



PRIVATE HOUSE

"I wish as if it has been here since so long, and it would be here so long from now." This was the concept for the house that came into my mind when I stood on the site.

The architecture here, must be strong enough to become a part of, and to be integrated into the massive landscape, without being overshadowed by the overwhelming power of the site that is surrounded by the magnificent nature of virgin forest and that takes a panoramic view to the ocean of harsh Japan Current. I wished the architecture on this site to be as if it was standing from long time ago but nevertheless ever emitting a fresh fascination, just as the sea and the forest are for several hundred years.

The planning of whole building was to make use of the shape of the sloping land. By laying two huge roofs and two large balconies in an overlapping manner, I tried to create a dynamic architectural form which is not to be outshone by the grand nature of the headland of Maizuru town.

The overlapping roofs and balconies interact one another, bringing sunshine and giving shades in the living rooms and on the balconies. Such natural way of sunlight control, which is well known since the old time, enables the residents to have a way of living with cool summers and warm winters.

To take the landscape views into the rooms, a large opening was made towards the sea in each room; living room, dining and kitchen space, bathrooms, and bed rooms. As a result, the dynamic scenery of the surrounding nature became a part of interior setting, and accordingly, the strong materials were wished for the interior; undressed concrete for kitchen, a large solid teak wood for dining table, and teak wooden boards for ceiling, etc.

Such interiors, with dynamic views to the landscape, required the lighting with sturdy quality; something robust, or primitive in a sense like oil lanterns, but nevertheless sophisticated and not rough in design. The lighting fixtures must not be too eloquent for themselves; the lamps are to be perceived as if they are there for



a long time, with the design whose freshness would not fade away after 100 years. With all these thoughts, the lighting from Louis Poulsen was the sole choice.

Albertslund pendants in galvanized steel were hung in the living room of ocean side. I like its trustable and sturdy material, and during night, it emits a romantic light like lantern. At the dining space near the kitchen, I adopted Pakhus pendants. As the name indicates ("pakhus" means warehouse in Danish), it was originally designed to be hung high near the ceiling in warehouses, but it is also suitable to be hung low over the dining table; the glare is removed by a ring, and the pendant casts a bright light both over the table and the ceiling. This time, we painted the Pakhus pendants in galvanized colour to give a "wild" taste, coordinating with the galvanized Albertslund pendants.



When the sun starts setting in over the wooden deck and the light is turned on, the moment of bliss arrives, letting us feel as if we are on a luxury sailing boat...from long ago, and ever from now.

Private residence

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Photos: Mario Shimodaira / MARIO DEL MARE ARCHITECTS

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