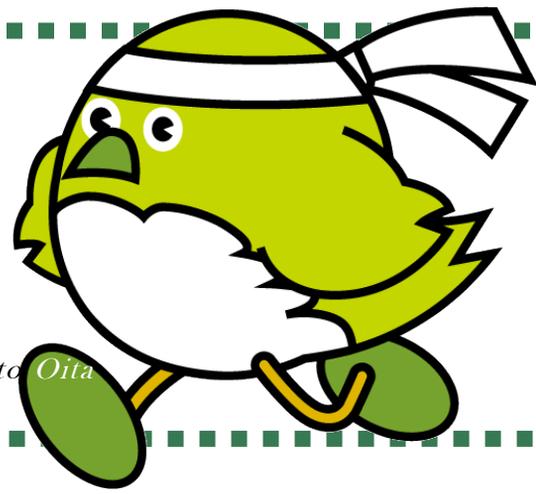


What's up,

OITA! 2020 June No. 49

Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita thriving all across the globe.



Reopening of OPAM and the Ban Shigeru Exhibition

Since the temporary closure from April 17 as part of the effort to contain COVID-19, OPAM (Oita Prefectural Art Museum) has reopened its doors on May 11 after taking infection-prevention measures.

April 24 this year marked OPAM's fifth anniversary. In commemoration of this milestone, the museum is holding an exhibition for the facility's architectural designer Shigeru Ban. Ban is a recipient of the Pritzker Prize, an award that is viewed by many as the Nobel Prize of the architectural world.

Designing multiple architectural works that are internationally renowned, Ban is innovative in the usage of new construction materials. An active participant in disaster relief work, Ban has created works such as the 'Paper Log House' and 'Paper Church' in wake of the Great Hanshin Earthquake, the 'Paper Partition System' for the evacuees of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, and the 'Hualin Temporary Elementary School' in the aftermath of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake.

Incorporating both the exhibition space and atrium of the first floor, the exhibit stretches across 2,000m² and is the largest of its kind that the museum has ever held. The event is laid out in a way that allow visitors a peek into the inner exhibition space. Furthermore, if weather permits, the museum plans to open the street-facing operable bi-folding doors to create a semi-outdoor space. The exhibition offers the perfect opportunity to experience OPAM as it was conceived by its designer – that is, 'an art museum that acts as an *engawa** that opens up to the city'.

**Engawa* refers to covered outdoor spaces bordering the perimeters of traditional Japanese houses.

坂茂建築展

仮設住宅から美術館まで

SHIGERU BAN

大分県立美術館 開館5周年記念事業

2020年 5/11 | 月 | - 7/5 | 日 |

〈時間〉10:00 - 19:00 (入場は閉館の30分前まで)

※金・土曜日は20:00まで開館

◎休展日なし

大分県立美術館



Garden of the Otomo Clan Residence Ruins

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Designated as a national historic site in 2001, restoration work on the gardens of the Otomo Clan Residence Ruins began in 2016. After the initial March opening date was delayed due to the effects of the new coronavirus, the facility finally opened its doors to public on June 5 this year.

Otomo Sorin (1530-1587), arguably the most notable head of the Otomo clan, is well known today as a Christian daimyo and military leader who ruled over central Kyushu during Japan's feudal warring period. The well-preserved remnant structures of the gardens were discovered in 1998, and only makes up a corner of the ruins of the Otomo Residence. Upon being fully restored, the garden measures 8,000m² in total area, and boasts the largest pond found in daimyo residences at the time. The pond on the eastern side of the garden is landscaped by bold rock features, given off a dynamic atmosphere whereas the one on the western side offers a sweeping view of its calm waters. Together, they make up a quaint contrast that contributes to the visitors' viewing pleasures. Seeds and pollen unearthed during the excavation were also carefully studied to create a more historically accurate reconstruction, with various flora arranged in a way so that the garden can be enjoyed throughout the seasons.

Right next to the garden is the Namban Bungo Koryukan, a small heritage museum where visitors can learn about Otomo Sorin and the history of the Bungo Province (present day Oita) through different forms of media such as relics, texts and films. The facility also offers historical dress-up experiences and VR tours to the Otomo Place, making it a great place for experiencing a corner of Japan as it was 400 years ago.

Access:

Garden of the Otomo Clan Residence Ruins
3 Chome-2-45 Kentokumachi, Oita, 870-0025
Open 09:00~17:00 daily (last entry by 16:30)
<http://www.facebook.com/oita.otomo/>

