

An aerial photograph of the Grandvaux Spa Village, showing a modern architectural complex nestled in a lush, green forest. The complex features a large, multi-level wooden deck with a central circular area, several white, angular, tent-like structures, and a large green lawn. People are seen walking on the paths and sitting on the deck. The surrounding area is filled with dense, tall evergreen trees.

Grandvaux Spa Village

Resort Renovation as a Pioneer of the CCRC Concept

Grandvaux Spa Village

Forest Restoration for Continuing Care Retirement Community

"Grandvaux Spa Village" is a progressive project that Chiba University has been promoting for the CCRC region in forest restoration since 2015.

Stay for enjoying the garden

The 20,000m² site used to be lined with 37 dilapidated log houses, which had to be refurbished for reuse. The design strategy is to attach a garden in front and a terrace to the back of each cottage. It enlarges the physical space of stay as well as the guest's behavior from indoors to outdoors.

Space for the experience of nature

The newly designed tent-type accommodation facility was developed as a membrane structure that utilizes tensile force. Realizing a comfortable interior space, the tent structure provides particular experiences, such as the shadow pattern of trees, the transition of moonlight, and the sound of rainfall.

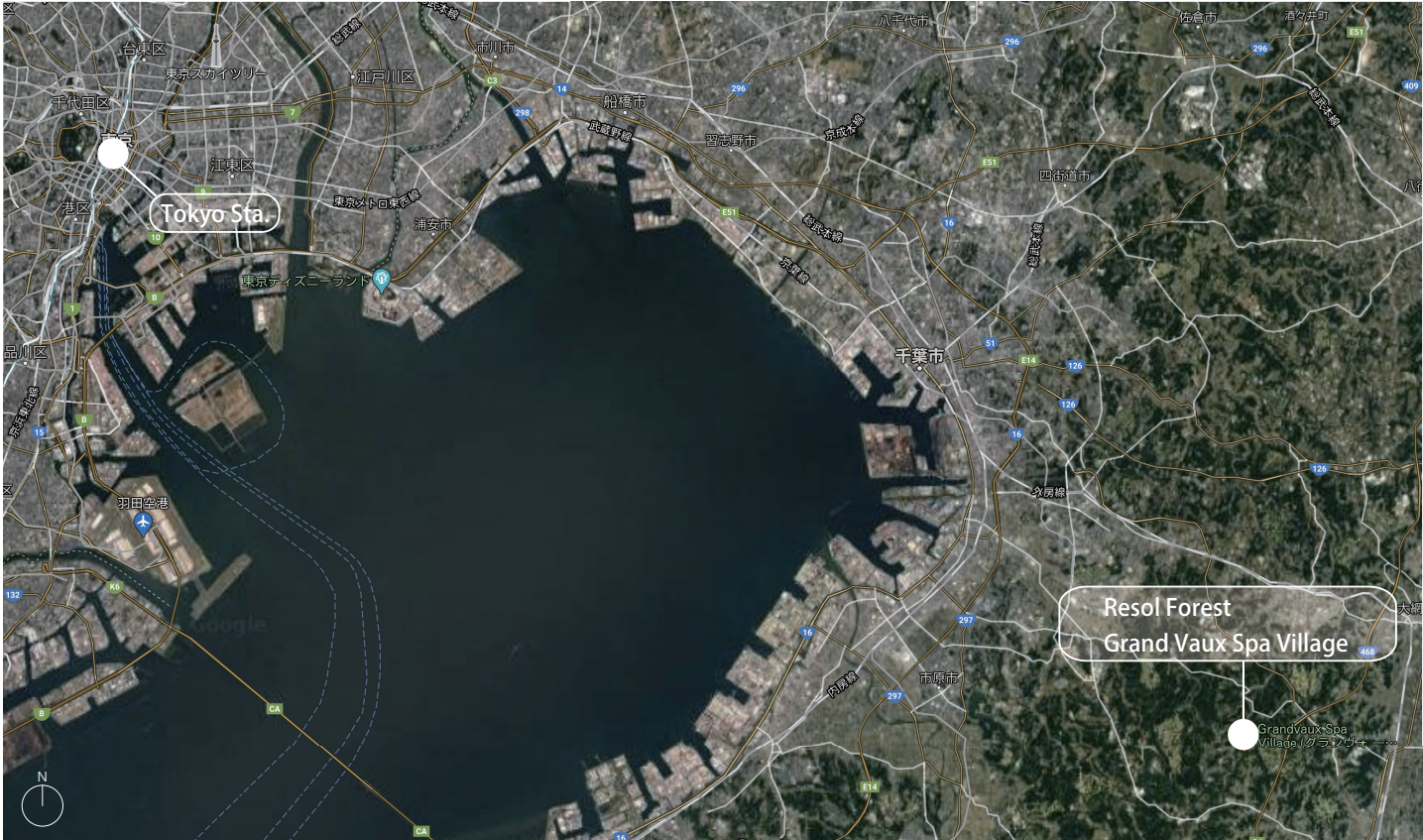
Horticultural programs as a creative experience

Not only passive experiences of nature, but the guest also enjoys horticultural programs such as a check-in herb basket, visiting herb gardens on the premises, cook-using herbs in the garden and terrace, etc. These programs intend to provide a hint to guests of a lifestyle with green.



Night scape of tent cabin

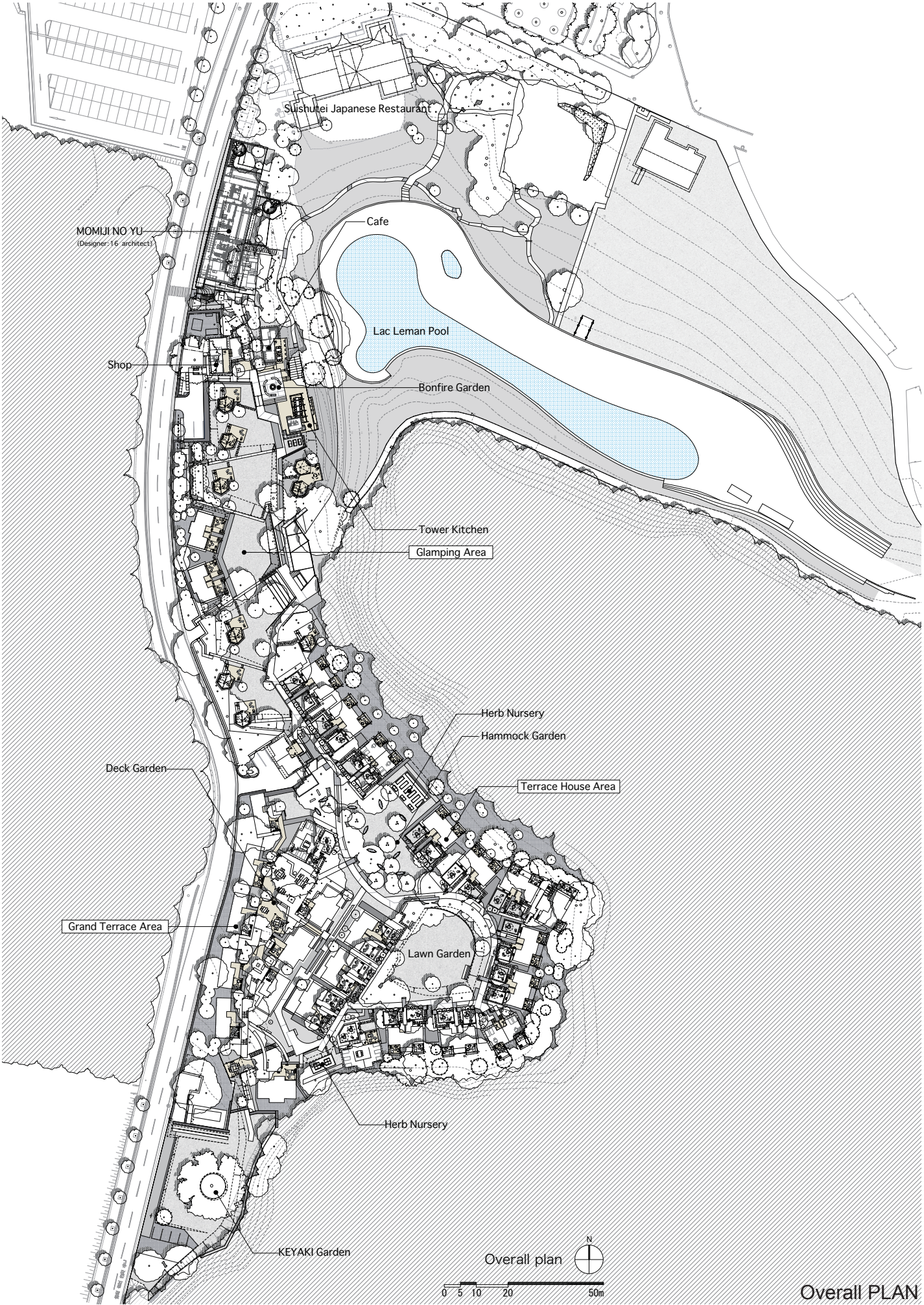
LOCATION OF THE PROJECT



Wide-area map



Panoramic view



Overall PLAN

CONCEPT

RESTORATION OF RESORT AND FOREST

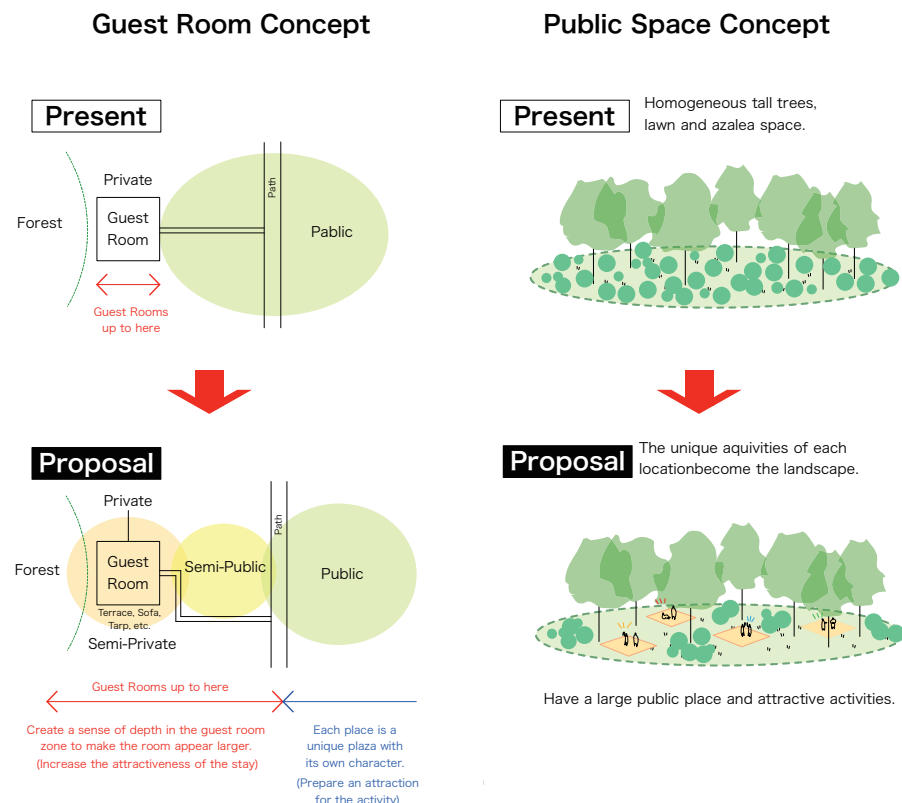
The site is a wooded area with 37 log cabins that were built in the 1990s, and their renovation and reuse was a prerequisite for the project from the beginning. This meant that the design challenge was to redefine the typical resort development pattern of 1990s and to create a new value of resort ; the experience of the life style with green.

Problems

- 1) The old accommodations had the aspect of independent log cabins in the forest, but at the same time, they were contradictory in that they were densely planted with landscaped hedges and trees in the natural forest area for the sake of privacy.
- 2) Despite the varied topography and views, the forests are uniform in appearance and lack vibrancy.
- 3) The problem was that the existing accommodation were only designed to provide a stay experience in the rooms, and there was less place for guests to stay in the outdoor space which occupies a large part of the site.

The aim is to create a resort that is not simply a lodging facility in a natural forest, but a living experience that actively engages with the nature and plants nearby. To this end, the following two goals are set for this area. The area will be a place to experience "restoration of vitality through creation". To create an image of lodging by "increasing outdoor satisfaction."

- 1) The design approach was to add a front yard and terrace to the accommodation building for the exclusive use of guests, giving them the opportunity to spend time outdoors. The common space is not just a forest, but a place where specific activities can take place.
- 2) We will plan specific programs to provide visitors with opportunities to interact with forests and plants, and incorporate spatial design with human activities, breaking away from the old idea of simply being in a green space. This will allow us to create a forest space that is always full of stay and use. This has created a forest space that is always full of activities.



Before



Glamping area before planning

The space was not visible due to the parking lot and the cottages. (2018.04)



After



Glamping area after planning

The space was expanded by creating the terrain and removing several cottages. (2020.06)



Terrace house area before planning

The space was planted entirely with medium-sized shrubs, except for the parkway, and there were few places to stay outdoors. (2018.04)

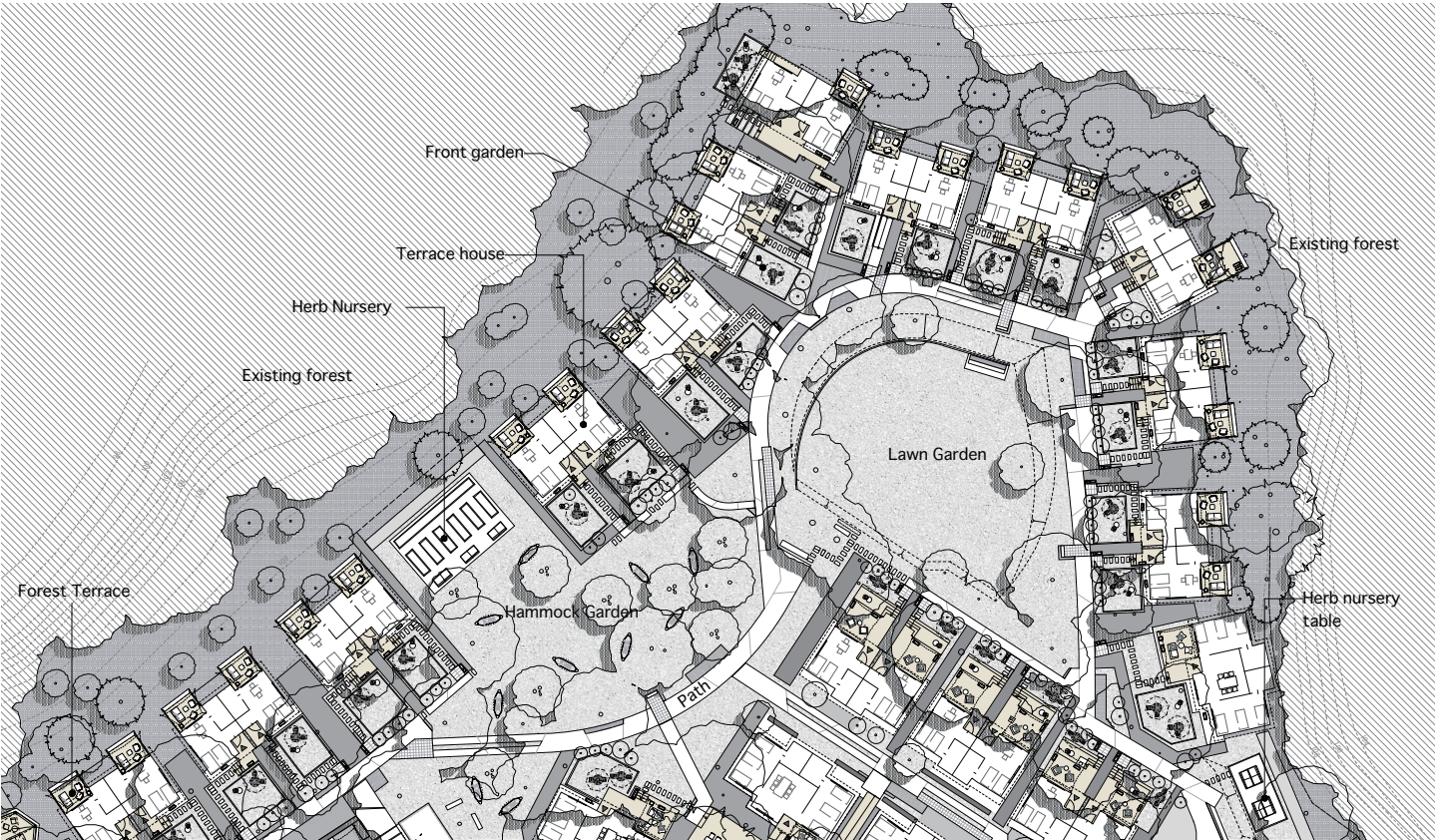


Terrace house area after planning

The parkway that existed in the space was renewed, and a new outdoor living space was designed between the log house and the parkway. (2020.06)

STAY FOR ENJOYING THE GARDEN

Terrace House Area



Terrace House Area PLAN

The log house is planned with a outdoor terrace on the forest side and a lawn area as an entrance garden on the front side.
This strategy allowed to develop the highly private garden, increasing the value of the rooms and maximizing the atmosphere of staying in the forest.

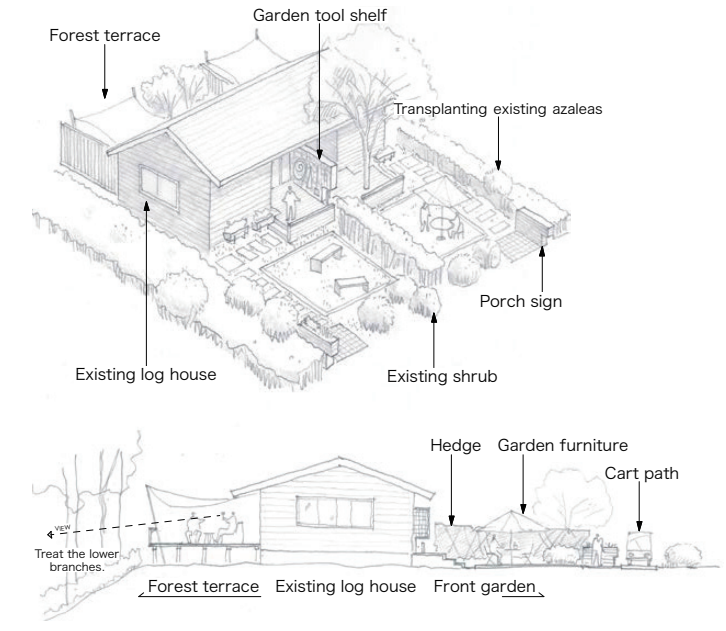


Diagram of guest rooms



Forest Terrace of guest rooms



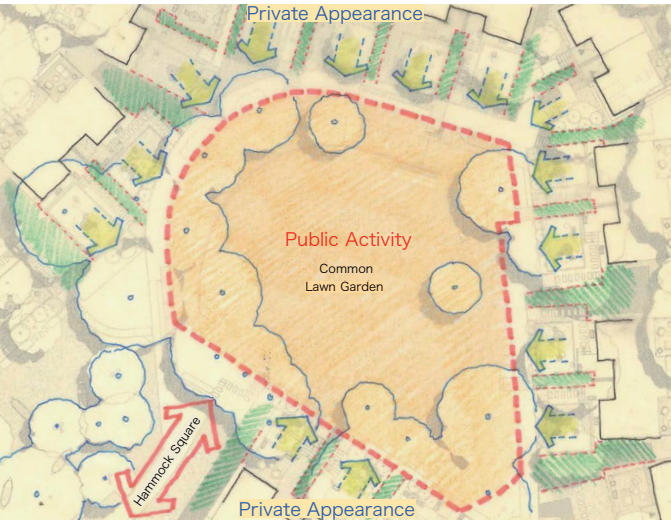
Front garden of guest rooms

Hammock Garden



Katsura tree was added to the existing grove to design a shady and relaxing public space.

Lawn Garden



The lawn earthwork was designed to stand out from the approach.

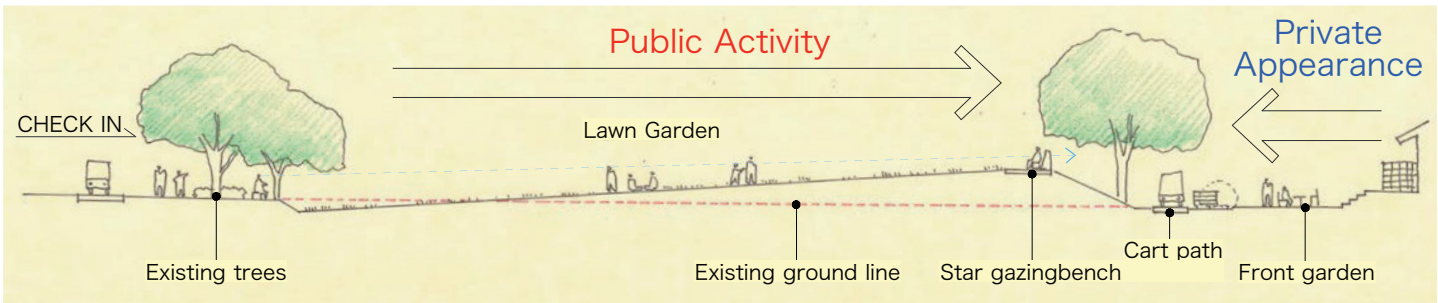


Diagram of Lawn Garden

Lawn Garden and Hammock Garden have been created in the public space, creating a place for guests to stay outside of their private areas. The hammock garden was designed as a space to relax in the shade of the trees by planting additional Katsura trees in the existing grove. The lawn garden designed for people to gather. It appears like an earthwork of the lawn which stands out in the view from the approach.

STAY FOR ENJOYING THE GARDEN

Deck Garden



Deck Garden PLAN



Common space of Deck Garden

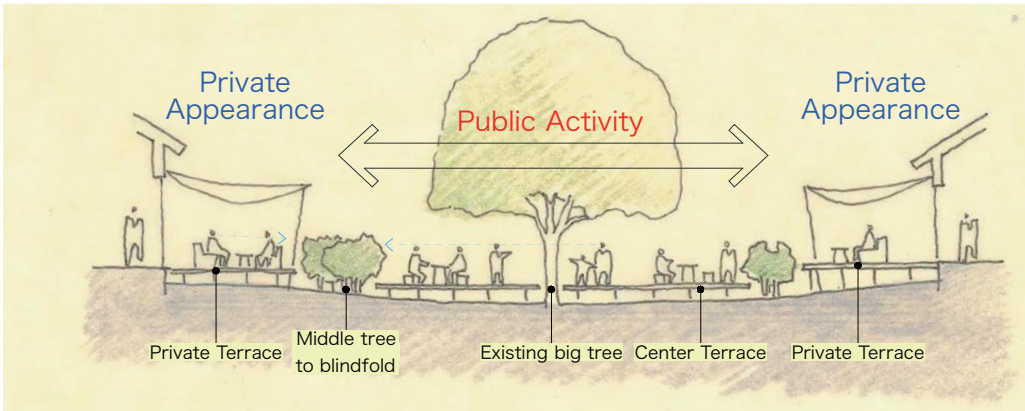
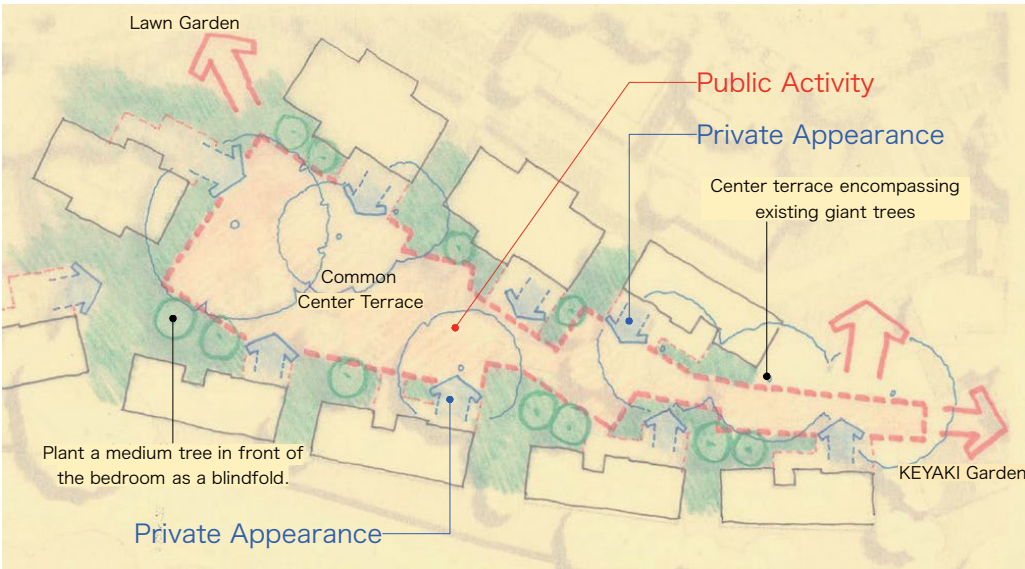


Diagram of Deck Garden



Using the enclosed layout of the cottages, the courtyard was designed as a large deck space, with the difference in floor level between each cottages. An awning roof covers the deck and provides a place for groups to spend time for meeting. The space is designed to be a workstation-type accommodation space that can be used for meetings, seminars, and other business purposes by freely laying out tables and chairs that can be changed by combining them.

SPACE FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF NATURE

Glamping Area

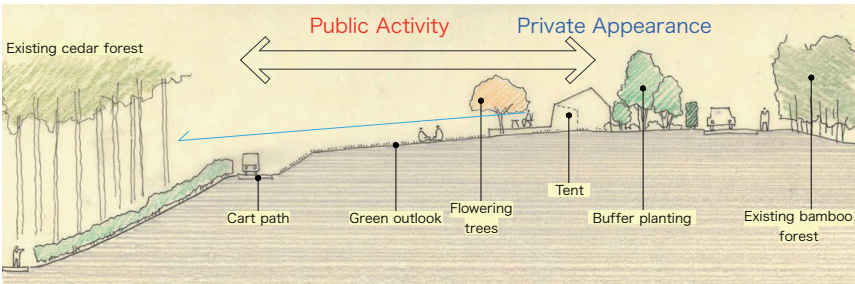
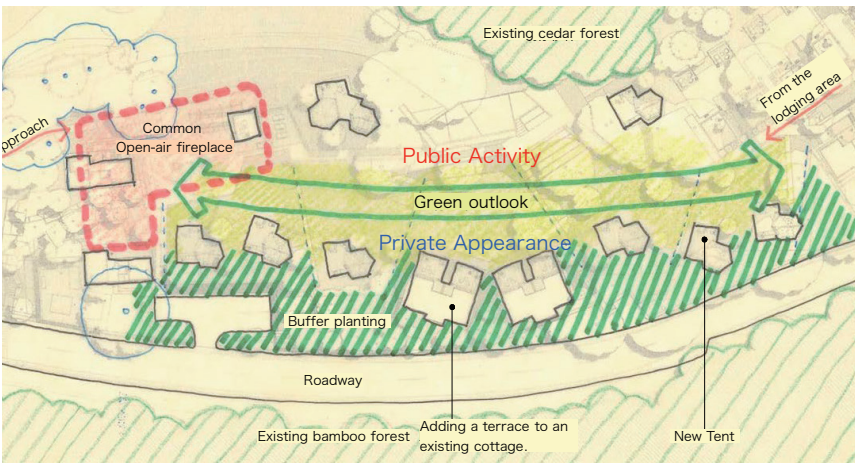


Diagram of Glamping Area

The glamping area is contiguous with the public area, but is also a private area where people can spend time in their tents.

In addition to places to spend time in tents, various other places are created for guests to freely find a place to stay while developing activities, such as a Fire Garden and outdoor café, etc., depending on the time of day, weather, and seasons.

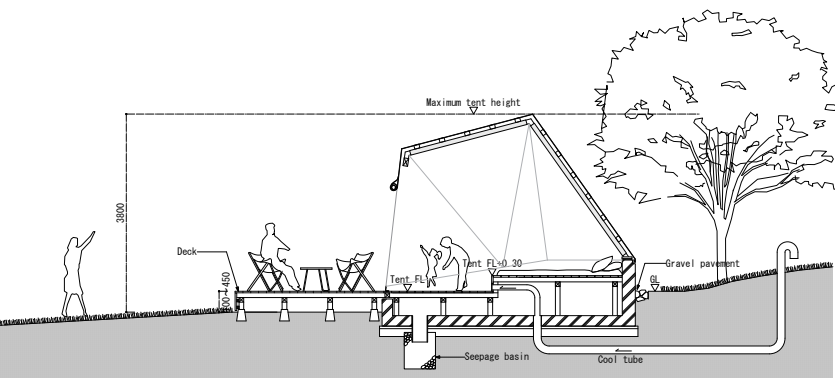


Bonfire Garden

Tent Cabin



Exterior view of the tent cabin. The polyhedral shape was designed to look like various shapes depending on the angle of view.



Tent cabin SECTION



Standard type tent cabin with stepped bed area.

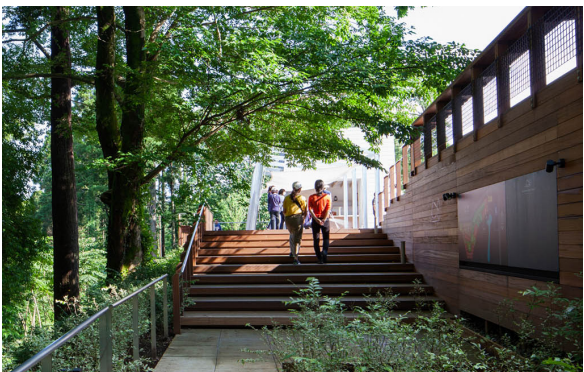
"Tent Cabin" was designed as a space that is neither a building nor a tent, but a space that connects the outside with the inside and allows visitors to experience firsthand the external environment with a new level of comfort for deeper enjoyment of nature. General tents need to be folded up in case of strong winds, and the interior environment is not comfortable due to large temperature fluctuations, mold caused by internal condensation, and inadequate ventilation capacity. Therefore, a foundation was installed and air conditioning equipment was installed in the underfloor space to control the temperature and humidity environment and improve durability. In addition, by combining multiple wood-member triangular trusses into a dome shape, it achieves a large interior space with an appearance of a tent while acquiring the structural strength against winds.

SPACE FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF NATURE

Tower Kitchen



Tower kitchen was designed to be a distinctive form as a symbol of public space.



Tower Kitchen Exterior



Guest can stay even on days with light rain or strong sunlight under the pergola.



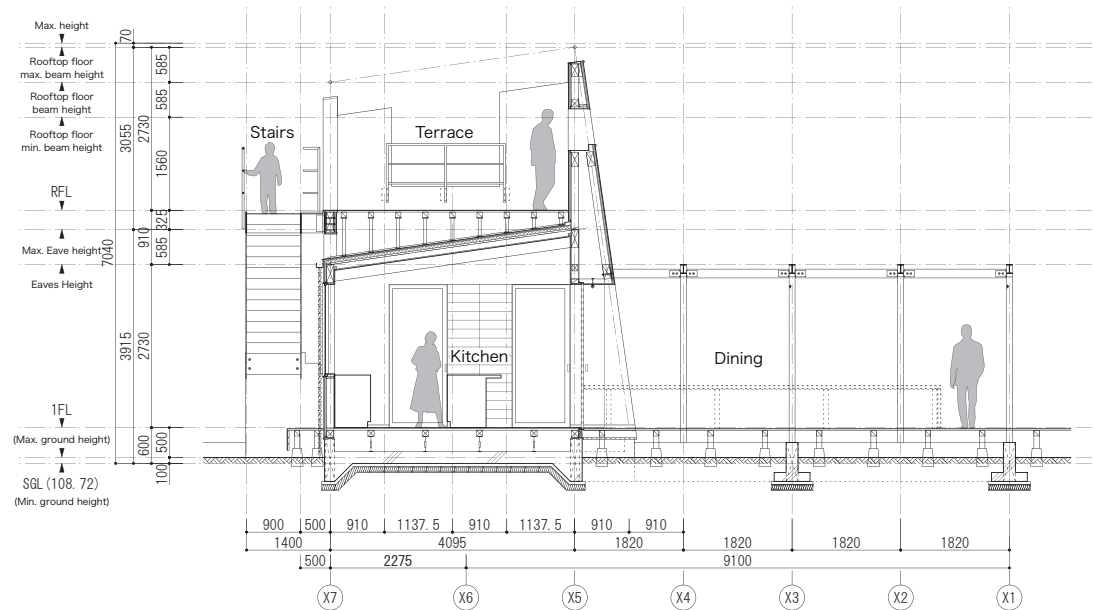
Kitchen with indoor-outdoor continuity.



Deck terrace that overhangs and floats toward the valley.



The first floor is an activity space for guests.



Tower Kitchen SECTION

The tower kitchen was planned as a semi-outdoor water feature / kitchen to support the activities of people spending time in the glamping area. By placing it at the end of the entrance approach as a tower appearing in the forest, we expected it to display the concept of the entire facility in the landscape, along with a fire terrace and long tables that attract people. The overhanging terrace was designed as a viewing point with a new awareness of the vast forest and the facility as a whole, with a view of the night sky.

HORTICULTURAL PROGRAMS AS A CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

As a new initiative, the resort offers guests a horticultural program using the herb garden. Guests can bring their favorite herbs back to their rooms when they check in. They can enjoy seeing and touching the herbs, use them to make herbal tea, and enjoy their stay while getting acquainted with gardening. In addition, they can experience a program of herb picking at the landscaped nursery and enjoy the seasonal appearance of the herbs. The operation of these programs is supported by the passion of the staff of Resol Forest, which aims to develop a new environmental, health, and information resort.



Herb Nursery Table

When guests check in, they can choose their favorite herbs to take back to their rooms.



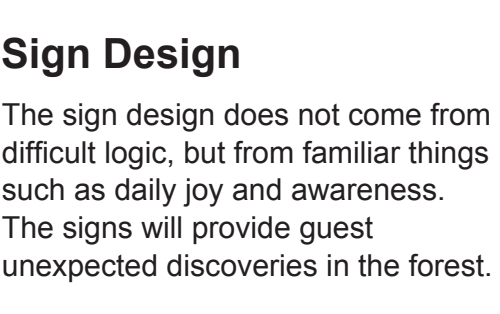
Porch sign and Herb pot

Guests can place herbs that they bring back with them, or herbs selected according to guest preferences from a pre-survey can be placed on a porch sign in front of each guest room.



Herb Nursery in the ground

At the ground-planted nursery, guest can experience herb picking and enjoy the seasonal herbs.



Sign Design

The sign design does not come from difficult logic, but from familiar things such as daily joy and awareness. The signs will provide guest unexpected discoveries in the forest.

Outdoor Furniture and Production Process

