



Utopia Across Scales: Highlights from the Kenzō Tange Archive

August 26 – October 18, 2009

The Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) presents the first monographic exhibition on Kenzō Tange mounted in the United States: *Utopia Across Scales: Highlights from the Kenzō Tange Archive*. It is the first comprehensive exhibition on Tange anywhere in the world in more than twenty years. The exhibition will draw from the Kenzō Tange Archive in Tokyo and present, for public viewing for the first time, several original models and dozens of original drawings of Tange's best-known works, including Hiroshima Peace Center, Kagawa Prefectural Government Building, and Yoyogi National Indoor Stadiums. The exhibition will also feature a visual essay on Tange's visionary plan for Tokyo Bay in 1960, reexamining the role of housing, monumentality, communication, and scale in Tange's architectural and urban thinking.

Kenzō Tange was arguably the most important Japanese architect of the twentieth century. He played a crucial role in establishing Japan as a leading center of production and discourse on architectural modernism. The exhibition will also examine the international nature of his practice; his works can be found in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. Most notably he developed the reconstruction plan for the city of Skopje in Macedonia and a plan for the Lumbini Birthplace of Buddha Pilgrimage Site in Nepal. Tange received numerous awards, including the Pritzker Prize, Gold Medals from AIA and RIBA, and the Order of Culture from the Japanese government.

Tange taught at Tokyo University from 1946 to 1974 and held visiting positions at leading foreign institutions, including Harvard in 1972. Tange's research laboratory and office were celebrated incubators of talent, including such figures of international renown as Fumihiko Maki, Arata Isozaki, Kishō Kurokawa, and Yoshio Taniguchi.

Utopia Across Scales is organized by Seng Kuan, PhD Candidate in Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, with support from the Exhibitions Department of the GSD, and the Special Collections Department of the Frances Loeb Library.

Distillations: Gropius_Japan_1954. In conjunction with *Utopia Across Scales*, the Frances Loeb Library will mount a display of remarkable photographs that Walter Gropius took during his trip to Japan in the late spring of 1954. Also showcased will be a series of key historical texts and objects, exploring the role of the West as an interlocutor in the discourse of tradition and modernity in twentieth-century architecture in Japan. *Distillations* is jointly organized by Mary Daniels, head of Special Collections, Seng Kuan, and Yukio Lippit, the Harris K. Weston Associate Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University.

Twenty-Five Years of the Kenzō Tange Visiting Professorship at Harvard. Also concurrent will be a retrospective display on the twenty-five-year history of the Kenzō Tange Visiting Professorship at the GSD, with an emphasis on student work produced under the guidance of the visitors. Since spring 1984, thirty individuals or partnerships have been appointed to the Chair, including Alvaro Siza, Enric Miralles, Peter Zumthor, and Kazuyo Sejima. In addition, several current faculty members were also recipients of the Chair, including Rafael Moneo, Farshid Moussavi, and Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. In the fall semester of 2009, the Chair will be held by Valerio Olgiati.



Support

Funding for *Utopia Across Scales* was provided by the endowment of the Kenzō Tange Visiting Professorship. Mrs. Kenzō Tange and the Tange family generously provided additional support and loan of exhibition material.

Related Events

On September 22, 2009, an Exhibition Talk and Roundtable will take place at the GSD. Speakers will include Paul Noritaka Tange (AB '81, MArch '85), son of Kenzō Tange and President and Senior Principal of Tange & Associates, and GSD faculty members Gerald McCue, Toshiko Mori, and Mark Mulligan.

Gallery Hours

Gund Hall Gallery exhibition hours are 9am – 5pm, Monday through Friday.

The exhibition is free and open to the public; for more information, please contact Shannon Stecher at (617) 495-4784 or e-mail sstecher@gsd.harvard.edu. For general information about events at the GSD, please contact Brooke King at bking@gsd.harvard.edu. Updated information may be found at www.gsd.harvard.edu/events.