



# JAPAN WOOD DESIGN AWARD 2020

Cutting-edge Wood Products in Japan

## About "Japan Wood Design Award"

The "Wood Design Award" acknowledges outstanding wood products and related activities which contribute to the promotion of comfortable life, human health, and social prosperity from the perspective of consumers.

## Overview of Wood Design Award 2020

- Management Body :  
Wood Design Award Steering Committee  
( Iki-iki-mori Network, National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization,  
Universal Design Intelligence., Inc. )
- Program supported by Forestry Agency
- Application Period : June 22 - July 31, 2020
- Works and activities eligible for application :

Architecture, Space, Building Material	Retail stores, public institutions / facilities, offices, houses, and building materials
Wood Products	Furniture, interior goods, tableware and kitchenware, daily goods, stationaries, and toys
Communication	Workshops, promotional activities, capacity building, business model
Technology and Research	Technology, research and development, and trial work

- Award Categories :

**Lifestyle Design** : Promote the quality of life through wood use

Construction, space, wood products, projects, or technology and research which improve the functionality or convenience by wood use, explore the new domain of wood use, or propose better life with wood use to consumers.

**Health Care Design** : improve mental and physical well- being through wood use

Construction, space, wood products, projects, or technology and research which appeal to human senses, provide relaxation, improve mental and physical health, or communicate background stories of producers through wood use.

**Social Design** : Revitalize forestry and community through wood use

Construction, space, wood products, projects, or technology and research which contribute to the revitalization of forestry and community, develop sustainable systems of wood use, advocate the importance of wood use, or develop human resources.

- Number of entries : 432
- Number of award winner : 191



## BEST AWARD (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Award)

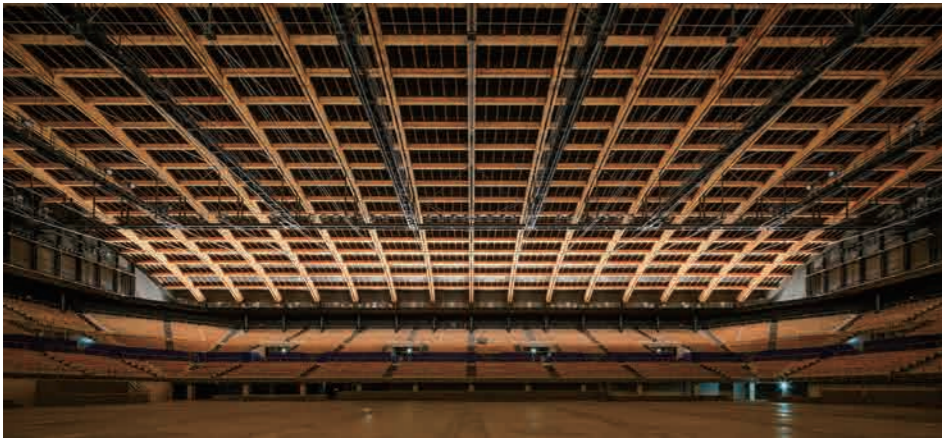
Prefectures in parentheses indicate locations of buildings or activities, when applicable. Otherwise, locations of awarded organizations.

### Social Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment

#### Ariake Gymnastics Centre (Tokyo)

Nikken Sekkei Ltd. (Tokyo), Shimizu Corporation (Tokyo),  
The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo)

This centre is a venue for international-scale sporting events. It conveys the beauty of Japanese traditional wooden architecture, while maintaining the functionality of a large-scale gymnastics centre for a large number of spectators. The Award Committee recognizes this centre worth being disseminated globally, through the provision of the Best Award. Its "simple and plain design" such as uncovered wooden structure of the ceiling overwhelms visitors to the centre. The centre uses approximately 2,600 m<sup>3</sup> of wood, which has been procured from all over Japan, with Karamatsu (Japanese larch) in large roof and Sugi (Japanese cedar) in exteriors and audience seats. The Committee believes that this centre is the best work to promote "Japan's wood culture" to all over the world.

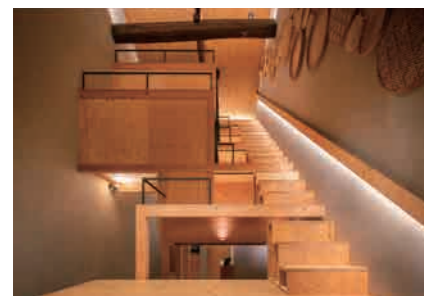


## SPECIAL AWARD (Wood Hospitality Award)

### Lifestyle Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment

#### CONTEXTED (Osaka)

REVealth Limited Liability Company (Kanagawa),  
Office for Environment Architecture (Osaka),  
Tokyo Lighting Design LLC. (Tokyo), Kido Builder's Office Co., Ltd. (Osaka),  
Kansai Lumber Industries Co., Ltd. (Osaka),  
Doi Housing Industry Co., Ltd. (Osaka)



Each of the three buildings renovated from tenements has a theme such as a "hiding place", "origami" and "tea room" and incorporates well-designed spaces that take advantage of Japan's wood culture. Internal spaces that preserve the impression of the tenements and are simultaneously sophisticated are likely to be well received by inbound tourists.

### Heartful Design Category: Wood Products Segment

#### HEXa

GRIND ARCHITECTS (Hiroshima), Motoki Maeda (Hiroshima)



Works of "kumiki", wooden construction technology that can connect notched wood to each other to form a solid three-dimensional structure, represents a good example of traditional craftsmanship in Hiroshima. High-level skills are required for processing the product with a circular outline and an internal hex container that holds sake. Its circular shape allows you to easily carry it and you can enjoy drinking sake. Since different tree species have different scent, the kumiki cup made

from different tree species such as Hinoki (Japanese cypress), Hoonoki (Japanese White Bark magnolia) and Nezumisashi (needle juniper) add a distinctive hint of sophistication to the sake, which gives you a chance to explore the best cup that goes well with the food of the day.

### Heartful Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment

#### THE HIRAMATSU KYOTO (Kyoto)

NTT Urban Development Corporation (Tokyo),  
Osaka Office of Nikken Sekkei Ltd. (Osaka),  
Osaka Head Office of Obayashi Corporation (Osaka),  
Sotoji Nakamura Builder's Office (Kyoto)



A new hotel project is designed to use the former Kyo-machiya (a tradesmen's house in Kyoto) built in 1899 and hitherto preserved intact as part of the facility. The common-use area on the first floor is arranged with traditional building components of Kyo-machiya such as latticework, paper sliding doors and roof trusses in a beautiful and functional manner. Guest rooms are constructed with timber, paper, plaster and other natural materials. Wooden

### Heartful Design Category: Wood Products Segment

#### Twisted Comb/Japan

Artform Co., Ltd. (Akita)



An artisanal brand-new Japanese comb created manually to design a three-dimensional curve is made from Ono-ore kamba (Japanese hard birch). Its finely curved shape allows the edge of the comb to fit your scalp, making the texture of your scalp more comfortable and improving brain circulation. Distinctive charm created by hand working gives a sense of uniqueness.

## EXCELLENCE AWARD (Forestry Agency Director-General Award)



### Lifestyle Design Category: Wood Products Segment

#### Wooden Ink Slab "Mokken"

YOAKE (Fukuoka), TAWARA (Fukuoka)

This ink slab is an ambitious work to harmonize revitalization of Japan's hand writing culture and wood use, prompting users to recognize the appeal of Japanese culture once again. The product has a very good texture. Since wood of Enju (Japanese pagoda) is halved into two parts to produce ink slab and its lid, it looks like a wood block, or an artistic object, when the lid is put on the slab. The Committee recognizes the uniqueness of wood use in the field of traditional stationery.



### Lifestyle Design Category: Building Material Segment

#### Continuum

Kyumeiky Co., Ltd. (Fukuoka)

The continuous design of wood board pieced together diagonally provides a unique atmosphere of tension. If used for a counter in a restaurant, it would have a strong impact to the guests. Although there are few innovative ideas in the area of wooden interiors, this work presents a cutting-edge design which would inspire professional architects of restaurants and other establishments. This work also appeals the beauty of Yoshino Hinoki (Japanese cypress).



### Lifestyle Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment

#### CLT PARK HARUMI (Tokyo)

Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), Mitsubishi Jisho Sekkei Inc. (Tokyo), Kengo Kuma & Associates (Tokyo)

This building, built with cross-laminated timber (CLT), is a promotional facility for children and visitors to become familiar with CLT and recognize its attractiveness. The building offers many opportunities to experience the touch of wood, including wooden spaces with different structures and wooden devices such as tables and stools made of wood waste. This project also aims to serve as a unique model of the "circular economy" to connect urban area with rural area, through the relocation of the building after use from urban area to rural area where the wood in the building was originally grown and harvested. This idea comes from the characteristics of Japanese traditional wooden building that can be transported through disassembly and reassembly.

## ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD (Review Committee Chair Award)



### Lifestyle Design Category: Wood Products Segment

#### Silent Ukulele "elevator" Made of Ezomatsu Spruce Produced in Hokkaido

Quiam Co., Ltd. (Hokkaido)

An "ukulele" made of Ezomatsu (spruce) wood grown in Hokkaido. Wood of Ezomatsu has an excellent acoustic characteristics with its unique vibration feature. The sharp shape and light weight of this instrument makes it easy to carry and store, while enabling effective use of small-diameter timber.



### Lifestyle Design Category: Wood Products Segment

#### QRwood

Hatch Create Works Co., Ltd. (Osaka)

Barcodes engraved in wood. A three-dimensional design with a touch of wooden texture will attract people's attention, motivating them to access the barcode. This product seems to be suitable for stores, facilities, and events with the focus on natural or healthy lifestyles. The idea to use wood for the entrance of digital world is unique and impressive.



### Lifestyle Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment

#### Tsubaki-chaya (Nagasaki)

Ryo Ishitobi Architects (Kanagawa), Goto Bus Company Inc. (Nagasaki), Matsuoka Construction Corporation (Nagasaki), Soso Co., Ltd. (Nagasaki)

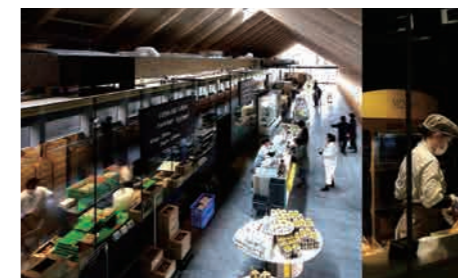
A local café built with wood. This café, installed with a hearth table and other furniture made of old wood, provides a warm atmosphere, while maintaining the integrity with surrounding landscape. Visitors will be fascinated by the charm of the local area including local food.



### Heartful Design Category: Communication Segment

#### "HITA SUGI Sacred Straw Rope"

Takamuramokuzai Co., Ltd. (Oita)  
Takamuramokuzai holds training workshops for making sacred straw rope (shimenawa), lengths of laid rice straw used for ritual purification in the Shinto religion, garnished with a stick of needle leaves collected from the local forest. Workshop participants can experience, through a collaborative work with local forest practitioners, fun to demonstrate originality, ingenuity and creativity in their own shimenawa, connectedness between nature and life as well as the depth of natural materials. This is a highly commendable activity integrating traditional culture into modern lifestyles.



### Social Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment

#### mother's+ (Hokkaido)

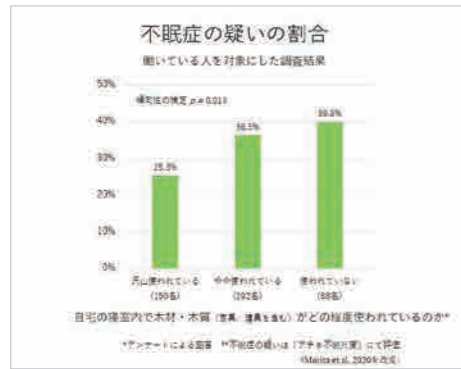
HOKKAIDO SHUKEI FARMS INC. (Hokkaido), Takenaka Corporation (Hokkaido), TOJU corporation (Fukushima), Butsurin Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), Okhotsk Wood Pia Cooperative (Hokkaido)  
This is a pilot farm facility that grazes chickens based on the idea of "animal welfare". The wooden architecture is perfectly matched with the concept of offering green tourism accommodation. Wooden spaces created by local timber of Hokkaido provide high added-value with the concept of harmony between the environment, animals and human society embodied.



### Social Design Category: Communication Segment

#### UNIFIED NETWORKING INITIATIVE FOR MINATO

"MORI&MIZU" MEETING  
UNIFIED NETWORKING INITIATIVE FOR MINATO "MORI&MIZU" MEETING (Tokyo)  
United Networking Initiative for Minato "MORI&MIZU" Meeting (uni4m) launched by Minato City of Tokyo has constantly demonstrated a significant track record as a pioneering model for boosting wood utilization in urban construction through partnership with wood supplying municipalities. During the period of ten years since the certification scheme for wood procurement was put in force, more than 170 buildings have been built under the uni4m initiative. It is expected that the initiative will further bring positive externalities for the expansion of wood use in urban areas across the country through upstream and downstream human interaction, advancement of wood utilization technologies and awareness raising about virtues of wood use.



**Heartful Design Category: Technology and Research Segment**  
 Researchers Demonstrate a less prevalence of suspected insomnia among workers with bedroom interiors consisted of wood : Sleep Epidemiology Project at the University of Tsukuba (SLEPT)  
 Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Forest Research and Management Organization (Ibaraki), International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine (WPI-IIS), University of Tsukuba (Ibaraki), Occupational and Aerospace Psychiatry Group, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tsukuba (Ibaraki), Teikyo University (Tokyo)  
 This study has scientifically demonstrated a relationship between wood use and good health. In order to confirm such relationship, three factors, including mechanism of sleep, relationship between sleep and body, and health effects of wood use, need to be studied. This study has successfully clarified mutual effects among these factors. The Committee hopes that more evidence will be accumulated to further promote the use of wood for furniture and interiors for the use in bedrooms.



**Lifestyle Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**Higashimagome-no-ie (Tokyo)**  
 Matsui Ikuo Architectural Design Office, Inc. (Tokyo), Cube One Housing Co., Ltd. (Tokyo)

A single-family house with high energy efficiency. This house reinterpreted Japan's traditional wooden construction into a modern life with plain design and good quality. This house also shows efficient energy performance through the traditional "passive energy" system.



**Social Design Category: Communication Segment**  
 Forging renewed relationship with satoyama (societies in harmony with nature) through commercialization of craft gin with world-class high value standard – production of craft gin from Nezumisashi (needle juniper) and sustainable cultivation of Nezumisashi – Chugoku Jozo Co., Ltd. (Hiroshima), Taguchi Forest Producers' Cooperative Association (Hiroshima), Kamo Forest Owners' Cooperative Association (Hiroshima), Ichiba Mokko Co., Ltd. (Hiroshima), Hiroshima Prefectural Technology Research Institute Forestry Research Center (Hiroshima)  
 Cones of Nezumisashi (needle juniper), indigenous tree species in the local SATOYAMA forests, are used as raw materials for craft gin. The substitution of juniper cones is important in that the new gin product has built a new interface between local trees and goods of taste and has heightened its quality by using domestic products. The project has been successful in raising the profile of this region as an area of juniper production through collaboration between residents, forestry cooperatives and research institutions, thereby improving the economic value of forests and incentivizing sound conservation.



**Heartful Design Category: Communication Segment**  
**Yatsugatake Larch Cembalo Project**  
 Yatsugatake Kogen Lodge Co., Ltd. (Nagano), Akira Kubota Early Keyboard Instruments Workshop (Saitama), Futaba Forestry Limited Partnership Company (Nagano), Sogo & Seibu Co., Ltd. (Tokyo)  
 A traditional instrument "cembalo" made of Karamatsu (Japanese larch) wood was played in Yatsugatake region, where 330,000 seedlings of Karamatsu trees were planted in early 1960s. The region now has become one of the largest highland resort area in Japan. The Committee recognizes this project as a new initiative to promote the fusion of nature, forests, and art. The cembalo, made of Karamatsu with beautiful wood grains, was played in a wooden concert hall in Yatsugatake, one of the best wooden halls in Japan. This project combines place, space, and instrument together, thus appealing to human hearts.



**Lifestyle Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**House With Renovated Storehouse (Kyoto)**  
 SATOSHI KAWAKAMI ARCHITECTS (Kyoto), KEI FUJITA ARCHITECTS (Osaka), Kansai Lumber Industries Co., Ltd. (Osaka), Hayashi Builder's Office Co., Ltd. (Kyoto)  
 A renovated Machiya townhouse. The architects renovated warehouse rooms of a Machiya townhouse with the use of wood, while keeping harmony with building itself, thereby improving comfort and amenity of residents. A solution to preserve Machiya townhouses while adapting to modern lifestyle is successfully presented.



**Social Design Category: Communication Segment**  
**Old Folk Houses and Old Wood to Foster Circular Economy**  
 SANSUI-SHA Co., Ltd. (Nagano)  
 The project features a business model that promotes matching between owners and users of old wood through the renovation and recycling of old folk houses and old wood (old materials). Old wood with a story line and rarity value has enabled the up-cycling approach of this project. Good communication via media and direct sales of products to consumers are another key success factor.



**Heartful Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**NARA Prefectural Convention Center (Nara)**  
 Nara Prefecture (Nara), PFI Nara interactive community center corporation (Nara), Osaka Head Architect Office of Obayashi Corporation (Osaka), Azusa Sekkei Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), Obayashi Corporation (Osaka)  
 This convention center gives a strong impression with its massive scale and design of the large-roof plaza built with a hybrid structure of laminated Yoshino Sugi (Japanese cedar) wood and steel frames, presenting a good example of local wood use. The building also features artistic appearance with the use of glass screens on which Japanese paper made from cedar bark and wood shavings are attached, along with structural and interior/exterior wood. The convention center serves as a local communication hub, while successfully materializing a fusion of the nobleness of Japan's "Tenpyo Culture" in 7-8th century, which is represented in the ancient poem anthology "Manyoushu," and the texture of wood.



**Heartful Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**FUJIYA HOTEL RE-BORN (Kanagawa)**  
 Nomura Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), eflabo Co., Ltd. (Ishikawa)  
 Fujiya Hotel, which has a history of over 140 years since its establishment in early Meiji era, was fully renovated with high-quality wooden furniture repaired and rearranged. This imparts a luxury atmosphere of eternity and an enchantment of wood to hotel guests.



**Social Design Category: Technology and Research**  
**2x4 Construction Method: Floor Diaphragm Development Project**  
 Wing Co., Ltd. (Tokyo)  
 The project features technology that promotes use of large-diameter woods produced in Japan by increasing the size of cross-sections of structural members for floors and walls and contributes to improvement of rigidity and accuracy. As such, the technology can produce proposals that are highly useful for society. For structural reasons, restrictions on apertures are reduced so that greater latitude is available for sash installation and other space designs.



**Social Design Category: Communication Segment**  
**Project of Trees Associated with the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games**  
 Japanese Olympic Committee, a public interest incorporated foundation (Tokyo), Hokkaido (Hokkaido), Engaru Town (Hokkaido), Hokkaido Kateigakko (Hokkaido) and Consortium of Nomura, Dentsu and Dentsu Live (Tokyo)  
 A wooden louver made of wood harvested from forests planted in 1964, when the last Tokyo Olympic Games were held, is installed on the ceiling of the Olympic museum, welcoming visitors with a warm and beautiful atmosphere. This louver was manufactured by a Hokkaido-based company that can process "sliced veneer with knots" by use of the only equipment of its kind in Japan. The welcome wall with an Olympic symbol was crafted by students of a local elementary school close to the museum. The Committee hope that forests and trees would hand over the legacy of the Olympic Games to the next generation, while materializing the passage of time.



**Heartful Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**Sou (Nara)**  
 atelier thu (Hyogo), yamamotoyasu Builder's Office Co., Ltd. (Osaka)  
 The adoption of terrace (multi-level) floor design along the slope enables this building to curb its height, thus creating harmony with the surrounding environment. The comfortable wooden space with a lovely cool breeze passing through makes inhabitants feel connected to external terrains.



**Social Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**FLATS WOODS KIBA (Tokyo)**  
 Takenaka Corporation (Tokyo), Saito Wood Industry Co., Ltd. (Nagano), Cypress Sunadaya Co., Ltd. (Ehime) Mitsui Bussan Forest Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), Yamasamokuzai Co., Ltd. (Kagoshima), Yamacho Store Co., Ltd. (Wakayama)

This multi-family residential building established a simple and versatile construction methods through the use of newly-developed wooden members. Furniture featuring those methods and members is installed in a common-use area on the 12th floor of the building, where users can directly feel the warmth of wood and enjoy its odors. The Committee recognizes this project as presenting an advanced model of the circular economy through sustainable wood use, while providing a touch of wood to urban landscape.



**Heartful Design Category: Wood Products Segment**  
**Clad in Forests: Rokko's Thread / Fabric & Rokko's Aroma/Fabric Mist**  
 Rokkosan Silence Resort (Hyogo), Engi no Ito (Osaka)  
 The scarf is made from home-grown Sugi (Japanese cedar) of Mt. Rokko as fibrous raw materials and the fragrance aroma mist product is made from essences extracted from indigenous tree species such as Sugi, Hinoki (Japanese cypress) and Hiba (Aomori cypress). These items launched by the resort being at one with nature offer a new form of feeling a sense of affinity toward woods in our daily lives.



**Social Design Category: Architecture & Space Segment**  
**Basic Plan and Construction Work Associated with Preservation and Renovation of Nishiwaki Elementary School Run by Nishiwaki City (Hyogo)**  
 Nishiwaki City (Hyogo), Organization for the Basic Plan and Design Associated with Preservation and Renovation of Nishiwaki Elementary School (Hyogo), Naito Sekkei, Inc. (Osaka), Yoshizumi Co., Ltd. (Hyogo)  
 The value of wooden structure was recognized again during the renovation of an existing wooden school building, through the improvement of its functionality of earthquake-resistance, fire-proof, barrier-free, and consideration to thermal environment. The Committee appreciates sincere efforts to promote the understanding of local residents for this project, through workshops, questionnaire surveys, and presentations. The final costs of renovation turned out to be lower than re-construction. The Committee hopes that the wooden school building, which records local history, will be handed over to the next generation, providing the new opportunities for wood use.



**Heartful Design Category: Wood Products Segment**  
**Wooden Blocks: Zurenga**  
 Asao Co., Ltd. (Shiga)  
 Brick-sized wooden blocks called Zurenga are a perfect toy for kids aged over three to play with. Kids aged over four can build a house for them to enter by erecting the blocks on their own. Instead of simply piling up, every single face of the Zurenga block can be attached to any face of the next block by wooden joints, thus making it possible to assemble intricate objects of all sizes in an intuitive manner such as animals, robots and so forth.



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