This is a funeral hall for four families in a residential area with four gabled roofs. The site of this building is Kasuga city Fukuoka, which is a residential area with farms, rice fields and big old houses of landowners. Our client wanted to make a community-rooted ceremony space that can be used by several families.

The aim of this project is to make funeral ceremony familiar to the life of people in urban environment.

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Japanese people are crazy about HANAMI, a Japanese custom to watch cherry blossoms on their full bloom. Literally half of the nation get drunk under the cherry blossom on high season. In contrast, cherry blossom is often linked to fragility of human life and death, for the flower falls so quick after blooming, changing the appearance time to time. Nearby the site, there is also a famous cherry blossom passage. Here, we planned a funeral hall that resembles this cherry tree passage. The building type of a funeral hall in Japan is dark with walls and less openings in general. Our client wanted a bright ceremony space where people can pray for the deceased and free to drop in. We designed four passages parallel to the SAKURA PASSAGE in this ceremony hall by the treelike unit structure system. The four passage is a symbol of changing, moving from here (konoyo) to the other world (anoyo). This system consists wooden pillars and braces used in Japanese traditional wooden architecture, in view of the context of Sakura, low building cost, short construction period and soft ground. These pillars and braces support the beams of the tunnel and connects to the roof. The sunlight can be seen through the branches of tree-like unit structure, casting the dancing leaves and the constantly changing lights and shadows.

OUTLINE: SITE AREA 1,068.09m², BUILDING AREA 422.61m², TOTAL FLOOR AREA 347.80m², HEIGHT OF THE EAVES 4,390mm, HEIGHT OF THE ROOF 4,775mm, USE OF BUILDING: FUNERAL HALL

SAKURA PASSEGE CEREMONY HALL

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There are Zasshonokuma Sakuranamiki (Cherry Blossom Passage) in front of the site. This is a famous sightseeing spot where people come for Hanami in spring especially.

The short period in full bloom and the beauty of the flowers are often linked to the fragility of human life in Japanese culture.

These pillar and braces support beams making tunnel space when they are connected to make roofs with toplights. People can see sunbeam shines through branches of tree-like unit structure.
This project is an installation of ‘New space with Fittings’ ordered by Fittings Association in Okawa, Fukuoka. The Fittings has constituted ‘Engawa’ space which existing between outside and inside in Japan. After Modernization, most building has been constructed by concrete which can make wall and openings easily. By the situation, role of Fittings decrease gradually. I propose to intersperse ‘Engawa’ in urban space by the extension of windows towards inside of architecture. When people extend the window alike small hole which embedded in the wall by hooking finger, winds and light flow into the inside. The sensible skills by craftsman has connected wall and organs which include watching eyes and blowing mouth. This is an experience device for the window connected from small hole to big world seamlessly like blowing babbles.

I try to think amount of light from window relative to scenery which framed by the window, referring ‘the telescope’ painted by Rene Magritte. I try to think wall and the window equally. The small void of the wall connects to window seamlessly. The geometry is referred from ‘the Gabriel’s Horn’. When people extend the window alike small hole which embedded in the wall by hooking finger, winds and light flow into the inside. This is the Relativization of Light and Scenery inspired by ‘SHAKKEI’, Borrowed Landscape. ‘Shakkei’ which frames scenery by the window is a common idea in Japan.

BOTTOMLESS WINDOW

OUTLINE : SITE AREA - m², BUILDING AREA - m², TOTAL FLOOR AREA - m², HEIGHT OF THE EAVES - mm, HEIGHT OF THE ROOF - mm, USE OF BUILDING : INSTALLATION

This is an experience device for the window connected from small hole to big world seamlessly like blowing babbles.