

Tadao Ando

Jordan Onufer
Senior Seminar
Meirav Goldhour
October 19, 2021

About

- Self-taught
- Born in 1941 in Osaka, Ando worked as a professional boxer and truck driver before apprenticing as a carpenter and turning to design.
- “After continually attempting to have his carpentry clients accept his designs, only to be turned down, he decided to teach himself architecture by devouring the reading list of university architecture students.” (Chattyfeet)
- “What was meant to be read over the course of four years took him only one. Additionally, he took distance education courses in drawing to prepare himself for his profession.”
- “His architecture practice, which he began in 1969, is still based in Osaka, bucking the convention that pushed architects to go to Tokyo to find success. While much of his work is in and around Osaka, he’s also branched out overseas with several big projects, including the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth in Texas and 152 Elizabeth, a residential tower in New York City.” (Chattyfeet)
- Inspired by architects like Le Corbusier and having immersed himself in great classical architecture, he continues to strive to create and transcend what has come before.

“The real importance of architecture is its ability to move people’s hearts deeply” (Ando)

“I am always trying to establish spaces where people can gather and interact with one another.” (Ando)

“Architecture is something to be experienced with all five sense – not just the eyes.” (Ando)



Characteristics of Tadao Ando's Architecture

Nature:

- “Architecture is at its best when it allows people to experience the beauty of nature” (Chattyfeet)
- “Architecture is not a self-independent individuality. In my opinion, it comes to existence only through relation to various elements of the surroundings like water, green, light or wind” (Ando)

Light:

- In keeping with his minimalist aesthetic, Ando's use of light allows him to subtly guide the mood of each building
- His strategic use of natural light is a hallmark of his style
- “With sparse interior decoration, people are left to ponder the space and the passage of time via the changing light dynamics within his architecture.” (Chattyfeet)

Space:

- “When I design buildings, I think of the overall composition, much as the parts of a body would fit together. On top of that, I think about how people will approach the building and experience that space... If you give people nothingness, they can ponder what can be achieved from that nothingness” (Ando)
- “Ando's desire to help people reflect on their inner selves rather than focus on the outward visual is just one way the Japanese Zen philosophy manifests itself in his work. His meticulous use of space and his emphasis on the physical experience of architecture is a large part of what has made him one of the greatest architects of our time.” (Chattyfeet)

Geometry:

- “I believe that the emotional power in architecture comes from how we introduce natural elements into the architectural space. Therefore, rather than making elaborate forms, I choose simple geometries to draw delicate yet dramatic plays of light and shadow in space.” (Chattyfeet)

Materials:

- One of Tadao Ando's defining characteristics is his use of concrete
- “What distinguishes his use of this common material is the smooth, almost reflective finish he's able to achieve. Combined with bare, minimalist walls, this allows him to bring focus to the form of the building, as this is what he believes brings emotional impact to architecture. Ando achieves his characteristic concrete finish by varnishing the forms before pouring begins.” (Chattyfeet)

Architecture Work



Ando's Design Philosophy

“Tadao Ando’s design presents the concept of the spirit of place and establishes the nature and soul of architecture. The creation of a situation is to enlighten people and enable them to understand the potential meaning, revealing a state of awareness. Tadao Ando enables people to relate to his emotional design situation that reflects the Zen state of mind inherent in traditional Japanese culture, which is characterized as being quiet, distant, clear, and poetic. Tadao does this while combining modernism in his minimalistic designs.” (International)

How my Design Philosophy Relates

Sage & Ivy is a company that believes everyone should have a space of their own to call home. Our designers are very experienced in transforming your imaginations into beautiful and practical spaces that tell your story without you ever having to say a word. We believe that home is a place for you and your family to dream, be inspired, connect, and be together. Sage & Ivy combines passion, creativity, and uniqueness to produce one of a kind designs, personalized to your wants, needs, and aspirations. At Sage & Ivy we strive to create meaningful designs that last lifetimes.

- I believe in certain homes/places having a soul or spirit
- I believe in connecting people with certain spaces
- I want to transform places into their greatest potential by bringing out the uniqueness of the space and transforming it into a certain family's story/style

How my Work Relates to Tadao Ando's

Nature:

- Colors
- Inspiration
- Greenery

"You cannot simply put something new into a place. You have to absorb what you see around you, what exists on the land, and then use that knowledge along with contemporary thinking to interpret what you see." ~ Tadao Ando

Light:

- Natural Light
- Open Floor Plans

"If I can create some space that people haven't experienced before and if it stays with them or gives them a dream for the future, that's the kind of structure I seek to create." ~ Tadao Ando

"You can't really say what is beautiful about a place, but the image of the place will remain vividly with you." ~ Tadao Ando

Minimalistic:

- Only the things you "need"
- Style

"I like ruins because what remains is not the total design, but the clarity of thought, the naked structure, the spirit of the thing." ~ Tadao Ando

"I want to create a space that moves people. It doesn't matter if it is a house, or a museum, or whatever. So, it is somebody sitting on that lawn, just going around and around and feeling really happy. That is something that I'm striving for." ~ Tadao Ando

Works Cited

Allen, Eric. "13 Examples of Modern Architecture by Tadao Ando." *Architectural Digest*, Architectural Digest, 23 July 2016,

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/13-examples-of-modern-architecture-by-tadao-ando>.

Chattyfeet, et al. "The Life and Work of Acclaimed Japanese Architect Tadao Ando." *My Modern Met*, 19 Oct. 2018,

<https://mymodernmet.com/tadao-ando-architecture/>.

Hamdy, Farah. "Exploring the Work of Tadao Ando and the Theory of Pure Geometry." *Business & Arts*, Business & Arts, 16 July 2020,

<https://www.businessnarts.com/blog/exploring-the-work-of-tadao-ando-and-the-theory-of-pure-geometry>.

International Scientific Academy of Engineering & Technology, <http://www.isaet.org/>.