

Katsura Villa: Space and Form



Author:	Arata Isozaki
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From the dust jacket: Katsura Villa is undoubtedly the most constant object of study and allure in the modernist movement of Japanese architecture. Spanning the lifetimes of two imperial princes, the Katsura palace and environs were erected through the early and mid 1600s. Having emerged at the crossroads of two great styles in the history of Japanese architecture, Katsura is a monumental mixture of design types, a complex web of textures intermingled over space and time. Architect Kenzo Tange and photographer Yasuhiro Ishimoto prepared their 1960 book on Katsura according to modernist aesthetics of the time. Their work abounded in the Mondrianesque patterns of the palace, avoiding the curved lines and details considered spurious ornamentation by the modernists. In the current volume, Ishimoto once again records Katsura, but with a newer, broader vision based on architect Isozaki's reconsideration of the villa. Nearly two hundred pages of exquisite color photographs and detailed structural sketches hint at the time mystique of this marvelous villa. Over 200 illustrations, 192 in color