Church of the Light was completed in 1989 as an annex to an existing wooden church and ministers house. Located in a small residential suburb of Osaka, the building layout relates to the existing buildings on the site and the sun. The budget was relatively low, about $250,000 US in construction costs. All costs were afforded by the church's congregation. Ando addressed this issue by using his usual pallet of inexpensive materials such as reinforced concrete and wood.

Ten years after the chapel's completion Ando was requested to design a new Sunday School building. The location was where the original church stood, adjacent to the chapel. Ando chose to use the orientation of the church as the overall layout of the new building.

This church is seen as a place of retreat where the outside world is forgotten and the natural world is emphasized in a rather abstract manner vis-a-vis Ando's control of the light. This church beckons the fundamental simplicity of Christianity with its low-tech, yet powerful design.
The Chapel consists of a rectangular volume of three cubes that are punctured by a wall at a fifteen degree angle that never actually touches the other walls or ceiling of the chapel. Circulation into the space is controlled by the angled wall. Upon entering the chapel the wall is immediately encountered and forces a left turn into an interstitial space. A tall threshold is cut into the wall allowing a right turn into the main chapel space.

The purpose of the manipulation of the circulation sequence is realized as one passes through the wall. At this particular point one pivots around as they become totally aligned with the crucifix of light at the opposite end of the chapel. By keeping the amount of openings to a minimum, the power of light emanating from the crucifix is intensified.

Reinforced concrete and wood are the main elements of construction in the chapel. While the space is primarily defined by the concrete volume, wood is used for all of the elements that one engages such as the tables, pews, and floor.
The Sunday School addition is intended to complement the chapel. Functionally it serves as a support space consisting of a gathering area, kitchen, office, and storage. Compared to the chapel, this building is less symbolic and stresses a home-like character. Like the chapel it is a rectangular volume penetrated by a freestanding wall. The overall similarity in form creates a strong tension between the two buildings.

The wall plays a very submissive role in the Sunday School as opposed to its counterpart. From the street it seems to be a reflection of the adjacent chapel wall. On the other side of the wall in the angled corner is a small courtyard space with a circular concrete bench intended for smaller gatherings.

The interior of the building is composed of tight spaces girded with Japanese Linden Plywood resulting in a very warm and inviting atmosphere. A second story allows for a kitchen and balcony above and office and storage space below. Adjacent to these rooms the gathering area occupies the double-height space.
Church of the Light is a simple building that makes the most of what it can. Consisting of only six walls and a ceiling, it is a testament to the phrase “less is more”. The abstract nature of the architecture glorifies itself with small moves and ideas that have a big impact on the success of this design. The chapel rejects the surrounding high-tech metropolis with a surreal introversion of the relationship between light and Christianity.

This building has a sort of timeless quality that is reinforced by its modest character. It serves as a physical connection between the congregation and the religion because the outside world is forgotten and the spiritual is seen inside this place.

Although this building serves as a place for worship of one of the most commonly practiced religions in the world, it manages to maintain a Japanese identity. The careful attention to detail and celebration of the purity of form are evident in this building the same way they are in many other buildings, but do not compromise the functional purpose of the religion.
A. Connection from inside and outside
   The wall is the commanding element that is easily recognized inside and outside of the building.

B. Sequence of spaces

C. Hierarchy
   The support space of the Sunday School rotates away from the main space of the Chapel.

D. Public, Private, and Transitional spaces

E. Served & Service spaces

F. Spatial organization of singular versus repetitive elements
   The formal origin of the Chapel was derived from three linear spheres and a wall wrapping the building.