

Design/Project name:

Cloud of Luster

Primary Function:

Wedding Chapel

Unique properties:

The Cloud of luster is a wedding chapel located inside a wedding ceremony hall in Himeji city, Japan. The design tries to translate the modern wedding ceremony spirit into physical space. The chapel is all white, a cloud shape enveloped almost entirely in curved glass opening it to the surrounding garden and water basin. The columns are topped in hyperbolic capital like heads smoothly connecting them to the minimalistic ceiling. The chapel socle on the basin side is a hyperbolic curve allowing the whole structure to appear as if it is floating on the water and accentuate its lightness.



Technical

The chapel is supported by a metallic frame structure. The foundations and the hyperbolic bases on the basin side are all made in reinforced concrete. All the white parts of the walls, columns, capitals, and ceiling are finished in an organic material called Joly-Pat produced by AICA. The capital like forms have a wooden base. And the floor was covered in glass beads coated in resin. The curved glass is 10mm thick and is supported by double 19mm thick clear glass fins.



Functionnality:

The outside approach connects the main ceremony hall building to the entrance of the chapel. This gives directly to the central aisle leading to the Atrium. This part is up lit through a glass floor. In the back, a semi closed space for the organ followed by the maintenance room where the air-conditioning and other pieces of machineries are placed. On the courtyard side the approach is elevated using steps like an Amphitheatre allowing to take group pictures on the sunny side of the court.



The Challenge:

The Cloud of Luster Chapel is a trial to materialize the spirit of Wedding day into physical space. the modern wedding ceremonies are all about white and bright colors, glittering materials and shiny reflections. However, weddings tend to be kitsch with overabundance of decoration and colors overcharging the image and making it more difficult to remember. The challenge was to create a Chapel that translates the wedding spirit into physical space.

The simplicity of this design is a way to engrave a simpler image in the Peoples mind, with a focus on the newlywed couple. The organic shapes call for a more natural spirit and smoother life. No hard angles, no limit to the sky, a dreamy space where all can be possible. the second step was to find the best balance of shapes and dimensions and produce the whole image with respect to budget especially using curved glass and unconventional AC and lighting systems.