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Kengo Kuma: a LAB for materials

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- Kengo Kuma's work in JA 109 is organized by material type and his projects are guided by a 3 layer process - materials, methods, and geometry

Over the last 30 years Kengo Kuma has been working to re-introduce materials, support skilled craft, and connect people and projects to their surroundings. *JA 109* presents his work through the framework of his focus on materiality. Kuma has developed a 3 layer process – materials, methods, and geometry, which is used to guide his work. In practice, this turns into decisions on the type of material used, assembly method, and resulting form. This issue is organized by the material type of each project and is visualized in a diagram that describes his work history. Wood is frequently Kuma's material of choice and projects such as Sunny Hills Japan and the Yusuha Wooden Bridge Museum are featured. Other projects combine materials such as earth, stone, metal, tile, glass, and membranes to showcase the continuous effort that connects each of his works. Text in English and Japanese.

JA - the Japan Architect - was first published in June 1956 and was the only English language periodical that introduced Japanese architecture to an overseas audience. Since 1991 it has been published as a quarterly journal in both Japanese and English, expanding its readership both inside and outside of Japan. Today's JA showcases contemporary Japanese architecture with in-depth commentary on the theoretical history and context of the projects. It is organized with an emphasis on developments originating in Japan. The magazine surveys the country's diverse, ever-changing architectural scene, identifies important trends to convey to a wider audience outside Japan, takes up current, compelling issues and considers the latest architectural trends.