Kengo Kuma & Associates

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Kengo Kuma

Principal architect of Kengo Kuma & Associates

1954 Born in Kanagawa Prefecture
1979 Completed the Master Course, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo
1985-86 Visiting Scholar Graduate School, Columbia University and Asian Cultural Council
1987 Established Spatial Design Studio
1990 Established Kengo Kuma & Associates
1998-99 Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University
2001 Professor at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University

COMPANY PROFILE

Size and Structure:

Our architecture office is a middle-size company composed by 33 employees. We do not have any other affiliated companies. Our office is organized by the following structure:

1x Principal architect
1x Project Director
2x Project Managers
5 x Senior Architects
22x Junior Architects
1x Office manager
1x International public relations
Companies Activities:

Our company is mainly involved in the business of architecture design at different scales (architecture, urban planning, product DESIGN etc.) getting involved in the projects sometimes just as design consultants but usually up to construction management as well.

Years of Practice:

Kengo Kuma & Associates was founded in 1990. During all these past 15 years our office has been involved in the business of architecture.

Office Philosophy

Architecture and Nature
The essence of my approach is the use of natural materials in order to create airy, open spaces filled with sunlight. The methods for creating architecture must be flexible and open; structures must harmonize with, and be ‘friendly’ towards the human body. Everything must be light and gentle; from the planning of the structure and the ventilation system to the designing of the way light filters through the building. These principles are the complete opposite of what a concrete building stands for. Only by taking this path architecture finally blends into and becomes one with nature.

Relativity of Materials
No matter how rich the tactile qualities of materials are, if they appear as single masses, then to me they are not vivid, because they do not change their expression. If materials are thoroughly made into particles, they are transient like rainbows. At times they strongly appear as objects, but with a momentary change of light or in respect to the observer’s movement they instantly disperse like clouds and dissolve like mist. Louvers that appeared to be walls suddenly become transparent and disappear. This transience and fragility is their charm and their very essence.
Type of Services

Kengo Kuma & Associates is an architecture firm that tackles a wide range of design scales: from furniture and product design up to urban scale planning.

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Works and Projects

1988  Kyodo Grating *1
      A Small Bathhouse in Izu *1
1989  GT-M *2
1990  RUSTIC
      Maiton Resort *3
      Doric
      M2
1991  Kinojo Golf Club
      Japan Museum (project)
1994  MAN-JU
      Yusuhara Visitor's Center
      Kiro-san Observatory
1995  Water/Glass
      Space Design of Venice Biennale Japanese Pavilion
1994  Glass/Shadow
      Noh Stage in the Forest
      River/Filter
1995  Eco Particle (project)
Reverse Theater
Memorial Park (project)

1996
Awaji S.A.
EXPO 2005 Basic Conception (project)
Seaside Subcenter (project)

1997
Wood/ Slats
Kitakami Canal Museum
Super Street (project)

2000
Bato-machi Hiroshige Museum
Takayanagi Community Center
Sakushin Gakuin University
Makuhari Housing Complex
Nasu History Museum
Stone Museum

2001
Porous House – Kurakuen Project (project)
Institute of Disaster Prevention
Parking Building Takasaki
Sea/Filter
Ginzan Bath House
Bamboo House II – Kurakuen Project (project)
The Skin That Filters The River (urban project)

2002
Great (Bamboo) Wall
PLASTIC HOUSE
Adobe Museum for Wooden Buddha
ADK Shochiku Square

2003
Housing Exhibition Center
Horai Onsen Bath House
Forest/Floor
Soba Restaurant at Togakushi Shrine
Baiso Buddhist Temple
JR Shibuya Station Renovation Project
One Omotesando
Great (BAMBOO) WALL – Phase 2
Shizuoka Expo Gate Building

2004
Waketokuyama
Shinonome Apartment Building
The “Food and Agriculture” Museum
Murai Masanari Art Museum
NTT Aoyama Building Renovation Project
LVMH Osaka
COCON Karasuma

2005
Fukusaki Hanging Garden
Suntory World Headquarters
Banraisha (Isamu Noguchi room)
Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum
Lotus House
Y hutte House (under construction)
Zhongtai Box Shanghai
Nippon Design Center Beijing
Takanezawa Plaza (under construction)
Suntory Museum (under construction)
Nezu Museum of Art (current project)
Asahi Broad Casting Corporation (under construction)
Sanlitun Urban Redevelopment Project (Under construction)
Tobata Ward Urban development (under construction)
Anyang Public Art Project, South Korea (under construction)

Awards:
1998 Good Design Architecture for “Yusuhara Visitor’s Center”, selected by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry
1999 Grand Prize for JCD Design Award 1995 Cultural/ Public Institutions for “Kiro-san Observatory”
1997 Architectural Institute of Japan Award for “Noh Stage in the Forest”
First Place, AIA DuPONT Benedictus Award for “Water/ Glass”
Grand Prize, Regional Design Award (Kochi Prefecture) for “Yusuhara Visitor’s Center”
1999 Honorable Mention, Boston Society of Architecture Unbuilt Architecture Design Award 2000
2000 Grand Prize, Prize of AIJ, Tohoku Chapter for Design for “River/ Filter”
Grand Prize, INTER INTRA SPACE design selection for “Kitakami Canal Museum”
Director General of Forestry Agency Prize for “Bato-machi Hiroshige Museum”
2001 Togo Murano Award and Architectural institute Award for “Bato-machi Hiroshige Museum”
International Stone Architecture Award for “Stone Museum”, Italy
2002 Spirit of Nature Wood Architecture Award, Finland
2005 The Marble Architecture Award 2005 East Asia External Facings 1st prize
One Omotesando

CREDIT
Design date: 2001-2003
Location: Kita-aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Program: shop, office, house
Total floor area: 7690.10 sm
Site area: 1208.69 sm
Structure: Steel Structure
8 stories, 2 basements

Great (Bamboo) wall

CREDIT
Design date: 2000-2002
Location: Beijing, China
Program: Villa
Total floor area: 528.25 sqm
Site area: 1931.57 sqm
Structure: Reinforced concrete
1 story, 1 basement
Lotus house

CREDIT
Design date: 2003-2005
Location: Eastern Japan
Program: Villa
Total floor area: 530sqm
Site area: 2300sqm
Structure: Steel Structure, reinforced concrete
2 stories

Codan Shinonome development (master plan and 3rd block design)
CREDIT
Design date: 1999-2004
Location: Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Program: housing, shop, parking
Total floor area: 40960 sqm
Site area: 8625 sqm
Structure: Reinforced concrete
14 stories, 1 basement

Tobata C block project

CREDIT
Design date: 2005-07
Location: Kitakyushu, Fukuoka
Program: ward office and others
Total floor area: 40000 sqm
Site area: 12956 sqm
Structure: Reinforced concrete
Sanlitun redevelopment project

CREDIT
Design date: 2005-2007
Location: Beijing, China
Program: Hotel, retail, restaurant, multipurpose hall
Total floor area: 16575sqm
Site area: 8625 sqm
Structure: Reinforced concrete

JR Shibuya station

CREDIT
Design date: 2002-2004
Location: Chui-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Program: Façade renovation
Structure: Reinforced concrete, steel frame
2 stories
NTT Aoyama renovation

**CREDIT**
- Design date: 2004
- Location: Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
- Program: shop, plaza
- Total floor area: 1221sqm
- Structure: steel frame

LVMH Osaka

**CREDIT**
- Design date: 2002-04
- Location: Chuo-ku, Osaka
- Program: shop
- Total floor area: 8297sqm
- Site area: 983 sqm
- Structure: steel frame
- 9 stories, 1 basement