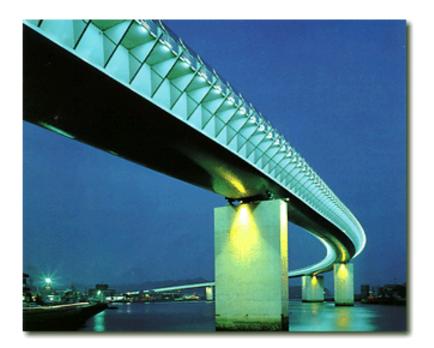
Ushibuka Haiya Bridge



Architectural Outline

The Amakusa region is characterized by a finely textured topography and clear waters. Design studies conducted by the architects centered on the problem of harmonizing a bridge 13.6 meters wide and 883 meters long with girders 5 meters in height with that landscape. A suspension bridge or a cable-stayed bridge would have been structurally too assertive. A much simpler system of continuous girders was selected instead so that the bridge might appear as a single line floating in the landscape and thus blend in with the natural environment. The curved surfaces of the windbreak and the bottom of the bridge help to break down the five-meter height of the girder into three parts, creating a rhythmical pattern of light and shadow. The bridge is a delicate and highly expressive curved line that floats 19 meters above the water. The white windbreak flaps, which face upward, form a rhythmical series of delicate mirrors, reflecting the changing light and color of the sky.



Architectural Data

Name	Ushibuka Haiya Bridge
Location	Ushibuka City
Main function	harbor connecting bridge
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects	Renzo Piano Building Workshop (Renzo Piano, Noriaki Okabe), Ove Arup & Partners International (Peter Rice) and Maeda engineering
General contractors	joint venture of Hitachi Zosen, Yokogawa Bridge, Goyo Kensetsu, Wakachiku Construction, Saeki Kensetsu Kogyo, Yamato Construction, Ushibuka Construction and Kitatoki Construction
Length of bridge	883 meters
Bridge width	13.6 meters
Structure	
(lower part)	concrete cavity wall

(upper part)	7 span continuous steel deck plate box girder bridge
Construction period	November 1991 - August 1997
Total construction cost	12,200 million

Profile of architect



Renzo Piano

1937	Born in Genoa, Italy
1964	Graduated from School of Architecture, Milan
	Polytechnic
1974	Studied under Franco Albino and Louis Kahn
1971-77	Collaborated with Richard Rogers
1977-81	Collaborated with Peter Rice
1981	Established Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW)

•Principal Works

Pompidou Center; The Menil Collection Museum; Kansai International Airport Passenger Terminal Building; IBM Traveling Pavilion; Potsdamer Platz Reconstruction (Berlin); Beyeler Foundation Museum (Basel)

•Awards

Legion d'Honneur; RIBA Gold Medal; Kyoto Prize, Inamori Foundation; Premium Imperial; Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design; Pritzker Architecture Prize



Noriaki Okabe	
1947	Born in Shizuoka Prefecture

1971	Graduated from Department of Architecture,
	School of Science and Engineering, Waseda
	University

1974	Worked on design and construction of Pompidou Center, IRCAM
1981-89	Chief architect, Building Workshop (RPBW), Paris
1988	Won Kansai International Airport Passenger Terminal Building Competition; established RPBWJ
1994	Established Noriaki Okabe Architecture Network
1996-	Professor, Kobe Design University

•Principal Works

Kansai International Airport Passenger Terminal Building; Valeo Unisia Transmission Atsugi

•Awards

Architectural Institute of Japan Award; Japan Society of Civil Engineers Townscape Design Award



Peter Rice ((Structural designer)		
1935	Born in Dublin, Ireland	
1956	Graduated from Queen's University; entered Ove Arup & Partners	
1960	In charge of Sydney Opera House	
1973	In charge of Pompidou Center	
1978	Established RFR (Paris)	
1992	Died in London	

•Principal Works

Pompidou Center, The Menil Collection Museum; Kansai International Airport Passenger Terminal Building; IBM Traveling Pavilion

\bullet Awards

RIBA Gold Medal PHOTO : Shoichi Ishimaru, K.A.P.