

# Kumamoto Prefecture Agricultural College Dormitory



## Architectural Outline

The first thing I considered was the overall arrangement of the facilities. The idea of "communality" occurred to me when I was staying in an existing dormitory and listening to people explain various things. The two years students spend in this dormitory are quite possibly their last taste of community life. After graduation, they become self-employed farmers. I decided to adopt a building arrangement with a communal character organized around courtyards and covered walkways. It is an arrangement that has been widely used in human history from the primitive era; well-known examples are European monasteries. Covered walkways measuring 400 meters in total length encircle the four courtyards, which have grass (lawn), trees (citrus), stone (white sand) and flowers (vegetable flowers) as their theme. Around them are organized 100 dormitory rooms for 200 persons. Using wood from Kumamoto in the building was prefectural policy from the start and agreeable with the architects. The architects toured centers of forestry in the prefecture and decided to use cedar, cypress, Japanese pine and chestnut in appropriate places within the building. A cypress growing on the school site was cut and incorporated in the entrance as memorial and talisman. To make the most of the

non-uniform character of natural materials, an unusual plane called the curved-surface plane was used to create unevenness of surface and to make cracks and knots more conspicuous. Inside, a plaster made by burning shells from the Ariake Sea was applied on the wall and the ceiling. In one spot, volcanic ash from Aso that was dug from the site was also used. The wood, plaster and ash were all a gift from Aso.



**Architectural Data**

Name	Kumamoto Prefecture Agricultural College Dormitory
Location	3803 Sakae, Goshi-machi, Kikuchi-gun
Main function	student dormitory
Developer	Kumamoto Prefecture
Architects	Terunobu Fujimori, Yoshiaki Irie, Masahide Shibata, Hideo Nishiyama
General contractors	Tomizaka Kensetsu, Miwa Kensetsu, Ikuta Komuten, Shichijo Kensetsu and Nichido Komuten
Site area	24,047.22 square meters
Building area	4,175.49 square meters
Total floor area	5,409.51 square meters (dormitory: 5,297.87 square meters; propane storage: 29.81 square meters; trash storage: 81.83 square meters)

Extent	two aboveground floors
Structure	wooden construction and reinforced concrete construction
Construction period	July 1999 - March 2000
Total construction cost	1,649 million

## Profile of architect



### Terunobu Fujimori

- 1946 Born in Nagano Prefecture
- 1971 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Tohoku University
- 1978 Completed graduate studies in architecture, University of Tokyo
- 1996 Professor, University of Tokyo

#### ●Principal Works

Jincho-kuan Moriya Museum; Tampopo House, Nira House, Akino Fuku Museum; Ippon-matsu house; etc.

#### ●Awards

- 1980 City Planning Institute of Japan Award
- 1997 Japan Art Grand Prize
- 1998 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Architectural Thesis
- 2001 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Design (Prefecture College of Agriculture Dormitory)



### Yoshiaki Irie

- 1957 Born in Kumamoto Prefecture
- 1980 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Kumamoto University
- 1991 Established IGA Kenchiku Keikaku

●Principal Works

Kozeki House; etc.

●Awards

1998 Kumamoto Artpolis Advancement Award

1999 Jury Prize, JIA Kumamoto Residential Award



**Masahide Shibata**

1958 Born in Kumamoto Prefecture

1982 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Hosei University

1992 Established UL Architectural Office

●Principal Works

Hyakudo House

●Awards

2000 Encouragement Award, JIA Kumamoto Residential Award



**Hideo Nishiyama**

1959 Born in Kumamoto Prefecture

1982 Graduated from Department of Architecture, Kumamoto Institute of Technology

1983 Research student, Department of Architecture and Environmental Planning, Faculty of Engineering, Kobe University

1991 Established Hideo Nishiyama & Architects

●Principal Works

Century Scape; N house; I dental clinic; etc.

●Awards

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1998 | First Prize, JIA Kumamoto Residential Award               |
| 2002 | Encouragement Award, JIA Kumamoto Residential Award (5th) |
| 2003 | Encouragement Award, JIA Kumamoto Residential Award (8th) |

---

Photo : Masatsugu Miyai