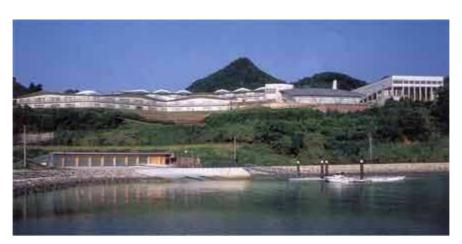
Kumamoto Prefecture Ashikita Youth Center



he Tsurugiyama peninsula in Ashikita is located on the coast of the Yatsushiro Sea, halfway between Yatsushiro and Minamata, in the southern part of Kumamoto Prefecture. From a hill close to the shore, one can see the Amakusa Islands across the water. The site is blessed with a view of the beautiful sea, which recalls the Aegean Sea in Greece and a lush natural environment. The facilities are intended to foster youth development through group life activities and training as well as provide support for continued education activities. To use the superb natural conditions of the site to maximum advantage, architects incorporated views of the Yatsushiro Sea to the west and preserved as much as possible the pre-existing topography of the site, particularly the ridgeline on the north side.



Administrative and Training Building, Gymnasium

Architectural Outline

The intention was to simplify structures, materials and forms, to adapt the buildings to the slope of the site down toward the sea and to direct people's eyes toward the water. The buildings have been moved to the back of the site, and a plaza and an open stairway have been created facing the sea. The buildings, arranged around a central void, are in turn a screen framing a view of the sea, a canopy providing protection from the direct sunlight of summer, a windbreak, a colonnade endowing one's field of vision with rhythm and vitality and a landmark punctuating the otherwise uninterrupted extension of outdoor space.

Architectural Data

| Name | Ashikita Youth Center |
|-------------------------|---|
| Location | Tsurugiyama, Ashikita-machi, Ashikita-gun |
| Main function | training and dormitory facilities |
| Developer | Kumamoto Prefecture |
| Architects | Gigantes Zenghelis Architects (Elia Zenghelis and Eleni Gigantes), Ryoji Suzuki and Shimamura Architects |
| General contractors | Wakuda Construction, Tanaka-gumi, Sawai Kensetsu, Kimura Kensetsu, Daido-gumi, Maejima Kensetsu, Matsushita-gumi, Hayanaga Komuten |
| Site area | 125,443 square meters |
| Construction period | March 1997 - June 1998 |
| Total construction cost | 3,957 million |

| Administrative and Training Building | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Building area | 1,755 square meters |
| Total floor area | 2,847 square meters |
| Extent | three aboveground floors |
| Structure | steel-framed reinforced concrete construction, reinforced concrete construction and steel-frame construction |

| Gymnasium | |
|---------------------|---|
| Building area | 998 square meters |
| Total floor area | 994 square meters |
| Extent | one aboveground floor |
| Structure | steel-frame construction and reinforced concrete construction |



Profile of architect



Ryoji Suzuki

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1943 | Born in Tokyo |
| 1967 | Graduated from Department of Architecture, |
| | School of Science and Engineering, Waseda |
| | University |
| 1968-73 | Worked for Design Department, Takenaka |
| | Corporation |
| 1970-71 | Temporary staff of Maki & Associates |
| 1975-77 | Completed master's course, Department of |
| | Architecture, Waseda University |
| 1977 | Established "fromnow" |
| 1983 | Renamed office Ryoji Suzuki Architect and |
| | Partners |
| 1997 | Professor, Waseda University |
| | |

•Principal Works

Experience in Material No.20 Azabu EDGE; Experience in Material No.33 Kohunji Temple; Experience in Material No.37 Project in Sagishima

•Awards

| 1970 | Silver Prize, Yamagiwa Lighting |
|------|--|
| | International Limited Competition |
| 1990 | Second prize, "La maison de la Culture du |
| | Japon a Paris" Competition |
| 1995 | Second prize, Yokohama International |
| | Passenger Terminal International |
| | Competition |
| 1997 | Architectural Institute of Japan Award for |
| | Design |

Dormitories, Cafeteria and Bath Building

Architectural Outline

The facility's objective is to permit people to enjoy a close relationship to Ashikita's natural environment. For that reason, the facility was housed, not in a single building, but in three separate buildings (Japanese-style dormitory, Western-style dormitory, and cafeteria and bath building) connected by covered walkways. The site has steep slopes. The buildings were situated on two hills (height: 39 meters and 31 meters), affording views of the sea. The facilities are designed to be continuous and to blend in with the surrounding environment. The dormitories are long, winding buildings that are adapted to the topography. Their roofs too have been designed as gentle, continuous curves that blend in with those natural elements.





Architectural Data

| Dormitories(Japanese-style building, Western-style building) | |
|--|--|
| Building area | (Japanese-style building) 1,009.96 square meters; (Western-style building) 1,036.18 square meters |
| Total floor area | (Japanese-style building) 1,524.78 square meters; (Western-style building) 1,609.35 square meters |
| Extent | two aboveground floors |
| Structure | reinforced concrete construction; partly steel-frame construction |

| Cafeteria and Bath Building | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Building area | 863.10 square meters |
| Total floor area | 1,124.14 square meters |
| Extent | two aboveground floors |
| Structure | reinforced concrete construction |

Profile of architect



Elia Zenghelis

| 1937 | Born in Athens, Greece |
|---------|--|
| 1956-61 | Educated at Gymnasium Greece and Architectural Association |
| 1961-71 | Worked at Douglas Stephen and Partners |
| 1971-75 | Private practice in collaboration with George Candilis, O.M. Ungers and others |
| 1975-87 | in partnership with Rem Koolhaas, founded OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) |
| 1987 | Established Gigantes Zenghelis Architects in partnership with Eleni Gigantes |

•Principal Works

City Hall (The Hague); Parc La Vilette (Paris); Checkpoint Charlie (Berlin); etc.

Eleni Gigantes

1954 Born in New Delhi, India

| 1985 | Graduated from Architectural Association |
|---------|--|
| 1978-86 | Worked at Douglas Stephen and |
| | Partners, OMA and other firms |
| 1987 | Established Gigantes Zenghelis |
| | Architects in partnership with Elia |
| | Zenghelis |

ulletPrincipal Works

Las Terrenas Resort (Dominican Republic); Moabiter Werder (Berlin); etc.