

Seiwa Bunraku-Mura Road Station Public Restroom



Architectural Outline

The Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theater and the local-produce center, together with the rich natural environment of the area, give Seiwa a distinctive and attractive townscape. This building was built close to those facilities to serve as a station on the Seiwa Bunrakumura Road. The building is small but located at the entrance to the entire complex and thus serves an important scenic function. That was the main consideration in the project. However, the building is also meant to provide the other two facilities with support in an unobtrusive way. It was therefore given an extremely simple and easily identified form so that during the day when the other two facilities, which have very distinctive forms, are at their busiest, it plays a supporting role. In the evening, the building is lit up and changes in character, becoming a lantern and a sign for people on the road. It becomes more individualistic and creates a new landscape, after the other two facilities have closed.



Architectural Data

Name	Seiwa Bunraku-mura Road Station Public Restroom
Location	138-6 Ohira, Seiwa-mura, Kamimashiki-gun
Main function	public toilet
Developer	Seiwa Village
Architects	Barn Architects & Associates (Kenji Kozai)
General contractors	Goto Kogyo
Site area	135 square meters
Building area	40.14 square meters
Total floor area	39.69 square meters
Extent	one aboveground floor
Structure	wooden construction
Construction period	December 2000 - March 2001
Total construction cost	19 million



Kenji Kozai

- 1959 Born in Kumamoto Prefecture
- 1984 Completed master's course, Kumamoto University
- 1984 Entered Ito Architect's Office
- 1987 Entered ARTEC
- 1989 Established Barn Architect & Associates

●Principal Works

Yamaemura Spa Center; House in Hitoyoshi; House in Jonan; Gymnasium, Minamata Number 3 Junior High School; Fishing Industry Management Office

●Awards

- 1999 Prize, Itsuki-mura Town Hall Competition
- 2000 JIA Kumamoto Residential Award
- 2003 Kumamoto Artpolis Advancement Award

Photo : Masaki Miyai