



UNESCO backs heritage listing for Le Corbusier-designed art museum building in Tokyo¹⁾

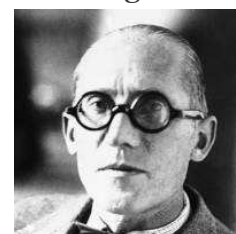
A UNESCO advisory panel has recommended putting the main building of the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo and 16 other buildings designed by Le Corbusier on the world body's list of cultural heritage sites, the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs said Tuesday.

(advisory panel: 諮問機関 cultural heritage site: 世界文化遺産 the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs: 文化庁)

2) The recommendation by the International Council on Monuments and Sites, or ICOMOS, is expected to be finalized at a meeting of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Istanbul in July.

3) The museum's main building in Tokyo's Ueno Park will be the 20th world heritage site in Japan and the first in Tokyo. At present, 15 cultural and four natural sites are on the world heritage list for Japan.

4) The building, completed in 1959, features a winding path staircase that slopes through the center of the galleries. It was the sole building in Japan designed by Le Corbusier, a Paris-based architect. *(feature: 特色をなす winding: 曲がりくねった path: 道 staircase: 階段 slope: 傾斜する architect: 建築家)*



5) ICOMOS said that assets of the 17 buildings constituted outstanding answers to some of the fundamental social and architectural problems in the 20th century and that modernist architecture spread by the buildings has become the foundation for architectural culture in the 21st century, according to the Japanese agency. *(asset: 財産 constitute: 構成する、一部をなす outstanding: 傑出した fundamental: 基本的な)*

6) For the Tokyo museum building, the council also highly rated local communities' efforts to preserve the structure. *(preserve: 保存する)*

7) The 17 buildings designed by Le Corbusier were jointly recommended by Japan, France and five other countries — Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Argentina and India.

8) The World Heritage Committee previously discussed Le Corbusier's works in 2009 and 2011, but it did not put them on the world heritage list at that time. *(previously: 以前に)*

9) Meanwhile, Japan has already recommended the sacred island of Okinoshima in Fukuoka Prefecture and related sites for the 2017 screening by the World Heritage Committee. ICOMOS is expected to conduct an on-site inspection this autumn.【May 18, 2016/JIJI】

(sacred: 神聖な、侵されない screen: 審査する on-site inspection: 現地調査)

★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What is your impression of the National Museum of Western Art? Have you visited the place before?
2. What's the significance of UNESCO to the world?
3. Do you like to go to museums? Please share your best memories related to museums.
4. What are the roles of architects? Do you like any particular architect?
5. Make sentences using the following words: heritage, panel, feature architect, asset and outstanding.

ル・コルビュジェ (1887-1965) は、スイスで生まれ主にフランスで活躍した建築家。フランク・ロイド・ライト、ミース・ファン・デル・ローエとともに「近代建築の三大巨匠」と呼ばれる。その流れをくんだ丹下健三、槇文彦、安藤忠雄、伊東豊雄らは建築界のノーベル賞といわれるプリツカー賞を受賞している。