

## Modern heritage left in Karatsu



Former Mitsubishi Goushi Kaisha Karatsu branch main building



Kyu Takatori Tei  
(The Former Takatori Residence)  
National important Cultural Properties  
National Important Cultural Asset

Kyu Takatori Tei was built in 1905 as a home of Takatori Koreyoshi, a coal mine entrepreneur. This building is characterized by the Noh play stage built in the house and "Sugitoe", beautiful Japanese paintings on the wooden sliding doors.



Kyu Oshima Tei (The former Oshima residence)

Kyu Oshima Tei was built in 1893 as the home of Oshima Kotaro, who was the President of Karatsu Bank. This is a large and extremely high-quality house built in the middle of the Meiji period (1868-1912). It was relocated to the present location in 2017.



Kyu Karatsu Ginko Honten (The Former Karatsu Bank Head Store)  
Saga important cultural Properties

Kyu Karatsu Ginko is the bank that led the modernization of Karatsu. The current building was built in 1912. It is said that Tatsuno Kingo from Karatsu who designed Tokyo Station, supervised the design of the building.

## Saga Prefecture Important Cultural Asset

# The Former Mitsubishi Goushi Kaisha Karatsu branch Main building



【Name】 The Former Mitsubishi Goushi Kaisha(Limited Partnership Company)  
Karatsu branch Main building  
【Address】 7181 Kaigandori, Karatsu City, Saga Prefecture  
【Structure】 Two-story Wooden Building  
【Floor Area】 The first floor: 428 m<sup>2</sup>  
The second floor: 413 m<sup>2</sup>  
【Year of Construction】 1908  
【Designer】 Mitsubishi Marunouchi Architectural Office  
【Builder】 Kobe Mitsubishi Construction Office

This building was built by Mitsubishi in 1908 as an office for their coal trading business. They shipped the coal produced at the coal fields stretching around the southern part of Karatsu.

At that time the infrastructure of the area was developed with a shipping port and a railroad.

During this period of industrial development, this building was constructed on reclaimed land in Karatsu Nishi Port, which was built for coal shipping in the early 1900's, and even now both the revetment there and the building are well-preserved.

The architectural style of this building is a Western-styled wooden building called "half-timber". The roof was made via "Irumo-zukuri", an East Asian traditional architectural style. The verandas on both the east and north sides are very good places for looking out over the harbor. When this building was built, people would enjoy the view of the port where coal ships would come and go.

The designer is Katsuya Yasuoka, the director of the Mitsubishi Marunouchi Architectural Office. The adviser of the office was Tatsuzo Sone, an architect from Karatsu.

After Mitsubishi withdrew from the Karatsu coal field, other organizations such as the Japanese Coast Guard used this building, but Karatsu City finally became its owner in 1972. In 1979 the former Mitsubishi building was restored to its original appearance and in the following year, it was designated as a Saga Prefecture Important Cultural Asset for a modern Western-style wooden building that remain in Saga Prefecture.

This building has been used as a historical folk museum since 1979, but it is currently closed with its future use under deliberation.



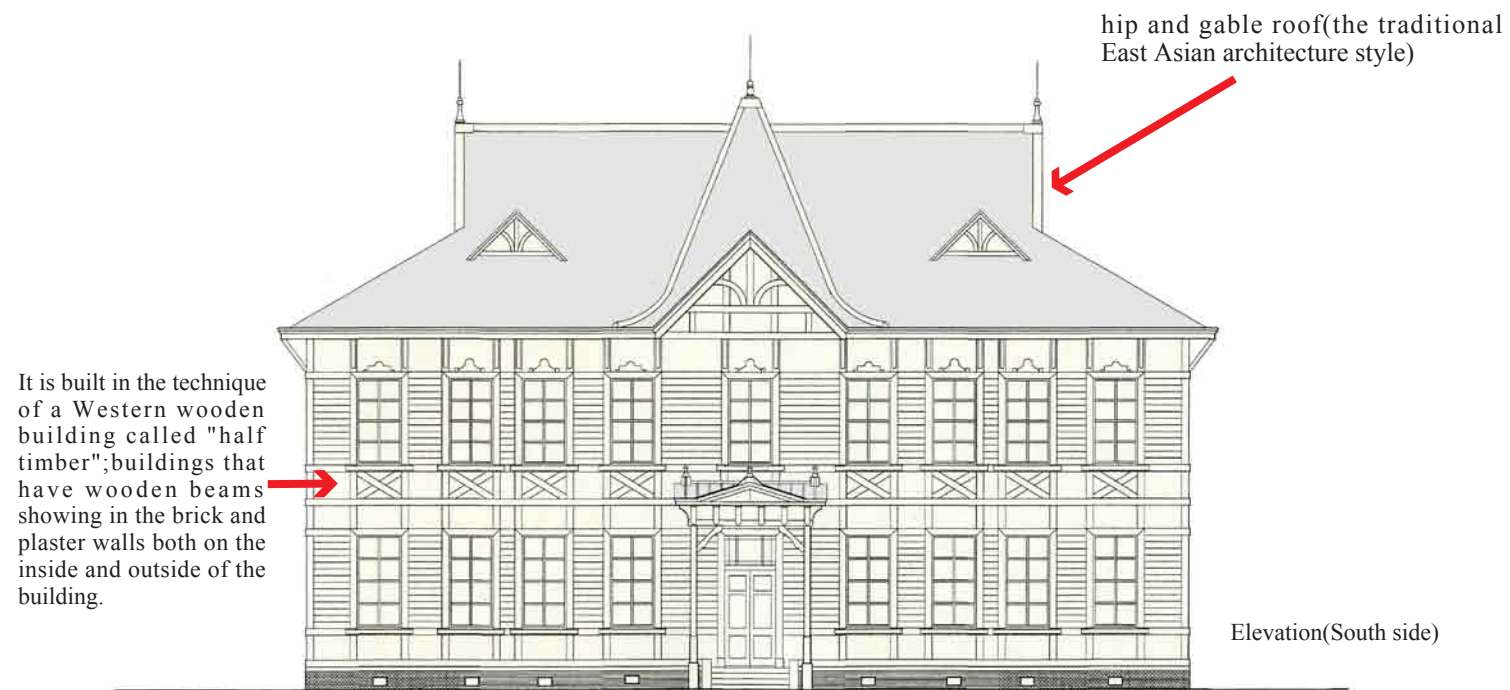
Karatsu Nishi Port(est. 1930's)



The Mitsubishi Karatsu Main Building (1929)



## Exterior



The roof of the carriage porch is a complicated structure with gable on three sides.



The brick joints are carefully shaped by the craftsmen.

The place where the building was built was a land that was buried to create a modern port. A revetment at the time of reclamation remains around the building.

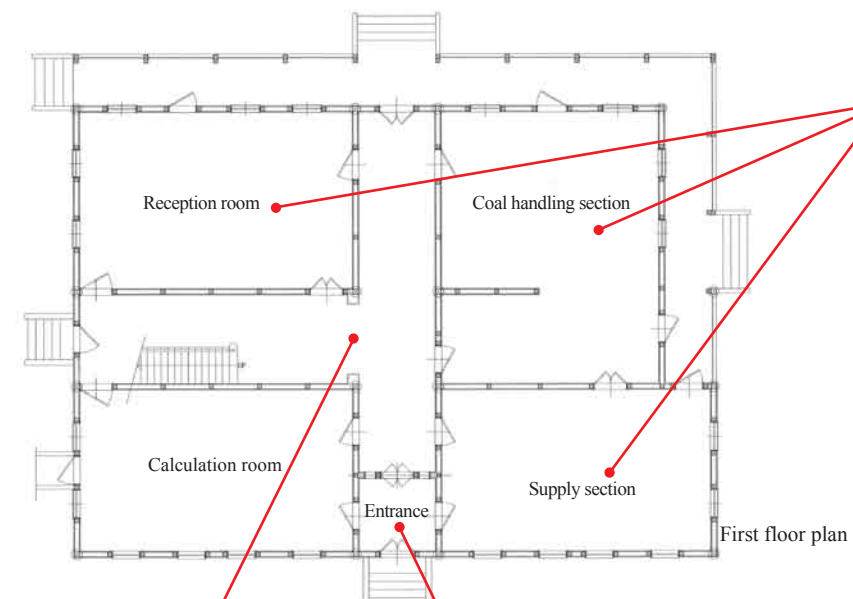
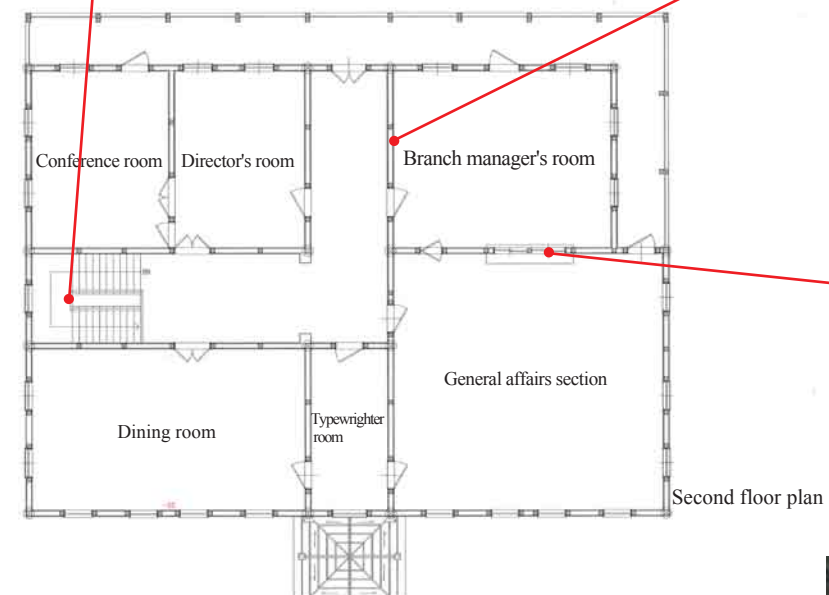
## Interior



On the handrail, there are carvings of Akansas buds.



Mitsubishi's business philosophy called "Three Principles" written by Iwasaki Koyata, the fourth president of Mitsubishi adorn the branch manager's room on the fourth floor.



The ceiling design of each room on the first floor is different.



The lighting fixtures of Art Nouveau design.



The corridors at the entrance and on the first floor are finished with terrazzo