ONOMICHI U2

ONOMICHI U2 is the result of adaptive reuse of an old seaside warehouse into the new interactive space for Onomichi city, Hiroshima, Japan.

We sought to achieve the prosperous future by enhancing the charm of this town with the theme of this project “cycle.”

Many tourists, cyclists especially, visit Onomichi city, where have come to know it as the town with beautiful Inuyashiki and “machiya,” or Japanese traditional houses of antiquity. In 2013 the city of Onomichi accepted our proposal to utilize a seaside warehouse as a new interactive space for the city’s citizens. Our proposal called for a complete conversion of the warehouse into a place that included hotel, cycle shop, open areas, bars, restaurants, bakeries, cafes, and retail.

We incorporated elements into the recreation of the seaside warehouse that were reminiscent of the character of Onomichi itself. Our building material—wood, mortar, and steel—recall the old houses of Onomichi and the shipbuilding that’s been such a longstanding tradition there. Such as the lighting that would remind us fish lamps.

We identified the concept for this project as “Cycle.” We describe this phenomenon as the discovery of newness in a place being established. This newness clearly expresses the unending character that is cherished by the city’s people.

We believe that the new significance of sustainability is not only about environment but also a renovation of the building. In this project, we thought about a small public in the warehouse by re-editing the character of onomichi. This makes the people in the city loves that old warehouse and keep that time by several renovation.

This is a new style of sustainability.

Structure System 

This warehouse is not old as a cultural heritage and designed by a famous architect or designers. The common architecture like this warehouse which makes the Japanese townscapes at those days. These architectures are very important for our townscapes and we think it’s important to find a new way to re-edit these old architectures to use more and more. This warehouse owned by Hiroshima prefecture was in poor condition with its long history built before WWII.

For the success of this project, we need the easy system to build and scrap for the 5 years contract and 3.5 month construction.

The structure of the head part is divided from the warehouse to reduce the load to old structures. Since there is less space between the existing roof and new structure, we choose the light gauge steel for the structure which the worker can carry without any machine. Thinking about the removal, we took the steel base instead of the RC base and put the very economical light gauge steel structure with light steel.

Project Title: Onomichi U2
Project architect: SUPPOSE DESIGN OFFICE Co., LTD.
Construction place: Onomichi (JAPAN)
Year of completion: 2014
Onomichi U2

Onomichi city is famous for its beautiful landscape and small paths. These are very important factors for the city. So we took them into the warehouse and make the small ONOMICHI in the warehouse. The rooms are made like the row of the houses. Traveler and inhabitants meet under the eaves of the house. This is traditional way of communication in the town. Around the restaurant and shop are made like a square of the town. This is like a market of old town with fishery. Make the architecture as a town of ONOMICHI, the warehouse will be a stage of communication.

Also in this project, take the warehouse as a town (building site) and build the new architecture in that, so we don’t change the inside as possible as we can and revolve the potential of the material of the warehouse. For the new building, we choose typical material of the town of shopifying like wood, mortar, steel and so on with the theme of “genius of simplicity”.

The final view of this project is to make people feel the identity of the town in the building with the modern and nostalgic material and the beautiful time to the ocean.

**Daylight simulation**

Drake an environment in the warehouse

Onomichi city has mild climate condition which includes moderate wind and plenty of sunlight through the year. We had tried to optimize the daylight condition in the building. We studied at the site at first, the brightness in the warehouse was 13:29:10 by the intake of the daylight from some of skylights. So we tried to improve the environment according to removing the existing steel doors so the windows. With the success to ensure a bit of daylight for the entire building, we arranged the commercial (and restaurant location in the brighter area, and handle in other area.

We also focused on the prevailing wind in the site. Originally in mid season and summer, there is southern wind from Seto inland sea in daytime and it changes to northern wind from mountain side in night. We allocated the several ventilating windows in both south and north wall and designed the stable natural wind flow all through the day. And in midsummer and winter, 50 units of radiators passing chilled water/hot water which allocated in entire building can help to maintain the moderate thermal environment.

**Thermal/Wind Simulation in mid season**

The radiator passing chilled water

Radiator near the occupied area can provide cooling/heating for visitors despite the existing concrete wall without insulation was exposed.

**Ground floor plan (S.1/150)**

Hotel area are made like the rive of the houses. Small pathway and houses make various space and communication.

Section of restaurant and shop (S.1/150)

Restaurant and shop area are made like a square of the town. The high ceiling height and wide space makes people feel like outside.

**Section of hotel (S.1/150)**

International Prize for Sustainable Architecture

11th competition 2015

Project title: Onomichi U2

Project architect: SUPPOSE DESIGN OFFICE Co., Ltd.

Project sponsor: SUPPOSE DESIGN OFFICE is an architecture firm in Hiroshima and Tokyo, which headed by Makoto Tanijiri and Atsushi Yoda. Our works cover a broad range of areas including design/houses, business spaces, site frameworks, landscapes, products, and art installations. We have designed more than 100 houses and we are promoting many projects both in Japan and overseas now. The complex building "ONOMICHI U2", which are renovated from warehouse designing to make relationship between people and local society, the lighting installation (Suzuki TOSIBA LED LIGHTING) in Milano Salone 2015, and the town's nursery school (Kobay Shihan CIC) are our recent popular projects.

Photographer: Toshiyuki Yano