

Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theater



Architectural Outline

This is a theater for a form of bunraku that has been performed in Seiwa since the late Edo period. The architects designed a large-scale version of a conventional wood-construction structure in response to the request of, not just the town of Seiwa, but the Cultural Agency and the Forestry Agency. The structure was made as large as the Building Standard Law permits; that is, the eaves are nine meters in height, and the maximum height is 13 meters. Wood is layered as has been the practice in conventional wood-construction structures since the Nara period. There are over 1,000 No stages in Japan today. It is hoped that this facility, which seats 200, will become the representative No theater in Kyushu.



Architectural Data

Name	Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theater
Location	152 Haraguchi, Ohira, Seiwa-son, Kamimashiki-gun
Main function	bunraku theater and museum
Developer	Seiwa Village
Architects	Kazuhiro Ishii Architect & Associates
General contractors	Nichido Komuten
Site area	10,200 square meters
Building area	856 square meters
Total floor area	781 square meters
Extent	two aboveground floors
Structure	wooden construction
Construction period	December 1990 - March 1992
Total construction cost	436 million

Profile of architect



Kazuhiro Ishii

- 1944 Born in Tokyo
- 1967 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo
- 1975 completed doctoral course, University of Tokyo; completed master's course, School of Architecture, Yale University
- 1976 Established Kazuhiro Ishii Architect & Associates
- 1978 Incorporated Kazuhiro Ishii Architect & Associates Has been lecturer at Faculty of International Studies, Waseda University; University of California; Nihon University; Yale University, Osaka University; University of Tokyo; Japan Women's University

●Principal Works

Naoshima Educational District; Sukiya Village; Naoshima Town Hall; International Village Center, Kitakyushu; etc.

●Awards

- 1987 Iraka (roof tile) Award (Gyro Roof)
- 1989 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design (Sukiya Village)
- 1991 Chiba Prefecture Architecture and Townscape Award (Kaigan Museum of Art)
- 1992 Award for the Promotion of Wood Construction and the Forestry Agency Director-General's Award (Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theater)
- 1994 Kitakyushu City Architectural Culture Award (International Village Center, Kitakyushu)
- 1998 Public Architecture Award (Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theater)

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