

Amakusa Technical High School Workshop Building and Gymnasium



Architectural Outline

The project originally called for scrapping and rebuilding the existing workshop and soon there after rebuilding the existing classroom building. However, the existing buildings, though 25-years old, were not dilapidated. Some expressed the view that these buildings, which had been a part of the townscape and the town's history, ought to be preserved. The architects therefore proposed saving and remodeling the buildings and thus preserving the townscape. The idea of the design is to strengthen by means of the school buildings the connection between the channel of water on the east side (which has previously been ignored rather than seen as an environmental asset), the landscape seen from a movable pedestrian bridge and the block to the west of the school (in the direction of approach). At the same time, the design clarifies the school's role as a landmark at the entrance of Hondo City. There is still a strong tendency to standardize buildings for public schools. Creating an archetypal free space, a place that serves as a framework responsive to the landscape, may be effective in overcoming such standardization.



Architectural Data

Name	Amakusa Technical High School, Workshop Building & Gymnasium
Location	38-36 Kamegawa, Kameba-machi, Hondo City
Main function	school
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects	Studio ARTEC architects & associates (Jiro Murofushi) and SDA Architects
General contractors	Yoshinaga Sangyo, Nakamura Kensetsu, Daisho Kensetsu, Arie Kensetsu and Reishu Kensetsu Kogyo
Site area	45,600 square meters
Building area	6,090.53 square meters (workshop and gymnasium)
Total floor area	12,115.99 square meters (workshop and gymnasium)
Extent	(workshop) five and two aboveground floors; (gymnasium) three aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction and steel-frame construction
Construction period	March 1995 - March 1998 (workshop and gymnasium)
Total construction cost	3,829 million (workshop and gymnasium)



Jiro Murofushi

- 1940 Born in Tokyo
- 1966 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Waseda University; entered Junzo Sakakura, Architects and Engineers
- 1971 Established Archivision (co-principal with Tadahiro Toh and Tsutomu Abe)
- 1975 Established ARTEC (co-principal with Tsutomu Abe)
- 1984 Established Studio ARTEC architects & associates
- 1994 Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Kanagawa University

●Principal Works

Daikin Eau de Ciel Tateshina; House at Ohimachi; House of Seijo II; House at Ushikubo; House at Yamate

●Awards

- 1993 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design (Daikin Eau de Ciel Tateshina)
- 1996 Architectural Institute of Japan Commendation (House at Ohmachi)
- 1997 Gold Prize, Space Design Competition, glass block category (House of Seijo II)
- 1998 Gold Prize, JUKEN Built Work Competition, Space for seniors (House at Ushikubo; co with architect Miya)
- 2001 Work of Merit, TEPCO Comfortable House Contest (House at Musashikoyama)
- 2002 Prize, Kanagawa Architectural Concours, residential category (House at Yamate)

Photo : Yasuhiko Kiyoshima