

# Amakusa Visitors Center, Service House



## Architectural Outline

The silhouette of this building follows the ridgeline of the island so as to blend in with the landscape of Amakusa Matsushima, a national park. The beautiful view of the archipelago from the building was considered the main item of exhibit. There are no walls on the seaside of the facility. The stones embedded in and installed on the walls and the floor are examples of natural stones collected in various parts of Amakusa. There is no fixed route through, or predetermined way to enjoy, this facility. The architect wanted each visitor to discover what interests him, whether it is digging for clams at low tide or walking in the hills. Leaving one's car behind and walking in the area is a way of experiencing the landscape and nature of the Amakusa region.



## Architectural Data

Name	Amakusa Visitor's Center, Service House
Location	Matsushima-machi, Kamiamakusa-city
Main function	information center, rest house
Developer	(Visitor's Center) Kumamoto Prefecture (Service House) Kamiamakusa City
Architects	Studio NASCA (Nobuaki Furuya) and Nakagawa Architects & Associates
General contractors	Yamaguchi Komuten, Watanabe Kensetsu
Site area	11,411 square meters
Building area	761 square meters
Total floor area	654 square meters
Extent	one aboveground floor
Structure	reinforced concrete construction, steel-frame construction and wooden construction
Construction period	November 1993 - July 1994 (exhibition-related work not included)
Total construction cost	382 million (exhibition-related work not included)

## Profile of architect



### Nobuaki Furuya

- 1955 Born in Tokyo
- 1978 Graduated from Department of Architecture, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University
- 1980 Completed master's course, Waseda University
- 1983 Assistant, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University
- 1986 Lecturer, School of Engineering, Kinki University
- 1986 Worked at Studio Mario Botta as part of Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists

- 1994 Assistant professor, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University; established Studio NASCA (with Sachiko Yagi)
- 1997 Professor, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University

●Principal Works

Anpanman Museum; Poem & Marchen Gallery; Zig House/Zag house

●Awards

Yoshioka Award: JA House Newcomer's Award; Japan Institute of Architects 'Young Architect of the Year' Award (Poem & Marchen Gallery); AIJ Architectural Design Commendation (Kahoku-cho Takashi Yanase Memorial Museum) (Aizu Museum, Waseda University); Zig House/Zag house

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