Kodomo o hagukumu kankyo, mushibamu kankyo
(Environments that Nurture Children, Environments that Spoil Children)

Mitsuru Senda

The author is one of Japan’s leading environmental architects, designer of the Hiroshima Municipal Baseball Stadium and the Akita International University Nakajima Library. For more than 50 years, he has been involved in design of facilities for nurturing children and poured his heart and soul into research and design of environments to foster the growth of children. From days when children played freely in back streets and vacant lots after the end of World War II, to our own time when the smart phone is in the process of taking over the role of parent and friend, the environment surrounding children has changed dramatically. From this unique bird’s-eye perspective, the author considers children’s future, drawing on his impressive store of knowledge and anecdotes regarding architecture and the environment. He takes up such topics as “slopes and floors foster physical fitness,” “circular play systems that nurture motivation,” “the harmful effect of growing up in high-rise buildings,” “making safe environments for energetic children,” “the issue of opposition to building day-care centers because of the noise.”