

CHIBA MANABU ARCHITECTS

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Credit & Data Sheet

Project name: Japan Guide Dog Center "Fuji Harness"

Period of construction: September 2005 - October 2006

Location: Fujinomiya-city, Shizuoka prefecture

Principal use: Guide dog training center

Structure: timber, steel frame

Site area: 14,551.02m²

Building area: 2,859.60m²

Total floor area: 2,933.50m²

Stories: 2 stories

Design: CHIBA MANABU ARCHITECTS

Structural engineers: KANEBAKO STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

Mechanical engineers: KANKYO ENGINEERING INC.

Landscape designer: UNIT TANE

General contractors: Ando Corporation

*Photographer: Masao Nishikawa

Description text

This is a place for the training of guide dogs, located in the foothills of Mount Fuji. The landscape has an overwhelming presence that continues up the gentle slope all the way to the top of Mount Fuji. All around are fields cultivated for dairy farming, with the few remaining patches of trees giving a very deep impression. The format of this building is composed of alternating buildings and vacant lots, interposed between a meandering corridor. The zigzag corridor provides plentiful excursions and creates various types of exterior space. Functions that should be remained are preserved; the requested independence between each kennel, the necessity for an enclosed exterior space next to each kennel for the training of dogs, known as a free-run, and the openness of the building to visitors. The outside corridor is space defining; when surrounded by the corridor, the exterior space is like a patio and when partly open in a u-shape, it becomes the free-run. As an outcome, the exterior space determines an ambiguous and intricate arrangement of the buildings.

In the direction facing toward Mount Fuji, the meandering corridor provides the experience of passing through multiple overlapping spaces, and while walking in the direction parallel to the foothills and seeing Mount Fuji to one side, it provides the experience of a varying density of buildings and gardens along the corridor to the right and left.