

Greetings from of the Japanese Ambassador

My friend, architect, associate professor WATANABE Taishi, holds his first exhibition here in Helsinki. Taishi teaches at one of the prestigious universities in Japan, Waseda, and he has made use of his sabbatical by working as a resident researcher at Aalto University. I am so excited and looking forward to see his exhibition in which he entertains us with what he has learnt and experienced during his days in Finland.

It goes without saying that in Finland, Helsinki in particular, we are surrounded by the structures with superb design from modern to futuristic, such as; the National Museum and the Central Library, Oodi to name a few. Many across the globe cannot help but feel a sort of yearning for the Nordic style that is not only invigorating but also sustainable for many years to come. Finnish design, I personally believe, represents calmness, but at the same time, is inevitable as a means of expressing inner-fulfillment, thereby bringing eye-opening impact on those who have a chance to feel it. I interpret it as the power of silent appeal with great significance; the appeal of Finnish people who live in extremely difficult geopolitical surroundings, and yet wish to live peacefully in the world which unfortunately is not so tranquil. I can also see Finnish design as a source or symbol of power deeply enrooted within the soul of Finnish people who live with a major theme of life in harmony with the great nature. It sometimes looks too monotonous and simple at first glance; on the contrary, I feel it shows a very lively passion imbued with unfathomable energy.

From July this year, Tokyo held the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and their theme is “United by Emotion” . As athletes excite spectators and spectators encourage athletes, the energy generated from the audience would also stimulate the architect’ s imagination. I truly expect Taishi’ s works will attract as many people at the exhibition as possible.

Takashi MURATA
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Finland