

A Space to Take Care of Each Other

Project

Housing Complex in Niigata

Designer

Schenk Hattori Architecture Atelier

Location

Niigata, Japan

For this project, Housing Complex in Niigata, the architects were tasked to create a new extension for three generations living in a typical Japanese housing situation. The home comprises two floors; bedrooms are on the ground floor, while the kitchen and living areas are upstairs. A pale wood interior with structural beams on the roof exposes the natural beauty of the home, an inviting space that is both modern and traditional. The varying textures of the wood lend the house an elegant simplicity. For privacy on the ground floor, the firm has reinterpreted the traditional shoji by utilizing a wall of glass windows on the exterior and lining them with translucent sheets of paper on a latticed wood frame on the inside. Although opaque, shoji diffuse sunlight into the house and provide visual movement from outside, like the swaying silhouettes of trees in the wind. Bedrooms are sparsely furnished, keeping in line with traditional Japanese minimalism.



↑ ↑ Communal Space

Every square meter is accounted for, including the in-between spaces of the interior surfaces, which are used for storage or extra seating. The resulting effect is warm, elegant, and functional.

