

**Project:** RENZANKYO

**Team:** LOVE ARCHITECTURE

**Size:** 284.62 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** TOKYO, JAPAN



**Feature:**

**Project** - In a dense Tokyo neighborhood, architect YUKIO ASARI of Love Architecture has carved out a remarkable urban refuge with "Renzankyo - Urban Mountain Residence." Situated at the end of a cul-de-sac and hemmed in by neighboring buildings, the site initially felt enclosed and oppressive. However, Asari's ingenious design transforms this challenging plot into an immersive architectural experience inspired by traditional Japanese tea houses and gardens.

The U-shaped building hugs the boundaries, shielding residents from the surrounding urban fabric while creating an intricate procession of interior pathways and exterior spaces. Asari masterfully plays with perspectives, blurring the lines between inside and out. From the central courtyard, the staggered gabled roofs evoke a serene mountain landscape, while rooms offer framed views reminiscent of meticulously composed tea garden scenery.

Material choices further enhance the poetic vision. Charred cedar cladding conjures images of dusk-lit peaks, while interior details like mud walls, shoji screens, and bamboo mullions transport one into a traditional tea room aesthetic. Yet this romantic concept deftly merges with functional solutions tailored to daylight, privacy, and Tokyo's stringent building codes.

With "Renzankyo," Asari has crafted an extraordinary "urban mountain residence" - a phenomenological oasis that allows inhabitants to viscerally experience the beauty of traditional Japanese design principles amidst the dense city fabric.

**Design Team** - Established in 2001 by principal architect YUKIO ASARI, Love Architecture is a pioneering Tokyo-based firm renowned for its poetic reinterpretations of traditional

Japanese architectural concepts and masterful contextual design solutions. Under Asari's visionary leadership, the practice has garnered numerous accolades, including multiple Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) Excellence Awards for projects like the Yaseiden Temple (2019), Jimonji-in Chapel and Cemetery (2018), and Nakano Kunmokusō residence (2017).

Love Architecture's oeuvre seamlessly amalgamates rich cultural heritage with contemporary needs. Their residential works, such as the award-winning Koganei House (2013) and Akazutsumi Housing Development (2017), deftly respond to site constraints while evoking the sublime serenity of traditional tea houses and gardens. Spiritual architecture like the Ryūzen-ji Yaseiden Temple (2016) exemplifies their profound understanding of sacred geometries and symbolic spaces.

With an exceptional design team headed by Asari, a graduate of Musashino Art University, Love Architecture continues to push boundaries, crafting phenomenological experiences that redefine the intersection of the built and natural environments. Their innovative approach has cemented the firm's reputation as one of Japan's most influential and celebrated practices.