

3rd LIXIL International University Architectural Competition to Discover Next-generation Sustainable Housing

Harvard University's HORIZON HOUSE Wins Top Prize at 3rd LIXIL International University Architectural Competition

Construction Set to Start in Late October 2013 at Memu Meadows (Taiki-cho, Hokkaido)



Left: Award ceremony for Harvard University by jury president, Kengo Kuma. /
Right: Ceremonial photograph with three finalists and jurors.

In the open final screening of the 3rd LIXIL International University Architectural Competition, held publicly on April 20, Sat, 2013 at Plaza Hall, Kasumigaseki Building (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), "HORIZON HOUSE" by Harvard University (USA) was chosen from three finalists, previously selected from a total of twelve designated universities from eleven different countries, to receive the top prize. The competition was established by the LIXIL JS Foundation to inform the wider public of technological developments in the field. The foundation (located in Koto-ku, Tokyo; president: Yoichiro Ushioda), which undertakes surveys and research related to the housing and building materials industry as well as supporting the development of human resources, is actively engaged in the search and verification of next-generation sustainable housing.



Harvard University / Horizon House

During the open final screening, a heated discussion occurred between jury president, Kengo Kuma (architect / professor, University of Tokyo) and jurors, Tomonari Yashiro (doctor of engineering / vice president, University of Tokyo) and Darko Radović (professor, Keio University). The three stressed the importance of interpreting the theme of this year's competition, "RETREAT IN NATURE" (i.e., creating a hideaway detached from everyday life).

The winning work, "HORIZON HOUSE" by Harvard University (USA), was notable for a mechanism designed to reduce construction material-based energy generation through the use of composite materials for the foundation. In addition to a sustainable design, including raised floors to deal with snowfall, the house's 360-degree, panoramic view helped realize the quality of a "RETREAT." The work, selected the winner in a unanimous decision, was also rated highly for allowing residents to choose the type of scenery they favored at will.

In his general comments, jury president, Kengo Kuma said, "It is no simple task to realize such a radical idea. I look forward to seeing this extremely clever concept come to fruition with the support of LIXIL and Taiki-cho. And on a personal level, I also have great expectations for its completion." Later, in the award ceremony, Ana Garcia Puyol, Thomas Sherman, and Takuya Iwamura, representing Harvard University, said, "It was a great pleasure to take part in this year's competition. We would first like to express our deepest gratitude to the judge for choosing us as the winning team. It was through the kindness of our teachers and many others that we were able to carry out the entire process. Many challenges still lie ahead, but we are also looking forward to staying in "HORIZON HOUSE" after it is completed"

With support from Kengo Kuma & Associates, the team will arrive at a final design for "HORIZON HOUSE", and the work is scheduled to be built in late October 2013 on a site at Memu Meadows, located in Taiki-cho, Hokkaido.

URL: <http://www.lixiljsfound.or.jp/category/1839540.html>

— Contact Information —

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<Reference Information>

«Attached Document»

■List of Winning Works

• Top Prize



Harvard University
Horizon House

• Award of Excellence (2 works)



National University of Singapore
kaze house



Delft University of Technology
Simply Adjustable

■Overview of 3rd LIXIL International University Architectural Competition

1. List of participating universities

(◎: Entrants that advanced to the open final screening on April 20)

Aalto University (Finland)

Dresden University of Technology (Germany)

◎Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands)

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (Switzerland)

The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UK)

Vienna University of Technology (Austria)

◎Harvard University (USA)

Tongji University (Singapore)

◎National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Hanoi Architectural University (Vietnam)

Kyoto University (Japan)

Hokkaido University (Japan)

2. Judging method

Twelve universities in eleven countries were invited to submit proposals for a next-generation, sustainable house designed for a cold region. Three entrants were then selected in the first screening (based on documents submitted). And the top prize winner was subsequently chosen in the open final screening.

3. Review board

Jury President: Kengo Kuma (architect / professor, University of Tokyo)

Jurors: Tomonari Yashiro (doctor of engineering / vice president, University of Tokyo)

Darko Radović (professor, Keio University)

4. Prizes

Top prize (one work): \$15,000 (USD; including design costs)

Award of Excellence (two works): \$3,000 (USD; including design costs)

*Top-prize work will be constructed on a site in Memu Meadows (Taiki-cho, Hokkaido).

■The LIXIL International University Architectural Competition

This year's competition centers on the theme of "RETREAT IN NATURE" designed for Taiki-cho, Hokkaido. By making use of the regional characteristics of the town, a cold area subject to extremely harsh climatic conditions with an underdeveloped infrastructure, the competition attempts to introduce some of the world's most cutting-edge technology. The event also functions to convey information to the global society by building next-generation, sustainable housing that matches the magnificent scenery of the winter snow, spring and summer trees, and agricultural products that are peculiar to Japan's far north, and to verify the technical efficacy of houses based on energy-conservation data.

The top-prize work will actually be constructed on a site in Memu Meadows (Taiki-cho, Hokkaido).

Building schedule for "HORIZON HOUSE" (2013)

May-June: Working Drawing

July: Building estimates, etc.

Aug.: Construction begins

Sept.-Oct.: Construction continues

Late Oct.: Construction set to be completed

Organizer: LIXIL JS Foundation

Cooperator: LIXIL Corporation Research Institute / Taiki-cho, Hokkaido

Supporter: Obihiro Development and Construction Dept. / Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau / Hokkaido Government Tokachi General Subprefectural Bureau / Architectural Institute of Japan / The Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) / Japan Federation of Architects & Building Engineers Associations / Shinken-chiku-sha Co., Ltd.

Official website: www.lxiljsfound.or.jp/category/1835715.html

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LIXIL.IUAC

■Overview of Memu Meadows Facility

Name: Memu Meadows

Location: 158-1 Memu, Taiko-cho, Hiro-gun, Obihiro, Hokkaido
(on the former site of Taiki Farms)

Owner: LIXIL JS Foundation

(2-1-1 Ojima, Koto-ku, Tokyo, 136-8535)

Site area: App. 184,000 square meters

Main facilities: Experimental house "Même", "BANGLADESH BANBOO PROJECT", "A recipe to live", "BARN HOUSE", multipurpose hall, laboratory, three housing units (accommodations for researchers), two log houses (accommodations for researchers), fitness center, restaurant, sauna, administrative building, etc.

Features of facility: The Environmental Technology Research Institution was established in Taiki-cho, Hokkaido, by the LIXIL JS Foundation to realize the concepts outlined above. At the heart of the facility is Même, an experimental house designed for the arctic region by Kengo Kuma & Associates. (For more information in Japanese, see: www.lxil.co.jp/s/taiki-cho/about/)

