

Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation
July 2, 2020

**A new museum rises from the earth on August 1, 2020!
Kadokawa Culture Museum's preliminary opening is
commemorated with an exhibition of Kengo Kuma's
work**



Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation (based in Chiyoda, Tokyo; director is Tsuguhito Kadokawa; below referred to as “Kadokawa Foundation”) announces the preliminary opening of the Kadokawa Culture Museum inside “Tokorozawa Sakura Town” on August 1st, 2020. Tokorozawa Sakura Town is scheduled to open on November 6th as a base facility for the “Cool Japan Forest” project that Kadokawa Corporation (headquarters located in Chiyoda, Tokyo; presided by Masaki Matsubara; below referred to as “Kadokawa”) and Tokorozawa City together implement with a focus on regional development balancing aspects of nature, culture and industry. The completion of the Kadokawa Culture Museum will be celebrated with the exhibition “Kengo Kuma: The Birth of an Art Space Connected to Nature – Transcendent Architecture in Stone and Wood” that opens on August 1 under strict preventive measures against COVID-19.

Transcendent architecture of stone and wood highlighted in a showcase of works by Kengo Kuma

Exhibition Outline

Among the numerous Kuma-designed buildings located in places around the world, the National Stadium and the Kadokawa Culture Museum are certainly the most watched ones right now. While Kuma chose the symbolic material of wood to dominate the architecture of the former, the country's newest sports Mecca, the Kadokawa Culture Museum's dynamic architectural concept includes exterior walls clad with granite plates, making the structure look as if it had naturally risen up from the earth.

The exhibition "Kengo Kuma: The Birth of an Art Space Connected to Nature – Transcendent Architecture in Stone and Wood" showcases Kuma's designs for buildings made of wood and stone. Regarding his stone constructions in particular, the processes from conception and design, to actual construction and completion, are well documented in parts of the museum's exterior and interior architecture, and in the surrounding landscape that will be opened to the public, complemented by Kuma's own texts, plans and interview footage.

Also on the program are gallery talk sessions with the architect himself and other individuals involved in the conception and construction of the museum, as well as related publications, guided museum tours, etc. Together they make this exhibition a concise and enjoyable introduction to the composition and the highlights of Kuma's "transcendent architecture" as newly manifested in the Musashino area – not only for architecture lovers, but for all residents of the surrounding regions.

Displays

The exhibition's highlights include the exhibition space itself, display plans for which have been worked out by Kengo Kuma & Associates. In the Kuma-designed Grand Gallery, maquettes of "CLT Harumi Park," "V&A Dundee" and other recent examples of Kuma's architecture using such natural materials as stone and wood, are displayed and explained on exhibition stands covered with soft cloth. The exhibition also features actual-sized models of the wooden shelves that the museum's library "Edit Town" (scheduled to open in November) will be fitted with, and slide shows making use of the venue's entire wall space.

Photos and videos

Also unveiled in this exhibition are photographs that Kenshu Shintsubo shot of Kuma's architectural designs as part of a collaborative project. More than 200 photos that Shintsubo originally took for Kuma's new book *TOKYO*, which Kadokawa publish in connection with the exhibition, will be presented in the form of a roll projection onto a 40-meter-long wall.

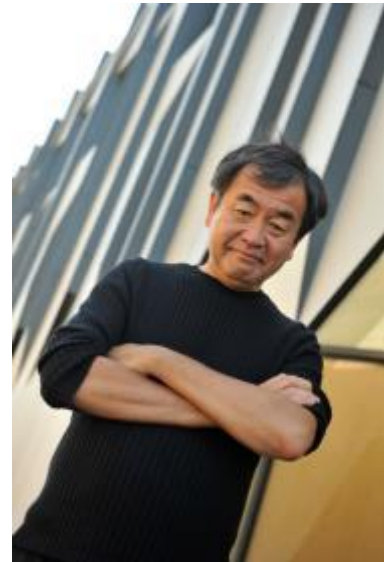
On Kuma's own request, rather than shooting the structures themselves, Shintsubo focused on the "physical experience" of architecture that includes such aspects as the approaches to the respective places, and the changing conditions of light and wind. Through his own perspective, he highlights yet another fascinating aspect of Kuma's architecture.

Coinciding with the preliminary opening of the Kadokawa Culture Museum on August 1st, the Grand Gallery and the Manga & Light Novel Library on the first floor, as well as a café on the second floor, are also planned to open.

Kengo Kuma

Kengo Kuma was born in 1954. Before establishing Kengo Kuma & Associates in 1990, he received his master's degree in architecture from the University of Tokyo where he was a professor of architecture from 2009 to March 2020 and Special Professor from April 2020. Having been inspired by Kenzo Tange's Yoyogi National Gymnasium, built for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Kengo Kuma decided to pursue architecture at a young age and later entered the architecture program at the University of Tokyo where he studied under Hiroshi Hara and Yoshichika Uchida. During his graduate studies, he made a research trip across the Sahara, exploring various villages and settlements in which he observed a unique power and beauty. After spending time as a visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York, he established his own design office in Tokyo. Since then,

Kengo Kuma & Associates has designed architectural works in over 20 countries and received prestigious awards, including the Architectural Institute of Japan Award, the Spirit of Nature Wood Architecture Award (Finland) and the International Stone Architecture Award (Italy), among others. Kengo Kuma & Associates aims to design architecture which naturally merges with its cultural and environmental surroundings, proposing gentle, human-scaled buildings. The office is constantly in search of new materials to replace concrete and steel, and seeks a new approach for architecture in a post-industrial society.



Kengo Kuma: The Birth of an Art Space Connected to Nature—Transcendent Architecture in Stone and Wood

Opening hours: 10:00-18:00 (Fri./Sat. 10:00-21:00/Last admission 30 minutes before closing)

Closed: Tuesday

Admission fee: Adults (including university students) 1,600 yen/Junior and senior high school students 1,000 yen/Elementary school students 700 yen/Preschoolers Free

***Admission fee includes access to the Manga/Light Novel Library.**

***An advance reservation is required/the number of visitors admitted at a time will be restricted.**

Organized by: Kadokawa Culture Museum (Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation)

Planning by: Kengo Kuma & Associates

Photos by: Kenshu Shintsubo

Cooperation provided by: KADOKAWA, Delta Electronics Inc., TIME & STYLE, Hida Sangyo Co., Ltd., YAMAGIWA, RICOH

Supported by: Tokorozawa City

Website: <https://kadcul.com/event/15>

Museum Interior

Facilities opening on August 1

1F Grand Gallery

This is a 1,000m² space for experimental exhibition projects conveying unique messages on anything that potentially contains a narrative, such as nature, science, art, natural history, clothing, environment or society, through boldly composed displays. The gallery provides a stage for everything from artistic takes on science to fashionable interpretations of natural history, juxtaposing artworks and stories, past and future, always in pursuit of “new discoveries” in the intercourse of things with other things.



1F Manga & Light Novel Library

A platform for Kadokawa to share and develop the philosophy behind their own “manga and light novel” publications with readers, the library functions as a facility for promoting diverse approaches to the fascination of light novels and manga, by way of communicating their stories by unique methods, developing new categories and genres, and analyzing scenarios. The library holds about 25,000 titles.



1F Genyoshi Garden

The garden of the former residence of Genyoshi Kadokawa in Ogikubo in Suginami, Tokyo, used to be home to a large magnolia tree. It was given to the landlord by haiku poets Shuoshi Mizuhara, Fusei Tomiyasu, Hakyo Ishida, Kusatao Nakamura and Takashi Matsumoto, as a present to commemorate the villa’s completion on May 5th, 1955. Genyoshi named the villa “Seishi Sanbo,” and went on to gather many of his poet friends at the place. By a window in the reception room, he had put up a bust of Rodin. This garden, designed by Seijun Nishihata (from Sora Botanical Garden), is a reproduction of the original Seishi Sanbo, and includes next to Genyoshi’s beloved magnolia tree also drooping cherry trees and the seven flowers of autumn.



Opening on November 6

3F EJ Anime Museum

EJ is short for Entertainment Japan. This museum is dedicated to anime as an original Japanese culture that has become popular around the world, showcased here from a rather unique point of view. Books, movies, games and other related articles, the expansive variations of which involve a broad array of creative individuals – such as artists, studio technicians, and cast and staff members – are exhibited as parts of a larger scope of entertainment that encompasses each work. The museum aims to become a hub for anime culture, and a meeting place for people who love anime or generally enjoy entertainment.

4F Edit Town

Supervised by Seigow Matsuoka

This library space is designed like a “town” in which visitors can feel the bustle and the “breath” of books. Assembled under the supervision of Seigow Matsuoka, the library’s approximately 25,000 books inspire visitors to analyze the world according to “nine contexts,” representing a new and advanced book selection model quite different from

existing conventional libraries. Items may not be borrowed, but visitors are free to take them to any place inside the facility for relaxed browsing.

4F ARAMATA Wunderkammer

Supervised by Hiroshi Aramata

This cabinet of wonders was set up under the supervision of Hiroshi Aramata, whose work has been revolving around manifestations of “imagination” and “anima.” Filled to the brim with all sorts of “curiosities,” from the genesis of life to mechanical zoetropes, from the condensation of the wunderkammer to the height of academics, this space offers a wide variety of experience-based displays.

4-5F Bookshelf Theater

This space is surrounded by giant bookshelves about eight meters in height. Next to Kadokawa publications, visitors will find in these shelves a number of items from the personal libraries of Genyoshi Kadokawa, Kenkichi Yamamoto, Rizo Takeuchi, Shuzen Hokama, Futaro Yamada, and others. Also staged at the Bookshelf Theater will be regular projection mapping events on the concept of “playing and interacting with books.” Stocked here are approximately 50,000 titles.



About Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation

Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation was established to contribute to the promotion of Japan's culture. We work to award prizes for achievements of the film industry, publish literary works, subsidize the publication of literary research and writings, and promote the film industry. We also collect, preserve, and exhibit literary and cinematic materials, while carrying out a variety of other projects. In 2020, we will open the new Kadokawa Culture Museum, which is composed of a library, art gallery, and museum. We will carry out projects related to the establishment and operation of complex facilities, and work on the foundation and operation of exhibitions and museums.

Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation Website <http://www.kadokawa-zaidan.or.jp/>
Kadokawa Culture Museum Website <https://kadcul.com/>

[Press Kit]

<https://bit.ly/2BEAZaA>

[Media Inquiry]

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