NANASAWA KIBO NO OKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nanasawa Kiboonooka Elementary School is located in Kanagawa Prefecture's “satoyama”, the intermediate zone of forested foothills between the mountains and arable flat land.

Building materials, energy, rain-water, gray-water, and other waste materials create a micro-ecosystem, originating within the site and returning to it. The architect believes independent and self-sufficient buildings, such as this school, can become models for public buildings in provincial cities.

It is a small school of 120 pupils; the children are encouraged to intermingle beyond the frame of their own school year. A sense of collaboration and solidarity is fostered by the one roof that covers the whole building.

Concept

1. Creating versatile educational space, while maintaining the character and biodiversity of satoyama.
2. Creating environmental architecture sensitive to satoyama that makes the most of local microclimate.