

Kumamoto Municipal Takuma Public Housing Complex



This was a three-staged project to rebuild a low-rise housing estate on approximately four hectares of land that was originally constructed in the late 1960s. The area is a quiet residential district in the northeastern part of Kumamoto City, in the rolling foothills of Mt. Aso. Three architects collaborated on this project. To produce an open, diverse environment, the buildings (each designed by a different architect) were mixed together. The "central green road" - an undulating pedestrian promenade - cuts through the housing estate and links together a croquet field, a children's park, an open space and a little stream and provides a variety of places where residents can relax.

Takuma Public Housing Complex Buildings 6, 7, 9, 10, 14 and Assembly Hall

Architectural Outline

Here, the approach to each stairway and the bicycle parking area are incorporated into each building as a part of a five-meter wide multistory passageway or the pilotis. This organization softens the transition from public places to private places within each building and creates continuity between outdoors and indoors. The five-meter wide passageway is also linked to the central green road and perimeter road. The project is thus open to surrounding areas. In addition, the shared spaces are made as attractive as possible, and the units are made highly livable.



Architectural Data

Name	Takuma Public Housing Complex
Location	3-2 Nishibara, Kumamoto City
Main function	housing
Developer	Kumamoto City
Architects	Kazunari Sakamoto, Itsuko Hasegawa and Yasumitsu Matsunaga
General contractors	
(central green way)	Kamizono Construction
Site area	35,873 square meters
Construction period	December 1990 - April 1994
Total construction cost	5,359 million

Architects	Kazunari Sakamoto Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology
General contractors	joint venture of Koshin and Fuji; joint venture of Kimura and Sunhome; Kamizono Construction
Building area	2,976 square meters
Total floor area	10,184 square meters
Extent	four aboveground floors; assembly hall (two floors)
Structure	reinforced concrete construction

Profile of architect



Kazunari Sakamoto

- 1943 Born in Tokyo
- 1966 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT)
- 1971 Completed doctoral course, TIT; lecturer, Department of Architecture, Musashino Art University
- 1977 Associate professor, Musashino Art University
- 1983 Associate professor, Department of Architecture, TIT
- 1991 Professor, TIT

●Principal Works

House in Soshigaya; Townhouse in Minase; Townhouse in Daida; House F; Common City Hoshida; etc.

●Awards

- 1990 Architectural Institute of Japan Award
- 1992 Togo Murano Award

Takuma Public Housing Complex Buildings 5, 11, and 12

Architectural Outline

The system is based on the repetitive use of "stairway-type" housing. The stairway, which serves as the joint, is treated as a slit that introduces daylight and facilitates ventilation. The apartment buildings to the left and right of the stairway are slightly staggered. A system of differences and repetition is established in the horizontal plane by adjoining apartment buildings of different type and in the vertical plane by combining different balcony patterns. The goal is thus to create a residential environment that is adapted to the surrounding environment and takes advantage of the gentle slope of the site.



Architectural Data

Architects	Itsuko Hasegawa Atelier
General contractors	joint venture of Koshin and Fuji; Sakai Construction; Oda Construction
Building area	2,780 square meters
Total floor area	9,222 square meters
Extent	four aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete structure



Itsuko Hasegawa

After graduating from the Department of Architecture at Kanto Gakuin University, Itsuko Hasegawa became a research student in the Department of Architecture at Tokyo Institute of Technology. In 1979 she established Itsuko Hasegawa Atelier. In 1986 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design, Bizan Hall project. In 1997 she was elected as one of the Honorary Fellows of RIBA. In 2000 she received the Japan Art Academy Award. In 2001 she received the Honorary Degree Award at University College London.

●Principal Works

- 1990 Shonandai Cultural Center, Fujisawa
- 1994 Sumida Culture Factory
- 1994 Oshima-machi Picture Book Museum, Toyama
- 1995 Yamanashi Fruit Garden, Yamanashi
- 1998 Niigata-City Performing Arts Center
- 2001 Fukuroi Workshop Center, Shizuoka

●Awards

- 1986 Architectural Institute of Japan Award

Takuma Public Housing Complex Buildings 4, 8, 13

Architectural Outline

The housing units have dynamic, irregular layouts. Daylighting, ventilation and views were taken into consideration in arranging these units in different patterns. Each unit is divided into an open area, where sliding panels can be used to form the three main rooms of the unit, and the more enclosed auxiliary area, which includes wet areas, vestibule and bedrooms. As with spaces in traditional Japanese houses, the open area of the unit can be freely adapted to different functions and objectives. Separate access and daylighting assure privacy for each unit.



Architectural Data

Architects	MATSUNAGA Yasumitsu / Modern Architecture Institute
General contractors	joint venture of San-ei and Sugiyama; joint venture of Kimura and Sunhome; Tomishige Construction
Building area	2,344 square meters
Total floor area	9,379 square meters
Extent	five aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction



Yasumitsu Matsunaga

- 1941 Born in Tokyo
1965 B.Eng., Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo
1965-71 Worked for Yoshinobu Ashihara
1972 M.Arch, Harvard Graduate School of Design
1974-79 Worked for Yoshinobu Ashihara
1980-92 Partner, SKM Architects and Planners
1992- Principal, Modern Architecture Institute
1997- Professor, Kagoshima University

●Principal Works

Inscription, Daita Housing project, Mure Housing project, Y's Court Nakahara, Nagano Olympic Village

●Awards

- 1990 Japan Institute of Architects Award
2001 Architectural Institute of Japan Award

Photo : Shoichi Ishimaru, K.A.P