

**Project:** Fukuyama Higashi Police Station Ekimae KOBAN

**Team:** Meguro Architecture Laboratory

**Size:** 108.67 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** FUKUYAMA, JAPAN



#### **Feature:**

**Project** - Challenging conventional police box design, the Fukuyama Higashi Police Station Ekimae KOBAN by Meguro Architecture Laboratory introduces a friendly and accessible concept. Located in front of Fukuyama Station, the small-scale structure reduces the distance between people and space amidst planned high-rise development in the area.

Stone benches around the entrance create an inviting street furniture, transforming the police box into a public haven for relaxation. This pioneering "friendly police box" notion reimagines these typically impermeable structures as 24/7 safe spaces for pedestrians.

The distinctive form pays homage to Fukuyama's heritage, echoing the city's traditional Tomo no ura lighthouse and using titanium zinc steel panels that reference Fukuyama Castle's unique steel-clad construction. Integrating the local character, the project incorporates cedar wood from Hiroshima and stone quarried nearby to revitalize industries.

Innovative security features include elevated office windows preventing pedestrians from seeing inside while allowing police oversight. The plaza connects seamlessly to a new crosswalk, prioritizing pedestrian safety. With its contextual yet forward-thinking design, this pioneering police box sets a fresh benchmark for community-centered public architecture.

**Design Team** - Established in 2014 as the successor to the award-winning Drawing Notes architectural firm founded in 2009, Meguro Architecture Laboratory is helmed by principals Mitsuru Hirai and Sayu Yamaguchi. Based in Tokyo's Meguro district, this multidisciplinary design practice excels in architectural design, urban planning, interior and product development.

Their innovative Fukuyama Higashi Police Station Ekimae KOBAN project garnered a design competition win, while the firm's Arashiyama Country Club and Jubako House have earned multiple accolades including the prestigious Good Design Award and recognition from the Japan Institute of Architects. The principals actively nurture emerging talent as visiting lecturers at renowned universities.

With affiliation in esteemed architectural societies like docomomo\_japan and the Architectural Institute of Japan, Meguro Architecture Laboratory is driven to push creative boundaries. This vanguard studio's contextually-rooted yet forward-thinking approach has positioned it as a torchbearer for Japan's next generation of architectural visionaries across diverse built environment disciplines.