Cultural Center in Nagasaki, Japan

This fall the studio project has its site in Nagasaki around the bay area next to the water and Kengo Kuma’s Nagasaki Prefectural Museum of 2005. The site with its excellent location and good accessibility is also well exposed and visible from a large part of the city and across the bay. However, beyond the significance or symbolic role of this large complex’s outside appearance, the internal arrangement and the impressive quality of all its public areas, or the interiors, are equally important. The relationship between outside and inside spaces is one of the critical aspects of the design. This also means that the shaping of outdoor places, a park, plazas, etc, will be integral part of the work.

The program includes:

1 Concert Hall / Multipurpose Auditorium; 2 Public Library / Mediatheque; 3 Visitors Center with Observation decks; 4 Commercial / Retail facilities; 5 Seaside Park / Urban plaza; all with their amenities.

The size of the program, while large, is relatively flexible and subject to students’ readjustment depending on their design scheme.

Site planning and the skillful organization of all the activities (functions) are absolutely primary in your work. In addition to the regular plans, sections, elevations, axonometric drawing, etc., clear diagrams of the vehicular and pedestrian circulation both inside and out, as well as of the structural system, are also required.

You will need to keep your sketchbook handy and up-to-date even when you work on the computer and required to build a few study models as tools of design before you craft the final model. You will be working in the metric system, which is used in Japan.

To kick-start the semester, the studio will start with a one-week Charrette what you do individually. After that you will be working in teams of two (2).

I look forward to working with you in the coming Fall Semester. Cheers.

Botond Bognar
Professor and Edgar A. Tafel Endowed Chair in Architecture
Site: Nagasaki City; next to the Bay & Kengo Kuma’s Museum
Remote view of the site seen from the West (on other side of the Bay ¾ to the right)

Kuma’s Museum is in the foreground and your site in front of it (on the right side of the photo).
Kuma’s Museum seen from the North

Kuma’s Museum seen from the South-East

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