

Project: Nishinokyo House

Design Team: aliana.architects

Area: 45 m²

Location: Kyoto, JAPAN



Feature:

Project - Nestled in a quiet Kyoto neighborhood is an ingenious 45-square-meter house that architect Sadayoshi Mino has designed to serve as a flexible live-work space. Built atop an eel-shaped plot of land, the two-story wooden structure features an innovative Y-shaped truss system that opens up the narrow interior. Free of load-bearing walls that would subdivide rooms, the layout can readily transform to accommodate everything from storage to residential functions.

Beyond the minimalist interiors lies an outdoor kitchen and bathing area, divided by three doors that can enclose or expose the spaces as needed. Fire barriers mitigate risk while enabling this porous indoor-outdoor flow. The client, a local retailer, intends to use the adaptable building for working, hosting pop-up shops, and even camping out. As the raw wood and weathering steel exteriors slowly age, the house will gracefully weather the years alongside its owner. Much like a warehouse, it offers bare-bones flexibility to support spontaneous activities for decades to come.

Design Team - Based right on the street, aliana.architects seeks to make architecture accessible by embedding its practice in the everyday fabric of life. Founder Sadayoshi Mino believes architects should occupy public space, not sequester themselves in isolated offices. Architecture shapes how people live; aliana.architects aims to craft rich, responsive spaces that elevate clients' wellbeing. Rather than chasing trends, it pursues timeless design attuned to residents and community.

Past projects span various building types, which Sadayoshi Mino takes as a point of pride. aliana.architects focuses on realizing the potential of each site through creative problem

solving, regardless of program. Sadayoshi Mino finds joy in the design process itself—collaborating with stakeholders to organically uncover the essential form a structure should take. aliana.architects wants clients to share this sense of anticipation for the delightful, livable places it can co-create.

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