

**Project:** “Moritoyo” Udon Restaurant

**Design Team:** atelier N

**Size:** 127 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** Koshigaya, JAPAN



**Feature:**

**Project** - Nestled amid remnants of rice fields in Saitama, Japan, this minimalist noodle shop embraces its bucolic setting. atelier N oriented the elongated structure parallel to the rectangular paddy, framing views of swaying stalks. Inside, diners experience an interplay of natural scenery and raw interior textures. The primitive construction employs an economy of means. Thick concrete floors are etched by hand, foundations and beams remain exposed, and glass inserts create transparent boundaries. Cedar louvers filter light reminiscent of traditional noren curtains. This sparse material palette allows the landscape to take center stage.

Despite its outward simplicity, the restaurant offers surprising spatial complexity within. Customers pass through the curtain of wooden slats into a soaring, light-filled volume. The open plan connects patrons to chef and fields, amplifying the sounds of chatter and cooking. Udon enjoyed here feels intimately connected to the land. With understated intervention, atelier N's design harvests beauty from context.

**Design Team** - Led by Hiroshi Nakamura, atelier N approaches each project with craft and transparency. After honing his skills designing and building homes, Nakamura founded his Saitama-based studio in 2016. Striving for connection between clients, artisans, and surroundings, he employs natural materials and economical details. Originating in carpentry, atelier N handles architecture comprehensively, from design to delivery. Their award-winning Mori-Toyo Udon Restaurant reveals Nakamura's sensitivity to environment through its handmade textures and framed views. By opening estimate breakdowns, the firm makes costs clear upfront. With earnest construction and design, atelier N creates unwavering yet inviting spaces.

