

# Two Houses

A film by Verena von Beckerath with Niklas Fanelsa, Momoko Yasaka and Maximilian von Zepelin in cooperation with Jens Franke.

The Two Houses research project at the Chair of Design and Housing at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar focuses on the interaction between the Bauhaus and Japan, based on two houses in the suburbs of Tokyo – Migishi Atelier and Bunzo Yamaguchi House. Both houses were designed in the 1930s and 40s by Japanese architect Iwao Yamawaki (1898-1987), a student at the Bauhaus in Dessau, and Bunzo Yamaguchi (1902-1978), who worked in Walter Gropius' practice at that time, and are still privately owned today.

The Bunzo Yamaguchi House appears autonomous and timeless with its windowless facade made of light brick, only interrupted by another entrance to the upper floor, a garage door, an anterior area, which is truncated on one side, meeting a flush, shallow roof slope. The wood-clad side view looks like a rural farmhouse and reveals the traditional Japanese Minka joinery. The Janus-faced architecture combines European and Japanese influences that extend to original and contemporary uses in the garden and the outbuildings as well as to the interior of the building, where extensions and fixtures were added in the 1970s. The owners live on the upper floor of Bunzo Yamaguchi House, while the ground floor and the garden are sometimes used for photo shoots and salon concerts.

The Migishi Atelier features a light and sculptural steel spiral staircase immediately behind a large, ceiling-high, south-facing studio window; it leads to a Tatami room on the gallery level. The influence of the Bauhaus in Dessau is unmistakable. The studio is partly furnished and contains some personal objects, but it is unoccupied. Some walls show signs of settlement; the paint is peeling off others. The Migishi Atelier was converted after Kotaro Migishi died at an early age and his wife, the painter Setsuko Migishi, needed more rooms for herself and her family. Long abandoned, since the family had moved to an apartment house it had built at the back of the property after returning from an extended stay in Europe, it is now open to the public, used for temporary exhibitions and let as a photo studio.

The film *Two Houses* documents the buildings' architecture and tells the story of their inhabitants, providing glimpses of life in and with the buildings. It is accompanied by the publication *Two Houses - Texts* which includes interviews with Helena Čapková, Terunobu Fujimori, Taishi Watanabe and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto as well as texts and images from the film and drawings of the houses in different stages.

Two Houses

2019, 38 min

Director: Verena von Beckerath

Assistant directors: Niklas Fanelsa, Momoko Yasaka, Maximilian von Zepelin

Camera, Sound, Editing: Jens Franke

Produced by: Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Screenings during the 5th Alvar Aalto Researchers' Network Seminar – Whose Modernism?

14.-15.06.2023

11:00–18:00

Aalto2

Alvar Aallon katu 7

40600 Jyväskylä

Triennale der Moderne 2022  
Bauhaus-Museum Weimar  
Presentation with Verena von Beckerath, Momoko  
Yasaka and Maximilian von Zepelin  
14.10.2022  
19:00 CEST  
Screenings  
14.10.–16.10.2022

Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam 2022  
LantarenVenster Cinema 6  
with a subsequent discussion with Verena von  
Beckerath and Jens Franke  
introduced and moderated by Wijnand Galema  
08.10.2022  
13:00 CEST

A Film is Not a Building  
Screenings of three films on four buildings at the Los  
Angeles Filmforum  
with the participation of Verena von Beckerath,  
Susanne Bürner and Susan Morgan  
curated and moderated by Kate Brown  
25.07.2021  
10:00 PDT / 19:00 CEST

European Award for Architectural Heritage Intervention  
2021  
Category D Dissemination  
Winning entry  
June 2021

Architecture for the Future: Landscapes of Care in  
cooperation with the Barcelona Architecture Week and  
BARQ Festival 2021 at the Barcelona Pavilion  
with a subsequent discussion with Verena von  
Beckerath and Jens Franke  
introduced and moderated by Ivan Blasi  
14.05.2021  
18:00 CEST

Future Architecture Platform – 2021 Creative Exchange:  
Landscapes of Care  
Houses session at MAO Museum of Architecture and  
Design, Ljubljana with the participation of Verena von  
Beckerath and Maximilian von Zepelin  
03.03.2021  
14:30 CET

Future Architecture 2021 Call for Ideas: Landscapes of  
Care  
Selected idea  
January 2021

Praktiken des Erbens – Metaphern, Materialisierungen,  
Machtkonstellationen  
4th annual conference of GRK 2227  
with an introduction by Verena von Beckerath  
19.11.2020

18:00 CET  
Architektur FilmTage Zürich +  
15.11.2020  
20:00 CET

Scharaun – Kino Siemensstadt  
curated by Jaro Straub and Olaf Stüber  
Programme #12  
14.–20.08.2020

TU Berlin  
Roundkino – Lost in Japan  
with an introduction by Verena von Beckerath  
moderated by Alexander Stumm  
26.11.2019  
19:00 CET

Goethe-Institut Tokyo  
with an introduction by Helena Čapková and a subse-  
quent discussion with Verena von Beckerath, Niklas  
Fanelisa, Momoko Yasaka, Maximilian von Zepelin and  
Jens Franke  
02.10.2019  
19:00 JST

Atelier M / Migishi Atelier  
with Verena von Beckerath, Niklas Fanelisa, Momoko  
Yasaka, Maximilian von Zepelin and Jens Franke  
05.10.2019  
17:00 JST

ARCH+ Space  
with an introduction by Helena Čapková and a subse-  
quent discussion with Verena von Beckerath, Simon  
Bohnet, Niklas Fanelisa, Momoko Yasaka and  
Jens Franke  
moderated by Christian Hiller  
28.08.2019  
19:00 CEST

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar  
Häuser im Film  
with Susanne Bürner  
15.05.2019  
20:00 CEST

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar  
(Premiere)  
with Verena von Beckerath, Niklas Fanelisa, Momoko  
Yasaka, Maximilian von Zepelin and Jens Franke  
moderated by Hans-Rudolf Meier  
24.04.2019  
18:00 CEST