

18 July 2025

The Honorable Toyohito Ikeda, Governor of Kagawa Prefecture  
1-10, 4 chome, Bancho, Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture  
# 760-8570Japan  
Email: teigen@pref.kagawa.lg.jp

**Re: Preservation of the Kagawa Prefectural Gymnasium**

Dear Honorable Toyohito Ikeda,

On behalf of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), I write to express our firm opposition to the proposed demolition of the Kagawa Prefectural Gymnasium.

As the leading scholarly organization for architectural historians in North America, SAH limits its advocacy to matters of national and international import. We assess such issues with rigor and deliberation, and do not speak without due consideration of a site's architectural and cultural significance.

The Kagawa Prefectural Gymnasium, completed in 1964 by architect Kenzō Tange, stands as a critical work of modern architecture. Built contemporaneously with the Yoyogi National Gymnasium in Tokyo—likewise a Tange design—it represents a parallel and complementary approach to structural and spatial innovation. While Yoyogi was engineered with Yoshikatsu Tsuboi, the Kagawa project involved structural engineer Takeshi Okamoto, underscoring Tange's active pursuit of varied technical solutions to realize civic architecture on a transformative scale. Both buildings symbolize Japan's dynamic emergence as a democratic and prosperous nation in the postwar period.

While Yoyogi has been recognized as an Important Cultural Property and is under consideration for UNESCO World Heritage status, the Kagawa Prefectural Gymnasium—equally a product of that watershed moment in Japanese design—has not been afforded comparable protection. The erasure of this site would constitute a profound loss, not only for the architectural heritage of Japan but for the global scholarly and professional communities that study and celebrate Tange's work.

The legacy of design excellence in Kagawa is long and distinguished. Under Governor Masanori Kaneko, the prefecture cultivated a vital network of artists and architects, including Genichiro Inokuma, Masayuki Nagare, Isamu Noguchi, and Tange himself. In more recent decades, the transformative projects on Naoshima and Teshima have cemented the region's international profile

as a locus of innovative architecture and cultural tourism. The gymnasium is integral to this lineage and identity.

We commend the completion of the new gymnasium facility designed by SANAA and recognize the value it brings to the community. However, we strongly urge you to reconsider demolition of the original structure and instead explore opportunities for its adaptive reuse. Preserving this landmark would honor not only the architectural achievements of the past but also the enduring cultural aspirations of Kagawa's citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. C. G.' followed by a horizontal line.

Bryan Clark Green, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C  
Preservation Officer and Chair, Society of Architectural Historians Heritage Conservation  
Committee

cc: Kenneth Breisch, Ph.D.; Anthony Cohn, AIA; Pushpita Eshika, Ph.D.; Yannick Etoundi; David Fixler, FAIA; Suha Hasan, Ph.D.; Priya Jain, AIA; Basak Kalfa; Patricia Morton, Ph.D.; Theodore H. Prudon, Ph.D., FAIA; Deborah Slaton; Ben Thomas, Ph.D.; Members, SAH Heritage Conservation Committee.