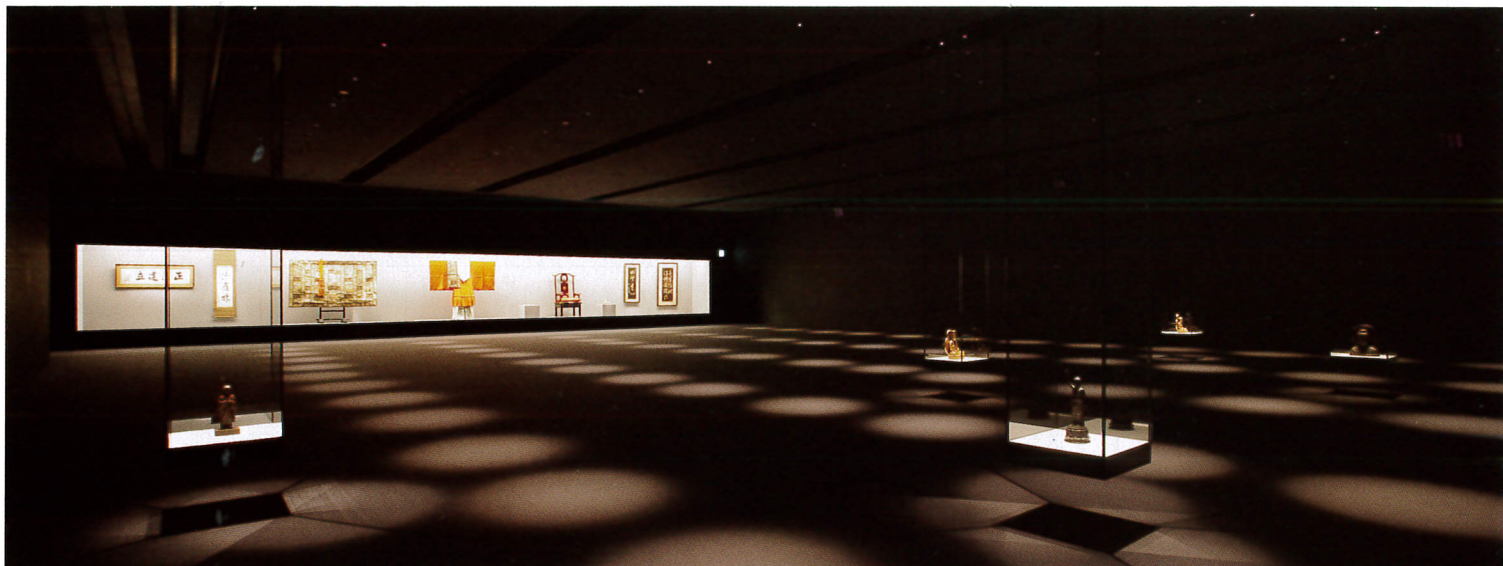


2009 FAITH & FORM RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE AWARD



RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE

LITURGICAL/ INTERIOR DESIGN

Light Gallery and
Interaction Gallery
The Ogen Center
Tachikawa, Tokyo, Japan

AWARD Merit

ARCHITECT
Shoji Oshio
UA OFFICE Co., Ltd.
2266-27 Nogawa,
Miyamae-ku
Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan
216-1006
+81-44-752-7721
+81-44-752-7723 fax

PRODUCER
Hiroko Sakomura

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Shozo Toyohisa

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Yasuhiro Sawada

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
Satomi Makino

PHOTOGRAPHY
Shinnyo-en

These two new galleries in a Buddhist temple in Tokyo needed to incorporate the function of display to a space normally used for prayer--a fusion between the worship and artistic appreciation.

The Light Gallery features the repeat of the large rectangular frames. It is a space for panel displays, tangible work of art (such as Buddhist images to touch) and installations of contemporary art. Lighting equipment is contained at one side of the rectangular frames to create one-way procession, so that the ritual direction of prayer emerges. Buddha stands in front of the wall at the end of the space. The wall shows a highlighted spherical shape to erase perspective, creating an image of infinite expansion.

The Interaction Gallery is not only for appreciators of the lotus position--the position of cross-legged sitting--but also the first gallery in the world with movable glass showcases hung from the ceiling. Buddhist images float in the interior with subdued light by using delicate glass fiber and LED. This movable hanging glass showcase system makes it possible for the gallery to have several exhibits of display, enabling three-dimensional expressions of the meaningful spatial idea represented by the Mandala.

JURY COMMENTS

This is a wonderful environment in which to study light and sacred objects. Artifacts are beautifully suspended in a way that results in a sacred space. The extraordinary use of light and shadow create a spiritual ambiance. The character of the space created opens an opportunity for personal rather than communal reflection and meditation.

