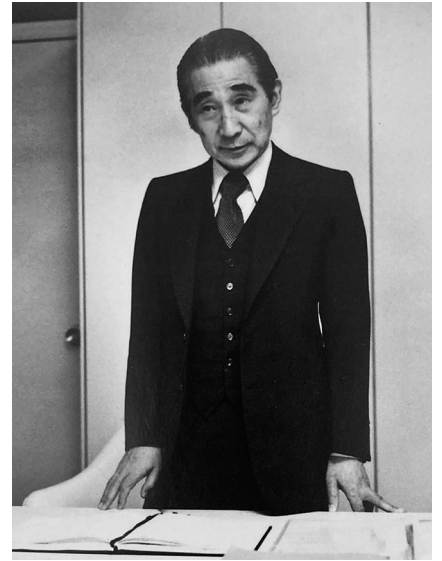


Kenzo Tange, the visionary architect, presenting his plans for modern Japan.

KENZO TANGE

The Architect of Modern Japan



Kenzo Tange's journey began in the picturesque city of Imabari, where he was born in 1913. His fascination with architecture emerged in high school after encountering the works of Le Corbusier, a pioneer of modernist architecture. Inspired by Le Corbusier's emphasis on functionalism and raw materials, Tange saw architecture as a means to reshape society and address the growing complexities of urban life. This discovery led him to Tokyo University in 1935, where he honed his skills under the guidance of professors Hideto Kishida and Shozo Uchida, who played significant roles in cultivating his understanding of design and construction.

During his studies, Tange was deeply influenced by Kunio Maekawa, a prominent Japanese modernist who had appren-

ticed with Le Corbusier in Paris. Maekawa's emphasis on merging Western modernism with traditional Japanese aesthetics profoundly shaped Tange's vision. This mentorship instilled in him the belief that architecture should reflect both cultural identity and forward-thinking innovation. Tange's ability to integrate these principles laid the foundation for his architectural philosophy, blending old and new in ways that would define much of Japan's post-war landscape. His work symbolized a nation's resilience and ambition, showcasing architecture's ability to inspire cultural pride while addressing modern challenges. By combining bold innovation with reverence for tradition, Tange not only redefined Japan's architectural identity but also left a legacy that continues to shape global design perspectives.

“Tange saw architecture as a means to reshape society”



Villa Savoye, a modernist icon designed by Le Corbusier in 1928, exemplifies the architectural principles that greatly influenced Kenzo Tange. Tange's exposure to this and other works shaped his vision of blending traditional aesthetics with modern forms.