Japan-ness in Architecture

Arata Isozaki

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Ise Jingu, spiritual centre of the nation. By Colin Liddell. Modern Japanese architecture seems to be rooted somewhere in the Space Age, but this informative book by Arata Isozaki, an important architect and writer on architecture, shows that to understand the present you often have to look at the very distant past. For example, the fact that buildings in Tokyo are constantly being knocked down and rebuilt every five minutes somehow makes more sense when you consider Ise Jingu, the nation’s most venerated shrine. Every twenty years, this ‘holy of holies’ is ritually leveled with the ground as an identical building is reared up alongside it. Japan Architecture News. Editors. Berrin Chatzi Chousein Editor-in-Chief / Since Nov 9, 2008. WA Contents Editor-in-Chief / Since Mar 1, 2008. Architecture. Tokyo-based architecture firm Ryo Otsuka Architects has designed a music salon within a small building in Itabashi-Ku, Tokyo, Japan. Named Maly Koncert, the project is situated at a site located at the end of an arcade leading from a quiet residential/shopping district in Itabashi-Ku, Tokyo. In the project, the architect aimed to create a small membership-based music salon ensuring the sound quality that is the same as a large-scale music hall and, set a high noise control for the de(...) Wooden interlocking diamonds form this Cartier store designed by Klein Dytham Architecture in Osaka. WA Contents â€œJun 24, 21 â€œ1561. In â€œJapan-ness in Architecture, architect and theorist Arata Isozaki chronicles the search for a Japanese identity through design. Isozaki begins by outlining Japan’s architectural discourse in the 20th century, in which he played a key role. He writes honestly about his contemporaries who grappled with modernization, imperialism and war. â€œHe argues that the search for â€œJapan-ness has always been prompted by foreign scrutiny. Contact with other cultures â€œfrom Tang Dynasty (618-907) China to postwar America â€œled to self-conscious attempts to construct a national identity. After all, he explains, an â€œinsular nation â€œhas no need to search for the â€œessence of its culture.â€