

Uto Municipal Uto Elementary School



Building Profile

This is a whole-building reconstruction plan for Uto Municipal Uto Elementary School, a large-scale elementary school which has more than 800 students.

Our goal was not to impose order through excessive design, but rather to fashion a developmental green space under trees for students and teachers to feel at ease and to communicate openly.

Louis Kahn once famously said that “Schools began with a man under a tree, who did not know he was a teacher, discussing his realization with a few who did not know they were students”. We chose to see such a tree as an L wall and considered the possibility of creating school spaces by discretely sliding a number of classroom L walls into thickets of trees.

Expansive courtyards appear around the L walls, which support flat slabs.

Ceiling-high folding doors are installed at the boundary surface between the inside and the outside of the building which allows the space to be fully opened, except in winter.

Should they be found to enable a wide spectrum of educational activities while being welcomed as an integral component of a “school” environment by students and teachers, the treed courtyards created with L walls may serve as a ubiquitous and flexible response for the field of education in Japan, which has been experimenting with a variety of teaching styles, from open education to small-group classes and team teaching.

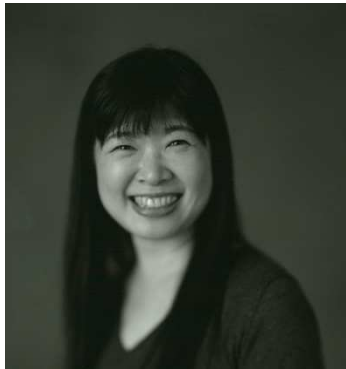


Architectural Data	
Name	Uto Municipal Uto Elementary School
Address	104-1, Takayanagi-machi, Uto City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Main Purpose	Elementary school
Project implementing body	Uto City
Architects	Kojima Kazuhiro & Akamatsu Kazuko /Cat
Builder	school building · indoor playground
	Architecture : Kotake Gumi Co., Ltd.
	Electricity : Kumaei Densetsu Co., Ltd
	Engineering : Kumaden Shisetsu Co., Ltd
Area	Premises area 25,650 m ²
	Architecture area 6,160 m ²
	Floor space area 8,570 m ²
Stories	two-story building
Structure	reinforced concrete structure, partly steel construction
Outside finishing	Roof: (general) compound urethane waterproof (Gymnasium) seam jointed folded-plate method
	Outer wall clear & colored water repellent material
Construction Period	November, 2009 ~ July, 2011
Total construction cost	1,525,000,000 yen

Profile of architect



Kojima Kazuhiro	
1958	Born in Osaka Prefecture
1982	Graduated from Kyoto University Faculty of Engineering Undergraduate School of Architecture
1984	Completed master's course at University of Tokyo While in doctorate course at University of Tokyo, co-established Coelacanth And Associates (1988 C+ A (Coelacanth And Associates))
2005	Co-established CAT(reorganized as C+ A Tokyo)
Currently	CAt Partner, Professor "Y-GSA", Graduate School of Yokohama National University
Main works	
Sakuradai Apartment, Space Blocks Kamishinjo, Big Heart Izumo, Mihama Utase Elementary School, The University of Architecture of Ho Chi Minh City	
Main Prizes	
1990	The 7th Yoshioka Award
2002	A R C A S A Award Gold Medal
2004	Architectural Institute of Japan Recommended Work
2009	Architectural Institute of Japan Recommended Work
2009	Global Holcim Awards Silver 2009
2011	AACA Award (Japan Association Of Artists Craftsman & Architects Award)



Akamatsu Kazuko	
1968	Born in Tokyo
1990	Joined Coelacanth after graduating Department of Housing and Architecture of Japan Women's University
2002	C+ A Parter
Currently	CAt Parter, part-time lecturer of Japan Women's University, Hosei University, Kobe Design University, Nihon University
Main works	
Kibikogen Elementary School, Miyagi Prefectural Hakuo High School, House YK/Islands	
Main Prizes	
2000	Architectural Institute of Japan Recommended Work
2002	BCS (Construction Association) Award
2006	The top prize award at the 9th TEPCO Living Environment Competition
2009	Architectural Institute of Japan Recommended Work
2011	AACA Award (Japan Association Of Artists Craftsman & Architects Award)