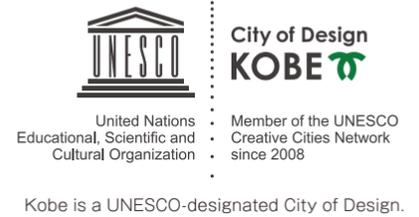


CITY OF DESIGN KOBE 2016

Member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network since 2008



Creating New Attractions with Design

City of Design Kobe 2016 Activity Overview



Civic pride slogan: "BE KOBE"



Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum (new building)

Photo: Taizo Furukawa



CHIBIKKOBE

Photo: Jotaro Sasashita



Higashi Yuenchi Park

CITY OF DESIGN KOBE

「デザイン都市・神戸」

Since pre-modern times, Kobe's distinct culture has been shaped through cultural acceptance and assimilation by the influx of people, information and products arriving from abroad. The growth of Kobe's unique urban resources and assets accelerated with the opening of Kobe Port in 1868. The cityscape in particular is characterized by exotic architecture and its proximity to both the sea and mountains. Kobe lifestyle is founded in an open, liberal cultural climate nurtured by an active hunger for foreign cultures; local manufacturing and craftsmanship is represented by unique products including chemical shoes, pearls and various

confectionery.

Furthermore, the reconstruction following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 was a lesson to the city in the depth of interpersonal ties, spirit of mutual aid and many other human strengths. It turned out that the city's time-honored, inherent qualities—including creativity through design—united people and raised hopes for the future, helping the city through its rehabilitation.

Design is indispensable to many things: the promotion of tourism utilizing local resources, creating attractive scenery, and promoting

industry, for example. Design also plays an important role in daily life, making familiar issues such as the environment, disaster prevention, crime prevention, welfare and education more visible, easier to communicate, more relevant, and action-prompting. Design makes things handier, friendlier, more enjoyable and positive. Art and culture can help develop that creativity, and prompted by creativity, a person's independent, voluntary actions can enrich people's lives and bring a dynamic element to society. It is our goal to share the values of such developments in Kobe, a UNESCO City of Design.



Building a community with the citizens

City of Design Kobe Creative Council

市民が動かすまちづくり

Proposals and suggestions with professional points of view were given at the Kobe Creative Council. The communication accumulated ideas and knowledge that were then used in the actual implementation of new creative activities with many citizens involved in the process.

In July 2016, the Council organized the Kobe Creators Meeting, attended by creators, students, business operators, and others who had interests on social issues. Over 100 participants distributed ideas for projects on seven themes: "live boardcasting platform," "active city with bikes," "utilization of unoccupied houses and spaces,"



"entrepreneurship," "Design City and the Seto Inland Sea," "cooperation between industry and government on agriculture and welfare," and "youth town."

Projects to make Kobe more attractive at the initiative of the general public have since been inaugurated one after another, including an urban development project for better coexistence between pedestrians, bikers and automobilists and a project to connect the owners of unoccupied spaces with prospective users.



Higashi Yuenchi Park



Sannomiya Platz



Kobe Parklet



Redesigning Fukuiaminami No. 54

Revitalizing the Sannomiya district

Vitalization of Sannomiya area

三宮周辺地区の活性化

Several projects were carried out to revitalize the Sannomiya district.

Higashi Yuenchi Park: In June, an experiment began involving covering the almost entire surface of Kobe East Park (approximately 2,500 m²) with lawn. In concurrence with the opening of the lawn park, over 90 events of great variety were held (on over 90 occasions in total): "Urban Picnic," the 2016 version of a short-term social experiment launched in 2015, held for some 140 days; the café "Park Kitchen"; an outdoor library; open programs such as yoga and handicraft lessons; concerts on the lawn; and film projections.

Sannomiya Platz: The semi-underground plaza at the intersection of Kyomachi-suji is nicknamed "Sannomiya Platz". Music and cultural events, such as jazz concerts and talks, and a sake bar and other attractions were held on the plaza. Tables, benches, and free Wi-Fi are provided at all times on the plaza, providing a relaxing space.

Kobe Parklet: A social experiment was conducted involving installing a parklet (an extension of a sidewalk set on a wooden deck in the parking lane of a street and complete with benches and tables) in three locations. The Kobe Parklet project drew great interest

since it was the first of its kind in Japan. The parklets were extremely favorably received by their users as a new type of urban space for relaxation and enjoyment.

Fukuiaminami No. 54: This municipal road runs north to south, located on the eastern side of the Flower Road and linking with Sannomiya Station and the waterfront. To increase enjoyment of town walks, the sidewalks were widened and provided with benches. Kobe will continue to promote the creation of people-centered urban roadside spaces.



Highest award in the elementary junior high school student category



Highest award in the general category

1st Manhole Cover Design Contest

Kobe designs at our feet!

第1回マンホールデザインコンテスト

The First Manhole Cover Design Contest was held on the theme of "Port City Kobe". In this event, members of the general public were invited to submit their original designs to be used for manhole covers that residents and visitors see across the city. A total of 159 entries were received. The best designs were selected by a visitors' vote at drainage system-related events and through screening by a judging panel, and presented with one highest award and two best awards each in

the elementary and junior high school student category and the general category (senior high school students and older persons). The awards were presented to the winners at the 15th Almond Tree and Spring Music Festival, held at the Higashinada Sewage Treatment Plant in March 2017. Actual manholes bearing the two highest award-winning designs were installed in and around the Sannomiya-Motomachi area.

150th anniversary of the Port of Kobe

Kobe continues its progress together with its port.

神戸開港150年

On January 1, 2017, the Port of Kobe marked the 150th anniversary of its opening. To celebrate this milestone, numerous events are still scheduled throughout the year.

At the waterfront Meriken Park, renovation has been continuing to enhance the comfort of visitors, with lawn plazas provided and pedestrian paths improved. In concurrence with this renovation, a monument was erected in the park, symbolizing the civic pride slogan, "BE KOBE". With the 150th anniversary of the Port of Kobe as a new beginning, the waterfront is becoming an even more attractive area, leading Kobe as a City of Design.



Design-conscious information signage

Redevelopment of the city's navigation signs

まちの案内サインの再整備

In May 2016, Kobe City's common specifications for information signage were completed to ensure that public information displays would be worthy of Kobe's title of "City of Design".

As a first step, a prototype arrow-based wayfinding board was installed at the

intersection at the southern end of Kitano-zaka in November. The prototype was then examined, modified, and improved. Unified signage installation will be promoted in and around central Kobe, including the Kitano area and Meriken Park.



078kobe.jp 2017

078 Pre event

078プレイベント

Kobe has been making city-wide efforts to develop a cultural climate and environment that are open to, and supportive of, youths with diverse backgrounds and their activities, encouraging an indie and startup culture appealing to young people to lay down roots in Kobe. In 2016, a range of events, including concerts, movies, and ideathons, were held to advertise and gather momentum for the cross-media event "078" scheduled for May 2017 to promote Kobe's image as "city chosen by youths."



EAT LOCAL KOBE FARMERS MARKET

Weekend market for urban-rural linkage

EAT LOCAL KOBE ファーマーズマーケット

EAT LOCAL KOBE, a Kobe-based platform that promotes the consumption of locally grown agricultural produce, organized the Farmers Market in Higashi Yuenchi Park in the Sannomiya district, as in 2015.

In the fiscal year 2016, the Farmers Market was held regularly on Saturdays (40 times in total). It became an established weekend event in the park, directly linking young Kobe farmers with restaurants and consumers interested in local produce. On the occasion of the Second Gastropolis Kobe Day "Farm to Fork" held on November 5, an event focusing on Kobe's food culture, the Farmers Market was extended to the lawn areas of the park, which was packed with some 3,000 visitors.





Rokko Junior/Senior High School main building

Photo: Nacasa&Partners

Kobe City Urban Design Award

Preserving, creating, and developing attractive sceneries

神戸市都市デザイン賞

The Kobe City Urban Design Awards are organized as one of the many initiatives to preserve, create and develop attractive sceneries and townscapes in Kobe.

The Awards comprise three categories: the town design category commends architectural structures that constitute sceneries or townscapes distinctive of Kobe; the green CASBEE building category recognizes buildings with outstanding arrangements for

environmental consideration; and the town and communication category recognizes photographs that successfully capture Kobe's charms.

In the third edition of the Awards in 2016, the new building of Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum and the main building of Rokko Junior/Senior High School were honored with the Architectural Culture Award in the town design category.



Renovation of the City Hall space

New showcase of the Kobe City Hall

市庁舎空間の見直し

The City of Kobe made a public call for renovation proposals for the waiting lounge and the coffee shop area on the western side on the first floor of the City Hall Building No. 1. The call drew great attention and received 83 proposals from all over Japan.

As a result of preliminary screening followed by the examination of oral presentations, the proposal by Ryuji Nakamura and Associates Co., Ltd. was selected. In the selected design plan, wooden benches of varying sizes and shapes are randomly arranged in the lobby like tree leaves gently floating on the water. In the fiscal year 2017, the lobby will be a new showcase for Kobe as a City of Design.



Preservation and utilization of historical structures

Old structures for the future

歴史的建築物の保存活用

Kobe boasts numerous historic buildings, including old houses suggestive of past community lives and modern structures that symbolize the quintessence of Kobe. Kobe City actively works to effectively preserve and use them to pass them on to future generations. For example, a study is currently underway on the utilization of Sorakuen, which houses on its premises Japanese gardens and buildings designated as Important Cultural Properties, to make it a more accessible and familiar venue for residents and tourists. Kobe City also maintains a system of designating monuments and buildings considered highly valuable in terms of scenery formation, in compliance with the Municipal Ordinance on Urban Landscape. In 2016, the former J.R. Drewell residence, popularly known as the "House of Lines," located in Kitano-cho, Chuo Ward, was newly designated. Twenty-one buildings and structures have been designated to date, one of which is the Design and Creative Center Kobe(KIITO), the renovated Raw Silk Testing Center.



Renewal of Shin-Kobe Station Passageway

Gateway renovation for tourism

新神戸駅連絡通路リニューアル

The 130-meter connecting pathway between Shin-Kobe Shinkansen Station and Shin-Kobe Subway Station was renovated to enhance this gateway to match Kobe's image as a City of Design. The renovation was designed and supervised by Nagahama Laboratory of the Department of Environmental Design, Kobe Design University. Accentuated with the

unifying motif of the Port Tower, the pathway, decorated and lighted in a distinctively Kobe style, introduces the city's tourist attractions, such as the former foreign settlement and the Ijinkan district, in three sections. The renovated pathway extends a warm welcome to all visitors.



KOBE Bread Town Walk

One month of delicious bread in Kobe!

KOBE パンのまち散歩

Since the opening of its port, Kobe has thrived on international trade and encounters with other cultures. With a rich history, the people of Kobe have embraced bread, originally from overseas, and made it their own specialty.

The "KOBE Bread Town Walk" was held throughout the month of November, proposing a tour of bakeries in Kobe to find their favorites and develop an even greater love of bread.

The related events included the distribution of special maps, whose bearers were entitled to privileges at bakeries. Kobe was presented as a "town of bread" for delicious encounters.

U30 CITY KOBE

Kobe, a city young people are looking to

"U30 CITY KOBE/UNDER THIRTY CITY KOBE" has been produced and made available for online viewing, to nurture affection for Kobe among future generations. This is a series of documentary films that present Kobe-based young people who work in various fields. They vary in their professional activities and aspirations but have one thing in common: they are all young and chasing after their dreams. The films are highly realistic portrayals of these persons, with their feelings, hopes and dreams, and actions in the present moment. The original theme music was composed by tofubeats, a music producer who lives in Kobe City. He says that the theme music, available online along with the films, is intended to cheer on young people who are striving to succeed in Kobe.



Community travel guide "NORTH KOBE"

Presentation of the charms of Kita Ward through attractive individuals

コミュニティラベルガイド「農す神戸」

While Kobe is strongly associated with images of a port city, there are charming satoyama (managed woodlands and grasslands near villages) on the northern side of Mt. Rokko, amid a rich natural environment. In Kita Ward, agriculture is part of daily life, but the urban center is never too far away.

North Kobe, a guidebook that introduces the lifestyles of 13 residents in Kita Ward who enjoy the best of both worlds, promotes relocation to and settlement in this district.



LIVE LOVE KOBE

Live in Kobe, fill up your life.

From August through November 2016, Kobe City sponsored a program called "LIVE LOVE KOBE," a real-life experience of living in Kobe for those considering settling down in Kobe. Accompanied by local guides with a deep love of Kobe, the participants enjoyed living in the city like locals. In this series of programs designed to promote relocation to Kobe, a special program was organized on the theme of "Kobe Sweets x Work" in February 2017.

"What is a Wearable Device?" Festival

Spreading the word about wearable devices.

ウェアラブルデバイスって何だ?フェスティバル



Kobe City is working on the creation of new public services and businesses through the use of wearable devices, that is, electronic devices that can be worn around the arm, on the head, or the like. At present, however, public recognition of wearable devices is still quite low.

As the first step to changing this situation, Kobe City organized an event titled the "What's a Wearable Device Festival" to inform the general public of the virtues of wearable devices: how convenient they are and what users can do with them. The Festival provided the participants with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with wearable devices through discussions and trial use in a corner provided for that purpose at the venue.



Interactions amongst Nada Ward residents, supporters of the coming generation.

Nada Ward residents working together for the future

みんな・だ!ミートアップ2ndシーズン「みんなだGO」

MinNada GO is a workshop in which any person who lives, works, or goes to school in Nada Ward can participate, to meet, discuss, and formulate proposals with other participants. In 2016, the main objective of the workshop was to take steps toward implementing the 65 proposals that had been put together in the MinNada! Meet Up No. 1 held in the previous year. The participants, most of whom met each other for the first time, were divided into six teams and studied plans for over one month. At the end, the participants presented their projects in front of potential partners, such as local government representatives, business operators, NPOs and community groups.

They spent exciting hours discussing prospective partnerships and business creation.



Creative City Index

Making people's creativity visible

創造都市指標

Kobe City participates in the project "issue+design," which aims at tackling various social issues by mobilizing people's creativity. Beginning with asking essential questions, such as "What is 'people's creativity?'" and "What should be done to improve it?", Kobe City has adopted Creative City Indicators to visualize the city's creativity.

Five Indicators of [Active] Creativity

These Indicators reflect the action, attitude, or value of approaching, trying and starting something new, and moving forward toward the future.

- ✓ Challenge
- ✂ Cross-cultural interaction
- | Independence
- 🎨 Art and culture
- 🎮 Playfulness

Five Indicators of [Passive] Creativity

These Indicators reflect the action, attitude, or value of respecting and treasuring something old or different and serving oneself, the local community, and society

- 🔄 Acceptance
- 👶 Development of future generations
- 🌍 Contribution to society
- 📜 Transmission of tradition
- 🏠 Love of hometown

Power of Design Exhibition

Value of design for corporations

デザインのチカラ展

The Power of Design Exhibition is held each year within the framework of the International Industrial Fair Kobe. In 2016, products of excellent design selected by Mr. Shigeki Hattori, a member of the City of Design KOBE Creative Council (also the Representative and Creative Director of graf), and design-related corporate activities were presented under six themes. Specialists talked with corporate visitors seeking design-related advice and spoke at awareness-raising seminars, explaining the importance and effectiveness of design in manufacturing. (With the cooperation of the Japan Institute of Design Promotion)



12th Hyogo Modern Senior Citizens Fashion Show

For a Kobe where elderly persons can live full and happy lives

第12回兵庫モダンシニアファッションショー

The Hyogo Modern Senior Citizens Fashion Show was held in Hyogo Ward, with elderly persons and persons with disabilities occupying center stage. These amateur models demonstrated clothes made with cooperation from Kobe Design University: clothes easy to

put on and take off even for persons with disabilities, restyled old clothes and kimono carrying their owners' memories, and so forth. The event communicated the message that it is possible to enjoy fashion despite advanced age or disability.

"Design Consultations," supporter of Kobe manufacturing

Assisting small businesses in effective design use

神戸のものづくりを支える「デザイン相談」



In the same way as "Design Consultations" are provided at the International Industrial Fair Kobe held every year in September, Kobe City set up a booth for mini-seminars at the Kobe Small and Medium Manufacturing Companies Exhibition and Meetings held in June 2016. At the booth, experienced specialists carefully advised people from small and medium companies on design-related matters, such as designs for the products they were manufacturing and how to find designers.

The New Industry Research Organization (NIRO) situated in the Kobe Liaison Lab organizes "industrial design consultation" in collaboration with Kobe Design University, offering advice and proposals for small and medium companies as the need arises.

Lectures on how to commercialize "ideas"

Lectures for turning ideas into products

KOBE工業デザイン塾

In November 2016, Kobe City held a practical seminar in collaboration with Kobe Design University. The participants learned in a small class the elementary creative process of product design. A total of 14 product designers and planning staff members from small and medium-sized companies worked on the theme of a kitchen timer.



Product Design Collaboration LAB KOBE 2016

Support for companies serious about product development

ものデザインコラボLAB KOBE2016

In this program of practical training in product development, participants mainly from small and medium-sized companies in Kobe City worked on new product development and the review of their existing products. As in the previous year, Mr. Tsutomu Kanaya (CEMENT PRODUCE DESIGN) was invited as a lecturer. The participants learned the importance of thorough self-analysis, targeting and concept formulation for product development, putting together actual product development plans.

From the first class of companies that had participated in the program since the previous year, three companies went on to display the products that they had developed at the Exhibition.





43rd KOBE Fashion Contest 2016

For future globally active fashion designers

第43回神戸ファッションコンテスト2016

The KOBE Fashion Contest, inaugurated in 1974 based on the concept of creating new Kobe-born fashion trends, has since become a representative fashion competition in Japan. Some 100 contest winners have been sent to fashion-related vocational and technical colleges abroad so far. In 2016, five contestants were honored with special awards along with the right to study abroad. Their entries were later exhibited at Kobe Fashion Museum.



Crossing of companies and creators

Crossroads of businesses and creators

CROSS

In 2016, the exchange event "CROSS" began as a forum where Kobe-based small and medium-sized companies can learn about the significance and effects of design use and come into contact with designers and other creative professionals.

CROSS is held about once a month. Mainly young designers and creators working in various areas and company representatives active and interested in effective design use are invited as speakers, while workshops are held on design techniques and other subjects.

Kobe Tartan

Uniquely Kobe textile

神戸タータン

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Port of Kobe, a Kobe tartan was designed, an assembly of five colors that symbolize Kobe: blue as the color of the sea near Kobe; red as the color of the Port Tower, the Kobe Bridge, and urban vivacity; green associated with the mountains near Kobe; and white and gray as the colors of many attractive houses and buildings found in Kobe. The tartan is intended for use in the designs of ties, handkerchiefs, and many other articles in the future. The birth of this new but traditional design item is expected to bring even more vitality to Kobe.



Collaboration between Kobe companies and talented creators

Design project led by a private sector

神戸別品博覧会

Kobe-based companies committed to their beloved hometown launched a joint project to manufacture beppin (extraordinary) products in collaboration with up-and-coming artists and creators to vitalize Kobe and its economy.

The project has produced a succession of new brands and products, many of which are enhanced versions of nice, tasty, or stylish things that have already existed in Kobe.





Photo:Shunsuke Ito

DESIGN AND CREATIVE CENTER KOBE (KIITO)

デザイン・クリエイティブセンター神戸 (KIITO)

The Design and Creative Center Kobe opened in August 2012, to serve as a hub of creativity and collaboration in Kobe, a City of Design. This renovated building once housed the Raw Silk Testing Center, is now called "KIITO" (meaning "raw silk" in Japanese). At KIITO, creative people gather and interact, accumulating tangible and intangible assets

and resources through various events, workshops and projects intended to nurture local people's creativity. The center contains offices and studios for creative activities, an assembly hall with an area approximately 1,000㎡, rental conference rooms, a café, and many other facilities.

+ CREATIVE SEMINAR (KIITO)

+ クリエイティブゼミ (KIITO)

This is a citizen-participative seminar that aims to find solutions to societal issues through creative approaches. The participants, mainly students and working adults representing various positions and opinions, engage in group discussions and learn the process of devising measures for problem solving. In 2016, the seminar focused on themes such as productivity improvement in the western districts, the future of Kobe's roads (Fukiaiminami No. 54), and CHIBIKKOBE. Upon the completion of each theme, follow-up support has been maintained to develop the discussions into concrete projects.



WORKSHOP (KIITO)

ワークショップ (KIITO)

Workshops at KIITO offer the opportunity to develop participants' creativity under the supervision of creators and professionals from various fields.

The workshops held in 2016 include "Japanese sake and sake receptacles," "Dressmaking for middle age," and "Serious bread making class for men." Concurrently with the event "CHIBIKKOBE," various programs were carried out in collaboration with creators, including workshops on dream town creation and children's dream careers.



LIFE IS CREATIVE EXHIBITION @ TOKYO

No Retirement for a Life of Making Things

LIFE IS CREATIVE展@東京

In February 2017, the "Life is Creative Exhibition", which was first held in October 2015 at KIITO, was held at 3331 Arts Chiyoda in Tokyo. The purpose of this touring exhibition was to promote planning and implementing creative activities in an aging society. In addition to workshops such as "Serious bread making class for men" and "Dressmaking for middle age," six enhanced projects were

presented. The events held in association with the Exhibition were the Opening Talk & Reception Party; a talk on "How to live one's life in an aging society"; a review and talk on a "Design approach to populating aging" featuring Professor Julia Cassim; the "Workshop for Gear Change: proposals of diverse lifestyle options in an aging society"; and the "Life is Creative" café.



Photo:Shinko Tsujimoto



Photo:Shinko Tsujimoto



Photo:Shinko Tsujimoto



Photo:Shinko Tsujimoto

CHIBIKKOBE (KIITO)

ちびっこうべ(KIITO)

Chibikkobe is a program for children to have "real life" experiences and are given the mission of creating their dream town in collaboration with creative professionals. This major event organized by KIITO every other year was held for the third

time in 2016. To create their dream town, children participated in a range of programs, including the "Yume Mise Workshop", in which the children chose their dream profession from among chef, architect and designer, and created

their dream shop while studying with relevant professionals for about three months. The children also participated in simulated town management, which allowed them to develop their creativity, autonomy and other qualities.

LECTURE&TALK (KIITO)

レクチャー&トーク(KIITO)

In this program, creators active in a wide range of fields are invited as speakers. In 2016, the following creators appeared, focusing on various themes in a lecture or talk style to present examples and methods of creative activities: Yuhei Higashikata and Azumi Akai ("Art intervention in town"), Kunihiro Narumi and Tadaaki Fukuda ("Trends in urban center creation"), Hiroshi Ashida and Daijiro Mizuno ("Words and fashion"), and Masataka Baba ("Area renovation").



Photo:Shunsuke Kano

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE (KIITO)

アーティスト・イン・レジデンス(KIITO)

In KIITO's Artists in Residence program, creators who emphasize research into urban themes and interaction with members of the general public are invited to engage in creative projects while based at KIITO. In 2016, the photographer Yurie Nagashima created works with Kobe women, focusing on women's creativity and skills. Ms. Nagashima

listened to women as they expressed their feelings about old clothes that they had difficulty discarding. With clothes that these women had provided, Ms. Nagashima and her mother created tent tarps. At the concluding exhibition, she presented photographs of the tarps and scenes from the process of tarp production.

NPO Students Interaction Center "Kobe Social Campus"

Student power for solving social problems

三宮周辺地区の活性化



The Kobe Social Campus was opened as a space of interaction between students and NPOs that work on social issues such as assistance for foreign residents and the prevention of dementia. One major purpose of this program is to assist students in finding employment or starting their own business in Kobe City. This is the only facility and program of its kind in Japan. Kobe City supports students who participate in NPO activities and wish to begin or become involved in social business.



Kobe City Creative Director

Designing public services and projects

神戸市クリエイティブディレクター

In June 2015, Kobe City commenced the appointment of a Creative Director to solve various problems that confront the city's services and projects from the "+ design" perspective. In the fiscal year 2016, the Creative Director handled some 140 cases that required design-related consideration within the City Hall. The Creative Director's duties include the promotion of Kobe as a City of Design, advice on public relations for various projects, staff training, screening in the public bidding and competition systems, and the like.



<p>着なくなった 洋服や下着って 燃えるごみじゃないの？</p> <p>資源集団回収をご利用ください。</p>	<p>BC KOBE</p> <p>古物・古着は「資源集団回収」へ。 ☎078-322-5344</p> <p>【受付】08時45分～17時30分</p> <p>どこで回収する？ 申し込みページを見る。 神戸市 資源ポータル</p>
<p>結婚できないんじゃないよ。 いい相手が見つからないだけ。 では、出会いの機会を。</p>	<p>BC KOBE</p> <p>ひょうご出会いサポートセンター ☎078-891-7415</p> <p>【受付】08時～17時30分</p>
<p>緊急避難場所は 災害ごとに違ったり ややこしいですか？ 命を守るためですから。 避難場所はサイトでチェック。</p>	<p>BC KOBE</p> <p>KOBE防災ポータルサイト 「SONAE to U?」で ご確認ください。 何をえとろ？</p>
<p>うちの火災警報器って、 一度つけたら 一生ものじゃないの？ おとりかえの目安は、設置後10年です。</p>	<p>BC KOBE</p> <p>住用用火災警報器の とりかえのご依頼は、 神戸市消防局消防課へ。 ☎078-325-8510</p> <p>【受付】08時45分～17時30分</p>



Design Training Class for Teens

Designing food packaging in a middle school class!

中学校の授業で食品のパッケージをデザイン!

In 2016, at Kobe Municipal Motoyama Junior High School, where design is taught within the framework of art classes, students worked on product package design with the cooperation of a local company (Toyo Nut Co., Ltd.). From among the designs created by about 250 third-year students, the best works were selected to represent the

respective homeroom classes and were presented to the company. The best design was then selected and used for the company's product packages as a limited edition. Part of the sales from the products was donated to support the restoration of the areas affected by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake.



Kobe Municipal High School of Science and Technology wins 2nd Place in Dezasen (National High School Design Competition)

Teenagers exploring Kobe's tomorrow

科学技術高校のデザセン準優勝

The 23rd National High School Design Competition, popularly known as "Dezasen," was held on the theme of "looking at tomorrow's society and creating tomorrow's world." Among the 1,015 participating teams, a team of third-year students of Kobe Municipal High School of Science and Technology won second place for its concept of "Mirai-kan" (literally "can of tastes to come"; the Japanese word for "future" is also pronounced mirai). "Mirai-kan" is a project that involves canning a food item or dish that represents sentimental value for each person, to be opened in the future to relish the associated memories. The Kobe team's entry was highly evaluated for its unique idea of a taste-based time machine.

Through activities like this example, senior high school students are learning to find themes and challenges in society and figure out how to work on them with design power.





Kids SOZO Project (Creative Reuse)

The imagination and creativity to turn trash into treasure

こどもSOZOプロジェクト—クリエイティブリユース—

In the SOZO project, children try their hand at making creative use of waste materials generated in Kobe City, producing attractive objects from such materials. The children use scraps of leather, pieces of wood, plastic, and other waste materials collected from shops and factories in the city to freely give shape to their ideas by mobilizing their sozo power (in Japanese, the words "imagination" and

"creation" are both pronounced "sozo"). This project provides children with the opportunity to develop their creative sensibilities, while at the same time forming a network of children and their families, business operators that offer waste materials, project supporters, and many others through the transfer and reuse of waste materials.



Advertising Design Competition

For local companies and young designers

中小企業PR広告デザインコンペ

This competition is held to improve the design capabilities of small and medium-sized companies and discover and develop young talented designers. In 2016, three organizations selected in an open call—Kobe Pipework Operators' Cooperative, FaithCreates Inc., and AREZZO Co., Ltd.—presented their problems to solve and called for ideas for their PR posters to be used on pillars in public spaces. From among the various entries, the best one was selected in a screening for each participating organization. The winning posters were displayed on pillars on the Subway Sannomiya Station platform for about two months.



Intimate talks with leading creators.

Front-line creators sharing their personal experiences

雑デザインの雑談会

In this series of talks, creative professionals active in various domains are invited to speak about their design philosophy, design-related topics currently capturing their attention, personal experiences of professional projects, and other miscellaneous subjects. Mr. Yoshihiko Yamasaka, Creative Director of Kobe City, serves as the moderator/interviewer. The talks serve as a platform where the participants discuss and exchange ideas on creative possibilities, design for the future, and many other subjects, thereby expanding and enriching interactions.





UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

Promoting Kobe a City of Design

ユネスコ創造都市ネットワーク(UCCN)

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network(UCCN) is an international network of Creative Cities that is formed to promote partnerships and mutual exchange among the member cities. The UNESCO Creative Cities are defined as cities that aspire to growth through the promotion of cultural activities. They are designated by UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) according to seven categories: literature, film, music, crafts and folk art,

design, media arts, and gastronomy. Kobe City was designated as a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities in the category of design on October 16, 2008. Kobe has since been actively disseminating information on the attractiveness of Kobe as a City of Design by making use of the network. As of March 2017, 116 cities around the world have joined the network of UNESCO Creative Cities, of which 22 are Cities of Design.



Design Workshop for children (Saint-Étienne Cultural Exchange Program)

Cross-cultural encounters for enhancing children's creativity

こどもデザインワークショップ(サンテティエンヌ市交流事業)

Kobe City co-organizes a children's workshop with the City of Saint-Étienne, France, another UNESCO City of Design. In this program, the two cities exchange their local creative professionals to enable them to discover a new urban culture and enrich their creativity. In 2016, for the second edition of

this program, a Kobe-based designer was sent to Saint-Étienne to introduce Japanese culture to local children through folding screen and tatami making and tea ceremony. The children tried their hands at designing a space of hospitality.



Participation in the Creative Cities Network Project

Japanese Creative Cities presenting their cities and cultures

創造都市国際交流事業への参加

In October 2016, an exhibition and symposium titled "Creative Travel to Japan: Creative Cities And Japanese Cultures" was held in UNESCO's Paris headquarters by Five Japanese UNESCO Creative Cities i.e. Kobe (Design), Kanazawa(Crafts&folk arts), Sapporo(Media Arts), Hamamatsu(Music), Tsuruoka(Gastronomy) and one candidate city

Yamagata(Film). Each city presented their cultures, creative industries and creative activities. Furthermore, through the exhibition and symposium, all participants shared their own experience and knowledge on the ways cities should contribute to sustainable development.

CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK JAPAN (CCNJ)

A platform to promote cooperation and exchange among creative cities in Japan

創造都市ネットワーク日本(CCNJ)

The Creative City Network of Japan(CCNJ) was established on January 13, 2013 as a platform to promote cooperation and exchange among creative cities in Japan and in the world as well as to support a variety of organizations such as local governments that promote(or trying to promote) the efforts of creative cities. Its purpose is to spread and develop creative cities in Japan. CCNJ plays a role as a hub function of exchanging every information, knowledge and experience on creative cities. Its fundamental role is to

maintain support for organizations that take action. It aims to be a foundation to construct a peaceful and symbiotic Asian creative city network as well as to contribute to the reconstruction and regeneration of Japanese society by spreading and developing creative cities in Japan. As of March 2017, 87 municipalities and 34 organizations have joined the Network. Kobe City has been a steering member since the establishment of CCNJ, playing a leading role within the organization.



Designers of the City of Design

Meeting the people who design "Kobe, a City of Design"

Yoshihiko Yamasaka, Creative Director of Kobe City, interviewed professionals and City Hall staff members involved in various aspects of the designing of Kobe City. The interviews were published in the free magazine

Kiss PRESS from April 2016. The following are excerpts from some of the interviews partially rewritten for the CITY OF DESIGN KOBE 2016.

Design of the City Bus (from the May 2016 issue)

Cityscape- and people-friendly green for safety and Kobe-ness

All Kobe residents are familiar with the design of the Kobe City Bus, which they see or use on a daily basis. There are, in fact, two shades of green used in its green-and-white color scheme. Inside the bus, the seats are also designed to reflect genuine "Kobe-ness." I talked with the staff of the Bus Maintenance Division.

Yamasaka(Y): First of all, tell me about the current situation of the City Bus vehicle design and its color scheme.

Vehicle Section staff(V): Kobe City's crest is displayed on the front and back of the bus. The sides of the vehicle bear a curved pattern inspired by the kikusui motif of Minatogawa Shrine. The key color of the vehicle design is green, associated with the greenery of Mt. Rokko. This design has been used for many years since the time when all City Bus vehicles were of the cab-behind-engine type. Since the introduction of low-floor vehicles, a darker green has been used for "one-step" buses, and a bright yellow green for "stepless" buses, for easy identification by passengers and emphasis on the people-friendliness of the City Bus.

Y: The same design has been kept for a long time, allowing the vehicles to be identified at a glance.

V: That's right. Since the number of stepless buses has increased, some of the passengers who are more accustomed to the original color tell us that they miss the previous darker green, which they find more "Kobe-like."

Y: Are there aspects of the vehicle interior and design specifications that are particularly "Kobe-like"?

V: Previously, it was possible for each city to show its specificity in the public bus design. Today, with the Transportation Accessibility Improvement Law in force, the interior color scheme has become more or less identical across Japan. To express "Kobe-ness" under this condition, illustrations of the Port Tower, Mt. Rokko, and historic residences are now used on the seats. For rider comfort, V-shaped double-belt straps are provided for stability, and a larger than average number of poles are installed so that passengers can easily reach them in the case of sudden jolts. There is also a vocal warning system when the doors are about to close. These devices and arrangements are to ensure people-friendly buses. As for uniqueness, specially designed bus vehicles are used in some districts as part of community promotion campaigns. One example is the folk story bus painted with numerous folk story characters of Fukiai District. It serves local residents on a daily basis.

Y: Are there any projects currently taking place?

V: Yes. Only one of the total of 517 vehicles that serve the city during late-night hours on Sundays and public holidays carries a star-shaped electric decoration. This is called the Star Light Bus, and its passengers can receive a commemorative sticker aboard. The Star Light Bus's route and schedule are not fixed, so people who find it can consider themselves lucky.

Y: The Kobe City Bus serves 190,000 people every day. Talking with the Vehicle Section staff today, I have confirmed that, besides the familiar appearance, the bus vehicles carry many considerations for users, especially for rider comfort and accessibility. The next time you use the City Bus, why not be a little more attentive than usual? I am sure you will make some unexpected discoveries.



Seats illustrated with various symbols of Kobe, and stanchion poles installed at each seat



Cab-behind-engine type bus that exists at present



Mr. Noguchi, Mr. Yamada and Mr. Matsubara (Vehicle Section staff members) and Mr. Yamasaka



Ikariyama viewed from Koikawa-suji, a spot recommended by Mr. Michiki



Today, the decorations are exclusively powered by solar energy. The wind power generator that supported power supply in 1981 still exists. In contrast to the currently widespread propeller type, it is a Darrieus type, which can generate power without strong winds.

Design of Shishozan and Ikariyama (from the June 2016 issue)

Kobe's symbol that uses Nature's power to illuminate the city every night

The electric decorations on the mountains, Shishozan (City Crest Mountain) and Ikariyama (Anchor Mountain), in the background of the city center, are highly symbolic of Kobe's night view. They continued to be illuminated during the days immediately following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, with local people calling them "lights of hope" for Kobe's reconstruction. I am talking today with Mr. Michiki, Director of the Forestry Management Office of Kobe City, in charge of the management of the electric decorations.

Yamasaka(Y): How did the electric decorations begin?

Michiki(M): They first began with Ikariyama on the occasion of the visit of Emperor Meiji to the Port of Kobe and the receiving ceremony in 1903. At that time, it was not an electric decoration but a formation of pine trees planted to form an anchor shape. It is said that in the preparatory stage, children were lined up, holding flags in their hands. The decoration on Shishozan also began as a formation of pine trees in 1907 to commemorate the start of the Kobe Port improvement project. After this, there was Kikusuiyama for a certain period, a decoration using the kikusui motif, but this no longer exists. The pine-tree formation was replaced with an electric decoration in 1933, first on Shishozan, to be illuminated only for a week before and after the First Kobe Port Festival. Nightly illumination began in 1967 to commemorate the centennial of Kobe Port. In 1981, on the occasion of PORTOPIA '81 (Kobe Port Island Exposition), the source of power was switched to solar and wind power generation.

Y: It must have been an early example of the use of renewable energy for electric decorations.

M: It was done as part of PORTOPIA. I think it was still an advanced and special attempt even for Kobe City at that time. Thanks to this, the decorations were kept illuminated on the night following the Great Hanshin Earthquake. It was not by design, but I was told that the uninterrupted illumination seemed like a sign of hope to a lot of people.

Y: I sometimes see different colors. How are the colors changed?

M: Only the color of the anchor is changed. It's sometimes blue, right? Initially, this started in collaboration with the Orix Blue Wave (a local professional baseball team, now called the Orix Buffaloes). We decided to turn it blue when the team won. Today, it is turned blue when Vissel Kobe (a local professional football team) wins, on public holidays, and during the Kobe Festival.

Y: The decorations can be seen from various spots in town. Which spot would you recommend?

M: I love looking up at Ikariyama from Koikawa-suji. Also, if you go a little farther to Port Island, you can see all the decorations, including Kitamaebune. So these are my recommendations. The illumination starts at sunset and continues until 11 p.m. I would love to see everyone looking up at the Kobe symbols during these hours.

Y: The electric decorations, including Shishozan and Ikariyama, are indispensable

landmarks of Kobe today. I was surprised to learn that they had a longer history than I had imagined. The change from pine trees to electric bulbs and then LEDs is interesting. The area around the lighting facility that I visited for this interview was so steep that I found it a little difficult to walk, but the view from there was wonderful. I recommend this area for hiking.



Mr. Fujimoto (Deputy Director of the Forestry Management Office of Kobe City), Mr. Yamasaka, and Mr. Michiki

Manhole Cover Design (from the July 2016 issue)

Originality at your feet: Kobe townscapes on iron manhole covers

Let's focus our attention on the design of manhole covers that we see daily on the street. As different cities across Japan adopt their original designs for manhole covers, they now have an increasing number of "fans," often very enthusiastic young women who are referred to as futajo (literally "cover girls") in Japanese. I visited Mr. Kinoshita and Ms. Iwade of the Sewage Works Department of the Public Construction Projects Bureau of Kobe City.

Yamasaka(Y): When did decoratively designed manhole covers first appear?

Kinoshita(K): They began to appear nationwide in around 1981 to interest the local general public in sewerage projects. In Kobe City, the first decoratively designed manhole cover appeared in 1988 with the Arima Hot Springs design. At the Urban Resort Fair '93, there was a popularity vote for manhole cover designs held among the general public. At around this time, manhole covers depicting street scenes of Kobe's Chuo Ward first appeared. Other than decoratively designed manhole covers, in the strict sense of the term, we also have what we call "information manhole covers," which are in fact plates attached to existing manhole covers, across Kobe City. With them, more elaborate designs are possible, but they are in use only in limited locations since they require regular maintenance work.

Y: There are also manhole covers that depict Kobe townscapes, which we often find around the City Hall.

K: You mean the "Welcome to Kobe" series along the Flower Road and on Chuo Ward streets? That's a simplified and die-cast version of the existing "information manhole cover" design created for the spot in front of the Kobe International Exhibition Hall on the occasion of the Sewage Works Exhibition held in 2012. It was originally designed by City Hall staff.

Y: How many types of decoratively designed manhole covers are installed at present in Kobe City?

K: There are about 10 types. On Okamoto Shopping Street, a grid-pattern design is used to fit the stone-paved street. Another original design is used on the Center South Street. Manhole cover designs emerge from a variety of processes. Some special designs are introduced as part of Kobe City's projects, while others are produced at the initiative of commercial districts in collaboration with manhole cover manufacturers.

Y: I would love to see more active PR about projects involving decoratively designed manhole covers.

Iwade: I agree. At present, there is a project promoted mainly by young staff members of the Sewage Works Department that involves creating cork coasters with the same designs as those used for manhole covers, and distributing them to cafés in the Sannomiya/Motomachi area. We are eagerly promoting this project, hoping that it will get café customers, including young people, interested in the sewerage services and even have them spread information on SNSs.

Y: Every time I've gone downtown, the manhole covers have intrigued me. Today, I saw some manhole covers with rather unusual designs. Such manhole covers are used to add originality to the townscapes, promote tourism, and for various other purposes. Since there are about 230,000 manholes in Kobe, there is probably more we can do in terms of their designs and uses.



The "Welcome to Kobe" manhole cover is designed with tourists in mind.



Left: Manhole covers bearing the city crest are widespread in Kobe City at present.

Right: Kobe City's first decoratively designed manhole cover has an Arima Hot Springs design (*specially colored).



One of the partner commercial establishments using manhole cover coasters, Okigaru Kenko Café Ageha, situated on Toa Road



Mr. Yamasaka, between Mr. Kinoshita and Ms. Iwade of the Sewage Works Department



A special seaborne arrangement: waterfall-like fireworks flowing down onto the sea surface



Each shell is carefully packed with powder by hand, one slot at a time.

Design of Fireworks (from the August 2016 issue)

Fascinating seaborne fireworks, a veritable work of art of fire and light between the sea and the sky

I interviewed Mr. Yoshiharu Kishi, the sixth-generation head of Kishi Explosives Factory, and Mr. Yosuke Kishi, the seventh-generation head, pyrotechnicians who take charge of Minato Kobe Fireworks Festival.

They told me about the special care they take regarding fireworks festivals in Kobe and the designing and concept of fireworks, allowing me to glimpse the secrets of the beautiful fireworks that proud artisans create.

Yamasaka(Y): Kishi Explosives Factory has been making fireworks for many years. Has the manufacturing method changed over the years?

Kishi(K): We have a history of about 130 years. We still have old records from the Meiji Era. We have been making fireworks since those days. The manufacturing method has constantly changed, as you might expect. About 40 years ago, there was a period during which there were many accidents involving fireworks. At that time, the Japan Pyrotechnics Association took the lead in discontinuing the use of highly dangerous chemicals and switching to alternatives, and also in promoting the sharing of mixing and other technical information. Until then, expertise and information were not evenly distributed among the operators. Once we reached a common understanding of the danger of our work, the number of accidents dropped. Today, almost 90% of the manufacturing is manual, but mechanization has been advancing. There is also an industrial safety regulation that allows only artisans with professional experience of five years or

longer to perform such manual work.

Y: Are there special ideas and devices that you use only for fireworks festivals in Kobe?

K: In Kobe, we shoot from a boat on the water, not on the land. This enables us to use the diagonal skyrocket technique, which is prohibited over land. This is a great advantage for us because it allows spectacular staging covering the whole water surface of the area. We can make extra-large stars or drop lighted fireworks containing slow-burning materials onto the sea surface because there is no risk of causing a fire. Last year, we shot Port Tower fireworks with red rings. This year, as a pre-event of the 150th anniversary of the Port of Kobe, we are considering themes that communicate Kobe's attractiveness especially to foreign tourists, such as "I Love the Waterfront" and "I Love Jazz." With jazz, we can really put our expertise to the test, figuring out how to express this music genre at the Kobe Fireworks Festival, where music cannot be played.

Y: Are there trends and fads in the fireworks industry as well?

K: Yes. At the moment, the technique known as "Magic Button" is very trendy. This involves regulating light to the level where it is imperceptible to the human eye, creating light beams that appear as if they are moving and staggering. There is also a new three-dimensional heart-shaped effect. The heart shape is not formed with dots, but is given a three-dimensional shape. We are planning to use this in the upcoming Fireworks Festival in Kobe.

Y: Before this interview, I had assumed that fireworks were pretty much the same wherever they are performed. I was surprised to learn how seaborne fireworks can be shot differently and that there are Kobe-specific techniques.

At Minato Kobe Fireworks Festival, which does not rely on musical effects, you can fully enjoy the essential pleasures of a fireworks festival.



Mr. Yamasaka with Mr. Yosuke Kishi and Mr. Yoshiharu Kishi of Kishi Explosives Factory

Designing School Lunches (from the November 2016 issue)

Carefully planned menus and system for education through food

I interviewed members of the Health and Education Section of the Board of Education of Kobe City who are involved in school lunch management, learning about the history of school lunches and the special consideration given to menu planning.

At present, 84,000 meals are served at 170 elementary schools and special needs schools in Kobe City every day. Special thoughts and ideas go into the planning of school lunches, which bears importance for the role it plays in children's school education.

Yamasaka(Y): First of all, tell me about the history of school lunches in Kobe.

Health and Education Section staff(H): In Japan, the school lunch system was first begun in 1889 in Yamagata Prefecture for children from low-income families. In Kobe, school lunches were first introduced after World War II as a supplement comprising skimmed milk or miso soup for malnourished children. Later, school lunches became a complete meal with bread, stew and skimmed milk in around 1950. Today, 84,000 meals are served at 170 elementary schools and special needs schools in Kobe.

Y: How is the menu decided?

H: Eight nutrition educators working in Kobe City in charge of the school lunch menu draw up an original plan jointly with the Board of Education. This is done four months in advance to arrange for the purchase of food ingredients. Then, the Menu Formulation Committee, comprising school representatives, parents, cooks, and members of the Sports Education Association, finalizes a monthly menu based on the original plan at least two months in advance. The School Lunch Steering Committee makes the final decisions concerning order placement, and the menu is finalized.

Y: What special thoughts go into this process?

H: Since we are talking about 84,000 meals each day, we can't serve the same meal on the same day all over the city. It would be impossible to secure the ingredients. So, the city is divided into five blocks, and a different order of meals is assigned to each block. At the end of each month, all the school children will have eaten the same set of meals. In planning the menu, it is also important to consider the days of the week. For example, since ingredients for Monday arrive on Friday, Monday meals must be made of ingredients that do not go bad fast. It is also important to use local ingredients. For this, we develop original processed foods, such as Kobe grape jelly using grapes harvested at Kobe Wine Castle (Kobe Winery Agricultural Park) and fried meat cakes cooked with Kobe onions that do not meet market standards. Onions, potatoes and carrots, which are particularly frequently used in school lunches, are cultivated on dedicated fields in Kobe City. We try to use Kobe-grown produce in season, whenever possible, although we haven't yet achieved a 100% local consumption rate. Due to its long history, I think the school lunch system has become very well thought out.

Y: Are you trying something new or are there any changes in terms of the menu? If so, please tell me about them.

H: We have introduced a "chewing" menu that includes meals using tough ingredients to teach children the health benefits of chewing. We also try to introduce seasonal dishes and regional specialties into the menu, such as wakatakeni in spring and the local dish of takomeshi, because many children don't have the opportunity to eat them at home. We intend to continue studying new possibilities to further improve school lunch contents.

Y: School lunches are indeed an edible educational material. Designed to maintain a good nutritional balance, they teach the importance of consuming locally grown produce, regional specialties, and vegetables

in season, as well as foods related to seasonal events and sometimes even foreign cultures. Hats off to those who continue to draw up school lunch menus for their meticulous design ability!



"Chewing" dishes made with tough ingredients



Kobe grape jelly made from grapes harvested at Kobe Wine Castle



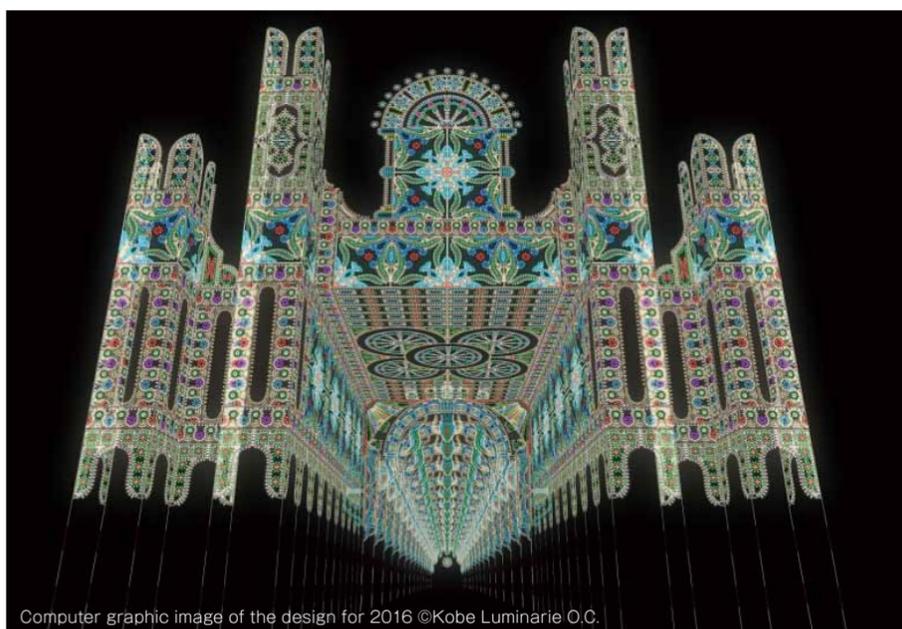
Mr. Yamasaka with Mr. Yoshioka, Ms. Nakanishi, and Ms. Nishioka of the Health Education Division of the Board of Education of Kobe City



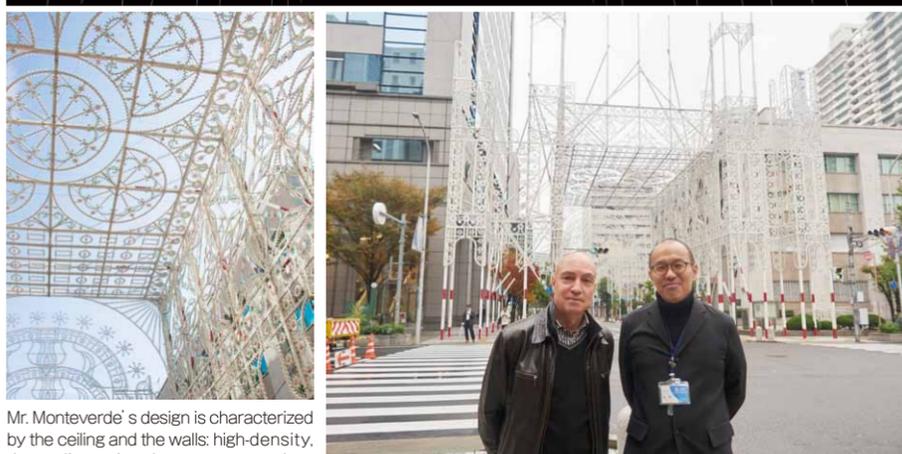
Left: A typical school lunch in the mid-1950s: bread, skimmed milk, and curry-flavored stew



Right: Examples of regional specialties in Kobe City's present-day school lunch: takomeshi (rice cooked with pieces of octopus), fried saifin sandfish, bachijiru (noodle and vegetable soup), and milk



Computer graphic image of the design for 2016 ©Kobe Luminarie O.C.



Mr. Monteverde's design is characterized by the ceiling and the walls: high-density, three-dimensional patterns complete with beautiful and unforgettable lights.

Mr. Daniel Monteverde of the Kobe Luminarie Organizing Committee and Mr. Yamasaka

Design of Kobe Luminarie (from the December 2016 issue)

Exquisitely arranged lights appealing to senses: Kobe Luminarie

Since 1995, the year of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Kobe Luminarie, a festival of lights, has been held in December each year for the repose of the souls of the victims. In 2016, the design, production and venue music coordination of the festival were handled by Mr. Daniel Monteverde, Creative Director. I talked with him in detail.

Yamasaka(Y): How does the designing of Kobe Luminarie proceed?

Monteverde(M): Kobe Luminarie is entirely designed by computer. Since we can't test with actual lights beforehand, the layout and detailed color distribution are determined almost intuitively. Intuition and sensibility are individual, varying from one person to another. Looking at Kobe Luminarie, everyone says, "Wow!" but they probably can't explain why they feel that way because they respond with their senses. A good architect effectively incorporates sensory elements into a design. In the process of designing Kobe Luminarie, I also treasure something of that nature. Once the design is finalized, matching parts are selected and imported from Italy in containers. Some eight to 10 Italian specialists assemble the lights over a period of about 10 days. Wires for electric bulbs are separately laid for each part in the warehouse. We carry out a battery of tests, checking for burned electric bulbs, short circuits, and the like.

Y: What role do you think Kobe Luminarie plays in Kobe?

M: Last year, I walked around with visitors, looking at Kobe Luminarie, and I heard many conversations. From there, I gathered that people came to view Kobe Luminarie with many different feelings. Some visitors had

lost family members or friends in the earthquake. Some visitors were small children who were not yet born at the time of the earthquake. My hope is that visitors receive something positive and inspirational from Luminarie and take it home with them. It may be a message of peace, love or happiness. I want Kobe Luminarie to be an occasion on which they feel something like that. Kobe Luminarie has been held for the 22nd time this year. These years tell a history of the people of Kobe. They made it through the tragedy of the earthquake with the power of hope. This is a wonderful power. In 2011, the theme was "Light of Hope," and I want to keep the light of hope in Kobe Luminarie every year.

Y: The theme for 2016 is "Poetry of Light." What will it be like this year?

M: This year's Kobe Luminarie will be even more beautiful than last year's. This year, we are using purple to change the color balance. This is a new design with many baroque elements. The southern side of Higashi Yuenchi Park will be a special place this year. Visitors can enjoy lights and sounds in a three-dimensional fashion, as if they were watching a movie theater screen.

Y: Daniel has assured that this year's Kobe Luminarie will be the best ever, with new design and arrangements, amid changes of the time, symbolized by the replacement of warm incandescent lights by LEDs for energy-saving consideration. I'm really looking forward to this year's Kobe Luminarie!

Fireboat Design (from the January 2017 issue)

With the new fireboat launched into service, the Suijo (Maritime) Fire Station continues to protect Kobe from the water.

I visited the Marine Fire and Rescue Station, which continues to protect Kobe from the water, as it did during the fires in Nagata Ward following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. In March 2017, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Port of Kobe, the new fireboat Takatori will be put into service. I interviewed firefighters about the history, functions and equipment of fireboats.

Yamasaka(Y): Tell me about the history of Kobe's fireboats and their main activities.

Firefighter(F): When firefighting was under the umbrella of police, there was an organization called the "Marine Rescue Station," and the first fireboat Tachibana was built in 1936 to be used by that organization. In those days, the fireboat was not equipped with a fire pump, and its duties were mainly marine rescue. The first fireboat with a watering function was Kusunoki, which was built in 1942. With this boat put into service, Kobe had two fireboats in operation. In those days, boats were made of wood and highly combustible. There were also people living on barges. The fireboats were frequently used to rescue people who had fallen into the sea from barges and the like. At present, the fireboat is called out 60 to 70 times per year, with 80 to 90% of these dispatches being for rescue. Fires are extremely rare. In addition to marine fires, the fireboat is also dispatched to coastal fires. At the time of the Great Hanshin Earthquake, the fireboat was put alongside the quay at Nagata Port, serving as a water pump replacing the damaged hydrant.

Y: As firefighters attached to the Marine Fire and Rescue Station, do you need other special qualifications?

F: We are licensed mariners. This qualification is required when you navigate a boat. When the fireboat is dispatched, it is staffed by 12 operators in total: basically six firefighters plus four divers if it's a rescue operation and two directors who coordinate for security on the site. Not all, but at least three are licensed mariners.

Y: Do Kobe's topography and other local characteristics affect fireboat operations in any way?

F: Unlike other municipalities' fireboats, ours has a typically "boat-like" design. This has resulted from an emphasis on high speed, to ensure speedy operations. Boats are easily subjected to meteorological and marine conditions, and jolts are frequent in early spring, when there are strong southern winds. In the sea area off Kobe, however, the two artificial islands serve as barriers and the waves tend to be gentle.

Y: What are the characteristics of the new fireboat?

F: It's fully tailor-made. It reconciles the heavy weight of the pump that it carries to secure an ample water-spraying capacity with high speed. Engines are separately provided for the pump and the power so that the boat can withstand the intensity of water during spraying. With a 10-meter-high water tower, the new fireboat can spray water aiming at high targets, such as warehouses along the quay.



Inside the fourth fireboat Tachibana: the center levers are for operating the water cannon and the pump.

Y: The Tachibana, which was put into full operation during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, has been retired, and the new fireboat Takatori has been put into service. The name of the boat was selected by vote from among suggestions sent in by the general public. It is derived from Mt. Takatori, a mountain that has been Kobe's landmark visible from the sea since the olden days, and has been believed to ensure the safety of fishermen and navigators. As the name suggests, the new fireboat protects our port city on the water.



New fireboat Takatori



Fire Sergeant Takamasu of the Installation Division of the Kobe City Fire Bureau, Mr. Yamasaka, Fire Lieutenant Suzuki and Fire Captain Misawa of Kobe City Marine Fire and Rescue Station

City of Design KOBE Homepage Renewal

<https://design.city.kobe.lg.jp/>

「デザイン都市・神戸」のWEBサイトがリニューアルOPEN

An Internet website introducing the activities of Kobe as a City of Design from various aspects was renewed and reopened in the autumn of 2016.

It provides information on design-related projects, workshops on the possibilities of

design, exhibitions, lectures and various other events and competitions held in Kobe City.

The "Designers of the City of Design" pages feature interviews not published here.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

City of Design
KOBE

Member of the UNESCO
Creative Cities Network
since 2008

Kobe is a UNESCO-designated City of Design.

BE KOBE

<http://bekobe.jp/>