

Horiguchi Sutemi, the Seeker of Total Art
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Analyzing the original drawings and texts of the architect Horiguchi Sutemi (1895-1984), the study in the book *Horiguchi Sutemi, the Seeker of Total Art* has reinterpreted him as a characteristic figure to symbolize an important subject peculiar to modern Japan: coexistence of universality and Japan's identity.

Horiguchi has been well known as a leading architect and thinker in modern Japan. He left more than 5,000 drawings and many articles not only on architectural design, thoughts and history but also on the tea ceremony arranged by *Sen-no-Rikyu* (1522-91) along with his teahouses and the history of Japanese gardens.

In the book, the author challenges the conventional understanding of him. Generally, Horiguchi has long been thought one of the typical architects who had been a modernist when young but later converted to a traditionalist noticing the "uniqueness" of Japanese architecture. But, in the author's understandings, he was very strategic in realizing Japanese architectural tradition. He regarded *sukiya-zukuri*, one of the representative house styles in old Japan, as the culmination in Japanese architecture and appealed its excellence as effective and universal in modern era; even Western architects should learn much from it. He was not at all an intolerant traditionalist, but an ardent advocate of both universality and Japan's uniqueness showing the "essence" of Japanese architecture: To him, such traditional architecture was "modern," no different than modern architecture.