

ARCHITECTURE OF KITAKYUSHU

A TOUR OF ARCHITECTURE THROUGH THE AGES



No.1915026B

Foreword



Kitahashi Kenji

Mayor of Kitakyushu City

The city of Kitakyushu has many magnificent buildings that contribute to making the urban landscape unique and attractive.

The city is full of architecture that stands as symbols of its past as an essential point for politics, industry, and traffic, architecture that hints at the city's history as a castle town and post station, architecture that speaks to the tradition and stateliness of the port city that has had years of exchange with cities nationally and internationally, and architecture that has helped the city grow and supported the nation as an industrial base.

Recent years have seen the construction of facilities for sports, culture, and trade that have added new tones to the cityscape.

Architecture not only boosts a city's charms, but also plays a valuable role as a tool that evokes precious memories in people by becoming rooted in the community over time and blending into people's lives, at times even serving as a reminder of history and how the old days looked. In France, "architecture" is highly regarded among various fields of art.

In that sense, the many outstanding buildings that have survived and are used with care in the city are our irreplaceable "assets."

This year, our city is hosting the Culture City of East Asia 2020 Kitakyushu. Many guests, domestic and international, will be visiting the city, and it will attract the world's attention.

We have created this booklet in hopes of improving the city's image and cultivating civic pride, increasing inbound tourism, and promoting Kitakyushu as a creative city, by utilizing the city's splendid architecture fully as local resources.

Our city will work to make Kitakyushu the most comfortable place to live in Japan by achieving SDGs and becoming a creative city that utilizes the power of arts and culture in promoting industries and revitalizing communities.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who gave us their valuable views and help in the production of this booklet.

March 2020

Akagawa Takao

Kitakyushu City Landscape Council Chairman

I am sure that residents of Kitakyushu feel every day that the city offers diverse natural landscapes in contrast to its image as an industrial city, and that visitors are always surprised to learn the same. All sorts of buildings have been constructed against the backdrop of natural scenery, such as Mt. Sarakura, Dokai Bay, and the Kanmon Strait. When huge investments were injected into the city's steel industry, which supported the nation, during the post-Meiji modernization of Japan, new construction techniques were actively introduced. The city took on the role of a laboratory for all manners of modern architecture.

A military base was built on top of the urban structure of the castle town of Kokura, modern buildings were constructed in Mojiko, the gateway to Asia, stately buildings suitable for the headquarters of steel corporations were built in Yahata, and modern buildings for port logistics were built in Wakamatsu. I think the city is rare for having such a concentrated wealth of architecture in the same area.

As Japan became a democratic nation after modernization and the war, Murano Togo sought to design architecture for the people and built civic centers and banks. Isozaki Arata created unconventional libraries and art museums using abstract geometric forms during the period of high economic growth. However, regardless of their architectural methods, both Murano and Isozaki based their designs on the natural landscape of Kitakyushu. The key thoroughfare that gently rises from Yahata Station and stretches to Mt. Sarakura are important elements of Murano's Yahata Civic Auditorium and Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters. The steep incline at the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art by Isozaki, which leads to a higher ground that looks over the industrial quarter, is a prologue to the museum's atrium in the central hall. They are both unique, and their site could not be substituted with other cities.

Although Wakato Bridge is a piece of infrastructure, its advanced structural style that uses suspension cables could probably not have been built without the flourishing local steel industry, which made construction of the bridge possible.

Readers are encouraged to see in person the buildings and structures birthed from Kitakyushu's urban infrastructure and land features.



The city of Kitakyushu has played a part in the growth of Japan's modern industries.









































































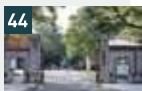







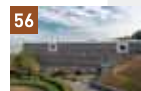
The city has many highly acclaimed and attractive buildings, including world heritage sites, cultural assets, and heritage sites of modern industrialization.

We have created this booklet to introduce the city's beautiful architecture and landscapes, primarily in photographs and as a window into their historical backdrop and location.

We hope this booklet will deepen your awareness of the narratives of the buildings and the city's history and encourage you to go on an entertaining tour of the buildings.

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1950s – 1990s	Number (Corresponding to the chronology and location map)
Wakato Bridge ········· 23	00 The name as of March 2020 (at the time of completion)
Buildings designed by Isozaki Arata ···· 27	Address: Where the building is located
Buildings designed by Murano Togo ···· 30	Built in The year of completion
	Blueprint: Architect/design office/design company

Architecture of Kitakyushu Chronology

Year	1600	1700	1800	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020				
Period	1600s – 1800s			1800s – 1950s						1950s – 1990s			Post 1990s							
				1868 the 1st year of Meiji era		1912 the 1st year of Taisho era		1926 the 1st year of Showa era		1963 Birth of Kitakyushu City			1989 the 1st year of Heisei era		2019 the 1st year of Reiwa era					
Moji Ward				24  Hesaki Lighthouse 1872	11  JR Mojiko Station 1914	26  Nikka Whisky Moji Distillery Warehouses /1916	23  Former Dalian Sea Route Warehouse 1929	22  Moji branch of Kitakyushu Bank 1934	19  Former JR Kyushu Headquarters building 1937		51  World Peace Pagoda 1958				63  Premier Hotel Mojiko 1998					
				25  Kyushu Railway History Museum 1891	15  Former Moji Customs building 1912	13  Former Mitsui O.S.K. Line building /1917	16  Moji Telecommunication Museum /1924	21  Moji Ward Office 1930			49  Moji Golf Club, Clubhouse 1960				65  Kanmon Strait Museum 2003					
				27  Former Sapporo Breweries Kyushu Plant Brewery /1913	14  Former Moji Mitsui Club /1921	18  Mojiko Ryozantei 1925-1934	17  Moji Yusen building 1927	20  Sankiro 1931			50  Holme Ringer & Co. 1962				64  Mojiko Retro Highmart 1999					
Kokurakita Ward	1  Kokura Castle 1609 (approx.)			41  BLUE BLUE KOKURA 1890										57  Central Public Library and Literature Museum 1974	58  West Japan General Exhibition Center 1977	69  Murasaki River, My Town/My River 1990	70  Kokura Castle Japanese Garden 1998	71  Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum 1998	73  Katsuyama Park area 2006	75  Mikuni World Stadium 2017
	2  Kojusan-fukujuji Temple 1665			42  Mori Ogai Residence around 1897										59  Kitakyushu International Conference Center 1990	72  Kitakyushu Media Dome 1998	62  RIVERWALK Kitakyushu 2003	74  TOTO Museum 2015			
Kokuraminami Ward	4  Daikozenji Temple Gate /1671	3  Kamo-hachiman Shrine main hall /1763				38  Haruyoshi Megane Bridge 1919								52  Kitakyushu Urban Monorail Kokura Line 1985	67  The University of Kitakyushu, Main Tower /1995	68  Kokura Horse Racing Track 1999	66  Kitakyushu Airport Passenger Terminal 2006			
Wakamatsu Ward				30  Sekitan Kaikan 1905	29  Ueno building 1913	33  Main building of Kinnabe restaurant, front entrance around 1917	28  Former Furukawa Mining, Wakamatsu building /1919	32  Tochiki building 1920	31  Hino Ashihei Residence "Kahaku Do" 1940		48  Wakato Bridge 1962									
Yahatahigashi Ward				5  Kyushu Railroad bridge in Chayamachi 1891	35  The Imperial Steel Works, Japan First Head Office /1899	47  Former Hyakusanju Bank Yahata branch 1915	34  Minamikawachi Bridge 1926	36  Ohtani Kaikan 1927		61  Former Yahata Civic Auditorium 1958	54  Higashida Blast Furnace No. 1 site /1962	60  Fukuoka Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters /1971	78  Kyushu Golf Club 1992	76  International Village Center 1993	77  Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History 2001					
Yahatanishi Ward		6  Horikawa Canal 1762	7  Former Takasaki family residence 1835	10  Hirohata Shrine main hall /1842	37  Orio Aishin Gakuen Museum 1909					53  YASKAWA History Museum 1954			79  Hotel Crown Palais Kitakyushu 1989	82  Nagasaki Kaido Koyanose Shuku Memorial Museum 2000		80  YASKAWA Innovation Center 2015				
		8  Jime-no-karato 1804	9  Tatebajaya Ichoya 1837																	
Tobata Ward				44  Kyushu Institute of Technology Front Gate 1909	46  Kyushu Institute of Technology Front Gate Guard House /1909	45  The Industry Club of West Japan Western-style Building /1912	40  Former Yasukawa family residence parlor /1912	39  Tobata Public Library 1933	43  Nissui Tobata building 1936		48  Wakato Bridge 1962	56  Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Main building /1974	56  Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Annex 1986							