



A blended live-work space not to be missed

- SARUGAKU PLURAL DIRECTED TOWER
- MASATOSHI HIRAI ARCHITECTS ATELIER
- TOKYO, JAPAN

You would be forgiven for looking twice at this slim, angular building on its unusual, tapering plot. It appears so singular as to be almost unbelievable, with its see-through, glass-paneled lower levels, irregular facades above, and a floating staircase leading to the skinny entry facade. Other ingenious eccentricities are hidden from view and make a virtue of the sloped plot: sloping floor plates generate space for under-floor storage, staggered floor levels, and extensive sound insulation.

The mixed-use building comprises a multifamily house, shop, and small office, with workspaces found in the interstices between these functions, the intention being that work and home life will blend entirely. The “fragmentation” of living this represents is softened by the architect’s extensive use of timber, sourced in Japan. Indeed, the interior feels warm and deceptively spacious, with simplicity being the watchword in the open, largely unfurnished spaces.

