

Kokura Castle

The famous *karazukuri* style castle combines grace and dynamism.



Kokura Castle seen from RIVERWALK Kitakyushu

In 1602, a vassal named Tadaoki Hosokawa of Sekigahara began building Kokura Castle, which is marked by its *karazukuri* (protruding upper stories) style, but it was razed to the ground in 1837. The present castle keep was rebuilt in 1959, and there are many buildings designed using the location and shape of the castle keep as landmark for its location and orientation including the nearby RIVERWALK

complex and the Kitakyushu Central Public Library. Therefore, the castle keep had a significant impact on the formation of Kokura's urban form.

Worthy of note is the moat between the castle and RIVERWALK, and the stone walls built applying the *nozurazumi* technique, whereby natural rocks from Mt. Adachi, instead of hewn stone, were stacked up to make the walls, and they are just as they were at the time of the

castle's construction. There is a notable richness to the urban space created between the castle and the surrounding buildings, and the people of the city still cherish the castle.

While there are many cases of lost castle keeps, I wish to express my respect to our forefathers who worked hard on rebuilding the one we have.

Akagawa Takao



A *nozurazumi* style wall



Kokura Castle seen from its Japanese Garden

1 Kokura Castle | Address: 2-1, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku | Built in 1609 (approx.) | Blueprint: unknown



2 Kojusan-fukujuji Temple
 Address: 6-7, Juzancho, Kokurakita-ku
 Built in 1665 Blueprint: unknown



3 Kamo-hachiman Shrine main hall
 Address: 5-6-10, Gamo, Kokuraminami-ku
 Built in 1763 Blueprint: unknown



7 Former Takasaki family residence (the birthplace of Ima Harube)
 Address: 4-12-5, Koyanose, Yahatanishi-ku
 Built in 1835 Blueprint: unknown



8 Jime-no-karato (sluice)
 Address: 3-12, Kusubashinishi, Yahatanishi-ku
 Built in 1804 Blueprint: unknown



9 Tatebajaya Ichoya
 Address: 1-4-6, Ishisaka, Yahatanishi-ku
 Built in 1837 Blueprint: unknown



4 Daikozenji Temple
 Address:
 2-8-6, Gamo, Kokuraminami-ku
 Gate: Built in 1671
 Reliquary hall: Built in around 1690
 Blueprint: unknown

Gate

Reliquary hall



5 Kyushu Railroad bridge in Chayamachi
 Address: 4, Chayamachi, Yahatahigashi-ku
 Built in 1891 Blueprint: unknown



6 Horikawa Canal
 Address: Daizen, Yahatanishi-ku, etc.
 Built in 1762 Blueprint: unknown



Main Hall



Hall of worship, offertory hall

10 Hirohata Shrine
 Address: 1-4-1, Kusubashikamikata, Yahatanishi-ku Main Hall: Built in 1842 Hall of worship, offertory hall: Built in 1848 Blueprint: unknown