



TOTO GALLERY · MA 150th Exhibition

Toyo Ito:

The Making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House 2005-2014

Friday, October 17 – Saturday, December 20, 2014

Venue: TOTO GALLERY·MA (TOTO Nogizaka Bldg., 3F, 1-24-3 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo)

Closed on Sundays and Mondays except 10/26 (Sun), 10/27 (Mon), 11/2 (Sun), and 11/3 (Mon/Public Holiday)

Hours: 11:00 – 18:00

Admission: Free

Lecture: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 18:30

Venue: Yomiuri Hall (Yomiuri Kaikan Bldg., 7F, 1-11-1 Yurakucho, Chiyodaku, Tokyo)

Prior registration required



At the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (Taichung, Taiwan, 2014/6/11)

Photo: Kentauros Yasunaga / parade inc. (amana group)

For further inquiries regarding the exhibition, please contact the gallery by email:

TOTO GALLERY·MA (TOTO LTD.)

PR Staff: Keiko Ono (keiko.ono@jp.toto.com)

TOTO Nogizaka Bldg., 2F, 1-24-3 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0062

Tel: +81(3)-3402-2541 URL: www.toto.co.jp/gallerma/

About the Toyo Ito Exhibition

We will be welcoming the world-renowned architect Toyo Ito to hold an exhibition titled “The Making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House 2005–2014” in marking the 150th exhibition at TOTO GALLERY·MA.

This exhibition focused on the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House project that is currently nearing completion will feature models, drawings, documentary footage, and a wall-section mock-up to show how the project has developed since it was selected as the winning proposal in a competition held in 2005.

In the competition for the Sendai Mediatheque (Sendai, Miyagi, 2001) held in 1995, Toyo Ito presented a daring proposal to create large open spaces by making flat floor slabs pierced by 13 tree-like structural tubes. The completed building continues to receive high praise internationally. In the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House competition in 2005, Ito proposed to create spaces formulated based on his concept of the “emerging grid,” which embodies a highly complex and rich system of order, and he was selected as the designer of the project. After overcoming many challenges, Ito’s endeavor to realize the innovative organism-like structure composed of three-dimensionally curved surfaces is now finally approaching its finale.

Exhibition Information

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(TOTO Nogizaka Bldg., 3F, 1-24-3 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0062)

Tel: +81(3)-3402-1010

URL: www.toto.co.jp/gallerma

Directions: 1-min. walk from Nogizaka Station (Exit No. 3) on the Chiyoda subway line

6-min. walk from Roppongi Station (Exit No. 7) on the Toei Oedo subway line

7-min. walk from Roppongi Station (Exit No. 4a) on the Hibiya subway line

7-min. walk from Aoyama 1-Chome Station (Exit No. 4) on the Ginza or Hanzomon or Toei Oedo subway line

Organized by TOTO GALLERY·MA

Planned by TOTO GALLERY·MA Planning and Management Committee

(Special Advisor: Tadao Ando; Members: Waro Kishi, Hiroshi Naito, Kazuyo Sejima*, Erwin Viray)

* On Aug. 1, Kazuyo Sejima became a member of the TOTO GALLERY·MA Planning & Management Committee in place of Kenya Hara

Supported by the Tokyo Society of Architects and Building Engineers; Tokyo Association of Architectural Firms;

The Japan Institute of Architects Kanto-Koshinetsu Chapter; Kanto Chapter, Architectural Institute of Japan.

With Special Support from Taichung City Government.

Thanks to Asahi Building-Wall Co.,Ltd.; Lee Ming Construction Co.,Ltd.; Da-Ju Architects Associates; Micro Museum Lab Inc.; Arup.

About Toyo Ito

Exhibition Concept

The Making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House 2005–2014

The final form of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House has now begun to take shape after the passing of nine years. The “white cave” that I had proposed in the competition held in late 2005 will soon be realized as a real work of architecture.

Its basic form is a square box, but its interior is made largely of three-dimensionally curved surfaces that blur the distinction between floor, wall, and ceiling. It may be called a building, but it can also be compared to a human body. Similarly to how the human body contains many tubular organs, the interior of this building is penetrated horizontally and vertically by tubular spaces. I aimed to create the architecture of this opera house in such a way that the inside and outside are continuous in a like manner to how bodies are connected to nature through organs such as the mouth, nose, and ears.

These past nine years have been riddled with challenges. How should the three opera theaters, rehearsal rooms, and restaurants be inserted into the structure of continuous curved surfaces? How should the curved walls be organized into a rational structural system? What construction method can be used to realize all of this within the budget? After repeated trial and error, the project has finally arrived to the point where it is just one more step away from completion.

The energy that my team has exerted over the course of nine years is steadily being converted into the power of a built object, and the individual effort of each person will soon be transformed into a great joy. At long last, we can look back over the trail we have traversed during these years.

Toyo Ito

Toyo Ito

Born in 1941. Graduated from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo in 1965. Worked at Kikutake Architects from 1965 to 1969. Established his own office, Urbot, in 1971. In 1979, the name of which was changed to Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects. Ito's major works include *Sendai Mediatheque*, *Tama Art University Library* (Hachioji Campus), and *National Taiwan University, College of Social Sciences*. His current projects include *Minna no Mori Gifu Media Cosmos*. He has received numerous awards including the Architecture Institute of Japan Award, Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale, Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Pritzker Architecture Prize. After the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, Ito has been energetically dedicated to reconstruction activity in the stricken area. He initiated the “Home-for-All” project, a series of communal huts where victims of the disaster can gather and communicate with each other. As of July 2014, 11 of the huts were completed. In 2011, Ito established a small private architectural school ITO JUKU (Initiative for Tomorrow's Opportunities in Architecture), which encourages participants to consider the future of cities and architecture.



Features of the Exhibition

[1] Models tracing the development of the project

All of the models and drawings produced since the original proposal for the competition in 2005 will be brought together to trace the making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House.

[2] Documentary footage

Construction on the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House began in 2009 and is now nearing completion. Video records of the construction work will be shown to convey the situation on the real site. Additionally, the organism-like structure of the interior spaces created from three-dimensionally curved surfaces and the “emerging grid” concept will be explained through computer animation and other mediums.

[3] A mock-up wall in the courtyard

A life-sized reinforced concrete mock-up of a three-dimensionally curved wall section of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House will be shown in the gallery's outdoor exhibition area to allow visitors to experience a part of the building's spaces.

* The above are the exhibition highlights as of August 2014. Content is subject to change.

Related Event

Toyo Ito Lecture: The Making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House 2005-2014

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 18:30 (doors open at 17:30; event scheduled to end at 20:30)

Venue: Yomiuri Hall (Yomiuri Kaikan Bldg., 7F, 1-11-1 Yurakucho, Chiyodaku, Tokyo)

Capacity: 1100 people

Admission: Free

Entry: Online pre-registration required. Visit www.toto.co.jp/gallerma for details.

Registration period is from Tuesday, September 2 to Sunday, October 5.

Selected registrants will be notified by Wednesday, October 22.

(TBD) Information Sessions on the Progress of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House

Up-to-date information on the progress of the last phases of construction work will be presented in the gallery during the duration of the exhibition. Further details will be posted on the following website when determined:

www.toto.co.jp/gallerma/

Related Publication

TOYO ITO 2 2002-2014

Author Toyo Ito

Publication Date October, 2014

Format Modified B5 (190×250mm), softbound, Japanese and English

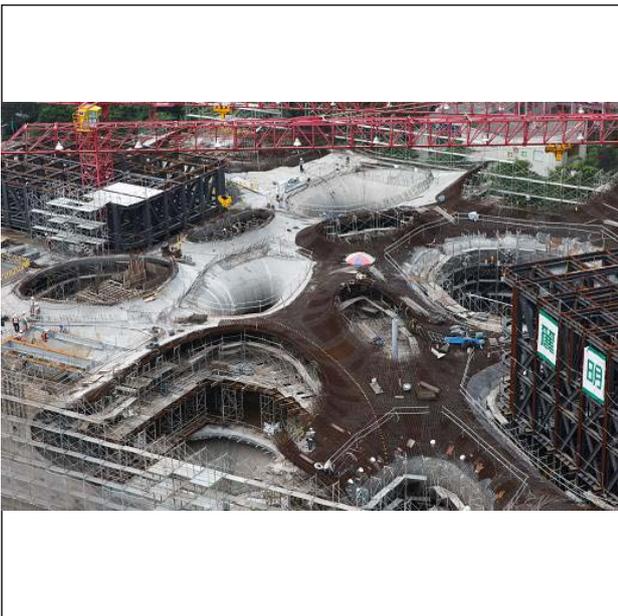
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[1]
Structure concept model
© Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects



[2]
Truss wall reinforcing, Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (2013/3)
© Kai Nakamura



[3]
Roof garden, Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (2013/12)
© Kai Nakamura



[4]
Foyer, Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (2014/1)
© Kai Nakamura

For requests for exhibition image data, please contact:

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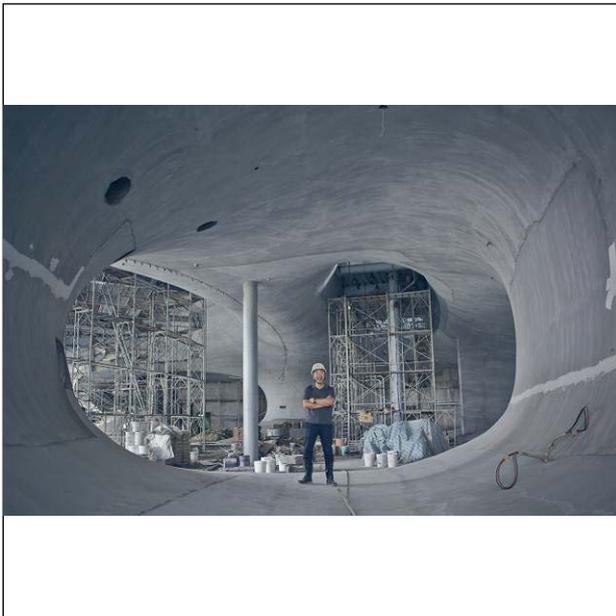
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[5]
Entrance hall, Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (2014/5)
© Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects



[6]
Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (Taichung, Taiwan, 2014/6/11)
© Kentauros Yasunaga / parade inc. (amana group)



[7]
Taichung Metropolitan Opera House construction site (Taichung, Taiwan, 2014/6/11)
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