

Shirakawa Gate (East Exit) Square of Kumamoto Station Completion of Phase One



Building Profile

This is a tentative plan for the East Exit Square of Kumamoto Station.

This plan consists of two phases. As the first phase, this part was finished in accordance with the full opening of the Shinkansen in 2011. In the next phase, the expansion of the square is planned along with the reconstruction project of a new station building planned to be completed in 2018 when the whole area reaches its finished form. From the early planning stages to the completion of the project, importance was placed on the square's continuity and harmony as an urban space. The proposal is to have thin and light-weight cloud-shaped roofs float above the square, of which the first has been completed. With curves and form inspired by traffic lines of vehicles, people, and street cars respectively, the roofs curve softly as if clouds drifting in the sky. They function as broad parasols to protect people from the strong sunshine of Kumamoto. The simple cantilever structure has steel pillars supporting a flat slab. There are no walls, allowing one to approach and pass through from any direction. Thus this area has remarkable spaciousness and sense of translucence. It is intended to be not only a traffic space for all vehicles converging at the station front, but also an open space consisting of green and sun, shade and sunshine for passengers and citizens at large.



Architectural Data	
Name	Shirakawa Gate (East Exit) Square of Kumamoto Station Completion of Phase One
Address	3-637-2, Kasuga, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture
Main Purpose	Public arcade shed
Project implementing body	Kumamoto prefecture
Architects	Nishizawa Ryue
Builder	Architecture Tekken Corporation
Area	Premises 6,037.72 m ²
	Architecture 907.31 m ²
	Floor space 1,054.34 m ²
Stories	One-story building
Structure	Steel and partly-reinforced concrete structure
Outside finishing	Roof Metal trowel finished concrete and liquid - applied membrane waterproofing
Construction Period	July, 2009 ~ March, 2011
Construction cost	263,000,000 yen

This is a completed image of the proposal for the East Gate Square of Kumamoto Station for which Nishizawa Ryue was selected as the designer at the public offering. The foreground section of the second roof from the left has been constructed as the first phase in the transition toward project completion.



Profile of architect



Nishizawa Ryue	
1966	Born in Tokyo
1988	Graduated from School of Engineering Science, Yokohama National University
1990	Finished master's course of Yokohama National University
1990	Joined Kazuyo Sejima and Associates
1995	Founded SANAA together with Sejima Kazuyo
1997	Founded Office of Ryue Nishizawa
2001	Assistant Professor, Yokohama National University
2010~	Y-GSA Professor, Yokohama National University
Main works	
International Academy of Media Art and Science*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa*, Towada Art Center*, Teshima Art Museum (Works with * are co-designed with Sejima Kazuyo).	
Main Prizes	
2002	Arnold W. Brunner Award, American Academy of Arts and Culture
2002	Vincent Scamozzi Award
2004	Golden Lion Award at the 9th International Biennale Architecture Exhibition, Venice, Italy
2005	Shock Award (Visual Arts Department)
2005	The 46th Mainichi Art Award
2006	Architectural Institute of Japan Award (for the second time)
2008	Jury of the Architectural Institute of Japan Work Department
2010	Pritzker Prize
2011	Order of Arts and Letters Officier, France