



# REIMAGINING SPACES

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2024 OCTOBER

Cultural Reflections: Architecture as a Mirror of Society

日本の建築家が公共空間を変革する方法を発見しよう

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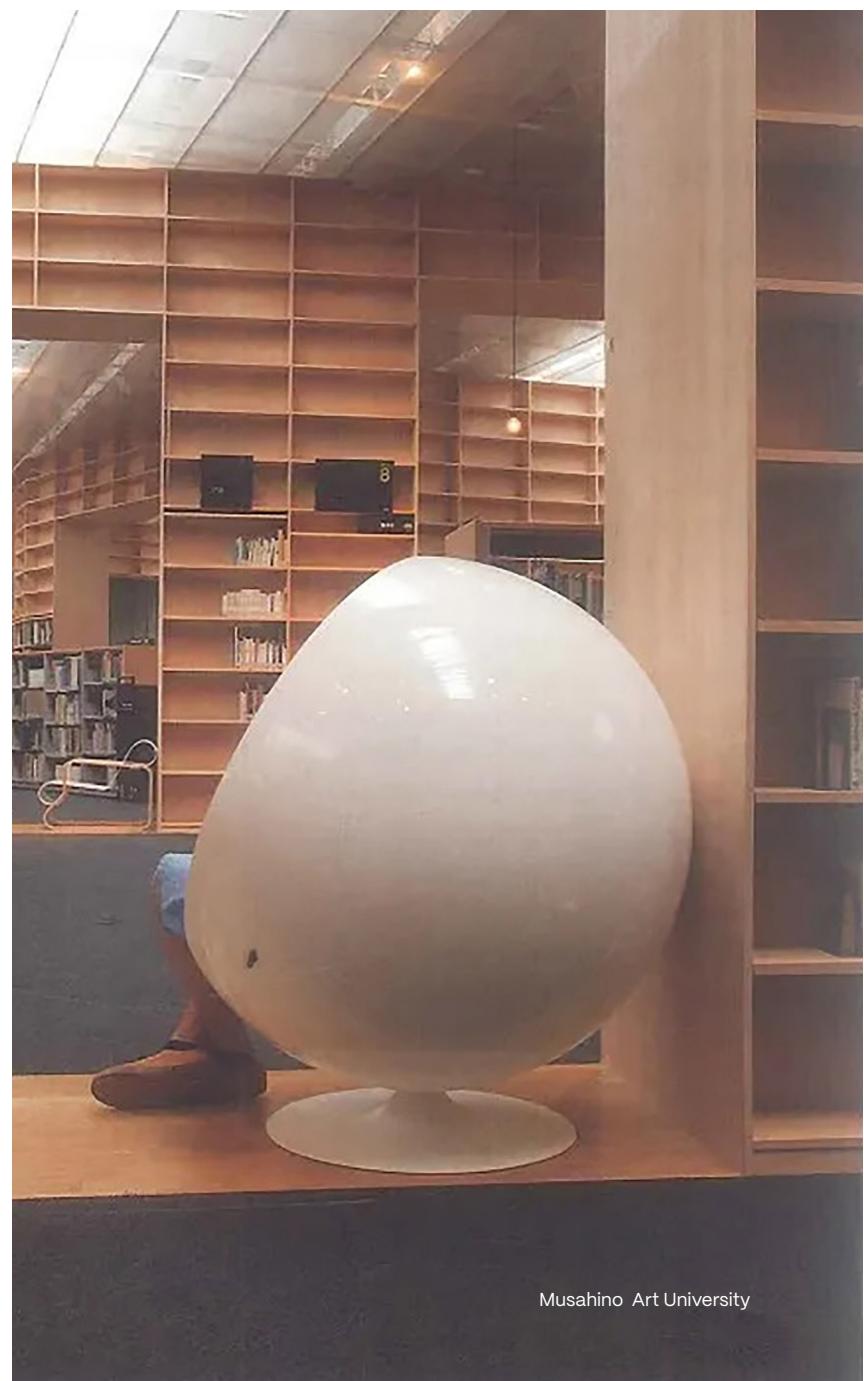


The Tokyo Bay Project

Musashino Art University Museum & Library

Junya Ishigami's Cave-Like House

The Tokyo Toilet



Musahino Art University



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# THE TOKYO BAY PROJECT

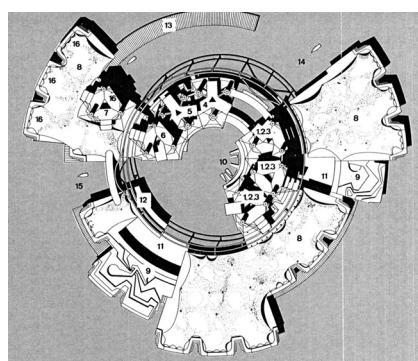
Kenzo Tange • Kiyonori Kikutake • Fumihiko Maki •  
Masato Otaka • Kisho Kurokawa •



都市の模型

## The Urban Planning Initiative

The Tokyo Bay Project is a large-scale urban planning initiative that has seen contributions from several visionary architects and urban planners over the years. It was conceived in the mid-20th century as a response to Tokyo's growing population and the need to expand urban space. The most famous iteration of this project was by Kenzo Tange, but other notable architects and urbanists also offered proposals as part of the broader debate on how to develop the Tokyo Bay area.



マリンシティの巨大建造物

### Kiyonori Kikutake's Vision

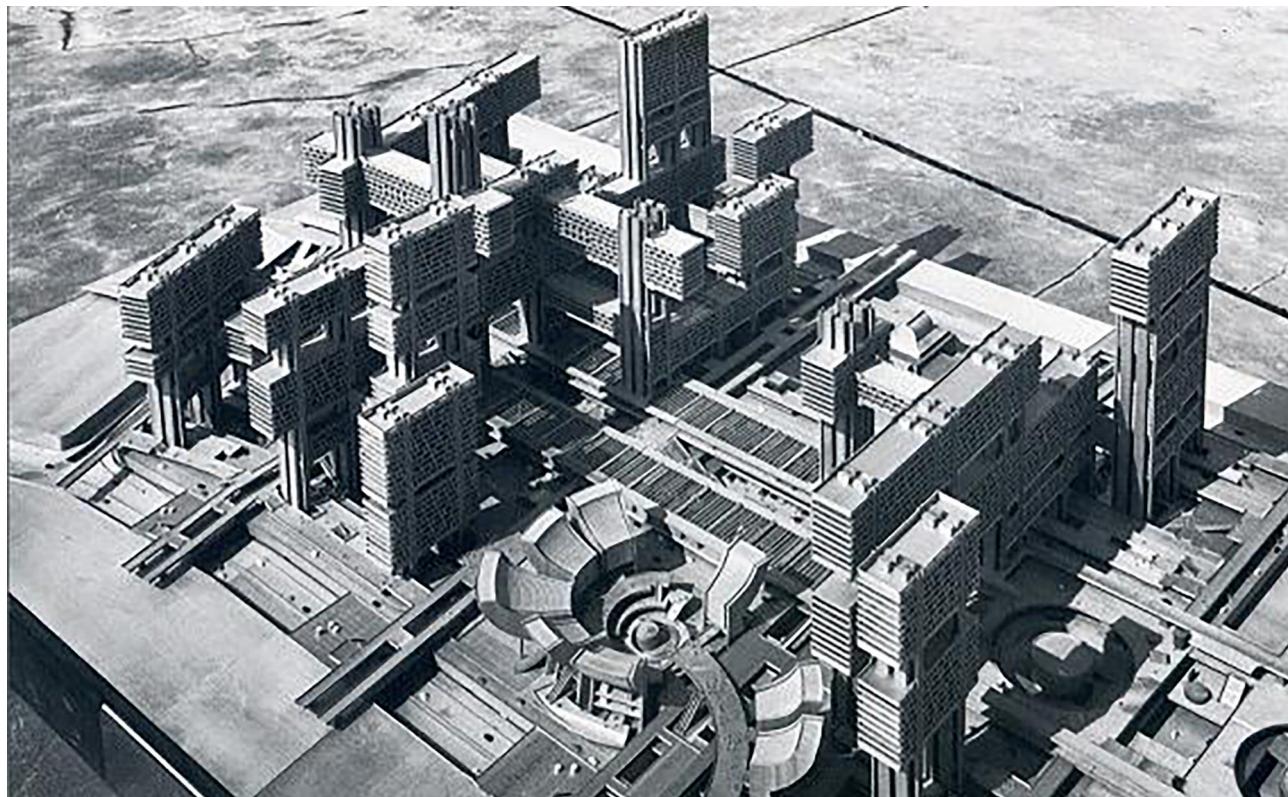
The "Marine City" concept for Tokyo Bay

His vision was built around the idea of creating floating, self-sustaining cities on artificial islands, rather than expanding Tokyo's footprint outward on land. This futuristic approach to urban development reimagined cities not as static entities but as adaptable, sustainable systems capable of

thriving in changing environmental and urban conditions. Kikutake's Marine City design was revolutionary, focusing on floating platforms that could house residential areas, public spaces, commercial facilities, and essential services—all while being completely situated on the water.

These artificial islands would create new urban spaces while preserving land resources, and their design made it possible to replicate the concept in other coastal regions worldwide.





Tsukiji Redevelopment Plan | 築地再開発計画

## Kenzo Tange's Vision

The modular "Plan for Tokyo 1960"

His design aimed to address Tokyo's growing population and urban congestion by introducing "linear cities"—long, organized corridors of development that integrated housing, offices, and recreational spaces atop large platforms, surrounded by green areas. The plan emphasized the seamless integration of modern transportation systems, urban density, and cutting-edge technology. Tange's vision wasn't just about expanding the city horizontally or vertically; it sought to reshape the city through a new urban structure that allowed flexibility and modularity while embracing modern architectural concepts. The megastructures would stretch

into the bay, creating a futuristic metropolis that expanded onto the water, with each component carefully designed to handle the growing population and economic activity while maintaining open, green spaces to enhance urban livability. The significance of Tange's plan cannot be overstated. It marked a radical departure from conventional urban design, moving away from rigid, traditional city layouts toward a fluid, adaptable urban form that could evolve over time. Although it was never realized, Tange's plan remains one of the most influential unbuilt urban planning proposals of the 20th century.

東京計画1960』、丹下健三『東京人』





Library Study Area

# Musashino Art University Museum & Library

Sou Fujimoto

This library/university is a transparent and open structure that integrates a museum, library, and exhibition space. Its defining feature is the use of bookshelves as structural elements, creating a fluid and immersive

environment. With a minimalist glass exterior that merges with the natural surroundings, Fujimoto's design reimagines the conventional library, fostering creativity and discovery through innovative architecture.

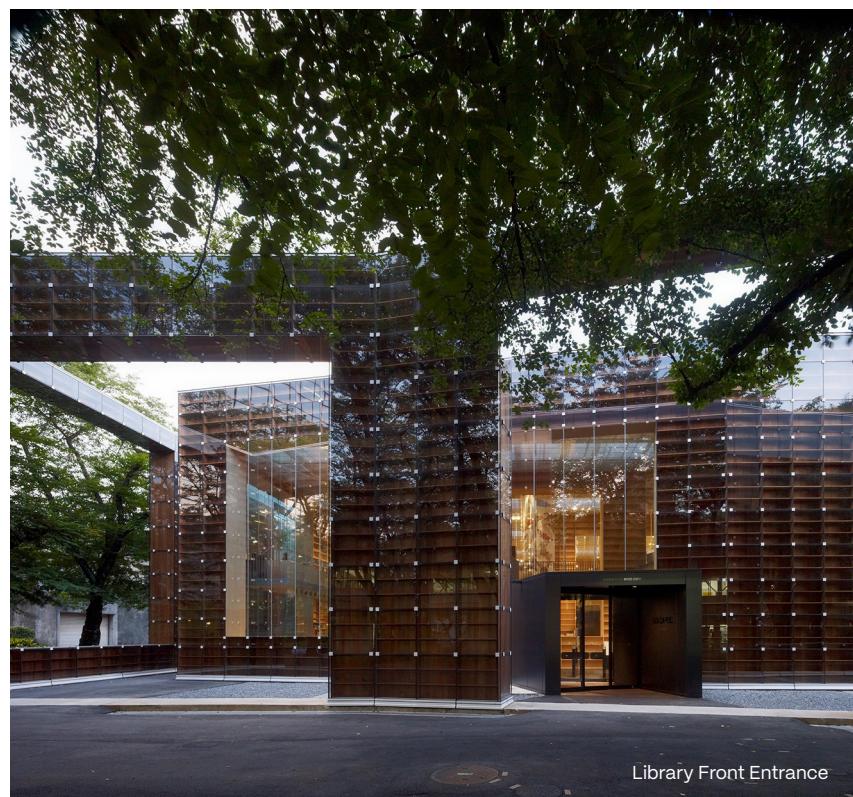


## Contemporary Architectural Design

Ogawachō, Kodaira, Tokyo

Located in Tokyo, this building serves as a multifunctional space for both students and the public, combining an art museum, library, and exhibition area. Fujimoto's design concept revolves around the idea of transparency, openness, and the seamless integration of space. The library's distinctive glass façade and open interior allow natural light to flood the building, creating an airy and welcoming atmosphere. This transparency not only encourages interaction and movement within the space but also symbolizes the sharing of knowledge and art, fitting perfectly within an academic setting. At the heart of the design is the library's extraordinary use of bookshelves, which form a key structural element of the building. These shelves, which extend from floor to ceiling, create a sense of immersion,

surrounding visitors with books and knowledge at every turn. The bookshelves themselves serve as partitions and walls, breaking down traditional architectural boundaries while fostering a sense of discovery. This layout encourages visitors to explore, offering a more organic and fluid experience compared to the rigid, linear layouts of conventional libraries. Fujimoto's approach creates a dynamic environment that reflects the creative spirit of the university, where students and faculty alike can engage with art, literature, and knowledge.



**“This library is literally comprised of thousands of bookshelves, with the main structure shaped in a spiral”**

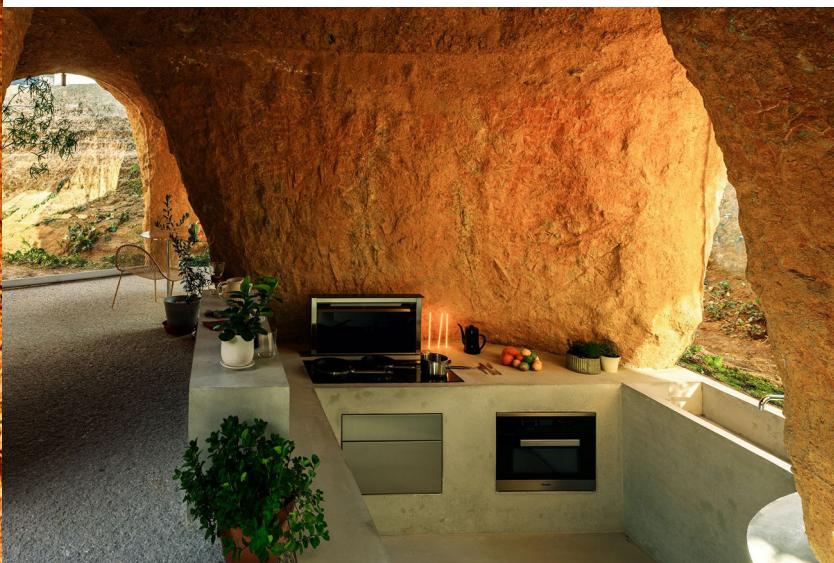
# CAVE-LIKE HOUSE

*Junya Ishigami*

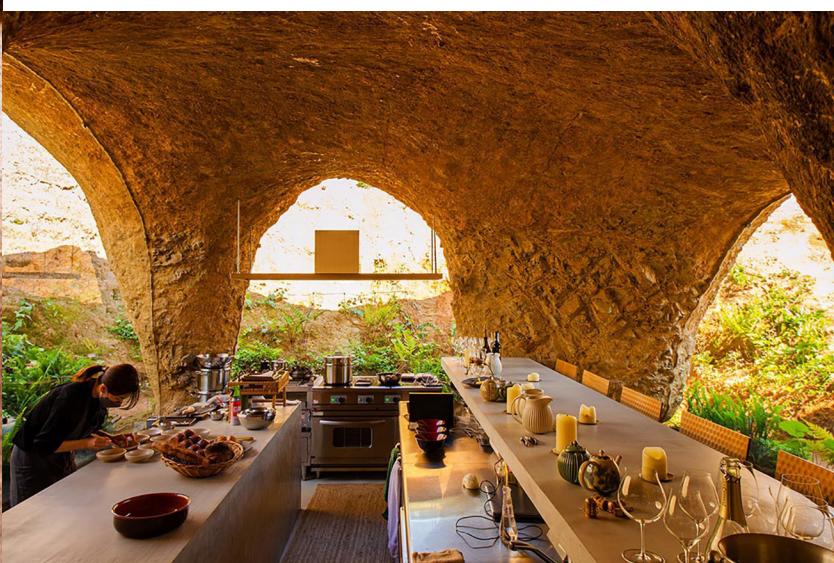


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Ishigami's design creates a unique harmony between the built environment and natural forms, offering a quiet retreat that contrasts with the structured rigidity of typical urban homes. This project exemplifies Ishigami's philosophy of blending human habitation with natural, unstructured spaces.



1. The interior of Junya Ishigami's cave-like house features organic, irregularly shaped spaces with sloping walls and undulating floors, mimicking the natural forms of a cave.



Exterior of the Cave-like house

## The "K-Cave"

Kanagawa Prefecture

The design features fluid, organic forms that resemble a natural cavern, seamlessly integrating into its hilly surroundings. The exterior combines concrete with large glass expanses, reflecting the topography and contrasting with the dense foliage. Inside, the house is characterized by irregular, sculptural spaces that invite both solitude and interaction, evoking the sensation of being within a natural cave. Natural light filters through strategically placed openings, enhancing the connection between the indoor and outdoor environments while warm materials, like exposed concrete and wood, create an inviting atmosphere.

What makes the Cave-like House particularly remarkable is its ability to foster tranquility and refuge while maintaining an intimate connection with nature. The design encourages active engagement with the landscape, offering panoramic views and outdoor spaces that invite relaxation and contemplation. The integration of the home into the hillside ensures privacy and seclusion, allowing residents to escape urban life while remaining accessible to the city. Ishigami's philosophy, which emphasizes the importance of nature in architectural design, is vividly expressed in this project, making the Cave-like House a profound example of how architecture can enhance the human experience through its harmonious relationship with the natural world.

石上 純也



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# The Tokyo Toilet

Shibuya  
Tokyo  
Japan

## Transforming Tokyo's Public Restrooms

### THE TOKYO TOILET

On August 16, the see-through glass toilets in Shibuya's Yoyogi Fukamachi Mini Park, designed by Shigeru Ban, gained widespread public attention. As part of "The Tokyo Toilet" project,

these innovative restrooms feature smart glass walls that turn opaque when occupied and transparent when vacant, ensuring privacy while enhancing cleanliness and safety. Shigeru Ban's design redefines public restrooms by combining cutting-edge technology with architectural sophistication,

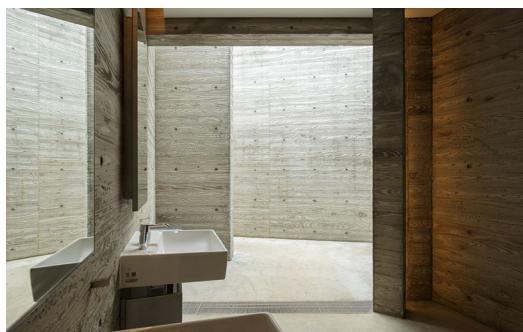
making them both functional and visually inviting. This concept challenges traditional notions of public amenities, elevating them into spaces of transparency and trust. It reflects Japan's broader commitment to merging design innovation, and public service.

### Ebisu Park • Masamichi Katayama / Wonderwall®

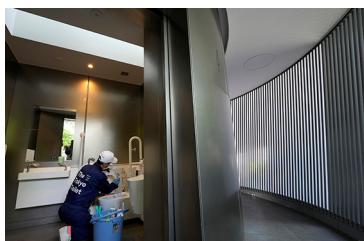
1-19-1 Ebisu-Nishi

The public toilet at Ebisu Park, designed by Masamichi Katayama of Wonderwall®, blends functionality with artistic design, offering a unique and modern addition to Tokyo's urban landscape. Katayama's

design draws inspiration from contemporary architecture, featuring bold shapes and a sleek, minimalist exterior that harmonizes with the park's natural surroundings, reflecting their attention to materiality.



片山正通



1. Crafted from smooth concrete, its circular form offers a tranquil refuge, blending nature and structure with soft, diffused light that creates a quiet, meditative atmosphere within the urban landscape.



## Nishisando • Sou Fujimoto

3-27-1 Yoyogi

The Nishisando toilet, designed by Sou Fujimoto, is a playful and forward-thinking addition to the "Tokyo Toilet" project. Located in the lively neighborhood near Meiji Shrine, this public restroom blurs the boundaries between natural and built environments. It stands out as a conceptual statement, offering a fresh perspective on how public spaces can inspire creativity and engagement.

The design of the Nishisando toilet by Sou Fujimoto is a masterful blend of transparency, light, and nature, redefining the experience of a public restroom. The structure is encased in a translucent, frosted glass that allows natural light to flow through, creating a sense of openness while still maintaining privacy.

This transparency blurs the lines between the inside and outside, inviting users to engage with the space as if it were part of the surrounding environment. The building feels light and almost ethereal, transforming a traditionally mundane structure into an art piece that enhances the urban landscape. The use of glass also ensures that the restroom is bright, clean, and welcoming, shifting public perception of what a restroom can be.

藤本壯介

## Jingu-Dori Park • Tadao Ando

6-22-8 Jingumae

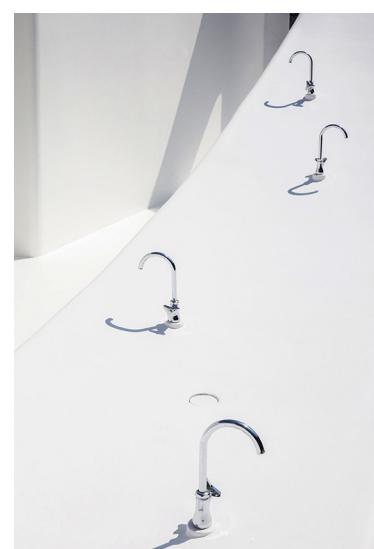
The public toilet at Jingumae, designed by renowned architect Tadao Ando, is a minimalist yet striking contribution to "The Tokyo Toilet" project. Ando's design, known for its simplicity and use of natural materials, incorporates clean lines and concrete, creating a calm and reflective space amidst the bustling Harajuku district.

The circular structure, which features a soft interplay of light and shadow, offers a peaceful environment that contrasts with the busy urban surroundings. True to Ando's architectural philosophy, the Jingumae toilet is both functional and artistic, merging practicality with a contemplative atmosphere.

安藤忠雄



The flowing, organic shapes of the structure reflect Fujimoto's signature style, offering a sense of lightness and fluidity, which transforms a utilitarian space into a visually engaging environment.



NOV  
IDEA

私たちの都市空間は、常に変化し、進化しています。これまでに紹介したプロジェクトやアイデアは、その一部に過ぎませんが、未来に向かって建築やデザインの可能性を垣間見ることができます。



# The Tokyo Toilet

Shibuya  
Tokyo  
Japan

SEBASTIAN  
FOK.

ご覧いただき、ありがとうございました。また次号でお会いしましょう



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