



Arata Isozaki at the Kankai Pavilion

– A Response by Arata Isozaki to the Continuing Genealogy,
from the Japanese Art of Rokuro Hara, whose sobriquet was “Kankai,”
to the Contemporary Art Collection of His Great-grandson Toshio Hara –

Kankai Pavilion at Hara Museum ARC (Traditional East Asian Art)

September 13 (Friday) – October 23 (Wednesday), 2019



Exterior view of Kankai Pavilion
Photo: Sadamu Saito

The sharp angular shapes and unifying shades of black of its buildings are what characterizes Hara Museum ARC. We are happy to announce an exhibition by the architect who designed them – Arata Isozaki. Isozaki stands out as one of Japan's foremost architects and a designer of many museums in Japan and abroad. 2019 has been a milestone year for Isozaki. Not only because it is the year of his 88th birthday, a very auspicious age in Japan, but also because of his receipt of the Pritzker Prize, commonly known as the "Nobel Prize for architecture."

To celebrate these notable events, three special exhibitions have been planned for 2019 and 2020 at three Japanese museums that are part of Isozaki's architectural legacy: Hara Museum ARC, Art Tower Mito and the Nagi-cho Museum of Contemporary Art. Each show, supervised by Isozaki himself, will be unique, yet share the same theme: milestones in the career of a master architect. Kicking off this endeavor will be the Kankai Pavilion where Isozaki will trace his relationship with the Hara Museum through various projects completed over the years, including the buildings at Hara Museum ARC and the Uji-An, a teahouse (built in 1991 adjacent to the Hara Museum in Tokyo).

Arata Isozaki Architect, Born in 1931 in Oita, Japan.

Selected Architectural Projects

Oita Prefectural Library (Oita, 1966), The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma (Gunma, 1974), Tsukuba Center Building (Ibaraki, 1983), Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (USA/1986), Hara Museum ARC (Gunma, 2008), Palau d'Esports Sant Jordi (Spain/1990), Art Tower Mito (Ibaraki/1990), Nagi-cho Museum of Contemporary Art (Okayama/1994), Akiyoshidai International Art Village (Yamaguchi/1998), Ceramics Park Mino (Gifu/2002), Shenzhen Cultural Centre (China/2007), Qatar National Convention Center (Qatar/2011), Shanghai Himalayan Center (China/2013) and others.

Curatorial or Other Projects

Electric Labyrinth at the XIV Triennale di Milano (1968); *MA: Space - Time in Japan* (conceived and directed by Arata Isozaki) (France and Japan/1978-81); Japanese Pavilion, International Architecture Exhibition (recipient of the Golden Lion Award) at the Venice Biennale (1996); China International Practical Exhibition of Architecture (coordinated by Arata Isozaki), (Nanjing /2003) and others.

Kankai Pavilion



Installation view of Kankai Pavilion

The Kankai Pavilion was built in 2008 as part of an expansion of Hara Museum ARC that took place to mark the 20th anniversary of its founding in 1988. The Pavilion's aim was to augment the ARC's original purpose as a museum of contemporary art by providing a unique showcase for the Hara Rokuro Collection* of traditional East Asian art. It was designed by Arata Isozaki, who also designed the ARC's other buildings. By incorporating features of the Japanese *shoin* (drawing room), it offers the viewer a new spatial experience that lies at the intersection between the traditional and the modern.

*This collection was amassed before WWII by the Meiji-era industrialist Rokuro Hara who sought to protect Japan's cultural properties and prevent their outflow to foreign lands. It focuses mainly on early-modern Japanese painting, but also includes calligraphy and handicrafts, as well as Chinese art. This invaluable collection includes a number of Japanese government-designated National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties.

Exhibition Schedule

Arata Isozaki at the Kankai Pavilion, September 13 (Friday) – October 23 (Wednesday), 2019

Arata Isozaki at Art Tower Mito, October 26 (Saturday), 2019 - January 26 (Sunday), 2020

Arata Isozaki at Nagi-cho Museum of Contemporary Art, Scheduled for 2020

*For details, please inquire at the respective venue.

Exhibition Information

Title: *Arata Isozaki at the Kankai Pavilion*

Organized by: Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

Dates: September 13 (Friday) – October 23 (Wednesday), 2019

Venue: Hara Museum ARC Kankai Pavilion

2855-1 Kanai, Shibukawa-shi, Gunma 377-0027

Tel 0279-24-6585 Fax 0279-24-0449 E-mail arc@haramuseum.or.jp <https://www.haramuseum.or.jp> (official website)

Hours: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (last entry at 4:00 pm)

Closed: Thursdays

Admission: General 1,100 yen, Students 700 yen (high school and university) or 500 yen (elementary and junior high), Free for Hara Museum members, 10% discount for a group of 20 or more, Combination ticket for Hara Museum ARC and Ikaho Green Bokujo (except during Golden Week): General 1,800 yen; Students 1,500 yen (high school and university) or 1,400 yen (junior high), 800 yen (elementary), half price for those over 70, discount for groups of 20 or more

*Visitors to the Kankai Pavilion can view the on-going exhibition *IZUMI KATO – LIKE A ROLLING SNOWBALL* as well.

*Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*For residents of Gunma Prefecture: Free admission for elementary and junior high school children every Saturday during the school term/200-yen-discount on admission for up to five persons upon presentation of the Guchoki Passport.

Directions: By train: Take the Joetsu/Hokuriku Shinkansen to Takasaki, change to the Joetsu/Agatsuma Line, and disembark at Shibukawa. From Shibukawa, ARC is 10 minutes away by taxi or 15 minutes by bus (take the Ikaho Onsen bus to "Green Bokujo Mae"). By car: 8 kilometers (about 15 minutes) from the Kan-etsu Expressway Shibukawa Ikaho Interchange (in the direction of Ikaho Onsen).

Press Enquiries

T. 81.279.24.6585

E. press@haramuseum.or.jp