

Project: House Y

Team: Hayato Komatsu Architects

Size: 462.62 m²

Location: JAPAN



Feature:

Project - Set amidst a lush woodland on a vast, flat plot in western Japan, House Y by Hayato Komatsu Architects adopts an innovative radial plan that allows the dwelling to engage with its picturesque surroundings from multiple vantage points. The secluded site offers tranquil views of the Seto Inland Sea to the northwest and dramatic mountains capes to the southeast. Rather than situating the house in isolation amid this expansive landscape, the architects devised a branching layout inspired by the form of a tree. A central living pavilion anchors the plan, with private bedroom wings radiating outward like boughs. Wider sections along these wings create lounge areas that blur the boundaries between indoors and out.

The further one moves from the main living space toward the bedrooms, the more intimate and compressed the spaces become through lowered ceilings. This subtle compression and release heightens the sense of journey. Floor-to-ceiling glazing along the radiating wings frames shifting perspectives of the natural scenery with each step. Exterior spaces are delicately subdivided into a series of gardens tailored to distinct views - one framing the sunset, another the sea, a courtyard catching morning light, and so on. Residents can wander this secluded paradise, discovering anew its varied charms with each season and time of day.

Through its innovative branching form, House Y poetically intertwines architecture and landscape into a unified, constantly unfolding experience.

Design Team - Founded in 2009 by Hayato Komatsu, the eponymous HAYATO KOMATSU ARCHITECTS has emerged as one of Japan's most innovative architectural practices. Based in Hiroshima, the firm takes a multidisciplinary approach, offering services in architecture,

interior design, landscape, and product design.

Under Komatsu's leadership as Principal Architect, along with Directors Ryoko Komatsu, Shinmei Chono, Shinro Ueki, Naoji Natsume, Suzumi Nishihara, and Shuguma Tanaka, the firm has gained worldwide recognition for its sleek, site-specific designs that poetically interweave the built and natural environments.

Guided by a philosophy of finding the "gray" between architectural black and environmental white, their award-winning residential works skillfully negotiate boundaries while fostering comfortable living spaces imbued with a sense of openness and connection to context. HAYATO KOMATSU ARCHITECTS' refined yet warm modernism has earned publication in numerous prestigious journals.

With their diverse, integrated approach and commitment to contextual sensitivity, this Hiroshima-based firm continues to produce architecture that elevates the human experience through its seamless blending of the manmade and organic worlds.