

Japan Pavilion

At the 15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Special Mention to Japan

en : art of nexus

Curator: Yoshiyuki Yamana

Deputy Curators: Seiichi Hishikawa, Masaki Uchino, Masatake Shinohara

Exhibitors: Seiichi Hishikawa, mnm (Mio Tsuneyama), Osamu Nishida+Erika Nakagawa (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)

Commissioner / Organizer: The Japan Foundation



la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura

Partecipazioni Nazionali



Installation view in the Japan Pavilion

Photo: Ryoko Fujiwara

In the 15th International Architecture Exhibition, the Japan Pavilion, organized by the Japan Foundation and curated by Yoshiyuki Yamana, has been awarded a Special Mention.

The exhibition at the pavilion, titled *en : art of nexus* and divided into three themes, introduces the practices of young Japanese architects who are striving to create new values in contemporary Japan following the decline of rapid economic growth in the country. The exhibition sheds light on these architects who are earnestly confronting a variety of events and issues currently facing Japan, and carefully working to maintain links that are in danger of being lost and cultivating connections that are now unseen.

During the preview period prior to the opening of the biennale, the Japan Pavilion proved to be extremely popular with a host of visitors and those associated with other national pavilions, including the President of Singapore.

At 11:00 (local time) on May 28, 2016, this year's awards were announced to coincide with the official opening of the biennale. Among the recipients was the *en : art of nexus* exhibition at the Japan Pavilion, which was awarded a Special Mention.

This was the first time since the Venice Biennale's 55th International Art Exhibition in 2013 that the Japan Pavilion received a Special Mention (artist: Koki Tanaka). In the past, Arata Isozaki and Toyo Ito received Golden Lion Awards for their exhibitions in the Japan Pavilion at the International Architecture Exhibition.

Comment from Pavilion Curator Yoshiyuki Yamana

I am pleased to see that the work of the young Japanese architects at Venice Biennale 2016 has been so highly acclaimed. The *en: art of nexus* exhibition, held at the Japan Pavilion (designed by Takamasa Yoshizaka), which marks its 60th anniversary this year, began receiving attention even before the biennale began. When I saw visitors from all over the world who, after seeing the exhibition on the upper floor of the pavilion, were chatting pleasantly in the veranda area downstairs, I was reminded of the fact that despite a mountain of serious problems, in architecture as in other fields, it is important to search for solutions in a positive and constructive way that is appropriate to each area.

The exhibition at the Spain Pavilion, which won the Golden Lion, was well-matched to the overall theme of this year's biennale. It conveyed the need for people to deal with issues that are common to everyone on earth in a way that transcends national borders in the future.

Above all, it was a great joy to have the opportunity to discuss various things with countless architects and other critics in the pleasant climate of Venice. I am deeply grateful to the Venice Biennale Foundation and the Japan Foundation for providing us with this opportunity, and also to the sponsors of the pavilion, including the Ishibashi Foundation.

In closing, I would like to raise a toast to the architects who participated in the exhibition, the deputy curators, the architects who created the display design, and the university students who helped us realize this exhibition.

【Outline of the Biennale】

Dates : Saturday, May 28 – Sunday, November 27, 2016

Director : Alejandro Aravena

Theme : REPORTING FROM THE FRONT

【The Japanese Pavilion】

Venue: Padiglione Giapponese Giardini della Biennale, Castello 1260, 30122 Venezia

Theme: *en: art of nexus*

Commissioner / Organizer: The Japan Foundation

Curator: Yoshiyuki Yamana

Exhibitors: Seiichi Hishikawa, mnm (Mio Tsuneyama), Osamu Nishida+Erika Nakagawa (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)

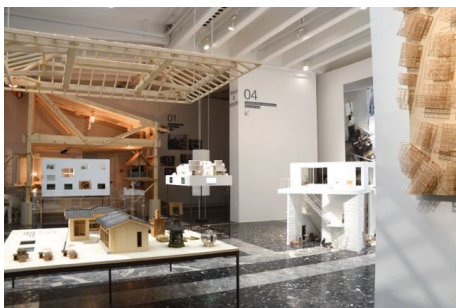
Venue Design: teco (Chie Konno, Rie Allison)

With special support from: Ishibashi Foundation

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Installation view in the Japan Pavilion Photos: Ryoko Fujiwara

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