

Project: Oji House

Team: Ryota Sekiya Architecture

Size: 127 m²

Location: Kaifu County, JAPAN



Feature:

Project - "Oji House" in Aichi prefecture creates a sense of psychological privacy within a dense neighborhood of similar homes. Seeking to provide a refuge for family life, architect Ryota Sekiya eschewed visual barriers in favor of ambiguous relationships with the surroundings. Manipulating the angles of the walls along four axes obscures perceptions of orientation.

The suburban site comprises small, adjoining properties of around 200 sqm. Clients desired spaces and times belonging solely to the family, free of watching eyes. Physical seclusion was possible but Sekiya pursued the liberating effect of losing directional awareness. The home feels unmoored from cardinal points, simultaneously "there" yet unrecognized.

The composition overlays rectilinear volumes with diagonal walls and ceilings. Skewed grids displace the expected adjacencies, making the precise locations of neighbors' houses uncertain. As human spatial senses rely on visual references, distorting these cues liberates perception. Varied textures accentuate shifting light and shadow, underscoring sunlight's passage through three courtyards and two open volumes.

Though initially disorienting, this freedom sensitizes occupants to the sun's daily movement, linking them to natural rhythms. A rich domesticity emerges as one appreciates the atmospheric qualities of different areas over morning, afternoon and evening.

Design Team - Founded in 2015, Ryota Sekiya Architecture creates bespoke homes that support owners' lifestyles in Japan and beyond. Led by principal architect Ryota Sekiya, the

Nagoya-based firm brings extensive experience from over 100 residential projects. Offering integrated services from planning to construction, Ryota Sekiya Architecture tailors each commission through close collaboration.

Sekiya's background at a leading housing company enables streamlined delivery of clients' aspirations. Subsequent work for architectural firms and contractors honed sensitivity to materials and detailing. This holistic approach placed Ryota Sekiya Architecture among an elite group of winners at the 15th Architecture Competition.

Blending functionality with atmospheric qualities, the studio realizes buildings as reflections of owners' values. It construes architecture as a means of enrichment rather than asset creation. Designs emerge from probing discussion to crystallize essentials like natural light over universal principles. Bespoke solutions prove that cherishing family bonds transcends fashion. Sensitively connecting residents to their environment, its homes become treasured backdrops for life's meanings.