Sumita is a small mountain town with a population of 5,000. As 90% of its area is forests, it is making various attempts to encourage the forest industry and the wood processing industry, one of which is the wooden town hall completed in 2014. In the proposal competition for the new fire station, the idea to make it a new type of wooden building which is both modern and traditional was required.

We installed a Japanese traditional construction method called NUKI KOHO for the joint of post and beam. In this method, the joint where columns are pierced to let beams through, is fixed using only wood parts. As the stiffness of the whole building is secured by making multiple beams and increasing the number of junctions, this can be said a construction method which becomes effective only by using a lot of lumber. Thanks to a unique coexistence of “redundancy”, which comes from using a lot of lumber, and “transparency”, which is acquired from the redundancy, this building acquired a feeling of reliance and an open atmosphere to the local society. And the creation of a unique intimate wooden urban space where two big timber buildings stand next to each other, was also big achievement of this project.