

# Mamihara Bridge



## Architectural Outline

This is a bridge in the center of Mamihara, Soyo-machi, which once flourished as a post town. The bridge was designed so that pedestrians coming from the road maintain continuity of experience. However, this is not just a bridge for pedestrian traffic. The intention was to create a bridge that is a place where people naturally linger. Toward the middle, the bridge gradually splits into two: the upper level and the lower level. The upper level leads one toward a pair of rocks joined by a sacred rope at the other end of the bridge. The lower level is a "reverse arched bridge" that dips down toward the river; through two round holes, one can look down on the water. The planks are made of local cedar. The structure is one unified whole made from two surfaces and columns.



## Architectural Data

Name	Mamihara Bridge
Location	Takijo, Mamihara, Soyo-machi, Aso-gun
Main function	bridge
Developer	Soyo Town
Architects	Jun Aoki & Associates and Chuo Gijutsu Consultants
General contractors	
lower portion	Iiboshi Kensetsu
upper portion	IHI
Length	38.25 meters
Width	(upper portion) 4.8 meters; (lower portion) 6.75 meters
Structure	modified steel vierendeel bridge
Construction period	October 1994 - June 1995
Total construction cost	136 million

## Profile of architect

### Jun Aoki



- 1956 Born in Kanagawa Prefecture
- 1982 Completed master's course, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo
- 1983 Entered Arata Isozaki & Associates
- 1991 Established Jun Aoki & Associates Currently lecturer, Kanto Gakuin University, University of Tokyo

### ●Principal Works

Louis Vuitton Flagship Stores (Tokyo 2002, NY 2003),  
Museum in Aomori (under construction 2003)

Photo : Shoichi Ishimaru, K.A.P