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A Japanese Constellation: Toyo Ito, SANAA, Ryue Nishizawa, Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata, Junya Ishigami



Synopsis

Published in conjunction with an exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, *A Japanese Constellation* focuses on the work of a small group of architects and designers influenced by and gravitating around the architect Toyo Ito and the architectural firm SANAA. Beginning with an overview of Ito's career and his influence as a mentor to a new generation of Japanese architects, the catalogue presents a richly illustrated portfolio of recent works by three generations of internationally acclaimed designers, including Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata and Junya Ishigami. *A Japanese Constellation* reveals a network of influence and cross-pollination that has become particularly relevant at the start of the 21st century. Essays by curators, architectural historians and critics reflect on the transmission of an architectural sensibility, and suggest an alternative model to what has been commonly described as an individuality-based "star-system" in architecture. Offering a panorama of interlinked, settled or up-and-coming stars, the publication reveals how shared architectural themes travel across generations of architects, creating a strong identity for a regional practice with global impact.

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Customer Reviews

Like the exhibition it's based on this handsome catalogue traces a lineage of sorts from Ito to Kazuyo Sejima of SANAA fame to their shared progeny. (Metropolis) MoMA's timely reminder of the beauty and daring that can be brought to public architecture, and the questing intellect required to push the profession forward. (Alexandra Lange The New York Times) A vision for the future that's already here. In these contemporary Japanese

designers' proposals and constructed forms, a vision of an architecture that is at once soulful and unabashedly humanistic in spirit emerges. (Edward M. Gaffney, Hyperallergic)

Toyo Ito (born 1941) is well known for a highly conceptual take on architecture. After working in the offices of Kiyonori Kikutake, one of the most celebrated Japanese Metabolists, he founded his first office in 1971 and established Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects in 1979. Critically acclaimed projects include the Sendai Mediatheque (1995–2001) and the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House (2005–15) in Taiwan. He has been awarded some of the profession's highest honors, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize (2013), the Praemium Imperiale (2010), and RIBA's Royal Gold Medal (2006). SANAA, founded in 1995 by the architects Kazuyo Sejima (born 1956) and Ryue Nishizawa (born 1966), has designed highly innovative buildings in Japan and internationally. Significant projects include the Rolex Learning Center (2004–10) in Lausanne, Switzerland, and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (1999–2004) in Kanazawa, which was awarded the 2004 Golden Lion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. Both Sejima and Nishizawa maintain parallel individual practices that have achieved international recognition for intensely experimental work. SANAA was the recipient of the 2010 Pritzker Architecture Prize. Pedro Gadanho is a Curator in the Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Excellent book, which goes very well with the MOMA exhibition.

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