

Free Online Course “Four Facets of Contemporary Japanese Architecture: Theory”

Japanese architecture is well known at outside of Japan but ideas and thoughts behind it are not well understood. To address this issue, this online video course was conceived in order to connect with people around the world with various backgrounds, who have architectural education or without it, and attempts to show them how to understand contemporary Japanese architecture through four key topics; theory, technology, city, and humans. It also covers five generations of Japanese architects since Kenzo Tange. Through lectures by instructors, Kengo Kuma and Yusuke Obuchi, and discussions with the most influential Japanese architects, the course traces the development of contemporary Japanese architecture and considers its future direction.

The first part, Theory, features discussions with architects who played a significant role in influencing the development of theoretical frameworks that contributed to guiding contemporary Japanese architecture. Together with Yusuke Obuchi, Japanese architects; Arata Isozaki, Hisao Kohyama, Terunobu Fujimori, Hidetoshi Ohno, Kazuyo Sejima, and Kengo Kuma visits their buildings and discuss the ideas behind their respective works.

This course also aims to establish a new academic platform for oral history of Japanese Architecture with comprehensive discussions on architects' design intentions using the actual buildings they designed. This course is presented in Japanese with English subtitles for reaching people around the globe.