



MULTIMEDIA STUDIO / N-MUSEUM

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Kazuyo Sejima & Ryue Nishizawa

MULTIMEDIA STUDIO

Located in the city of Oogaki in Gifu prefecture, this new building will serve as an annexe to an existing school. The two-storey reinforced concrete and steel structure contains studios for artists working with computer art, and a gallery open to both students and the general public. The site is a grassy plane in a corner of the school grounds.

In this project we concentrated on designing a building that would respond to its setting – a flat area within an expansive green campus – and reflect the character of the new art form to which it is dedicated. As high ceilings were necessary for the function of the studios, the ground floor was lowered 1.8 metres below ground level so as to enable the building to blend with the surroundings. The square roof dips along its western edge, forming a parabolic curve that meets the ground to create a plaza. The studio is entered from this plaza, which also provides space for exhibitions and other events. With an image screen mounted in one corner of the plaza, it appears to float above the green plane of the site.

The studios are arranged in strips and these are surrounded by corridors that buffer them from the external environment. The individual rooms are oriented towards the natural light source.

The building is due to be completed in the spring.

Design principals: Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa

Design team: Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa,

Toshihiro Yoshimura, Yoshitaka Tanase

Structural engineers: Sasaki Structural Consultants

Mechanical engineers: System Design Laboratory, ES Associates, Otaki E&M Consultants

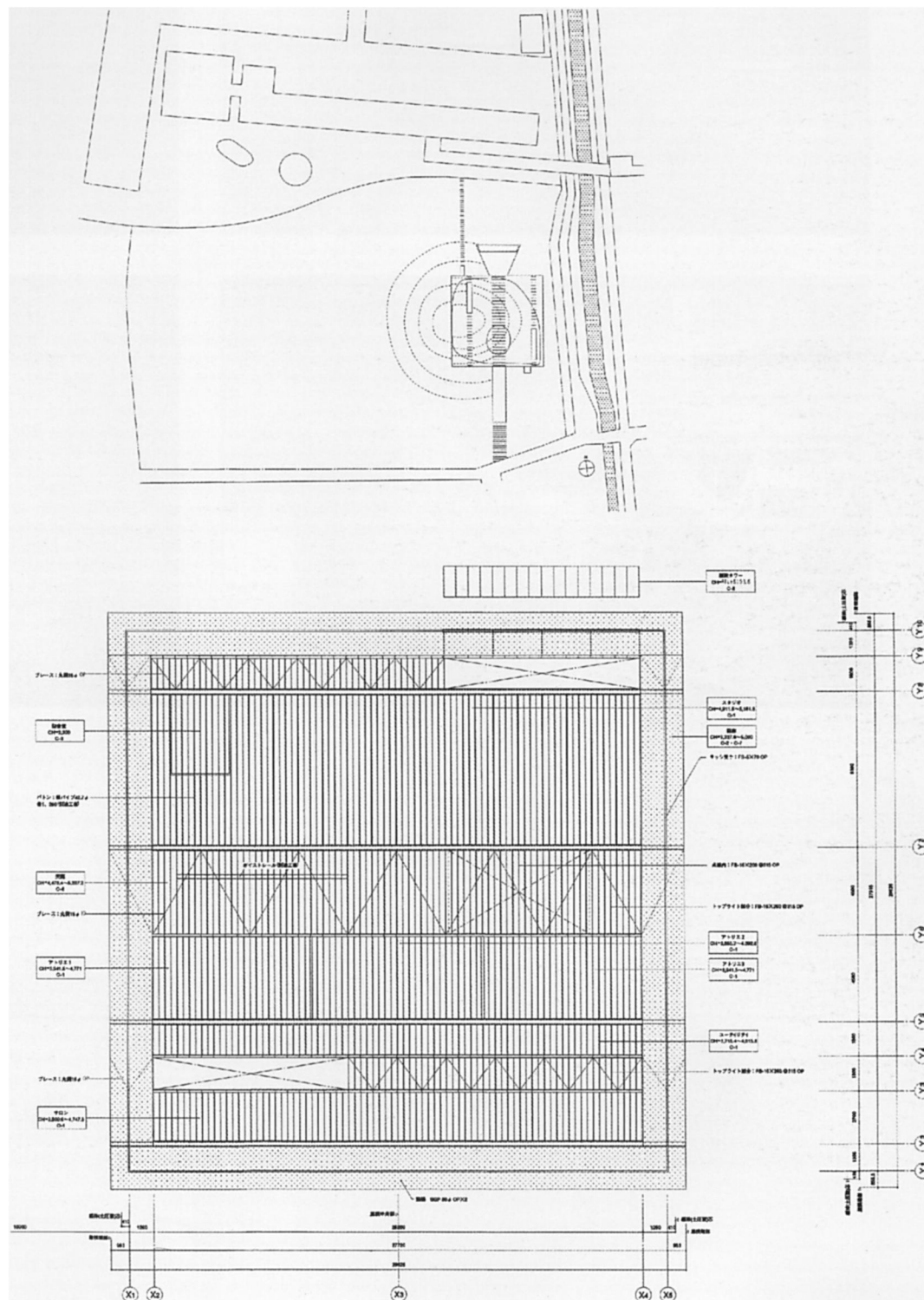
Site area: 3,000 square metres

Plaza area: 872 square metres

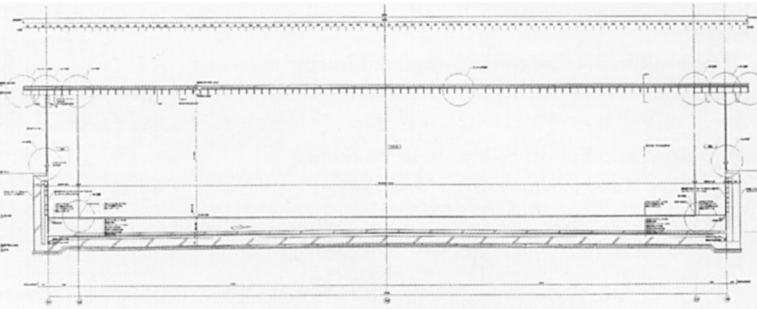
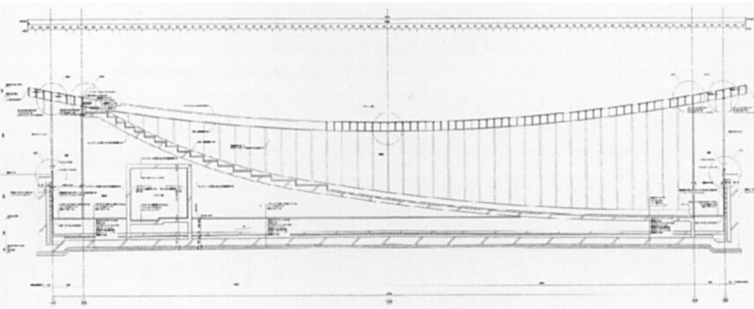
Building area: 856 square metres

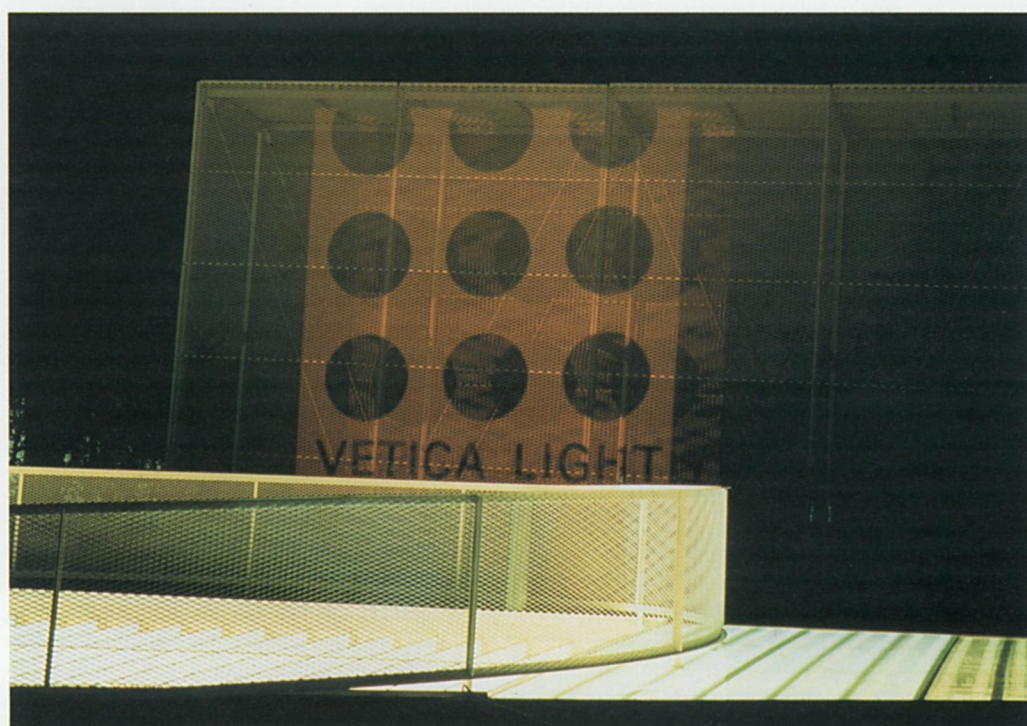
OPPOSITE PAGE & PAGE 25

Views of the AA Exhibition Gallery showing the first exhibition in London of work by Kazuyo Sejima, held at the AA during 5–27 June 1996. The installation consisted of twenty tables for twenty projects dating from 1987 to 1996. (Photograph p. 18 by Valerie Bennett, p. 25 by Sue Barr and Valerie Bennett.)



Site plan and roof plan







MULTIMEDIA STUDIO: Entrance stair, rooftoplight, and interior views.

N-MUSEUM

The N-Museum is located in Wakayama prefecture, in the small town of Nakahechi, which lies in a valley surrounded by mountains. The Kumano Kodo – the old pilgrimage road leading to the Kumano Taisha shrine – passes through the town, which is right in the middle of the route. The site for the museum is next to a river, and together with the old road it will act as a landmark in this mountainous landscape.

The main purpose of the new building is to house and exhibit the work of two local artists, but it will also provide a meeting-place for the town's inhabitants. The single-storey reinforced-concrete structure, now under construction, will include an exhibition space, storage space for art works, a multi-purpose hall,

an office, and a maintenance/security room.

The layout of the museum was determined by the need to provide one spacious room, the exhibition hall. This room is surrounded by corridors, and flying out from the periphery are the storage spaces, offices and toilets. The wall section in this corridor zone is bent in order to create space for the multi-purpose hall, which is situated along the riverside. On the opposite side is the lobby.

The corridor belt not only envelops the exhibition hall but allows efficient circulation and access to the offices and storage spaces. In addition, it acts as a buffer zone for the exhibition area, making it easier to maintain a stable environment for the display of art works.

Apart from the flying-out movement of the area housing the offices and storage, a strong

frontality is maintained on the exterior of the building, which is positioned in the middle of the site so that the surrounding spaces can accommodate outdoor activities. Visitors can approach the museum from any direction without interfering with its basic function of providing a venue for exhibitions – an arrangement that attempts to ensure a visual and programmatic continuity.

Design principals: Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa

Design team: Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa,

Jin Hosoya, Yoshitaka Tanase

Structural engineers: Matsui Gengo & O.R.S.

Mechanical engineers: ES Associates,

N.E. Planners Inc.

Site area: 4,500 square metres

Floor area: 738 square metres

