

FOSTER + PARTNERS: ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM, INNOVATION

JANUARY 1 [FRI] – FEBRUARY 14 [SUN], 2016

SKY GALLERY, TOKYO CITY VIEW (52F, ROPPONGI HILLS MORI TOWER)

THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION IN JAPAN TO COMPREHENSIVELY SURVEY FOSTER + PARTNERS, THE INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN STUDIO LED BY NORMAN FOSTER

Founded in 1967 by architect Norman Foster, Foster + Partners is an international architecture and design studio that has completed more than 300 projects in 45 countries around the globe. They have created numerous contemporary architectural masterpieces that will be familiar to anyone who has travelled to the cities concerned, including the London headquarters of *Swiss Re* (known locally as *The Gherkin*) and *the Reichstag*, which houses the German parliament and has become a major tourist attraction in Berlin as the symbol of German reunification. As well, they are involved in a series of projects that could be said to epitomize innovation in architecture, including the new *Apple Campus 2*, and lunar habitations made from lunar soil using a robot-operated 3D printer. Throughout its history, Foster + Partners has consistently pursued such universal themes as “tradition and the future” and “humans and the environment” as they



Reichstag, New German Parliament 1992-1999 Berlin, Germany Photo: Rudi Meisel

create architecture and cities based on innovative ideas. “Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation” will be the first exhibition in Japan to comprehensively survey Foster + Partners’ design activities over the last half century through a vast array of items including models, videos, furniture, computer graphics, products, plans and sketches focusing on around 50 representative projects.

Message From Lord Norman Foster

It is a pleasure to introduce our work in the exhibition of the Mori Art Museum. I would like to list some of the patterns that weave through our projects and have been constants since the birth of our studio nearly 50 years ago.

- A social agenda which is rooted in the belief that the quality of the design of our environment can improve the quality of our lives.
- Working with nature to reduce the energy demands of buildings and infrastructure, harvesting solar energy, using new and established technologies to do more with less.
- Pursuing innovation to reinvent such building types as airports, towers and workplaces.
- Encouraging the integration of art and architecture – of light and lightness.
- Embracing the past in regenerating historic structures with the presence of the new.
- Engaging with the city in creating and improving public spaces.

Many of these themes, especially sustainable design, are even more relevant now than they were in the past and they have the power to inform bold new initiatives for our future.



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PRESS RELEASE

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NORMAN FOSTER, BARON FOSTER OF THAMES BANK

Born in 1935 in Manchester, England. Raised in a modest working-class family, Foster began contemplating a career in architecture in 1951 (at age 16) while working in the Treasurer's Department of Manchester Town Hall. He completed national service in 1953 serving in the Royal Air Force. Upon entering the University of Manchester School of Architecture and City Planning in 1956, he began his formal education in architecture. After graduating in 1961, he was awarded a fellowship to the Yale School of Architecture, where he studied under Paul Rudolph, and earned his Master's degree. In 1963 he set up the architectural practice Team 4, with former Yale classmate and friend Richard Rogers. In 1967, he established Foster Associates (which later became Foster + Partners). He collaborated with R. Buckminster Fuller, whom he considered his mentor, from 1971 until Fuller's death in 1983. In 1990 he was granted a knighthood by the Queen of England, and in 1999 was honored with a Life Peerage, becoming Lord Foster of Thames Bank. 1999 also brought him the prestigious Pritzker Prize, often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture, and 2002 the Praemium Imperiale Award for Architecture by the Japan Art Association. One of his earliest buildings, *Willis Faber and Dumas Headquarters* (1975) has been given architectural heritage (Grade I Listed building) status. He is the subject of the 2010 documentary film "How Much Does Your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?" His hobbies include flying airplanes, cycling, and cross-country skiing.



Riverside Apartments And Studio
London, UK

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organizer: Mori Art Museum

Exhibition planning: Mori Art Museum, Foster + Partners

In Association with: British Council

Corporate sponsors: Obayashi Corporation, Panasonic Corporation, Toyota Motor Corporation, Fujitec Co., Ltd., Irie Miyake Architects & Engineers, Kajima Corporation, Kanden Co., Ltd., Kenchiku Setsubi Sekkei Kenkyusho, Kume Sekkei Co., Ltd., Kyuden Co., Ltd., Miwa Lock Co., Ltd., Nihon Sekkei, Inc., Sanken Setsubi Kogyo Co., Ltd., Sanki Engineering Co., Ltd., Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd., Yamashita Sekkei Inc., Kinden Corporation, Komaihaltec Inc., Shinryo Corporation

Production Support: inter. office Ltd., Imamura Laboratory, Chiba Institute of Technology

Support: Suntory Beer Limited

Period: Friday, January 1 - Sunday, February 14, 2016

Venue: Sky Gallery, Tokyo City View, 52F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Open Hours: 10:00-22:00 (Last Admission 21:30) * Open everyday.

Admissions: General: ¥1,800 / University/Highschool student: ¥1,200 / Child (age 4 up to junior highschool student): ¥600 / Senior (ages 65 and over): ¥1,500 | * All prices include tax. | * Additional entrance fee to the Mori Art Museum "Takashi Murakami: The 500 Arhats" is required. | * Admission ticket to "Takashi Murakami: The 500 Arhats" alone NOT valid for this exhibition. | * Additional entrance fee (¥500) to Sky Deck will incur.

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EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Tradition and the future – Unique approaches and methods that breathe new life into architectural heritage and link them to the future

“Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation” provides valuable insights into Foster + Partners’ unique approaches and methods that involve recognizing and reclaiming the historical background and settings of traditional structures while employing state-of-the-art technology, including the redevelopment of *the Reichstag*, which houses the German Parliament and has become a tourist mecca in Berlin as the symbol of the reunification of Germany, and the conversion of the central courtyard of the British Museum into a beautiful glass-covered atrium known as *the Great Court*.



Reichstag, New German Parliament
1992-1999 Berlin, Germany

The dome of which was destroyed during World War II, was rebuilt in glass. A mirrored cone in the center of the dome directs sunlight into the chamber below. The dome symbolizes political transparency by opening up the space above the debating chamber to the public as an observation area. This observation area provides a 360-degree view of the city.

Innovative projects that will shape the cities and architecture of the near future

The exhibition also features innovative projects that will shape cities and architecture of the near future, including *Apple Campus 2*, a piece of sustainable architecture, and lunar habitations made from lunar soil using a robot-operated 3D printer.



Apple Campus 2
2016 (scheduled) California, USA

Humans and the environment – A design philosophy fostered through collaborations with R. Buckminster Fuller, famous for popularizing the concept of "Spaceship Earth"

Here we trace the origins of Foster’s architecture by focusing on projects undertaken in the 12-year period from 1971 to 1983 when Foster collaborated with R. Buckminster Fuller, the engineer and philosopher who raised and proposed solutions to various global environmental problems from the 1930s onwards and who continues to have a major influence on architects and artists.



Foster Associates staff and R. Buckminster Fuller discussing the *Samuel Beckett Theatre* on the right is Norman Foster 1971

A special viewing experience in a gallery space with panoramic views of Tokyo

A vast array of works including models, videos and computer graphics will be displayed in the Sky Gallery at Tokyo City View, an observation deck 250 meters above sea level, offering visitors a special viewing experience with the cityscape below. Visitors can also savor the luxury of enjoying videos in a lounge with a bird’s-eye view of the whole city surrounded by furniture and other products designed by Foster + Partners.



Mock-up image of the exhibition

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EXHIBITION OUTLINE

Founded in 1967 by architect Norman Foster, Foster + Partners is an international architecture and design studio that undertakes projects all over the world, including work on Grade I listed buildings, the highest protection category in the UK. They have created numerous contemporary architectural masterpieces that will be familiar to anyone who has travelled to the cities concerned, including the London headquarters of *Swiss Re* (known locally as *The Gherkin*), *the Reichstag*, which houses the German parliament and has become a major tourist attraction in Berlin as the symbol of German reunification, and *the Great Court at the British Museum*, which was converted from a central lost courtyard into a beautiful glass-covered atrium. As well, they have been involved in a series of projects that could be said to epitomize innovation in architecture, such as Apple's new corporate headquarters, and lunar habitations made from lunar soil using a robot-operated 3D printer. Throughout its history, Foster + Partners has consistently pursued such universal themes as the nature of space in a finite global environment, creating architecture and cities based on innovative ideas.

A reconfiguration based on the Mori Art Museum's own unique perspective of "Foster + Partners: The Art of Architecture," an exhibition that was a hit when it toured North and South America, Asia and other parts of the world since 2009, "Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation" is the first exhibition in Japan to comprehensively survey Foster + Partners' design activities over the last half century by presenting models, videos, photographs, plans and sketches centered on some 50 representative projects.

In the exhibition, we also focus on the relationship between Foster + Partners in its early years and R. Buckminster Fuller, the engineer and philosopher who from the 1930s to the 1970s raised and proposed solutions to global environmental issues such as ecology and sustainability and who continues to have a major influence on architects and artists. For a period of over 15 years from around 45 years ago when they had only just opened their office, Norman Foster and his associates collaborated with Fuller and were greatly influenced by him. Even today, when Foster + Partners has grown into a large organization, it could be argued that it is the philosophy espoused by Norman Foster and Fuller that continues to provide the backbone of the organization and has enabled it to create architectural works underpinned by a coherent approach.

The exhibition is being held at the Sky Gallery, the exhibition space inside the Roppongi Hills observation deck, Tokyo City View. A vast array of works including models, videos and furniture will be displayed against a backdrop of magnificent panoramic views of Tokyo. This special exhibition, the likes of which could not be experienced in a typical gallery space within a museum, is a golden opportunity not only to learn about Foster's architecture, but also to imagine and talk about the future of our architecture and cities.



Willis Faber and Dumas Headquarters 1975 Ipswich, UK

An early masterpiece. The dark glass exterior that reflects the building's surroundings was used in an effort to harmonize it with the old part of the city. The atrium, which is filled with natural light, features a green-carpeted interior and leads to a rooftop garden. Designated a Grade I listed building, the highest protection category in the UK, equivalent to Japan's National Treasures.



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SECTIONS

■ Section 1

The Architectural Philosophy behind Foster + Partners

Between 1971 when his career was still in its early stage and 1983, Foster collaborated with R. Buckminster Fuller, one of the 20th century's foremost engineers and philosophers, and was greatly influenced by Fuller's ideas. At a time when such concepts as sustainability and ecology did not exist, Fuller, who referred to our planet as "Spaceship Earth," was among the first to point out and put forward solutions to a number of global issues confronting humankind. In this section, some of the joint projects undertaken by Foster and Fuller are presented as well as a selection of early works that later formed the basis of Foster + Partners projects.



Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts 1978 Norwich, UK
Fuller's question, "How much does your building weigh, Mr Foster?" posed to Foster during a visit to the site, became the title of the 2010 documentary film about Foster's work.

■ Section 2

From Space to Environment – The Foster + Partners Design Process

Here we introduce a choice selection of large-scale projects by Foster + Partners that illustrates its use of state-of-the-art design and technology in addressing issues that transcend individual countries, such as ecology, sustainability, history, tradition, region and state. Through investigative to completed models, videos, photographs and sketches, we give a sense of the design process as well as the dynamism of the creation of the architecture.



Queen Elizabeth II Great Court at the British Museum 2000 London, UK
The central courtyard of the British Museum was redeveloped into a sunlit atrium by covering the top with a glass roof while retaining the reading room that was built in 1857 in the center. *The Great Court* acts as a massive entrance space leading visitors to the various galleries at the museum. Each of the 3,312 glass window panels that make up the roof is a unique shape.

■ Section 3

Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation – Ideas for Future Lifestyles

After half a century, Foster + Partners' design practice is entering a new stage. Research is being undertaken on a number of seemingly utopian projects such as massive buildings and cities that have as their objective zero emissions and lunar habitation with an eye to turning them into reality. In this section we introduce these near-future cities and architecture supported by state-of-the-art technology.



Masdar City 2007– Abu Dhabi, UAE
A 640-hectare (approx. 60 times the area of Roppongi Hills) experimental city currently under construction on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi that aims to rely completely on renewable energy sources.

The latest press images are available on our website for downloads:
<https://mam-media.com/en/press-img>

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❓ EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

■ Talk Session “Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation”

* Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available

David Nelson who worked on early representative projects such as Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and is head of Design at Foster + Partners will be joined by Namba Kazuhiko, well-known architect for his analysis of Foster's architectural projects with his unique perspective of “sustainable architecture while utilizing technology” developed since the 1980s, in order to discuss the future of our architecture and cities.

Speakers: David Nelson (Senior Executive Partner, Head of Design, Foster + Partners),
Namba Kazuhiko (Architect, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo)

Moderator: Nanjo Fumio (Director, Mori Art Museum)

Date & Time: 14:00–16:00, Sunday, January 17, 2016 (Doors open 13:30)

Venue: Academyhills (49F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

Capacity: 300 (booking required)

Admission: General ¥1,000 / MAMC Member free

Organizer: Mori Art Museum

Cooperation: Academyhills

Booking: Mori Art Museum Website www.mori.art.museum



David Nelson
Photograph by Nigel Young/
Foster + Partners.



Namba Kazuhiko

■ Gallery Talks * Conducted in Japanese

Specialists discuss various aspects of the show from their own perspectives with the Mori Art Museum staff member in charge of the exhibition.

#1 “From Early Works to Recent Projects”

Speaker: Tony Miki (Partner, Foster+Partners)

Date & Time: 14:00–15:00, Saturday, January 16, 2016



Tony Miki
Photograph by Nigel Young/
Foster + Partners

#2 “Norman Foster and British Contemporary Architecture”

Speaker: Imamura Souhei (Architect, Associate Professor for Chiba Institute of Technology)

Date & Time: 19:00–20:00, Thursday, January 28, 2016



Imamura Souhei

#3 “The Influence of Buckminster Fuller Seen in Foster's Architecture”

Speaker: Komiyama Yosuke (Architect)

Date & Time: 19:00–20:00, Thursday, February 4, 2016



Komiyama Yosuke

Discussant: Maeda Naotake (In charge of the exhibition, Curatorial Group, Mori Art Museum)

Venue: Sky Gallery, Tokyo City View (52F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

Capacity: 15 (each)

Admission: Free (exhibition ticket required)

Booking: NOT required (first-come basis; please come to the entrance hall of the exhibition directly)

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■ Children's Architecture Workshop * Conducted in Japanese

Light delivery group "Hikariunso," who light up the hearts and minds of people, will hold a workshop exploring the subject of structures. Using simple, everyday materials such as straws and paper clips, participants will construct tetrahedron-based structures dubbed "cotetras" – the "co" standing for "communication" and "collaboration." What kind of buildings will the group's ideas create? Join in and see.

Instructor: Hikariunso

Date & Time: 10:00-12:30, Sunday, January 24, 2016

Venue: Sky Gallery, Tokyo City View (52F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

For: Elementary school children (ages 9 to 12)

Capacity: 15 (booking required, attendees chosen by lottery)

Admission: ¥500 (for material cost only)

Booking: Mori Art Museum Website www.mori.art.museum

Hikariunso Website: <http://www.hikariunso.com/>



Hikariunso



Hikariunso

* Please note that speakers are subject to change without prior notice.

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