

A STUDY ON THE EARLY DESIGN STAGE FOR
TWENTY SIX MARTYRS MEMORIAL BY KENJI IMAI.

A study on an idea for Twenty six martyrs memorial by Kenji Imai (1)

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This study focuses on documents (sketches, drawings, notes, and a diary) from August 1958 that came before the first basic design plan for Twenty Six Martyrs Memorial by Kenji IMAI (1895-1987), famous modernism architect.

Thus, the present author scrutinize not only his drawings but also his works, of which method is distinctive.

Three starting points for the creation of the architectural project became clear.

1. Firstly, the memorial monument and memorial site were planned to be divided and the main construction site was to be on the east side of the existing road. For this purpose for the monument and memorial site being separated is that the purchasers were different.
2. The original design for the memorial monument was that of the Catholic society for the fine arts, and IMAI designed his stone plinth monument holding these designs in high esteem while improving them further.
3. Lastly, even at the first stage of the project, IMAI had already thought of circling the space reciting prayers of the rosary while imagining the twenty six martyrs on the road of suffering. And therefore , it was his architectural theme.