

Kumamoto kita(North) police Station Tsuboi Police Box



Architectural Outline

The letters spelling out "Koban" on the building is said to suggest a bird. Perhaps the sphere arranged on the floor of the plaza is seen as a golden egg. The space in front of the koban, where various functional objects such as a bench, an outdoor light and an electric bulletin board are arranged, is an open space where pedestrians can freely enter. The koban in the background is a simple composition of two boxes intersecting at right angles. The first-floor box creates a facade taking up the entire width of the site. The golden second-floor box, projecting out toward the street, serves to make the koban's presence known. It is hoped that people will come to love this mysterious landscape introduced into everyday life.



Architectural Data

Name	Tsuboi Koban
Location	1-1-1 Tsuboi, Kumamoto City
Main function	koban
Developer	Kumamoto Prefectural Police Headquarters
Architects	Celavi associates (Kiwako Kamo and Manuel Tardits)
General contractors	Nonaka Komuten
Site area	647 square meters
Building area	90 square meters
Total floor area	93 square meters
Extent	two aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction
Construction period	October 1994 - March 1995
Total construction cost	58.71 million

Profile of architect



Manuel Tardits

1959 Born in Paris, France
1984 Graduated from Unit Pedagogique n.1 (France)
1988 Master's, University of Tokyo
1993-96 Lecturer at Shibaura Institute of Technology
1995 Professor at ICS College of Art
1996-98 Invited Professor at University of Tsukuba
1999-2000 Lecturer at University of Tsukuba
2001-03 Lecturer at University of Tohoku



Kiwako Kamo

1962 Born in Fukuoka Prefecture
1987 Master's, Tokyo Institute of Technology
1987-92 Worked for Kume and Partners
1997 Lecturer at University of Chiba
1999 Assistant Professor at ICS College of Art

●Principal Works

Yoyogi Building; Les celibataires (collective housing); Renovation of l'Institut Franco-Japonais

●Awards

1988 SD Award, SD Review
1993 Residential Architecture Award, Japan Federation of Architects & Building Engineers Associations
1995 First prize, NHK Nagano Station Design Competition

Photo : Yasuhiko Kiyoshima