

Project: Road House

Team: Kazuki Moroe Architects

Size: 123 m²

Location: Toyota in Aichi, JAPAN



Feature:

Project - Nestled at the dead-end of a T-junction in Toyota City's Tendo neighborhood, the Michikari House designed by Kazuki Moroe Architects brings the concept of "streets" into a private residence. The area is known for its winding roads and alleyways, including the historic Iida Kaido path nearby. Embracing these idiosyncrasies, the architects incorporated multiple open-air "streets" throughout the house to foster interaction, sunlight, and ventilation.

At the home's north-south axis, a hobby room with engawa porch fronts the street, blurring public and private space. This allows residents to engage with neighbors while enabling sunlight and breezes to permeate from the inner courtyard to the rear façade. On the east side, another large engawa creates an indoor-outdoor living room for family life to spill out towards the back garden. The architects hoped that if all neighbors did this, it would create communal voids benefitting everyone.

Inside, an elevated bridge street connects the east and west wings. Acting like an urban lane, it provides some privacy while allowing family activities to be overheard from the street, with circulation routes modulating interpersonal distances. Ultimately, the house translates the concept of vibrant, welcoming streets into residential architecture.

Design Team - Founded in 2008 by Kazuki Moroe, Kazuki Moroe Architects is an architectural design firm based in Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Kazuki Moroe previously studied at Tokyo Metropolitan University Graduate School and worked at Shirakansi Associates before establishing his own practice. Over the past 15 years, the firm has been recognized with various awards for its sensitive residential designs attuned to local contexts, including

Good Design Awards and the Association for Aichi Quality Housing Awards. Notably, in 2023, Moroe was honored with the Chubu Architecture Award for the Okuma Machine Tool Engineering Building at Nagoya University. With a focus on sustainability and community, Kazuki Moroe Architects continues to produce human-centric architecture across scales from interiors to urban landscapes.