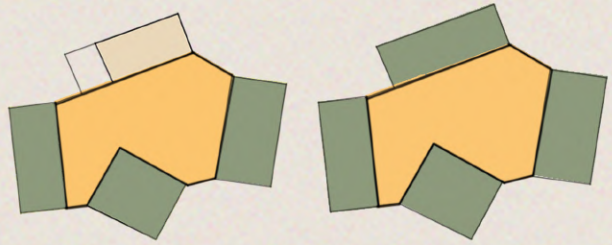
THE UNFINISHED HOUSE

Steven Holl said "**hybrids are incomplete and necessarily rely on the organisation of the whole in a way that reorganises the social dimension of the building.**"

The unfinished house in Kashiwa designed in 2014 by Yamazaki Kentaro Design Workshop is a first of its kind hybrid living space. Envisioned as an unfinished "doll house", the design focuses more on the ideal arrangement of internal space and attempts to maximise interactions between members of the family.



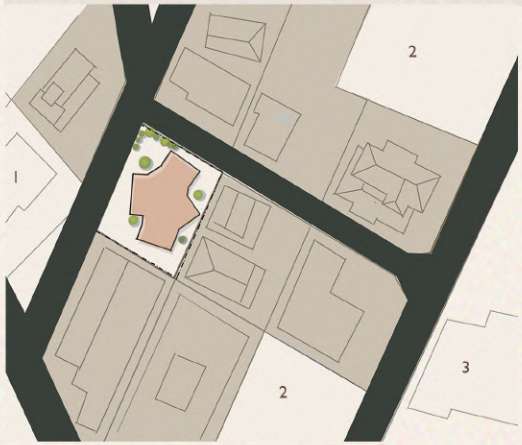
Ground floor First floor

HYBRID LIVING

The intimacy of private life and the sociability of public life coexist in the hybrid, resulting in constant activity and turning it into a full-time building.

- Private spaces
- Work space
- Central hub

INTEGRATION OF THE PROJECT WITH THE SITE AND CONTEXT



1. Corporate office
2. Vacant site
3. Tennis centre
- Residential

Area- 107 m²
Site area- 182 m²
Building site- 70 m²
Dimensions- 12 x 15.2 m

The site is located in Kashiwa, a small city that serves as a regional commercial center and a bedroom community in the Chiba prefecture of Japan.

Masuo, Kashiwa-shi,
Chiba prefecture, Japan
35° 49' 56" N, 139° 58' 31" E

1505 mm
highest number of rainy days- June
lowest number of rainy days- January

14.8 °C
August records the highest- 26.3 °C
January records the lowest- 3.4 °C

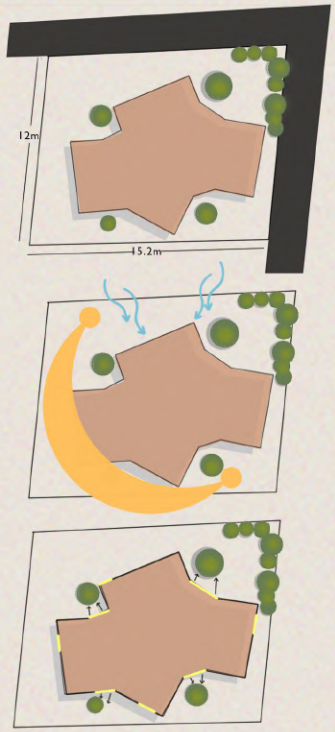
Relative humidity
highest - July (**82.37 %**)
the lowest -January -(**66.49 %**)

Situated along the **Tone River**, the site has **Brown Forest Soil.**

Warm and Temperate Climate

As of **2021**, the city had an estimated population of **433,436 in 194,216** households and a population

Prevailing wind direction is **West and North West**



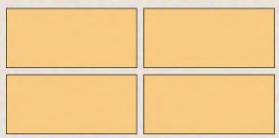
Every module is placed such that the view from its windows is of the trees or of the sky and not of neighboring houses and their rooms.

CONCEPT

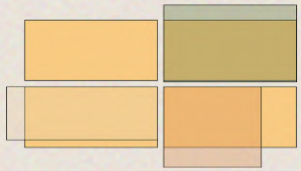
The meaning of " unfinished" takes on a newer dimension. With such a design, the definition of **family life is also unfinished**, as it grows daily within this exposed, communitarian space. Thus the **home will always be unfinished** as it will always be open, ready to allow new growth potential. With the elimination of the many interior walls, families could indeed become more unified and less isolated, and the Unfinished House could indeed become the Finished Sanctuary.

FORM DEVELOPMENT

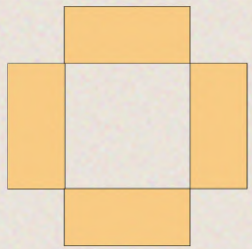
Form follows function



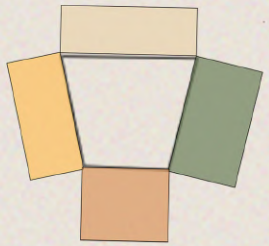
A basic rectangular module is **repeated**.



individual dimensions are altered as per requirement, creating **asymmetry.**



The same modules are **united** by placing them corner to corner.



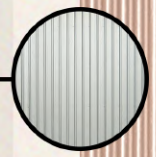
They are oriented to **emphasize** the central space.

The modules are spaced out to allow light and ventilation, creating a **harmonious** layout.

MATERIAL PALETTE

Corrugated Steel Siding

-High resilience and durability.
-Resistant to fire, hail, weather, rot, and bugs.
-Requires minimal maintenance
-Cost-effective.
-Flexibility in terms of color choice.
-Steel is **recyclable,** the material will not go to waste.



Bare Plywood

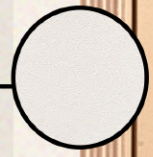
-Durable and Strong
-Customizable appearance and thickness
-Cost effective
-It is **environmentally friendly** since the basic composition is wood that's attached with formaldehyde adhesive.

Wood

- A natural **renewable resource**
– Helps accomplish room division without using walls
– Produces positive physiological results
– Great for absorbing sounds, moisture and heat

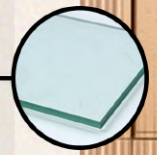
Powder Coated Steel

-Adds a durable, protective epoxy or polymer layer over the steel.
-Stronger, more durable and more resilient finish than paint.
-Environmentally friendly, contains almost **no volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** and no heavy metals like chrome.

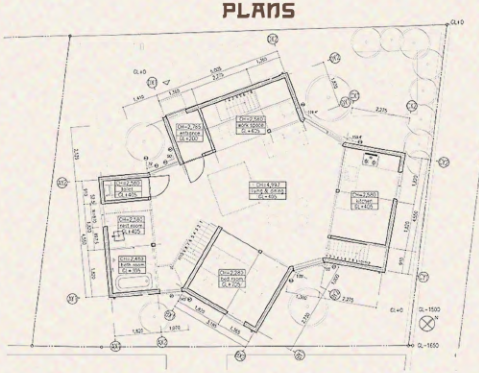


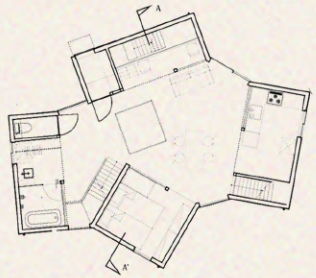
Clear Glass Panel

-Makes the space feel larger.
-Significantly stronger than standard annealed glass.
-Smooth surface that is easy to wash and sanitize.

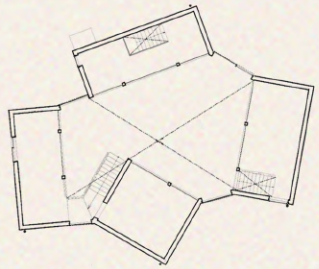


PLANS





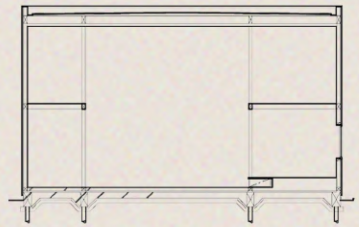
Ground floor plan



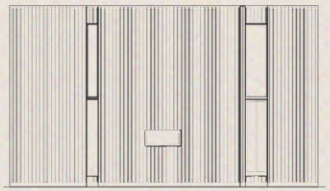
First floor plan

Scale- 1:200
All measurements in mm

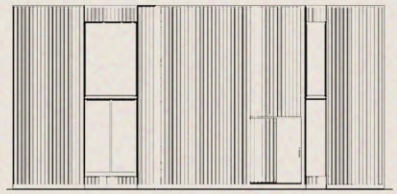
Section AA'



ELEVATIONS



Northeast



Northwest

CIRCULATION DIAGRAM

Ground floor

First floor

FLEXIBILITY AND MULTIFUNCTIONALITY OF SPACES

Each container is divided into two levels where the **ground level forms the primary living space,** ie, kitchen, bedroom, plumbing area, and work space while the **first level is a blank canvas**. The first floor, being left entirely blank, allows inhabitants **to personalize the spaces** to their liking. In a way, the spaces would **transform** as the person grows, **mirroring** the characteristics of different phases of their lives. Additionally, the wooden columns that support the structure can be decorated.

Kids' room

Storage space

Work space

Guest bedroom

COMMUNITY INTERACTION SPACES

The structure of the building consists of **four U-shaped boxes** consisting of two floors, creating a large space in the center that is the center of life.

The living room that acts as **a central hub** is an open ceiling space around which the 4 boxes, each with a function contributing to their daily lives are gathered.

None of the "rooms" have actual walls, just columns that support the structure. Thus the entire structure acts as an **open box**, providing total transparency between family members and allowing them to interact as much as possible.

Every room is visible from the central living space, allowing the parents to supervise the children at all times.

2 IMPROVEMENT SPHERES

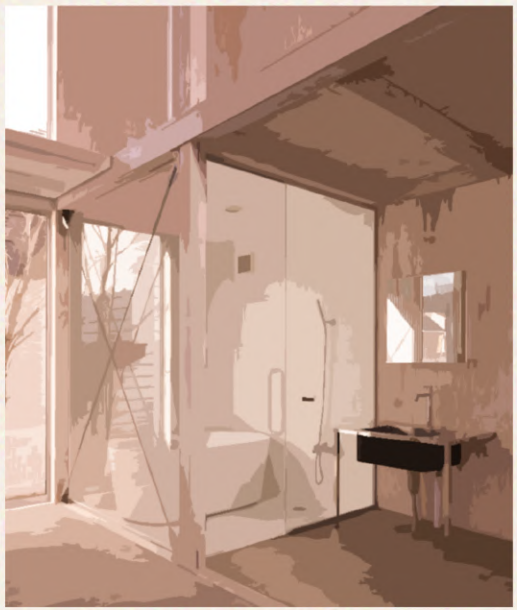
The bathroom is a semi-private space - three walls enclosed and one wall made entirely of glass, making an otherwise private space **vulnerable**.

1 THREATS

With the concept being an “open box”, the aspects of **safety and privacy** are compromised entirely.

Since the inner walls of the rooms are removed and replaced by columns, it poses as a **safety hazard**, especially since the children’s room is tentatively placed on the first floor. As this posed a huge threat, the tenants quickly renovated the space, added railings and partitions to avoid accidents.

This reduced the amount of openness and interactions that were intended during the design stage.



3 OPPORTUNITIES

In Japan, it often rains heavily and snows lightly. Generally, the roofs are designed quite **wide and sloped** so that the rain water does not enter into the house and snow loads fall to the ground quickly.

The project could have incorporated this factor.

4 THREATS

The individual boxes are not connected. This creates the need to provide a staircase for every box. The house thus has 3 separate staircases in its small area, making each staircase rather **narrow**. They are designed such that their **rise is greater than the runs**. Apart from creating an uncomfortable climb, the lack of railings makes this a rather hazardous design.

CONCLUSION

Amidst a global pandemic that has forced the human population to coop up in their homes, the Unfinished House transforms a home into a space that can be used to experience **multiple aspects of life**. The **seamless transition** between work and home lives ensure that an occupant never feels isolated.

A family is unfinished, as it grows daily. Thus a home will always be unfinished as it should , ready to allow new **growth** potential. With the elimination of the many interior walls, families could indeed become more **unified** and **less isolated**, allowing more interaction within the family and helping them bond and grow closer. Allowing them to be involved in designing and creating their own spaces increases their **sense of belongingness**.

The definition of a home has evolved from a place where we escape the working world, to our actual workplace and leisure area - **the epicentre of our life**, where we spend the day moving from one task to the next. Flexible homes have become necessary, and the stated use of each room is frequently overlooked. Adapting to the new normal has resulted in a variety of changes, one of which is the necessity to transform our houses into hybrid environments in which our personal and professional lives are **intertwined.**

Overall, the concept, the placement of spaces and the selection of materials in the Unfinished house all work in harmony to create a **blueprint** for future home designs.