

PRESS RELEASE

2018 / 11/21

# ~~Impossible~~ Architecture

– Hidden History of Architecture –

Saturday, February 2 – Sunday, March 24, 2019

The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama

When we look back over the history of architecture, we find so many wonderful schemes that failed to see the light of day, and myriad exciting ideas that were kept safely locked away as nothing more than lifeless proposals. Architectural dreams for the future; designs that although technically possible, could not be built due to the social conditions and systems of their times; or proposals more focused on challenging an established system, rather than realizing an actual building. All these schemes are the aptly-named unbuilt architecture, and uncompromisingly express the dreams and ideas of their architectural creators.

This exhibition featuring an array of international unbuilt architectural designs of the 20th century and onward, has the working title “Impossible Architecture.” The word “impossible” in this context does not mean

“impossible” simply because of any radical or unreasonable demands of the architectural design, but refers to the restrictive boundaries of each project’s social time and place, and encourages us to revisit and re-examine the possibilities lying at these architectural frontiers. By placing the focus on the impossibility of this architecture, paradoxically their extreme possibilities and rich potentials come to the fore, abundantly fulfilling the very aim of this exhibition.

Through a diverse mix of plans, models, and other related materials, the “Impossible Architecture” exhibition closely analyzes the extraordinarily imaginative projects of some 40 architects and artists, and casts the spotlight on new forms of architecture that have never been seen before.

## Exhibition Structure

### \* Main architects and artists whose works are scheduled to be exhibited (in alphabetical order)

Makoto Aida, Tadao Ando, Archigram, ARAKAWA + Madeline GINS, Yakov Chernikhov, Yona Friedman, Sosuke Fujimoto, Mark Foster Gage, Pierre Jean Giloux, Zaha Hadid Architects + Architects JV (Nikken Sekkei, Azusa Sekkei, Nihon Sekkei, and Ove Arup & Partners Japan), John Hejduk, Hans Hollein, Junya Ishigami, Arata Isozaki, Renshichiro Kawakida, Kiyonori Kikutake, Rem Koolhaas, Kisho Kurokawa, Daniel Libeskind, Kunio Maekawa, Kasimir Malevich, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Takehiko Nagakura, Constant Nieuwenhuys, Bunzo Yamaguchi (Bunzo Okamura), Taro Okamoto, Cedric Price, Ettore Sottsass, Super Studio Mayumi Takizawa, Vladimir Tatlin, Bruno Taut, Giuseppe Terragni, Akira Yamaguchi, Yutaka Murata

\* **Number of exhibits:** About 190 (scheduled)

## Related Events

### ■ Cross Talk

Speakers: Taro Igarashi (Exhibition Supervisor, Professor of Tohoku University Graduate School) and Akira Tatehata (Director of the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama) / Date & Time: Mon, February 11 (national holiday) 14:30–16:30 (Doors open 14:00) / Venue: Auditorium on 2F / Seating Capacity: 100 (First come, first served) / Admission: Free / Program: Two of the exhibition planners discuss the possibility of architecture based on the exhibited works.

### ■ Lecture “The Rise and Future of Impossible Architecture”

Lecturer: Souhei Imamura (Professor, Chiba Institute of Technology) / Date & Time: Sat, February 23, 14:30–16:00 (Doors open 14:00) / Venue: Auditorium on 2F / Seating Capacity: 100 (First come, first served) / Admission: Free / Program: Prof. Imamura explains why Impossible Architecture was born and what the future holds.

### ■ Museum Concerts

(1) Date & Time: Sun, February 24, 14:30– (Doors open 14:00; program about 60 minutes) / Venue: Center Hall on BF / Seating Capacity: 60 (First come, first served)

/ Admission: Free / Performers: Michihiro Sato (Tsugaru shamisen, three-stringed instrument), Masaki Yoshimi (tabla) / Program: Two distinguished musicians known for their cross-cultural activities play works inspired by the music of a variety of countries.

(2) Date: Sun, March 3 / Times: TBD / Venues: Various spots around the museum / Admission: Free / Performers: jaywalker (Zoo-Zoo, RiE-men) / Program: Dance performance of the biases lurking throughout the day in everyday life, also incorporating some of the museum's stylishly designed chair collection. Details of the program, times, etc. will be announced later on the museum website.

■ Gallery Talk by the Exhibition Curator

Date & Time: Sat, February 16, Sat, March 9, 15:00–15:30 approx. / Venue: Exhibition Room on 2F / Admission: Included in the special exhibition admission fee.

<b>Exhibition Outline</b>
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1. Period: Saturday, February 2 – Sunday, March 24, 2019  
Closed: Monday (Open on national holiday, February 11)
2. Opening hours: 10:00–17:30 (Last admission to the Exhibition Room 17:00)
3. Admission: Adult: 1,200 (960) yen, University and senior high school student: 960 (770) yen  
Group fee in brackets applies to 20 or more people.  
\* Junior high school student and younger: Free  
Disabled person (and one attendant): Free upon presentation of their ID booklet  
\* Ticket holders can also visit the MOMAS collection (Exhibition Room on 1F).
4. Host organizations: The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, The Yomiuri Shimbun, The Japan Association of Art Museums
5. Supervisor: Taro Igarashi
6. Sponsors: Lion Corporation, Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc.
7. Cooperation: Estate of Madeline Gins / Reversible Destiny Foundation, East Japan Railway Company Omiya Branch Office, FM NACK5



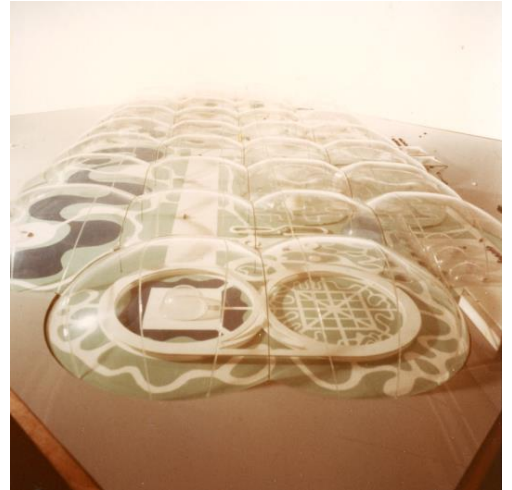
**Images for Publicity**



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When using an image, the accompanying caption must be displayed. Please do not trim the image or superimpose text on the image.

#### ■ Caption

- (1) Film Producer/Director: Takehiko Nagakura; Computer Graphics: Andrzej Zarzycki, Takehiko Nagakura, Dan Brick and Mark Sich, <<Vladimir Tatlin "Monument to the Third International" (1919-20)>> computer graphics, 1998
- (2) Yakov Chernikhov, from the book "Architectural Fantasies: 101 Compositions in Color, 101 Architectural Miniatures" 1933, private collection
- (3) Yutaka Murata <<Soviet Youth Sports Center>> photograph of the model, 1972, private collection
- (4) Sosuke Fujimoto <<Beton Hala Waterfront Center>> computer graphics, 2012
- (5) Mark Foster Gage <<Helsinki Guggenheim Museum>> computer graphics, 2014, Image courtesy of Mark Foster Gage Architects