

Itoi is a small-scale elementary school with about ten students per grade, located in inland northern Hokkaido. Since school children in cold snowy regions have long periods during which their outdoor activities are limited, they are required to conduct their daily activities in indoor spaces.

In this plan, we used a planar shape with substantial depth, north to south, in an expansive indoor space with as little corridor space as possible. In a space similar to that of a “large house,” activities are carried out freely irrespective of grade barriers.

Furthermore, sustainability appropriate to the land was pursued. While reducing the heating load by utilizing compact shapes with a small external-wall area, natural skylight and ventilation were obtained, and as countermeasures against snow cornices and solar insolation, deep eaves and perforated folded-plate screens were installed, respectively. For the roof framework, we used a hybrid RC-and-S structure utilizing laminated lumber of native ezo spruce and todo fir.