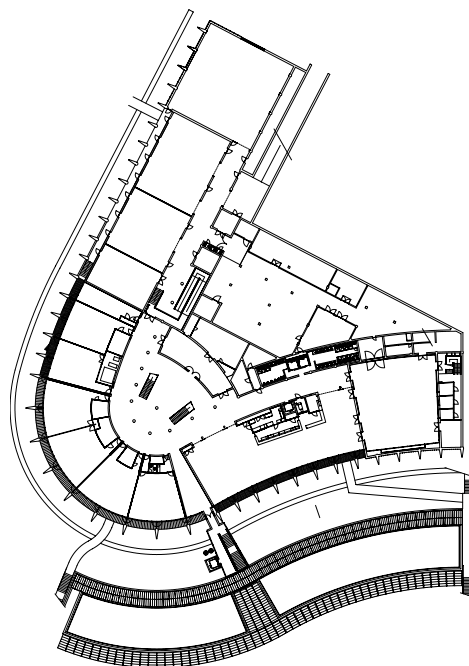




Techno Plaza

Gifu, Japan





Location
Gifu, Japan

Date
1993 - 1995

Client
Gifu Prefecture

Cost
£27.6 million

Area
11,462m²

Structural Engineer
Umezawa Structural
Engineers

Services Engineer
ES Associates

Cost Consultant
Schal/Bovis

Landscape Architect
Lovejoys/Equipe Espace



This project is representative of a broader search for an architecture that responds to ecological concerns. The building blurs the relationship between natural landscape and the man-made and benefits environmentally from this arrangement.

The Techno Plaza is a government office and laboratories built on a hilly site of 11,462m². The landscape of the site varies but contains trees and bushes and a small stream.

RSHP prepared the initial masterplan for the VR Techno Japan complex at Gifu, producing a scheme which would accommodate about 10 buildings. The brief was to design a 'pilot' building, promoting research into virtual reality and providing educational, communal, and laboratory/office spaces as a resource for private research bodies and the general public.

The scheme enhances the qualities of the site, responding to its natural contours.

The Techno Plaza is composed of two parts: the private office space, built-in steps up the hill, and the common research and public space which crowns the hill. Both have access to planted terraces and views across the valley.

The building has an exposed concrete frame, with retaining walls and floor slabs partially buried or planted to enhance thermal mass, ensuring maximum benefit from the stable ground temperatures and discouraging rainwater run-off. Glazed façades and extensive louvering eliminate direct solar gain, as does a stainless steel-finished ventilated roof to the upper building. Air conditioning was employed to deal with the high humidity in the region.