

# Hotaka Iwami

Curiosity-driven designer who questions what is taken for granted

My first impulse is to ask whether a brief, a material, or a social convention can be re-imagined; that wide-angle curiosity pulls me toward any discipline that helps test new answers. It has already led me—from ant-colony behaviour in architectural design (n×100/1 colony) with entomology professor to micro-gravity timber experiments with astronaut Takao Doi—to collaborations that turn ideas into built prototypes. I secured a HPI visa on my own and came to London to experience firsthand how things differ from the cutting edge in Japan.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Kengo Kuma and Associates / velux lab | JP/IT

Apr. 2024 - Oct 2024 | Full Time | Project Architect

Opera set Design- *Alcantara* material tests, lighting simulations and construction drawings

- Atelier Tsuyoshi Tane Architects | FR

Feb. 2022 - Aug. 2022 | Full Time | Assistant Architect

Rope-stair mock-up for *Vitra Garden House*, 3-person *Venice Biennale Japan Pavilion* bid (all phases), 2nd place in studio-wide internal competition among other tasks.

- TADAO ANDO ARCHITECTS & ASSOCIATES | JP

June. 2018 - Apr. 2019 | Part Time, twice weekly | Internship

Laser-cut timber & styrofoam models in a 4-intern workshop, streamlined jig prep, and honed design ethos through weekly critiques with Tadao Ando.

## Additional Experience

- Archi Tech | JP | Part-time | 2020

produced full series of ARCHICAD & Rhino video tutorials

- cabanon vertical | FR | Internship | 2019

furniture detailing & on-site build support

## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

First-Class Architect (Japan) Exam Passed

Registration eligible upon Design and Drawing Examination

## INVOLVEMENT

- Kyoto Univ. Unit of Synergetic Studies for Space | Researcher | 2020

ran micro-gravity cedar/cypress tests with astronaut Takao Doi; results fed the world's first wooden nano-satellite - *LignoSat* (launch 2025)

- Mokusyo (Traditional Japanese timber-joinery group) | 2017-2021

Organizer & Design Lead in 2021: coordinated a 30-member student team, secured a Kyoto-city client and design-built a rest pavilion.

- EKKYO SUMMIT & EKKYO CONFERENCE 2023 | Exhibition | 2023

Invited exhibitor-speaker; installed design piece n×100/1 colony

Jul. 2025

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High Potential Individual VISA

## EDUCATION

- Research Fellow 2024-2025

Kyoto University Dogs Fellow

- PhD Researcher 2024

Politecnico di Milano

- Master in Architecture 2021-2024

Kyoto University Full-tuition waiver

- Exchange 2021

ENSA-PLV (Tobitate! scholarship)

- Bachelor in Architecture 2017-2021

Kyoto University Full-tuition waiver

## HONORS & AWARDS

- Finalist 2022

Jacques Rougerie Foundation Architecture Competition (*PLAN 75*)

- Dean's Award 2022

Kyoto Univ. Eng. (*Mokusho*)

- Silver Medal 2021

8th Space Architecture Award

- Excellence Award 2021

Kyoto Univ. Diploma Projects (*The Lake and Surfaces*)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- DoGS Fellowship

Kyoto Univ. PhD research stipend

- Tobitate! JP Young Ambassador Program

monthly living stipend + travel

- Ushio Foundation Scholarship

stipend throughout M.Arch studies

## SKILLS

- Rhinoceros gh
- ARCHICAD
- V-Ray Render
- Enscape
- Adobe Ai/Ps/Id
- Woodworking
- CNC milling
- Laser-cut
- FDM 3D print
- Hunter License JP