

"A new train car like nothing seen before"

Commercial service to begin in FY2018

New limited express train car design announced!

- Exterior features aluminum painted with a texture that blends in with the scenery
- Interior features a relaxing, living room-like atmosphere with a soft yellow color scheme

Seibu Railway Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Tokorozawa City, Saitama Prefecture, President: Hisashi Wakabayashi) has unveiled the basic design for its new limited express train cars, which are scheduled to begin operations in fall 2018. The objective of this design is to create "a new train car like nothing seen before." The designs were developed by a carefully selected project team under the supervision of world-famous architect Kazuyo Sejima.

Sejima developed the new train car based on three design concepts in collaboration with interior textile designer Yoko Ando and lighting designer Shozo Toyohisa.

Development of the cars will be ongoing, and the new car will serve as the flagship train for future Seibu Railway lines.

Design Concepts

- (1) Easily blend in with scenery of both urban and natural environments
- (2) Create a living room-style atmosphere where anyone can relax
- (3) Create not just a means of transport, but a destination in itself

See details in the attached sheet.



The new limited express against the natural surroundings of Chichibu (concept image)

[Attachment]

1. Exterior design

- Front surface glass

The utilization of large format three-dimensional curved glass for the car front and loose curves for the car cross sections gives the entire train a soft and gentle look.

- Body colors

A painted aluminum body finish softly reflects the surroundings to blend in with the scenery in both urban and natural environments. The ingenious surface also creates “new scenery” through the use of a distinctive color texture.

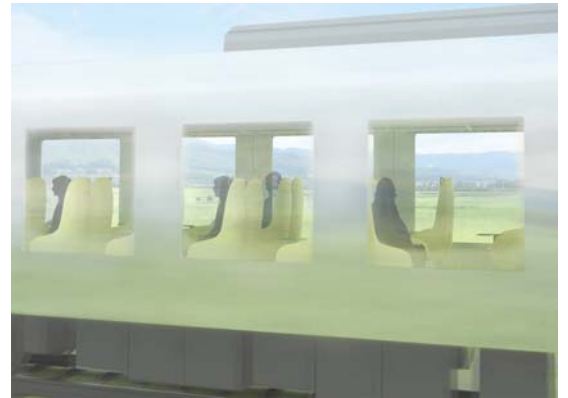
- Passenger cabin windows

Windows have been placed at regular intervals to create living room-like spaces where each passenger can relax. The design also focuses on large windows to create a truly comfortable interior space.

Car exterior 1 (concept image)



Car exterior 2 (concept image)



2. Interior design

- Passenger cabins

The simple interiors feature large windows with bright white walls, lined with yellow keynote color scheme seating. Special consideration was given to the seats, floor carpeting, and curtain textile designs to create a sense of unity and consistency. In addition, the seats feature a sofa-like design that wraps around the body unlike anything on previous special express trains to provide a new type of shared environment in which passengers can still have their own private space.

- Lighting

The lighting design features indirect lighting from simple vaulted ceilings to provide soft illumination. Auxiliarily lighting is also incorporated into the luggage shelves to provide lighting suitable for reading and other activities.

- Entrance

At the entrance of each car, passengers are greeted with a yellow keynote color scheme for a design that offers a feeling of relaxation and security when boarding the train. Some walls also feature a curved design where passengers can lean comfortably against the insides of the train.

- Amenities

Each restroom features a yellow keynote color scheme that conveys cleanliness and relaxation, with special consideration given to maximizing space. Restrooms have been placed in cars 1 and 5 in consideration of passengers' seat allocations. Car 1 features a multipurpose restroom, men's restroom, and washroom. Car 5 features Seibu Railway's first women's only restroom as well as a powder room, unisex restroom, and men's restroom.

- Onboard facilities

All cars will offer SEIBU FREE Wi-Fi and each seat will be equipped with power outlets, making the train ideal for a variety of travel purposes, from business to pleasure trips. An AED is also provided in car 5.

Onboard LCD displays and signs will provide guidance in English for ease of use by international passengers as well.

Passenger cabin 1 (concept image)



Passenger cabin 2 (concept image)



Entrance and amenities (concept image)



3. Other

- (1) Number of New Cars 56 cars (8 trains consisting of 7 cars each)
- (2) Start of Operations Scheduled for the end of FY2018
(Specific dates and routes will be announced at a later date.)

4. Designers

The train car has been designed by a team consisting of architect Kazuyo Sejima on the basic design, collaborating with textile designer Yoko Ando on textiles and lighting designer Shozo Toyohisa on lighting design.



Photo: Aiko Suzuki

○Architect: Kazuyo Sejima (basic design supervision)

Kazuyo Sejima earned her Master's degree in architecture from Japan Women's University. She established Kazuyo Sejima & Associates in 1987. In 1995 she established SANAA with Ryue Nishizawa. She was appointed director of the Architecture Sector for the 12th Venice Biennale in 2010. Her major awards include the Architectural Institute of Japan Prize*, Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition Golden Lion* (Italy), Pritzker Architecture Prize* (United States), Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), and Medal with Purple Ribbon. Sejima is currently a professor at the Yokohama National University Yokonama Graduate School of Architecture, Polytechnic University of Milan, the University of Applied Arts Vienna, and Japan Women's University. (Awards marked with * are for SANAA works.)



Photo: Atsushi Nakamichi

○Textile designer/coordinator: Yoko Ando

Yoko Ando served as a member of the creative staff of NUNO Corporation before establishing her own design firm, Yoko Ando Design, in 2011. She has provided textiles for a large number of public facilities, private residences and other buildings designed by a number of different architects.

In recent years she has also provided textiles for architectural works including the Sumida Hokusai Museum (designed by Kazuyo Sejima), Minna No Mori Gifu Media Cosmos, National Taichung Theater (both designed by Toyo Ito), and the Art Museum & Library, Ota (designed by Akihisa Hirata).



○Lighting designer: Shozo Toyohisa

Shozo Toyohisa focuses on innovative lighting designs using the latest technologies. He earned international acclaim for his fiber optic lighting in the Contemporary Japanese Textiles exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Toyohisa also works in a wide variety of artistic lighting fields, providing exhibition lighting design for the Tokyo National Museum and a number of art museums inside and outside Japan, as well as lighting for public facilities including the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, and façade and shop lighting for venues such as Dior Omotesando and Gucci Ginza.

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◇Customer inquiries:

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