

## **MOKUZAI KAIKAN**

This is the headquarters of the Wood Wholesalers Union in Tokyo. The demand for lumber has constantly remained low. Especially, the self-sufficiency rate of domestically produced lumber has become lower than 20%. Under such circumstances, we examined the regulations and technologies relative to lumber and explored various possibilities for lumber aiming to regain demand for major architectural projects in urban areas. In terms of legal restrictions that especially represent obstacles to the use of lumber, we excluded the restrictions regarding non-combustibility of interior finishing materials by using the evacuation safety verification method. At the same time, we paved the way for using lumber as structural materials without making them non-combustible by using fireproof verification methods and receiving structural evaluations.

We used standard square logs for housing in various locations by taking advantage of the thickness. We fully displayed the presence of woods and their physical characteristics to create architecture that stimulate people's five senses. We produced the space that can be called a modern engawa (veranda) using a two-layered spatial structure in which the office is surrounded by the semi-outdoor space on which facilities, structures, and circulations are located. The wooden exterior, which captures natural wind while blocking direct sunlight, is also our suggestion of a new type of skin that is suitable for the warm and humid climate of Japan.