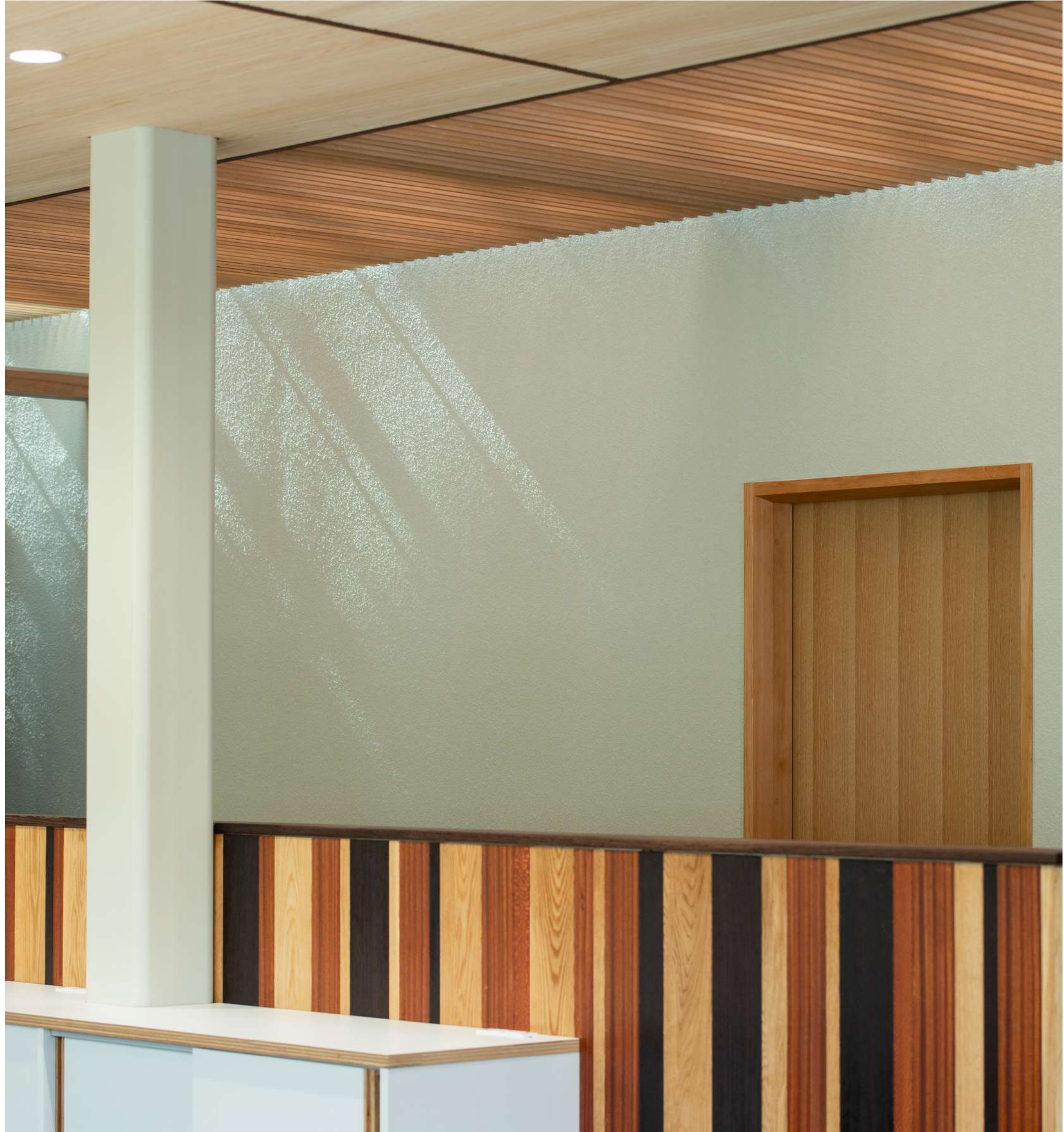


nucarchitects

nature / urban / culture / architecture
We are nuca architects.



Biography

Hiroyuki Tanaka

Founder / Principal, nuca architects



Hiroyuki Tanaka (b.1983, Fukui, Japan) is a Japanese architect and founder of nuca architects, established in 2021. His work explores the relationship between nature, culture, local materials, and architecture, with a particular focus on the regeneration of existing buildings and the activation of regional resources.

Before founding his practice, Tanaka worked at several design firms in Japan, including Urabe Sekkei (Osaka) and Geo-Graphic Design Lab (Osaka). In 2025, nuca architects opened a second studio in Kobe, operating between Fukui and Kobe.

His work spans a wide range of projects, including public facilities, workplaces, and the renovation of historic buildings. His projects have received national recognition, including the Good Design Award and the Good Design Best100 – Good Focus Award for Regional Design.

Tanaka is also engaged in the conservation and adaptive reuse of architectural heritage. He completed the Heritage Architect Program at Kyoto Institute of Technology and the Housing Doctor School.

He views architectural practice as a medium connecting regional culture, society, and the built environment, and seeks to realize architecture that can be inherited by future generations.

//EDUCATION//

2007

Master of Architecture, Architectural Environment Systems
Akita Prefectural University

//PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE//

2025–

nuca architects – Kobe Office

2021–

Founder / Principal, nuca architects (Fukui)

2019–2021

Geo-Graphic Design Lab, Osaka

2013–2019

Urabe Sekkei, Osaka

//AWARDS//

2025

Good Design Award – BEST100

Good Focus Award (Regional Design)

“NOKATE – Landscape Project for Future Narcissus Production”

2025

Fukui Architectural Award – Encouragement Prize(Matsukan Office Renovation)

2025

Fukui Prefecture Kominka Renovation Competition – Excellence Prize

2021

Good Design Award(Takahama Seafood Market UMIKARA)

2012

Akita Cedar Landscape Design Competition – Finalist

2006

Yamagata Housing Design Competition – Grand Prize

//Lectures & Activities//

2025

Speaker, “Emerging Architects Discussion”

Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) Chiba Convention

2025

Jutaku-I (Housing Doctor) School – Completed

2022

Heritage Architect Program, Kyoto Institute of Technology – Complete

PHILOSOPHY

01 — Circulating Heritage

Architecture that reactivates local culture, materials, and memory.

Our work explores how architecture can activate the cultural and material heritage of a place. Rather than preserving history as a static object, we seek to reinterpret it and allow it to circulate into the future. Through the reuse of existing buildings, the reinterpretation of local materials, and close dialogue with regional culture, architecture becomes a medium that connects past and future.

02 — Human-Centered Engineering

Integrating comfort, environment, and structural intelligence.

We see architecture as the integration of human experience, environmental performance, and structural logic. By carefully considering light, air, materials, structure, and thermal comfort, we aim to create spaces that are not only visually clear but physically and environmentally comfortable for people. Engineering is not separated from design; it is part of the architectural thinking itself.

03 — Architecture as a Question

Architecture begins with a question to the present time.

Every project begins with a question. What does architecture mean for this place, this culture, and this moment? Rather than simply responding to given conditions, we believe architecture should propose new possibilities. Architecture becomes a way of asking questions about how we live, build, and relate to our environment today.





Matsukan Headquarters
Renovation
マツ勘社屋リノベーション



This project renovates the headquarters and working environment of Matsukan, a traditional chopstick manufacturer with more than 100 years of history in Wakasa, Fukui.

The concept of the project is an “Office in the Forest of Resources,” visualizing the cultural heritage of the company and the local craft industry. Various wood species originally used as raw materials for chopsticks were upcycled and incorporated into interior elements such as partition walls, ceiling details, and furniture handles. Through the warmth, texture, and scent of these materials, the space evokes the atmosphere of the forests that provide the resources for chopstick production.

The office area was designed as a spatial landscape of wooden pieces, creating an experience similar to walking through a grove of trees. In the workshop, existing skylights were reinterpreted using polycarbonate enclosures to diffuse natural light, while carefully planned linear lighting provides uniform illumination suitable for the delicate inspection of lacquered chopsticks. The design therefore integrates spatial quality with improved productivity.

The renovation also included workshops with employees to reconsider storage, layout, and workflow, creating a comfortable and efficient workplace that staff can feel proud of. In addition, improvements to insulation, building services, and energy systems enhanced environmental performance, safety, and maintenance. The renovation was carefully phased so that construction could proceed while the factory remained in operation.

Architecture here becomes a medium that reconnects people, local craft culture, and the landscape of material resources.

Location: Wakasa, Fukui, Japan

Program: Office Renovation

Status: Completed / Renovation



















Sanchomachi Commons
Architect' s Office
+ Coworking Space

三丁町コモンズ





Sanchomachi Commons is a renovation project that transforms a vacant townhouse located in the Sanchomachi area of the Obama Nishigumi Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings into an architect's office and coworking space.

The project aims to reopen and activate the cultural capital embedded within the historic townscape. By creating a shared platform for architects, designers, urbanists, and local communities, the space serves as a base for dialogue and collaboration within the district.

In the future, Sanchomachi Commons will host a series of independent talk events inviting speakers from fields such as urban planning, architecture, design, and cultural practice. These activities will explore themes including circular economy and sustainable society, while fostering community-driven initiatives within the historic town.

The renovation carefully visualizes the passage of time within the old machiya by juxtaposing existing materials with newly introduced elements. Local memories of the land—particularly the presence of natural spring water in the area—are expressed through a custom textile design inspired by ripples and reflections of water.

Other elements of the project include tiles made from reclaimed Echizen roof tiles, repurposed from previously stored materials. Through these interventions, the project seeks to continue and reinterpret the layered memories of place and time embedded in the historic architecture.

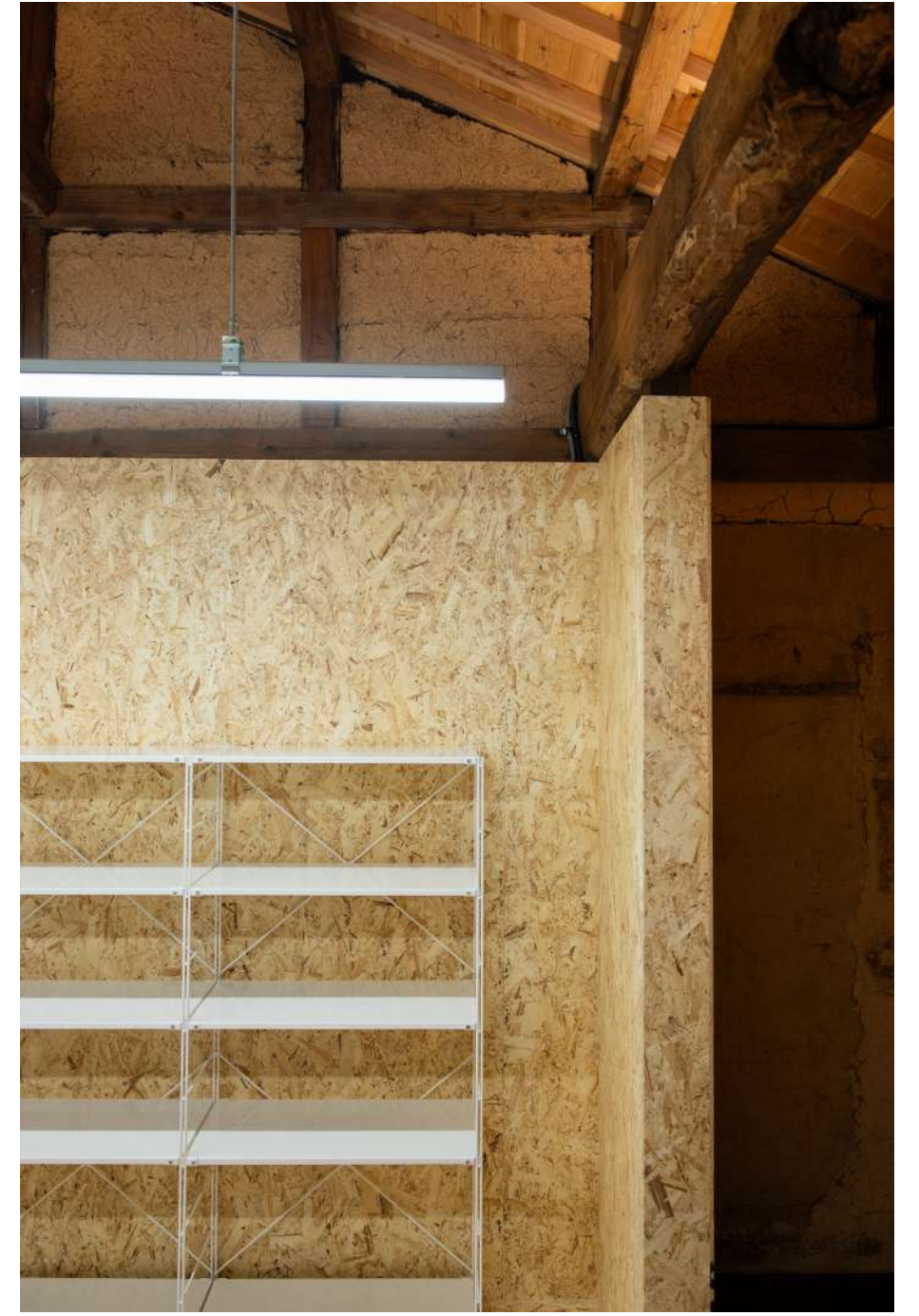
Location: Obama, Fukui, Japan

Program: Architect's Office + Coworking /
Machiya Renovation

Status: Completed / Renovation















Tenkei –
Cultural Landscape Guesthouse
文化的景観に泊まる 点景





The term “cultural landscape” refers to the scenery of everyday life shaped through the relationship between local climate, land, and the livelihoods of people who live there.

Ikura, a small coastal settlement in Fukui City where Tenkei is located, is one of Japan’s major production areas for narcissus flowers. In March 2021, the area was designated as a National Important Cultural Landscape as part of the “Cultural Landscape of the Narcissus Fields along the Echizen Coast.”

Tenkei is a private rental guesthouse where visitors can experience the life of a narcissus-producing village while enjoying the surrounding landscape.

The project renovates an existing wooden house and transforms it into a guesthouse and small visitor center connected to the cultural landscape of the region. During the investigation of the building, traces of traditional bengara red pigment were discovered. The exterior was repainted in a slightly brighter tone inspired by this color, allowing the building to function as a subtle landmark that reinterprets the identity of the village.

While traditional coastal houses often open toward the sea and remain dark on the opposite side, the upper portion of the house was partially removed to create a double-height space that brings daylight deep into the interior. This space acts as a flexible gathering area where people can meet, learn about the region, and host community events.

Beyond functioning as a guesthouse within a cultural landscape, the building is envisioned as a small hub for learning about the region and supporting local activities such as markets, events, and community gatherings.

Location: Ikura, Fukui, Japan

Program: Guesthouse / Visitor Center

Status: Renovation / Completed

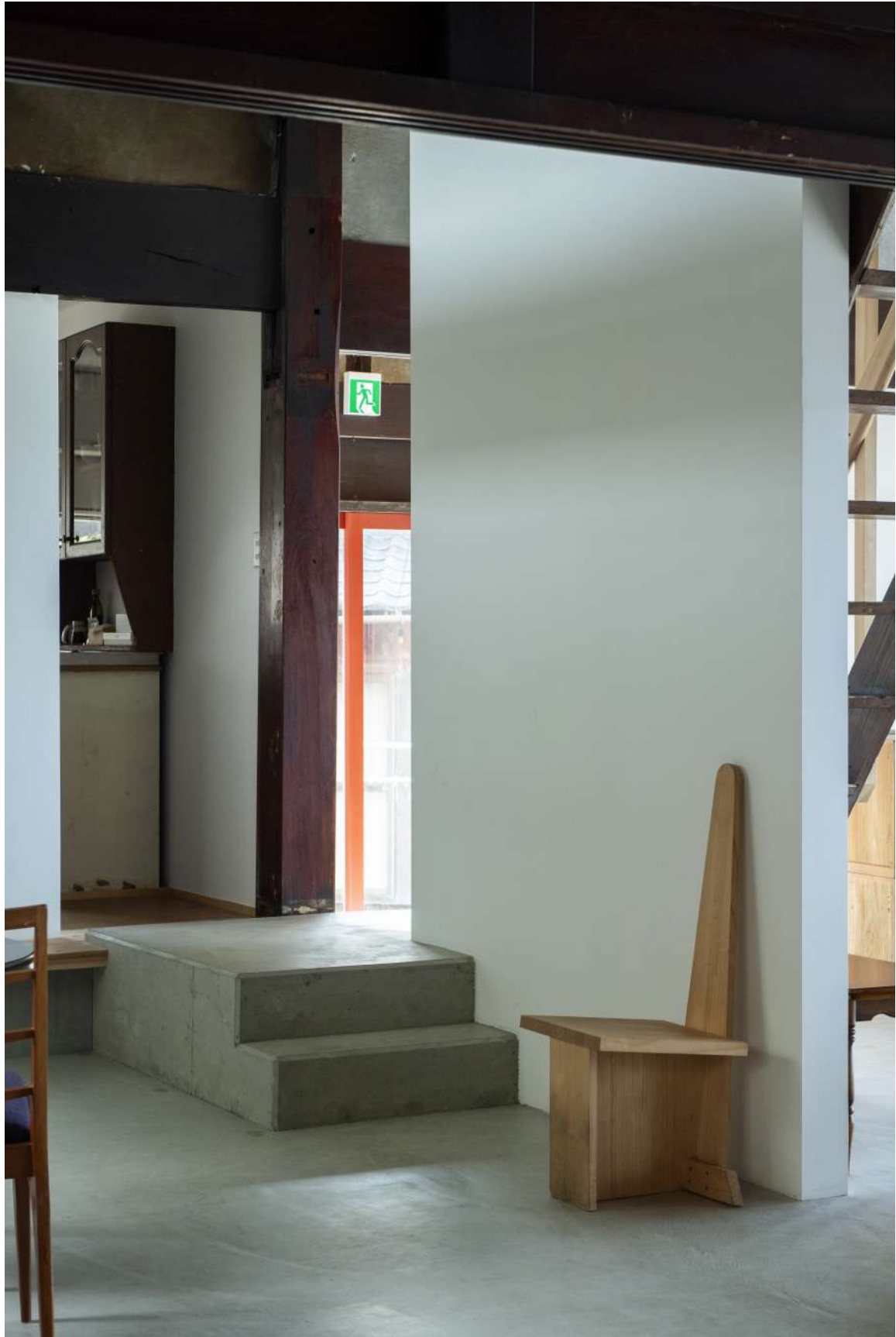




















Katsumiya
– Seaside Ryokan Renovation
かつみや リノベーション





This project is the renovation of Katsumiya, a traditional inn located in a quiet and secluded area behind the Tsuruga Peninsula in Fukui Prefecture.

Although the location is not particularly convenient, its remoteness offers guests a rare opportunity to step away from everyday noise and experience a slower rhythm of time. The design adopts a calm palette of gray and brown tones throughout the building, creating a subdued atmosphere that allows attention to naturally shift toward the expansive view of the Sea of Japan.

To create a refined hospitality experience and ensure smooth hotel operations, the number of guest rooms was reduced by half. This allowed each room to become significantly more spacious, providing guests with a comfortable and relaxed environment.

In the previous layout, the building had little relationship with the sea despite its dramatic location. As part of the renovation, the main entrance was relocated toward the ocean side, allowing guests to immediately encounter the landscape of the Sea of Japan upon arrival.

The project repositions the inn as a place where visitors can enjoy a quiet and immersive stay while experiencing the seasonal richness of the region—especially the fresh seafood from the Tsuruga Peninsula and the agricultural products from Mihama.



Location: Tsuruga Peninsula, Fukui, Japan

Program: Ryokan / Hotel Renovation

Status: Completed / Renovation

