Design

Place of origin: Japan (probably, made)

Date: 2009 (made)

Artist/Maker: Terunobu Fujimori (architect)

Materials and Techniques: Pencil on paper, with envelope and metal staple

Credit Line: Given by Terinobu Fujimori

Museum number: E.189-2012

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level E, case A, shelf 212

Public access description

Using the landscape of the Museum as a test site, the V&A invited nineteen architects to submit proposals for structures that examine notions of refuge and retreat. Responding to specific locations in the Museum, the architects explored themes such as study, work, play, performance and contemplation. Seven of the proposals were then selected for construction at full-scale.

These projects promoted an attitude to architecture where to 'dwell' meant something more than simply to find shelter. Each building invited the participation of the viewer. These immersive environments reawakened people's ability to inhabit architectural space on both a physical and an emotional level.

Much of Terunobu Fujimori's architecture aims to reconfigure our view of the natural landscape around us. Reaching this 'floating' teahouse via a ladder, visitors are rewarded with an elevated view of the surrounding galleries. The charred, blackened timber exterior, with its textured and tactile surface, represents an extreme of materiality. The process of burning the wood also acts to preserve the building material, thus increasing the structure's lifespan.

Descriptive line

Sketch by Terinobu Fujimori, showing packing instructions for E.1433-2010 the model for Terinobu Fujimori's 'Beetle's House', built for the V&A exhibition '1:1 Architects Build Small Spaces,' 2010

Physical description

Sketch in pencil on headed paper with three diagrams, top (1) the model of the 'Beetle's House' in box, sitting on two blocks, below (2) the model raised up, with indicator arrow, and to the right the model with two hands, indicator arrows and the instruction 'hang up'. A brown envelope printed with Japanese text stapled to the top left corner.

Dimensions

width: 21 cm, height: 29.7 cm paper only, height: 32.3 cm with envelope

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URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1243628/design-terunobu-fujimori/