ARCHITECTURE OF KITAKYUSHU
A TOUR OF ARCHITECTURE THROUGH THE AGES
Foreword

Kitaashi 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 Kasemon 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 Hibiya 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Buildings Designed</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600s – 1800s</td>
<td>Kokura Castle</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800s – 1950s</td>
<td>JR Mojiko Station</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950s – 1990s</td>
<td>Wakato Bridge</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings designed by Tsutsumi Kingo</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings designed by Isozaki Arata</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings designed by Murano Togo</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend

City of Kitakyushu Map

Post 1990s

RIVERWALK Kitakyushu

Night Views

Architectures of Kitakyushu Location Map

March 2020

City of Kitakyushu

Seasons

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

The name as of March 2020 (at the time of completion)
Address: Where the building is located
Blueprint: Architect/design office/design company
Built in the year of completion
# Architecture of Kitakyushu Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>1600s – 1800s</td>
<td>Kokura</td>
<td>Kokura Castle (1600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>1600s – 1800s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Moji Ward Office (1700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>1600s – 1800s</td>
<td>Tobata</td>
<td>Tobata Ward Office (1800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1800s – 1900s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Horikawa Canal (1900)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1800s – 1900s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Care-Full Club, Clubhouse (1910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1900s – 1930s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Former Sapporo Breweries (1920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1900s – 1930s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Former Miike Mine 1837-1954 (1930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1900s – 1930s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Former Miike Mine 1837-1954 (1940)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1900s – 1930s</td>
<td>Moji</td>
<td>Former Miike Mine 1837-1954 (1950)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Moji Ward
- **1600s – 1800s**
  - **1600s**: Kokura Castle
  - **1700s**: Moji Ward Office
  - **1800s**: Horikawa Canal
  - **1900s**: Care-Full Club, Clubhouse
  - **1910s**: Former Sapporo Breweries
  - **1920s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1930s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1940s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1950s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1960s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1970s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1980s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **1990s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **2000s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **2010s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954
  - **2020s**: Former Miike Mine 1837-1954

### Kokura Ward
- **1600s – 1800s**
  - **1600s**: Kokura Castle

### Tobata Ward
- **1600s – 1800s**
  - **1600s**: Tobata Ward Office

### Yakatahigashi Ward
- **1600s – 1800s**
  - **1600s**: Former Takasaki family residence

### Yataanishiki Ward
- **1600s – 1800s**
  - **1600s**: Former Takasaki family residence

### Wahamatsu Ward
- **1600s – 1800s**
  - **1600s**: Former Takasaki family residence

This table provides a chronological overview of significant architectural developments in the Kitakyushu area, highlighting key events and structures from the 1600s to the present day.
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
Kyushu Railroad bridge in Chayamachi
Address: 4, Chayamachi, Yahatahigashi-ku
Built in 1891   Blueprint: unknown

Daikozenji Temple
Address: 2-8-6, Gamo, Kokuramaminami-ku
Gate: Built in 1871  Reliquary hall: Built in around 1890
Blueprint: unknown

Kamo-hachiman Shrine main hall
Address: 5-8-10, Gamo, Kokuramaminami-ku
Built in 1783   Blueprint: unknown

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

Kojusan-fukujuji Temple
Address: 6-7, Juzancho, Kokurakita-ku
Built in 1665   Blueprint: unknown

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

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

Horikawa Canal
Address: Oeze, Yahatanishi-ku, etc.
Built in 1782   Blueprint: unknown

Horikawa Canal
Address: 4, Chayamachi, Yahatahigashi-ku
Built in 1891   Blueprint: unknown
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
A view of the Kanmon Strait
(as seen from the Hinoyama Park observatory, Shimonoseki City)

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

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, Higashiminatomachi, Moji-ku
Built in 1924
Blueprint: Yamada Momoru (Ministry of Communications)

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

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

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

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

21  Moji Ward Office
(Former Moji City Hall)
Address: 1-1-1, Kyotaki, 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, Kyotaki, 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

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.

27 Former Sapporo Breweries Kyushu Plant (Imperial Beer Moji Brewery)  
Address: 3-6-1, Dairihonmachi, Moji-ku, etc.  
Office building: Built in 1913  
Brewery, Warehouses: Built in 1917  
Blueprint: Office building: Hayashi Eijiro  
Brewery, Union building: Hayashi Eijiro (probably)  
Warehouses: unknown
Former Furukawa Mining, Wakamatsu building
Address: 1-11-18, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku
Built in 1919
Blueprint: unknown

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

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

Hino Ashihei Residence “Kahaku Do”
Address: 1-15-18, Honmachi, Wakamatsu-ku
Built in 1940
Blueprint: unknown

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

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

Address: 3, Oaza Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku
The first head office: Built in 1899  The repair shop, The former forge shop: Built in 1900
Blueprint: unknown

Ohtani Kaikan
Address: 1-2-4, Otani, Yahatahigashi-ku
Built in 1909
Blueprint: unknown

Orio Aishin Gakuen Museum
(Former Orio Police Station building)
Address: 12-10, Horikawamachi, Yahatanishi-ku
Built in 1909
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
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, Shinh-an, Tobata-ku
Renovation: 2014
Blueprint: Shigeru Aoki Architect & Associates

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: 2-2-7, Munemachi, Kokurakita-ku
Built in 1890
Blueprint: Shirouzu Sekihiro (probably)

42 Mori Ogai Residence
Address: 1-7-1, 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

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)

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

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
Memorial Hall: Built in 1960
Houryuu Hall: Built in 1961
Blueprint: Front Gate, Learning Support Plaza: unknown
Memorial Hall, Houryuu Hall: Seike Kyoshi

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

1800s – 1950s
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
Moji Golf Club, Clubhouse
Address: 1-9, Oaza Kishi, Moji-ku
Built in 1960
Blueprint: Antonin Raymond

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

YASKAWA History Museum
(Former head office hall of Yaskawa Electric)
Address: 2-3-1, Kurosakishiroishi, Yahatanishi-ku
Built in 1954
Blueprint: Antonin Raymond
Photo credit: YASKAWA Electric Corporation

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

Kitakyushu Urban Monorail Kokura Line
Address: Kokura-shi - Kokuraannmachi-ku
Built in 1985

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

The interior of the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art Annex

Address: 21-1, Nishisayagatanimachi, Tobata-ku
Main building: Built in 1974
Annex: Built in 1986
Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates

The exterior of the Central Public Library and Literature Museum

Address: 4-1, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku
Built in 1974
Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates
Kitakyushu International Conference Center
Address: 3-7-1, Asano, Kokurakita-ku  Built in 1977  Blueprint: Arata Isozaki & Associates

Fukuoka Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters (Former Kitakyushu Yahata Shinkin Bank)
Address: 2-6-9, Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku  Built in 1971  Blueprint: Murano Togo

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

Buildings designed by Murano Togo

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

Fukuoka Hibiki Shinkin Bank Headquarters (Former Kitakyushu Yahata Shinkin Bank)
Address: 2-6-1, Ogura, Yahatahigashi-ku  Built in 1971  Blueprint: Murano Togo

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

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

Nishinippon Institute of Technology
Kokura campus

Christmas illumination of RIVERWALK Kitakyushu
Premier Hotel Mojiko (Former Mojiko Hotel)
Address: 9-11, Minatomachi, Moji-ku
Built in 1998
Blueprint: Rossi/Adjmi/Ino+Puch-SDA/R.E.C. Inc./Shigeru Uchida + STUDIO 80

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

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

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

The University of Kitakyushu, Main Tower
Address: 4-2-1, Kitagata, Kokura-minami-ku
Built in 1995

Kokura Horse Racing Track
Address: 4-5-1, Kitagata, Kokura-minami-ku
Built in 1999
Blueprint: JRA Facilities Co. Ltd. / Tohata Architects & Engineers
Murasaki River, My Town/My River
Address: Murasaki River estuary – Kifune Bridge area
Built in 1990

Kokura Castle Japanese Garden
Address: 1-2, Jonai, Kokurakita-ku
Built in 1998
Blueprint: Sawa Yoshio / Hiyuga Suzuki (supervision)

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

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

Kitakyushu Media Dome
Address: 3-1-1, Mihaigoma, Kokurakita-ku
Built in 1998
Blueprint: Kikutake Kiyomori Architectural design office

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

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

Katsuyama Park area
Address: Jonai, Kokurakita-ku
Built in 2006
66  International Village Center  
Address: 1-1, Hirano, Yahatahigashi-ku  
Built in 1993  
Blueprint: Ikhl, Sum design JV

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

68  Kyushu Golf Club  
Yahata Course and Clubhouse  
Address: 1-407, Oaza Kogumano, Yahatahigashi-ku  
Built in 1992  
Blueprint: Kurokawa Kisho  
*Closed to the public

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

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

72  A street in Koyanose

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

74  Michi no Kyoko Shiryukan (local history museum)  
Koyanoseza playhouse

75  Archiecture of Kitakyushu

Post 1990s
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 nightscape 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 nightscape 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 Illumination,” a winter event held in various locations throughout the city, such as JR Kokura Station and by the Murasakibashi River, and the “Night View Cruise” for enjoying the dynamic view of factories 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)