

As to the landmark architectures in the Kakioka Magnetic Observatory

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There are six landmark architectures in Kakioka Magnetic Observatory. In December 1912, the variation building (32square meters) was completed. It is the one-story building made of nonmagnetic granite which is characterized by its piled soil on its top (the previous ones those were the basement to avoid a change of the temperature). To endure soil pressure its roof has become the arch. In addition, inside of the building is divided finely into many rooms to reduce the temperature change. It is thought that these characteristics were affected by Observatory Rude Skov (Denmark). In May 1924, the new magnetic laboratory (38 square meters,) was completed. It is the one-story building made with a copper roof, the wall (0.5m) of the nonmagnetic brick and the front decorated with Jugendstil ornament. In August 1925, four new buildings were completed. The office building (215 square meters) of them is the one-story building made of steel reinforced concrete, accompanying an office, a reading room, a clock room, a seismometer room and so on. The roof of the red tile, the wall of a bright color, the window of the arch and the porch are all of Spanish design with the sash and eaves decorated with slightly classic ornaments. The buildings with Spanish design were popular in U.S in those days but rare in Japan. The new variation building (47 square meters) and absolute building (33 square meters) are the one-story house made with a copper roof and a wall (the former is 1.0m and the latter is 0.5m in thickness to reduce the temperature change) of the nonmagnetic brick. The electrometer hut (33 square meters) is also the one-story building made of steel reinforced concrete accompanying Spanish ornament. As to the designs of the office building and so on SadaJiro Sato was in charge, in entrustment of the Ministry of Education. These six landmark architectures of the Kakioka Magnetic Observatory are characterized by their purpose as the magnetic observation or the trend of architecture in those days. They constitute a unique scene in harmony with neighboring beautiful scenery in Kakioka.

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