Kusasenri Public Restroom

Architectural Outline

This public toilet is next to a parking area where people can stop and enjoy the grand landscape of Kusasenri. The facility naturally creates a place from which to view Kusasenri, but the architect felt that it should also fit into that landscape. In addition, the building, because of its nature, had to be both unobstrusive and clearly recognizable from the parking area. The building was to be made of reinforced concrete but wood was to be used as much as possible because the facility was inside a natural park. Thus the design is intended to meet many conflicting demands that interact in complex ways and thereby establish a close relationship to the environment. In the end, a cut was made in the hillside, and the ground surface seemingly turned upward. A space was created through the overlapping of the domain of the hillside and the domain of the parking area.

Name	Kusasenri Public Restroom
Location	Aso-machi, Aso-gun
Main function	public toilet
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects	Atelier Bow-Wow (Yoshiharu Tsukamoto) and Momoki Saito, Architects
General contractors	Kurahara Kensetsu
Site area	519.67 square meters
Building area	106.33 square meters
Total floor area	106.33 square meters
Extent	one aboveground floor
Structure	reinforced concrete construction
Construction period	December 1997 - April 1998
Total construction cost	134 million

Profile of architect

Yoshiharu Tsukamoto

1965	Born in Kanagawa, Japan
1987	Graduate from Tokyo Institute of Technology
1987-88	Guest Student of L'ecole d'architecture,

Paris, Bellville (UP8)

1994   Graduate from Post-graduate school of
Tokyo Institute of Technology
Associate professor of Tokyo Institute of
Technology, D.Eng.

●Principal Works
Ani House; Mini House; Kawanishi Camping Cottage
B; House Asama; House Saiko

●Awards

1987   16th Yoshioka Prize, Tokyo Architect
Society Awards "Gold prize of house
architecture" (Mini House)

2002   American Wood Awards (House Saiko)

Photo：Masatsugu Miyai