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New Main Building of Tokyo's Imperial Hotel
scheduled to be completed in 2036.
Japanese Architect Tsuyoshi Tane appointed Design Architect

Tokyo, Japan; October 28th, 2021: The Imperial Hotel Co., Ltd. (Representative Director Hideya Sadayasu) has announced it will adopt the design concepts of Japanese architect Tsuyoshi Tane of ATTA - Atelier Tsuyoshi Tane Architects, currently based in France, for the construction of its new main building in Tokyo, scheduled to be completed in 2036.

On March 25, this year, the management decided to implement a rebuilding plan for the Imperial Hotel Tokyo (main building / tower). Of these, the main building will be rebuilt from FY2031 to FY2036 (tentative), while the construction of a single Grand Hotel is planned.

Imperial Hotel Tokyo Rebuilding Plan

The Imperial Hotel opened in 1890 (Meiji Era 23) as a guesthouse receiving overseas guests under a national policy of the Meiji government, which promoted modernization of Japan. The hotel opened under the belief of its first chairman, Eiichi Shibusawa, "to meet and contribute to the demands of then contemporary society".

The stately Western-style architecture of the first main building became a symbol of Japan aiming for westernization. The second-generation main building, which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, was a majestic modern architecture, and opened in 1923 (Taisho Era 12), and which was commonly known as the Wright Building. It was an historic building that led architectural modernization in the capital of Tokyo. The current main building, which was rebuilt in 1970 (Showa Era 45) at the time of the Osaka Expo, and the Imperial Hotel Tower, which opened in 1983 (Showa Era 58), which became an advanced example of advanced utilization and compounding in the 1980s, were built later.

As one can see, the hotel management endeavored to serve as a premier facility aiming to be among the best hotels in the world in each era. This plan will continue to serve as the core of the hotel, as a "Made in Japan" hotel for the next 100 and 200 years.

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Background of Design Architect Selection

We organized an international competition inviting active domestic and foreign architects under the three key concepts of "dignity", "inheritance", and "challenge" that we seek for the new main building and some conditions for the stage of rebuilding. The hotel corporation solicited design proposals from various architects in Japan and overseas. When soliciting design proposals, it fully recognized the significance of its history and philosophy, and that of the Hibiya district, which is Tokyo's center of business, culture, and commercial exchange. The corporation hopes to lead the next-generation of Japanese hotel culture, represented by the concept of a new grand hotel and state guest house. The corporation believes the design should embody the face, presence and uniqueness of the hotel when viewed from any perspective, both from near and far.

The Concept of Jewel of the Orient

Through his unique approach and archaeological research, Imperial Hotel, Ltd. believes Mr. Tane has considered not only the Imperial Hotel but also to the hotel industry itself. The Wright building as a brilliant presence in the center of the capital, befits a unique and new guesthouse by fusing the "palace" concept that welcomes guests with a "tower" that is a proof of human progress. The concept of inheriting the "Jewel of the Orient" used as a palace and connecting it to the future was accordingly proposed.

We highly appreciate Mr. Tane's approach of "thinking deeply about the history of the Imperial Hotel and building a building that will lead to the future based on it." Furthermore, since Mr. Tane has expressed originality with a completely different design for each project, we expect that he will create our uniqueness and the future Imperial Hotel with talented young architects. From the standpoint of showing the spirit of creating, we decided to appoint Mr. Tane, and we are still in discussions.

Profile of Tsuyoshi Tane
Representative of Atelier Tsuyoshi Tane Architects, Paris, France



Photo: Yoshiaki Tsutsui

Tsuyoshi Tane is a Japanese architect based in Paris and founded ATTA in 2017, after acting as a co-founder of DGT since 2006. He started his career when he won the first international competition for designing the Estonian National Museum with former partners at the age of 26 years old. Tane believes in the creation of architecture is digging the memory of the place that connects its past to the future - as his concept "Archaeology of the Future". He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Architecture Prize of the French Ministry of Culture, the Grand Prix of AFEX in 2016 and 2021, the 67th Japanese Ministry new face Award of Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts in Japan, and the Medal of the Académie d'Architecture Française Dejean Prize 2016 and the Nouveaux albums des jeunes architectes 07-08 of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Tane is frequently giving public talks and lectures and has been teaching at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation NY/Paris in 2012-2018 and is currently teaching at Tama Art University.



Image: Atelier Tsuyoshi Tane Architects
"Imperial Hotel Tokyo New Main Building Image Perspective by Tsuyoshi Tane"

This is in the preliminary stage and subject to change as developed.