

Project: Community center in Sumita Town

Design Team: PERSIMMON HILLS architects

Size: 521 m²

Location: Sumita, JAPAN



Feature:

Project - Nestled in the lush forests of the logging town of Sumita in Iwate Prefecture, Japan, the Community Center designed by Yusuke Kakinoki and Shuhei Hirooka of Persimmon Hills Architects artfully utilizes the town's abundant folklore resources. Combining tradition and modernity, the wooden public building is laid out along the axis of the adjacent landmark folk museum. The architects employed local signature wood and stone to convey a harmony between architecture and environment. The expansive roof reveals the vernacular style while the interior wood finishings provide warmth. The design ingeniously utilizes triangular open pavilions to integrate indoor and outdoor spaces. The project manifests Persimmon Hills Architects' commitment to sustainable development and preserving local culture, providing the townspeople with a functional, characteristic public activity venue.

Design Team - Persimmon Hills Architects is an experimental Osaka-based studio founded in 2016 by Yusuke Kakinoki and Shuhei Hirooka. Dedicated to pursuing conceptual depth, the firm engages in diverse projects spanning architecture, interiors, product design and urban strategies. Persimmon Hills creates site-specific solutions, like the intricate wooden lattice of Community Center, that foreground local context and craftsmanship. Their portfolio reveals a commitment to sustainability and community-oriented design, evidenced in regional revitalization projects and disaster recovery initiatives. The studio has garnered awards from JCD Design Awards for their elegantly minimalist, socially-conscious work. As lecturers and guest critics, Kakinoki and Hirooka are active in fostering the next generation of Japanese architects.