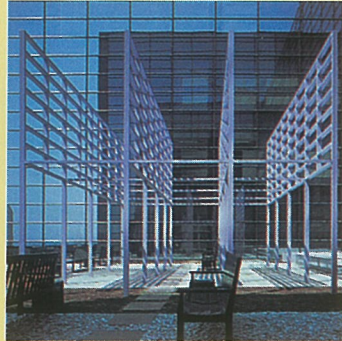


WH: Everyone thought it was well done, very simple, very elegant. It moved on a lot of levels. The attention to detail was beautiful. JC: There was high traffic [on the above-garden walkway], looking down, and then there was low traffic of people going out and using it, but very few people were actually going to use it. It was designed from the beginning as a view garden.



IBM Japan Makuhari Building
Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo, Japan

The plan for the IBM Japan Makuhari headquarters reflects the close collaboration between landscape architect and architect. Drawing from tradition, important public rooms—the gallery, lobby, meeting and dining rooms and cafeteria—were oriented to allow workers and passersby to view the linear garden that fronts the gray stone building. (An elevated walkway system that connects many facilities in this district also runs through the gardens.) A sense

of crisp, orderly progression and abstraction characterizes the series of connecting garden “rooms,” which are intended primarily to be observed by employees, rather than occupied.

This highly controlled exercise of the imagination is based roughly on the geometries of a computer chip—a fitting visual metaphor for IBM Japan. The high-tech image is realized through precise forms, such as forest grids and long, low bands of hedges and stone walls laid in series. These elements are not traditionally Japanese, but the materials used—stone, water, bamboo, wil-

lows, evergreen shrubs, moss, gravel and jade pebbles—distinguish Japanese gardens.

Light is also a key factor in the scheme, illuminating the subtle gradations of green used throughout the design in rocks and plantings. The pools, closely planted with water lilies, mirror full sunlight or are dappled by light filtered through the overhanging willows. In addition, a line of waterproof light pipe level with the grade ties the separate garden spaces together, much like the “marriage cord” of Japanese lore. Subliminally visible during the day, it becomes a vivid element at night.

Landscape architects: Peter Walker William Johnson and Partners, Landscape Architecture, Inc., Berkeley, California

Principal-in-charge: Peter Walker, FASLA

Project team: Doug Findlay, Tony Sinkosky, David Walker, Marta Fry, Rob Rhombold, Pamela Palmer, Hiko Mitani

Associate landscape architect: Toshi-Keikan-Sekkei

Architect: Tamiguchi and Associates, Architects

Architect of record: Nihon Sekkei, Inc.

Contractor: Shimizu Construction Company

Cost: not available

Client: IBM Japan

From left: Aerial view shows garden's walkway “overlook”; strict geometries align garden axes with architectural masses; light “channel” unites garden areas like metaphorical Japanese marriage cord. Opposite: Stone, water, willows and pebbles create ties to traditional Japanese garden elements.

