

### **The Kinokuniya Building selected as Tokyo Historic Building**

Kinokuniya Company Limited (Chairman and President Masashi Takai) are pleased to announce that The Kinokuniya Building (3-17-7 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo) has been named as a Tokyo Historic Building.

Tokyo Historic Buildings are selected on their historic and scenic value by the Governor of Tokyo as stipulated in Tokyo's cityscape ordinances. As of 25 August 2016, there were 79 Historic Buildings, exclusive of 12 buildings that have been transitioned to the status of important cultural property and so on. To become a Tokyo Historic Building, sites must meet the following four criteria:

- 1) 50 years have passed since the construction of the building.
- 2) To be a landmark in the area and play an important role in the scenery of Tokyo.
- 3) To be preserved in its original form with minimum alterations.
- 4) To be easy to recognise.

In 2017 the Tokyo Metropolis awarded seven sites consisting of ten buildings, including The Kinokuniya Building, Tokyo Historic Building status.

Moichi Tanabe, the founder of Kinokuniya, commissioned Kunio Maekawa, a key figure in modern Japanese architecture who studied under Le Corbusier, to design the headquarters for Kinokuniya in Shinjuku, where the company was founded. The Kinokuniya Building opened in March 1964 and it housed Kinokuniya's headquarters, a bookshop (Shinjuku Main Store), a theatre (Kinokuniya Hall), an art gallery and various tenants including shops and restaurants. It is a steel-framed reinforced concrete construction comprised of 11 floors (nine stories above ground and two stories below ground).

The curves of the tiled walls on both sides of the façade and the concrete balcony connected to these walls create a welcoming atmosphere. Maekawa designed the entrance of the building, which provides a meeting point for the public, with his particular desire to create a place where people can take a breather. The passageway that connects the front patio and the back of the building sets up a curious, void-like alleyway, whose concept has been highly acclaimed as a novel example that shows the potential of what architecture can achieve in relation to a cityscape and its environment.

Since the first Kinokuniya bookstore was opened in Shinjuku, Tokyo in 1927, Kinokuniya has run its business with a mission to contribute to society as a cultural, arts and information hub. Thanks to the continued support of numerous customers, Kinokuniya will celebrate the 90th anniversary this year. Kinokuniya strives to remain true to its founding spirit and its roots in Shinjuku, and to be a favourite for visitors to the city. We

also endeavour to transmit Japanese culture, art, and information on the country to the rest of the world.

日本語版は[こちら](#)をご覧ください。