

Misato Town Culture and Communication Center Hibiki



Architectural Outline

First of all, I made certain the building would not interrupt the ridgeline which is distinctive to Tomochi. That is, the building was made as low as possible and instead extended horizontally. Based on discussions that were held concerning the plays the workshop might stage, the decision was made to keep the flytower low; the hall was made nearly level because users include a large number of elderly persons; although the building is two-storied, the topography was used to provide an approach on both levels. Out of concern for the environment, emphasis was placed on ventilation and the screening of sunlight. The so-called "domain air conditioning system", a method that imposes only a small burden on the environment, was used in Japan for probably the first time. In response to a request that wood be used since this is a town of forests, the trusses supporting the roof of the hall, the fin-shaped mullions in the curtain wall that double as sun-shading louvers, and the vertical grills that endow the interior and exterior of the building with rhythm were made of wood. Together with the eaves, they are distinctive features of the design. The tiles on the curved wall are the green of the mountains but closer to the

floor become the color of earth and wood; finally they suggest ripples of water reflecting the sun, echoing the pool of water in front of the building. Light and wind endow the space with rhythm. The two lighting towers, which also function as smoke exhaust and ventilation devices, are like paper lanterns and enliven Tomochi's nightscape.



Architectural Data

Name	Misato Town Culture and Communication Center
Location	1483 Nagatomi, Misato-machi, Shimomashiki-gun
Main function	culture hall, civic center
Developer	Misato Town
Architects	Urban Project Machine Co., Ltd. (Hajime Yatsuka)
General contractors	Koshin Kensetsu
Site area	11,963.60 square meters
Building area	2,119.65 square meters
Total floor area	2,574.59 square meters
Extent	two aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction; partly steel-frame construction and wooden construction
Construction period	February 2001 - March 2002
Total construction cost	1,141 million



Hajime Yatsuka

- 1948 Born in Yamagata Prefecture
- 1972 Graduated from Department of Urban Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo
- 1978 Withdrew from doctoral program, University of Tokyo; entered Arata Isozaki & Associates
- 1984 Established Hajime Yatsuka Architect's Office
- 1985 Renamed office U.P.M.
- 2003 Professor, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Shibaura Institute of Technology

●**Principal Works**

Center House, Gymnasium, Bunkyo University; Clinic in Hadano; Todoroki K2 Building; etc.

Photo : Masaki Miyai