

# DOSSIER DE PRESSE

conférence de

## TOYO ITO

architecte

histoire d'un projet **TOD'S  
OMOTESANDO  
TOKYO**

**VENDREDI 15 AVRIL 2005  
À 18H30**

cycle de conférence "1 architecte - 1 bâtiment"

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# Cycle de conférences «1 architecte, 1 bâtiment»

“histoire d’un projet - commande - contraintes  
construction - maîtrise d’ouvrage - métier d’architecte  
règlements...”

Nous avons souhaité lancer en l’an 2000, un cycle intitulé, « 1 architecte - 1 bâtiment » au cours duquel des architectes reconnus sont venus et viendront au Pavillon de l’Arsenal évoquer l’histoire d’un de leurs projets réalisés en France ou ailleurs.

Ce cycle de conférence doit permettre au grand public de comprendre comment se fait l’architecture et de lui faire découvrir le métier d’architecte à travers l’histoire d’un projet.

Les maîtres d’œuvre invités, français ou étrangers, présenteront chronologiquement toute l’histoire d’un de leurs projets, de la commande jusqu’à sa réalisation et à son appropriation par l’utilisateur.

Ces conférences permettent de mieux appréhender les contraintes rencontrées par les maîtres d’œuvre, de découvrir les liens tissés avec le maître d’ouvrage et les différents intervenants, de connaître les réflexions des architectes sur la commande et sur les règlements qui varient selon les villes, selon les pays.

Régulièrement d’autres architectes viendront ainsi nous parler, de projets, d’échelles et de programmes différents.

# TOD'S Omotesando Building

## Tokyo, Japan

Located in the fashionable Omotesando area of Tokyo, this building was built especially for Tod's, an Italian shoe and handbag brand. The lower levels of this seven-story building are used as a shop, with the middle and upper levels containing offices and a multi-purpose space.

Since the site is L-shaped and has a narrow frontage, in order to give the building a unified volume we enclosed the site with a wall that gives the impression of a row zelkova trees. This exterior surface serves as both graphic pattern and structural system, and is composed of 300mm-thick concrete and flush-mounted frameless glass. The resulting surface supports floor slabs spanning 10-15 meters without any internal columns.

In relation to environment around the site in Omotesando, where many luxury brand boutiques have been built, by selecting concrete as a material we daringly proposed a substance and strength absent from the adjacent "glass architecture". This concrete structure, however, is not simply used as in conventional architecture to express the volume or the massiveness of the walls. More than being merely a pattern or a structure, this building instead acquires a new dimension relating to the notion of surface.

Our various studies started with the question, "How can we escape the conventional notion of a wall structure?" In other words, we were seeking a way to avoid transparent openings in an opaque volume. Instead of distinguishing transparency from opaqueness, we were seeking a new method that would simultaneously define and unite them – we were attempting to relate all the lines (columns), surfaces (walls), and openings in an innovative way. Our studies suddenly moved in a different direction after formulating the question: "Shouldn't it be possible to create a surface as structure that directly expresses the flow of force, so long as it is formed as a structural diagram drawn as a pattern of thick lines on a flat surface?"

After passing through this process, the idea of using a structure composed of overlapping tree silhouettes was conceived, in a sense, suddenly. Our direction was set with a certain excitement when, following various investigations, we found that through the tree shape, we could order various conditions in an innovative way that is very different from conventional geometry. Trees are organisms that stand by themselves, and therefore their shape has an inherent structural rationality.

The pattern of overlapped tree silhouettes also generates rational flows of force. Having adapted the branched tree diagram, as you move higher up the building, the thinner and more numerous the branches become, with a higher ratio of openings. Thus, the building unfolds as interior spaces with slightly different atmospheres relating to the various intended uses.

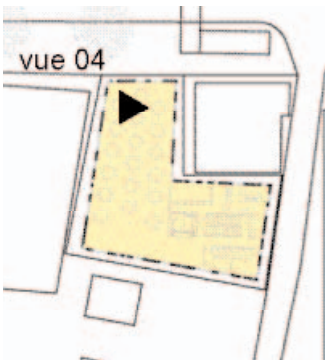
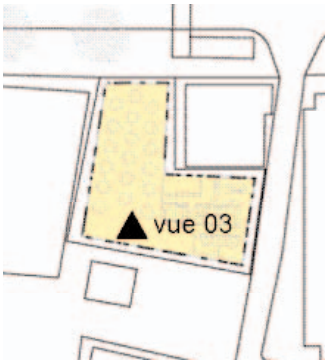
Rejecting the obvious distinctions between walls and openings, lines and planes, two- and three-dimensions, transparency and opacity, this building is characterized by a distinctive type of abstractness. The tree silhouette creates a new image, with a constant tension generated between the building's symbolic concreteness and its abstractness. For this project, we intended to create a building that through its architectural newness expresses both the vivid presence of a fashion brand and strength in the cityscape that will withstand the passage of time.

Toyo Ito

# TOD'S Omotesando Building



# TOD'S Omotesando Building



# TOYO ITO

architect

Toyo Ito was born in 1941. After graduating from the University of Tokyo in 1965, he worked for the Metabolist architect Kiyonori Kikutake until 1969. In 1971 he opened his own office, Urban Robot (URBOT), which was renamed Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects in 1979.

An influential though far from prolific architect, Ito believed that architecture had become encumbered with irrelevant symbolism. In the '70s, he sought to erase conventional meaning from his works through minimalist tactics, which is represented in White U (1976) and Silver Hut (1984), inspired by early modernist movements such as Purism and the straightforward use of easily available industrial materials. He developed an aesthetic of lightweight, permeable membranes composed of fabrics, perforated aluminum panels and expanded metal sheets, which he believed was most suited to an increasingly mobile and informal urban lifestyle and designed the projects such as Tower of Winds (1986), Restaurant Nomad (1986) and Yatsushiro Municipal Museum (1991).

Toyo Ito's main work includes both public and private works. Currently, he is working at various projects in Japan and overseas. Sendai Mediatheque built in 2001 in Sendai, Japan, Ito used a unique structure to compose fluid spaces with hardly any walls. It was received as a sensational project and gave great influence to young architects worldwide. Designing two temporary pavilions in 2002, the Brugge Pavilion in Belgium and the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002 in London, he met the challenge to unify surface and structure. In going beyond the purity of modernism, Toyo Ito is trying to find ways for an architecture of the 21st century: an architecture which reflects nature, emerging from autopoietic processes and organic geometries, creating joyful and pleasant spaces filled with life.

He is currently working on many projects throughout the world, including the Hôpital Cognacq-Jay in Paris, Relaxation Park in Torre Vieja, Extension at the Fira de Barcelona, Montjuic-2 in Barcelona, and VivoCity in Singapore.

Toyo Ito is an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects. He was awarded the 2000 The Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2000. In 2002, he received the World Architecture Award 2002 for the Best Building in Asia (Sendai Mediatheque) and the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement from the international jury of the 8th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale. In 2003, he received an honorary diploma of the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London.



## TOYO ITO

Honorary Fellowship of AIA

Honorary Fellowship of RIBA

1941	Born in Japan
1965	Graduated Tokyo University, department of architecture
1965-69	Worked at Kiyonori Kikutake Architect and Associates
1971	Started his own studio, Urban Robot (URBOT) in Tokyo
1979	Changed its name as Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects

### Main Works

1971	Aluminum House, Kanagawa
1976	House in Nakano, "White U", Tokyo
1984	Silver Hut, house of the architect, Tokyo
1986	Tower of Winds in Yokohama, Kanagawa
1989	Guest House for Sapporo Beer Brewery, Hokkaido
1991	Yatsushiro Municipal Museum, Kumamoto
1993	Shimosuwa Municipal Museum, Nagano
1994	Old People's Home in Yatsushiro, Kumamoto
1995	Yatsushiro Fire Station, Kumamoto
1996	Nagaoka Lyric Hall, Niigata
1997	Community Activities + Senior Citizens' Day Care Center in Yokohama, Kanagawa Dome in Odate, Akita
1998	Notsuharu Town Hall, Oita
1999	T Hall in Taisha, Shimane
2000	Agriculture Park in Oita Health Future Pavilion at Expo 2000, Hannover
2001	Sendai Mediatheque, Miyagi
2002	Brugge Pavilion, Brugge Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002, London
2003	Shinonome Canal Court, Block 2, Tokyo
2004	Matsumoto Performing Arts Centre, Nagano TOD'S Omotesando, Tokyo

### under construction/planning

Hopital Cognacq-Jay, Paris  
Mahler 4: Block 5, Amsterdam  
Project in Fukuoka, Fukuoka  
Extension at the Fira de Barcelona, Montjuic-2, Barcelona  
Parque de la Gavia, Madrid  
Relaxation Park in Torre Vieja, Torre Vieja  
VivoCity, Singapore

### Exhibition

1991	"Visions of Japan" at Victoria and Albert Museum, London
1995	"Japan Today'95, The Third Reality" at Louisiana Museum, Copenhagen "Light Construction" at MOMA, New York

- “Today’s Japan’, Toronto
- 1999-2000 “Blurring Architecture” at Suemondt Ludwig Museum, Germany  
+ TN Probe,  
Tokyo + deSingel, Antwerp
- 2000 “Vision and Reality” at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art,  
Humlebaek
- 2001 “Toyo Ito Architetto” at Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza
- 2002 “La Biennale di Venezia”, Venice
- 2004 “La Biennale di Venezia”, Venice  
“TOYO ITO made IN ITALY” at Museo Nacional Bellas Artes,  
Santiago

### **Publishing**

- 1981 Translation of “The Mathematics of The Ideal Villa and Other  
Essays”  
Colin Rowe
- 1989 “Kaze no Henyotai (Transfiguration of Winds)” / Seidosha
- 1995 “Architectural Monographs No.41 Toyo Ito” / Academy Editions  
“El Croquis 71: Toyo Ito” / El Croquis Editions
- 1997 “Monograph Toyo Ito” / GG
- 1999 “Toyo Ito - Pro Architect 15” / Archiworld
- 2000 “Toso suru Kenchiku (Blurring Architecture)”/ Seidosha
- 2001 “GA Architect 17 Toyo Ito 1970-2001” / A.D.A.EDITA Tokyo  
Monograph “Toyo Ito” / Electa Architecture
- 2003 a+u 04:05 Monograph “Toyo Ito/Under Construction” / a+u  
Publishing

### **Others**

- 2001 Stage art design for the dance performance “CHOLON”, Tokyo  
Awards and Prizes
- 1986 Architecture Institute of Japan awards for “Silver Hut”
- 1992 33rd Mainich Art Award for “Yatsushiro Municipal Museum”
- 1997 Invited to the proposal competition for MoMA  
IAA ”INTERACH ‘97” Grand Prix of the Union of Architects in  
Bulgaria , Gold Medal
- 1998 Education Minister’s Art Encouragement Prize in Japan
- 1999 Japan Minister’s Art Academy Prizes in Japan
- 2000 The Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture from  
American Academy of Arts and Letters  
Accorded the Title “Academician” from The International Academy  
of Architecture(IAA)
- 2002 Grand Prize of Good Design Award 2001 from Japan Industrial  
Design Promotion Organization (JIDPO) for “Sendai Mediatheque”  
World Architecture Awards 2002, Best Building in East Asia  
for “Sendai Mediatheque”  
Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement from the 8th International  
Architecture  
Exhibition “NEXT” at the Venice Biennale
- 2003 Honorary Diploma of the Architectural Association Architecture  
Institute of Japan Prize for “Sendai Mediatheque”
- 2004 XX ADI Compasso d’Oro Award “Ripples”

# cycle de conférences « 1 architecte, 1 bâtiment »

rappel des conférences précédentes, disponibles au Salon Vidéo du Pavillon de l'Arsenal

**Massimiliano Fuksas, Italie**, Maison des Arts de Bordeaux

**Christian de Portzamparc**, Tour LVMH, New York,

**Dominique Perrault** , Piscine et le Vélodrome Olympiques , Berlin

**Architecture Studio**, Parlement Européen, Strasbourg

**Patrick Berger**, Siège de l'UEFA, Nyon, Suisse

**Bernard Tschumi**, École d'Architecture de la Ville et des Territoires, Marne-la Vallée

**Henri Ciriani**, maison privée, Pérou

**William Alsop, U.K.**, Bibliothèque de Peckham, Londres

**Willem Jan Neutelings, Hollande**, Bâtiment Minnaert, Université d'Utrecht, Pays-Bas

**Manuel Gausa, Actar Arquitectura, Espagne**, M'House, des logements à la carte, Nantes

**Félix Claus, Agence Claus en Kaan Architekten, Hollande**, Cimetière Zorgvlied, Amsterdam

**Annette Gigon, Agence Gigon/Guyer, Suisse**, Musée Liner, Appenzel

**Joao Luis Carrilho Da Graca, Portugal**, Pavillon de la Connaissance des Mers, Lisbonne

**Alfredo Paya Benedito, Espagne**, Musée de l'université San Vincente del Raspeig, Alicante

**Carlos Ferrater, Espagne**, Hôtel, Palais de Catalogne, Fitness Center, Barcelone

**Mark Goulthorpe, dECOi architect(e)s, U.K.**, façade de l'Opéra, Birmingham

**Xaveer de Geyter, Belgique**, Maison à Brasschaat, Antwerp

**Francis Soler**, Immeuble de logements, Clichy

**Nicolas Michelin, LABFAC**, Maison des Services Publics, Montfermeil

**Louisa Hutton, sauerbruch hutton architectes**, siège social GSW, Berlin

**Shigeru Ban, Japon**, Pavillon du Japon, Hanovre 2000

**Dominique Lyon**, « Les Tilleuls » 55 logements P.L.A., Gagny

**Marc Mimram**, La Passerelle Solférino et le Passage des Tuileries

**Anne Lacaton et Jean-Philippe Vassal**, site de créations contemporaines, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

**François Roche, R&Sie...** , maison Barak, Sommières, France

**David Trottin et Louis Paillard, PÉRIPHÉRIQUES**, maison MR et maison icône

**Isabel Héroult et Yves Arnod**, la patinoire "Pole Sud" de Grenoble

**Rémy Marciano**, le gymnase Ruffi, Marseille

**Jacques Moussafir**, UFR Arts PARIS 8, St-Denis

**Philippe Barthélémy et Silvia Grino**, Kowa Building, Kobé - Japon

**Daniel Libeskind**, World Trade Center, New York

**Peter Stutchbury**, Bay House, Sydney

**NOX Architects, Lars Spuybroek**, Maison Folie, Lille

**Hans-Walter Müller**, Volume Chaillot II, architectures gonflables

**Massimiliano Fuksas**, The new Milan Trade Fair

**Antoinette Robain et Claire Guieysse**, Centre national de la Danse, Pantin

**Jean-Marc Ibos et Myrto Vitart**, Maison des adolescents, Paris - Caserne des Sapeurs-Pompiers, Nanterre