Shiranuhi Culture Plaza



Architectural Outline

The elevation is intended to express the wonderful retinal image that is projected by the strange name Shiranuhi. The art museum and library inside are conceived as open flexible spaces that permit great freedom of activity. The plaza in front is intended to be a place where people visit, relax and sense the long history of Shiranuhi. The site is in the town's administrative district, where many public facilities such as the town hall and the welfare center are located. The construction of a tree-lined road passing through the center of the administrative district from the west side of the prefectural road has provided safe access to various facilities and endowed the entire district with a new order. The hill of camphor trees on the east side of the site protects the site from the noise of the JR Kagoshima Main Line. It also serves as a landmark in the relatively flat administrative district.



Architectural Data

Name	Shiranuhi Culture Plaza
Location	2352 Koryo Tokatsu, Shiranuhi-machi, Uto-gun
Main function	art museum, library
Developer	Shiranuhi Town
Architects	Atsushi Kitagawara Architects, Inc. and Ito Architects and Associates
General contractors	Kyushu Office, Nishimatsu Kensetsu
Site area	11,575.01 square meters
Building area	2,133.10 square meters
Total floor area	1,793.18 square meters
Extent	one aboveground floors
Structure	steel-frame construction
Construction period	February 1998 - April 1999
Total construction cost	1,113 million

Profile of architect



Atsushi Kitagawara

1951	Born in Nagano Prefecture
1974	Graduated from Department of Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts; Tokyo National University of
	Fine Arts and Music
1977	Master's degree from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music
1982	Established Atsushi Kitagawara Architects
2001	Associate Professor, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music

•Principal Works

Metroca (1989); ARIA (1992); Senden Kaigi headquarters Building (1997); Big Palette Fukushima; Minatoku Hakone Public Rest House (1998); Hosho Gakuen High School (1999); ONE OF A KIND; Gifu Academy of Forest Science and Culture (2000); Japan PEN Club (2001) etc.

•Awards

1989	Japan Institute of Architects 'Young Architect of the Year' Award
1995	Good Design Gold Prize; Architectural Institute of Japan Commendation for Design
2000	Bessie Award
2000	Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design
2002	Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Technology; BCS Award; Eco-Build Award; Canada Green Design Award

Photo: Shoichi Ishimaru, Koji Okamoto