

Ishiuchi Dam Museum



Architectural Outline

This museum is next to an enormous dam and surrounded by a beautiful wooded environment. The exhibition hall and the observation lobby are the two especially important elements of the composition inside the museum. A simplified geometrical composition has been adopted; the main point of the design is the dynamically changing quality of space. The exhibition hall, a space for providing visitors with various information, has a 4.4-meter ceiling height. The structure is reinforced concrete flat-slab construction. The observation lobby is an open space where visitors can view the dam and the natural scenery. It is a steel-frame construction cylinder with a diameter of 4 meters, seemingly floating in midair. The large curved wall situated between the hall and the lobby is an effective bearing wall. It has been designed much like a hand opened to receive nature.



Architectural Data

Name	Ishiuchi Dam Museum
Location	3629-2 Yakubo, Nakamura, Misumi-machi, Uto-gun
Main function	museum
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture and Misumi Town
Architects	Power Unit Studio Co., Ltd. (Keiichi Irie)
General contractors	Makoto Kensetsu
Site area	1,481 square meters
Building area	520 square meters
Total floor area	455 square meters
Extent	two aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction; partly steel-frame construction
Construction period	October 1992 - March 1993 (exhibition-related construction not included)
Total construction cost	247 million (exhibition-related construction not included)

Keiichi Irie



- 1950 Born in Tokyo
- 1976 Completed master's course, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music
- 1976-80 Shinohara Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology
- 1987 Established Power Unit Studio Co., Ltd.
- 2000 Professor, International Academy of Media Arts and Sciences

●Principal Works

Transfiguration (Brussels, 1989); Project ATLAS (New York, 1990); Monol: Apartments (Kanagawa, 1991); CARAVAN (Sydney Modern Art Museum, 1991); T-Zone (London, 1991); Bean House (Tokyo, 1992); Removable Reality Exhibition (Aoyama Spiral, Tokyo, 1992); Ishiuchi Dam Museum (Kumamoto, 1992); Continuum (Venice Biennale, 1997); T House (Tokyo, 1999); Azabu House (Tokyo, 1999); C House (Tokyo, 2001); T2 House (Tokyo, 2001); Y House (Aichi, 2002)

●Awards

Good Design Award (Sekisui House Sakura-josui Exhibition Center); Special Residential Architecture Award, Tokyo Society of Architects & Building Engineers (Monol); Architecture of the Year (Ishiuchi Dam Museum); Yoshioka Award (W House)

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