



**Hiroyuki Suzuki
(1945–2014)**

We must bring to you all a very heartbreaking notice of the sudden and totally unexpected loss of a giant, our beloved and most admired Professor Hiroyuki Suzuki, who was not only the former and first president of docomomo Japan but also a Professor Emeritus of The University of Tokyo, Professor at Aoyama Gakuin University Graduate School and the General Director of the Museum Meiji-Mura (a major outdoor architectural museum). He had passed away on February 3, 2014 in a hospital in Tokyo. The cause of death was due to a respiratory complication from pneumonia. He was 68 years old. He was survived by his wife and daughter.

Professor Suzuki (or Suzuki-Sensei, as he was affectionately called) was born in 1945. After graduating from The University of Tokyo in 1968, he continued his architectural study at The Graduate School of Architecture of the same university. Upon completing his master degree, he became a tenure-track lecturer/professor at the same The University of Tokyo, and in 1974, he went to The Courtauld Institute of Art at Somerset House in London for two years as a visiting scholar for further architectural history study. The Courtauld Institute of Art is an independent college of the University of London. Returning to Japan, he became an assistant professor, and in 1990, he became a professor of architecture at The University of Tokyo, furthering his studies until retirement in 2009.

Suzuki-Sensei attended the 5th **docomomo** International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden in 1998, as part of the observing tentative member of Japanese delegate. Subsequently, he was instrumental in the establishment of **docomomo** Japan in 2000. Thus, he became the founding president of **docomomo** Japan. With his enthusiastic leadership, **docomomo** Japan was able to successfully host the major exhibitions of **docomomo** 20 Japan in 1999 and **docomomo** 100 Japan in 2005. Suzuki-Sensei has worked

diligently for the last 15 years as the president of docomomo Japan to promote and preserve the certain historical and cultural value of the architecture based on the notion of Modern Movement in Japan as an active frontrunner. We must reiterate here that docomomo Japan owes much to the extraordinary effort of Suzuki-Sensei.

Suzuki-Sensei's literary output in Japanese of books, essays and journal articles were numerous, and in English language publications including such as 'Contemporary Architecture of Japan 1958–1984 (Rizzoli, New York, 1985) and Shuhei Endo: Paramodern Architecture (Phaidon Press, UK, 2006) are well known.

Suzuki-Sensei played a critical roll in the successful preservation of Hizuchi Elementary School which received the 2012 World Monuments Fund, Knoll Modernism Prize in New York. There are numerous other preservation works as well such as the International House of Japan, Tokyo Central Post Office, Osaka Central Post Office, Kyoto Kaikan, and so on. Additionally, he was involved in the restoration project of the Tokyo Station (completed in 2012). Many among the buildings he cited through **docomomo** Japan have subsequently been registered as Important Cultural Properties of Japan.

His effort was crucial for the organization and inauguration of The National Archives of Modern Architecture which opened in May 2013. As such, Suzuki-Sensei always gave his energy in the important task of carrying the heritage of architecture based upon the Modern Movement to the future generations. His enormous contribution to our cause is simply immeasurable. His personable and warm character made us work in harmony. His keen and deep insights instantly invigorated us intellectually. His leadership is irreplaceable. Hence, we all mourn gravely of Suzuki-Sensei's passing here and now.

Words are inadequate to express, but once again, we, all of us members of **docomomo** Japan, collectively tender Suzuki-Sensei our deepest condolences. And we pledge to carry on our work in accordance with the course he set.

We appreciate for all your concerns and goodwill extended to us in Japan. Thank you.

Sincerely. ■

Hiroshi Matsukuma
docomomo Japan President

Translated into English by Shinichiro Ohnishi.

Conservation and Renovation Project of Hizuchi Elementary School

History

Hizuchi Elementary School is located in Yawatahama City, Ehime Prefecture, which is about 450 miles southwest of Tokyo and on the western shores of Shikoku Island in Japan. It was designed by the municipal architect MATSUMURA Masatsune1 (1913–1993) and completed between 1956 and 1958.

Hizuchi Elementary School has a number of architectural characteristics. They are summarized in the following 6 points.

1. Important example of cluster-style school which separates classroom from corridor.
2. Dual-façade fenestration which allow natural light into classrooms throughout the day.
3. Hybrid structural system which combines wood and steel.
4. Rich spatiality which contemporary architecture lacks.
5. Spatial embodiment of democratic thought of education after World War II in Japan.
6. Original interpretation of western modern architecture.

Hizuchi Elementary School was selected as one of the twenty most representative modern buildings in Japan by **docomomo** Japan in 1999. However, despite this recognition, the building did not meet modern seismic protection. Also, due to the advanced deterioration of the structure over its fifty-year life, Hizuchi Elementary School had suffered from many functional problems such as rain-leakage. The extended debate over these matters was finally resolved when the consortium of experts (described below), through working closely with board of education of Yawatahama City, developed a plan that would restore the structure while adapting it to meet modern safety and educational requirements.

The Restoration

In 2006 detailed survey of present situation was executed. Based on the result of this survey, the consortium developed a concrete plan for renovation and, from 2008 to 2009, the school was meticulously restored: original elements were used wherever possible, with 459 of 462 original pillars and over 90% of architectural fittings re-used; paint colors were restored through trace research; damaged



01 General view from south. © Toru Kitamura, 2009.



02 Entrance hall. © Toru Kitamura, 2009.



03 Restoration work in progress. © Yoshiaki Hanada, 2009.

tiles were replicated with original molds; original glass was replaced with safety glass; classrooms were restored into specific rooms such as a music room and an arts & crafts room. And a new wing which contained classrooms was constructed in keeping with the original architecture.

The project is believed to be the first case of an architecturally significant modern wooden building restoration in Japan. In 2012, the consortium members won the Annual Award of the Architectural Institute of Japan and World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize and Hizuchi Elementary School was designated as a national important cultural property of Japan. Moreover

in 2013 the consortium members won the Architectural Heritage Conservation Award of docomomo.

Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School

The Consortium was formed in 2005, after Yawatahama City established a planning committee for Hizuchi Elementary School's renovation. Six experts – architects and professors – then came together to work on the project with City officials. In addition to the City, the individual members of the consortium are: Hiroyuki Suzuki¹, professor at Aoyama Gakuin University; Kiyotada Magata, professor at Ehime University; Yoshiaki Hanada, professor at Kobe Design

University; Kouichi Wada, president of Wada Architectural Design Atelier; Kazutomi Takechi, CEO of Atelier A&A Ltd; and Mikio Koshihara, professor at the University of Tokyo. ■

Yoshiaki Hanada

docomomo Japan member

- 1 For more details about MATSUMURA Masatsune, please refer to HANADA Yoshiaki, Architect MATSUMURA MASATSUNE and Another Modernism, Kajima Institute Publishing Co., Ltd. 2011.
- 2 Hiroyuki Suzuki, former Chair of **docomomo** Japan, passed away on February 2, 2014. I along with all other members of the Consortium wish to convey our deepest condolences.