

TOKAS本郷は、1928(昭和3)年12月に、東京市の職業紹介所として竣工した、3階建の鉄筋コンクリート造建築です。この建物ができる5年前の1923(大正12)年9月1日、相模湾北部を震源とする関東大震災が発生し、東京およびその周辺地域は大きな被害を受けました。壊滅的な被害を受けた東京を復興したのが、帝都復興事業と総称されるさまざまな土木工事や建設事業です。具体的には、国、当時の東京府、東京市等を執行者として、街路や河川運河の改修、公園の新設、土地区画整理事業や下水道事業など都市のインフラ整備を実施し、小学校や市場、病院などの建設を行いました。職業紹介所は、帝都復興事業の中で東京市により整備された社会事業施設のひとつにあたり、ほかに、託児所並健康児童相談所、婦人授産場、公衆食堂、簡易宿泊所、質屋、浴場の建設がこれに含まれました。

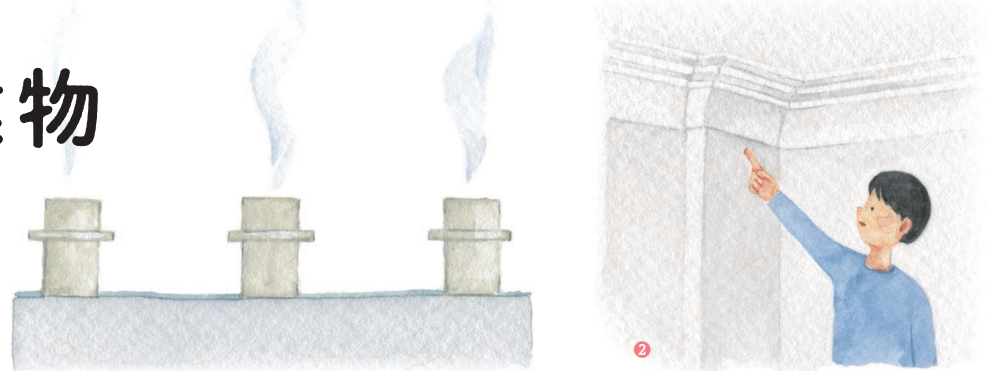
市営の職業紹介所は明治末期から設置されていましたが、震災後、改めて計画し直され、帝都復興事業として、すべて鉄筋コンクリート造で建設されました。市内13ヶ所の一覧を見ると、多くが2階建で、3階建なのは、神田橋、浅草公園と、ここ本郷の3ヶ所です。本郷は、本郷職業紹介所と婦人少年職業紹介所を合わせて開設されたという点で、職業紹介所の中でも神田橋に次いで規模が大きく、立派なものであったと考えられます。

建物の外観①は、角をまわりこむ線状の装飾で水平性を強調するデザインで、連続する庇が特徴的です。当初の図面を見ると、1階に入口が2ヶ所、北側に一般出入口、南側に婦人出入口とあります。婦人出入口は、1階の婦人紹介室につながります。一般入口からは1階の少年紹介室、2階の少年待合室、3階の知識階級者(中学卒業から大学・専門学校卒業程度の高学歴層)紹介室へ行

東京市の復興と歩んだ建物

Takya City Reconstruction and the Birth of the Hongo Building

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3D VR「TOKAS本郷建物ガイド」からは建設当時の図面や外観写真を見ることができます!



TOKAS本郷について

トーキョーアーツアンドスペース(TOKAS)は、同時代の表現を東京から創造・発信するアートセンターです。展覧会や公演を開催しているTOKAS本郷の建物は、1928年に職業紹介所として建設されました。1949年からは職業訓練校として使用され、2001年にアートセンターとして開館しました。

くことが出来ました。ほかに1階に接続室、2階に医務室と宿直室、各階に事務室が計画されていました。躯体は鉄筋コンクリート造で、部屋の間仕切りは木造です。断面図を見ると、屋上は、東から西に向けて下がる水勾配の傾斜がかなり大きくつけられています。これにより3階の梁も斜めになっています。いまは一部のみ残る天井のモールディング②は、すべての部屋で同様に仕上げられています。建物の裏側には煙突が3本あり③、これは1〜3階の各室に設けられたストーブのためのものでした。現在も、煙突の外観は残されています。

内装は、部屋の壁は漆喰塗り、木製の巾木、床はリグノイド(セメントの一種を材料とする塗り床)という当時よく用いられた仕上げだったことが、仕様書からわかります。玄関とトイレ床は人造石研ぎ出し仕上げ、廊下と階段室の巾木はタイル製です。階段手摺④は、当初の仕様書ではタイルとなっていたのですが、途中で人造石研ぎ出しに変更されました。これらの大部分は、戦災や改装により失われていますが、人造石研ぎ出しの手摺や、タイル巾木の二部などは残されています。

もうしばらくすると築100年を迎えるこの建物は、関東大震災後の東京を象徴する復興期の建築のひとつです。鉄筋コンクリート造の耐久性をもって、戦災と、その後の開発の波もかいくぐり、ここでTOKAS本郷として大切に使われていることの奇跡を思います。

TOKYO CITY RECONSTRUCTION & THE BIRTH OF THE HONGO BUILDING

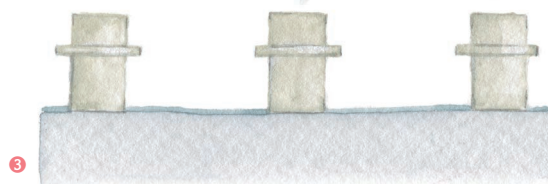
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TOKAS Hongo is a three-story reinforced concrete building built in December 1928 to serve as a Tokyo City employment agency. On September 1, 1923, five years before the building would be built, the Great Kanto Earthquake struck Japan. Centered in northern Sagami Bay, the earthquake shook Tokyo and the surrounding areas, producing heavy damage.

Reconstruction following the catastrophic damage to Tokyo came in the form of various civil engineering and construction projects, collectively referred to as the Imperial Capital Reconstruction Project. The project was carried out by the national government and the governments of what were then Tokyo Prefecture and Tokyo City. It included repairs to roads and waterways; the development of new public parks; urban infrastructure improvements, such as land readjustment and sewerage projects; and the construction of elementary schools, marketplaces, hospitals, and more. Employment agencies were among the social welfare facilities established by Tokyo City as part of this Imperial Capital Reconstruction Project. Others included day-care and child consultation centers, sheltered workshops for women, public cafeterias, public lodging houses, pawnshops, and bath houses.

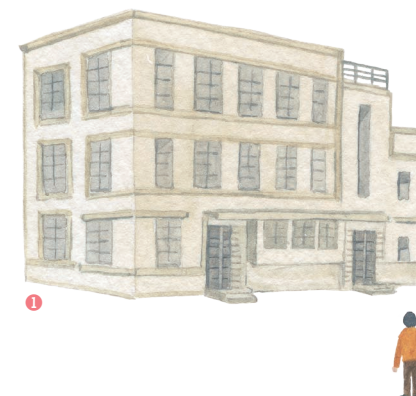
Municipal employment agencies had existed since the end of the Meiji era (1868–1912), but following the Great Kanto Earthquake, the facilities were redesigned and rebuilt as reinforced concrete buildings as part of the Imperial Capital Reconstruction Project. Among the 13 locations within Tokyo City, most were two-story buildings. Only three were three-story buildings: Kandabashi, Asakusa Park, and the Hongo building. The Hongo building housed both the Hongo Employment Agency and the Women's and Youth Employment Agency, making it the second-largest employment agency, following the Kandabashi location, and evidence suggests it was quite impressive at the time of its establishment.



The building exterior ❶ features a pronounced horizontality, emphasized by decorative lines that wrap around the corners, and distinctive continuous eaves. According to the original floor map, there were two entrances on the first floor: a general-purpose entrance on the north side and an entrance for women on the south side. The entrance for women led to the women's employment office on the first floor. The general-purpose entrance offered access to the youth employment office on the first floor, the youth waiting room on the second floor, and the employment office for "educated people" (graduates of junior high schools, vocational schools, or universities) on the third floor. Other rooms included a lobby on the first floor, a medical office and night duty room on the second floor, and administrative offices on each floor. The building featured a reinforced concrete frame with wooden partition walls between rooms. A cross-section view of the building shows the drainage slope structure of the roof, with a significant downward slant from east to west. This slant is also apparent in the third-floor ceiling beams. Only a portion of the original ceiling molding ❷ remains today, but it was once found in every room of the building. Three chimneys ❸ on the rear side of the building were connected to heating stoves located in all rooms, on all floors. The exterior portion of these chimneys remains even today.

According to the specification documents, the interior featured plastered walls, wooden baseboards, and floors made of Sorel cement, which was common at the time. The entrance and restroom floors featured polished artificial stone, while the hallways and stairwell featured tile baseboards. The staircase handrails ❹ were listed as tile in the initial specification documents, but this was changed to polished artificial stone at some point. Most of these features have been lost to wartime damage and renovations, but the polished artificial stone handrails and some of the tile baseboards still remain.

Now close to 100 years old, the building is a symbol of the reconstruction of Tokyo following the devastation of the Great Kanto Earthquake. While the durability of its reinforced concrete structure has allowed the building to survive both wartime damage and subsequent waves of development, it is truly impressive that it remains in such good condition today, carefully maintained as the TOKAS Hongo building.



Architectural drawings and photos of the building's exterior in 1928 can be seen in the 3D VR version "TOKAS Hongo Exploration Guide."



TOKAS Tokyo Arts and Space

Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) is an arts center dedicated to the creation and promotion of contemporary artistic expression from Tokyo. The TOKAS Hongo building, which hosts exhibitions, performances, and more, was built in 1928 to serve as an employment agency. After functioning as a vocational guidance center for some years beginning in 1949, the building was reopened as an art center in 2001.

