Four Leaves Villa

The villa is located in a forest in Karuizawa, Nagano prefecture of Japan. The privately owned villa is designed to accommodate its owner and their friends in the rich natural environment at a mountain retreat 150km away from Tokyo.

In order to acquire specific natural scenery and light environment, each living function faces its own desired orientation. Living and dining space faces south-east for a brighter living environment while master bedroom and bathroom faces west offering private scenery of the forest. Music room is located at upper floor in the cozy attic-like room with a small bar in the back of the room. These living functions are assembled into 3 interconnected volumes that are placed on site among the pre-existing trees.

Roofs were designed as curved surface like a gently twisted leaves to form variable cross section suitable for each function. Combination of a concave and a convex roof configures from a high ceiling's expansive space to an introverted compact space. Every roof was designed as a Ruled Surface in which straight LVL joists were arranged continuously to form an organic geometry. Series of wooden joists are exposed on the ceiling highlighting its dynamic spatial characters of each living space.

Galvanized steel roofing was applied to the organic surface of the roof and red cedar planks covers the exterior wall on all sides. For the interior, series of Laminated Veneer Lumber joists is exposed on the ceiling highlighting the dynamic spatial characters of each living space. The interior wall are all finished with Japanese white stucco.

The design process that responds to its environmental context produced multiple organic roofs and established architecture as an aggregate of diverse living spaces. Appearance of the villa blends in harmoniously with the natural surroundings and perfectly integrated to the local landscape.

Kentaro Ishida

PROJECT DATA / CREDITS

Name of project: Four Leaves Villa

Location: Karuizawa, Nagano, Japan

Function: Weekend house

Architect: KIAS (Kentaro Ishida Architects Studio)

Structural Engineer: Building Structure Institute, Tokyo (Kazuyuki Ohara, Shuichi Takahashi)

Construction: Sasazawa Kensetsu

Structure: Timber structure

Site area: 　　　　1,127sqm

Floor area: 225sqm

Photos: Norihito Yamauchi