

RESTLESS LIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



VOLUME 136



MURAKOSHI HOUSE

For a working city couple, the Murakoshi House has become a safe space protected from the risk of flooding in the Ota City neighborhood of Japan's capital, Tokyo. Despite being placed with traffic intersections on both sides of the house, the shell of the home ensures a strong level of privacy for the inhabitants without compromising the owners' passion and love for cars.

6

“When we first consulted with the client, he told us that he loves cars and uses them for his daily work, and he wanted a garage that was easy to use”, Lead Architect at S Design Farm, Watanabe Hiroki, says. “When we looked at the site from a bird's eye view on a map, we noticed that there was a road extending 300 meters to the north, straight ahead like a runway. Also, to the south, there is a road adjacent to the creek

Ota City, Japan

and we thought if we could pass through this land, we could create a path for the client and the town.” Besides the creative ‘car tunnel’, Watanabe and his team had to mitigate the risk of the flood-prone area where significant damage has occurred in recent years due to water streams. “In order to protect the client's safety from water, we wondered if there was a way to create a structure that would accept

7



or pass water rather than dam it up, and came up with a design that used 'openness'. In addition, we raised the foundation of the building higher than usual, and adopted a high foundation to minimize the impact of water. By doing so, the height of the building was made closer to the surrounding walls to align the line of sight and make it easier to blend in with the streetscape", Watanabe explains. Although the area is populated with many residences, it is at the same time also a place where many people and cars come and go. This means eye lines as well as

noise are noticeable in the neighborhood. Despite the fact that many of these nearby buildings have large windows facing the street, they are all blocked by blinds with curtains. To avoid the same design flaw, Watanabe and his team found another solution. "The pentagonal shape of the site and the corner lot, surrounded by roads on three sides, make the building visible from all directions except the east side, so it has a monolithic facade with a pentagonal shape, closed off by galvanized exterior walls except for minimal windows. However, since the spatial composition

is designed with horizontal and vertical openings, the garage is open to the outside while allowing light and wind to enter, and privacy is ensured without worrying about the surroundings, which are relative opposites", Watanabe tells. Consequently, the two-storey wooden house protects the clients while external atriums and courtyards ensure comfort with an adequate lighting and ventilation.

Architecture by **S Design Farm**

Photography by **Koichi Torimura**



Words of the Week



“

For many people, COVID-19 has been a tough nut to crack. The same has been the case for Restless. We started a YouTube channel in the middle of the pandemic, and it is safe to say that it has been difficult to produce content, as it requires a great deal of traveling.

Now, times have changed for the better, and we are ready to begin producing content again. I am happy to announce that I am flying out to Slovakia next week to produce 3 new episodes for the Restless Living channel, and even more excited to confidently proclaim that the quality of the production will get a nudge up in the right direction.

Challenges always occur throughout life, and this has been a huge challenge for me personally. But, when one maintains the faith in what one believes in, the desired outcome will eventually present itself. Hopefully the filming will go smoothly, so we can all enjoy more entertaining house tours very soon.



CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

