

Project: House in Nanjo

Design Team: Spicy Architects

Size: 89.44m² (1F 44.72m² / 2F 44.72m²)

Location: Nanjo City, JAPAN



Feature:

Project - Nestled on a hilltop in southern Okinawa, this family home by Spicy Architects elegantly balances contemporary design with local tradition. Though built with wood, the rectangular concrete-inspired form features deep eaves reminiscent of the area's subtropical houses. This protects the interior from storms while preventing harsh sunlight.

Oriented south with a garden and east with a garage, overhanging roofs create shaded outdoor spaces. By emphasizing volume in the overhangs, the exterior blends with neighboring homes. Inside, a neutral gray palette unites varied materials into a canvas-like background. The unfinished wood beams then stand out, instilling calm.

As principal Ryoh Yamamoto explains, the home's cohesive massing aims to provide comfort and intimacy while assimilating into the laidback local culture. In this way, the project thoughtfully translates Okinawa's architectural legacy into a contemporary idiom tailored to a modern family's needs.

Design Team - Emerging practice Spicy Architects demonstrates a thoughtful, contemporary approach grounded in Japanese traditions. Founded in 2020 by principal Ryo Yamamoto, the Okinawa-based firm creates refined projects attuned to local contexts. Yamamoto's background at the Tokyo University of Science and travels abroad inform the team's sensitivity to culture and environment. Their residential work in subtropical Okinawa reinterprets traditional forms and materials through a modern lens, as seen in the recent South Shiro House. Spicy Architects' retail and exhibition projects also showcase their ability to design compelling spaces enriched by experience. Guided by human-centered design principles, the firm's bespoke solutions artfully blend innovation and heritage.