

# 04 The emergence of Western architecture

In the early days of the Meiji era, architects were invited from abroad to design Westernized buildings and townscapes. In 1871, the Institute for Engineering Studies (the predecessor of the Faculty of Engineering, the University of Tokyo) was established. This institute was renamed the Imperial College of Engineering in 1877, and architects who graduated from the Depart-

ment of Architecture were active in regions throughout Japan. The first four students who studied under architect Josiah Conder graduated in 1879. Architects who will lead Japan's architectural culture were born and Western architecture steadily appeared in Tokyo at that time.



**Josiah Conder** From the collection of the Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo. Architect from England. As an educator, he built the foundation of Japan's study of architecture. Was a professor at the Department of Architecture, Imperial College of Engineering, and also created leading Western architecture of the Meiji era such as Rokumeikan and Mitsubishi Ichigokan.



**First graduates of the Imperial College of Engineering** From a private collection. In the first graduation ceremony of the Imperial College in 1879, four men graduated from the Department of Architecture: Kingo Tatsuno, Tokuma Katayama, Tatsuzo Sone, and Shichijiro Satachi. They made large contributions to shaping Japan's culture of architecture. (Front row, first and second from the left: Satachi and Katayama; back row: third and fourth from the right: Sone and Tatsuno.)



**Mitsubishi Ichigokan** From the collection of Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum. Mitsubishi Ichigokan is one of Josiah Conder's leading works. A three-story office building made of brick, it was completed in 1894. It was the first of Marunouchi's red brick buildings. Demolished in 1968 due to aging, it was restored in 2009.



**Bank of Japan Head Office** Kingo Tatsuno was the top of his graduating class, and followed in Josiah Conder's footsteps to become a professor of the Department of Architecture. The head office of the Bank of Japan was modeled after the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome, and still stands in Nihombashi, Chuo-ku (designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan and is one of the 50 Architectural Legacies of Tokyo designated by the Tokyo Society of Architects and Building Engineers). Tatsuno was also engaged in the design of the Tokyo Station Building (completed in 1914) and other important facilities not only in Tokyo, but throughout Japan. Source: Fujita Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology.



**Akasaka Palace (currently the State Guest House, Akasaka Palace)** Designed by Tokuma Katayama. Katayama dedicated his entire life to designing palaces, museums and commemorative and other buildings around Japan. The Akasaka Palace was planned as the palace for the Crown Prince (who later became the Emperor Taisho), and was completed after 10 years of construction. In 2009, a century after its completion, it was designated a national treasure. Source: State Guest House, Cabinet Office.



**Meidi-Ya Kyobashi Building** A Renaissance-style building designed by Tatsuzo Sone. It is the oldest existing private building that was integrated with a subway station. It was designated a Tangible Cultural Treasure of Chuo-ku in 2009.



**Nihon Suijun-genten Hyoko (Storage for Japanese datum of leveling)** Designed under Shichijiro Satachi, this stores the datum of leveling, which was built within the grounds of the General Staff Office (currently Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku) as the reference in determining elevations in Japan. It is still used as a public structure.

## Japanese-Western eclectic architecture *Tokyo Tsukiji hoteru-kan* (Tokyo Tsukiji Hotel Building)

- Entering the Meiji era, until Western technology was fully embraced, Japanese-Western eclectic architecture that mixed Japanese and Western designs were built by master carpenters and craftsmen carrying on the architectural culture of the Edo period. One of the early structures was the Tokyo Tsukiji Hotel Building, which was built in 1868 as a place for lodgings and trade by foreign visitors to Tokyo. Designed by Richard P. Bridgens, a foreign engineer who designed Shimbashi and Yokohama stations, it was constructed and also operated by the second generation Kiskey Shimizu (born Kiyoshichi Fujisawa) who had apprenticed to Kiskey Shimizu, the master carpenter patronized by the Edo government.
- Often depicted in *nishiki-e*, colored woodblock prints, Japanese-Western eclectic architecture attracted the interest of the populace. As the era moved from Edo to Meiji, this style of architecture heralded the advent of a new culture while maintaining the culture of old.



**Colored woodblock print of Tokyo Tsukiji Hotel Building** From the special collection of the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library. Features of this hotel's design reflect western concepts, such as its symmetrical plan, the tower in the central section, and arched gate. On the other hand, the gardens are Japanese, the windows of the tower section are the traditional cusp-shaped *kato-mado* windows, and the exterior walls are traditional *namako kabe*, with Japanese elements found everywhere.