**Yoshizaka, Takamasa** (1917-80)

Yoshizaka was among the last in a series of Japanese architects to pass through LE CORBUSIER’s Paris atelier. The son of a diplomat, he was born in Tokyo, and educated at Waseda University (1938-41), teaching there until he was drafted in 1943. In 1950, earning a grant to further his studies in France, he began to assist on two of the most ground-breaking post-war projects, the Unite d’habitation and the Chandigarh capitol. During this time, he also embarked on the task of translating Le Corbusier’s *Oeuvres Completes*, and publicizing writings on the Modulor system in Japanese. His return to Japan witnessed a growing interest in urban planning, collective housing and artificial land, and he would join the last meeting of the International Congress of Modern Architecture (CIAM) at Otterlo in 1959 (becoming a professor at Waseda University in the same year). He espoused the somewhat mystical theory of ‘discontinuous unity’, which sought to address the chaos or diversity of urban life less dismissively. From the mid-1950s, he began to attract commissions, including those for the Japanese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (1956) and a number of educational facilities. In these, he increasingly rejected the pristine internationalism of contemporaries, pursing more rugged and vernacular approaches, and inspiring the architect and historian Terunobu Fujimori to identify him as founder of the ‘Reds’ (as opposed to the ‘White School’), some of whom trained at his Atelier U from 1964.

**List of Works**

Japan Pavilion, Venice Biennale, 1956

Ura Taro Residence, near Kobe, 1956

Kaisei High School, Nagasaki, 1957-58

National Museum of Western Art (with Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura and Le Corbusier as chief architect), Tokyo, 1959

Project for a Cultural Center, Leopoldville, Congo, 1959

Maison Franco-Japonaise, Tokyo, 1960-71

Inter-University Seminar House, Hachioji, Tokyo, 1963-70

**References and Further Reading**

Onobayashi, Hiroki (1966) ‘A Profile of the Versatile Takamasa Yoshizaka’, *Japan Architect* (August).

Saito, Yuko (1994) *Yoshizaka's Method*, Tokyo: Sumai no Toshokan Shuppankyoku.

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