Kengo Kuma くま けんご

Basic Information

Kengo Kuma is a famous architect from Japan, he was born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1954, and graduated from Tokyo University in 1979. Most architecture he had design is in japanese style or in buddhist mood, and he also like to design based on nature.(Google)

Famous Works

The design of this villa was influenced greatly by “Hyuga” Villa, the sole project which Bruno Taut had left in Japan. The design also gained influences by the philosophies of Taut. Taut’s stay in Japan lasted from 1933 until 1936. Meanwhile, his praise over Katsura Palace was ever-lasting. The reasoning for his commendation lied in the fact that the Palace frames the nature yet frames by being one with nature.(kkaa.co.jp)

The project becomes "a total environment in which everything dissolves, where there is no disarticulation of space, where boundaries disappear" (Kuma), finally drowned in the water, the ocean and the blue sky.(floornature.com)

- Great (Bamboo) Wall House (2002)

Kengo Kuma’s Great Bamboo Wall was part of an initiative to develop a series of houses, all by Asian architects along the Great Wall of China. The significance of
building alongside such a monumental structure was key to Kuma’s interpretation of the project. The solidity of China’s Great Wall was first and foremost a division, to insulate both their territory and culture from the outside. Kuma’s bamboo walls, however, while dividing space, were designed to contrast the monument in their fragility and transparency. (GREAT (BAMBOO) WALL)

- Yusuhara Wooden Bridge Museum (2011)
- Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum (2005)
- Wisdom Tea House (2012)
- Stone Roof (2010)
Influence

Nowadays, more and more architectures are designed to be a symbol of powerful and rich, when architect consider more appearance aspect, less basic function of a architecture will be considered. According to a sentence in a book wrote by Kengo Kuma “Is that possible to build architectures that neither pursue symbol meaning nor pursue visual demand on purpose?” (Defeated Architecture). By looking at works of Kengo Kuma, we can see that there is almost no high buildings he had ever designed but some tiny, natural and beautiful house.

Besides, not only appearance does Kengo Kuma has his own idea, he is always thinking about make his design as more useful as possible. In the book Jūtakuron: Jisshurui No Nihonjin Ga Sumu Jisshurui No Jūtaku , Kengo Kuma announced that “everyone want a home.”, from which we can see he cares more practicability than appearance of a architecture.

Videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugW-twBDmJk
Reference


NK. "GREAT (BAMBOO) WALL." Inhabitat (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

