

Yatsushiro Municipal Museum



Architectural Outline

In this project, great care was taken to harmonize the building with its relatively low, humanly-scaled environment. The two large, highly enclosed galleries were arranged on the first floor and covered with berms; consequently, they appear to be underground. A small, grass-covered hill was thus created on the once level site. On top of the hill, open spaces such as the entrance hall and a cafe are located beneath a lightweight, floating roof. The storage, wrapped in a metallic membrane, floats above the roof. The Shosoin is a famous repository dating from the ancient period. This storage, which serves as a symbol of the museum, is a "Shosoin of the future" .



Architectural Data

Name	Yatsushiro Municipal Museum
Location	12-35 Nishimatsuejo-machi, Yatsushiro City
Main function	museum
Developer	Yatsushiro City
Architects	Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects
General contractors	joint venture of Takenaka Corporation, Wakuda Construction and Yonemoto Komuten
Site area	8,223 square meters
Building area	1,432 square meters
Total floor area	3,418 square meters
Extent	one basement floor, four aboveground floors
Structure	reinforced concrete construction, steel frame construction
Construction period	November 1989 - March 1991
Total construction cost	1,658 million

Profile of architect



Toyo Ito

1941 From Nagano Prefecture

1965 Graduated from Department of
Architecture, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Tokyo

1966-69 Worked at Kikutake Architect & Associates

1971 Established URBOT

1979 Renamed office Toyo Ito & Associates,
Architects

●Principal Works

Old People's Home in Yatsushiro; Yatsushiro Fire

Station; Dome in Odate; Sendai Mediatheque;
Brugge Pavilion; Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002;
etc.

●Awards

- 1986 Architectural Institute of Japan Prize for Design
- 1992 Mainichi Art Award
- 1998 Education Minister's Art Encouragement prize in Japan
- 1999 Japan Minister's Art Academy Prize in Japan
- 2002 Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale

Photo : Kouji Okamoto, Shinken-chiku-sya, Kumamoto Prefecture