

**Project:** Seishin Chuo House

**Team:** YYA

**Size:** 119 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** Hyogo Prefecture , JAPAN



**Feature:**

**Project** - Nestled in a quiet residential corner of Nishikami Central New Town in Kobe's Nishi Ward, this renovation project transforms a long-empty family home into a contemporary living space imbued with personal memories. The surrounding neighborhood retains a pastoral charm despite being a fully developed area, with a park to the north and houses on large plots lining the other sides. The clients, a couple with strong ties to old family homes, sought to reimagine the cramped, fragmented layout of this childhood house into an airy, connected whole - focusing changes inside rather than altering the distinctive green exterior, which holds nostalgic significance. Ten complimentary goals emerge: honoring past and present through conservation and reuse; creating an abstract, cave-like interior; allowing materials to fluidly transition inside and out; accommodating future generations; and more.

To manifest this vision, the raw yet highly functional stone from Towada island, typically used in baths, defines the spaces. Smaller wall panels retain the stone's quarry-like texture, while larger floor plates provide contrast through their expansive smoothness. The new central cavity seems carved out from inside and out, its terrazzo flooring and textured walls fading seamlessly into the re-landscaped garden via a new engawa porch. Though untouched this round, the aging roof and exterior gain new potential as canvases for future generations to add their own imprints to this generational home.

**Design Team** - Through a process of "architecturalizing" the essence of each project, YYA aims to create unique and meaningful buildings that satisfy stakeholders ranging from clients to end users to society at large. Founded in 2021 and led by principal architect Yusuke Yoshino, YYA inheres a human-centric ethos to its diverse portfolio from private residences

to public projects. Rather than imposing a signature style, the firm seeks out and elevates the core of each assignment, whether a long-held memory or an emerging need. The resulting dialogues between past and present, concrete and abstract, individual and collective reveal spaces where people truly want to be. With its thoughtful approach and several awards already accrued, YYA promises to shape architecture that equally anchors its surroundings and propels them towards a better future.