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Dear Members of the Press:

3 pages

University Hall of International Christian University Receives the 35th BELCA Award (Long-Life Category)

From a Wartime Structure to a Place of Learning for Peace: Recognized
for Its Preservation and Utilization Over More Than 70 Years



The University Hall of International Christian University (Mitaka, Tokyo; President: Shoichiro Iwakiri) received the Long-Life Category Award at the 35th BELCA Awards, organized by the Building and Equipment Long-life Cycle Association.

This marks the second time the University has received this award, following the 32nd BELCA Awards (2023), when the Diffendorfer Memorial Hall East Wing (Long-Life Category) was honored. The latest award recognizes the University's consistent commitment to "stewardship"—the responsible management of entrusted assets—demonstrated through its long-term, appropriate maintenance and renovations suited to each era, which have enabled the continued use of the building with significant historical background.

■ Awarded Building: University Hall, International Christian University

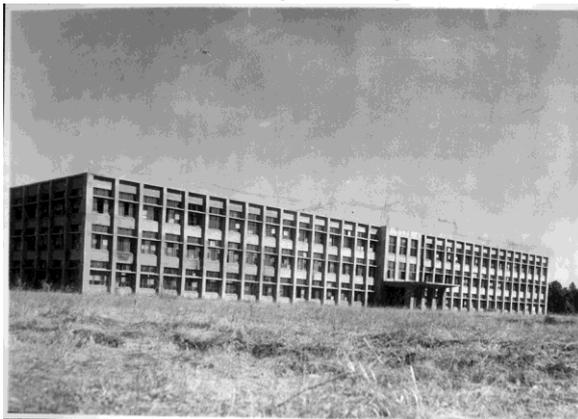
The ICU University Hall was originally constructed in 1944, during the final stages of World War II, as a main building for the Mitaka Research Institute of the Nakajima Aircraft Company. Following the University's post-war founding in 1953, the building was transformed from "a structure built for war" into "a university building dedicated to peace." For more than 70 years, it has continued to serve as the central facility for education and research at the University. Between 2024 and 2025, the building underwent large-scale seismic retrofitting and functional upgrades.

These efforts went beyond simple renovation; they form part of a long-term preservation and utilization plan to extend the building's lifespan and pass it on to future generations.

In February 2026, the building was also designated as a National Registered Tangible Cultural Property (Structure).

■ Key Points Recognized (Long-Life Category)

- Inheritance and Active Use of Historical Value: The building has been used continuously for over 70 years as a university building while preserving its original exterior appearance and structural features.
- Long-Term Maintenance Management: Appropriate maintenance has ensured the sound condition of the aging concrete structural frame, while functional updates have been carried out balanced with evolving educational needs over time.
- Campus-Wide Preservation Philosophy: Rather than adopting a scrap-and-build approach, the University has implemented a campus plan that values and continually utilizes its existing building stock.



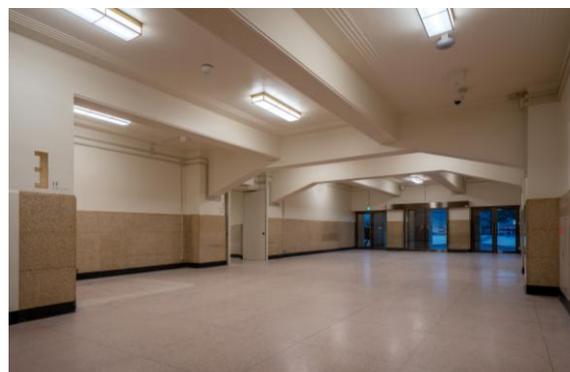
Nakajima Aircraft Company Era (1944)



University Hall (2025)



At the Time of Conversion into the University Hall (1953)



Seismic Retrofitting and Functional Upgrades Implemented While Preserving the Structural Design of the Original Aging Concrete Frame (2025)

■ ICU and the BELCA Awards: Past Recognition

In 2023, the University's Diffendorfer Memorial Hall East Wing (designed by W. M. Vories & Company Architects; completed in 1958) received the 32nd BELCA Award (Long-Life Category). Originally constructed as Japan's first full-fledged student union building, the hall was highly commended for renovations that respected its original design, as well as for its appropriate ongoing maintenance and preservation.



Diffendorfer Memorial Hall East Wing

With the University Hall's recent recognition, major historic buildings on the ICU campus have now been officially acknowledged for their value.

■ About the BELCA Awards

The BELCA Awards are architectural awards organized by the Building and Equipment Long-life Cycle Association. The awards consist of two categories—the Long-Life Category and the Best Reform Category—and honor outstanding examples that contribute to the long-term durability of buildings in Japan.



University Hall Second-Floor Lounge