



Embassy of Japan in Ireland
Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)

7 February 2014

[14-03]

“Kumamoto Artpolis: Architecture Through Communication”

In cooperation with the Japan Foundation, and in co-sponsorship with the RIAI, the Embassy of Japan in Ireland presents an exhibition of photographs entitled “Kumamoto Artpolis: Architecture Through Communication” at the RIAI (8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2), from 9.00 to 17.00, Monday to Friday between 5 and 25 March 2014. Admission is free for this Experience Japan 2014 pre-event.

Kumamoto Prefecture is a medium-sized prefecture with a population of 1.8 million, situated in southern Japan. “Kumamoto Artpolis” is a programme operated by the Local Government Authorities of the prefecture since 1988 up to the present. They call for young and energetic architects to design public buildings such as museums, schools and hospitals to enhance the local culture through architecture and to raise the awareness of local people towards regional development and revitalisation (<http://www.pref.kumamoto.jp/site/artpolis-en/kenchiku@pref.kumamoto.lg.jp>). This unique programme as a method of local revitalisation has been widely recognised and praised, and awarded more than 70 prizes both at home and abroad. More than 70 images and sketches of Kumamoto Artpolis will be displayed at the RIAI. These images represent the creative design of the Japanese architects who participated in the project.

The highlight of the exhibition is “Ushibuka Haiya Bridge” (Project Number 16) which was designed by the renowned Irish structural engineer Peter Rice with Renzo Piano and Noriaki Okabe in the 1990’s. It is 13.6 metres wide and 883 metres long with girders 5 metres in height. The curved surfaces of the windbreak and the bottom of the bridge help to break down the five-meter height of the girder into three parts, creating a rhythmical pattern of light and shadow. The white windbreak flaps, which face upwards, form a rhythmical series of delicate mirrors, reflecting the changing light and colour of the sky.

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and in co-sponsorship with
the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI),
the Embassy of Japan in Ireland presents
an exhibition of photographs

Kumamoto Artpolis:

Architecture Through
Communication

5 -25 March 2014

9.00 - 17.00

Monday - Friday

RIAI, 8 Merrion Square

Dublin 2

Admission Free

Information:

Embassy of Japan in Ireland

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RIAI

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Experience Japan 2014 pre-event



Ushibuka Haiya Bridge (KAP016), Designed by Renzo Piano, Noriaki Okabe and Peter Rice. Photo: Shoichi Ishimaru, K.A.P.