

**ArchiLab 2006 Japan  
7th Orléans International Architectural Conference**

**NESTED IN THE CITY / FAIRE SON NID DANS LA VILLE  
21 October - 23 December 2006**

The **7<sup>th</sup> ArchiLab, International Architectural Conference** will open on 20 October 2006. Since 1999, the City of Orléans has been hosting and organizing this international event--it will be held every two years from now on, as a Biennale--in close cooperation with the Centre Regional Contemporary Art Collection [FRAC Centre], and in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Communications, and the Centre Regional Council.

**Japan in Pride of Place**

For two months, as part of the ArchiLab conference, the works and research projects of some 30 Japanese architects numbering among the leading representatives of their generation will be on view at the Subsistances Militaires Site, in an exhibition area of more than 16,000 sq.ft./1500 sq.m.

Two exhibitions devoted to **Kengo KUMA** and **Toyo ITO** will be presented in tandem. They will be held respectively at the Carré Saint-Vincent and the FRAC Centre in Orléans.

These works and projects, most of which have been built and completed (houses, museums, shops etc.) will be displayed by way of photographs, drawings, maquettes and models, and installations. Visitors will thus have a chance to discover the architectural, constructive reality of Japan, and the way this reality is articulated between household space and urban space.

**A Special Relationship**

Japanese architecture has always been widely represented both at previous ArchiLab shows and in the architectural collections of the Centre Regional Contemporary Art Collection. The FRAC Centre also exhibited its own collections from December 2004 to March 2005 at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, in an area of some 27,000 sq.ft./2,500 sq.m. The fact that ArchiLab is now focusing on Japan is thus a continuation of connections and exchanges forged over several years.

**Architecture in Japan**

Architecture in Japan has gone through several periods: during the Meiji period (1868-1912), western architecture was imported, followed by a nationalist revival. Between the end of the Second World War and the 1980s, public buildings attested to a monumental vision of modern life.

In the 1990s, in the wake of the economic "bubble", most young architects no longer saw the house as a miniature replica of the nation, but rather strove towards incorporation within the city, taking the heterogeneous and moving fabric of the Japanese urban space into account.

The Atelier Bow-Wow thus drew up an inventory of "quality-less" houses in Tokyo, and went so far as to overlap with the infrastructural network (metro, motorways, etc.); they examined how the urban space is domesticated by services (beverage vending machines, etc.), lending the street a human scale. Other architects such as Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa resort to notions of "lightness" and "shelter"; their architecture comes across like a see-through "skin", unlike the

concrete constructions designed by Tadao Ando.

Some houses adopt a principle of flexibility using moveable items of furniture, showing a daring attitude to engineering (cantilevers, etc.), culminating in surprising forms (Masahiro Ikeda).

All these architects question and challenge the metropolitan conditions of an ever-changing city, and their repercussions on life-styles. In this city, architecture appears like a fragile shelter which "swaddles" the lives of its residents instead of confining them within a space that is impermeable to the outside world. Most of the houses designed by these architects thus create a "continuum" between street and household space. *Nested in the City* means living in your own home while remaining plugged into the city; it illustrates the way architects have incorporated these cityscapes in their life scenarios.

### **This show's curators**

This show is being curated by two leading figures in the world of Japanese architecture: Mrs. Mariko TERADA and Mr. Akira SUZUKI.

### **The set**

The set for the exhibition will conjure up the urban ambience of Tokyo, with its upsurge of images (Chirashi, advertising posters). The entrance to the exhibition will recreate a transitory space, at once somewhere live where you can order a cup of tea while still plunged into Tokyo's urban frenzy. Visitors will be able to walk round the show as if they were criss-crossing the streets of Tokyo, immersed in the organic city and at the same time drawn into the indoor space of city dwellings.

The 7th Orléans International Architectural Conference organized by the City of Orléans, enjoys the backing of the Ministry of Culture and Communications (DRAC Centre) and the Centre Regional Council. The exhibition is organized with the participation of the Japan Foundation.

The lectures are organized with the support of the Sasakawa Franco-Japanese Foundation. ArchiLab has been organized in partnership with the Japanese Cultural Centre in Paris (Japan Foundation) as well as the ERCO Co., Japan Airlines Intl., and the Amadeus Co.

**Curators:** Mariko Terada and Akira Suzuki

**Art director:** Marie-Ange Brayer

**Project coordinator:** Françoise-Hélène Maupate, City of Orléans (DCE)

**Opening:** on 20 October 2006

**Conference:** on 19-20 October 2006 at the Carré Saint-Vincent.

### **Site des Subsistances Militaires**

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Open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm, late night opening on Thursdays and Saturdays to 8 pm. Admission free.

### **Publication**

Catalogue, published by Editions HYX/ Free exhibition guide

### **Public facilities**

Guided tours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 4 pm

Guided tours can be reserved from Monday to Friday by appointment

Information/reservations

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