

**Project:** WOWK Office Building

**Team:** PERSIMMON HILLS architects

**Size:** 342.05 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** TOKYO, JAPAN



**Feature:**

**Project** - Nestled along a narrow street in Tokyo's Minato ward, the WOWK Shiba Koen building by Yusuke Kakinoki + Shuhei Hirooka / PERSIMMON HILLS architects is a refreshing reinterpretation of the conventional office typology. Designed as a rental office pursuing new ways of working befitting our modern society, the architects aimed to foster interaction and craft an architecture that becomes "a new urban landscape."

Defying the monotony of stacked, generic floor plates, the daring design strategically positions the emergency stairwell and sculptural massing to disrupt the "standard floor" on each level. This breakdown of boundaries generates unique, characterful spaces with carefully modulated openings, materials, and volumes that respond to daylighting requirements.

Inspired by the surrounding urban fabric of small-scale workplaces interwoven with pedestrian pathways, the architects sought to verticalize this appealing integrated work-live environment. By doing so, they crafted a novel workplace experience that poetically bridges old and new contexts - envisioning a future where tightknit teams and individuals can gather, interact dynamically, and shape the city's evolving identity.

This ingenious scheme exemplifies how innovative spatial concepts can breathe new life into dense urban areas, making WOWK Shiba Koen a truly pioneering architectural statement.

**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.