



Katsura: Picturing Modernism in Japanese Architecture: Photographs by Ishimoto Yasuhiro (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)

By Yasufumi Nakamori

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Originally published by Yale University Press in 1960, *Katsura: Tradition and Creation of Japanese Architecture* is the most significant photographic publication about the relationship of modernity and tradition in postwar Japan. Designed by famed Bauhaus graphic artist Herbert Bayer, *Katsura* comprises 135 black-and-white photographs by Ishimoto Yasuhiro depicting the 17th-century Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto, with essays by architects Walter Gropius and Tange Kenzo.

This new publication argues that Tange, motivated by a desire to transform the architectural images into abstract fragments, played a major role in cropping and sequencing Ishimoto's photographs for the book. The author provides a fresh and critical look at the nature of the collaboration between Tange and Ishimoto, exploring how their words and images helped establish a new direction in modern Japanese architecture. The book serves as an important contribution to the growing scholarly field of post-1945 Japanese art, in particular the juncture of photography and architecture.

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- Sales Rank: #1806252 in Books
- Published on: 2010-07-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.25" h x 11.00" w x 1.00" l, 3.17 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 168 pages

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About the Author

Yasufumi Nakamori is assistant curator of photography at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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