



World Monuments Fund/Knoll
Modernism Prize

2012 award to **The Architectural Consortium
for Hizuchi Elementary School**

SUZUKI Hiroyuki, MAGATA Kiyotada, HANADA Yoshiaki,
WADA Kouichi, TAKECHI Kazutomi, KOSHIHARA Mikio,
and Yawatahama City, OHSHIRO Ichiro, Mayor,
for the restoration of Hizuchi Elementary School
Yawatahama City, Ehime Prefecture, Japan

Designed by MATSUMURA Masatsune 1956–1958

Jury Citation

THE 2012 WORLD MONUMENTS FUND/KNOLL MODERNISM PRIZE

is awarded to the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School for the restoration of Hizuchi Elementary School. Located in Yawatahama City, Ehime Prefecture, Japan, Hizuchi was designed by MATSUMURA Masatsune, constructed from 1956 to 1958, and restored by the Consortium from 2008 to 2009.

In its review of the nominations, the jury was delighted to discover an exemplary building in the history of post-war modernist architecture in Japan little known, as yet, outside the country. Even at the time it was built, Hizuchi, a wood-framed modern structure located in a small, relatively remote Japanese town, took the Japanese architectural profession by surprise for its originality and conviction. Of local and national significance, Hizuchi Elementary School has been saved and masterfully restored, and has been re-inscribed in national modern architectural history. It can now be recognized internationally as both an extremely fine building and an absolutely impeccable restoration project.

Equally impressive was the process by which the community was engaged, came to re-appreciate, and eventually saved the school despite some initial sentiment to tear it down following extensive damage in a 2004 typhoon. It is a living piece of the community once again—where schoolchildren are interacting with a very finely designed building in everything from education and recreation to their part in daily maintenance.

The original architectural design and recent restoration of Hizuchi is a reminder that there has always been a dialogue between tradition and modernity in the history of the modern movement. Nowhere is it more important than in Japan, where the discussion of the theme influenced the shape of the country's post-war reconstruction and, in turn, influenced the international debate on modern architecture and community building in the 1950s.

Members of the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School are SUZUKI Hiroyuki, MAGATA Kiyotada, HANADA Yoshiaki, WADA Kouichi, TAKECHI Kazutomi, KOSHIHARA Mikio, and Yawatahama City, OHSHIRO Ichiro, Mayor.

Barry Bergdoll

Jury Chairman



In 2008, the World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize was created to raise public awareness of the influential role modernism continues to play in our architectural heritage, demonstrate how these buildings can remain sustainable structures with vital and viable futures, and enlist wider public support to save and preserve modern buildings at risk. A record 44 nominations from around the world were submitted for the 2012 Prize, illustrating the breadth to which modern buildings of all types continue to be at risk and require help.

The restoration projects for the two previous recipients of the World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize—ADGB Trade Union School in Bernau, Germany (2008) and Zonnestraal Sanatorium in Hilversum, The Netherlands (2010)—reveal that even iconic buildings in the canon of modern architecture can be threatened.

The jury's selection of the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School for the 2012 Prize reminds us that an equally important and vulnerable category of modern buildings at risk are those constructed in the post-war era for every day, civic purposes. Often overlooked or relatively unknown, these schools, municipal buildings, libraries, community centers, etc. are just half a century old, but face increasing threats of perceived obsolescence and demolition. The support and dedication of local communities, like Hizuchi, working with preservationists, designers, and architects to develop workable technical, programmatic, and social solutions are critical to their survival.

By recognizing the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School, we hope to inspire other communities to undertake the efforts necessary to preserve similar civic buildings at risk. World Monuments Fund is grateful to Knoll for this opportunity to draw attention to one of the most pressing issues of historic preservation today.

Bonnie Burnham

President, World Monuments Fund

Since our company's founding almost 75 years ago, Knoll has been committed to connecting people with modern design. We applaud the jury's selection of the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School. Its original design some 54 years ago recalls the original functionalist roots of modern architecture, putting the needs of its users—in this case, school children—at the core of the project. The preservation of Hizuchi is a model of community engagement among architects, engineers, parents, and the school board. The result is a tremendous technical achievement that has sensitively restored this forward-thinking, modern school building, making it, once again, the center of community life.

Through a competition to engage the school with the Prize, the students of Hizuchi were asked to select the color of leather for the Knoll Barcelona® Chair that commemorates this award. Appropriately, the winning entry was orange, reflecting the tangerine groves that remain such a vital part of the local landscape.

Our support of the World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize reinforces our belief that good design can play an enriching role in contemporary life worldwide. On behalf of our associates, I'd like to thank all those who nominated projects and salute the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School for its exemplary work.

Andrew B. Cogen

CEO, Knoll, Inc.





Mr. SUZUKI



Mr. MAGATA



Mr. HANADA



Mr. WADA



Mr. TAKECHI



Mr. KOSHIHARA



Mr. OHSHIRO
Mayor of
Yawatahama City

THE 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 SUZUKI Hiroyuki, professor at Aoyama Gakuin University; MAGATA Kiyotada, professor at Ehime Univeristy; HANADA Yoshiaki, professor at Kobe Design University; WADA Kouichi, president of Wada Architectural Design Atelier; TAKECHI Kazutomi, CEO of Atelier A&A Ltd.; and KOSHIHARA Mikio, professor at the University of Tokyo.

THE JURY

Barry Bergdoll, *Chairman*

*The Philip Johnson Chief Curator
of Architecture & Design
The Museum of Modern Art*

Jean-Louis Cohen

*Sheldon H. Solow Professor
in the History of Architecture
Institute of Fine Arts
New York University*

Kenneth Frampton

*Ware Professor of Architecture,
Graduate School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation
Columbia University*

Dietrich Neumann

*Royce Family Professor for the
History of Modern Architecture and Urban Studies
Department of the History of Art and Architecture
Brown University*

Theodore H.M. Prudon, PhD, FAIA

*Architect, Prudon & Partners LLC,
Adjunct Associate Professor of Historic Preservation,
Columbia University, and President of DOCOMOMO US
and a board member of DOCOMOMO International*

Karen Stein

*Writer, editor, and architectural consultant
Former editorial director of Phaidon Press
Member of the jury for the Pritzker Architecture Prize*



Hizuchi Elementary School and Modernism at Risk

Henry Tzu Ng, Executive Vice President, World Monuments Fund

When Hizuchi Elementary School was built in 1958, the architectural community of Japan was deeply impressed by the fine, modern functionalist design but surprised by its location—a rural farming community on Shikoku Island. At the time of its construction, Hizuchi incorporated the most advanced school architecture design in the country and reflected emerging ideas about the application of modern architecture in post-war Japan.

Hizuchi also took the local community by surprise when it was first designed. Many parents of the school's children were puzzled by its radical design—the lack of symmetry, the absence of a distinctive main entrance, and the bright palette of pinks, greens, and yellows rather than the more traditional muted greys and whites. Eventually, however, they were won over by Hizuchi's architect, Matsumura, and this unusual wood-frame-and-steel hybrid building would ultimately be constructed with the help of some of these same parents, who used cattle to transport the lumber from nearby forests to the building site along the Kikigawa River.

How did this remote, tangerine-farming community deep in the canyons of Shikoku Island come to build a municipal school with such strong modernist convictions? Further, how does a building with such a storied and celebrated beginning wind up being threatened with possible demolition some 50 years later, and then rescued?



The Modernist Premise of Hizuchi's Design

Modern architecture entered Japan from the West in two phases. In pre-World War II Japan, the ideas of modern architecture were largely imported from Europe and followed many of the designs and ideas of the Bauhaus. Following the war, a new type of modern architecture began to emerge in Japan, evolving under master architects such as KUNIO Maekawa and KENZO Tange. MATSUMURA Masatsune, however, diverged from the mainstream concepts of his peers. His distinctive interpretations represent a localization of Western ideas rather than a wholesale importation.

Modern architecture often emphasized the use of advanced technology and materials, including reinforced steel, concrete, and/or iron frames. In post-war Japan, however, architects began closely considering how to adapt the country's traditional wood-frame building traditions to accommodate the structural challenges of modern architecture. This was also a function of a post-war reality: while wood and steel were more readily available, concrete was scarce and expensive.

Hizuchi's unusual hybrid wood-frame structure with steel supporting beams reflects this careful exploration and produced some of its most notable architectural characteristics:

- Double-height and dual-façade fenestration, which allows natural light into classrooms throughout the day (when post-war energy was in short supply); this also provides cross-ventilation in corridors and classrooms
- A vanguard cluster design for classrooms with a glass exterior hallway running the length of the building connecting classrooms and other school functions
- Interior garden lightwells that enhance the flow of light and air throughout the building
- A gabled—rather than flat—roof
- A rational spatial design to take advantage of the riverfront site, including a suspended outdoor reading balcony off the school library and two dramatic floating staircases projecting out over the Kikigawa River toward the tangerine groves across the water
- Steel beams and iron braces applied to minimize obstructing the curtain walls, creating a sense of lightness while reinforcing the structural strength of the wood
- An architectural layout that reflected the post-war ideals in Japan for the democratic education of children

Hizuchi Elementary School was built in response to the rising need for educational facilities as a result of the post-war baby boom in Japan. At the time, Hizuchi was built to house approximately 200 students, with six classrooms each designed to hold 30 or more students. Today, the student population totals 54 and is expected to decline further over the next decade due to current demographic trends in Japan.



Restoration work in progress



MATSUMURA Masatsune, the Architect and his Modernist Legacy

If one senses the spirit of Walter Gropius in the modernist-functionalist designs of Hizuchi Elementary School, such feelings would not be misplaced. Gropius, the founder of the Bauhaus, was one of the most significant influences on Matsumura and the only Western architect quoted in the Hizuchi architect's writings.

After graduating from the Musashi Advanced Technology School in 1935, Matsumura trained under KURATA Chikatada, who had traveled in Europe and studied in Germany with Gropius. Kurata later recommended Matsumura for a job working in the office of TSUCHIURA Kameki, the Japanese apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright for the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, who later introduced Richard Neutra to Japan. Despite never visiting Europe himself, Matsumura was exposed to the ideas of modern European architecture through many design magazines, such as *Kokusai Kenchiku* ("International Architecture"), published in pre-war Japan.

Following World War II, Matsumura served as the municipal architect for Yawatahama City from 1947 to 1960; afterwards he started his private practice, which he ran until his death in 1993. The same year he ended his municipal work, Matsumura was listed as one of the 10 most influential architects in Japan by *Bungei-Shunju*, a leading and influential public opinion magazine.

During the 13 years Matsumura worked as the municipal architect for Yawatahama City, he designed nearly 40 buildings. Today, only six survive, of which one—the Yawatahama City Hospital—is slated for demolition.

Why were so many of Matsumura's public buildings demolished? Re-evaluation and appreciation of Japan's modern architecture began in earnest in 1990. By that time, many of Matsumura's buildings had already been destroyed without attribution to Matsumura, who had been largely forgotten.

Following his death, however, a renewed appreciation for Matsumura's architecture began. Professor HANADA Yoshiaki, a member of the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School, began his own research on Matsumura in 1994, a year after the architect's death (his book detailing the life and works of Matsumura was published in 2011). In 1999, DOCOMOMO identified Hizuchi as one of the 20 most representative modern buildings in Japan. It has also been nominated to be listed as an Important Cultural Property, one of the highest historical designations in Japan. These recent public and professional recognitions for Matsumura's work have contributed significantly to the efforts to preserve Matsumura's few surviving municipal buildings.

Matsumura;
Hizuchi balcony,
ca. 1958



The Threats to Hizuchi and Public Will to Save It

After a 2004 typhoon heavily damaged the school, a two-year stalemate over whether to demolish and replace Hizuchi with a new structure or preserve the original buildings was resolved only after concerted efforts by the city and the creation of an architectural planning group.

This group, which became the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School, was established to develop a collaborative architectural solution to preserve the original design of the building while addressing the seismic, safety, hygienic, and functional concerns raised by parents as they argued for demolition. In addition, Hizuchi had suffered advanced deterioration during its 50-year life, which needed to be addressed.

Many threats to modern architecture are universal. The restoration of Hizuchi Elementary School demonstrates that where there is a public will, creative solutions can be found to rejuvenate modern buildings while preserving their architectural history and integrity, allowing them to remain central to communities. In the case of Hizuchi, the city, school board, parents, historians, and architects worked together to agree on a four-part preservation program to address these challenges.

Conservation of Hizuchi Elementary School

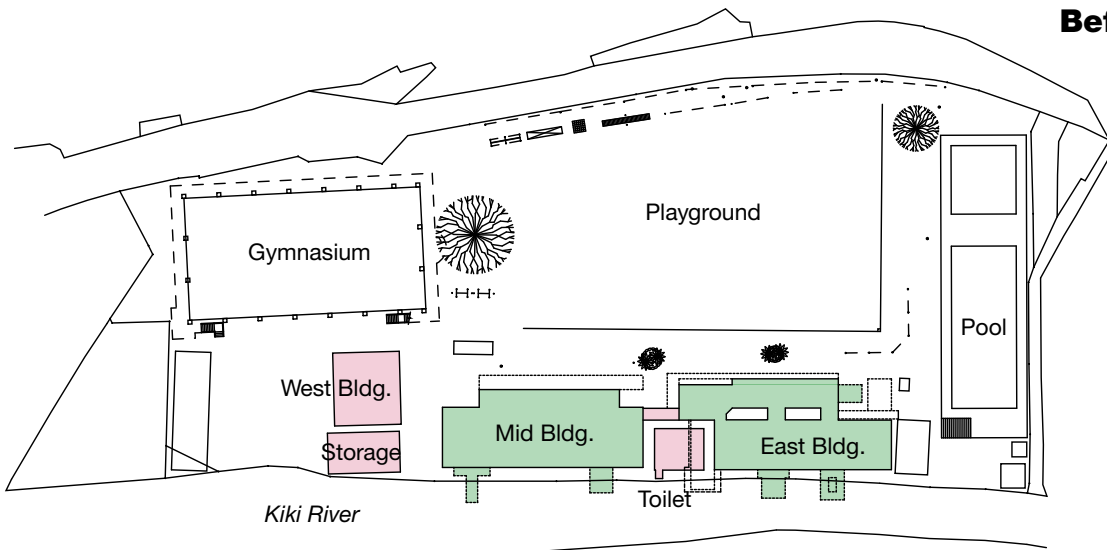
Materials: Original materials were preserved where possible or replicated in-kind, glass was replaced with safety glass, sound-insulated floors were installed, modern toilets were installed, paint colors were restored through trace research, and damaged tiles were reproduced using original molds.

Structural: Of the 462 structural wooden pillars supporting the school, 459 were restored and reused. Seismic retrofitting was installed inside the walls, ceilings, and floors, with double fittings installed on the glass curtain walls. Hizuchi was the first post-war wooden school in Japan to be seismically retrofitted.

Programmatic: A new classroom wing was built to create additional classrooms that met modern needs while maintaining many of the hallmark features of the original buildings, including the wooden architecture, abundant natural light, and harmony with the river. Teacher rooms were clustered near classrooms and used more transparent walls for greater student security. Original classrooms were restored, washrooms refurbished, and some spaces were flexibly designed for community use in anticipation of a future decline in the student population.

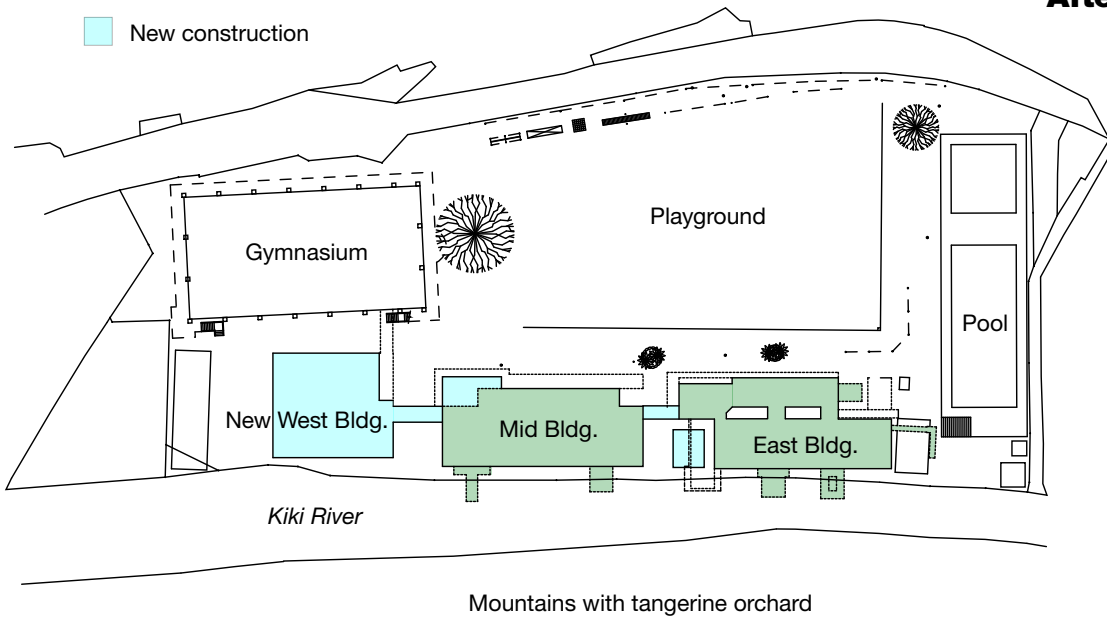
Advocacy: The Architectural Consortium involved the community through symposia, meetings, and surveys in baseline restoration planning and design to meet parents' concerns.

Before Restoration



- Restored
- Removed
- New construction

After Restoration



The Lessons of Hizuchi

The World Monuments Fund Modernism at Risk Initiative is a global program established in 2006 to address the distinctive risks facing modern buildings, including the deliberate decisions to demolish and replace buildings considered obsolete or outdated with newer forms.

We have increasingly found that the modern buildings most at risk are those that, like Hizuchi, were built during the post-war boom to house people's everyday needs: schools, libraries, and city halls ("Main Street Modern" buildings, as WMF has come to call them). Recently, we witnessed similar arguments about deterioration and obsolescence when Paul Rudolph's Riverview High School in Sarasota, Florida, was demolished. Like Hizuchi, Riverview was designed in response to post-war population surges and incorporated vanguard designs, including passive energy saving features. Constructed in 1958, the same year as Hizuchi, Riverview has tragically not shared the same fate. Arguments to preserve and adapt the Florida school failed, and in 2009, the same year that Hizuchi was emerging from its exemplary restoration, Riverview was demolished.

The Orange County Government Center in upstate New York is another such building. Listed on the 2012 World Monuments Watch, the building faces imminent demolition as competing legislative interests battle over its future.

Often, municipalities and local governments own such buildings. Understandably, their responsibilities are to provide civic and social services, which do not necessarily support historic preservation. Stronger public partnerships are needed in communities to protect our modern heritage while promoting the public cooperation and consensus-building required to develop the architectural, programmatic, and political solutions that protect these buildings and allow them to continue to serve public needs.

The people of Hizuchi have preserved an important building—one that some of their parents and grandparents helped build to provide their children with the best environment for education. The stewardship between generations exemplified by those responsible for Hizuchi's restoration today is a shining example of the commitment necessary to preserve a community's history.

The fact that Hizuchi was built as a municipal school for children in a community of tangerine farmers only adds to one's appreciation of one of the important tenets of modern architecture—that good design should be widely available and generously shared throughout all levels of society.

It is our hope that the successful restoration of Hizuchi will be a model and inspiration for the preservation of modern architecture not just in communities in Japan, but in other parts of the world.

Portions of this essay are based on interviews with members of the Architectural Consortium for Hizuchi Elementary School and Architect, MATSUMURA Masatsune, and Another Modernism; HANADA Yoshiaki, 2011



Students at Hizuchi Elementary School



WORLD MONUMENTS FUND is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world's treasured places. Since 1965, working in nearly 100 countries, our highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, WMF inspires an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. www.wmf.org

THE WORLD MONUMENTS FUND MODERNISM AT RISK INITIATIVE was launched in 2006 to bring international attention and resources to address the key threats and challenges facing many modern buildings only decades after their design and construction: demolition, inappropriate alteration, perceived obsolescence, and public apathy, as well as the technical problems associated with conserving innovative designs and materials.

THE WORLD MONUMENTS FUND/KNOLL MODERNISM PRIZE was established as part of the larger advocacy mission of the World Monuments Fund Modernism at Risk Initiative to acknowledge the specific and growing threats—neglect, deterioration, and demolition—facing significant modern buildings, and to recognize the architects and designers who help ensure their rejuvenation and long-term survival through new design solutions. The prize is awarded biennially to an individual or firm in recognition of a completed project or a body of work. The award is a \$10,000 honorarium and a limited-edition Knoll Barcelona® Chair.

The 2008 Prize was awarded for the restoration of the ADGB Trade School in Germany. Built from 1928 to 1930, it was the Bauhaus' largest building project (apart from its own headquarters in Dessau) and one of its most eminent buildings. It was almost lost to history following World War II, before it was rescued and restored. The 2010 Prize was awarded for the restoration of Zonnestraal Sanatorium, located in The Netherlands. It was built between 1926 and 1931 for tuberculosis patients. The rescue of this iconic building led to the creation of DOCOMOMO—and the beginning of further international efforts to preserve modern architecture.

Knoll is the founding sponsor of the World Monuments Fund Modernism at Risk Initiative and the World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize.





WORLD
MONUMENTS
FUND

Empire State Building
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2412
New York, NY 10118
646-424-9594
www.wmf.org