

The Japan Pavilion Exhibition at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia (2020)
“Trajectories of Elements: Architecture as a Chain of Reinvention”
Kozo Kadowaki is chosen to be a curator

The Japan Foundation, commissioner and organizer of the Japan Pavilion of the Venice Biennale is pleased to announce that outline of Japanese participation in the Biennale has been decided as below:

■The Japan Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition
– La Biennale di Venezia

Title: Trajectories of Elements: Architecture as a Chain of Reinvention
Commissioner/Organizer: The Japan Foundation
Curator: Kozo Kadowaki (Associate Professor, Meiji University / Partner, Associates)
Architects: Jo Nagasaka (President, Schemata Architects)
Ryoko Iwase (President, Studio IWASE | Architecture+Landscape)
Toshikatsu Kiuchi (President, Toshikatsu Kiuchi Architect)
Taichi Sunayama (Lecturer, Kyoto City University of Arts /
President, sunayama studio)
Daisuke Motogi (President, DDAA)
Designer: Rikako Nagashima (President, village@)
Researchers: Norimasa Aoyagi (Associate Professor, Ritsumeikan University)
Aya Hiwatashi (Lecturer, Kindai University)
Editor: Jiro Iio (President, speelplaats)
Advisor: Kayoko Ota (Curator, CCA c/o Tokyo)

■Outline of the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

Dates: May 23 (Sat) – November 29 (Sun), 2020
Venues: Giardini di Castello, Arsenale, and various other venues
Director: Hashim Sarkis
Theme: not yet officially announced
Official Website: <http://www.labiennale.org>

Press inquiries:

Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.), Communication Center, The Japan Foundation
Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6075 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044
E-mail: press@jpf.go.jp



■ About the Curator

Kozo Kadowaki

Kozo Kadowaki (b.1977, Kanagawa) is an architect and architectural theorist who holds a Ph.D. in Engineering. He is an Associate Professor at Meiji University, and practices architecture with his firm Associates.

He graduated with a Masters from Tokyo Metropolitan University in 2001, where he also worked as a Research Associate and later as Assistant Professor. In 2012 he established his own architectural firm Associates. He currently serves as Editorial Chair of the Meiji University Press, with teaching positions at Tokyo University of the Arts and Japan Women's University. While specializing in building systems design, he continues to engage in various activities and projects related to architectural criticism and design. He also works to develop his own architectural theories that are rooted in the physical elements of architecture.



© SHINTO TAKESHI

■ Curator's Statement

The subject of the exhibition is a standard wooden-style Japanese house. In Japan where the demographic structure continues to change significantly ahead of the rest of the world, there are an increasing number of houses that are now past their habitable years and simply await demolition. One of such houses is brought to Venice on this occasion for exhibit. However, it does not necessarily maintain its former form. The house that has been dismantled for transportation, is in itself re-interpreted as installation features for the exhibition, with certain sections being used as display stands, while others are appropriated as benches, lookout platforms, and so forth. The fragments of the dismantled house are reassembled on site according to each element, respectively coming to possess a new identity.

That being said, many parts are lost from this house during the process of dismantling, transporting, and reassembling. The architects therefore travel to Venice from Japan accompanied by craftsmen who will work on the restoration and reconstruction of the house, supplementing any losses or damages using new materials brought with them and acquired on site. These circumstances are shared amongst a team via SNS, with work handed over to the next architect and craftsman partaking in the project. Although such collaboration may seem similar to co-editing a document on a cloud-base platform, production is continued throughout the duration of the exhibition, as the concept of "completion" remains tenuous. In other words, presented here are hybrid and almost chimera-like manifestations that reflect a mixture of old and new materials in addition to the multiple layers of creativity instilled by numerous architects and craftsmen, at the same time communicating the very process of their generation.

At present, we find our daily lives being constantly restructured from moment to next not only in tow with the massive movement of people and goods according to the dynamics of global markets, but also due to the vast amount of information that is exchanged everyday across the highly developed infrastructure of the worldwide web. Under such circumstances, the presence and appearance of everything before our eyes is becoming increasingly ephemeral and uncertain. This exhibition serves to introduce new ways of "architecture" that is realized in the context of this reality, as well as a positive outlook regarding its conception.

— Kozo Kadowaki

Press inquiries:

Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.), Communication Center, The Japan Foundation

Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6075 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044

E-mail: press@jpf.go.jp

■ Images for press use of the Japan Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition

– La Biennale di Venezia

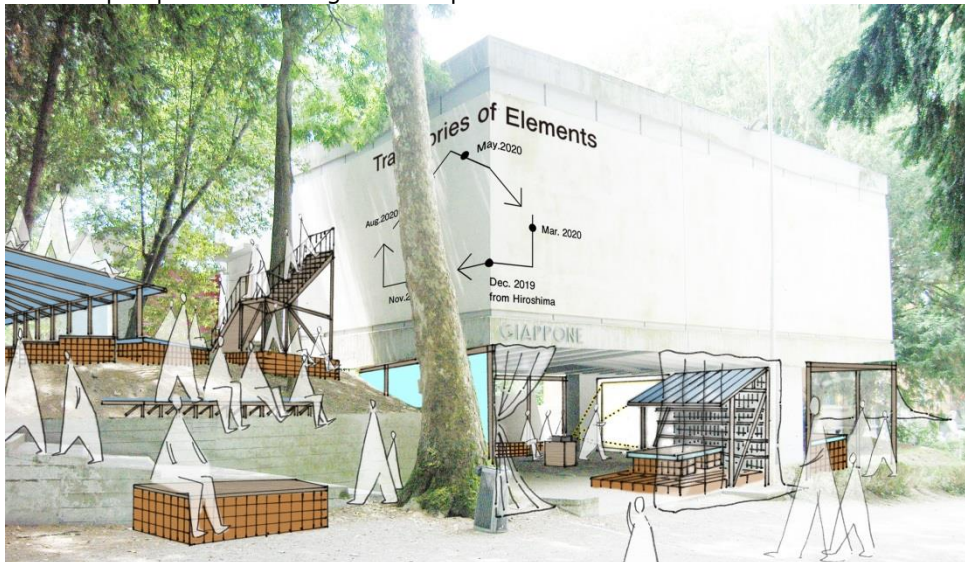
For inquiries, please contact Ms. Kumakura, Ms. Harada at press@jpf.go.jp

Terms of use

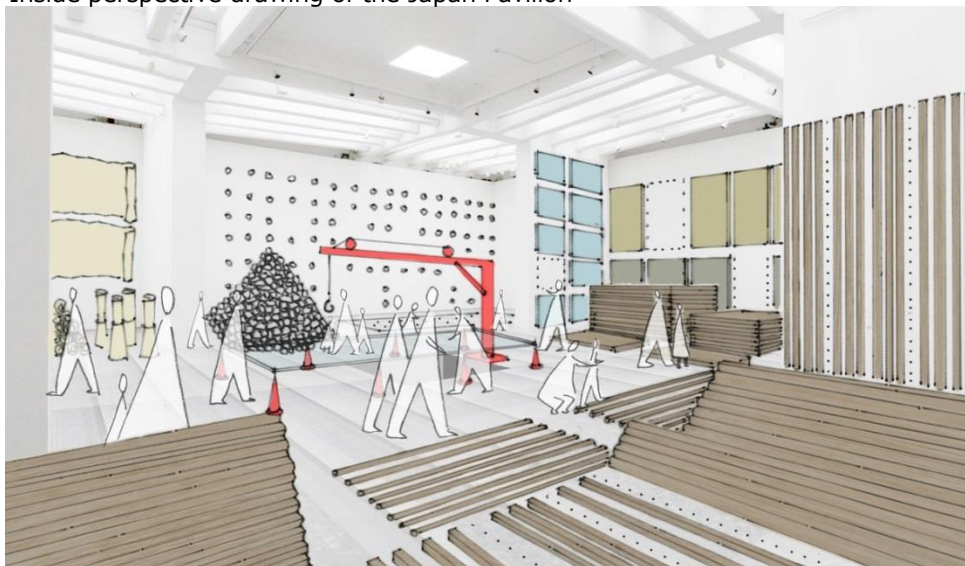
Images can only be used along with press articles about the Japan Pavilion for the 17th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

- Images are provided for one time use only and must not be stored for future use.
- Images must be credited with caption and credit line as provided below.
- Images must not be cropped, edited, overlaid with texts or objects, or altered in any way.
- Please submit your article to us (press@jpf.go.jp) for fact checking before publication.
- Please send us a copy of the article/publication after it is published.

Outside perspective drawing of the Japan Pavilion



Inside perspective drawing of the Japan Pavilion



Press inquiries:

Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.), Communication Center, The Japan Foundation

Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6075 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044

E-mail: press@jpf.go.jp