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NEWSLETTER 3/2010 WOOD 2010

KENGO KUMA TO WOOD SUMMIT 2010

World famous Japanese architect Kengo Kuma will guest WOOD SUMMIT 2010, Virserum Art Museum's two-day seminar dedicated to wood, architecture and sustainability. Kengo Kuma has been described both as an inventive and radical humanist and as one of the most heralded of a new generation of Japanese architects. He is well-known for his refined minimalist style and the use of traditional materials such as bamboo, stone and metal.

-The Japanese tradition of architecture can be summarised in two words, - environmental technology. Harmonising architecture with its surroundings and saving energy are techniques for dealing with the environment. Japan has needed to develop and polish such technology because it is a small, overpopulated country with limited natural resources. The Japanese tradition is not about designing conspicuous-shaped buildings, it is about sensitivity.

What relationship do you intend people to have to your buildings? What is the most important purpose a building should fulfil?

-People want to live in harmony with nature. Architecture should give a sense of togetherness whilst protecting people from the wildness of nature.

WOOD SUMMIT 2010 takes place in Virserum, Sweden on 29 and 30 June 2010. It will be attended by internationally renowned architects and social scientists. The seminar intends to tackle issues of climate change, urban planning, sustainable development and the role of wood and architecture in society. Both days will be attended by established names in their respective fields. Joining Kengo Kuma will be Italian architect Riccardo Vannucci and German sociologist Harald Welzer, among others. For a full list of speakers and panel discussion participants, see the WOOD SUMMIT 2010 programme.

WOOD SUMMIT 2010 is done in conjunction with WOOD 2010, Virserum Art Museum's major exhibition on sustainable development and wood architecture. WOOD 2010 takes place between 9 May and 19 September 2010 in Virserum, Sweden. The exhibition will then go on a tour of Sweden, Scandinavia and Europe.

For more information about WOOD SUMMIT 2010 and WOOD 2010, please contact:

Christian Samuelsson, Project Secretary
christian@virserumskonsthall.com
+46 495 315 64

wood 2010 virserum art museum 9 may-19 september 2010