

Kumamoto Prefecture Museum of Art Chibajo Branch



Architectural Outline

Renovations in Europe are intended to give new life to old structures and to preserve accumulated memories. In this case we believed we should not simply renovate but instead make radical changes because the old library was not a historic landmark. The building's new image is a response and a gesture of respect to the grandeur and power of the stone walls of Kumamoto Castle which stands in front of it. In any case, what should this building be? Spanish? European? Japanese? Barcelona in Kumamoto? Barcelona? or perhaps Kumamoto?



Architectural Data

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|-------------------------|---|
| Name | Prefectural Museum of Art, Chibajo Annex |
| Location | 2-18 Chibajo-machi, Kumamoto City |
| Main function | art museum |
| Developer | Kumamoto Prefecture |
| Architects | Elias Torres & Jose Antonio Martinez Lapena, Daiwa Architects |
| General contractors | joint venture of Asanuma-gumi and Sakaguchi Construction |
| Site area | 4,071 square meters |
| Building area | 1,889 square meters |
| Total floor area | 5,084 square meters |
| Extent | one basement floor, four aboveground floors |
| Structure | reinforced concrete construction |
| Construction period | October 1991 - October 1992 |
| Total construction cost | 1,798 million |

Profile of architect



Elias Torres

- 1944 Born in Spain
- 1968 Graduated from Escuela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura (ETSA) in Barcelona; entered into collaboration with Jose Antonio Martinez Lapena
- 1969 Professor, ETSA in Barcelona
- 1977 Visiting professor, UCLA, Los Angeles
- 1993 Received doctorate from ETSA in Barcelona

Jose Antonio Martinez Lapena

- 1941 Born in Spain
- 1968 Graduated from ETSA in Barcelona; entered into collaboration with Elias Torres
- 1980 Professor, ETSA in Barcelona

●Principal Works

Church in Ibiza; Folly, Osaka International Flower and Greenery Exposition; Olympic Village, Barcelona Olympics

●Awards

- 1986 The Golden Delta Award; ADIFAD Industrial Design Award
- 1995 Hispalyt Award

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