



MIELPARQUE NIKKO KIRIFURI RESORT, NIKKO NATIONAL PARK

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc. in association with Marunouchi Architect & Engineers and Andropogon Associates, Landscape Architect

Location: Nikko, Japan

Client: The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

Area: 322,000 sf

Construction Cost: \$91,000,000

Completion: 1997

In 1992, the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications commissioned VSBA to design a hotel complex adjacent to Nikko National Park, site of ancient Buddhist and Shinto shrines. Our Mielparque Nikko Kirifuri Resort includes a 97-room hotel, conference center, tennis courts, and spa and swimming facility.

Throughout the complex, building proportions and facades suggest traditional rural architecture: the ornamental roof structures symbolizing vernacular roof forms and overhangs, the wall appliqué pattern suggesting exposed frame construction. The main hotel, a series of linked buildings, recedes into the mountainous wooded setting. These elements together promote the resort as a modern, streamlined version of the ancient Japanese village.

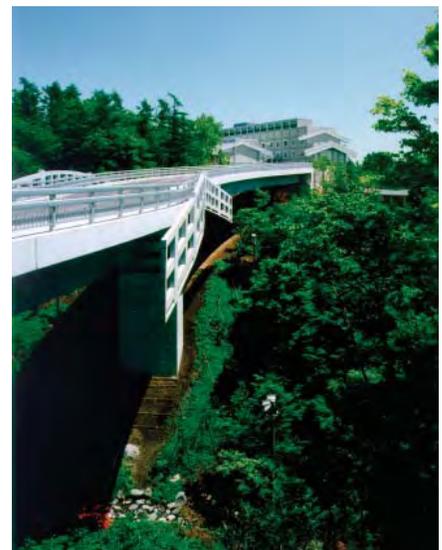
An entrance bridge spans the ravine at the approach to the hotel. Because it is perpendicular to and conspicuous from the main toll road, the bridge is designed as a sign to identify the complex and enrich its image. Its form juxtaposes a reinforced concrete structure, derived from contemporary engineering technology, with a decorative plane on each face symbolizing traditional Japanese bridges.



Contextual sources

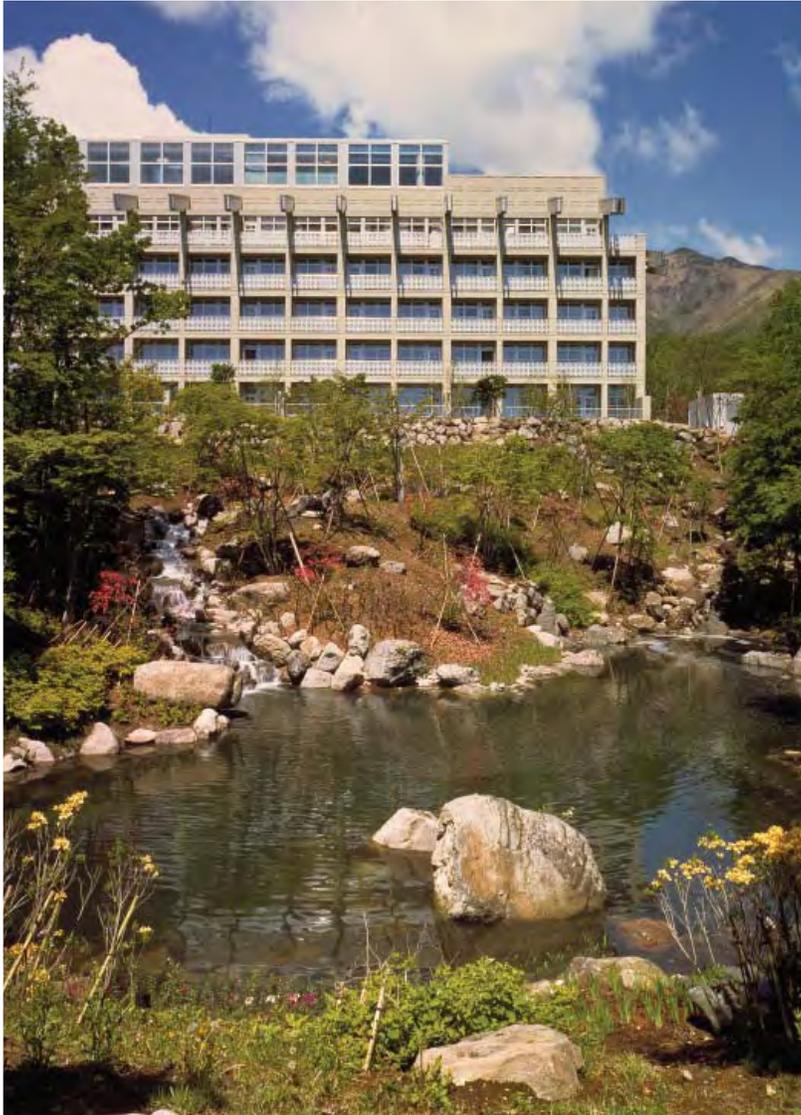


Entrance bridge



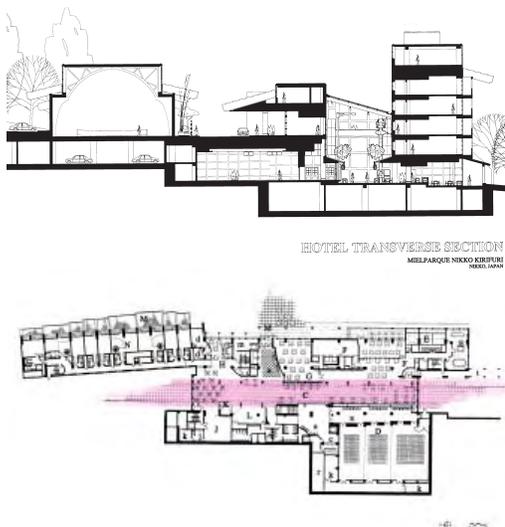


Aerial view and approach to complex



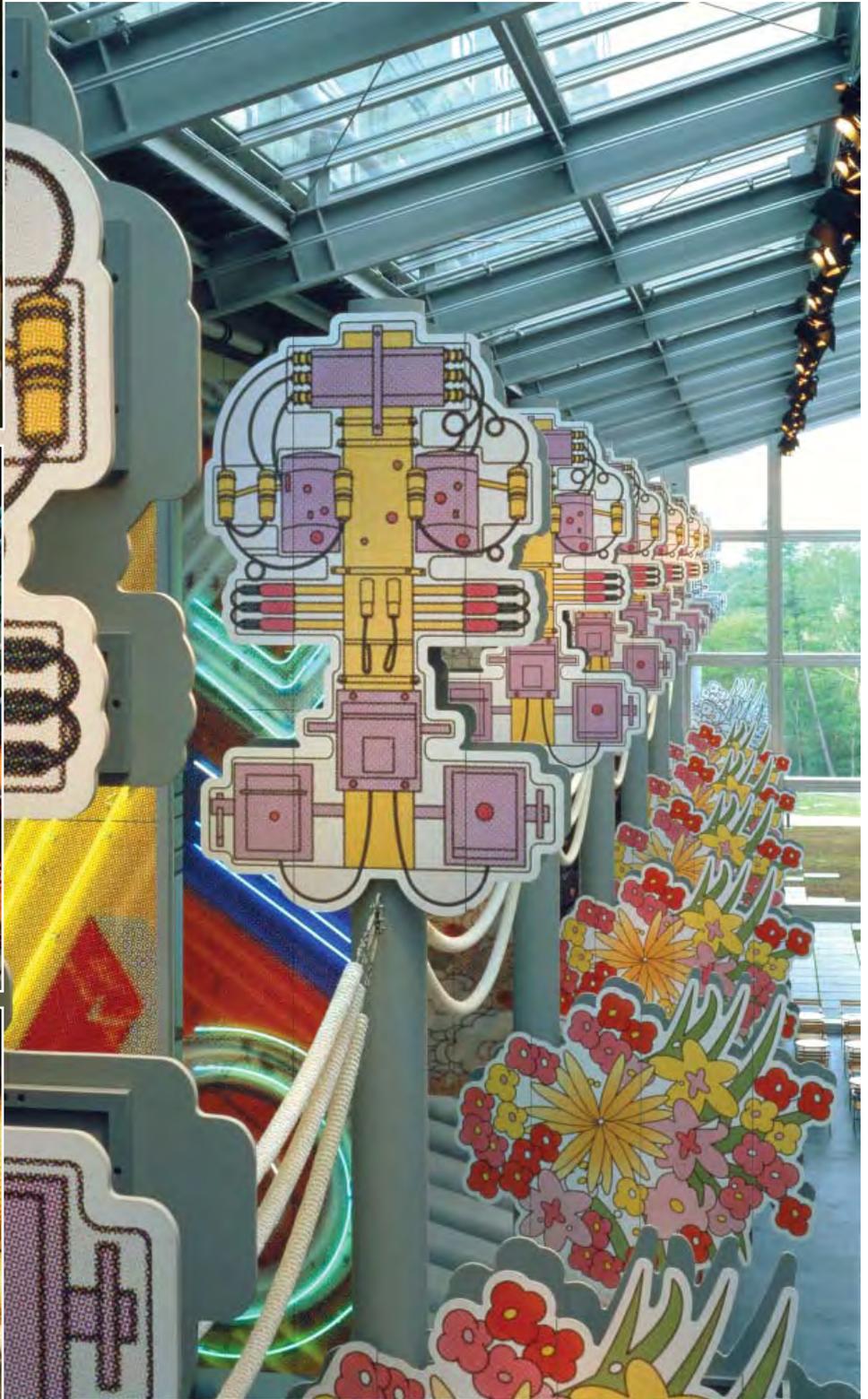
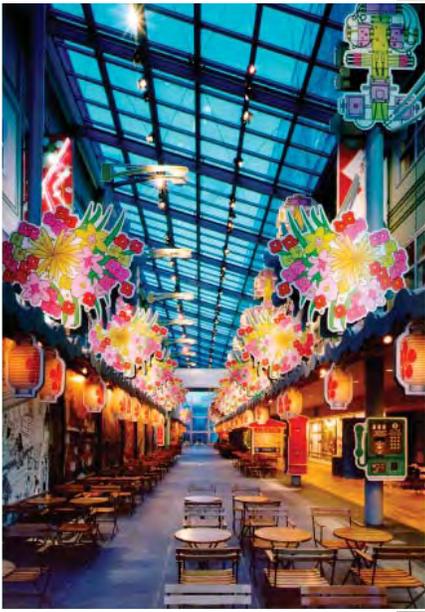
In contrast, the resort's interiors appear innovative and contemporary. The spa's grand volume is ornamented with giant green and yellow aluminum tree leaves grouped to reflect the verdant setting. The hotel's dominant indoor element is a pedestrian "Village Street" ornamented with colorful and abstracted signs and murals depicting historical and contemporary elements, celebrating the traditions and spirit of Japanese urban and village life. Restaurants, cafes and retail areas line this street, making it a lively and gala place for both adults and children.

The Nikko Kirifuri Resort fuses Japanese and American environmental design. Central cogeneration and waste water treatment plants conserve energy and reduce environmental impact. The storm water retention system forms realistic, appealing ponds. Natural ventilation is used throughout the guest rooms and common spaces, enhancing indoor air quality and reducing air conditioning requirements. Hundreds of native trees and shrubs dug from the construction site have been stored for later replanting.



Hotel section and Village Street-level plan

The spa



The "Village Street"



Conference facility lobby, restaurant, and room interiors



The spa