

# ARCHITECTURE OF KITAKYUSHU

A TOUR OF ARCHITECTURE THROUGH THE AGES



# Foreword



## Kitahashi Kenji

Mayor of Kitakyushu City

The city of Kitakyushu has many magnificent buildings that contribute to making the urban landscape unique and attractive.

The city is full of architecture that stands as symbols of its past as an essential point for politics, industry, and traffic, architecture that hints at the city’s history as a castle town and post station, architecture that speaks to the tradition and stateliness of the port city that has had years of exchange with cities nationally and internationally, and architecture that has helped the city grow and supported the nation as an industrial base.

Recent years have seen the construction of facilities for sports, culture, and trade that have added new tones to the cityscape.

Architecture not only boosts a city’s charms, but also plays a valuable role as a tool that evokes precious memories in people by becoming rooted in the community over time and blending into people’s lives, at times even serving as a reminder of history and how the old days looked. In France, “architecture” is highly regarded among various fields of art.

In that sense, the many outstanding buildings that have survived and are used with care in the city are our irreplaceable “assets.”

This year, our city is hosting the Culture City of East Asia 2020 Kitakyushu. Many guests, domestic and international, will be visiting the city, and it will attract the world’s attention.

We have created this booklet in hopes of improving the city’s image and cultivating civic pride, increasing inbound tourism, and promoting Kitakyushu as a creative city, by utilizing the city’s splendid architecture fully as local resources.

Our city will work to make Kitakyushu the most comfortable place to live in Japan by achieving SDGs and becoming a creative city that utilizes the power of arts and culture in promoting industries and revitalizing communities.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who gave us their valuable views and help in the production of this booklet.

March 2020

## Akagawa Takao

Kitakyushu City Landscape Council Chairman

I am sure that residents of Kitakyushu feel every day that the city offers diverse natural landscapes in contrast to its image as an industrial city, and that visitors are always surprised to learn the same. All sorts of buildings have been constructed against the backdrop of natural scenery, such as Mt. Sarakura, Dokai Bay, and the Kanmon Strait. When huge investments were injected into the city's steel industry, which supported the nation, during the post-Meiji modernization of Japan, new construction techniques were actively introduced. The city took on the role of a laboratory for all manners of modern architecture.

A military base was built on top of the urban structure of the castle town of Kokura, modern buildings were constructed in Mojiko, the gateway to Asia, stately buildings suitable for the headquarters of steel corporations were built in Yahata, and modern buildings for port logistics were built in Wakamatsu. I think the city is rare for having such a concentrated wealth of architecture in the same area.

As Japan became a democratic nation after modernization and the war, Murano Togo sought to design architecture for the people and built civic centers and banks. Isozaki Arata created unconventional libraries and art museums using abstract geometric forms during the period of high economic growth. However, regardless of their architectural methods, both Murano and Isozaki based their designs on the natural landscape of Kitakyushu. The key thoroughfare that gently rises from Yahata Station and stretches to Mt. Sarakura are important elements of Murano's Yahata Civic Auditorium and Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters. The steep incline at the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art by Isozaki, which leads to a higher ground that looks over the industrial quarter, is a prologue to the museum's atrium in the central hall. They are both unique, and their site could not be substituted with other cities.

Although Wakato Bridge is a piece of infrastructure, its advanced structural style that uses suspension cables could probably not have been built without the flourishing local steel industry, which made construction of the bridge possible.

Readers are encouraged to see in person the buildings and structures birthed from Kitakyushu’s urban infrastructure and land features.



The city of Kitakyushu has played a part in the growth of Japan’s modern industries.

The city has many highly acclaimed and attractive buildings, including world heritage sites, cultural assets, and heritage sites of modern industrialization.

We have created this booklet to introduce the city’s beautiful architecture and landscapes, primarily in photographs and as a window into their historical backdrop and location.

We hope this booklet will deepen your awareness of the narratives of the buildings and the city’s history and encourage you to go on an entertaining tour of the buildings.

### Architecture of Kitakyushu Chronology · · 1

#### 1600s – 1800s

Kokura Castle · · · · · 3

#### 1800s – 1950s

JR Mojiko Station · · · · · 7

Buildings designed by Tatsuno Kingo · · 22

#### 1950s – 1990s

Wakato Bridge · · · · · 23

Buildings designed by Isozaki Arata · · · 27

Buildings designed by Murano Togo · · · 30

#### Post 1990s

RIVERWALK Kitakyushu · · · · · 31

#### Night Views · · · · · 39

### Architecture of Kitakyushu

Location map · · · · · 43

#### Legend

Number (Corresponding to the chronology and location map)

00 The name as of March 2020 (at the time of completion)


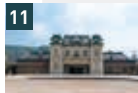

























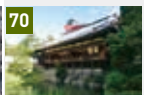



























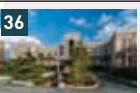
























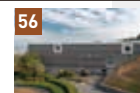
Address: Where the building is located

Built in The year of completion

Blueprint: Architect/design office/design company



# Architecture of Kitakyushu Chronology

Year	1600	1700	1800	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	
Period	1600s – 1800s			1800s – 1950s						1950s – 1990s				Post 1990s			
				1868 the 1st year of Meiji era	1912 the 1st year of Taisho era	1926 the 1st year of Showa era				1963 Birth of Kitakyushu City			1989 the 1st year of Heisei era			2019 the 1st year of Reiwa era	
Moji Ward			<div>24</div>  <div>Hesaki Lighthouse 1872</div>		<div>11</div>  <div>JR Mojiko Station 1914</div>	<div>26</div>  <div>Nikka Whisky Moji Distillery Warehouses /1916</div>	<div>23</div>  <div>Former Dalian Sea Route Warehouse 1929</div>	<div>22</div>  <div>Moji branch of Kitakyushu Bank 1934</div>	<div>19</div>  <div>Former JR Kyushu Headquarters building 1937</div>		<div>51</div>  <div>World Peace Pagoda 1958</div>				<div>63</div>  <div>Premier Hotel Mojiko 1998</div>		
			<div>25</div>  <div>Kyushu Railway History Museum 1891</div>		<div>15</div>  <div>Former Moji Customs building 1912</div>	<div>13</div>  <div>Former Mitsui O.S.K. Line building /1917</div>	<div>16</div>  <div>Moji Telecommunication Museum /1924</div>	<div>21</div>  <div>Moji Ward Office 1930</div>		<div>49</div>  <div>Moji Golf Club, Clubhouse 1960</div>					<div>65</div>  <div>Kanmon Strait Museum 2003</div>		
			<div>27</div>  <div>Former Sapporo Breweries Kyushu Plant Brewery /1913</div>		<div>14</div>  <div>Former Moji Mitsui Club /1921</div>	<div>18</div>  <div>Mojiko Ryozaitei 1925-1934</div>	<div>17</div>  <div>Moji Yusen building 1927</div>	<div>20</div>  <div>Sankiro 1931</div>		<div>50</div>  <div>Holme Ringer &amp; Co. 1962</div>					<div>64</div>  <div>Mojiko Retro Highmart 1999</div>		
Kokurakita Ward	<div>1</div>  <div>Kokura Castle 1609 (approx.)</div>			<div>41</div>  <div>BLUE BLUE KOKURA 1890</div>							<div>57</div>  <div>Central Public Library and Literature Museum 1974</div>	<div>58</div>  <div>West Japan General Exhibition Center 1977</div>	<div>69</div>  <div>Murasaki River, My Town/My River 1990</div>	<div>70</div>  <div>Kokura Castle Japanese Garden 1998</div>	<div>71</div>  <div>Matsumoto Seicho Katsuyama Memorial Museum 1998</div>	<div>73</div>  <div>Katsuyama Park area 2006</div>	<div>75</div>  <div>Mikuni World Stadium Kitakyushu 2017</div>
	<div>2</div>  <div>Kojusan-fukujuji Temple 1665</div>			<div>42</div>  <div>Mori Ogai Residence around 1897</div>									<div>59</div>  <div>Kitakyushu International Conference Center 1990</div>	<div>72</div>  <div>Kitakyushu Media Dome 1998</div>	<div>62</div>  <div>RIVERWALK Kitakyushu 2003</div>	<div>74</div>  <div>TOTO Museum 2015</div>	
Kokuraminami Ward	<div>4</div>  <div>Daikozenji Temple Gate /1671</div>	<div>3</div>  <div>Kamo-hachiman Shrine main hall /1763</div>				<div>38</div>  <div>Haruyoshi Megane Bridge 1919</div>						<div>52</div>  <div>Kitakyushu Urban Monorail Kokura Line 1985</div>	<div>67</div>  <div>The University of Kitakyushu, Main Tower /1995</div>	<div>68</div>  <div>Kokura Horse Racing Track 1999</div>	<div>66</div>  <div>Kitakyushu Airport Passenger Terminal 2006</div>		
Wakamatsu Ward				<div>30</div>  <div>Sekitan Kaikan 1905</div>	<div>29</div>  <div>Ueno building 1913</div>	<div>33</div>  <div>Main building of Kinnabe restaurant, front entrance around 1917</div>	<div>28</div>  <div>Former Furukawa Mining, Wakamatsu building /1919</div>	<div>32</div>  <div>Tochiki building 1920</div>	<div>31</div>  <div>Hino Ashihei Residence "Kahaku Do" 1940</div>		<div>48</div>  <div>Wakato Bridge 1962</div>						
Yahatahigashi Ward			<div>5</div>  <div>Kyushu Railroad bridge in Chayamachi 1891</div>	<div>35</div>  <div>The Imperial Steel Works, Japan First Head Office /1899</div>	<div>47</div>  <div>Former Hyakusanju Bank Yahata branch 1915</div>	<div>34</div>  <div>Minamikawachi Bridge 1926</div>	<div>36</div>  <div>Ohtani Kaikan 1927</div>			<div>61</div>  <div>Former Yahata Civic Auditorium 1958</div>	<div>54</div>  <div>Higashida Blast Furnace No. 1 site /1962</div>	<div>60</div>  <div>Fukuoka Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters /1971</div>	<div>78</div>  <div>Kyushu Golf Club 1992</div>	<div>76</div>  <div>International Village Center 1993</div>	<div>77</div>  <div>Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History &amp; Human History 2001</div>		
Yahatanishi Ward	<div>6</div>  <div>Horikawa Canal 1762</div>	<div>7</div>  <div>Former Takasaki family residence 1835</div>	<div>10</div>  <div>Hirohata Shrine main hall /1842</div>	<div>37</div>  <div>Orio Aishin Gakuen Museum 1909</div>						<div>53</div>  <div>YASKAWA History Museum 1954</div>			<div>79</div>  <div>Hotel Crown Palais Kitakyushu 1989</div>	<div>82</div>  <div>Nagasaki Kaido Koyanose Shuku Memorial Museum 2000</div>		<div>80</div>  <div>YASKAWA Innovation Center 2015</div>	
	<div>8</div>  <div>Jime-no-karato 1804</div>	<div>9</div>  <div>Tatebajaya Ichoya 1837</div>															
Tobata Ward			<div>44</div>  <div>Kyushu Institute of Technology Front Gate 1909</div>	<div>46</div>  <div>Kyushu Institute of Technology Front Gate Guard House /1909</div>	<div>45</div>  <div>The Industry Club of West Japan Western-style Building /1912</div>	<div>40</div>  <div>Former Yasukawa family residence parlor /1912</div>		<div>39</div>  <div>Tobata Public Library 1933</div>	<div>43</div>  <div>Nissui Tobata building 1936</div>		<div>48</div>  <div>Wakato Bridge 1962</div>	<div>56</div>  <div>Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Main building /1974</div>	<div>56</div>  <div>Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Annex 1986</div>				



## Kokura Castle

The famous *karazukuri* style castle combines grace and dynamism.



Kokura Castle seen from RIVERWALK Kitakyushu

In 1602, a vassal named Tadaoki Hosokawa of Sekigahara began building Kokura Castle, which is marked by its *karazukuri* (protruding upper stories) style, but it was razed to the ground in 1837. The present castle keep was rebuilt in 1959, and there are many buildings designed using the location and shape of the castle keep as landmark for its location and orientation including the nearby RIVERWALK

complex and the Kitakyushu Central Public Library. Therefore, the castle keep had a significant impact on the formation of Kokura's urban form.

Worthy of note is the moat between the castle and RIVERWALK, and the stone walls built applying the *nozurazumi* technique, whereby natural rocks from Mt. Adachi, instead of hewn stone, were stacked up to make the walls, and they are just as they were at the time of the

castle's construction. There is a notable richness to the urban space created between the castle and the surrounding buildings, and the people of the city still cherish the castle.

While there are many cases of lost castle keeps, I wish to express my respect to our forefathers who worked hard on rebuilding the one we have.

Akagawa Takao



A *nozurazumi* style wall



Kokura Castle seen from its Japanese Garden

1	Kokura Castle	Address: 2-1, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku	Built in 1609 (approx.)	Blueprint: unknown
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2 Kojusan-fukujuji Temple  
Address: 6-7, Juzancho, Kokurakita-ku  
Built in 1665    Blueprint: unknown



3 Kamo-hachiman Shrine main hall  
Address: 5-6-10, Gamo, Kokuraminami-ku  
Built in 1763    Blueprint: unknown



4 Daikozenji Temple  
Address:  
2-8-6, Gamo, Kokuraminami-ku  
Gate: Built in 1671  
Reliquary hall: Built in around 1690  
Blueprint: unknown

Gate



Reliquary hall



5 Kyushu Railroad bridge in Chayamachi  
Address: 4, Chayamachi, Yahatahigashi-ku  
Built in 1891    Blueprint: unknown



6 Horikawa Canal  
Address: Daizen, Yahatanishi-ku, etc.  
Built in 1762    Blueprint: unknown



7 Former Takasaki family residence (the birthplace of Ima Harube)  
Address: 4-12-5, Koyanose, Yahatanishi-ku  
Built in 1835    Blueprint: unknown



8 Jime-no-karato (sluice)  
Address: 3-12, Kusubashinishi, Yahatanishi-ku  
Built in 1804    Blueprint: unknown



9 Tatebajaya Ichoya  
Address: 1-4-6, Ishisaka, Yahatanishi-ku  
Built in 1837    Blueprint: unknown



Main Hall



Hall of worship, offertory hall

10 Hirohata Shrine  
Address: 1-4-1, Kusubashikamikata, Yahatanishi-ku    Main Hall: Built in 1842    Hall of worship, offertory hall: Built in 1848    Blueprint: unknown



Modern times when the city bustled with trade and industry

# 1800s – 1950s



The train tracks of Mojiko Station as seen from the top of the former JR Kyushu Headquarters building



The large clock on the roof

## Mojiko Station

**The stateliness of the good-old-days has been revived**

As the city of Kitakyushu modernized during the Meiji era, it was given an important position as the gateway to Kyushu and a home for the steel industry that supported the nation.

Since Mojiko Station, the starting station for train services in Kyushu, was designed with toothed platforms, a rarity in Japan, it is configured in a dramatic fashion whereby you see the heads of trains first as you enter the building from the front. The layout, with a restaurant at the end, commonly seen in European stations, induces wanderlust.

Another noteworthy aspect is the plaza outside the station, which comprises the former JR Kyushu headquarters building and the Moji Yusen building directly opposite.

The station building was restored to its former glory of 1914 after conservation work, and through extremely difficult restoration using old archives, wallpapers, external walls, and chandeliers were replicated.

The large clock on the roof proved to be from 1918, and it has been preserved as the first electrical clock in Kyushu.

The passage that stretched from Mojiko Station to the Kanmon Ferry landing pier still exists, suggesting continuity with mainland Japan.

Akagawa Takao



Mojiko Station lit up at night



### 11 JR Mojiko Station (Former Moji Station)

Address: 1-5-31, Nishikaigan, Moji-ku Built in 1914 Blueprint: Railway Authority, Kyushu Railway Bureau Civil Engineering Division





12 A view of the Kanmon Strait  
(as seen from the Hinoyama Park observatory, Shimonoseki City)



13 Former Mitsui  
O.S.K. Line building  
Address:  
7-18, Minatomachi, Moji-ku  
Built in 1917  
Blueprint: Kawai Ikuji



14 Former Moji Mitsui Club (Former Montetsu Kaikan)  
Address: 7-1, Minatomachi, Moji-ku    Built in 1921    Blueprint: Matsuda Shohei





15 **Former Moji Customs building**  
Address: 1-24, Higashiminatomachi, Moji-ku Built in 1912 Blueprint: Tsumaki Yorinaka / Sakuju Eiichi (Ministry of Finance Architecture Division)



16 **Moji Telecommunication Museum (Former Moji Post Office Electrical Division)**  
Address: 4-1, Hamamachi, Moji-ku Built in 1924  
Blueprint: Yamada Mamoru (Ministry of Communications)



18 **Mojiko Ryozaitei (Former Maruyama Villa)**  
Address: 2-12-6, Maruyama, Moji-ku Built in 1925-1934  
Blueprint: unknown



17 **Moji Yusen building (Former Moji branch of Nippon Yusen)**  
Address: 7-8, Minatomachi, Moji-ku Built in 1927  
Blueprint: Yashima Tomo



19 **Former JR Kyushu Headquarters building (Former Moji branch of Mitsui & Co.)**  
Address: 1-6-2, Nishikaigan, Moji-ku Built in 1937  
Blueprint: Matsuda Gunpei



20 **Sankiro [historic Japanese restaurant]**  
Address: 3-6-8, Kiyotaki, Moji-ku Built in 1931 Blueprint: unknown



23 **Former Dalian Sea Route Warehouse (Former Moji Customs House Warehouse 1)**  
Address: 1-3-5, Nishikaigan, Moji-ku Built in 1929  
Blueprint: Okuma Yoshikuni(Engineering Section, Building, Repairs and Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Finance.)



21 **Moji Ward Office (Former Moji City Hall)**  
Address: 1-1-1, Kiyotaki, Moji-ku Built in 1930 Blueprint: Kurata Ken



22 **Moji branch of Kitakyushu Bank (Former Moji branch of Yokohama Specie Bank)**  
Address: 2-3-4, Kiyotaki, Moji-ku Built in 1934 Blueprint: Sakurai Kotaro





24 **Hesaki Lighthouse**  
Address: Oaza Shiranoe, Moji-ku    Built in 1872  
Blueprint: Richard Henry Brunton



25 **Kyushu Railway History Museum  
(Former Kyushu Railway Headquarters)**  
Address: 2-3-29, Kiyotaki, Moji-ku    Built in 1891    Blueprint: unknown



Office building



Warehouses



Union building



26 **Nikka Whisky Moji Distillery Warehouses (Former Dairi Mill Repository)**  
Address: 2-1, Dairimotomachi, Moji-ku    Built in 1916    Blueprint: unknown    \*Closed to the public.



Brewery

27 **Former Sapporo Breweries Kyushu Plant (Imperial Beer Moji Brewery)**  
Address: 3-6-1, Dairihonmachi, Moji-ku, etc.    Office building, Brewery, Warehouses: Built in 1913    Union building: Built in 1917  
Blueprint: Office building: Hayashi Eijiro    Brewery, Union building: Hayashi Eijiro (probably)    Warehouses: unknown





28 Former Furukawa Mining, Wakamatsu building  
Address: 1-11-18, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku  
Built in 1919    Blueprint: unknown



29 Ueno building  
(Former Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Company Wakamatsu branch)  
Address: 1-10-17, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku  
Built in 1913    Blueprint: Yasuoka Katsuya



30 Sekitan Kaikan (Former Wakamatsu Miners' Union)  
Address: 1-13-15, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku    Built in 1905    Blueprint: unknown



31 Hino Ashihei Residence "Kahaku Do"  
Address: 1-16-18, Hakusan, Wakamatsu-ku  
Built in 1940    Blueprint: unknown



32 Tochiki building  
Address: 1-15-10, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku  
Built in 1920    Blueprint: Matsuda Shohei



33 Main building of Kinnabe restaurant, front entrance  
Address: 2-4-22, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku  
Built in around 1917    Blueprint: unknown





Minamikawachi Bridge



Saruwatari Bridge



Nakakawachi Bridge



Kitakawachi Bridge

**34** Minamikawachi Bridge, Kitakawachi Bridge, Nakakawachi Bridge, Saruwatari Bridge  
Address: 3, Oaza Kawachi, Yahatahigashi-ku  
Minamikawachi Bridge: Built in 1926  
Kitakawachi Bridge, Nakakawachi Bridge, Saruwatari Bridge: Built in 1927  
Blueprint: Yahata Steel Works

## A city with world heritage sites

On July 5, 2015, “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining,” which contributed to Japan’s modernization from the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate to the Meiji era, were registered as World Heritage sites at UNESCO’s 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The historic sites comprise 23 properties across eight prefectures and eleven cities, including Kitakyushu City, and they include the facilities of our Imperial Steel Works, Japan.



Repair Shop



Former Forge Shop



First Head Office

**35** The Imperial Steel Works, Japan (First Head Office/Repair Shop/Former Forge Shop)  
Address: Oaza Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku    The first head office: Built in 1899    The repair shop, The former forge shop: Built in 1900    Blueprint: unknown  
\*The facilities are closed to the public. You can view the buildings from an observation space.  
Photo credit: Nippon Steel Corporation, Kyushu Steel Works



**36** Ohtani Kaikan  
Address: 1-2-4, Otani, Yahatahigashi-ku  
Built in 1927    Blueprint: Yahata Steel Works



**37** Orio Aishin Gakuen Museum  
(Former Orio Police Station building)  
Address: 12-10, Horikawamachi, Yahatanishi-ku  
Built in 1909    Blueprint: unknown





38 Haruyoshi Megane Bridge | Address: 397-7, Haruyoshi, Kokuraminami-ku | Built in 1919 | Blueprint: unknown



39 Tobata Public Library (Former Tobata City Hall) | Address: 1-1-1, Shin-ike, Tobata-ku | Renovation 2014 | Blueprint: Shigeru Aoki Architect & Associates  
Address: Same as above | Built in 1933 | Blueprint: Fukuoka Prefecture Repair Division



40 Former Yasukawa family residence parlor | Address: 1-4-23, Ichieda, Tobata-ku | Built in 1912(Relocation) | Blueprint: unknown



41 BLUE BLUE KOKURA (Former Kokura Police Station building) | Address: 2-2-1, Muromachi, Kokurakita-ku | Built in 1890 | Blueprint: Shirouzu Sekijiro (probably)



42 Mori Ogai Residence | Address: 1-7-2, Kajimachi, Kokurakita-ku | Built in around 1897 | Blueprint: unknown



43 Nissui Tobata building (Former Kyodo Gyogyo building) | Address: 2-6-27, Ginza, Tobata-ku | Built in 1936 | Blueprint: Takenaka Corporation



## Buildings designed by Tatsuno Kingo



Front Gate



Learning Support Plaza



Memorial Hall



Houryuu Hall

- 44 Kyushu Institute of Technology (Former Meiji Vocational School)**  
**Front Gate, Learning Support Plaza, Memorial Hall, Houryuu Hall**  
 Address: 1-1, Sensuicho, Tobata-ku  
 Front Gate: Built in 1909  
 Learning Support Plaza: Built in 1927 (2007 Renovation)  
 Memorial Hall: Built in 1960  
 Houryuu Hall: Built in 1961  
 Blueprint: Front Gate, Learning Support Plaza: unknown  
 Memorial Hall, Houryuu Hall: Seike Kiyoshi



- 45 The Industry Club of West Japan Western-style Building (Former Matsumoto family residence)**  
 Address: 1-4-33, Ichieda, Tobata-ku Built in 1912 Blueprint: The offices of Tatsuno and Kataoka (architects)



- 46 Kyushu Institute of Technology (Former Meiji Vocational School) Front Gate Guard House**  
 Address: 1-1, Sensuicho, Tobata-ku  
 Built in 1909 Blueprint: Tatsuno Kingo, Kasai Manji



- 47 Former Hyakusanju Bank Yahata branch**  
 Address: 1-20-2, Nishihonmachi, Yahatahigashi-ku  
 Built in 1915 Blueprint: The offices of Tatsuno and Kataoka (architects)



## Wakato Bridge

The bright-red bridge, Japan's first long suspension bridge, brought dreams together.



Wakato Bridge lit up at night

Wakato Bridge, which used to be called “The dream suspension bridge of the Orient,” is Japan's first large-scale suspension bridge, completed in 1962 and measuring 2.1km long, with the suspended section measuring 627 meters long and 84 meters high, and is supported by two towers.

The deck is 40 meters high at high tide to allow the passage of large cargo vessels that come into Dokai Bay, a working port that supports Japan's industries, and it is thrilling to experience the steep slope when you drive over the bridge in a car.

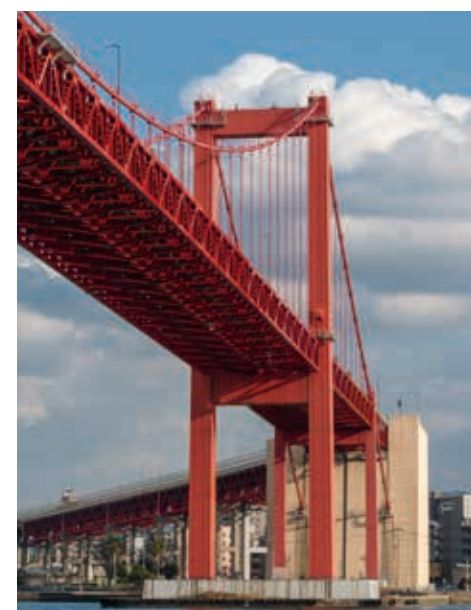
From the bridge, you can see Mt. Sarakura and Adachi, and the factories of Tobata, Kokura, and Yahata, which make up Kitakyushu's landscape, and you can enjoy the beautiful sight of Dokai Bay sparkling in the sunset when you drive over the bridge in the direction of Wakamatsu at dusk.

Wakato Bridge was referenced as a preceding technological example in the designing and building of the Yoyogi National Gymnasium, by Tange Kenzo, one of the main venues of the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, and it is the pride of the citizens of Kitakyushu as an important building that contributed to an international event.

Akagawa Takao



Kuki no Umi Fireworks Festival



Bridge supports





South wing



Start House



Interior

49 **Moji Golf Club, Clubhouse**  
Address: 175, Oaza Kishi, Moji-ku Built in 1960 Blueprint: Antonin Raymond



53 **YASKAWA History Museum**  
(Former head office hall of Yaskawa Electric)  
Address: 2-1, Kurosakishiroishi, Yahatanishi-ku  
Built in 1954 Blueprint: Antonin Raymond  
Photo credit: YASKAWA Electric Corporation



54 **Higashida Blast Furnace No. 1 site**  
Address: 2-3-12 ,Higashida, Yahatahigashi-ku  
Built in 1962 Blueprint: Yahata Steel Works



50 **Holme Ringer & Co.**  
Address: 9-9, Minatomachi, Moji-ku  
Built in 1962 Blueprint: unknown



51 **World Peace Pagoda**  
Address: 3251-4, Oaza Moji, Moji-ku  
Built in 1958 Blueprint: unknown



52 **Kitakyushu Urban Monorail Kokura Line**  
Address: Kokurakita-ku - Kokuraminami-ku Built in 1985



55 **Yahata Station Avenue** Address: Nishihonmachi, Yahatahigashi-ku, etc.



# Buildings designed by Isozaki Arata

The Pritzker Architecture Prize is the most prestigious architectural award, and is also called the Nobel Prize of architecture. There are four public buildings in Kitakyushu City designed by Isozaki Arata, who won the prize in 2019.

Kitakyushu Central Public Library/Literature Museum is on a gentle hillside in Katsuyama Park. It is marked by a configuration that emphasizes an axis leading to Kokura Castle, in addition to the serene internal space the vaulted ceiling creates. Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art is on a hill in Sayagatani that offers views as far as Dokai Bay. It is characterized by a dynamic structure with two square tubes that appear to stick out from the hill. Both buildings are early examples of Mr. Isozaki's work, and they have served as the setting of movies such as "Library War" due to their profound spatial properties.

The West Japan General Exhibition Center is on the site of the former Central Wholesale Market on the north side of Kokura Station. The rows of masts with supporting guy wires that evoke a sailboat harmonize with the kind of landscape particular to a port district. The adjacent Kitakyushu International Conference Center, with its wave-like roof and soft colors, adds a distinctive tone to the seaside.

Mikasa Tomohiro

56 **Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Main building, Annex**  
Address: 21-1, Nishisayagatanimachi, Tobata-ku  
Main building: Built in 1974  
Annex: Built in 1986  
Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



The interior of the Literature Museum



The exterior of the Central Public Library and Literature Museum

57 **Central Public Library and Literature Museum**  
Address: 4-1, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku  
Built in 1974    Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



The interior of the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art



Annex



## Buildings designed by Murano Togo



58 **West Japan General Exhibition Center**  
Address: 3-7-1, Asano, Kokurakita-ku Built in 1977 Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



59 **Kitakyushu International Conference Center**  
Address: 3-9-30, Asano, Kokurakita-ku Built in 1990 Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates



60 **Fukuoka Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters (Former Kitakyushu Yahata Shinkin Bank)**  
Address: 2-8-1, Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 1971 Blueprint: Murano Togo



61 **Former Yahata Civic Auditorium**  
Address: 2-6-5, Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 1958 Blueprint: The offices of Murano and Mori (architects)



## RIVERWALK Kitakyushu

A “town” within a city in traditional Japanese colors



62 RIVERWALK Kitakyushu  
Address: 1-1-1, Muromachi, Kokurakita-ku Built in 2003 Blueprint: NIHON SEKKEI, INC. Architectural design: The Jerde Partnership, INC.

After the 1990s, the urban landscape of Kitakyushu City took on a variety of looks at once. The change was due to projects such as the Mojiko Retro District development and the Imperial Steel Works' site redevelopment in Higashida dynamically converting the structure of the city's districts, while keeping their historical narratives alive, based on Kitakyushu's Renaissance Scheme. The most symbolic of them all must be the Murasaki River My Town/My River development and the project's key element, RIVERWALK Kitakyushu.

RIVERWALK Kitakyushu comprises a commercial complex designed by Jon Jerde and a university building designed by Michael Graves. The former contains a variety

of cultural facilities, including an art museum and a broadcasting station, and the latter is home to the Nishinippon Institute of Technology. They, together with Kokura Castle and Katsuyama Park, form the bustling center of the city. Although the complex looks audacious on the outside, it reflects the historical narratives of the region through its use of traditional motifs such as lacquer and rice ears and forms that are metaphors of the archetypal scenery of the industrial city. The complex, coupled with the surrounding nature, is much loved by the city's residents as an urban landscape that represents the city of Kitakyushu.

Mikasa Tomohiro



Nishinippon Institute of Technology  
Kokura campus



Christmas illumination of RIVERWALK Kitakyushu





63 Premier Hotel Mojiko (Former Mojiko Hotel)  
Address: 9-11, Minatomachi, Moji-ku Built in 1998 Blueprint: Rossi/Adjmi/Horiguchi+SDA/R.E.C. Inc./Shigeru Uchida + STUDIO 80



66 Kitakyushu Airport Passenger Terminal  
Address: 6, Kukokitamachi, Kokuraminami-ku Built in 2006 Blueprint: Azusa/HOK JV



64 Mojiko Retro Highmart  
Address: 1-32, Higashiminatomachi, Moji-ku Built in 1999 Blueprint: Kurokawa Kisho



65 Kanmon Strait Museum  
Address: 1-3-3, Nishikaigan, Moji-ku Built in 2003  
Blueprint: Environment Design Institute/ Oosaki/Integrated Facility Toho Setsubi/ Morikawa Design business consortium



67 The University of Kitakyushu, Main Tower  
Address: 4-2-1, Kitagata, Kokuraminami-ku Built in 1995  
Blueprint: Yoshiro Ikehara Architectural design office Inc. Kozo Keikaku Engineering Inc.



68 Kokura Horse Racing Track  
Address: 4-5-1, Kitagata, Kokuraminami-ku Built in 1999  
Blueprint: JRA Facilities Co. Ltd. / Tohata Architects & Engineers





69 **Murasaki River, My Town/My River**  
Address: Murasaki River estuary – Kifune Bridge area    Built in 1990



70 **Kokura Castle Japanese Garden**  
Address: 1-2, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku    Built in 1998  
Blueprint: Sawa Yoshio / Hyuga Susumu (supervision)



71 **Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum**  
Address: 2-3, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku    Built in 1998  
Blueprint: Tadanaga Miyamoto Architect & Associates



73 **Katsuyama Park area**  
Address: Jonai, Kokurakita-ku  
Built in 2006

74 **TOTO Museum**  
Address: 2-1-1, Nakashima, Kokurakita-ku  
Built in 2015    Blueprint: Azusa Sekkei



72 **Kitakyushu Media Dome**  
Address: 3-1-1, Mihagino, Kokurakita-ku    Built in 1998    Blueprint: Kikutake Kiyonori Architectural design office



75 **Mikuni World Stadium Kitakyushu**  
Address: 3-9-33, Asano, Kokurakita-ku    Built in 2017    Blueprint: Azusa Sekkei Kyushu branch





**76 International Village Center**  
Address: 1-1, Hirano, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 1993 Blueprint: Ishii, Sum design JV



**77 Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History**  
Address: 2-4-1, Higashida, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 2001 Blueprint: Kume Sekkei



**78 Kyushu Golf Club Yahata Course and Clubhouse**  
Address: 1467, Oaza Kogumano, Yahatahigashi-ku Built in 1992  
Blueprint: Kurokawa Kisho  
\*Closed to the public.



**79 Hotel Crown Palais Kitakyushu (Former Kitakyushu Prince Hotel)**  
Address: 3-1, Higashimagarimachi, Yahatanishi-ku Built in 1989  
Blueprint: Yoshiro Ikehara Architectural design office Inc.



**80 YASKAWA Innovation Center**  
Address: 2-1, Kurosakishiroishi, Yahatanishi-ku Built in 2015 Blueprint: Mitsubishi Jisho Sekkei Inc.  
Photo credit: YASKAWA Electric Corporation



**81** A street in Koyanose



Michi no Kyodo Shiryokan [local history museum]



Koyanoseza playhouse

**82 Nagasaki Kaido Koyanose Shuku Memorial Museum**  
Address: 3-16-26, Koyanose, Yahatanishi-ku Built in 2000 Blueprint: Sum Architecture Research Institute



# Night Views

## Night Views

Certified as one of “Japan’s New Three Most Spectacular Night Views,” where a myriad of nightscapes can be enjoyed.



83 Sparking lights as seen from Mt. Sarakura



84 A view of dazzling lights at night from the Mojiko Retro Observation Deck

In 2018, the city of Kitakyushu was voted as “one of Japan’s three best cities for night views” by about 5,500 Nightscape Evaluators nationwide. While Kitakyushu possesses six night-scape heritage sites in Mt. Sarakura, Mt. Takato, Adachi Park, the Mojiko Retro Observation Deck, Kokura Illumination, and Tobata Gion Festival, new and attractive views are being created in succession as lights are installed to illuminate Kokura Castle, Wakato Bridge, and the Mojiko Retro district.

Mt. Sarakura, which showcases panoramic night views from its summit 622 meters up, is one of the best night-scape viewing spots in Japan. Just like Mt. Takato, from which you can gaze down on the illuminated Wakato Bridge, the mountain offers a spectacular view of the blended lights of the factories and the city.

The Mojiko Retro Observation Deck offers the nostalgic sight of the Mojiko Retro district and majestic views of the Kanmon Bridge and Shimonoseki

at night, attracting many tourists, domestic and international.

Kitakyushu provides charms in abundance in its many ways of appreciating scenery, including the “Kokura Illumi-nation,” a winter event held in various locations throughout the city, such as JR Kokura Station and by the Murasaki River, and the “Night View Cruise” for enjoying the dynamic view of factories at night.



85 Kokura Illumination



86 A view from Mt. Adachi at night





87 A view from the Mt. Takato observatory at night



88 A view of a plant at night (Tobata area, as seen from the Mt. Takato observatory in Wakamatsu District)



89 A view of a factory at night (Hibiki LNG Co., Ltd. as seen from Koyomachi, Wakamatsu District)



## Architecture of Kitakyushu Location map

