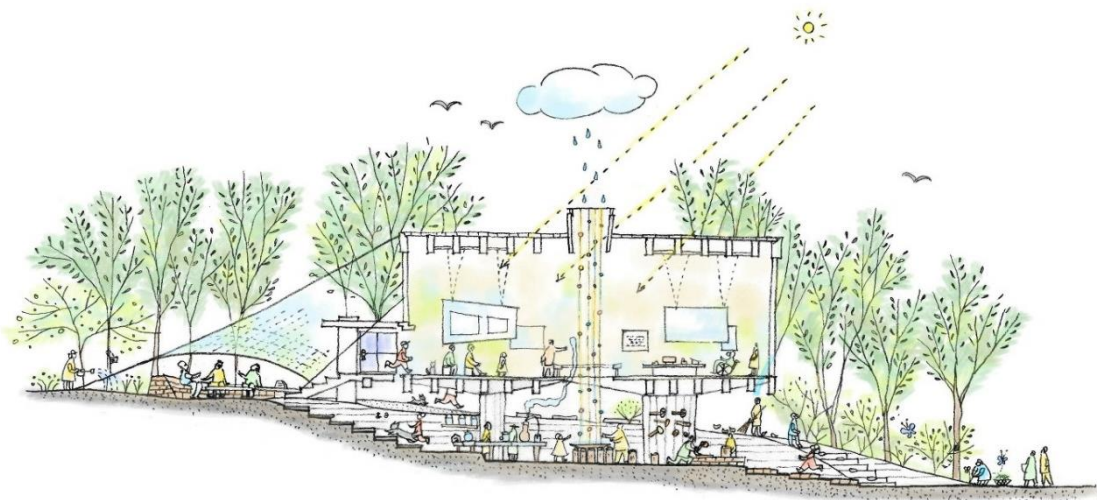


The Japan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition  
La Biennale di Venezia

**Architecture, a place to be loved - when  
architecture is seen as a living creature**  
Exhibition curated by Maki Onishi to open on May 20



Exhibition design concept drawing, 2023 ©o+h

The Japan Foundation will organize the Japan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, which will take place from May 20 to November 26, 2023. With architect Maki Onishi serving as curator and Yuki Hyakuda as deputy curator, co-directors of the architecture office o+h, this year's Japan Pavilion will shine a spotlight on the Japan Pavilion itself, through an exhibition representing the works of architect Takamasa Yoshizaka, under the theme of *Architecture, a place to be loved*.

Takamasa Yoshizaka, who studied under Wajiro Kon and modern architecture pioneer Le Corbusier, was active from the post-war reconstruction period until 1980. The Japan Pavilion, Yoshizaka's masterpiece, was completed in 1956 and has served as a base for introducing Japan's art and architecture to the rest of the world for over half a century. In this exhibition, team members with expertise in diverse fields, including architecture, textiles, ceramics, design, editing, metalwork, and animation, will consider the architecture of the Japan Pavilion itself as the focus of various exhibits based on *Architecture, a place to be loved*, a theme that Onishi and Hyakuda have pursued for many years.

A diverse range of creators have taken a thoughtful look at the Japan Pavilion to create a space where visitors can consider the meaning of *Architecture, a place to be loved* through the design of the space and exhibits, including the tent roof attached to the building facade; the mobiles hanging from the apertures;

**Press Inquiries:**

The Japan Foundation, Public Relations Department: Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.)

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

E-mail: [press@jpf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpf.go.jp)

the piloti space serving as a bar-like resting area where people can interact; and the animated works projected onto the structural walls, which are essential to any discussion about the characteristics of the Japan Pavilion. In addition, there will be models, fixtures, re-edited books, and other objects on display inside, made to match the concept and forms of the building.

In addition, talks, workshops, and various other events will be held throughout the exhibition period with the aim of ensuring that the Japan Pavilion continues to be nurtured as a *living place*.

Before the exhibition opens to the public, a pre-opening event will be held on May 18 and 19, 2023, with a reception on May 18 at the Japan Pavilion.

### Curator's Statement

As of early summer 2023, sixty-seven years have passed since the completion of the Japan Pavilion. The pavilion has welcomed many people over the years, and is still standing today. The exhibition we present here this year has the theme of “Architecture, a place to be loved,” and has been carefully crafted and nurtured with a focus on the pavilion, as designed by Takamasa Yoshizaka.

A place to be loved is made possible when architecture includes its engraved memories and stories, when it embodies the scenery behind it and the activities that took place in and around it. That enables the architecture to take on a broader meaning. For that reason, we start by thinking of the architecture as a “living creature.”



Left: Maki Onishi, Right: Yuki Hyakuda

To quote Takamasa Yoshizaka, “Creating something involves giving it life.” Regarding architecture as a life-form with an individual existence enables us to cherish and nurture it lovingly, embracing its defects and inadequacies. This goes beyond the appraisal of a building’s functionality and performance. Accepting the individuality of architecture with an easygoing stance leads us to a tolerant and broad-minded world in which we can recognize and accept the differences between us, encompassing animals and plants as well as other humans.

It is interesting to wonder how our gaze—the way that we look at this place—would change if the Japan Pavilion were a living creature. Inside are a variety of suggestions and hints for ways of responding to the pavilion. We invite visitors to engage with them and think about what sort of architecture is a place to be loved. It is an opportunity to re-establish the relationship we have with architecture.

Maki Onishi

---

### Press Inquiries:

The Japan Foundation, Public Relations Department: Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.)

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

E-mail: [press@jpf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpf.go.jp)

## **Japan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition—La Biennale di Venezia**

**Theme:** Architecture, a place to be loved—when architecture is seen as a living creature

**Venue:** Japan Pavilion, Giardini della Biennale / Castello 1260, 30122 Venezia (Venice), Italy

**Exhibition period:** May 20 (Sat.) to November 26 (Sun.), 2023

**Japan Pavilion opening reception:** May 18 (Thu.) starting at 3:45 pm (Italian time)

### **Guided tour and talking event by the Curatorial Team and Exhibitors**

- Guided tour: May 20 (Sat.) starting at 1:00 pm (English)
- Talking event: May 20 (Sat.) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Japanese and consecutive English interpreting)

Topic: Dialogue about *Architecture, a place to be loved*

**Commissioner:** The Japan Foundation

**Curatorial Team:** Maki Onishi (Curator) / Yuki Hyakuda (Deputy Curator) / Tomomi Tada / Yuma Harada

**Exhibitors:** dot architects (Toshikatsu Ienari, Wataru Doi, Ai Ikeda, Keiko Miyachi) / Akane Moriyama / Futoshi Mizuno

**Exhibition Designers:** o+h (Shiho Eika, Makoto Furusawa, Kotaro Igo, Satoshi Maemoto)

**Editors:** MUESUM (Dai Nagae, Chiaki Hanyu)

**Designers:** UMA/design farm (Megumi Takahashi, Yuka Tsuda)

**Collaborators:** André Raimundo / Asami Hashimoto / Atelier Tuareg (Yuji Okazaki) / Good Job! Center KASHIBA / Julia Li / KASAHARA HOSOHABA ORIMONO (Naoki Kasahara, Hideki Iyoda) / Lighter but Heavier (Hiroshi Katayama) / MIZUNO SEITOEN CO., LTD. (Yoshioki Mizuno) / MIZUNO SEITOEN LAB. (Kazuki Imai) / moogabooga (Makoto Takano, Ayako Oda) / OWASHI TAPE (Yoshiyasu Owashi) / Ryohei Yoshiyuki to Job (Ryohei Yoshiyuki) / SINKO INDUSTRY CO., LTD (Masanobu Ito, Atsushi Yokoyama, Yasuhiro Matsuda, Takashi Kato, Nguyen Thi Kim Tu, Nguyen Thi Yen Nhi) / SUPER-FACTORY + HIGURE 17-15 cas (Makoto Sano, Toshihiko Arimoto, Shinji Tanaka, Taihei Kimura) / Taiyo Kogyo Corporation (Norihiko Ikeda, Tatsushi Heguri) / Tanpopo-No-Ye / Yoshitaro Inami / Yoshiyuki Hiraiwa / Yo Katsura / Yokohama Graduate School of Architecture (Yoshinori Nagara, Hiromu Takebe, Kabuto Terui, Nozomi Ueda, Shu Matsubara, Sota Endo, Yuka Kanda) / Yosuke Taki / Yurika Kono

**Coordinators:** Tomoaki Shimane / Tatsuya Suzuki / Yuki Kozu / Yurina Tsurui Oue / Maria Cristina Gasperini

**Local Coordinator:** Harumi Muto

**Special thanks to:** Masakuni Yoshizaka / Yuko Saito

**Archival sources:** Arukitekuto / Takamasa Yoshizaka+Atelier U / National Archives of Modern Architecture, Japan / SHOKOKUSHA Publishing Co., Ltd. / Keiso Shobo Publishing Co., Ltd. / Kenchiku Shiryo Kenkyusha Co., Ltd. / Waseda Architecture Archives

**With Special Support from:** Ishibashi Foundation

**With Support from:** MOTHERHOUSE CO., LTD. / Sankyo Tateyama, Inc. / TOYO ITO & ASSOCIATES,

---

### **Press Inquiries:**

The Japan Foundation, Public Relations Department: Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.)

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

E-mail: [press@jpf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpf.go.jp)

ARCHITECTS / Karimoku / NAGOYA MOSAIC-TILE CO.,LTD. / S&R Evermay - Sachiko Kuno Philanthropic Endowment / Shelter Inc. / KAJIMA CORPORATION / OHNISHI NETSUGAKU Co., Ltd. / TAJIMA ROOFING INC. / TAKENAKA CORPORATION / Amame Associate Japan, Inc. / DAIKO ELECTRIC CO., LTD. / Phoenixi Co., Ltd. / Taihei Building Service Corporation Ishikawa Construction Industry Co., Ltd. / voce / Yokohama National University / Yokohama Graduate School of Architecture  
**In Collaboration with:** Taiyo Kogyo Corporation

### About the commissioner



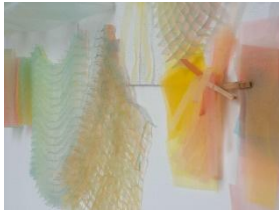



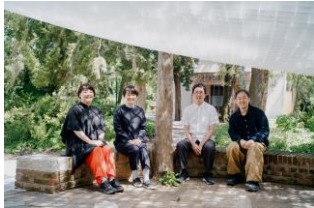
The Japan Foundation (JF) is Japan's only institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a special legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In October 2003, it was reorganized as an incorporated administrative agency. The Japan Foundation has 25 overseas offices in 24 countries. To cultivate friendship and ties between Japan and the world, the Japan Foundation creates global opportunities to foster friendship, trust, and mutual understanding through culture, language, and dialogue.

### Images for press use

Please contact Yoshiko Nawa at [venezia@jpf.go.jp](mailto:venezia@jpf.go.jp) for inquiries.  
 Images can only be used in conjunction with press articles about the Japan Pavilion for the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

### Terms of use

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

			
Exhibition design concept drawing, 2023 (c) o+h	Collecting ceramic pieces by the shore in Tokoname, 2023 (c) Futoshi Mizuno Photo: Yuma Harada	Exploring textile that visualizes wind and light, 2022 (c) Akane Moriyama	A place where “to create” and “to use” are united as one, Umaki Camp (c) dot architects Photo: Yuma Harada
			
Exterior of the Japanese Pavilion designed by Takamasa Yoshizaka (c) Yuma Harada	Photo of Curator Maki Onishi, and Deputy Curator Yuki Hyakuda	Photo of Curatorial Team: (from left to right: Tomomi Tada, Maki Onishi, Yuki Hyakuda, Yuma Harada) Photo: Yuma Harada	

### Press Inquiries:

The Japan Foundation, Public Relations Department: Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.)  
 Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6075 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044  
 E-mail: [press@jpf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpf.go.jp)

## Contact

### The Japan Foundation

E-mail: [venezia@jpf.go.jp](mailto:venezia@jpf.go.jp)

### Address in Japan

Tatsuya Suzuki / Yui Akagi  
Visual Arts Section, Arts and Culture Dept.  
YOTSUYA CRUCE, 1-6-4 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku,  
Tokyo 160-0004

### Address in Italy

Yurina Tsurui / Maria Cristina Gasperini  
The Japan Cultural Institute in Rome  
Via Antonio Gramsci 74 00197 Roma (Rome), Italy

## Press Inquiries

Yoshiko Nawa (Relay Relay LLP)

Tel / WhatsApp: +81(0)90-8565-9161 E-mail: [venezia@jpf.go.jp](mailto:venezia@jpf.go.jp)

## Japan Pavilion Archive Website

<https://www.venezia-biennale-japan.jpf.go.jp/e/>

---

## Press Inquiries:

The Japan Foundation, Public Relations Department: Kumakura (Ms.), Harada (Ms.)

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

E-mail: [press@jpf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpf.go.jp)