

2025 | Professional

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IDA DESIGN AWARDS SILVER WINNER 2024

Banyan Retreat: The nest

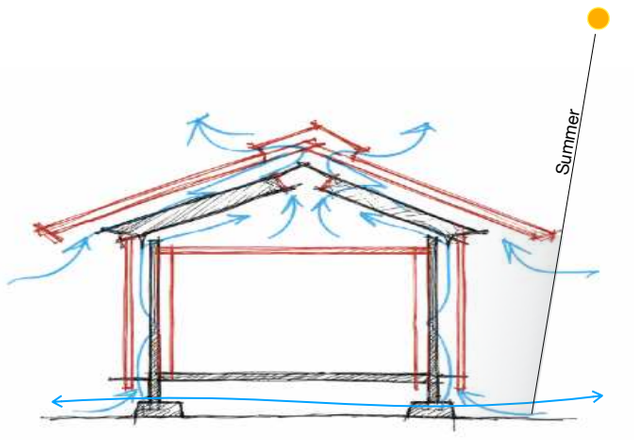
Nestled at the foot of Mt. Mochomu in Yakushima, a former gazebo has been transformed into a serene tiny house, embodying the essence of a Zen retreat. The site, stretching vertically from mountain to sea, has been redesigned as a space where wind and water flow freely, allowing the surrounding forest to breathe in harmony.



Before

The second roof placed on top

A second, larger roof has been added atop the original structure, creating deep eaves and a ventilation layer between the roofs. This natural airflow, from the walls to the roof, ensures a cool and comfortable interior even during Yakushima's humid summers.



Diagram

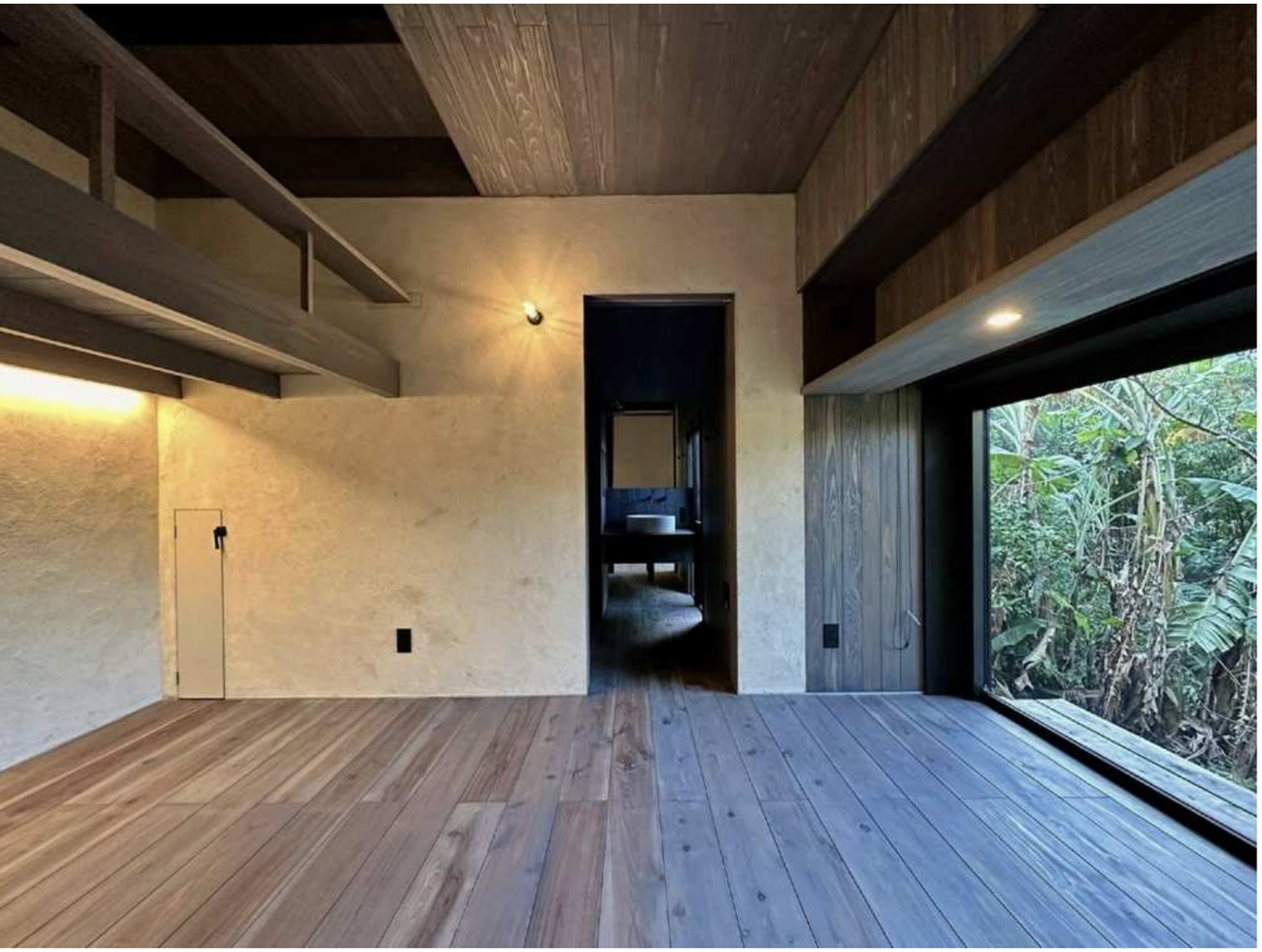
New Structure

Old Structure

Air Flow

The elevated flooring, another thoughtful feature, prevents moisture buildup, maintaining a dry, healthy living space. The cedar exterior walls, treated with persimmon tannin, enhance weather resistance while blending seamlessly with the natural surroundings.







Local wood and soil for building

The renovation prioritizes the use of local Yakushima materials. All the wood comes from Yakushima cedar, and the earthen walls are crafted from local soil mixed with plaster. These materials provide excellent moisture absorption, ensuring comfort even in the island's humid climate.

For insulation, solid 60mm cedar boards, also sourced locally, line the walls as heat storage elements, while smoked charcoal made from rice husks is used to insulate the attic and flooring.

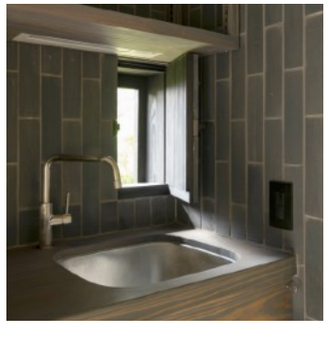














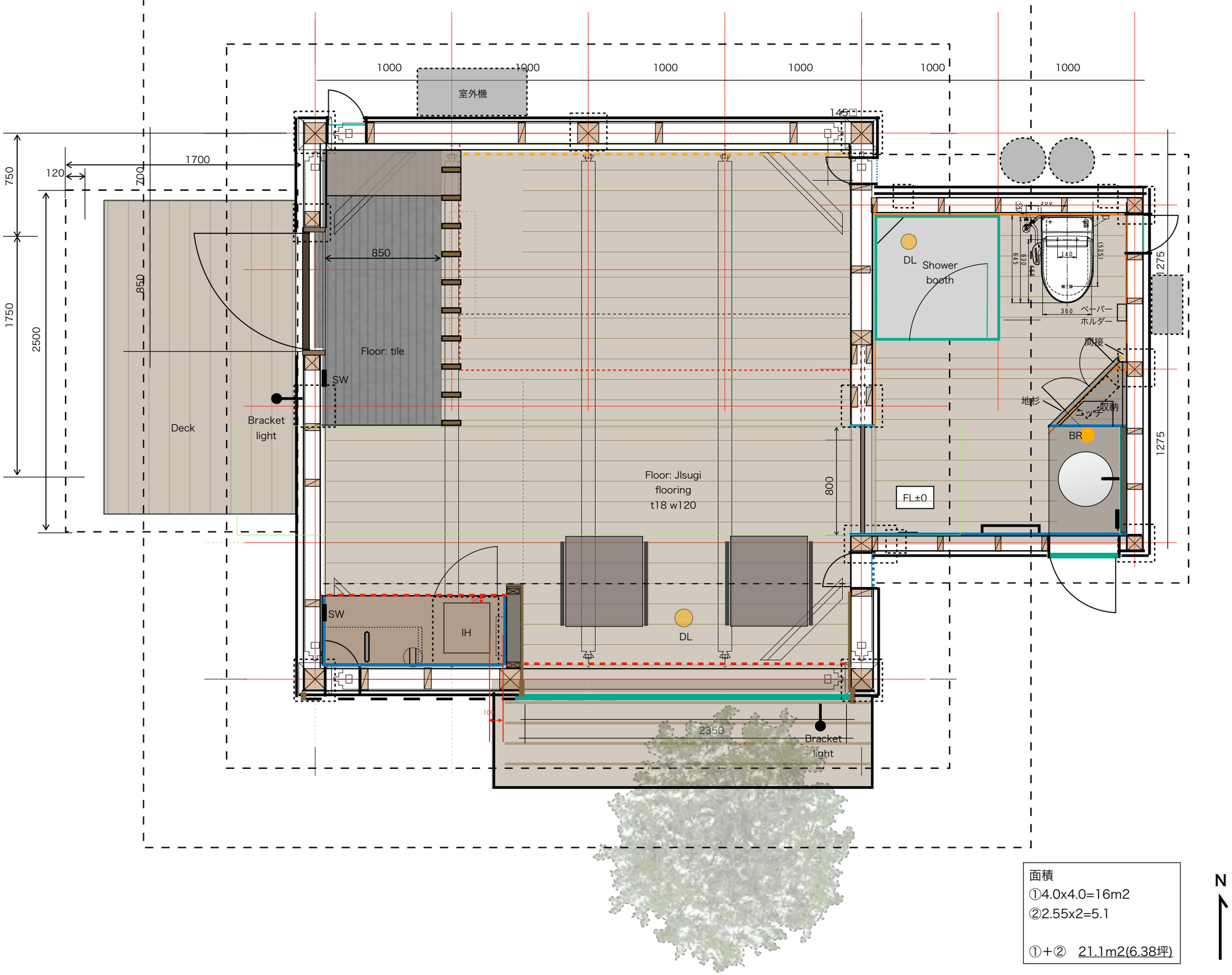
A large & small windows harmonizing with landscape

Inside, a large, purposefully low-slung glass opening creates the effect of a framed landscape painting. Locally sourced cedar is used throughout the room, including floors, walls, ceilings, furniture and fixtures, giving it a sense of warmth and unity. Ventilation doors in the walls allow for precise control of light and air flow, and the grey tiles in the kitchen and entryway are made using traditional Japanese smoked silver tile techniques.

This tiny house, a harmonious Nest in the forest, lives and breathes with its environment, offering a tranquil escape that merges architecture with nature.







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室外機
145
1700
120
700
750
1750
2500
850
850
Deck
Bracket
light
Floor: tile
SW
Floor: Jlsugi
flooring
t18 w120
800
FL±0
DL
Shower
booth
ペーパー
ホルダー
間接
地杉
収納
ニッチ
BR
1275
1275
SW
IH
DL
2350
Bracket
light
面積
①4.0x4.0=16m2
②2.55x2=5.1
①+② 21.1m2(6.38坪)
N

Plan