

G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023 Related Exhibition

“The Birth of Hiroshima, Peace Memorial City”

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GOJINSHA Wendy Hito-Machi Plaza

Organizers : Hiroshima Municipal Archives / Cultural Promotion Division, City of Hiroshima

Co-organizers : MIZMAKOBO Co., Ltd. / Futabanosato Historical Walking Trail Brushup Research Council

Introduction

The history of Hiroshima as a city began in 1589, when feudal lord (daimyō) Mōri Terumoto, who ruled Western Honshū, had Hiroshima Castle built. Later, the castle would become home to Lord Fukushima, and then Lord Asano as Hiroshima developed into the center of the Hiroshima Domain and was one of the biggest cities in the Edo Period (1603-1867).

After the Meiji Restoration, as the central city of Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima began to evolve into an early modern city. However, it was also a military city: a hub for the army. A garrison and military headquarters were established inside of Hiroshima Castle grounds, and when the First Sino-Japanese War began, the Imperial Headquarters moved there.

As the Second Sino-Japanese War became the Pacific War, citizens were forced into war, mobilized to fight, welcome and send off soldiers, and work in military factories, while school children were evacuated to safe places outside of the city.

Then, at 8:15 am on August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare was dropped on Hiroshima. Countless lives were lost, and the city was reduced to rubble in an instant. The townscape, reminiscent of its time as a castle town, and the traditions and culture that had been handed down even after the Meiji Era, also received significant damage in the bombing.

This exhibition will take a look at the history of Hiroshima: its development as a castle town before the bombing, brave recovery from the ashes of the atomic bombing, and its current state as a peace memorial city that conveys the reality of the atomic bombing and appeals for peace. The exhibit will focus on the different eras of Hiroshima's history as seen through changes in the cityscape, as well as the lives of the citizens, using materials such as photos and illustrated maps.

As the threat of nuclear weapons use has increased due to factors such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the G7 Summit will be held in Hiroshima from May 18 to 21 this year, making it the first G7 Summit to be held in an atomic-bombed city. In order to clearly convey the history of Hiroshima to the many visitors coming to our city from across Japan and the world, we have employed visual aids and translated the explanations into English.

We hope that this exhibition will remain in the hearts of those who keep the importance of the culture of peace in mind and work to promote it.

1 Hiroshima as a Castle Town

When Mōri Terumoto began building Hiroshima Castle on the delta above the Ōta River in 1589, the area known as the former city limits of current Hiroshima was nothing but shallow seas. The name “Hiroshima” began to be used in this period. Before then, the area was known as Aki or Aki-no-Kuni.

It is believed that the castle town was copied from the castle towns of Kyoto and Osaka. The foundations of the town were almost completely formed during the reign of Fukushima Masanori, who ruled the Hiroshima Domain after Lord Mōri in the Edo Period. The castle was surrounded by samurai residences, and these residences were surrounded by towns where craftspeople and merchants lived, as well as temples and shrines.

In 1619, Asano Naga-akira became lord of the Hiroshima Domain, and for 12 generations over 250 years, the castle town prospered as the center of politics, economics, and culture in the domain. Thanks to land reclamation, new lands expanded out toward the sea and were incorporated into the castle town, and the population around 1820 was nearly 70,000, making it one of the biggest cities of the time, behind Edo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, and Kanazawa. Streets were lined with bustling shops and the docks on the riverbanks, a hub for transport via water, were a flurry of activity. Nakajima-hon-machi, located along the Saikoku Kaidō Highway, was the biggest shopping and entertainment district in the castle town.

1 Map of the Hiroshima Castle Town in Kan'ei Period (1624~1643, the early Edo Period)

The castle town spreading out from the samurai residences ringing the castle, and commercial areas populated by craftsmen and merchants, as well as temples and shrines.

Yellowish green area : samurai residences

Gray area : commercial areas

Yellow area : temples

Around 1624-1643 / Map / Collection of Hiroshima Castle

2 Map of the Hiroshima Castle Town in the Early Edo Period

Yellow area : Commercial areas

Around 1645-1657 / Map / Collection of Hiroshima City Central Library

3 Map of the Hiroshima Castle Town in Early 18th Century

Black area : commercial areas

Red area : temples

Early 18th century (the mid-Edo Period) / Map / Collection of Hiroshima Castle

4 Map of the Hiroshima Castle Area (One part of “Geihan Hiroshima Joka no Yozu”, detailed maps of each house)

Late 19th century (the early Meiji Era) / Map / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

5 Illustration of the Hiroshima Castle Town Viewed from the North West

“Geiyou Hiroshima Chausu-yama yori Chobo Ryakuzu”
Illustration of the Hiroshima castle town drawn from Mt. Chausu-yama)

The island on the center right is Ujina-jima, present Motoujina, the place of G7 Hiroshima Summit.

The middle 19th century (the end of Edo Period) / Illustration /
Collection of Cultural Promotion Division, City of Hiroshima

6 The Bustle of the Castle Town

It's one part of “Folding screen depicting Hiroshima castle town”.

Nakajima-hon-machi, present Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, was the busiest quarters of Hiroshima Castle town.

Around 1804-1818 / Folding screen / Collection of Hiroshima Castle

7 The Prospering Commercial Quarters East of the Present Peace Memorial Park

Original 1809 / From the Picture of the illustration “Kozan-ichiran-zu”

8 “Otomo-bune” Boats on Honkawa River and the Audience

“Otomo-bune” were accompanying boats of the goddess's boat called “Kangen-bune (Goza-bune)” that returned to Miyajima during the Kangensai Festival of Miyajima Shrine. Each town in Hiroshima Castle had created, these boats at one time.

Original 1809 / From the Picture of the illustration “Kozan-ichiran-zu”

9 The Illustration of “Sunamochi-kasei”

Before the Modernizing periods, riverboats were main transport way for goods and passenger. To maintain transportation and keep rivers from sand accumulation, residents regularly dredged up rivers. Around this period, this dredging was becoming like a festival called “Sunamochi-kasei”. People gathered and praised their hard work.

This Illustration drawn the dredging up Honkawa river in 1862.
1862 / Woodblock print / Collection of Hiroshima City Central Library

2 Modern Hiroshima

The Meiji Restoration saw the establishment of a new government and in 1871, all domains were abolished under the abolition of feudal domains and establishment of prefectures. In 1889, the municipal system was enacted, and Hiroshima became one of the first cities in all of Japan.

When the First Sino-Japanese War began in August 1894, Hiroshima became a supply base to send soldiers, food supplies, and weapons to China as it was home to the newly-constructed Ujina Port and the last stop on the Sanyo Railway. In September, Hiroshima became the temporary capital of Japan when the Imperial Headquarters was transferred to the grounds of Hiroshima Castle. A provisional Diet meeting was held there in October, attended by the emperor.

While Hiroshima strengthened its profile as a military city in the wave of wars to follow, it also developed into a modern city with the establishment of education facilities, such as the Hiroshima Higher Normal School, the completion of the streetcar system, and the aggregation of industry.

In 1929, Hiroshima merged with seven surrounding towns and villages to become the seventh largest city in Japan with a population of over 270,000.

10 Street Map of Hiroshima in 1894

The First Sino-Japanese War broke out in this year. Army troops all over Japan were assembled in Hiroshima, the embarkation base of this war, and dispatched from Ujina Port of Hiroshima. The Imperial Headquarters, the highest military command center, temporarily moved from Tokyo to Hiroshima Castle, and the Hiroshima Provisional Diet Building was constructed in the castle premises.

December 1894 / Published by Kamata Kinjiro / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

11 The View from Mt. Futaba, Around 1877

Around 1877 / Photo / Collection of the Imperial Household Agency

12 The View from Mt. Futaba, Around 1921

Around 1921 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

13 Ujina ; Port of Embarkation for Troops to China

1894 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

14 The Imperial Headquarters Building

The Imperial Headquarters located at Hiroshima Castle in the First Sino-Japanese War.

Late 1920s to 1945 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

15 Army Facilities around Hiroshima Castle in 1927

1927 / Photo

16 Military Drill of the Fifth Cavalry Regiment at the Eastern Drill Ground

In 1890, the Eastern Drill Ground of The Fifth Division was set up north of the Hiroshima Station area.

Before 1945 / Photo / Collection of the Hiroshima Municipal Archives

17 The Bird’s-eye View Map of Miyajima and Hiroshima (“Miyajima-Hiroshima-meisyo-kotsu-zue” Transportation map of famous sites in Miyajima and Hiroshima)

1928 / Published by Hiroshima Electric Railway Co. Ltd. / Illustration by Yoshida Hatsusaburo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

3 Hiroshima in Wartime

With the First Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War, new military facilities were built, and existing ones were expanded in Hiroshima City. The Fifth Division was established on the grounds of Hiroshima Castle and military facilities were concentrated in and around Hiroshima Castle, Hiroshima Station, and Ujina. By the end of the Pacific War, approximately 10% of the city was military land. When the Second Sino-Japanese War began, soldiers from all over Japan would be shipped off to war from Ujina Port, and soldiers being sent off could be seen all around the city.

The economy of Hiroshima was centered around

munitions factories. However, the worsening war situation exacerbated the shortage of goods. Rationing systems for food and other goods began, and citizens were forced to endure with very little. In addition, students and women were also mobilized to work in military facilities and weapons factories to make up for the loss in the workforce.

Hardly any air raids were carried out on Hiroshima until the atomic bombing, so the city was left largely untouched. However, as air raids intensified on the mainland, Hiroshima, too, took action: groups of students were evacuated to other regions, fire drills to prepare for air raids were carried out, and buildings were removed to create firebreaks by demolishing homes.

18 The View from the Head Office of Hiroshima-denki (present Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc.), at Ko-machi
The north view from the center of Hiroshima, near the City Hall.
May 22, 1935 / Photo by Watanabe Noboru / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

19 Street Map of Hiroshima City in 1939
1939 / Published by Tokyo-kotsu-sha / Map / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

20 Sending Soldiers to War
The soldiers of the Fifth Division stationed in Hiroshima were sent to the front from Hiroshima Port. Local residents who had come to bid them farewell could be seen around the city.
April 8, 1936 / Photo by Watanabe Noboru / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

21 Fire Drills with Bucket Relays Against Air-Raids
About a year before the atomic bombing, there was a fire drill in which bucket relays were used to prepare for air raids.
1944 / Photo / Courtesy of Hayashi Yuzo

22 Students Mobilized to Work at the Hiroshima Army Ordnance Supply Depot
As military mobilization increased, domestic labor shortages led to the enforcement of junior high and high school students to work in military factories.
During the Pacific War / Photo / Collection of Cultural Promotion Division, City of Hiroshima

23 Children Cropped a Field in the Schoolyard
Because of a shortage of workers in agriculture, food production plummeted. Schoolyards were utilized to grow vegetables and raise hogs in order to supplement the food supply.
During the Pacific War / Graduation memorial album of Nobori-cho Elementary School published in March 1945 / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

24 Nobori-cho Elementary School Children Evacuated to a Temple
Due to intensifying air raids in 1944, an evacuation program relocated city-dwelling elementary school children to the countryside for safety. Nobori-cho Elementary School children at the center of the City sought refuge at a countryside temple in April 1945. The photo depicts a heartwarming reunion meal with parents. Sadly, many became atomic bomb orphans.
1945 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

4 The Atomic Bombing

At 8:15 am on August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and exploded about 600 meters above Shima Hospital in Saiku-machi (current Ote-machi 1-chome).

Intense heat rays were emitted from a fireball that appeared 1/10,000th of a second after the explosion, and the ground temperature at the hypocenter reached 3-4,000 °C. Those with exposed skin as far as 3.5 kilometers away were burned by these heat rays.

At its highest, the wind pressure from the blast wind was 35 tons per m² at the hypocenter, and the wind speed was estimated to be 440 meters per second, destroying nearly all the buildings in 1.8-kilometer radius.

Of the approximately 45,000 buildings in a 2-kilometer radius, nearly all of them were completely destroyed and burnt out. About 90% of the buildings in the city were damaged, and the complete area of land lost to fires spanned 13 km².

The massive amount of radiation released during nuclear fission, mainly neutrons and gamma rays, penetrated deeply into bodily tissues, destroying cells and causing severe disabilities over a prolonged period of time.

25 August 6, 1945
Following the explosion of the atomic bomb, a strange cloud billowed into the sky over Hiroshima. This picture was taken by a US military reconnaissance aircraft located approximately 45 miles south of the hypocenter.

August 6, 1945 / Photo by US Army / Collection of the US National Archives and Records Administration / Courtesy of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

26 Hiroshima 12 Days Before the Atomic Bombing (25th July 1945)
July 25, 1945 / Photo by US Army / Collection of the US National Archives and Records Administration / Production of Takesaki Yoshihiko / Courtesy of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

27 Hiroshima 5 Days After the Atomic Bombing (11th August 1945)
Due to the atomic bombing, buildings within and around a radius of 2 km from the hypocenter were almost completely destroyed or burned down.
August 11, 1945 / Photo by US Army / Collection of the US National Archives and Records Administration / Production of Takesaki Yoshihiko / Courtesy of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

28 Hiroshima After the Atomic Bombing, the View from the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building
After the atomic bombing, the view from near the hypocenter of Hiroshima was one of devastation and destruction.
October 1 or 2, 1945 / Photo by Hayashi Shigeo / Courtesy of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

29 Hiroshima Before the Atomic Bombing, the View from the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building

This photograph shows the view from near the hypocenter of Hiroshima seven years before the atomic bombing. At the time of the atomic bombing, Aioi-bashi Bridge, which was the target for the atomic bomb drop and had a T-shape, was an old wooden bridge in an H-shape.

Around 1938 / Photo by Matsumoto Wakaji

5 Living in the Ruins

After the bombing, those who survived were in dire circumstances and without shelter. There were no medical supplies to treat the wounded, and even those who seemed healthy would suddenly pass away due to radiation sickness. Even after a year had passed, there was a severe food shortage as government rations were not enough, and people began to look to the black market for food.

Approximately 60% of the 36,000 students in the city had been evacuated and thus were spared from the atomic bombing. However, 75% of the 39 schools were seriously damaged: they were totally collapsed, completely burnt out, or more than halfway collapsed due to fires and the blast wind. As recovery progressed, rebuilding schools became a huge issue.

Many of the children who were evacuated outside of the city during the war lost their parents and family members in the bombing and became orphans. It is estimated that there were 5-6,000 atomic bomb orphans in Hiroshima City.

Of the survivors (*hibakusha*), there were many who couldn't work very much due to illnesses and disabilities. These *hibakusha* faced hardships in paying for everyday expenses and medical fees. There were also many who found it difficult to work every day due to lethargy caused by the aftereffects of radiation. Until the *hibakusha* support system was developed, they spent decades suffering.

30 Children Living in Shacks

Survivors salvaged what materials they could from the scorched rubble and built shacks to protect themselves from the elements. Some set up housing the shells of buildings or in air-raid shelters.

February 1946 / Photo by Stephen Kelen

31 The Black Market in front of Hiroshima Station

After the war, a serious shortage of essential goods worsened, causing hardships in people's daily lives. An illicit black market thrived at transportation hubs such as Hiroshima Station, where limited supplies were sold at high prices, only affordable by a few wealthy individuals.

1946 / Photo / Collection of Alexander Turnbull Library (Reference J-0017-F)

32 Black Market near Hiroshima Station, at Matsubara-cho

1946 / Photo by Stephen Kelen

33 Open-air classrooms (called "Aozora-kyositsu") of Nobori-cho Elementary School in the Ruin

Most elementary school children had been evacuated when the atomic bomb was dropped, but returned to destroyed schools. They cleared the rubble with their own hands. Classes were held under the open sky without textbooks or writing pads.

April or May 1946 / Photo by Stephen Kelen

34 Norman Cousins Visiting the Hiroshima Home for War Orphans at Itsukaichi Town

In 1949 Norman Cousins, editor of the U.S.'s Saturday Review of Literature, put forward the Moral Adoption Program for aiding the atomic bomb orphans. Under U.S. law at that time, it was prohibited to adopt Japanese children, and so the Moral Adoption Program had Americans assume the role of "moral parents" to atomic-bomb orphans, assisting them with their living expenses and academic fees, and exchanging letters and presents with them. Some 600 atomic-bomb orphans are said to have received assistance in this way.

August 1949 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

35 Children Playing Under the Peace Memorial Museum in Course of Construction

1952 / Photo by Akeda Koshi

36 Physical Examination of Atomic Bomb Survivors

In 1954 a fishing boat, the 5th Fukuryu-maru, was exposed to radioactive fallout from a hydrogen bomb test. The Bikini Incident, as it came to be known, greatly strengthened efforts among the Japanese to ban atomic and hydrogen bombs, simultaneously enhancing public understanding of the need to offer special assistance to atomic bomb survivors.

The Atomic Bomb Survivors Medical Care Law was enacted in 1957. Physical examinations of atomic bomb survivors were systematized by this law.

October 21, 1958 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

6 Rebuilding the City

Before the war, Hiroshima was a castle town. As such, it was characterized by its grid plan and narrow streets, making the large-scale widening of roads one of the biggest parts of the recovery plan for the city reduced to rubble.

Large-scale land readjustment was carried out, reducing privately-owned land in order to have land to use for roads and parks. This project, which went region by region, took approximately 20 years to complete.

The lack of funds was also dire. To gain special support from the national government, the recovery plan for Hiroshima was not simply recovery from the devastation of war, but a new kind of recovery plan enshrined in a special law that held at its core a new philosophy: to build an international peace memorial city. In August 1949, it was the first special law of its kind in Japan to be applied to a specific municipal government, and once approved, the recovery plan was finally put into action.

As recovery continued, shanty towns sprang up, illegally occupying the riverbanks. A shanty town in the Moto-machi area, known as the Atomic Bomb Slums, remained until around 1975.

37 Map of the Hiroshima Reconstruction Plan in 1946
December 1946 / Published by Hiroshima-shi-kyosai-kumiai / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

38 Restoration of Aoi-bashi Bridge
1946 / Photo by Kishimoto Yoshita

39 The North View from the Center of Hiroshima, near the City Hall, in Autumn 1945
This picture was taken from Chugoku Haiden, present Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc.
Autumn 1945 / Photo by Kishimoto Yoshita

40 The North View from the Center of Hiroshima, near the City Hall, in November 1947
This picture was taken from Chugoku Haiden, present Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc.
November 1947 / Photo by Kishimoto Yoshita

41 The North View from the Center of Hiroshima, near the City Hall, in April 1950
This picture was taken from Chugoku Haiden, present Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc.
April 1950 / Photo by Kishimoto Yoshita

42 The North View from the Center of Hiroshima, near the City Hall, in February 1953
This picture was taken from Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc.
February 1953 / Photo by Kishimoto Yoshita

43•44 The Visit of Emperor Hirohito to Hiroshima
On December 7th 1947, Emperor Hirohito made a visit to Hiroshima, which drew a large crowd of people who had gathered to catch a glimpse of him.

43 Residents Welcomed the Car Emperor Hirohito Rode at the Entrance of Hiroshima Gokoku-jinja Shrine.
December 7,1947 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

44 Emperor Hirohito on the Platform and Citizens
December 7, 1947 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

45 A Poster Calling Citizens to Vote for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law
Following the total destruction of Hiroshima, the reconstruction of the city required the use of a former military base owned by the nation. The Peace Memorial City Construction Law was utilized as the legal approach to petition the government for special measures. In May 1949, the bill was unanimously passed by the Parliament.
This law was designed to rebuild Hiroshima as a "peace commemoration city" and to symbolize world peace.
1949 / Poster / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

46 "Peace Apartments" by Kyobashi-gawa River
"Peace Apartments" was the first municipal housing with reinforced concrete structure after the war. This apartment block was built on a riverbank 1.7 km from the hypocenter and was named "Peace Apartments".
1951 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

47 The Reclaiming Work of Hirataya-gawa River
Hirataya-gawa river was an artificial river laid out for the moat of Hiroshima Castle and for a water way in Edo period. Since Meiji era, this river hadn't used. After the war, this river was reclaimed to road, present Namiki-dori Ave.
May 8, 1952 / Photo / Collection of City of Hiroshima

48 The MacArthur Street (Kamiya-cho Intersection)
"The MacArthur Street" was 40 meters wide road that passed through former military base, running between the Prefecture Office and an area that now houses the Hiroshima Rega Hotel. It was named after General Douglas MacArthur as a sign of respect to the GHQ (General Headquarters of the Allied Powers) during the occupation period.
September 30, 1952 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

49 Kamiya-cho Intersection June, 1958
West side of the intersection, Hiroshima Bus Center was built in 1957. Northern end of Rijo-dori Ave, there was Hiroshima Castle Tower restored in 1958.
June 24, 1958 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

50 A Road-widening Operation in Hiroshima's Downtown "Hatchobori"
This picture shows road-widening in downtown Hiroshima. Obstacles were removed, and streetcar rails were moved to the center, but paving couldn't keep up due to lack of funds. This caused muddy roads in the downtown area for years, inconveniencing pedestrians.
July 21, 1953 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

51 The View of 100-meter Road from Mt. Hijiyama
This boulevard was built to transverse the city center and form the south boundary of Peace Memorial Park. The automobile lanes in the center are graced on both sides by walkway lined with trees. It was named "Peace Boulevard (Heiwa Odori)", through a public naming contest in November 1951.
April 1955 / Photo by Odan Tokuichi / Collection of Cultural Promotion Division, City of Hiroshima

52 Planting Trees on Peace Boulevard
The Peace Boulevard had been planned and the land secured at an early stage, but for a long time it remained only an open space due to a lack of funds. In 1957, a "tree provision campaign" was started, which called on all local authorities in the prefecture to provide trees. During the two years that the campaign lasted, trees were provided in sufficient quantities to enable the greening of both the Peace Boulevard and the Peace Memorial Park.
November 27, 1957 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

53 Hiroshima Municipal Baseball Stadium in 1957
A baseball stadium with lighting was built in 1957 by business community donations.
Professional baseball revived after the war, and 1950 saw the birth of the "Carp" local team, which however faced financial difficulties and used a sake barrel at the entrance for donations. Boys contributed money for gloves, and the story became a part

of Hiroshima's reconstruction history.
July 22, 1957 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

54 Hiroshima Municipal Baseball Stadium and the A-bomb Dome (Genbaku Dome)

Around July 1957 / Photo by MIZMAKOBO Co., Ltd. / Collection of MIZMAKOBO Co., Ltd.

55 The Hiroshima Restoration Exposition

The Restoration Exposition was held in April 1958, when the population and industrial production of Hiroshima finally surpassed prewar levels. The exhibits and events of the Exposition were held in the Peace Memorial Museum and other facilities. The numerous visitors to the Exposition could sense that Hiroshima was making a successful recovery.
1958 / Photo by Omae Seiji / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

56 Completed High-rise Apartment Buildings in the Moto-machi District and Permitless Shackles on the Honkawa River riverbank

As the riverbanks were gradually transformed into green areas, the illegal buildings after the atomic bombing along the riverbanks progressively disappeared. However, a particular area in downtown Moto-machi known as the "atomic bomb slum" remained until the 1970s, when high-rise apartments were constructed at the rear to relocate the illegal housing residents. In this way, Hiroshima's recovery from the devastation of war was finally completed.
Early 1970s / Photo by Akeda Koshi

7 Designing Peace

The Nakajima District, once the shopping and entertainment district of the city, was redeveloped as Peace Memorial Park. In April 1949, a competition was held to choose the design for the park and the design created by Tokyo University's Tange Kenzō and his team won first prize.

His team's design included placing facilities in a line so that the Atomic Bomb Dome could be seen through an arch-shaped tower that served as a memorial, which could be seen through the pillars of the Peace Memorial Museum when standing facing Peace Boulevard, a 100-meter-wide stretch of road. The arch-shaped tower went on to become the current cenotaph with a *haniwa* pottery-styled roof, and the design which places the Peace Memorial Museum, Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims, and Atomic Bomb Dome on the same axis line is also called the Tange Line.

The balustrades of Heiwa Ōhashi Bridge that spans the Motoyasu River at the entrance to Peace Memorial Park, and Nishi Heiwa Ōhashi Bridge that spans Honkawa River, were both designed by Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi and have become a symbol of Peace Boulevard. This boulevard makes up the East-West Axis of Peace, and the Tange Line, based on the ideas of Tange and his team, make up the North-South Axis of Peace. Developing the city of Hiroshima around these two Axes of Peace allows the city to inherit the ideology of peace.

57 Model for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park by Tange Kenzo

1950 / photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

58 Peace Park Project

Overall plan for Peace Memorial Park and Children's Center designed by Tange Kenzo Group.
May 25, 1950 / Designed by Tange Kenzo / Plan / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

59 The Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims and A-bomb DooM

The cenotaph was completed in August 1952. In the stone coffin, the Register of the A-bomb Victims are dedicated.
September 16, 1952 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

60 The Epitaph of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims

The characters carved in stone on the coffin mean, "Let all the souls here rest in peace, for we shall not repeat the evil".
August 21, 1952 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

61 Post Card, Told the English Translation of the Epitaph

The epitaph of the cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims was considered by Saika Tadayoshi, a professor of Hiroshima University. This post card was sent from prof. Saika to a staff of Hiroshima City Hall.
Around 1952 / Post Card / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

62 The Baseball Players of the Brooklyn Dodgers Lay Flowers on the Monument

November, 1956 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

63 Heiwa-ohashi Bridge in 1952

The balustrade of Heiwa-ohashi Bridge and Nishi-Heiwa-ohashi Bridge were designed by Isamu Noguchi, an American sculptor.
October 8, 1952 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

64 Isamu Noguchi and Tange Kenzo inspect Nishi-Heiwa-ohashi Bridge construction site.

The right end of man is Tange Kenzo who designed Peace Memorial Park, and the third from the right is Isamu Noguchi.
November 27, 1951 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

65 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park under Construction

August 5, 1953 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

66 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum under Construction

December 2, 1954 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

67 The Whole View of Peace Memorial Park

July 31, 1958 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

8 The Road to Becoming a City of Peace

Initiatives by Hiroshima to realize peace began even before the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law was established in 1949.

During the first Peace Festival held in August 1947 (which has been held every year since, except in 1950, under different names), appeals were made not just for the repose of the victims of the atomic bombing, but also for the realization of world peace.

In 1954, the exposure of the Lucky Dragon No. 5 fishing boat to radioactive fallout from a nuclear test carried out at Bikini Atoll spurred a national movement to prohibit atomic and hydrogen bombs. The next year, the very first World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs was held in Hiroshima, making the city a global symbol of the nuclear weapons abolition movement. This World Conference helped to spread awareness of the plight of the *hibakusha* and the realities of the atomic bombing, and contributed to the beginning of a new movement in offering them relief.

In order to convey the damage from the atomic bombing, a facility displaying tiles, rocks, and other objects that were exposed to heat rays in the bombing opened in 1949 in Moto-machi's Central Community Hall. This project was inherited by the Peace Memorial Museum, where they continue initiatives to collect atomic-bombed artifacts and testimonies about the bombing, as well as pass on the experience of the atomic bombing.

68 Hamai Shinzo, the Mayor of Hiroshima Presenting His Peace Declaration at the 1st Peace Festival

August 6, 1947 / Photo by Stephen Kelen

69 The Poster for the 3rd Peace Festival

The poster was sent to 161 towns of the world.

1949 / Poster/Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

70 The Display of A-bomb Materials in "Atom Bomb Memorial Hall"

August 27, 1952 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

71 Peace Memorial Ceremony on the 10th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing

Since this was also the day when the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs started, many people participated in the Ceremony. It is said that more than 50,000 people visited the Cenotaph. The Peace Memorial Museum finally opened during the latter half of this month. However, there were still barracks set up inside the park.

August 6, 1955 / Photo by Akeda Koshi

72 The 1st World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, held in Hiroshima

Following the hydrogen bomb testing on Bikini Atoll, the grassroots anti-nuclear movement grew into a nationwide campaign for a petition to ban atomic and hydrogen bombs. 25 million signatures were gathered for this petition. To commemorate the success of the petition as well as the 10th

anniversary of the atomic bombing, the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs was held in Hiroshima. Recognizing the provision of relief for atomic bomb survivors as its major issue, this Conference maintained that "banning atomic and hydrogen bombs is the only true way for survivors of the atomic bombing to find relief".

August 6, 1955 / Photo by Akeda Koshi

73 The A-bomb Dome under the 1st Preservation Construction

Preservation of the dome was controversial, but in 1966, Hiroshima municipal assembly decided to do so "in perpetuity." The first preservation project was carried out in 1967 after nationwide fundraising campaigns.

July 1967 /photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

9 Present-Day Hiroshima

74 The A-bomb Dome Today

In December 1996, the A-bomb Dome was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a symbol of nuclear abolition and the vow of the human race to pursue peace.

May 23, 2022 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima

75 The Present Peace Memorial Park and Vicinity

October 1, 2022 / Photo by Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima

76 The View of Peace Memorial Park Area and Central Hiroshima City from West

February 27, 2023 / Photo by Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima

77 The View of Hiroshima Castle and Central Hiroshima City from Northeast

February 27, 2023 / Photo by Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima

78 "Toro-nagashi"

Japan has a summertime custom of floating paper lanterns down rivers and out to sea in order to console the souls of the dead. On August 6 in 1945, many Hiroshima citizens perished in the city's rivers, into which they had gone to seek relief from their burns or to escape the conflagration. Besides consoling the souls of these dead, Hiroshima's lantern festival is also an event that prays for peace.

August 6, 2015 / Photo by the Public Relations Division, City of Hiroshima / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

Prosperous Pre-War Hiroshima

79 Hiroshima Castle Tower Before the War

1935 - 1944 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

80 The Moat of Hiroshima Castle near Kyoguchi-mon

Around 1910 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

81 Streetcar Running over the Reclaimed Outer Moat
1912 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

82 Shukkeien Garden "Asano Sentei"
Shukkeien is a daimyo garden constructed by Asano Nagaakira, the first lord of the Hiroshima Asano clan, as a villa garden from 1620 at the beginning of the Edo period. The garden was built by Ueda Soko, a chief retainer who is also known as a master of the tea ceremony. In 1940, it was donated by the Asano family to Hiroshima Prefecture and designated as a scenic spot. The garden was also severely damaged by atomic-bombing, but restoration was completed, and up to now.
1912 - 1926 (Taisho Era) / Picture Postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

83 Kyobashi Bridge (built in 1927)
August, 1927 / Photo by Tabu Shunichi

84 Hiroshima Toshogu Shrine
Shrine dedicated to the spirit of Tokugawa Ieyasu. Built by Mitsuakira, the second lord of the Asano clan in 1648.
Around 1924 / From "*Hiroshima-shi-shi Volume of Shrines and Temples*" published by City of Hiroshima in 1924 / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

85 Myojoin Temple
Formerly the family temple of Mori Terumoto's mother Myojuin, but after relocating their domain to Choshu, Fukushima Masanori changed it to Myojoin. It had long been protected by successive castle lords, and was used as a temple for praying for pacification and preservation of the territory. The building was reduced to ashes by the atomic bomb, but was later rebuilt.
1912 - 1926 (Taisho Era) / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

86 Nigitsu Shrine
Constructed in 1835 by Asano Naritaka, the ninth lord of the Asano clan, to enshrine its founder Asano Nagamasa.
Late 1920s to 1945 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

87 Kankokan Art Museum
In 1913, Kankokan Art Museum was established in Shukkeien Garden by Asano lord. In 1940, Asano family donated it to Hiroshima prefectural office but it was destroyed by the atomic bombing.
1912-1926 (Taisho Era) / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

88 Asano Library
In 1926, Asano Library was established by Asano lord in Komachi. The library was donated to the City of Hiroshima in 1931.
1926 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima City Central Library

89 Hiroshima Higher Normal School
Hiroshima Higher Normal School opened in 1902 to train teachers, the second school of its kind (the first in Tokyo).
Around 1926 / From "*Photo book of Hiroshima Prefecture*" published by Hiroshima Prefecture in 1926 / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

90 A Concert held by Teimi Music Circle
Early 20th Century / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

91 Hiroshima University of Literature and Science
Hiroshima University of Literature and Science was established in 1929, Hiroshima Higher Normal School was attached to Hiroshima University of Literature and Science.
Around 1935 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

92 The Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall
The Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall was designed by Czech architect Jan Letzel. It was used to display and sell prefectural products and also used for art shows and other expositions.
Around 1930 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

93 The Indoor View of the Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall, Used for the Sweets Exhibition
1921 / From "The 4th Sweets Exhibition Album" / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

94 Hiroshima Prefectural Products Exhibition Hall, Being Used for an Art Exhibition
1932 - 1944 / Photo by Oki Shigeru / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

95 The Prosperity Around Motoyasu-bashi Bridge
Nakajima-hon-machi, west of the Motoyasu-bashi Bridge, was the downtown area of Hiroshima Castle town. Before the atomic bombing, the town was still busy streets with stores, cinema theaters, restaurants and so on.
Around 1926 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

96 The Prosperity Around Aioi-bashi Bridge
Around 1939 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

97 Hondori Shopping Street
The prosperity of Hiroshima Hondori began at the end of the 16th century as a part of the Saigoku Kaido (the main road in western Japan), and it would go on to become one of the central downtown shopping and entertainment districts during and after the Meiji era.
Around 1935 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

98 Hatchobori Street near the Fukuya Department Store
Fukuya opened in 1938 as the first department store in Hiroshima.
1940 / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

99 The Night View of Kinzagai Street
Kinzagai Street is a shopping district, crosses the Hondori Shopping Street.
Late 1920s to early 1930s / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

100 Shintenchu
Shintenchu was established in 1921 at Horikawa-cho as an amusement quarter.
Late 1920s to 1945 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

101 Hiroshima Station

The station building built in 1922. Left of the station was post office.

1922-1930s / Picture postcard / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives

102 Celebrating Victory of Hiroshima-Commercial High School Baseball Team

This baseball team was strong, and took first place at the national high school baseball championship in 1930 and 1929 summer.

1930 / Photo / Collection of Hiroshima Municipal Archives