

TJ Wilt - Abstract and Assignment

Kengo KUMA

Which modern projects by your architect will be the evidence for your analysis? (historical accuracy)

1. National Stadium (Tokyo, Japan)
2. Meiji Jingu Museum
3. Akagi Shrine - redesign
4. Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Centre

What precedents and/or traditions (e.g., individual buildings, epochs, historical techniques) informed your architect's design for those modern projects? (historical accuracy)

1. Kenzo Tange - mentor
2. Kyoto and Tokyo evolution from traditional to big contemporary and back to traditional
3. Japanese Pagoda Structures - unique to Japan
4. Roof Line styles - unique to Japan

How and why did your architect select precedents and/or traditions for his modern projects? (interpretive rigor)

- Kuma was mentored by Kenzo Tange who learned from traditional Japanese architecture but gave his structures modern twists and tried to grow higher with his structures. Kuma used this knowledge and guidance to actually revert back to more traditional style of Japanese architecture by lowering the heights of the structures as well as the roof lines and heights. Primarily using timber to create structures, Kuma was also able to give a modern accent to very traditional structures.

In one sentence, answer this question:

How and why did your architect select particular historical precedents to guide their modern architectural design?

- Kuma grew up in an area between Tokyo and Yokohama where he didn't belong to either city but was able to witness each city as an outsider where he liked to view architecture as a collection of the surrounding villages rather than a metropolis of nations and therefore tradition and respect to the villages of Japan were key to his architecture.

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ABSTRACT

Kengo Kuma, a traditional Japanese Architect grew up in Japan close to Tokyo where he was able to witness and view the growth and evolution of trends in Architecture over time. Japanese culture is rich with tradition and history and Kuma takes pride in respecting the past. Kuma has shown this interest and focus on the traditional through such projects as the National Stadium, Meiji Jingo Museum, the Akagi Shrine redesign and the Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Centre.

The National Stadium was a project for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The previous games in 1964 gave way to giant modern structures trying to show a new height the city of Tokyo could achieve. Kuma saw the swinging of the pendulum back to traditional lower height structures that he not only believed was the way of the future but also more in line with the traditions of the past. The National Stadium was his way of making a statement of this concept. The Meiji Jingo Museum and the Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Centre both represent a unique building tradition to Japanese culture using the roofline referred to as Irimoya Roof (hip-and-gable) and the pagoda style multi-level, multi-roof structure. And Finally the redesign of the Akagi Shrine gave Kuma the ability to right a wrong in his eyes of how the surrounding buildings of the Shrine blocked out the purpose of the Shrine which was to worship the gods that resided in the neighboring mountains, not the gods in the shrines. The view had been taken away and Kuma redesigned the area to be more productive.

By using these historical Japanese traditions, precedents and experiences of his life he has been able to create modern day structures and buildings that compliment and respect the past while still looking towards the future.

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UPDATED Annotated Bibliography

Kengo Kuma - Architect

Japan National Stadium, Tokyo, Japan

~~Proposed Tower in Vancouver~~

Meiji Jingu Museum

Akagi Shrine re-design

Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Centre

Yusuhara Wooden Bridge Museum, Yusuhara Kochi, Japan

~~The Exchange, Sydney Australia~~

1. Arlet, Joanna Ludmiła. "Innovative Carpentry and Hybrid Joints in Contemporary Wooden Architecture." *Arts (Basel)* 10, no. 3 (2021): 64. doi:10.3390/arts10030064.

This article discusses the history of timber frame architecture referencing several historical structures as examples. The history is then compared to modern day structures and the similarities. One of the modern structures referenced is the Yusuhara Wooden Bridge Museum by Kengo Kuma.

2. Cekić, Nikola. "WOODEN STRUCTURES IN KENGO KUMA FACADES." *Contemporary Materials* 12, no. 1 (2021). doi:10.7251/COMEN2101099C.
3. Salihbegovic, Amira, and Amra Salihbegovic. "Natural Materials in Contemporary Low-Tech Architecture." *IOP Conference Series. Materials Science and Engineering* 960, no. 4 (2020): 42012. doi:10.1088/1757-899X/960/4/042012.

- ~~4. "Kengo Kuma Reveals Design for Large-Scale Tower in Vancouver." *Building* 66, no. 3 (Jun, 2016): 9.
<https://bunchproxy.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/trade-journals/kengo-kuma-reveals-design-large-scale-tower/docview/1799575500/se-2?accountid=8570>.~~

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5. ~~Fu, Xiao-Li. "Research on the Architectural Design Method of Green Materials Related to Teahouse Space: Taking the Bamboo House for Example." IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science 186, no. 2 (2018): 12057. doi:10.1088/1755-1315/186/2/012057.~~

6. Kengo Kuma & Associates, P. 2009. *Studies in Organic*. Tokyo, Japan: TOTO Publishing (TOTO LTD.)

This book is written by the Kengo Kuma architecture firm and credits all the staff for reference. The book begins with an essay written by Kengo Kuma and continues into the photos and references to almost every project of the firm up until its publishing in 2009. The book is written in both English and Japanese and uses visuals primarily with short notes and comments on each project.

7. Kuma, Kengo, P. 2021. *My Life as an Architect in Tokyo*. London: Thames & Hudson Ltd.

This book is written by Kengo Kuma himself and specifically focuses on the architecture he has been a part of in Tokyo or possibly the surrounding villages. Kuma goes into detail on his thoughts and ideas surrounding each of these projects. He often will reference the historical aspect of the building or an example of his childhood and how that influenced his thoughts.

8. Kengo Kuma & Associates, P. 2020. *Kengo Kuma, Topography*. Australia: The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd.

This book is an illustrated coffee table style book specifically focused on Kengo Kuma and his architecture. This book is used for visual reference to multiple projects and the simple details each project is described with.