

2. A REMARKABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN HILVERSUM AND KURASHIKI

The cities of Hilversum in the Netherlands and Kurashiki in Japan share a common bond. Both were once small villages and have grown into medium-sized cities over the past century. In Hilversum, city architect Willem Marinus Dudok (1884–1974) was responsible for this expansion, whereas in Kurashiki, it was architect Shizutaro Urabe (1909–1991).

The question of whether Dudok was followed in Japan arose from the publication of the book *Modern Architecture in the Netherlands* in 1924 by the Japanese scholar Sutemi Horiguchi, who visited Europe in 1923. He found modern architecture in the Netherlands to be the most interesting and paid close attention to Dudok. This unknown cultural allogamy was recently pointed out by the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. Dudok's work was an important source of inspiration for Urabe and the entrepreneur Soichiro Ohara in the realization of development projects and the expansion of Kurashiki.

This exhibition showcases Dudok's architecture and urban planning and the way his vision served as inspiration for Urabe in Kurashiki. At the same time, the exhibition is a call to protect the heritage of architects Dudok and Urabe in Hilversum and Kurashiki and to learn from each other's experiences regarding reuse and preservation in today's urban dynamics.