



The Home of Architect Tsutomu Abe: Design for Living

Exhibition Period: April 4 (Fri.) to June 26 (Thu.), 2025



House with a Center: Dining Room ©Shigeo Ogawa

■ Overview

Gallery A4 will be hosting the exhibition, “The Home of Architect Tsutomu Abe: Design for Enjoying Life”.

From 1966, as a member of Junzo Sakakura architects and engineers, Tsutomu Abe was in charge of a school construction project in Thailand, and spent time traveling between Japan and Thailand until 1970. Exposure to the local lifestyle and ways of spending time outdoors, which involves creating shade under eaves and ensuring good ventilation while coexisting with nature, taught him that comfort is an important element of architecture. The house he designed in fits and starts between his travels to Thailand is called the “House with a Center”, and even now, 50 years after it was completed, it continues to fascinate many people.

Making skillful use of alcoves and corners, Abe creates a number of comfortable spaces with a playful spirit while utilizing two spatial configurations - “enclosing” and “covering” - and the architectural methods of “opening” and “constricting” the inside and outside. How the spaces are used has changed in accordance with changes in the residents’ lifestyles, and like the trees in the garden, they have grown in character while blending in with the surrounding streets. Abe loved spending time in this house, which was both his workplace and his playhouse, where he cooked, entertained his guests, and engaged in discussions while feeling the sunlight filtering through the trees and the breeze blowing through the house. The design philosophy packed into this architect’s small 100 square meter house asks the question, “What is a rich life?”

We hope you will take this opportunity to feature this exhibition in your publication.



■Exhibition Details

Title	: The Home of Architect Tsutomu Abe: Design for Living
Venue	: GALLERY A ⁴ (A-quad), 1-1-1 Shinsuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136-0075
Period	: Friday, April 4, 2025 to Thursday, June 26, 2025
Opening hours	: 10:00 - 18:00 (17:00 on Saturdays and the final day) Open until 20:30 on April 17 (Thu.), April 25 (Fri.), and May 30 (Fri.)
Closed	: Sundays, national holidays, and April 29 (Tue.) to May 6 (Tue.)
Admission	: Free
Organizer	: Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Gallery A4
Cooperation	: Jun Abe, Jiro Murofushi (Studio ARTEC), ARTEC architects and associates, Yasushi Watanabe Laboratory (Nihon University College of Industrial Technology), Kazuki Wakahara Laboratory (Nihon University College of Art), Hideaki Kawachi (cue DESIGN), Yoko Usuki (Bontana), Yasuhiro Mandai
Support	: Tokyo Society of Architects & Building Engineers
Contact	: Gallery A4 Office Tel.: 03-3660-6011
E - mail	: gallery@a-quad.jp
Official website	: https://www.a-quad.jp

■Exhibition Format

Chapter 1: The Residential Designs of Tsutomu Abe

The numerous residential buildings designed by architect Tsutomu Abe are analyzed in terms of “open spaces” and “closed spaces”. Various “homes” where Abe lived, which form the origins of his residential designs, are also introduced.

Chapter 2: Exposure to Thai Architecture

While working on the concept for his own house, “House with a Center”, Abe was also involved in a school construction project in Thailand as a member of Junzo Sakakura architects and engineers. Aspects of the Thai lifestyle that influenced Abe’s own home, including the way the outside and inside are blended together in the spatial composition and the use of ventilation to create a comfortable home, are introduced along with photographs from Abe’s own camera.

Chapter 3: House with a Center

Hand-drawn plans for his “House with a Center”, as well as trial sketches that show the trial and error process leading up to the final design, are introduced. Key points that make the house a uniquely enjoyable place to live are also highlighted.

Chapter 4: Tsutomu Abe’s Modules and Spatial Composition

The Tsudanuma, Nerima and Kokubunji houses designed by Abe are analyzed in terms of modules (dimension systems) and spatial composition, uncovering the secrets to building a home that is comfortable and accommodates the lifestyle of the people who live there.

Chapter 5: Interviews

This chapter presents newly recorded interviews with Jiro Murofushi, who worked with Abe on the project in Thailand with Junzo Sakakura architects and engineers; Mitsumasa Fujitsuka, who photographed the “House with a Center” on numerous occasions; and Masako Akiyama, co-representative director of Maggie’s Tokyo.

■ Images for PR



1. House with a Center: Dining Room ©Shigeo Ogawa



2. Tsutomu Abe (1980s), Private Collection



3. House with a Center: Central Space ©Shigeo Ogawa



4. House with a Center: Kitchen ©Shigeo Ogawa



5. House with a Center: Space with Connected Windows
©Shigeo Ogawa



6. House with a Center: Exterior Sketch, Private Collection



■Related Events

□Dialogue: A Discussion of “Home” Between an Architect and a Writer

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025, 18:30-20:00

Speakers: Yoshifumi Nakamura (architect)

Masashi Matsuie (novelist)

Venue: Toyochō green+ 2F Hall (2-5-14 Minamisuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

Admission: Free

Capacity: 100 people Application required (first-come, first-served)

Application: From 10:00 on Monday, March 3rd on the official website

□Talk Show: Tsutomu Abe’s “Home”

Date: Friday, April 25, 2025, 18:30-20:00

Speakers: Yasushi Watanabe (architect and professor at College of Industrial Technology, Nihon University)

Kazuki Wakahara (architect and professor at Nihon University College of Art)

Interviewer: Tatsuo Iso (architecture journalist)

Venue: Toyochō green+ 2F Hall (2-5-14 Minamisuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

Admission: Free

Capacity: 100 people Application required (first-come, first-served)

Application : From 10:00 on Monday, March 3rd on the official website

□Talk Show: The Origins of Tsutomu Abe’s “Home”

Date: Friday, May 30, 2025, 18:30-20:00

Speakers: Jiro Murofushi (architect, Studio ARTEC)

Maki Onishi (architect, co-director of Maki Onishi + Yuki Momota/o+h,

and professor at Yokohama National University’s Graduate School of Architecture)

Venue: Toyochō green+ 2F Hall (2-5-14 Minamisuna, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

Admission: Free

Capacity: 100 people Application required (first-come, first-served)

Application: From 10:00 on Friday, April 4th on the official website

*Please see the official website for applications and details.

▼Official website

