

Wakato Bridge

The bright-red bridge, Japan's first long suspension bridge, brought dreams together.



Wakato Bridge lit up at night

Wakato Bridge, which used to be called "The dream suspension bridge of the Orient," is Japan's first large-scale suspension bridge, completed in 1962 and measuring 2.1km long, with the suspended section measuring 627 meters long and 84 meters high, and is supported by two towers.

The deck is 40 meters high at high tide to allow the passage of large cargo vessels that come into Dokai Bay, a working port that supports Japan's industries, and it is thrilling to experience the steep slope when you drive over the bridge in a car.

From the bridge, you can see Mt. Sarakura and Adachi, and the factories of Tobata, Kokura, and Yahata, which make up Kitakyushu's landscape, and you can enjoy the beautiful sight of Dokai Bay sparkling in the sunset when you drive over the bridge in the direction of Wakamatsu at dusk.

Wakato Bridge was referenced as a preceding technological example in the designing and building of the Yoyogi National Gymnasium, by Tange Kenzo, one of the main venues of the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, and it is the pride of the citizens of Kitakyushu as an important building that contributed to an international event.

Akagawa Takao



Kuki no Umi Fireworks Festival



Bridge supports

48 **Wakato Bridge**
Address: Kawashiro, Tobata-ku - Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku Built in 1962 Blueprint: The former Japan Highway Public Corporation



South wing



Start House



Interior

49 Moji Golf Club, Clubhouse
 Address: 175, Oaza Kishi, Moji-ku Built in 1960 Blueprint: Antonin Raymond



53 YASKAWA History Museum
 (Former head office hall of Yaskawa Electric)
 Address: 2-1, Kurosakishiroishi, Yahatanishi-ku
 Built in 1954 Blueprint: Antonin Raymond
 Photo credit: YASKAWA Electric Corporation



54 Higashida Blast Furnace No. 1 site
 Address: 2-3-12, Higashida, Yahatahigashi-ku
 Built in 1962 Blueprint: Yahata Steel Works



50 Holme Ringer & Co.
 Address: 9-9, Minatomachi, Moji-ku
 Built in 1962 Blueprint: unknown



51 World Peace Pagoda
 Address: 3251-4, Oaza Moji, Moji-ku
 Built in 1958 Blueprint: unknown



52 Kitakyushu Urban Monorail Kokura Line
 Address: Kokurakita-ku - Kokuraminami-ku Built in 1985



55 Yahata Station Avenue | Address: Nishihonmachi, Yahatahigashi-ku, etc.

Buildings designed by Isozaki Arata

The Pritzker Architecture Prize is the most prestigious architectural award, and is also called the Nobel Prize of architecture. There are four public buildings in Kitakyushu City designed by Isozaki Arata, who won the prize in 2019.

Kitakyushu Central Public Library/Literature Museum is on a gentle hillside in Katsuyama Park. It is marked by a configuration that emphasizes an axis leading to Kokura Castle, in addition to the serene internal space the vaulted ceiling creates. Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art is on a hill in Sayagatani that offers views as far as Dokai Bay. It is characterized by a dynamic structure with two square tubes that appear to stick out from the hill. Both buildings are early examples of Mr. Isozaki's work, and they have served as the setting of movies such as "Library War" due to their profound spatial properties.

The West Japan General Exhibition Center is on the site of the former Central Wholesale Market on the north side of Kokura Station. The rows of masts with supporting guy wires that evoke a sailboat harmonize with the kind of landscape particular to a port district. The adjacent Kitakyushu International Conference Center, with its wave-like roof and soft colors, adds a distinctive tone to the seaside.

Mikasa Tomohiro

56 Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Main building, Annex
 Address: 21-1, Nishisayagatanimachi, Tobata-ku
 Main building: Built in 1974
 Annex: Built in 1986
 Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



The interior of the Literature Museum



The exterior of the Central Public Library and Literature Museum

57 Central Public Library and Literature Museum
 Address: 4-1, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku
 Built in 1974 Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



The interior of the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art



Annex

Buildings designed by Murano Togo



58 **West Japan General Exhibition Center**
Address: 3-7-1, Asano, Kokurakita-ku Built in 1977 Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



60 **Fukuoka Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters (Former Kitakyushu Yahata Shinkin Bank)**
Address: 2-8-1, Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 1971 Blueprint: Murano Togo



59 **Kitakyushu International Conference Center**
Address: 3-9-30, Asano, Kokurakita-ku Built in 1990 Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



61 **Former Yahata Civic Auditorium**
Address: 2-6-5, Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 1958 Blueprint: The offices of Murano and Mori (architects)