

Kumamoto Prefecture Decorative Tumulus Museum



Architectural Outline

The site is in the northern part of the prefecture, where the Iwabarū Tumuli are found. That group of ancient tombs includes the Futagozuka Tumulus, considered one of the most beautiful examples of a "keyhole" tumulus in Japan. This museum is not focused only on the galleries inside the building. It is meant to be experienced together with the nearby group of tumuli and the surrounding environment. The building has therefore been conceived as a platform from which tumuli can be viewed. Visitors leave their cars in a parking area, walk uphill through a grove of trees and arrive at the building. Walking past a water curtain, they ascend an open stairway. At the top they see tumuli scattered over the green landscape. Here, people will no doubt get a sense of the grand flow of time from the past to the present.



Architectural Data

Name	Prefectural Decorative Tumulus Museum
Location	3085 Iwabaru, Kao-machi, Kamoto-gun
Main function	museum of history
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects	Tadao Ando Architects & Associates
General contractors	joint venture of Nishimatsu Construction and Motoyama Construction, Aoki Komuten
Site area	6,338 square meters
Building area	1,448 square meters
Total floor area	2,098 square meters
Extent	one basement floor, one aboveground floor
Structure	steel-framed reinforced concrete construction
Construction period	October 1990 - April 1992
Total construction cost	1,590 million



Tadao Ando

- 1941 Born in Osaka
1969 Established Tadao Ando Architect & Associates
1987 Visiting professor, Yale University
1988 Visiting professor, Columbia University
1990 Visiting professor, Harvard University
1993-2003 Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo

●Principal Works

Rowhouse in Sumiyoshi; Rokko Housing; Church of the Light; Children's Museum, Hyogo; Museum of Literature, Himeji; Japan Pavilion, Expo '92, Seville; Chikatsu-Asuka Historical Museum; Suntory Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

●Awards

- 1979 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design
1983 Japan Cultural Design Award
1985 Alvar Aalto Medal
1989 Gold Medal, French Academy of Architecture
1992 Carlsberg Architectural Prize
1995 Pritzker Prize
1997 Gold Medal, Royal Institute of British Architects
2002 Gold Medal, Architecture Institute of America

PHOTO : Yasuhiko Kiyoshima, K.A.P.