

# FAQs

## 1. What is Metabolism?

Metabolism was a post-war Japanese architectural movement that fused ideas about architectural mega structures with those of organic biological growth.

Its ideas were tentatively tested by students from KenzoTange's MIT studio.

During the preparation for the 1960 Tōkyō World Design Conference a group of young architects and designers, including KiyonoriKikutake, KishoKurokawa and Fumihiko

Maki prepared the publication of the Metabolism manifesto.



Some smaller, individual buildings that employed the principles of Metabolism were built and these included Tange's Yamanashi Press and Broadcaster Centre and Kurokawa's Nakagin Capsule Tower. The 1970 World

Exposition in Osaka - Tange was responsible for master planning while Kikutake and Kurokawa designed pavilions.

## 2. Describe any 1 Metabolist building with sketches.

On 1 January 1961 KenzoTange presented his new plan for Tokyo Bay in a 45-minute television programme.

The design was a radical plan for the reorganization and expansion of the capital in order to cater for a population beyond 10 million. The project was designed by Tange and other

members of his studio at Tōkyō University, including Kurokawa and Arata Isozaki. Tange received interest and support from a number of government agencies but the project was never built.

### **3. How do you recognize a metabolist building?**

Metabolism is the name of the group, in which each member proposes further designs of our coming world through his concrete designs and illustrations. We regard human society as a vital process - a continuous development from atom to nebula. The reason why we use such a biological word, metabolism, is that we believe design and technology should be a denotation of human society. We are not going to accept metabolism as a natural process, but try to encourage active metabolic development of our society through our proposals.

### **4. What is Neo rationalism? What happened during that time?**

Twentieth-century rationalism derived less from a special, unified theoretical work than from a common belief that the most varied problems posed by the real world could be resolved by reason.

In that respect it represented a reaction to historicism and a contrast to Art Nouveau and Expressionism.

The name rationalism is retroactively-applied to a movement in architecture that came about during the Enlightenment (more specifically, neoclassicism),

Arguing that architecture's intellectual base is primarily in science as opposed to reverence for and emulation of archaic traditions and beliefs.

Rational architects, following the philosophy of René

Descartes emphasized geometric forms and ideal proportions.

Neo-Rationalism is presented as a mean to save the european city, negotiating the aims of modernism within the grown structures.