

Architectural statement | SANAA

The Taichung Green Museumbrary is located in Taichung Central Park. It is an art museum and library complex that introduces a “cultural forest”, fostering new forms of learning and exchange. The building is accessible on all sides: from a convention centre to the northwest, an area of urban expansion to the east, and public transport hubs to the north, becoming an active part of this evolving neighbourhood.

The total above-ground floor area of 28,000 m² is divided into eight volumes, each with its own programme, such as gallery spaces, reading rooms, and offices. Several of these are elevated, creating large pilotis spaces that offer shelter from Taiwan’s strong sunshine. These comfortable outdoor environments connect seamlessly with the park, while the volumes come together and pull apart to create a series of courtyards that draw in breezes from the north. The 30,000m² basement includes parking, storage, archive, workshops, and a large entrance hall that can also be used for exhibitions.

Each of the eight volumes has a different floor plan, section and elevation. The relationship between them varies across levels, inviting the museum and library to intertwine in diverse and dynamic ways. There are several “Fusion Spaces” where the museum and library overlap and enrich one another.

Each exhibition room has specific characteristics, such as ceiling height, quality of light, and aperture design. These are connected by a gently sloping ramp that winds around a large, multi-storey atrium. In addition, there are several independent circulation routes between exhibition rooms, allowing for multiple configurations of the gallery spaces and flexible planning of visitor flows. Similarly, in the library, each floor has a distinct character, inviting users to search for books while discovering their favourite areas, and encouraging them to spend time in their own way.

Visitors approach from the park, pass through the pilotis space, and are guided to the entrance hall located at the centre of the building. Two elevated bridges run through the complex, exterior environments that pass through the pilotis spaces and rooftop garden, inviting visitors to feel connected to the surrounding park and city. Nearly all volumes are linked at the level of the upper bridge, providing a continuous route around the whole complex.

We hope to create a place where museum and library come together as one, providing a new and compelling cultural experience that responds to the climate of Taiwan.

Biography

SANAA is an architectural practice headed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, established in 1995. An early landmark project was the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa (2004). The park-like space that blends with the city has become widely loved by tourists and locals alike. Other major works include De Kunstlinie Theater and Cultural Centre, Almere (Netherlands, 2006), New Museum of Contemporary Art (USA, 2007), Rolex Learning Center (Switzerland, 2009), Louvre-Lens (France, 2012), Grace Farms (USA, 2015), Bocconi University New Urban Campus (Italy, 2020), La Samaritaine (France, 2021), New Campus of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design (Jerusalem, 2022), MIT Music Building (USA, 2024), and



New Kagawa Prefectural Gymnasium (Japan, 2025). Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa have received numerous awards, including the renowned Pritzker Prize (2010), the Architectural Institute of Japan Award (2006) and the Praemium Imperiale award for architecture (2022), Royal Gold Medal (2025).