

# Kengo Kuma & Associates

## About Kengo Kuma

Born in 1954 in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, Kengo Kuma studied architecture at the University of Tokyo in the late 1970s and was a visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York from 1985-1986. He founded Spatial Design Studio in 1987 and Kengo Kuma and Associates in 1990. Today, Kengo Kuma and Associates has a staff of 91 in Tokyo/Beijing/Hangzhou and a staff of nine in Paris. In addition to serving as the principal of the firm, Kuma is a professor in the graduate school of architecture at Tokyo University.

Kengo Kuma has received numerous international awards, including the 2010 Mainichi Art Award for his design of the Nezu Museum in Tokyo and, in 2009, the Decoration Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France). He has received first prize in 16 international architecture competitions since 1998 and has been widely recognized in the popular press, having been named by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine as a designer of one of the world's best new hotels in 2009.

## The Philosophy of Kengo Kuma & Associates

We aim to blend architecture and nature, where you find a rich and firm link between the building and the *place* in which it stands. To achieve this goal, we use natural materials that are locally available in each place, such as wood, stone or paper, and try to retrieve warmth and tenderness to the architecture. For further fusion between architecture and its surrounding environment, we attach great importance in our designing the unity between landscape and architecture, and we always bear in mind that their harmony would resonate throughout the building's details, interior, furniture and accessories. I am convinced that only such close relations between the place and the building can create an architecture that its residents or users can love and feel comfortable.



*Great (Bamboo) Wall, Beijing, China*



*Noh Stage in the Forest, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan*

## Selected Works

Great (Bamboo) Wall, Beijing, China  
Tiffany & Co. flagship store, Ginza, Tokyo  
Nezu Museum, Tokyo  
Noh Stage in the Forest, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan  
The Opposite House, Beijing, China  
Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo  
Shisei-Kan Kyoto University of Art and Design,  
Kyoto-city, Kyoto

## Selected Current Projects

Victoria & Albert Museum, Dundee, Scotland  
Kabuki-za Theater, Ginza, Tokyo