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Ikebana meets Architecture

Contributions by Hera Van Sande

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- A unique dialogue between the visionary ideas of five iconic architects and the timeless art of ikebana
- Features the designs of Ikebana artists from around the world
- A visually striking collector's book, the tenth book in this ikebana series

At their core, both architecture and ikebana are exercises in looking, selecting and leaving out. With a minimum of elements, architects and ikebana artists shape space and give meaning to emptiness.

Ikebana Meets Architecture brings these two worlds into dialogue. Inspired by five visionary architects – Frank Gehry, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Zaha Hadid, Tadao Ando and Santiago Calatrava – ikebana artists from around the world explore how architectural ideas can be translated into natural materials and spatial compositions.

Each creation is a personal interpretation of architectural principles, rather than an imitation of iconic architecture. Architecture is thus reinvented in every arrangement – transformed into a temporary, living form. Gehry's fluid forms, Hundertwasser's organic irregularity, Hadid's sense of movement, Ando's serene use of space and light, and Calatrava's expressive structures are translated into natural materials, line, balance, rhythm and void. Together, they form an inspiring collection of ephemeral 'architectures', carefully captured in photography.

Hera Van Sande (1969) is a Belgian architect and architectural engineer. She graduated from Ghent University in 1991 and later earned a PhD from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, researching Japanese Modernism. Her research brought her to Japan, where she was a researcher at Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo. A practicing architect since 1993, Van Sande is currently managing director of JUNO architecten. She has collaborated with Japanese architect Toyo Ito on projects including the Bruges Pavilion and the competition for De Krook Library in Ghent. Van Sande teaches architecture at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and KU Leuven and contributes to architectural discourse through publications and editorial work. She is also artistic director of Archipel, an organisation promoting architectural awareness in Flanders through lectures, travel and cultural initiatives. Her practice explores how architecture can respond to changing societal challenges, with particular attention to nature, light, air, scarcity and the relationship between space and its users.

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