

**Project:** Suzukake Azabudai Hills Store

**Team:** CASE-REAL

**Size:** 108 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** Tokyo, JAPAN



**Feature:**

**Project** - The recently completed Suzukake wagashi store in Tokyo's Azabudai Hills is a masterclass in creating a retail space with a distinct sense of place. Designed by CASE-REAL, the 108 sqm shop leverages its unique dual-entrance layout to establish two distinct atmospheres that harmonize into a cohesive whole. Approaching from the internal pathway, visitors first encounter an ample serpentine stone-clad wall backdrop that provides visual weight to the kitchen and imbues the shopfront with a sense of ceremony.

The material palette strikes a skillful balance between richness and restraint - washed plaster walls, ash wood built-ins, and limestone finishes allow the colorful wagashi displays to shine while still feeling distinctly Japanese. Considered details like the recessed doorway to the external pathway entrance transition visitors to a more intimate scaled vestibule with engawa-inspired details. CASE-REAL's sensitive spatial planning resolves the potentially disjointed dual access points into a retail interior that feels at once modern and deeply rooted in tradition - an apt reflection of the wagashi craft itself. The sumptuous yet serene store is sure to elevate the Azabudai Hills shopping experience for discerning visitors.

**Design Team** - Founded in 2000 in Fukuoka by Koichi Futatsumata, CASE-REAL is an architectural and interior design studio making waves in Japan and abroad with its creative spaces attuned to cultural essence. Leveraging technological innovation and artistic expression, CASE-REAL's diverse portfolio includes hospitality, retail, workplace, and residential projects. Signatures like the soothing Suzukake wagashi shop and immersive Arts & Science Fukuoka hybrid store display the studio's knack for imbuing atmospheres with a distinct sense of place. Currently led by Koichi Futatsumata along with project heads Koichi Shimohira and Yasushi Arikawa, CASE-REAL continues to garner accolades with recent

shortlistings for Dezeen and FRAME Awards testifying to its ascent as one of APAC's leading emerging practices.