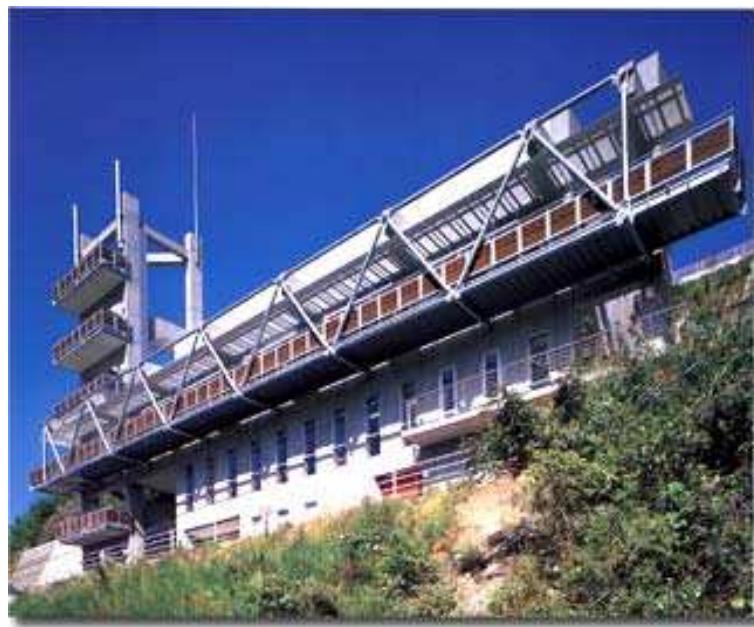


Hikawa dam Maintenance Facility



Architectural Outline

Hikawa Dam was made functionally more effective by raising the height of the dam and increasing the holding capacity of the reservoir. The old dam maintenance facility was submerged, and a new facility was constructed. A dam maintenance facility continually controls the floodgates by means of the dam CPU. Its basic function is to monitor and manage the dam. Here, however, it was given an additional function: to serve as an observation deck and thereby enhance the attractiveness of the park in which the reservoir is located for tourists. (The park is a well-known area for cherry blossoms, and the aeration fountains are illuminated.) A solid concrete box was created to enable the facility to serve the first function. To serve the second function, a dynamic stairway and an observation deck with a suspension structure over 40 meters long were constructed. A museum dedicated to the dam is situated next to the balconies. The top balcony on the stair-tower, which is 38 meters above the level of the reservoir, and the observation deck, which is 26 meters above the reservoir, afford unexpectedly exciting views of the dam and the water from different vantage points.



Architectural Data

Name	Hikawa Dam Maintenance Facility
Location	Shimodake, Izumi-mura, Yatsushiro-gun
Main function	dam maintenance facility
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects	Nonaka & Associate Architects (Teruo Nonaka)
General contractors	Toyooka-gumi
Site area	1,275 square meters
Building area	351.56 square meters
Total floor area	713.81 square meters
Extent	three aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction; partly steel-frame construction
Construction period	March 2000 - May 2001
Total construction cost	249 million

Profile of architect



Teruo Nonaka

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1942 | Born in Kumamoto Prefecture |
| 1965 | Graduated from Department of Architecture,
School of Science and Engineering, Waseda
University |
| 1967 | completed master's course, Waseda University;
participated in Team VOS |
| 1980 | Established Team VOS Nonaka Architects |
| 1991 | Renamed office Nonaka Architects |

●Principal Works

Kagami-en (center for elderly); Kumamoto Broadcasting
new building; Hikawa Dam Maintenance Facility

●Awards

Kumamoto Artpolis Advancement Award

Photo : Masaki Miyai