

## The Second Floor Exhibition Room

This exhibition room is arranged around the Nineteenth Century Hall, and the high and low ceilings and walls with openings allow visitors to appreciate the transition between open and compressed spaces.

## Balconies

The two balconies overlooking the Nineteenth Century Hall allow visitors to appreciate the complex spatial composition of the building by providing a view down onto the hall below and into the exhibition room behind the opposite balcony.

## Mezzanine Floor (Clerestory Gallery As Lighting Device)

A small corridor-like glass walled gallery allows natural light from the roof as well as artificial lighting to filter through into the exhibition room and the Nineteenth Century Hall.

(Only artificial lighting is currently in use.)

## Mezzanine Floor (Balcony)

There are three separate balcony-like rooms with narrow staircases made for meetings and for the display of smaller exhibits. (The mezzanine floor spaces are currently not in use.)



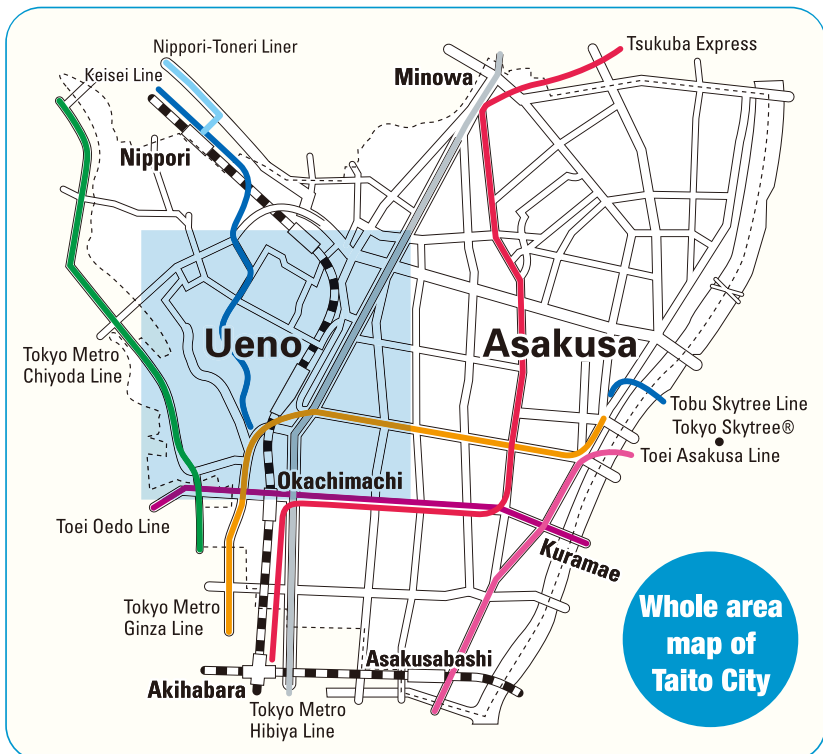
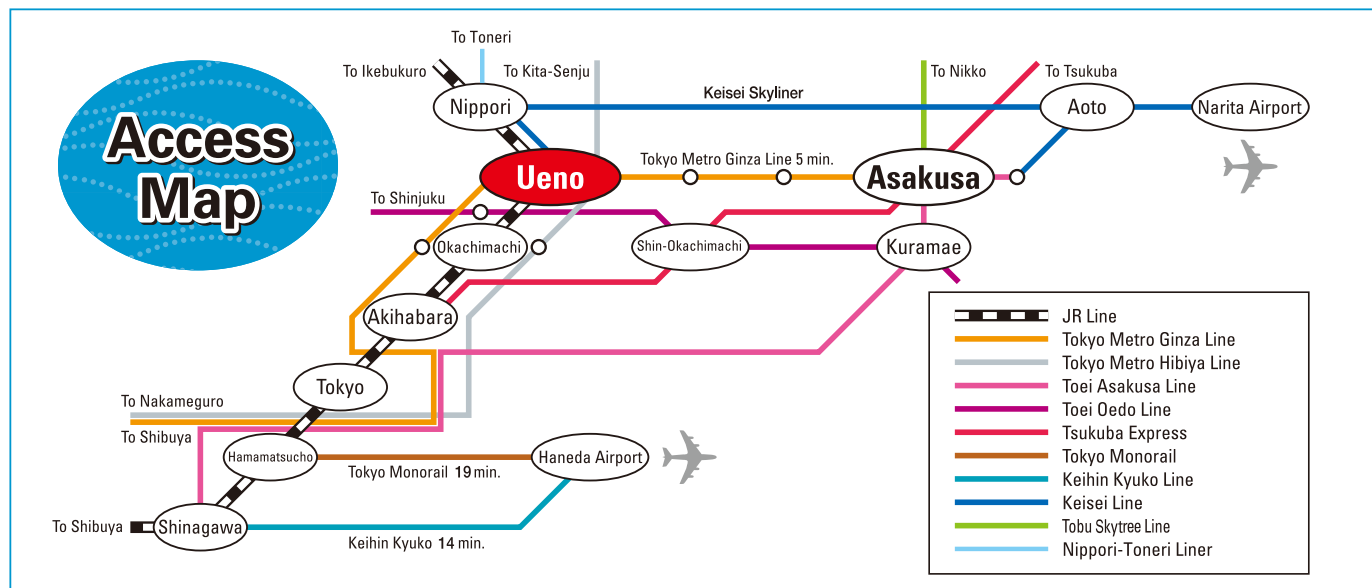
## Modulor (Exterior)

The concrete mullion-like narrow vertical louvers or slats, which are found for instance outside the windows of the restaurant and the museum shop, are positioned according to Modulor measurements. The design of the forecourt and the exterior wall panels are also allocated rhythmically based on the Modulor scale.



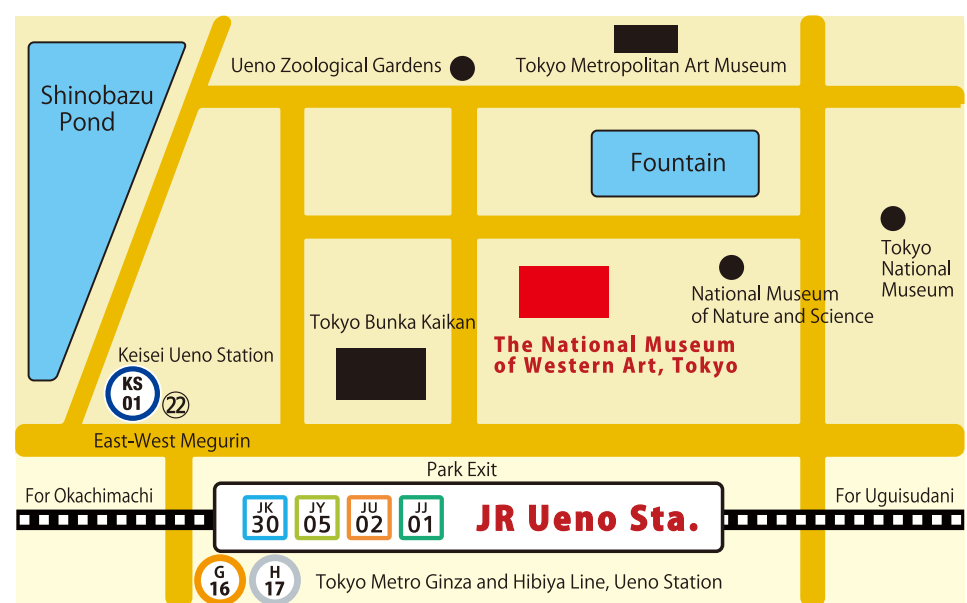
## Modulor (Interior)

Le Corbusier designed buildings based on the proportions of the human body. The columns are erected at equal intervals of 635cm. Most of the building is constructed based on Modulor measurements including the height of the low ceiling in the exhibition room on the second floor and on the mezzanine floor (226cm) as well as the height of the balcony handrail wall (113cm).



**The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo**  
7-7 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0007, JAPAN

- JR Line, 1 minute from Ueno Station, Park Exit
- Keisei Line, 7minutes from Keisei Ueno Station
- Ginza or Hibiya Subway Lines, 8 minutes from Ueno Station
- Taito City Circular route Bus, East-West Megurin, 7 minutes from bus stop No.22, Keisei-Ueno-eki



※The number of parking are limited in surrounding area, please use public transportation to visit the museum.

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English

## WORLD HERITAGE in Ueno



## The First World Cultural Heritage in Tokyo The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo

The National Museum of Western Art which is included in the constituted elements of "The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement", was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 17 July, 2016.



## The Nineteenth Century Hall

Le Corbusier himself named this hall located at the center of the building and intended to be the heart of the museum. Its open space rising freely up into places on the mezzanine and second floor allows visitors to appreciate the complex spatial composition.

## Triangular Skylight

On a clear day, sunlight fills the hall with natural light from the north-facing triangular window.

## Supporting Columns and Beams

Concrete columns and beams are poured in filled Japanese pine frames so the texture of the wood grain is beautifully visible.

## Ramp

Ramps were often included in Le Corbusier's design. Visitors leisurely strolling up the ramp, are treated to slowly changing scenery, and enjoy paintings appearing and disappearing behind columns, along with the changing appearance of the triangular ceiling.

## Floor Lighting

Floor-mounted lights were installed to light the works from below. (They are currently not in use.)



## Pilotis

This was one of the essential elements of "the five points for a new architecture" and the idea of a "museum of unlimited growth", which Le Corbusier proposed.



## Panels of Exterior Walls

Unlike in traditional architecture, the exterior walls are not required to support the weight of a building; each wall panel is embedded with pebbles and each panel is removable. (Almost all of the panels have been replaced to date.)



## Value of "The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier" as World Cultural Heritage

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier had been designed and constructed during the early of 1920's to the middle of 1960's. Over a period of half century of his works had proved historical outstanding contribution of "The Modern Architectural Movement": which criticized the style of architecture prior to the 19th Century and attempted to change architecture in accordance with the needs of a new society. His borderless works and transnational property had given magnificent impact to the architecture in the 20th Century.

### Materialization of Le Corbusier's ideas by his Architectural Work

The architectural works by Le Corbusier provided outstanding solutions to the challenges of inventing new architectural techniques to respond to the needs of society.

### The influence of Le Corbusier's architectural work on a worldwide level

The works by Le Corbusier reflect new concepts and principles and had a significant influence over wide geographical areas.

## The World Cultural Heritage

Constituted assets: 17 elements in 7 countries

# The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

## — an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement

### Who's Le Corbusier?



### Le Corbusier 1887–1965

Real Name : Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris  
 ※ "Le Corbusier" was his pen name that he used in the *Esprit Nouveau* journal.

• He was born in La Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland. In order to take over his father's business as a clock smith, he went to an art school where he studied sculpture and metal carving. During his study in the art school, his teacher: Charles L'Éplattenier encouraged him to study architecture. That was his first step as an architect. Afterwards, he moved to Paris and succeeded all over the world. (He later took a French nationality.)

- He is one of the master of modern architects in the 20th century.
- He proposed new ideas, such as the "Domino system", "The Five Points for a New Architecture", "Modulor" and "Musée a croissance illimitée (Museum of Unlimited Growth)". These ideas have had a major impact on architecture and design since the 20th century.
- There remain about 70 architectural works all over the world.
- In addition to the architectural field, he tackled interior design and writing. This included works of arts such as paintings, prints and sculptures. He took part in a wide range of creative activities – from small houses to a draft of the United Nations Building.

### The Key words for understanding the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

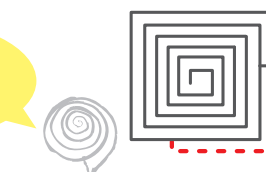
#### Modulor

This is the architectural rule to set the dimension of building by the traditional golden ratio and various human body measurements rulers (as a basic dimension). For example, Le Corbusier determined the ideal height of ceiling is a person (183cm tall European man) stretching his hand upwards(226cm). Using this method; "the modulor", he set dimensions of rooms and furniture.

#### Musée a croissance illimitée (Museum of Unlimited Growth)

The floor plan of this concept allows to be extended in a spiral from the center of the building toward the outside to increase the exhibit space as collection expand. This concept is also attempted in the museums in Ahmedabad and Chandigarh in India in addition to the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo.

I came up with the idea of spiral shape from a snail shell.



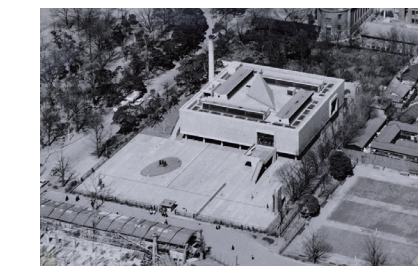
#### The Five Points for a New Architecture

He advocated the five points to consist of a New Architecture.

1. **Pilots**  
A space made by lifting up a building from the ground with columns allowing free blow-through space designed to avoid rain and strong sun-light and free circulation on the ground level.
2. **Rooftop Garden**  
The Roof Terrace. The sloping roof is replaced by a flat roof for the use as a garden, promenades and so on, providing a space for enjoying nature in urban areas such as sunbathing.
3. **Free Plan**  
The floor space was free to be configured into rooms without concern for supporting walls.
4. **Horizontal Oblong Windows**  
Horizontal long windows allow sun light reach to every corner of exhibition room, not disturbing by columns and/or walls.
5. **Free Facade**  
By supporting the building with columns on the inside of the building's outer perimeter instead of exterior walls, the outside of the building the facade or any exterior vertical wall surface becomes freer to design.

## What's the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo?

Completed in 1959 Designer: Le Corbusier



- The Main Building of the NMWA is a symbol of the resumption of diplomatic ties between Japan and France after World War II.
- The Main Building of the NMWA is the only representative example of work in East Asia by Le Corbusier and the architectural features of Le Corbusier, such as pilots, ramp, a roof garden, lighting plan with natural light and the "Le Modulor" are well represented in this building.
- The NMWA Main Building was built on the basis of the Museum of Unlimited Growth prototype and elements of his Museum of the Unlimited Growth were realized in the NMWA Main Building.

### Establishment of the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo

Kojiro Matsukata who was president of Kawasaki Dockyard Co., Ltd. from 1915 to 1928, acquired a tremendous number of artworks ranging from painting and sculpture to furniture and tapestries in Europe in the period of 1910's and 1920's. The artworks came to the possession of the French nation after World War II; however, the collection was given back to the Japan with a request to build a French art museum in Tokyo as an essential condition for the collection's return.

It was soon after the war and the Japanese government did not have sufficient budget for building a museum. Eventually, the shortage was funded by donations from Japanese art and financial world. It is said that 100million yen to have gathered at the time of the money. It shows us how big the expectation of people was.

The world famous architect Le Corbusier was selected to design the museum. He visited Japan in November, 1955 and researched the planned construction site in Ueno Park. Based on the drawing plan of Le Corbusier, his project was taken over to his three Japanese apprentices: Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura and Takamasa Yoshizaka, had completed the construction of the museum jointly.

The museum was established in March 1959 and opened to the public on June 10th, 1959.

## Kojiro Matsukata and "the Matsukata Collection"

Kojiro Matsukata who built "the Matsukata Collection" was the third son of Masayoshi Matsukata. He became the first president of Kawasaki Dockyard Co., Ltd. and he made a great fortune out of his shipping business.

Kojiro Matsukata began to collect artworks in London in the middle of the World War I. He had made a fortune out of his shipbuilding business during the war, which allowed him to build a vast collection of artworks. On the occasion of several visits to Europe in the decade after 1916, he frequented art galleries and acquired a tremendous number of artworks ranging from painting and sculpture to furniture and tapestries. His collection entire reached 10,000 works which includes sculptures of Rodin and paintings of Monet and Renoir.

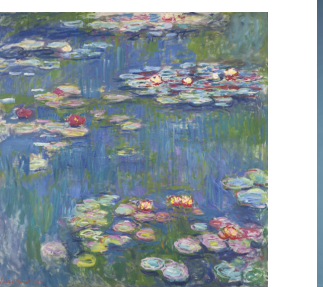
However, his passionate art collecting was not meant for his personal pleasure; rather, it came from an unselfish desire to build art museum on his own and to put authentic European artworks on view for the benefit of young Japanese artist.

Although, Matsukata had left a large number of his artworks in Europe, those stored in a London warehouse were destroyed in a fire.

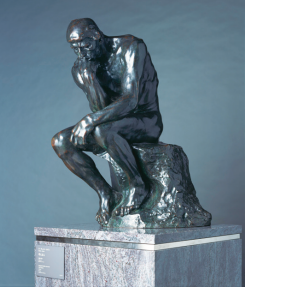
Meanwhile, some 400 works stored in the facilities of the Musée Rodin. They came to possession of the French nation at the end of the World War II. The artworks were returned to Japan, which led to the opening of the NMWA.



Kojiro Matsukata, the first president of Kawasaki Dockyard Co., Ltd. (currently Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.)  
 Photo by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.



Claude Monet Water Lilies 1916, oil on canvas  
 Matsukata Collection



Auguste Rodin The Thinker 1881-82, bronze  
 Matsukata Collection

## What Is a World Heritage Site?

World Heritage Site is a landmark or area which is selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, and is legally protected by international treaties; The Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on November 1972, for international cooperation in the conservation of world's cultural and natural heritage we are to pass on to the future generations.

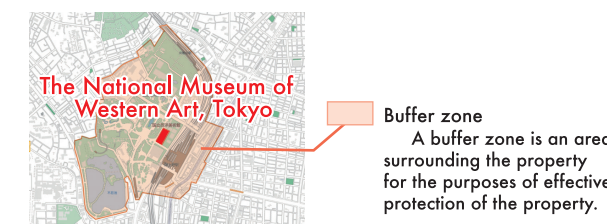
### World Heritage Categories

There are three categories of World Heritage Site.

- Cultural Heritage**  
Buildings, ruins, castles, temples and ancient tombs, etc.
- Natural Heritage**  
Terrain, Landscapes and valuable animal/plant habitats, etc.
- Mixed Heritage**  
Properties shall be considered as "mixed cultural and natural heritage"

The decision of the World Heritage Committee is classified in the following four categories.

Categories	Details
1 Inscription	The site will be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
2 Referral of Nominations	The submission of additional information is required to the following Committee session for examination. The additional information must be received by the Secretariat by 1 February of the year in which examination by the Committee is desired.
3 Deferral of Nominations	More in depth assessment or study, or a substantial revision by the State Party is required. After the resubmission of nomination file, the site will again be evaluated.
4 Decision Not to Inscribe	The nomination may not again be presented to the Committee except in exceptional circumstances.



The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo. Buffer zone  
 A buffer zone is an area surrounding the property for the purposes of effective protection of the property.

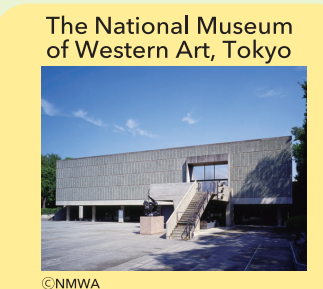
### Road to World Heritage Site Inscription

2007	Sep.	The Japanese government received the request for a serial nomination from the French government.
	Dec.	The Japanese government listed the Main Building of the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative Lists.
2008	Jan.	The Japanese government nominated the NMWA for "Architectural and urban works of Le Corbusier" to World Heritage List.
	Feb.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted the nomination file for "Architectural and urban works of Le Corbusier" to the World Heritage Centre.
	Oct.	ICOMOS, an advisory body of the World Heritage Centre, carry out on-site evaluation mission as a nomination process for World Heritage List.
2009	May	ICOMOS made their recommendation for "Deferral".
	Jun.	The 33rd World Heritage Committee in Spain examined and made "Referral" decision.
2011	Feb.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted additional information "The architectural work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement" to the World Heritage Centre. (Altered the title of nomination file and revised constituted elements.)
	May	ICOMOS made their recommendation for "Not to Inscribe".
	Jun.	The 35th World Heritage Committee in France reexamined and made "Deferral" decision.
2014	Sep.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted the nomination file for "The contribution architectural work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding to the Modern Movement (Tentative)" to the World Heritage Centre.
	Jan.	The Japanese government nominates for "The architectural work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement".
2015	Jan.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted the nomination file for "The architectural work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement" (Official) to the World Heritage Centre.
	Aug.	ICOMOS carry out on-site evaluation mission as a nomination process for World Heritage List.
	May	ICOMOS made their recommendation for "Inscription".
2016	Jul.	The 40th World Heritage Committee in Turkey examined and made "Inscription".

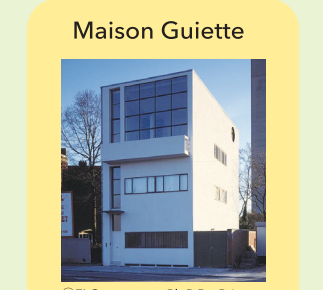
### France (10)



### Japan (1)



### Belgium (1)



### Germany (1)



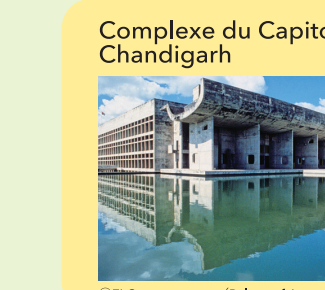
### Argentina (1)



### Switzerland (2)



### India (1)



- 17 projects by Le Corbusier in 7 countries were inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as the architectural work of Le Corbusier's Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement.
- In the constituted assets include various architectural works such as individual mansions, apartment, religious and governmental buildings.
- "Villa Savoye et loge du jardinier (★1)" became known as an icon of modernist architecture, succinctly summing up The Five Points for a New Architecture and became the most famous masterpiece of Le Corbusier's works.
- "Unité d'habitation, Marseille(★2)" is the complex residence with hotel, restaurant, post office, kindergarten, Gym and swimming pool. Unité d'habitation, Marseille exemplified the Modulor system's application Le Corbusier devised.
- Wide variety of architectural work by Le Corbusier, such as "Petite villa au bord du lac Léman(★3)" for his parents, "Immeuble locative a la Porte Molitor(★4)" used as his work place and residence, and the best-known religious architecture in the 20th century "Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Hant, Ronchamp(★5)" were inscribed on the World Heritage list.