

Feb. 2025

「World Fair in Japan 1970–2005」

We are pleased to announce our next Exhibition “World Fair in Japan 1970–2005” .

Please find more detail <https://nama.bunka.go.jp>



[Title] World Fair in Japan 1970–2005

[Overview]

The World’s Fair (also called International Exposition or Expo) originated in the nineteenth century as an exhibition that gathered and displayed the finest goods from many countries, and now refers to expositions in which multiple countries participate under the auspices of Bureau International des Expositions (BIE, established in 1928). The content is not limited to exhibitions, but has diversified to also include events and amusements.

Though the buildings of World’s Fairs are intended to serve as containers for the exhibits, they have also made significant contributions to the development of modern architecture. The Crystal Palace, the exhibition hall for the first World’s Fair in London in 1851, was a cast-iron structure entirely clad in plate glass, heralding the advent of the era of steel and glass. The Eiffel Tower, built as a gate and observation deck for the 4th World’s Fair in Paris in 1889, was the most advanced steel-framed architecture of its time, and even today functions as a Paris landmark. The fact that a World’s Fair is a prestigious national event, and that the architecture is to be used only for a short period

of time, has encouraged varied architectural experiments, and consequently World's Fair architecture has contributed to the evolution of modern architecture.

World's Fairs have been held in Japan five times: Japan World Exposition Osaka 1970 (Expo' 70), International Ocean Exposition Okinawa 1975 (Expo' 75), International Exhibition Tsukuba Japan 1985 (Expo' 85), International Garden and Greenery Exposition Osaka 1990 (Expo' 90), and Expo 2005 Aichi (Expo 2005). Following these, the sixth will be Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai, to be held for 184 days from 13 April 2025 (Sunday) to 13 October 2025 (Monday).

This exhibition will focus on drawings and other materials related to their planning stages held in the NAMA collection, intended to provide visitors with a deeper understanding of the venue planning and facility design for the five previous World's Fairs.

This exhibition will be divided into two parts, and be held for approximately six months. Through this exhibition, we hope that visitors will gain an understanding of the role that World's Fairs have played in architectural history, and an appreciation of the inventive designs that are to be found in their architecture.

■ Basic Information

[Organization] Agency for Cultural Affairs

[Planning] National Archives of Modern Architecture

[Cooperation] Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

[Venue] National Archives of Modern Architecture, Agency for Cultural Affairs
(4-6-15 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)

[Date]

Part1 「Expo' 70 Synthesis of Technology, Design and Art」

2025.3.8 Sat. —5.25 Sun.

Part2 「After Expo' 75 Toward People, Nature, and the Environment」

2025.6.14 Sat. —8.31 Sun.

Closed on Mondays (Open on holidays that fall on a Monday. In which case the following weekday will be closed: Open on 5th May., 6th May., 21st Jul., 11th Aug. Closed on 22nd Jul., 12th Aug.)

[Open hours] 10:00—16:30

[Entry]

・Case1 To view the exhibition only (open on weekdays only).

Please enter from the main gate of the Yushima Local Common Government Offices. Admission is free. Visitors are not allowed entry into the Tokyo Metropolitan Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens.

- Case2 To view both the exhibition and Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens.

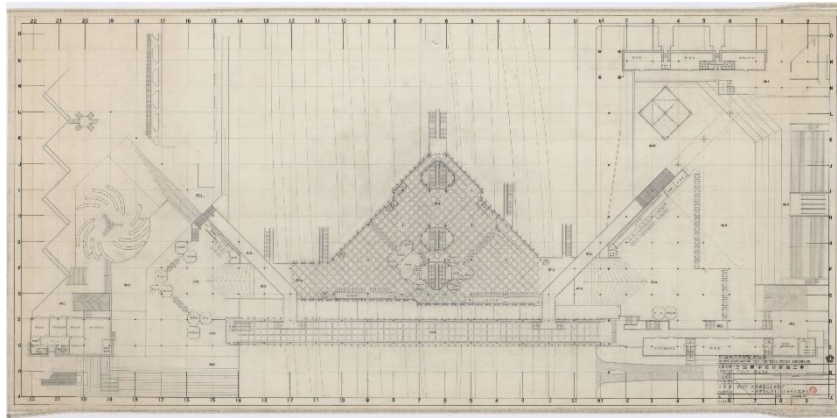
Please enter via the Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens (Admission 400 yen).

■Contents of Part 1

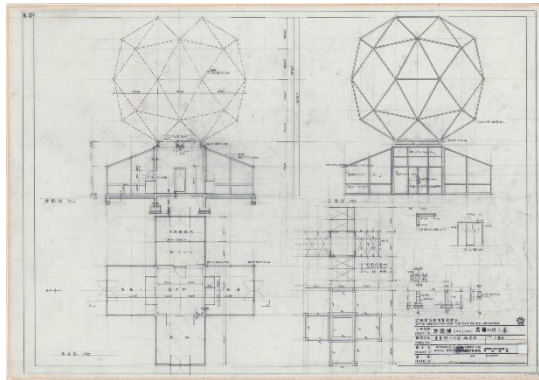
Part 1, “Expo’70 Synthesis of Technology, Design and Art” will provide an overview of these five World’s Fairs, with particular attention to drawings of notable facilities at the Japan World Exposition Osaka 1970 (Expo’70). They will be a testament to the tremendous efforts made to unite technology, design and art.

Section 1. Symbol Zone

Main Exhibits: TANGE Kenzo “Grand Roof・Festival Plaza”, KIKUTAKE Kiyonori “Expo Tower” and “South Plaza”, OTAKA Masato “Main Gate”



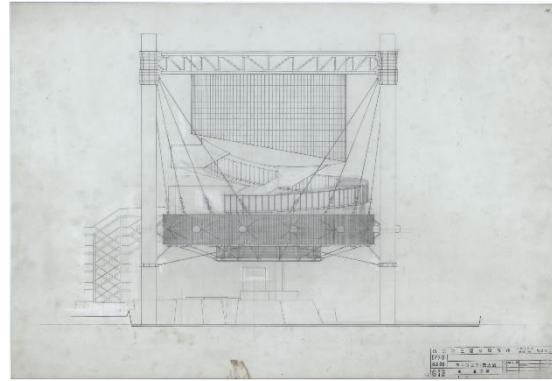
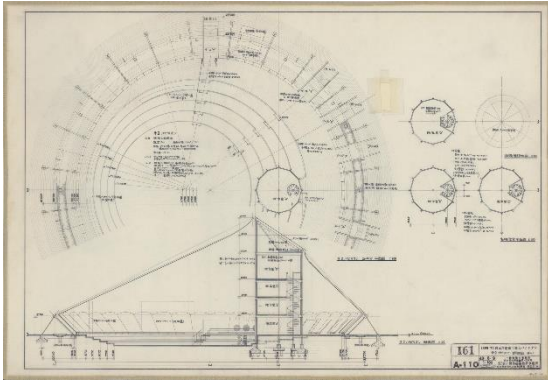
OTAKA Masato | Expo’70, Main Gate Plan | 1970



KIKUTAKE Kiyonori | Expo’70, EXPO Tower Plaza Building S3, Basic and Structural Drawing | 1969

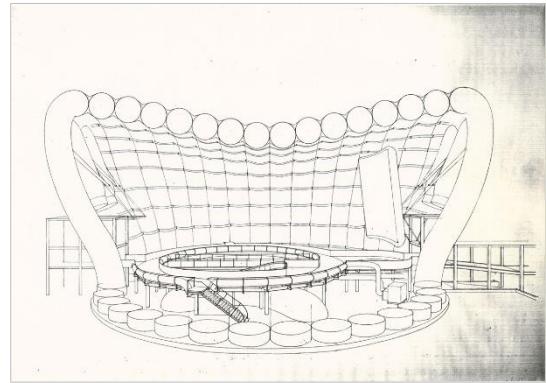
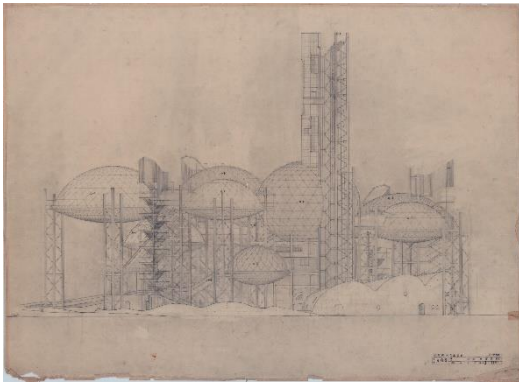
Section 2. Pavilions

Main Exhibits: MAYEKAWA Kunio “Automobile Pavilion” and “Steel Pavilion”, SAKAKURA Junzo “Electric Power Pavilion - Electrium”, MURATA Yutaka “Electric Power Pavilion - Floating Theater” and “Fuji Group Pavilion”, OTANI Sachio “Sumitomo Pavilion”.



(L) MAYEKAWA Kunio | Automobile Pavilion, the Second Pavilion, Detailed Drawing | 1968

(R) SAKAKURA Junzo | Electric Power Pavilion, South Elevation | 1968



(L) OTANI Sachio | Expo' 70, Sumitomo Pavilion, North Elevation | 1970

(R) MURATA Yutaka | Expo' 70, FUJI Group Pavilion, Section | 1970

■ Contents of Part 2

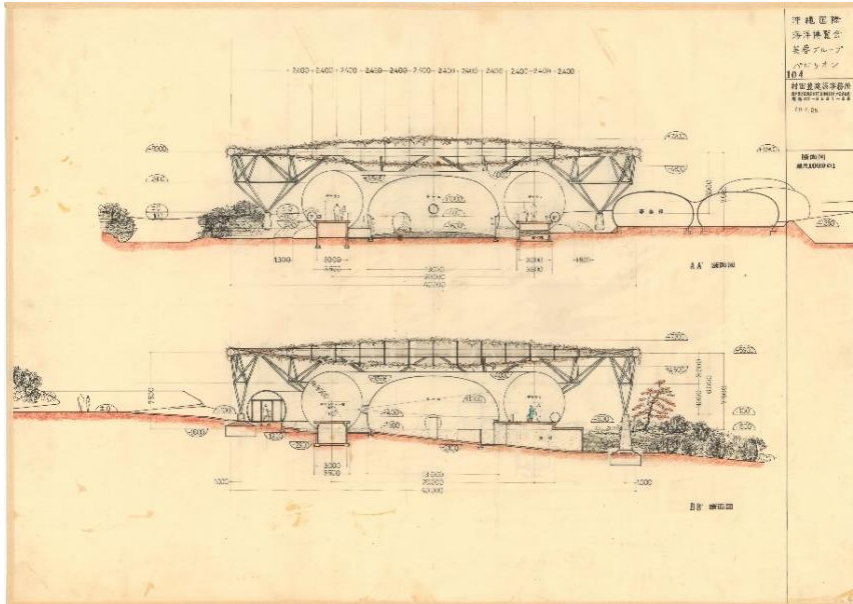
Part 2, “After Expo’ 75 Toward People, Nature, and the Environment” will display drawings and documents from the collection related to the four other World’s Fairs, in addition to the Japan World Exposition Osaka 1970 (Expo’ 70). The general theme of Expo’ 70, which manifested in designs that foregrounded technological advances, has shifted toward themes that include human habitation, nature such as oceans and mountains, and consideration for the global environment, with corresponding changes in venue site-planning methods and architectural designs.

Section 1. Japan World Exposition Osaka 1970

Main Exhibits : We will update partially the exhibition materials of the Part1.

Section 2. International Ocean Exposition, Okinawa 1975

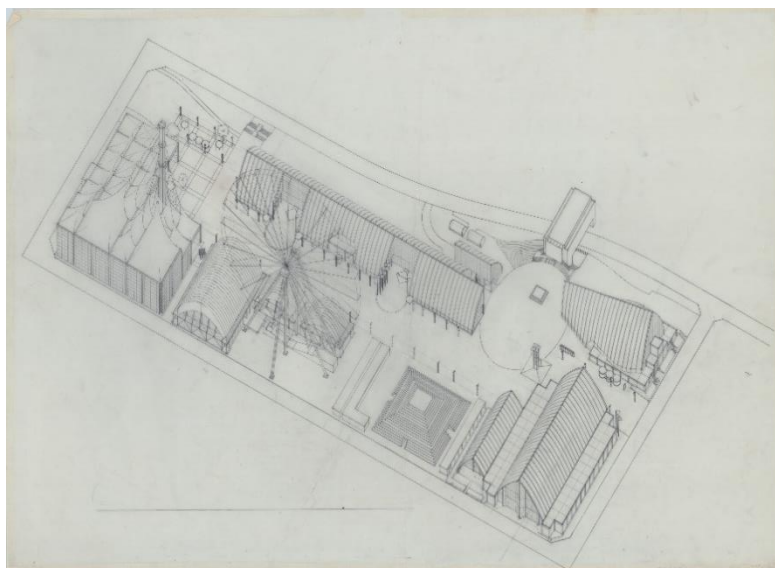
Main Exhibits: KIKUTAKE Kiyonori “Aquapolis”, MURATA Yutaka “FUYO Group Pavilion”, KIMURA Toshihiko “Aquarium (Designed by MAKI Fumihiko) Structural Documents”



MURATA Yutaka | Expo' 75, FUYO Group Pavilion, Section | 1974

Section 3. International Exhibition, Tsukuba Japan 1985

Main Exhibits: OTAKA Masato “Expo Hall” and “Foreign Pavilion”, KIKUTAKE Kiyonori “Foreign Pavilion”, TAKAHASHI Teiichi and Daiichi-Kobo’s “Guest House”, KAWAZOE Noboru “Site Planning Materials” .



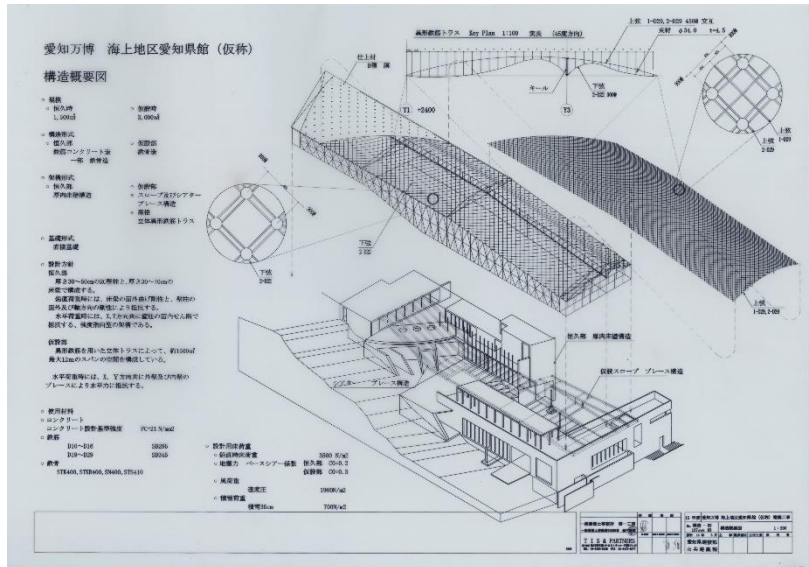
OTAKA Masato | Expo' 85, Axonometric Drawing of Block F | 1985

Section 4. International Garden and Greenery Exposition, Osaka, Japan 1990
 Main Exhibits: *13 FOLLIES* collected by WORKSHOP FOR ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM



Materials on EXPO' 90, collected by WORKSHOP FOR ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

Section 5. EXPO 2005, Aichi, Japan
 Main Exhibits: KIKUTAKE Kiyonori “Global Loop”, TAKAHASHI Teiichi and Daiichi-Kobo “Aichi Pavillion in Seto Site”



TAKAHASHI Teiichi+DAIICHI-KOBO | Aichi Pavillion in Seto Site, Structure Diagram | 2003

■Features and highlights of this exhibition

1) Basic knowledge to Enjoy the World's Fairs

Through an exhibition on five World's Fairs held in Japan, you will learn the basic knowledge of World's Fair architecture and site planning. This knowledge will enable you to enjoy the Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai even more.

2) A Rare Opportunity to See Original Drawings of World's Fairs

Exhibitions about the World's Fairs have mainly been introduced through photographs, and the original drawings have rarely been made public. This exhibition will display valuable materials related to Japan's World's Fairs, including never-before-seen items from NAMA's collection of approximately 200,000 items.

3) The Skill and Passion Behind Hand-Drawn Designs for Complex Structures

In the late 1960s, before computer-aided design (CAD) became widespread, architects relied on hand-drawn drawings to create intricate structures. This exhibition also features drafts and sketches, so you can feel the architects' challenges and passion.

4) The Real Stories of Architects, Told by Those Who Knew Them Well

Our archives also conduct activities to record oral histories related to architects. This exhibition presents previously unreleased records of structural engineer KIMURA Toshihiko and architect MURATA Yutaka, both of whom played key roles in Japan's World's Fairs.

5) Symposiums and Guided Tours

Symposiums and guided tours will be held during the event. Details will be announced on our website.

■Inquiry

National Archives of Modern Architecture, Agency for Cultural Affairs
e-mail nama@mext.go.jp / Tel. 03-3812-3401