

### Recent Japanese Architecture – given existing buildings an innovative and critical update

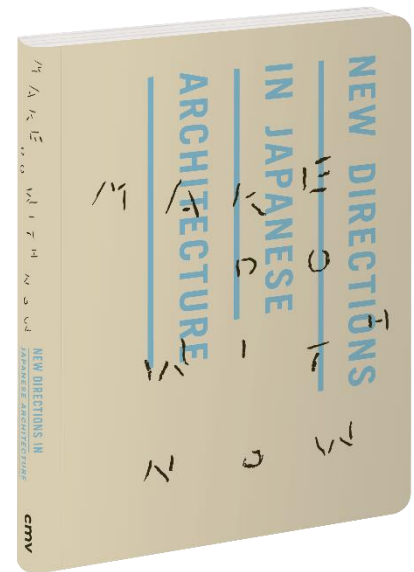
A new generation of Japanese architects is using unconventional models and ideas to cope with the current social and ecological challenge. In a solution orientated way they are trying to bring their current living-conditions into harmony with already existing materials and spaces. Use what is already there – this approach is behind the English-language publication that introduces these alternative trends: *Make Do With Now* (Christoph Merian Verlag). The book sees itself as an invitation to view the trail-blazing dedication of the young Japanese architecture scene in a global context.

The Tōhoku earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear catastrophe in 2011 brought about a caesura in Japan. The younger generations in particular have become aware of the fragility of current systems and are searching for alternatives which are more oriented around values such as exchange and cycles. The young Japanese architects are also integrating these basic principles into their building plans. Their architecture is intended to link in with everything that surrounds them and in which they live. And it should also remain dynamic in order to adapt to the transformations that are expected to result from population shrinkage, the flight from the land, profit-oriented urban planning, stagnating economic growth and, of course, the global climate crisis – developments that are not only relevant to Japan.

In the first section of the book the architecture historian Kōji Koji Ichikawa interprets the work of young architects of the past twenty years, while the architect Momoyo Kaijima deals with the role of the architect in Japanese society. After that come portraits of five active architecture offices: Mio Tsuneyama and Fuminori Nousaku, CHAr, 403architecture [dajiba], dot architects and tomito architecture. The photo-essays by Go Itami document projects on which these offices and architects are currently working. Short contributions by Japanese historians and theorists refer to the portraits and outline what is currently driving architecture in Japan. The third section of the book contains a register of twenty representative projects.

*To make do with* is a concrete option for young Japanese architects: they work at home or on the periphery, question their professional role and make use of gaps in the system. Is that a critical rejection of the enduring self-evident motto of 'bigger higher further'? In any case, this is a literally constructive architectural approach to the urgent tasks of our present and future.

**Exhibition at the S AM Swiss Architecture Museum Basel from 12th November to 12th March 2023**



S AM Swiss Architecture Museum  
Yuma Shinohara, Andreas Ruby  
(ed.)

**Make Do With Now**  
**New Directions in Japanese Architecture**

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