Project for conservation and practical use as
‘Yukashi no Mori’; Minato City Local History Museum and complex facilities
— Conservation and revitalization associated with conversion of the former Institute of Public Health —

The former Institute of Public Health (designed by Yoshikazu Uchida, completed in 1938), located in Shirokanedai, was converted to a multi-purpose complex by Minato City that includes the Local History Museum, Homebased Palliative Cancer Care Support Center, and Childrearing Related Facilities. With a view to conservation and utilization, the building underwent repairment according to legal safety requirements while maintaining its historical value. The use of facilities was changed from research institute to a multi-purpose complex that would contribute to meeting the local community’s current needs.

A major issue of renovating historic buildings is in meeting the requirements as a modern facility while preserving its authenticity. Each room was studied in detail to determine what to preserve and what to modify by grade of each historical value. Attention was paid to harmonizing additional parts with existing features, distinguishing the new and old elements, and optimizing the spatial characteristics of the historic building with minimum intervention. With conservation experts assigned to the design and construction team and the Utilization Review Committee (including scholars) being established, concerned parties across organizations united as one team to advance the project.

The renovated building is anticipated to become the community’s cherished “Living Heritage”.
