941 Born in Kumamoto City  
1966 Graduated from College of Science and Technology, Nihon University; entered Otsubo-Yamamura Architects  
1971 Established Riichiro Ogata Architects  
1990 Died

### ●Principal Works

Yoshii House; River Tower #1; River Tower #2; River House; Kamitori Community Mart Concept; Court 93; Minamata Disease Municipal Museum; Sogensha

Photo : Yasuhiko Kiyoshima