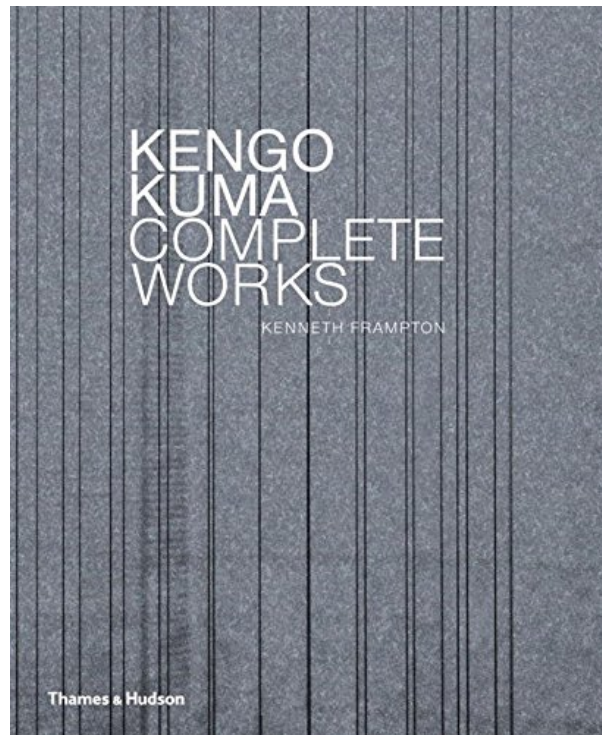
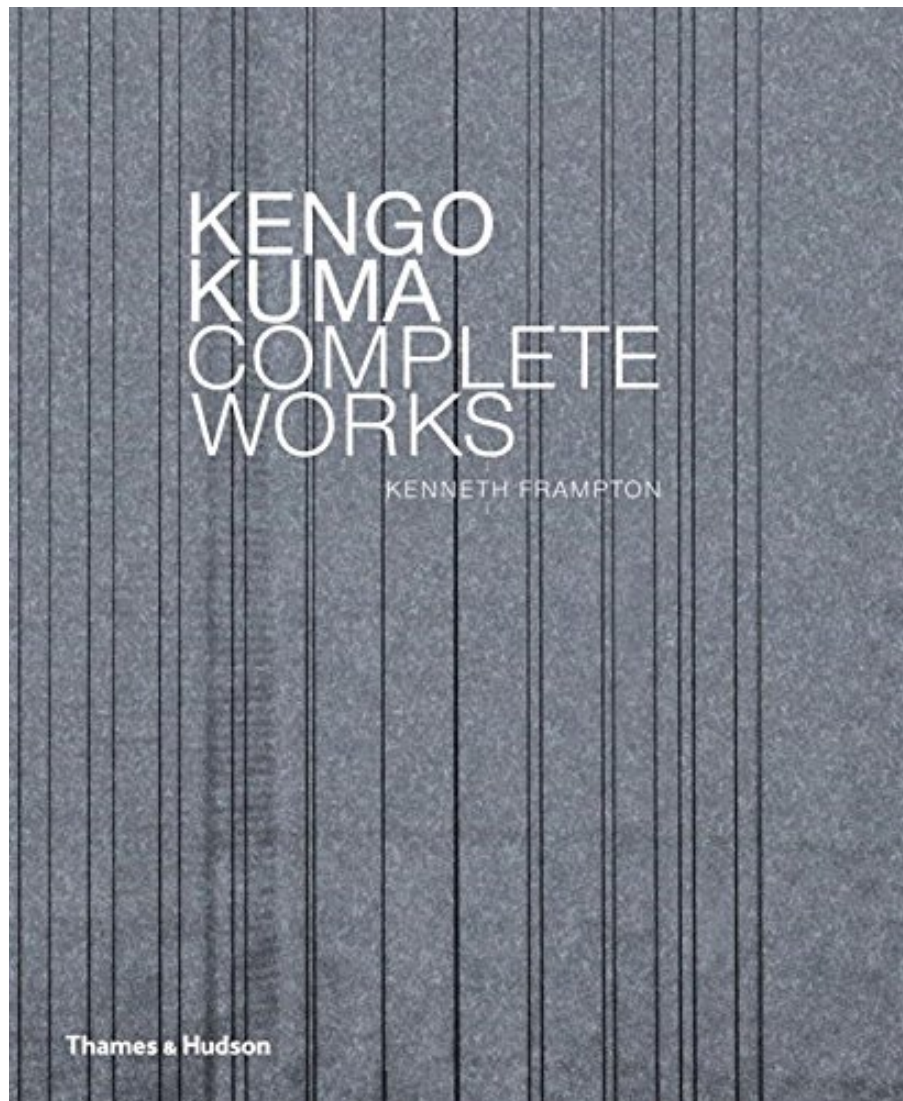


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Review

“This important opus brings convincing evidence that embracing the ambivalence inherent in a negotiation between tradition and contemporary technology, and between normative regulation and creativity, is key to architecture’s pertinence to culture.” (The Architect's Newspaper)

About the Author

Kenneth Frampton is a historian and theorist, and a professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, New York. His many books include *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, *Le Corbusier*, and *Kengo Kuma: Complete Works*.

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A major monograph documenting Kengo Kuma's interpretations of traditional Japanese architecture

The quintessential Japanese architect of today, Kengo Kuma has forged a modern design language that artfully combines the country's traditional building crafts with sophisticated technologies and materials. Kenneth Frampton frames Kuma's work in the context of post-war Japan's flourishing architecture scene. From his iconic *Water/Glass* (1995) to the Nezu Museum in Tokyo (2009), each building is presented through descriptive text, newly commissioned photographs, and detailed drawings that reveal the refined architectonic vocabulary that characterizes Kuma's buildings.

Created in collaboration with Kuma, the projects are organized by materials: Water and Glass; Wood; Grass and Bamboo; and Stone, Earth, and Ceramics.

390 illustrations, 222 in color

- Sales Rank: #421583 in Books
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- Published on: 2013-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
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- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

Features

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Great Book

By Ko Wibowo

The only lacking part is drawings or sketches explaining the tectonic of the design. I would have been great if each project is supported by design process followed with some detail drawings.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Innovative Tradition

By Sonntag

The motto of Kengo Kuma's practice "is to recover the tradition of Japanese buildings and to reinterpret these traditions for the 21st century". But what sets his work apart from his Post-Modern predecessors, or his peer Japanese architects who shared a similar goal such as Hiroshi Naito or Terunobu Fujimori was he deemphasized formal expression, and instead, he focused meticulously on the intangibles of traditional Japanese architecture, such as layering of space, mentality of emptiness, the play of light and shadow, framing of views, and nature and its expression thru materiality. His most distinguished methodology of recreating the intangibles was through the manipulation of materials and their tectonics to produce phenomenal effects that rooted his designs to their time and places. His choices of materials were typically mixtures of modern (glass, metal, concrete, etc...) with natural and often regional (straw, bamboo, wood, stone, plants, water, earth, etc...). Although most of his projects looked different from one another but the rigorous execution of details and unrelentingly dialogues between traditional and contemporary made his architecture immediately recognizable.

The 320 volume by legendary Kenneth Frampton in collaboration with the architect is arguably the best Kengo Kuma monograph to date. Although I also place Botond Bogner's *Material Immaterial* in high regard since it was the book that began my fascination of the architect's work, but unfortunately, his more recent projects were not available at the time of publication in 2009. *Material tectonic culture and critical regionalism* are two of Frampton's specialties, and that's how the contents structured. The book is not organized chronologically but thru materials from Water and Glass; Wood; Grass and Bamboo; and Stone, Earth, and Ceramics. The intangible qualities of Japanese architecture were not bounded by their geographical region but something universal to all his projects throughout the world. Is that a blessing or contradiction? I'm going to leave that thought to you.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

really good!

By Andrea

Really well done and interesting book!!

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