

INAX BOOK

Concept

One can find it's site in Sakawa town, which is famous for both fossils and sake, "Tsukasabotan", 20 km. westward from Kochi city.

At the foot of southern mountains a tiny stream runs along the east border; a J R single train carriage trots on the other side of the northern valley. Terraced rice fields are all around....

After a long trip searching for land all over Shikoku island, suitable to build their LAST house, Dutch native husband and his Japanese spouse found this location at last.

They shared their wishes as a start: "Close the house towards the public side, but open it to the nature side. We also want to enjoy gardening and intend to plant many [fruit] trees as well as find suitable places for flowers, rocks and ponds. We are not so interested in commonly so called 'beautiful things' and are eager to play with elements, *homo ludens*.

As for isolation: please double or triple the Japanese standard all around the 6 sides [in the Netherlands we had 30 cm. walls, which worked most comfortable] and *PLEASE* [...!...] would you never / ever use that bourgeois word 'residence' again !!"

The name became LANDHUIS.

Because of the terraced plot I could not avoid the house being situated on several fields of various heights, which forced me to think intensely how to use the floor-planning and sectional designing. I let two rectangular volumes open themselves towards the southern mountains, consequently creating at the same time a huge, fan-shaped space in between as a living room. This middle part has been decided to become a reinforced concrete structure, the two volumes at each side became fully timber structured as two wings, grown from the center body. The east wing was named "DAY WING", it contains the entrance, dining room, kitchen and two utility spaces. The west wing was baptized as "NIGHT WING", accommodating the rest room annex bathroom, a substantial closet, a guestroom as well as a Japanese [guest]room with *washi tatami*, two toilets and the inhabitants bedroom.

I created a 'reflection'-pond between the full length of the waved wall of the living room and the south garden and a large timber terrace, extended in a roofed *azumaya*. The latter, a belvedere as an invitation to realize the inside – outside- nature connection.

At my first visit to the site, some rocks impressed me strongly, one of them, a 50 ton darling, being destined to the very center of the living room, named "HEART ROCK". I imagined, that daily life would occur around this unique rock.

The surrounding landscape with its mountains, terraced rice-fields, a lovely stream and valley, inspired me to design an almost sculptural curved wall, broad steps and several heights in floors and ceilings, realizing my wish, that the LANDHUIS resonates with both sides.....a hamlet and Japan's pure nature.