

**A Holistic Approach to Architecture that Blends Technology and Culture,
from an Architectural Products Manufacturer**

**YKK AP Publishes Video Content Showcasing the YKK Group's
"Thinking Architecture" on Its Website**

YKK AP Inc. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Akira Uozu) is pleased to announce the release of "Thinking Architecture," a video series showcasing buildings owned by the YKK Group in Toyama Prefecture, on the YKK AP global website.

YKK AP is a manufacturer of architectural products like windows and doors, but at its core lies the pursuit of a fusion of "Art (Architectural Culture)" and "Technology." By embracing local climates and cultures, and addressing social challenges such as climate change and energy issues as well as human health and well-being, we incorporate our own products into YKK Group buildings to explore the role architecture should play in society.

As a contribution to architectural culture, we have released a video series titled "Thinking Architecture." This series showcases six iconic buildings that embody the spirit of architecture, reflecting the "AP" (Architectural Products) in our company name. Through these architectural works, we invite you to discover how we are working to realize our Purpose: "We Build a Better Society Through Architectural Products."

"Thinking Architecture" website

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/>



■ Overview of "Thinking Architecture"

The Group's site in Toyama Prefecture, positioned as its "Technology Headquarters," features a world-class collection of buildings born from dialogue with numerous architects. Through these architectural works, which tackle energy issues and contribute to the creation of open community development, we show how YKK AP is thinking about the role architecture should play in society and putting it into practice.

<Six Buildings Featured>

PASSIVETOWN: Thinking Architecture for a Sustainable Society

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/passivetown/>

PASSIVETOWN aims to maximize the use of Kurobe's natural energy resources, creating a sustainable community that offers comfort without excessive dependence on energy consumption. Here we introduce the "Tampopo" Nursery (Block No.4), which utilizes locally sourced timber, and the Hokuriku region's first mass timber mid-rise residential (Block No.5), which aims to achieve year-round energy self-sufficiency by converting solar power into hydrogen for storage.



The YKK AP Technology Museum: Thinking Architecture Combining Old and New

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/technology-museum/>

Realized by renovating a factory originally completed in 1959, the YKK AP Technology Museum is a facility that vividly embodies the fusion of old and new in architecture. This dynamic space, where the strength of the old structure merges with modern environmental technology that captures natural light, symbolizes YKK AP's commitment to connecting the legacy of past technology with the creation of future value.



The YKK AP 30 Building: Thinking Architecture for Wellbeing

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/30-building/>

The YKK AP 30 Building, designed around the concept of an "office in a forest," incorporates features that contribute to the health and well-being of all those who work there. The exterior employs a curtain wall made from 100% recycled aluminum, achieving both high environmental performance and aesthetic design. These architectural innovations create a space where you can feel the gentle rhythm of nature.



I-TOWN: Thinking Architecture Building Vibrancy with Communities

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/i-town/>

I-TOWN is an architectural project conceived not just as employee housing, but as a neighborhood designed to coexist with the surrounding community. The buildings are arranged in a clustered layout to harmonize with the surrounding low-rise residential neighborhood. By opening up the extensive gardens and large roofed arcades connecting the buildings to local residents as thoroughfares



and places to relax, the project embodies a vision for future architecture that seamlessly integrates into the local community.

The YKK AP M&E Center: Thinking Architecture for Coexistence Between People and Technology

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/m-and-e-center/>

The YKK AP M&E Center, which embraces the concept of "harmony between humans and technology," treats structural elements and fixtures, which are typically concealed, as functional beauty, actively integrating them into the spatial design. The 45-meter-span glass roof and exposed joints, of which even the smallest details are visible, showcase the inherent beauty of advanced technology.



Maezawa Garden House: Thinking Architecture for Communities

<https://www.ykkapglobal.com/en/technologies/thinking-architecture/maezawa-garden-house/>

Maezawa Garden House was envisioned as a "big house" where people from around the world come together, serving as a community hub that connects employees and the local area. The grand staircase in the hall symbolizes traditional elements like an earthen entryway, while the warm space featuring shoji panels and wood encourages interaction between people. Furthermore, in accordance with the philosophy of YKK founder Tadao Yoshida, it also serves as a venue for community-based cultural activities. These include opening the OKAEN garden to the public and hosting international theater festivals.

