

Inujima Art Project *Seirenscho*

In the Edo period, Inujima prospered as a quarry, and a copper refinery was constructed there in 1909. It closed merely 10 years later, gradually falling into ruins over decades of neglect. However, when we got involved with the project, we found the building's structure, the site topography, and the byproducts left over from the operational days were all resources that could be reused. In particular, we were interested in using the site's brick chimneys as a source of energy.

Making the most of what is available and creating what does not exist.

Soichiro Fukutake

The client insisted that the ruins should be renovated as the most sophisticated, unprecedented art island controlled by natural energy.

Human waste is converted into fertilizer to feed plants on the site. Special plants purify the human waste before it is carried to the plants covering the museum. The waste fertilizes these plants, increasing the climatic stability of the underlying spaces. The recycled waste also enables on-site cultivation of fruit, which in turn hydrates and nourishes visitors. One should note that in the case of this museum, architecture is what incorporates people (along with plants, water, air, soil, and the sun) into the natural cycles of the earth.