

# Greetings from the Organizer

I, Taishi Watanabe, am a Japanese architect and the head of Taishi Watanabe Laboratory. I have stayed in Finland from 2019 to 2020 and have been a visiting researcher at Aalto University. Utilizing the research, my laboratory in Tokyo and I are holding the travelling exhibition in Helsinki, Berlin, Weimar and Tokyo.

This exhibition in Helsinki consists of 3 sections. **§1.** *Concept of “Nation of Sorrow”* introduces a mechanism of national romanticism that can be shared to a third place, named the Nation of Sorrow. **§2.** *18 Objects and 10 Prototypes* shows scenes of Japanese modern and contemporary architecture to find the same mechanism in Japan. **§3.** *3 Projects* proposes our projects that were born through these processes (the models will exhibit until 12th October)..

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who agreed to the exhibition’ s purpose and allowed me to display their exhibits, and all the co-workers in Japan, Finland, and Germany who helped realize the exhibition and write and produce the books and catalogs.

October 2021  
Taishi WATANABE



## Taishi Watanabe

Exhibition Planning Supervisor,  
Architect,  
Associate Professor

Taishi Watanabe was born in 1980. He is an associate professor at the architecture department of Waseda University.

In 2005, he graduated from the department of architecture of the Graduate School of Creative Science in Waseda University (Osamu Ishiyama Lab).

In 2012, he graduated from the doctoral program of Graduate School of Engineering in Tokyo University (Takeshi Ito Lab). He became a doctor of Engineering and a licensed architect in Japan.

Since 2019 to 2020, he had been a visiting researcher in Aalto University, Finland.

He is the head of Taishi Watanabe Laboratory Architect and the 22nd delegate of Architectural Institute of Japan.

Selected Works:

"Sechie/Stage and Strage", "Red House", "Blue Infrastructure Making the City exhibition" , "Air Grotta - Hiding Information -", etc.

Writings:

'Tokyo' s Coastline: A History of the Urban Structure Formed by the Distribution of Warehouses on the Port of Tokyo' (University of Tokyo Press,2017), etc.

Awards:

Gold Prize in Residential Architecture Prize hosted by Tokyo Society of Architects & Building Engineers (2021), JFDA award hosted by Japan Finland Design Association (2021), etc.