METABOLISM, THE CITY OF THE FUTURE

17 SEPTEMBER (SAT), 2011 – 15 JANUARY (SUN), 2012 MORI ART MUSEUM (ROPPONGI HILLS MORI TOWER 53F)

MORI ART MUSEUM TO HOLD WORLD’S FIRST EXHIBITION OF “METABOLISM,” A REPRESENTATIVE MOVEMENT IN JAPANESE MODERN ARCHITECTURE HISTORY

The Mori Art Museum presents “Metabolism, the City of the Future” from Saturday, 17 September, 2011 to Sunday, 15 January, 2012. Metabolism which sprang up in the 1960s remains the most widely known modern architecture movement to have emerged from Japan. As its biological name suggests, the movement contends that buildings and cities should be designed in the same continuous way that the material substance of a natural organism is produced. This is the first exhibition in the world to provide such a comprehensive overview of the movement. Models, archive film footage, and 3D computer graphic images of grand visions of future cities held by the architect Tange Kenzo, as well as Kurokawa Kisho, Kikutake Kiyonori, and others who had come under the influence of Tange, and their experimental architecture which has become a reality in today’s cities, will be exhibited for exploration of their meaning from a current perspective.

MAIN FEATURES

■ CLARIFICATION OF “METABOLISM,” AN ARCHITECTURE MOVEMENT THAT EMERGED FROM JAPAN

The exhibition regards the 30 years between the Expo 1940 – which was planned to be held in Tokyo but was not held there due to World War II – to Osaka Expo ’70 as the most important moment in Japan’s modern architectural history. Then it explores in the historical context the thoughts and traces of Tange Kenzo, which led to the birth of the Metabolism, and activities of architects who advanced the movement under their influence. The exhibition also examines how the movement’s vision has been inherited in the design of buildings and cities up to now.

■ NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN ARCHIVE FILM FOOTAGE, RARE MODELS AND MATERIALS

The 500 or more exhibits, consisting of building models, sketches, and documentary films, from about 100 projects will be exhibited. Owned by architects and other related people, many of these works are rare materials seldom viewed by the public and exhibited for the first time in Japan.

■ 3DCG IMAGES OF LEGENDARY FUTURE CITY PLAN

Produced especially for this exhibition, about 10 3D computer graphic images of future city plans that could not be expressed in drawings and models in the 1960s, including A Plan for Tokyo 1960 by Tange Kenzo and others – which is known for its revolutionary ideas for the design of a new Tokyo on Tokyo Bay – will be exhibited.

■ DEEPLY RELATED ARTWORKS AND DESIGN WORKS IN THE ERA OF METABOLISM

In the era of Metabolism, interaction among architecture, art, and design was stimulated, centered on the concept of “environment,” which became an important topic because of pollution and other problems. This exhibition introduces the interaction by reconstructing the exhibition “From Space to Environment,” (Ginza Matsuya, 1966) which epitomizes that interaction.

■ ANNOUNCING THE METABOLISM LOUNGE

Plans include a book lounge offering books on Metabolism. Visitors will be allowed to browse books in the lounge, which will also serve as the venue for the lecture series and show new research data and urban projects.
Organizers: Mori Art Museum, UIA201 I TOKYO, Nikkei Inc.
Advisory Committee: Isozaki Arata, Ekuan Kenji, Otaka Masato, Kawazoe Noboru,
Kikutake Kiyonori, Fujimori Terunobu, Maki Fumihiko, Yatsuka Hajime and others
Curated by: Mori Art Museum, Metabolism Association
(Yatsuka Hajime, Asada Mari, Imamura Souhei, Ohta Kayoko, Kaneko Yosuke, Kikuchi Makoto, Seng Kuan, Toda Jo,
Toyokawa Saikaku, Nango Yoshikazu, Hino Naohiko, Matsushita Kiwa, Mizutani Akihiro, Yamana Yoshiyuki)
Cooperation: Yatsuka Laboratory in Shibaura Institute of Technology, Kikuchi Laboratory in Shibaura Institute of Technology,
Yamana Laboratory in Tokyo University of Science, Digital Hollywood University, Graduate School and others
Support: Commemorative organization for the Japan World Exposition ‘70, and others

Venue: Mori Art Museum 53F Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo Japan
Open Hours: 10:00 – 22:00 | Tue: 10:00 – 17:00 | *Admission until 30 minutes before closing | *Open everyday.
Admission: Adult: ¥1,500 University / Highschool student: ¥1,000 / Child (4 years to Junior Highschool student): ¥500 | *All prices include tax.
*Ticket also valid for ‘MAM Project 014: Taguchi Yukihiro’ and Tokyo City View observation deck (excludes Sky Deck).
*Additional entrance fee to the Sky Deck is required: ¥300
Tel: 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial) | Website: www.mori.art.museum

EXHIBITION OUTLINE

Metabolism which sprang up in the 1960s remains the most widely known modern architecture movement
to have emerged from Japan. As its biological name suggests, the movement contends that buildings and
cities should be designed in the same organic way that life grows and changes by repeating metabolism.

At the World Design Conference of 1960, the Metabolism group — formed by architecture critic
Kawazoe Noboru, architects Otaka Masato, Maki Fumihiko, Kikutake Kiyonori and Kurokawa Kisho, designers
Awazu Kiyoshi, Ekuan Kenji, and others who had come under the influence of the architect Tange Kenzo —
presented a manifesto entitled, “Metabolism 1960: Proposals for a New Urbanism.” The movement went
on to involve numerous other architects such as Isozaki Arata and Otani Sachio throughout Japan’s period of
rapid economic growth, and ultimately came to define this key moment in the country’s modern architectural
history. Fifty years on, there is now increasing momentum for a reappraisal of the Metabolists’ grand visions
of future cities, as an important pioneering example in assessing today’s cities.

This is the first exhibition in the world to provide such a comprehensive overview of the Metabolism. It
highlights not only leading architectural and urban projects but also Japan’s postwar reconstruction urban
planning which led up to Metabolism, particularly from Hiroshima Peace Park to art and design from that
period are also introduced, as well as Osaka Expo ’70 — which in many ways was the culmination of the
movement — and later international projects. The exhibition also represents an important opportunity to
collect and archive valuable architectural documents and records, as many others have been lost in recent
years. The 500 or more exhibits from about 100 projects include never-before-seen models, sketches, and
plans owned by architects and other related people, archive film footage rarely viewed by the public, and 3D
computer graphic images of future cities produced for this exhibition.
SECTION 1: BIRTH OF METABOLISM
Metabolism show the strong influence of Tange Kenzo who incorporated his visions of the city into individual building works. This section traces the changes in Japan’s wartime and postwar urban design, focusing on Tange’s Hiroshima projects as the beginning of postwar architectural and urban design, and on the visions of future cities given in the manifesto “Metabolism 1960: Proposals for a New Urbanism.”

SECTION 2: ERA OF METABOLISM
Metabolism saw not just the incomplete conceptualization of future cities but also the realization of numerous experimental buildings. This section introduces activities that were vigorously developed, from urban concepts to public buildings and housing, including: A Plan for Tokyo 1960 by Tange Kenzo, Kurokawa Kisho, Isozaki Arata and others, known for its revolutionary ideas for the design of a new Tokyo on Tokyo Bay; the Nakagin Capsule Tower Building by Kurokawa, which proposed a futuristic lifestyle of living in capsules that came to epitomize the Metabolism; and the South Pole Showa Base by Asada Takashi and others, the origin of prefab housing and an attempt to industrialize architecture and develop self-building.

SECTION 3: FROM SPACE TO ENVIRONMENT
Osaka Expo ’70 was a turning point in Japan’s transition to a consumer and information society. Prior to that, interaction was stimulated among different fields of art, centered on the concept of “environment.” A prime example is found in Yamaguchi Katsuhiko’s Work, showcased at “From Space to Environment” in 1966 and introduced in this section, along with Kiyoshi Awazu’s graphic designs and Expo ’70, from the perspective of cities and buildings. Expo ’70 brought into focus the entire wisdom of the Metabolism and is still thought of today as the epitome of futuristic cities.

SECTION 4: GLOBAL METABOLISM
Tange Kenzo and architects under his influence extended their appeal overseas after Expo ’70. Although most of their plans remain uncompleted, there is considered to be a need to review and reappraise them as the precursors to the current rapid development of Asian cities. This section showcases large, city scale projects, such as Tange’s Reconstruction Plan for Skopje City Center following the earthquake in the Macedonian capital, Kikutake Kiyonori’s Marine City 1971 – Hawaii and Maki Fumihiko’s Republic Polytechnic, the National University of Singapore’s Campus Plans.

METABOLISM LOUNGE
The Metabolism Lounge is a place for contemplating different aspects of future urban design through lectures, exhibitions of new research data and urban projects from universities, urban studies research institutions and companies, books on Metabolism and urban design, archive films of past lectures, and more.
Press images are available on our website.  [WWW.MORI.ART.MUSEUM]