

## **TOWADA ART CENTER**

The Project is a municipal museum in Towada City in Aomori Prefecture, Japan, with exhibition space for contemporary Art and community activity. The oblong site sits along a major street where government offices are located. The building is faced with the task of revitalizing the street and eventually the city at large. The program of the building includes spaces for lectures, workshops, a caf · , library, community activity rooms and exhibitions rooms.

The exhibition space in the museum is distinguished in that most of the Art has been commissioned specifically for this project and will be permanently displayed here. This is reflected in the plan of the project where individual artists and other functions are given freestanding exhibition rooms connected by spacious glass corridors. We assumed that different structural systems, lighting conditions, and proportions for each commission would allow for a closer relationship between the architecture and the artwork. The disperse arrangement of boxes and corridors also create semi-private outdoor spaces that can be used as exhibition space and for other activities. The building should be experienced like a small town: as if visitors travel from independent house to independent house while experiencing the urban environment between art pieces.

While the exhibitions spaces stand alone they are also clustered together in close proximity like a colony. As a whole they make up a large integral continuous landscape. The buildings are also designed such that they can open up to the outside expanding activities outside.

Rather than creating one large volume the project with its nuanced massing will be able to create a new type of relationship within the city expanding it's program into the street the city.