

FAQ's

1. Explain the Kansai international airport project with reference to its unique locational importance and how the architect averted disaster.

Kansai International Airport is an international airport located on an artificial island in the middle of Osaka Bay. The terminal is 1.7 km long, with 42 boarding gates, designed to handle 100,000 passengers a day. Its long and light structure was designed to withstand the violent earthquakes which often affect this region of Japan.

Kansai airport rests upon the island like a glider seen in plan – the main body of the airport forming its fuselage, and the boarding gates positioned in its wings.

A notable feature, and one of primary importance in the organization of the airport, is the unobstructed visibility of the planes themselves thanks to the uninterrupted lines of vision through the open departures level Main Terminal Building.

It is this predicted trajectory of the air that is mimicked in the form of the roof we see today. Having thus avoided enclosed air distribution ducts suspended from the ceiling, the vast structure is left exposed. Beneath, blade-like deflectors serve not only to guide the airflow, but also to reflect the light coming in through skylights in the roof.