

Kishō Kurokawa

Japanese Architect

Caylee Taylor

DES 480 - Senior Seminar

Professor Meirav Goldhour



BIOGRAPHY

- Born – April 8, 1934
- Died – October 12, 2007
- Involved in the Expo 70
- Co-founder of Japanese Metabolist movement (1960)
- Concrete and metal were often his medium of choice
- Studied architecture at the University of Tokyo
- Undergrad degree – Kyōto University (1957)
- Wrote numerous books on architecture
 - Metabolism in Architecture (1977)
 - Rediscovering Japanese Space (1988)
 - Intercultural Architecture: The Philosophy of Symbiosis (1991)
 - From Metabolism to Symbiosis (1992)
 - Kisho Kurokawa: From the Age of the Machine to the Age of Life (1998)



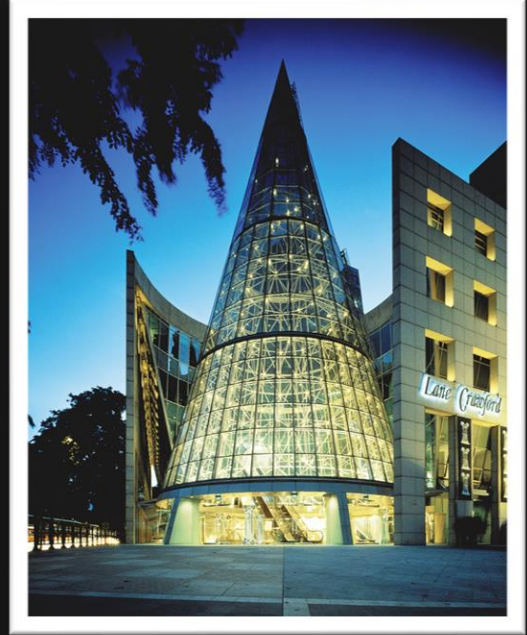
HIS ARCHITECTURE



Nakagin Capsule Tower



Toshiba - IHI Pavilion



Wheelock Place

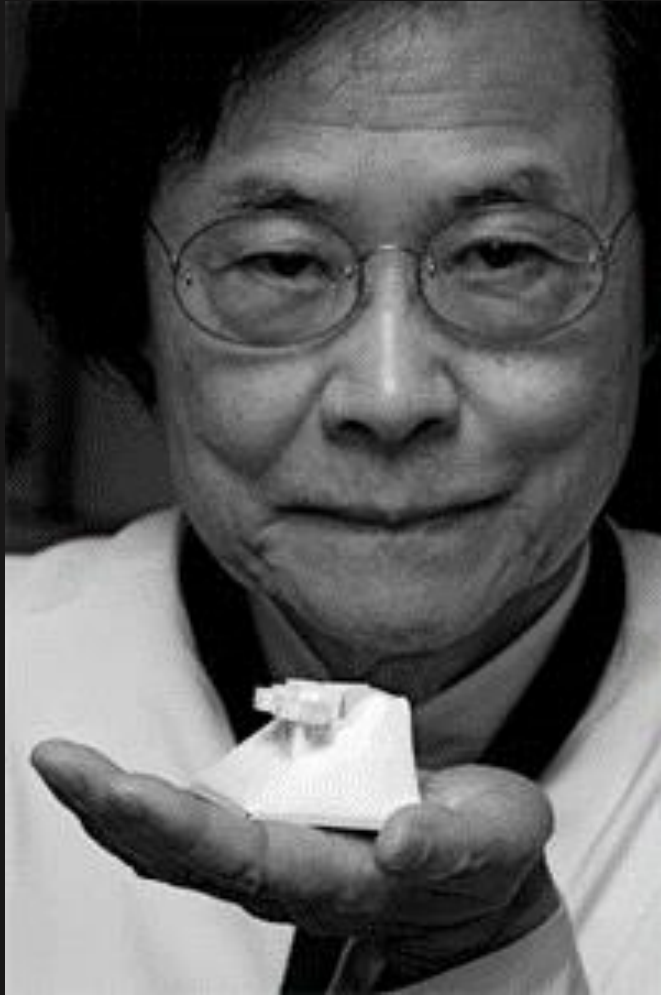


Van Gogh Museum



Japan Bridge - Pont D'art

WHO HE IS INFLUENCED BY



Kurokawa's influence is not necessarily a WHO but multiple WHATS.

Mainly, his buildings were inspired by the impact of destruction that was continuously left on Japan. Kisho says that it impacted him and helped to shape his beliefs to move from “the age of machine” to the “age of life.” He said there is “an uncertainty about existence, a lack of faith in the visible, a suspicion of the eternal.” So with this influence, he builds buildings from scratch.

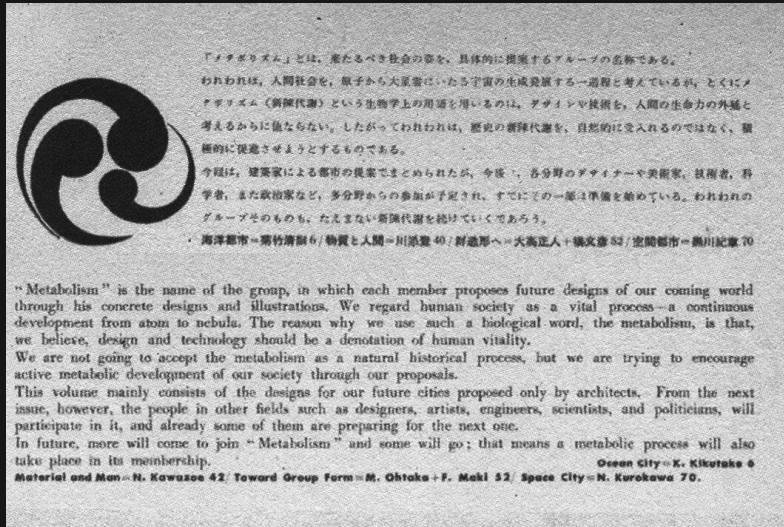
Kishō wants to promote Buddhism's tolerance that elements and styles can coexist, have their own identities and gain influence from life.

The Kuala Lumpur International Airport is one example of a building he designed that had influence from a previous culture. He was inspired by the Malaysian architectural traditions.

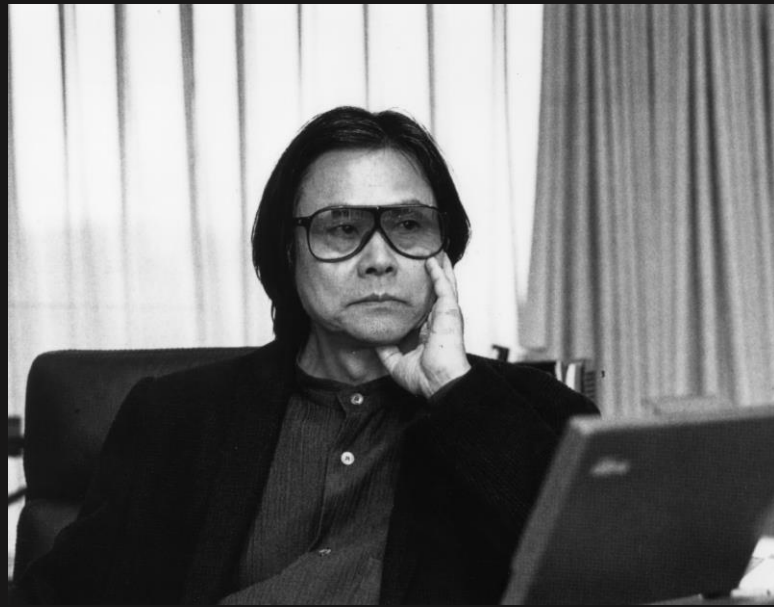
The Metabolist movement, that he was a part of and helped found, was also a major influence to most of his work.

WHAT IS THE METABOLIST MOVEMENT?

- Founded by – Kiyonori Kikutake, Fumihiko Maki, Noboru Kawazoe, and Kishō Kurokawa
- Heavily influenced by their professor: Kenzo Tange
- Post World War II
- Architectural response – new promise of change
- Rethink society using architecture as a tool for potential change
- How building can change, grow, and evolve
- Renewal, Replacement, Regeneration
- Inspired by the word Metabolism
- Based in the natural circle of life
- Addresses urban problems in Japanese society
- Manifesto: Metabolism - Proposals for A New Urbanism



“Metabolism is the name of the group, in which each member proposes further designs of our coming world through his concrete designs and illustrations. We regard human society as a vital process - a continuous development from atom to nebula. The reason why we use such a biological word, metabolism, is that we believe design and technology should be a denotation of human society. We are not going to accept metabolism as a natural process, but try to encourage active metabolic development of our society through our proposals”



Kishō lead with a philosophical approach to understanding architecture by advocating concepts that are based on the Life Principal. These approaches of Symbiosis, Metabolism, Information, Recycle, Ecology, Intermediate Space, Fractal, and Ambiguity drove him to design structures to accommodate different theories, cultures, and clashing personalities. With a desire to “blend those poles, the scientific and the historical,” his work is flexible, extendable structures that can be added to over time. While incorporating Japanese social and historical tradition, he pushes boundaries in order to establish ways of viewing architecture and seaked to make it as relevant as possible to adapt to modern needs.

Influenced by traditional Japan, Kishō’s designs embraced abstract geometrical forms while insisting they retain an often-invisible thread of Easter aesthetics. He stated that one of his intentions with design is to be fuzzy. “Great art and architecture should be fuzzy. If it is easy to understand, it is functional like a factory. People can say, ‘this is the entrance way, this is the exit.’ But this is not art. I wanted to create ambiguity and a little bit of confusion. This is what makes people think, or takes them into a maze.”



One of the main reasons I chose Kishō Kurokawa is because I am wanting to design a Willy Taco in Tokyo, Japan for my senior capstone project. I wanted to choose a Japanese architect to do my research on and Kurokawa was the architect I enjoyed the most. His mediums of choice, design focus, his personal style and the qualities of his designs stood out the most to me. I enjoy his use of concrete and metal, his design focus is commercial architecture, his pieces are modern yet sustainable, and he was always described and pictured well dressed. Aesthetic, fashion, and interesting design are all important to me and he captures those elements with his work.

[Famous Japanese Architects \(japan-guide.com\)](http://japan-guide.com)

[Kisho Kurokawa, 73; influential Japanese architect who designed adaptable structures - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](http://latimes.com)

[Kurokawa Kishō | Japanese architect | Britannica](http://Britannica.com)

[Spotlight: Kisho Kurokawa | ArchDaily](http://ArchDaily.com)

[THE METABOLISM MOVEMENT - THE PROMISED TOKYO — sabukaru](http://sabukaru.com)

