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Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower

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Height: To Tip
203.7 m / 668 ft

Height: Architectural
203.7 m / 668 ft

Height: Occupied
180.7 m / 593 ft

Floors Above Ground
50

Floors Below Ground
4

Development GFA
80,865 m² / 870,424 ft²

Facts

Official Name	Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower
Other Names	The Giant Cocoon
Structure Type	Building
Status	Completed
Country	Japan
City	Tokyo
Street Address & Map	1-7-3 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku
Postal Code	160-0015
Building Function	education
Structural Material	composite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core: Concrete Filled Steel Columns: Steel Floor Spanning: Steel

Construction Start 2006

Completion 2008

Rankings

Click arrows to view the next taller/shorter buildings

National Ranking #33 Tallest in [Japan](#)



City Ranking #22 Tallest in [Tokyo](#)



Companies Involved

Owner/Developer	Mode Gakuen
Architect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Tange Associates
Structural Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Arup
MEP Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Kenchiku Setsubi Sekkei Kenkyusho
Main Contractor	Shimizu Corporation

About Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower

The design of Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower offers a new solution for school architecture in Tokyo's tightly meshed urban environment. A new typology for educational architecture, the tower and accompanying auditoriums successfully encompass environmental concerns and community needs with an inspirational design.

Literally a vertical campus, the tower accommodates approximately 10,000 students across the three vocational schools sharing the building. These include: the fashion school Tokyo Mode Gakuen; HAL Tokyo, an information and technology school; and Shuto Iko, a medical welfare school. Mode Gakuen operates all three.

The low-rise building, an intriguing egg-shaped structure adjacent to the high-rise tower, houses two major auditoriums. The halls are used for school, as well as public, functions. With approximately one thousand seats, the auditoriums bring to the area a wide and exciting mix of cultural events. The high-rise tower floor plan is simple; three rectangular classroom areas rotate 120 degrees around the inner core. From the 1st to the 50th floor, these rectangular classroom areas are arranged in a curvilinear form. The inner core consists of elevators, staircases and shafts. To ease the potential congestion that might be caused by vertical movement, the three schools are laid out in three parts of the building; lower tier, middle tier and upper tier.

Unlike a typical horizontally laid out school campus, the limited size of the site challenged the architects to develop a new typology for educational architecture. Student lounges are located between the classrooms, facing three directions; east, southwest and northwest. Each atrium lounge is three-stories high and offers sweeping views of the surrounding cityscape. As new types of schoolyards, these innovative lounges offer students a comfortable place to relax and communicate.

The tower is designed specifically with the environment in mind. This includes a cogeneration system, installed within the building, that produces about 40% of the structure's power and thermal energy. This greatly increases the building's operational efficiency and decreases energy costs. It also reduces potential greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. The elliptic shape allows for even distribution of sunlight, thereby limiting heat radiation to the surrounding area. The shape also ensures that it aerodynamically disperses strong wind streams; an important issue in this high rise district that attracts large and potentially damaging gusts of wind.

Enhancing the community was a major goal of the project. Positioned like a gateway between Shinjuku Station (Tokyo's busiest train terminal) and the Shinjuku Central Business District, the building is revitalizing the area. A 3D Pedestrian Network of inviting passageways below and above ground is open to the public, allowing a free flow of pedestrian traffic. Along with the addition of thousands of young students, the building is a magnet for businesses that will bring vitality to the area along with needed commerce.

The elliptic shape permits more ground space to be dedicated to landscaping at the building's narrow base, while the narrow top portion of the tower allows unobstructed views of the sky. The nurturing forces of nature are close at hand to the student; an inspiring environment in which to study, learn and grow.

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