

政府広報書籍「Highlighting JAPAN」にQS72関連記事掲載

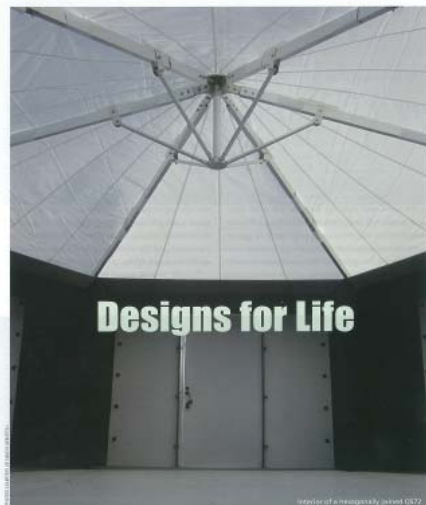
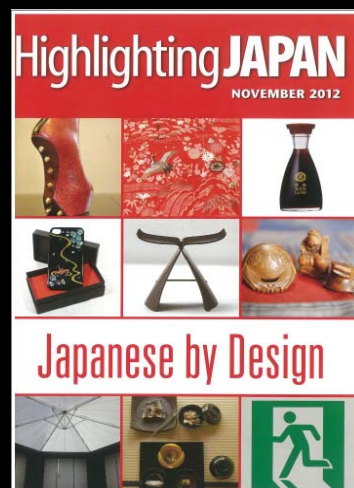
政府(内閣府)の海外向け電子広報書籍である「Highlighting JAPAN」にQS72関連記事が掲載されました。

「Highlighting JAPAN」は内閣府より日本の社会、政治、経済、科学技術などの情報をインターネットを通じ海外向けに英語及び日本語で発信される月刊の電子書籍です。

この11月号では、特集として「心を豊かにする日本のデザイン」が生まれ、日本の文化の中で培われてきたデザインが様々な分野で世界に発信され、その可能性にスポットが当てられています。

この中でQS72が掲載されています内容は、①2011年3月11日の東日本大震災でQS72が様々な用途で使用されたこと ②QS72の開発背景、狙い ③製品の特徴 ④今後の展開 等です。

現在、海外からの問合せ等もあり、今後QS72は、海外にも目を向け、アピールしていきたいと考えています。



Designs for Life

The Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 presented us with the opportunity to rethink what a society that offers a comfortable and reassuring lifestyle should look like. Osamu Sawaji of The Japan Journal introduces some of the creative ideas being implemented to improve the quality of life in disaster-related scenarios.



Haiti locals assembling a QS72. Temporary clinics set up with QS72 in front of a hospital in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture. The units are covered in hexagonal pattern (right) and wrap-thruways.

Offering safe space for victims

People who have lost their homes in a disaster are forced to live uncomfortably in public facilities such as school gymnasiums or tents until temporary housing is constructed. Yet many of these temporary evacuation facilities do not offer sufficient privacy or protection from the cold or heat, and victims are forced to withstand physical and psychological stress.

QS72 designed by GR Sekkei, a temporary housing unit that won the Good Design Award in 2010, was developed to resolve such issues. QS stands for "quick space," and 72 represents the seventy-two hours from when a disaster strikes, which is the most critical three span in disaster relief.

"We wanted something that can be assembled inexpensively and quickly, like a tent, and which offers victims a comfortable living space," says Akio Yoshigoe of Daiichi Kenetsu, the developer of QS72. "From the initial development, we had the idea of a structure that folds like origami to allow compact storage in times of peace."

QS72 is made of lightweight, water-/heat-shurable, heavy-duty and inexpensive polypropylene. It folds up to be stored in normal times, and requires no special tools for assembly. Three people can set it up in about twenty minutes. The unit measures approximately 2.1 m high, 1 m wide and 3.1 m long, and weighs about 60 kg. Tests have proved that QS72 can withstand a weight of about 500 kg on its roof

without collapsing.

"The origami-type structure eliminates the need for a frame. We even found that it makes the unit more load bearing than we had imagined," Yoshigoe says. "We donated a QS72 to a Japanese non-governmental organization working locally to aid victims of the Haiti earthquake that struck in January 2010, and they said that the local people were easily able to set it up."

The greatest characteristic of QS72 is that multiple units can be joined to create a larger structure. By joining them lengthways or in a square or hexagonal pattern, people have freedom to create spaces that meet their needs.

This characteristic of QS72 proved its worth in the Great East Japan Earthquake as well. Delivered to disaster-struck areas, QS72 units were used for numerous purposes such as a temporary clinic, storage for aid goods, dressing rooms and a meeting center for volunteers.

"We get a great number of inquiries for the QS72 from abroad as well, and we're now thinking of starting sales overseas," Yoshigoe says. "We hope to improve on it, such as in reducing the number of parts, and make it simpler to assemble."

Evacuation guidance in pictograms

Pictograms are a form of visual language designed