

Explained! Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo (TOKAS)

TOKAS Hongo is located in a three-story reinforced concrete building erected in 1928. The building originally accommodated an employment agency that introduced jobs to unemployed people. After 1949 it was used as a vocational school for several decades, until the place reopened as an art center in 2001. In 2019, the building celebrates its 91st birthday. <Design: Tokyo City / Construction: Odagumi>



The building used to be covered with ivy

The 3F exhibition space is flooded with natural light

The refurbished old building has more to offer than just exhibitions

See the back-side for details!!

Here you can sit down and take a rest

Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo

Here you can view items related to exhibitions!

Just around the corner!!
Motomachi Park

What kind of painting is this ...

Many exhibitions show works by promising young artists!!

Let's have a look
Men's toilet

Stop by on your way home!!

Easily recognizable by its retro design!!

This window offers a peek inside (but may be covered) for some exhibitions

Multi-purpose toilet

Let's see what's on show today

Shall we pop in?

The TOKAS logo marks the entrance.

The old building has no elevator, so visitors with wheelchairs or baby strollers can only access the ground-floor space

Motomachi Park opened in 1930 during the city's reconstruction after the Great Kanto Earthquake.

Sounds interesting!!

There used to be another entrance here

ENTRANCE

www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/



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Illustration: isna design Design: TOMIOKA Yoshiaki

Exploration guide

The TOKAS Hongo building has also other attractions than exhibitions to offer. Here's a handy map for your exploration of its three floors.



Trivia

Plasterer KUSUMI Akira did many of the walls and floors when the building was refurbished in 2001. The job of a plasterer is to plaster a building's walls and floors with a "trowel".



KUSUMI Akira

Leading Japanese plasterer, born 1948 on Awaji-shima, Hyogo.

Spot the works!

Martin SCHMID's "Wall Tattoo," a project that involved drilling holes to create patterns on walls, was realized in 2003. The work suggests to perceive walls like pieces of human skin, and think about the relationship between one's own body and one's surroundings. Five of these works are on display in the TOKAS building.

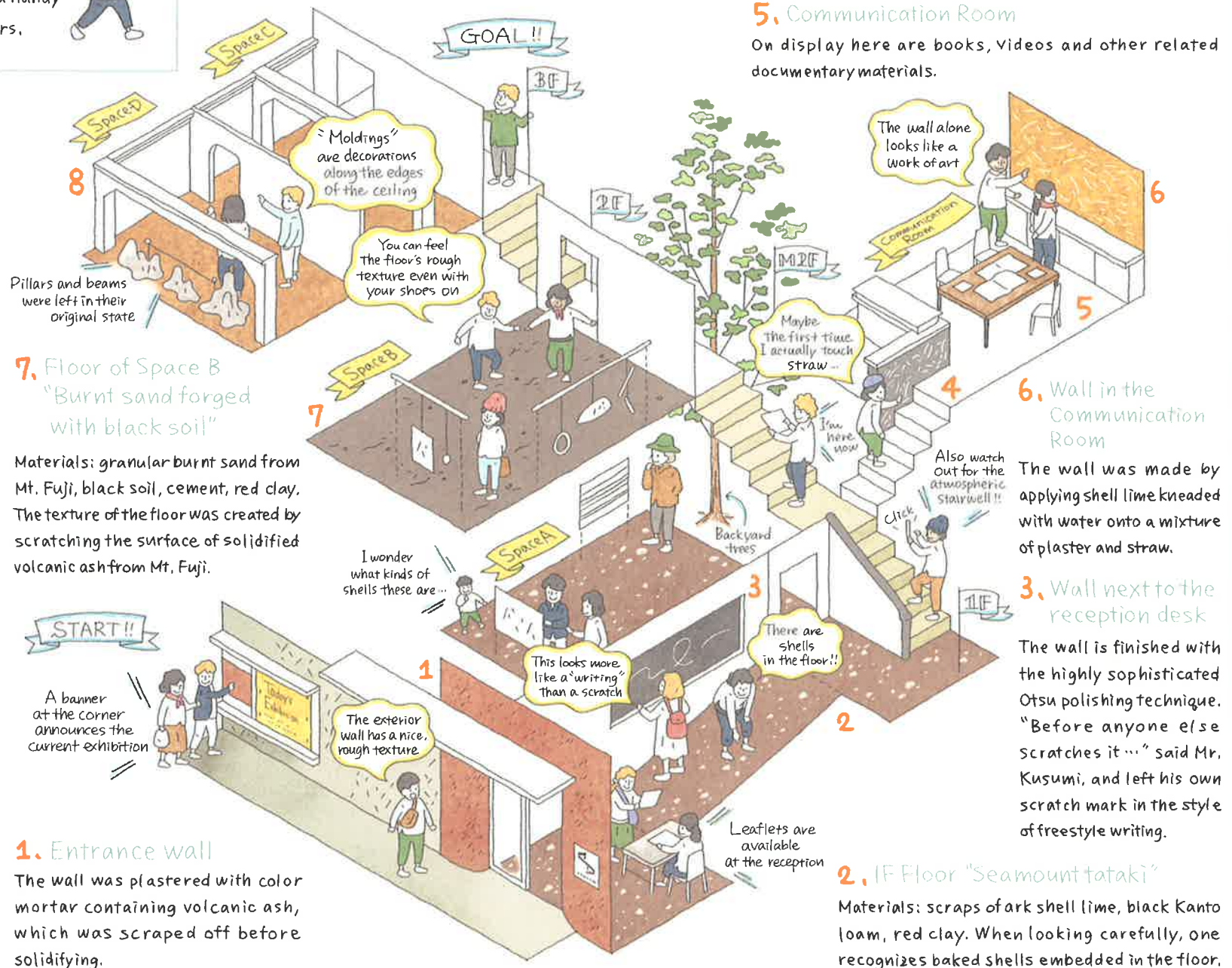


Martin SCHMID

Born 1970 in Germany. He participated in "Out of the Blue" (2003).

8. Ceilings of Spaces C & D

Remaining features from the prewar era include beams and arches molded with gypsum plaster. The current wall design includes corner parts that utilize the original beams.



8. Pillars and beams were left in their original state

"Moldings" are decorations along the edges of the ceiling

You can feel the floor's rough texture even with your shoes on

7. Floor of Space B "Burnt sand forged with black soil"

Materials: granular burnt sand from Mt. Fuji, black soil, cement, red clay. The texture of the floor was created by scratching the surface of solidified volcanic ash from Mt. Fuji.

I wonder what kinds of shells these are...

This looks more like "writing" than a scratch

There are shells in the floor!!

START!!

A banner at the corner announces the current exhibition

The exterior wall has a nice, rough texture

Leaflets are available at the reception

1. Entrance wall

The wall was plastered with color mortar containing volcanic ash, which was scraped off before solidifying.

4. Counter

Juraku clay with cut straw, scraped finish. After the clay had dried, it was once again wetted and scraped off to reveal embedded pieces of finely cut straw.

5. Communication Room

On display here are books, videos and other related documentary materials.

The wall alone looks like a work of art

Maybe the first time I actually touch straw...

I'm here now

Also watch out for the atmospheric stairwell!!

6. Wall in the Communication Room

The wall was made by applying shell lime kneaded with water onto a mixture of plaster and straw.

3. Wall next to the reception desk

The wall is finished with the highly sophisticated Otsu polishing technique. "Before anyone else scratches it..." said Mr. Kusumi, and left his own scratch mark in the style of freestyle writing.

2. 1F Floor "Seamount tataki"

Materials: scraps of ark shell lime, black Kanto loam, red clay. When looking carefully, one recognizes baked shells embedded in the floor.