



Kumamoto Earthquake Museum Exhibition Hall

The Kioku Kumamoto Earthquake Museum Exhibition Hall serves as a core facility of an open field museum that preserves and passes down the memories of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes to future generations.

Despite lying directly above a fault line, Building 1 of Tokai University's Aso Campus withstood the earthquakes but was heavily damaged. The building, along with a section of exposed fault, has been preserved as a reminder of the disaster. A facility near this structure was needed to provide exhibitions, education, and community engagement to convey the awe-inspiring power of nature and the lessons learned from the earthquakes.

The resulting museum was designed with the vast natural environment of the Aso Caldera in mind—a place where human life

has unfolded for tens of thousands of years, fostering a unique culture and landscape. The purpose of the museum is to both preserve the memories of the Kumamoto Earthquakes for future generations and to illustrate both the harshness and the blessings of nature that are inseparably intertwined.



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● Building Plan Outline

The plan was to develop an exhibition and hands-on facility that serves as a core facility of the Kumamoto Earthquakes Path of Memories, an open field museum where visitors can learn from and pass on the memories of the Kumamoto Earthquakes to the future.

The site is located on the grounds of the former Tokai University Aso Campus in Minamiaso, a place where one can truly feel the grandeur of Mt. Aso. As the location is surrounded by reminders of the earthquakes, including a former campus building, the museum was designed with a large roof that complements the scenery with the intent of having visitors experience the museum both indoors and out. Visitors are encouraged to perceive the power of nature and reflect on the experience in their own way.

The building's flowing, single-story roof spans across the site. The roof's ridge line acts as a frame to capture the scenery, allowing visitors to experience the traces of the earthquakes and the Aso landscape both inside and outside the building.

The exhibition space is divided into three main interior spaces connected by semi-outdoor eaves. The indoor exhibits focus on the local environment and the details of the Kumamoto Earthquakes, encouraging visitors to learn about and experience them. The semi-outdoor exhibits under the eaves face the natural landscape, prompting visitors to reflect on their own.

The structure is composed of a roof framework made from Kumamoto-grown cedar and cypress, with reinforced concrete walls that bear horizontal loads. Steel is also used in parts of the building that span wider sections. The concrete walls and floors feature exposed aggregate and shot-blasted finishes that showcase the hues of Yamaga aggregate, a material commonly used in the Aso region. The roof is covered with original tiles that utilize ash from controlled burns and Aso yellow ochre in their glaze. Other features include arrangements of polished stones gathered in local workshops with children. The building incorporates natural materials and colors discovered through research, all with connections to Kumamoto.

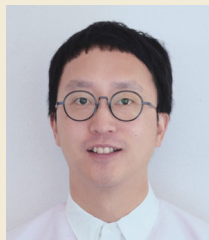
By seamlessly integrating the architecture and the exhibits, and by incorporating unique experiences specific to this location, it is hoped that this facility will become a place for passing on the lessons learned from the Kumamoto Earthquakes, and further serve as a gateway to the Path of Memories that extends throughout the prefecture.

● Architect Profile



Maki Onishi

1983 Born in Aichi Prefecture
2006 Graduated from Kyoto University
Faculty of Engineering
2008 Master's at University of Tokyo
2008 Co-founded o+h with Yuki Hyakuda
2016– Part-time lecturer, Kyoto University
2022– Graduate School,
Yokohama National University
Professor, Y-GSA



Yuki Hyakuda

1982 Born in Hyogo Prefecture
2008 Master's at Kyoto University
2008 Co-founded o+h with Maki Onishi
2009–2014 Worked at Toyo Ito & Associates
2017 Part-time lecturer at
Yokohama National University

● Main Work

Good Job! Center Kashiba, Double Helix House, Taga Central
Community Center: Taga Yuinomori, and Copal Shelter Inclusive Place

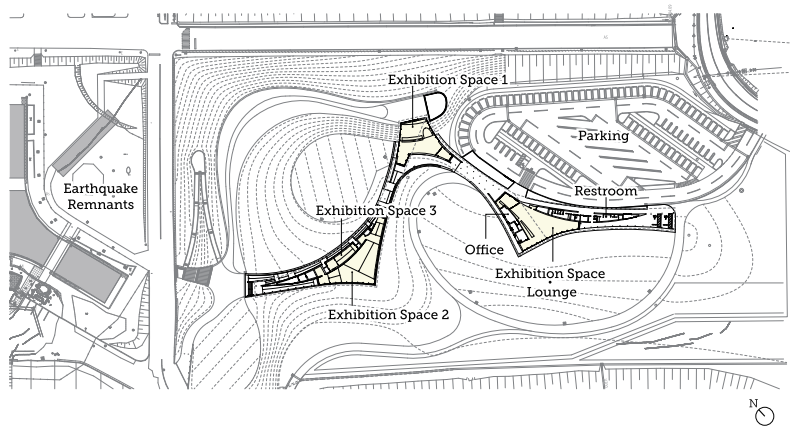
● Record of Awards

2018 Grand Prize, 2nd Architectural Design Association of Nippon Award
2018 JIA New Face Award
2019 AIJ Prize for Design, New Face Award
2023 AIJ Prize

Photos: Takumi Ota, Yurika Kono (portraits)



Floor Plan and Layout



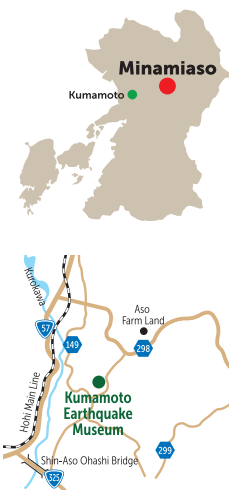
South Elevation View



● Construction Data

Name: Kumamoto Earthquake Museum Exhibition Hall
Address: 5343-1 Kawayo, Minamiaso, Aso County, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan
Main Usage: Museum
Operating Body: Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects: Maki Onishi and Yuki Hyakuda, Sanko Sekkei
Contractors: Construction: Hashimoto and Yutaka Construction Joint Venture
Electrical: Syodensya
Mechanical: Kyousei Setsubi
Site Preparation: KD Kogyo
Landscaping: Ryokuken
Paving: Fujimoto Kensetsu Kogyo
Exterior: Daidenko, Otsukagumi
Exhibition Production: Nomura

Site Area: 27,027.99m²
Construction Area: 1,578.87m²
Total Floor Area: 1,210.29m²
No. of Floors: 1 (above ground)
Structure: Wooden and reinforced concrete (partial steel construction)
Exterior: Roof: Custom-made tiles on top of sheet waterproofing and foam insulation
Exterior Walls: Exposed aggregate concrete finish,
fine elastic coating on concrete
Construction Period March 2022–June 2023
Total Construction Cost: 1,651,000,000 yen



Kumamoto Artpolis Office
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