

## en: **beyond** – SHARING

### The Japan Pavilion Exhibition at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Curated by Yoshiyuki Yamana

The Japan Foundation is pleased to present the Japan Pavilion exhibition at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia from Saturday, May 28 to Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016.

The theme of the pavilion will be *en: beyond – SHARING*. With Yoshiyuki Yamana (Professor, Department of Architecture and Building Engineering, Tokyo University of Science) as curator, the exhibition will introduce four themes through the work of a younger generation of architects who are striving to attain new values in contemporary Japan marking the end of the high-growth economy and experiencing the Great East Japan Earthquake.

#### ■ Japan Pavilion at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

[Title] en: beyond - SHARING

[Organizer/Commissioner] The Japan Foundation  
 [Curator] Yoshiyuki Yamana  
 (Professor, Department of Architecture and Building Engineering,  
 Tokyo University of Science)

[Production Committee] Seiichi Hishikawa (Creative Director, Filmmaker/Photographer)  
 Masaki Uchino (Editor)

[With special support of] Ishibashi Foundation

#### [Exhibitors]

mnm (Mio Tsuneyama), ondesign (Osamu Nishida), Erika Nakagawa, Naruse Inokuma Architects (Jun Inokuma, Yuri Naruse), Naka Architects' Studio (Toshiharu Naka, Yuri Uno), Nousaku Architects (Fuminori Nousaku, Junpei Nousaku), miCo. (Mizuki Imamura, Isao Shinohara), Levi Architecture (Jun Nakagawa), Shingo Masuda+Katsuhisa Otsubo Architects (Shingo Masuda, Katsuhisa Otsubo), Koji Aoki Architects(Koji Aoki), 403architecture [dajiba] (Takuma Tsuji, Takeshi Hashimoto, Toru Yada), BUS (Satoru Ito, Kosuke Bando, Issei Suma), dot architects (Toshikatsu Ienari, Takeshi Shakushiro, Wataru Doi)

[Venue Design] teco (Chie Konno, Rie Allison)

#### Outline of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

[Dates] Saturday, May 28 – Sunday, November 27, 2016

[Venues] Giardini di Castello, Arsenale, and various other venues

[Director] Alejandro Aravena

[Theme] REPORTING FROM THE FRONT

[Official Website] <http://www.labiennale.org>

#### ● Organizer/Contact: The Japan Foundation, International Operations Section II, Arts and Culture Dept.

Persons in charge: Harada (Mr.), Tasaki (Ms.), Okawa (Ms.)

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**Curator's statement**

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In contemporary Japan, where unemployment, particularly among the young, has become chronic, and inequality and poverty grow worse every day, the high-growth economy of the postwar era is now a historical event that belongs to the distant past. Though there are several world-renowned works of architecture that emerged in tandem with economic growth in modern Japan, the brilliant Japanese “century of change in modern architecture” was preserved in *A Storehouse of Contemporary Japanese Architecture*, the exhibition held in the Japan Pavilion at the last Venice Biennale, and many architectural works that emerged at the height of the growth period have become subjects for historians.

A wide range of phenomena acts as an index of our times, such as the popularization of the Internet and other developments that have dramatically altered the information environment. But neoliberalism, rooted in the principle of competition, has deeply eroded the framework that permeates every corner of society – despite the fact that it does not appear to be an immediate threat like war, terrorism or environmental pollution caused by radioactive materials. Nonetheless, unlike the modern era, driven by a social engine powered by the overarching, meta-narrative of “progress,” and the high-growth period, we are unable to form or pursue a clear picture of the future that might counteract such circumstances and trends. This has caused a dark heavy, layer of despair to descend upon our society.

With the additional sense of loss that arose in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred on March 11, 2011, Japanese society is currently on the verge of a huge turning point. While the notion of a happy family life in the city, created by the modern state, has collapsed, a new community, based on “sharing” (values, lifestyles, etc.) has appeared in its place. How is our architecture changing to fit this new era? And where is our architecture headed? Many of the things that we are now focusing on have the potential to exert huge changes (at least superficially) on beautiful decorative elements such as architecture magazines (a propaganda tool for Modernism), and the architectural framework shaped by the modern state that is concealed in many buildings. This is why it is essential to place a strong emphasis on altering the state of society and various relationships – or in other words, the *en* (connections, relation, ties, chance, edge, fringe, rim), which serve as the theme of this exhibition.

This exhibition will not attempt to formulate a vehicle, such as that seen in Modernism, based on a big narrative or some kind of slogan. Instead, it will examine a variety of aspects of individual struggles in the fight against the conditions and issues that we are currently confronting. Though this fight, being waged on the front lines to ensure that we can survive these difficult conditions, may be in its infancy, it has the latent potential to serve as a basis for social change.

—Yoshiyuki Yamana

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