

“Recontextualizing the Design of the Hiroshima Children’s Library 1953”

A Case to Consider Architectural Archives as Knowledge Media

Date: Tokyo 17 March 2026 9:00-11:00 (JST)
Boston 16 March 2026 20:00-22:00 (EDT)

Place: Online (Zoom Webinar)

Fee: Free

Do you know there used to be a unique children’s library having shape of a morning glory in Hiroshima? The library, for which a world-famous architect Kenzo Tange is known as the designer, was built in 1953 as one of two newly established children’s libraries in the prefecture. In this small forum, we shed lights on multiple intersecting contexts of planners from which this unique design has been emerged. Abundant archival materials let us explore complex web of elements affected on the design and the plan of the library. From the case of the archival study on the libraries, we would like to argue how we could utilize architectural archives as knowledge media.



Hiroshima Children’s Library

(Source: Shimizu Corporation)

Co-hosted by Institute of Technology, Shimizu Corporation; Mukogawa Women’s University

Auspices: Hiroshima City Culture Foundation Children’s Library

Support: Hiroshima Prefectural Library



Registration
by 16 Mar. 8:59 (JST)

“Recontextualizing the Design of the Hiroshima Children’s Library 1953”

Talks:

“Characteristics of the Hiroshima Children’s Library”

Takashi Matsumoto (Senior Researcher, Institute of Technology, Shimizu Corporation)

“The Kenzō Tange Archive at Harvard University: Stewardship for Global Access”

Inés Zaldueño (Special Collection Curator, Frances Loeb Library, Harvard University Graduate School of Design)

“Comparative Study on Two Children’s Libraries in Hiroshima in 1950s”

Yudai Nishiyama (Lecturer, Mukogawa Women’s University)

“Children’s Libraries and Library Architecture in Japan: Evolution of Concepts, History, and Design”

Akira Nemoto (Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo)

Acknowledgement:

This forum is a part of the collaborative research project: “Archival Study on the Design Process of the Hiroshima Children’s Library” between Institute of Technology, Shimizu Corporation and Mukogawa Women’s University.

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Hiroshima Children’s Library

(Source: Shimizu Corporation)

Speakers:

Takashi Matsumoto is a media designer. His special field is design of social interaction bridging tangible objects, real-world experiences, and network services. Currently he serves as a Senior Researcher in Historic Buildings Group, Center for Urban Space Engineering, Institute of Technology, Shimizu Corporation. His research focus is to make built environment computer interfaces. His works range over various topics from interaction design to digital archives. He is also delegated as a Research Fellow at Kyushu University Archives to pursue archival studies of architectural and university history. He earned his Ph.D. in Media and Governance from Keio University in 2008.



Inés Zalduendo is the Special Collections Curator of the Frances Loeb Library at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. An architect and archivist by education and training, her focus at GSD is on collection development, exhibitions, teaching, and outreach. She has been a Lecturer at GSD and has presented papers on architecture and archives at several international conferences. Inés graduated with a Diploma de Arquitecta from Universidad de Buenos Aires, a Masters in Architecture (M.Arch) from Harvard GSD, and an Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) with a concentration in Archives Administration from Simmons University.



Yudai Nishiyama specializes in the history of modern architecture and architectural design. His research examines how architects—and the discipline of architecture itself—participated in the formation and maturation of the modern nation, and how the profession shaped its own identity. Focusing primarily on prewar government and university building works in Japan, he investigates the institutional and technical foundations of modern architectural practice. Through multifaceted analysis of legal systems, human resource development, organizational operations, disaster-prevention technologies, and design, his work explores the relationships between people, organizations, and material production in modern architecture.



Akira Nemoto, Ph.D. has been engaged in theoretical research about libraries for 40 years. During that time, he was enrolled in educational research at the University of Library and Information Science for 10 years, the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Education for 20 years, and Keio University Faculty of Letters for 5 years. His publications include "The Archival Thought," "Library Education Theory," and "Library and Information Science in Epistemological Contexts," among others. He has also translated Birger Hjørland's "What is Knowledge Organization?" Recently, he has received research funding and is focusing on research into regional archival theory, school library research, and knowledge organization theory. He shares his findings on his blog. <https://oda-senin.blogspot.com/>

