

Project: Tiny Forest

Design Team: YounghanChung Architects

Size: 71.37 m²

Location: Seoul, SOUTH KOREA



Feature:

Project - In the heart of Seoul, YounghanChung Architects has created a modern interpretation of a traditional Korean sarangbang with Tiny Forest - a intimate yet flexible study space. Conceived as a retreat for a retired lecturer, the two-storey building comprises a pair of stacked cubes in white corrugated metal. Inside, the architect has eliminated unnecessary fixtures, presenting instead a neutral canvas which can be adapted by users for studying, entertaining or reflection. On the ground floor, the exposed steel structure and expansive glazing create an airy, light-filled space for relaxing and hosting guests. Upstairs, warm wood panelling and carefully oriented windows provide a cosy atmosphere suited to reading and studying. Built-in desk space furthers this functionality. Connecting the floors, a striking black spiral staircase also leads to a rooftop garden above. By providing a blank canvas, Tiny Forest aims to be a 'microcosm for oneself' - a place for focus, free from the distractions of everyday life. Through its minimalist interiors, connection to nature and nods to traditional Korean design, the project is a mindful re-imagining of the classic home study.

Design Team - Based in Seoul, Younghan Chung Architects explores new residential typologies within the dense urban fabric of the city. Founded in 2002 by architect Younghan Chung, the studio pursues experimental and creative design approaches informed by the diverse phenomena of the urban environment. Notable projects include Poroscape, winner of 2013 Seoul Architectural Work Award, and the 9x9 Experimental House featured across major architecture publications. Through semi-annual exhibitions like 'Minimal House', Younghan Chung actively engages the public on Minimalist values in architecture. Seeking harmony between tradition and innovation, the studio's designs feature clean lines and neutral materiality infused with Korean elements. Younghan Chung Architects' contextual yet forward-thinking ethos makes them one of Korea's leading young practices.