

Project: Stone Garden Residence

Team: EASTERN Design Office

Size: 235 m²

Location: JAPAN



Feature:

Project - EASTERN Design Office has crafted an extraordinary residential sanctuary in Japan that distills architecture down to its most monolithic and primordial forms. The Stone Garden Residence is a tour-de-force of sculpted concrete, characterized by two elongated walls that stretch 47 meters across the site, punctuated only by a solitary towering aperture. This daring exercise in reduction eschews ornament, allowing the robust geometry of the rectilinear volumes to speak for itself. By stripping away extraneous detail, the architects have produced a work of profound simplicity and power that seems to emerge from the landscape itself like an ancient remnant.

The austerity of the architectural forms is counterbalanced by moments of elegant lyricism - gently curved walls suggest planetary contours, while subtle changes in paving level imbue the hardscape with a sense of undulating terrain. Massive boulders situated in the garden further reinforce the primeval quality. With its commanding presence and remarkable mineral palette, the Stone Garden Residence conjures the sublime emptiness of the desert, oceanic horizons, and celestial bodies. This is an environment distilled to its essence - a place for contemplation amidst the eternal cycles of nature.

Design Team - Founded in 2003 by principals Anna Nakamura and Taiyo Jinno, EASTERN Design Office has emerged as one of Japan's most provocative and philosophical architecture practices. Headquartered in the cultural capital of Kyoto, the firm challenges conventional notions of spatial experience through highly conceptual and formally experimental works.

EASTERN's portfolio showcases an impressive range, spanning residences, commercial

buildings, urban interventions and speculative proposals. From the celebrated Slit House (2005) to recent works like the cavernous Hotel Ninja Black (2019), their designs manifest a stark yet poetic minimalism that distills architecture to its most primordial and sculptural essence.

The studio's intellectual rigor is evidenced by their recognition in prestigious competitions, including prizes for major projects in Tianjin, China early in their tenure. Their output has also garnered acclaim through the World Architecture Festival Awards.

Under Nakamura and Jinno's design leadership, EASTERN continues to push boundaries and posit architecture as a vehicle for metaphysical exploration. Each built work becomes a profound meditation on fundamental aspects of human existence through space, light, material and form.