

Architecture
Interior and
Furniture
Design
for Children

youji
no
shiro®



Mission

Genuinely Adequate Environment for Children

'Youji no Shiro,' meaning 'The Castle for Children' in Japanese, is a group of architectural professionals, which specialises in the design of preschools and other children-related spaces.

When designing the best hardware, or the environment for children, you need to consider its software, or the activities which happen within the spaces and the schools' educational policies.

We believe only skilled and experienced pros are capable of balancing those two elements.



S ervice

Creating Spaces Where Children Have Much Fun

Main services of 'Youji no Shiro' are designing buildings, renovation and interiors of preschools, including the supervision of the construction site.

We also provide branding consultation services for preschools.



Design

Refining Children's Space



Exterior

Welcoming appearance for everyone,
yet unique enough to be a landmark in the neighbourhood.



Dining Room

Eating lunch at comfortable dining room filled with natural light and wind teaches children the joy of eating.



Den & Hiding Space

Children love hiding themselves and play in small spaces. The space are also useful for children who need to calm down, or who want to be alone.



Play Instruments

By adding playful function to ordinal spaces, children can innovate new plays.



Hall

Large halls often connected to the garden function as the socialising places for children.



Bathroom

By opening windows and placing them on the south of the building, of course securing privacy, toilets become fun places to go, and not dark, filthy and scary.



Garden

Pleasant environment for children to feel wind, the sun, the rain...nature!



Architectual Professionals of Spaces for Children

'Youji no Shiro' is the name of a section of HIBINOSEKKEI, based in Kanagawa, Japan. The company was founded in 1972 and had launched the section which specialize in the design of spaces for children in 1991, reflecting the rapidly altering social situation. By that time, the declining birth rate had become a serious issue in Japan. With fewer children continuing to develop, we became to think that existing preschool architecture are rather characterless. We thought what were needed were spaces that is designed and built for the people who work there, people in the neighbourhood, and of course children who use there. Believing that, we had built up more nad more works in the field of space design for children. During our 33 years in operation, we have created approximately 580 spaces for children all over Japan. The spaces include newly built architecture, converted architecture, interiors and the like. Recently the area of our service is expanding to the world.



KIDS SMILE LABO Nursery

construction site : Kanagawa
building year : 2021 floor area : 340sqm

AKN Nursery

construction site : Tokyo
building year : 2020 floor area : 292 sqm



03.

FS Kindergarten and Nursery

construction site : Oita
building year : 2020 floor area : 665 sqm

KNO Nursery

construction site : Nagasaki
building year : 2019 floor area : 558 sqm

Produce

By designing furniture, uniforms, stationaries and the like or by planning workshops, we help the facilities to establish their worldview.



Furniture

Furniture delicately designed for specific places would enhance the charm of architecture and spaces. Not to speak of the design and usability, furniture that were made with careful attention to materials and method of making would cultivate children's sensitivity.



Clothing

T-shirts, sweat shirts, tote bags and the like, designed with logos on it would deepen the feeling of unity of each facilities.

We produce events such as workshops, round-tables, lectures and the like where children, parents and residents from the area can enjoy, at each facilities. By utilizing the buildings when they are not used- nighttime and holidays- the facility will start acting as the hub for people's communications.

Events

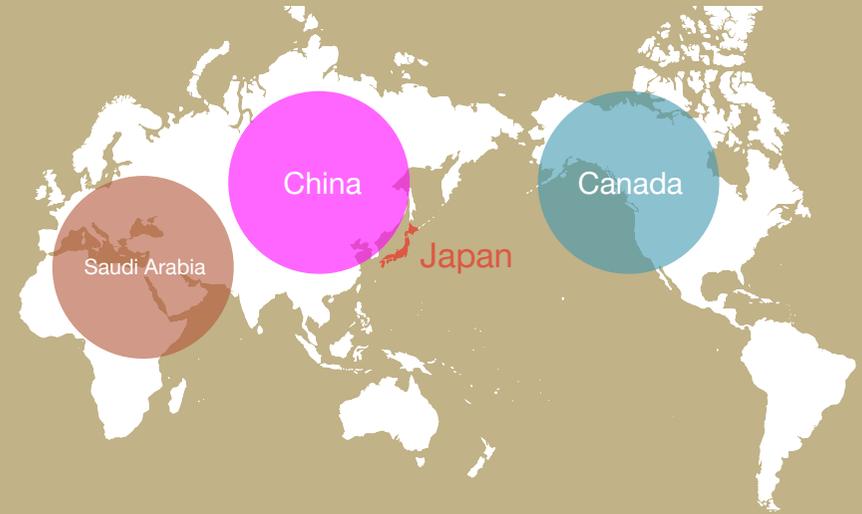
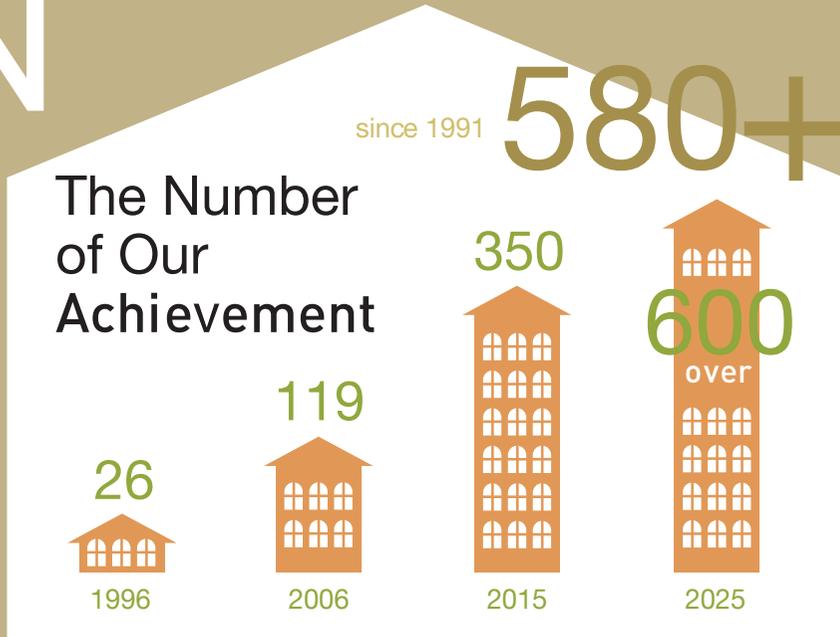




We

- strive to design spaces which will nurture children's physical and mental strengths and creativities.
- design spaces which are the most enjoyable for children. We know that exceedingly safe spaces are not always the best for them.
- also design furniture, printed matters and anything which is related to the environment for children, in addition to architecture and other spaces.
- suggest best solution for the problems which preschools and children are facing, using our design as the tool.

N umbers



Expanding Service Area

The number of projects outside Japan is increasing.

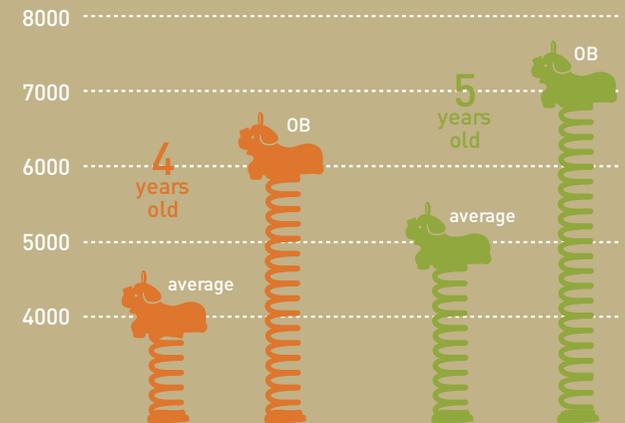
Good Design Makes Children Eat and Walk More!

At Hanazono Kindergarten and Nursery, children started eating lunch in more comfortable dining room and outside terraces, on the completion of our new architecture. As a result, the amount of consumption of rice per child has been increased by 1.7 times.



Appetites

The research held at OB Kindergarten and Nursery* says that the number of steps in a day per children exceeds the average. The amount of activities in childhood has significant effects to enhance body strengths of their later lives.



Exercises

*The Research was held by Masato Nishimoto PhD. and his team at National Institute of Technology, Ishikawa College, from May 14 to 18, 2015.

Awards

Children's space designed by Youji no Shiro won different kinds of awards all over the world every year

since 1972

230+

2023

Japan 10 awards

Overseas 4 awards

UB Kindergarten and Nursery (山梨)
《2023 iF DESIGN AWARD》
《2023 Yamanashi Architecture Culture Award》
《2023 World Architecture Festival(UK Finalist)》

AKM Kindergarten and Nursery (熊本)
《2023 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》
《2023 Good Design Award》

OM Nursery (茨城)
《2023 A+Awards》

Nursery NM (東京)
《2023 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

AKN Nursery (東京)
《2023 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

KCL Convalescent Childcare (大分)
《2023 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

JPP Nursery (福井)
《2023 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

KN Kindergarten and Nursery (鹿児島)
《2023 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》
《2023 Good Design Award》
《The 1st Kagoshima wood building competition》

ATG Kindergarten and Nursery (新潟)
《2023 Ideal Architecture Festival》

2022

Japan 14 awards

Overseas 3 awards

SH Kindergarten and Nursery (Toyama)
《A+Award 2022》 Kindergartens category
Popular Choice Winner
《2022 Good Design Award》

SCA Nursery (Tokyo)
《2022 WAN Awards Short list》
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》
《2022 Good Design Award》

SDJ Nursery (Tokyo)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》
《2022 Good Design Award》

OM Nursery (Ibaraki)
《2022 WAN Awards Bronze prize》
《2022 Good Design Award》

IK Nursery (Ibaraki)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

RJ Nursery (Okayama)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

IRH Child Development Support (Gunma)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》
《2022 Good Design Award》

UB Kindergarten and Nursery (Yamanashi)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

ATG Kindergarten and Nursery (Niigata)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

SMS Nursery (Tochigi)
《2022 KIDS DESIGN AWARD》

IZY Kindergarten and Nursery (Aichi)
《The 54th Chubu Architecture Award》

FAQ

A photograph of children playing on a white rope net structure in a playroom. The net is suspended from the ceiling and forms a series of platforms and slides. A child is climbing a vertical section of the net, while others are sitting or crawling on the horizontal sections. The room has light-colored walls and a ceiling with recessed lighting.

Q. Is your design service available outside Japan?

A. Yes. In addition to various projects in Japan, we are now designing different spaces for children in Netherlands, Germany, China and Chinese Taipei as of December 2015.

Q. I want to ask you to design for us. What do I need to do first?

A. We kindly ask all our clients to visit our office, to see each other and then go see some of our recent projects. We would like to proceed after sharing our design policies and the project you have in mind.

Q. How much is your design fee?

A. It varies to a great extent, by the size, structure and the character of the project. We submit estimates after a good consideration of the projects.

Q. How do you work abroad?

A. It varies on the projects, conditions, and laws of each regions.

Q. Can we tour any of your projects?

A. Yes, we can coordinate tours to our recent projects if needed. We also hold events and seminars at the preschools we designed. Please refer our website, where informations will be updated.

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We provide our services to any countries outside Japan.
As we put much value on conversation with our clients, please contact us for further inquiries.

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