

Project: House with an indoor garden

Team: Hiroshi Kinoshita and Associates

Size: 92 m²

Location: Tottori City, JAPAN



Feature:

Project - Nestled beside a park in Tottori Prefecture, this diminutive dwelling by Hiroshi Kinoshita and Associates brings the garden inside to craft a year-round oasis undaunted by the region's harsh climate. Wrapped in a lattice-like timber veil, the house bridges public and private realms through strategic orientation and placement of openings. While permeable northern façade invites verdant views and breezes, insulated southern flank averts summertime heat gain.

At the heart lies a soaring double-height interior courtyard sealed by translucent polycarbonate roofs that flood the space with dappled sunlight. Reminiscent of a Victorian conservatory, this flexible venue accommodates lounging, reading nooks and children's play areas amidst enveloping greenery. Strategically placed solar shading and operable skylights allow occupants to modulate light and ventilation. Enveloping this atrium, a ring of insulated rooms provides respite during severe winters and thunderstorms while still enabling cross-ventilation.

By concentrating disparate functions within interconnected microclimates, the project reconciles seasonal extremes with user comfort. Beyond environmental attunement, these interlocking realms enrich everyday rituals with plays of light and shadow. Though compact, the dwelling's ingenious "matryoshka" configuration awakens the senses with the charm of the outdoors.

Design Team - Founded in 2018, Hiroshi Kinoshita and Associates is led by its principal Hiroshi Kinoshita to realize architectural visions attuned to local climate and community. Kinoshita cut his teeth working at various firms in Tottori before establishing his own practice.

Leveraging over 15 years of experience, he assembles bespoke teams to tackle projects of varying scale with custom care and ingenuity.

Notable works include Tottori City Hall Design and the award-winning “Small Library House” and “House with an Inner Garden” residences. True to the firm’s human-centered ethos, these define site-specific oases crafted through material warmth, modulated light and unexpected spatial journeys that stimulate the senses. Though compact, the dwellings reveal the studio’s mastery of environmental systems to reconcile extreme seasonal shifts with user wellbeing. As exemplified by its recent JIA Architecture Award, Kinoshita’s contextual approach awakens profound connections between architecture and inhabitant.