

# dot architects

## POLITICS OF LIVING

2023.5.18<sup>THU</sup>—8.6<sup>SUN</sup>

This exhibition places a focus on the role of the architect when creating self-managed alternative spaces, with its theme being-what dot architects would do if to temporarily use the three spaces of TOTO GALLERY · MA. Comprising many different uses, all the spaces are also presentations of our individual projects we have done up until now. The variety includes bars, meetings, parties, performances, films, radios, workshops, leisure, and of course architecture! We hope this may be useful for when you self-create your own spaces.

### 1. Coop Kitakagaya

An introduction to Osaka, and the collaborative studio Coop Kitakagaya, where dot architects is based.

### 2. Journey around the community centres of Milan and Turin

Documentation from the visits to community centres, and from participating in gatherings in Milan and Turin in March 2023.

### 3. Bar

In the past, Coop Kitakagaya used to irregularly run a bar named Bar Tatiana. Any change we earned was allocated to maintenance costs of the base. Currently, the bar has moved to a community gathering point that we designed called Chidori Bunka, however, the bar still operates from time to time as a pop-up bar.

### 4. Museum

Currently there are plans to make the public area of Coop Kitakagaya into a museum. Regardless of quality or length of history, the works, collections, products, experiments and mistakes of members of Coop Kitakagaya are planned to line up.

### 5. Library

We used to have a library corner in the public area of Coop Kitakagaya, where access to the members' book collection was available. However, as the books became damaged from dust and humidity, the library is currently retired. In this exhibition, you can read the books that support the concepts of dot architects, and publications and zines related to the community centres and movements in Italy.

### 6. Silk Screen Workshop

We used to create original T-shirts at a pop-up silk screen workshop where we would bring a home-built printing machine. T-shirts printed here are available for purchase at the Bookshop TOTO on the second floor. At the workshop, you can select from several plates to print yourself.

### 7. Radio Station

As a form of independent media, we used to do a radio broadcast at the Shodoshima Umaki Camp for which we designed, constructed and managed, and at Chidori Bunka in Kitakagaya. In this radio, we talk loosely about whatever we wish without having to worry about sponsors. Maybe we will do a radio show here too.

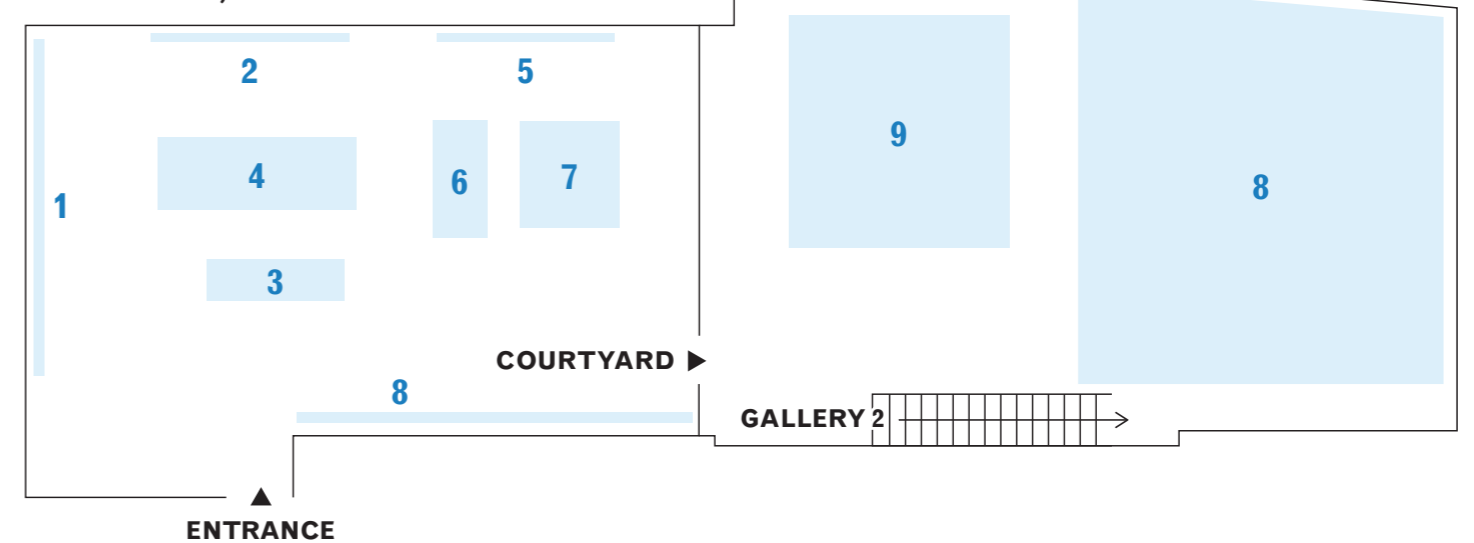
### 8. Nogizaka Putter Golf??? Club!!

We create our own leisure too. There are two putter golf courses; "Nogizaka Straight" and "Nogizaka Seat". Your luck and calmness will be tested. This golf course is a sequel to the Jozenji Putter Golf??? Club!! which was held as a collaboration between contact Gonzo and dot architects in January 2023 at the Sendai Mediatheque 1F open square. You can also create your own putter.

### 9. Outdoor Workshop

The function of a workshop is vital to work on spaces for the community and for our own base. In Coop Kitakagaya, as well as a shared workshop space, Fablab Kitakagaya provides for digital fabrications, and there is also a woodworking space. At the Outdoor Workshop of this exhibition, you can create your own putter to enjoy some putter golf.

### GALLERY 1, COURTYARD



Organization: TOTO GALLERY · MA  
Planning: TOTO GALLERY · MA Planning and Management Committee  
(Special Advisor: Tadao Ando, Members: Manabu Chiba, Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Seng Kuan, Tsuyoshi Tane)  
Support: Tokyo Society of Architects & Building Engineers; Tokyo Association of Architectural Firms;  
Japan Institute of Architects Kanto-Koshinetsu Chapter; Architectural Institute of Japan Kanto Chapter  
Cooperation: contact Gonzo, UMA/design farm  
Collaboration: Hayashi Takuma Design Office (Graphic Design), SIRIUS LIGHTING OFFICE Inc. (Lighting Consultant)

## 10. Gallery

Architecture from dot architects' anthology *POLITICS OF LIVING*, to be published from TOTO Publishing, and of current undergoing projects will be exhibited.

### a. No.00

Completed: 2011  
Main usage: private residence  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location: Nishinomiya city, Hyogo  
Structure engineer: Konishi Structural Engineers

A three-story pottery school and residence in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Prefecture. The buildings on the site were completely destroyed during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and were left vacant for many years. After over 10 years after the earthquake, we began designing a sturdy reinforced concrete core that is like a central pillar, which can also provide mental support against earthquakes. Moreover, the house sits on a unique location which is bordered by a shrine to the south, a field to the east, residences to the north and a narrow road to the west, and emphasis was placed on how the behaviour and appearance of the openings could relate to the surrounding environment.

### b. On-Hold House

Completed: 2022  
Main usage: private residence  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location: Hamamatsu city, Shizuoka  
Structure engineer: Kataoka Structural Engineers

A house-cum-atelier that stands on the lakeside of Hamanako area in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. The clients are a couple in their late 60s and 40s respectively. "We already have a house in Hamamatsu, but we would like to build a separate small house." This led to the proposal of a cabin balancing on multiple big stones. Instead of using the traditional Japanese architectural style of *ishibadate* (a technique in which structural pillars are attached to a large stone), the structure adopts its variant style of *ishibaoki*, wherein the structural foundation rests on its base stones on which the walls are mounted. The garden that was emphasized in the design of the structure is currently tended beautifully by the couple.

### c. No.07

Completed: 2017  
Main usage: private residence  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location: Osaka city, Osaka  
Structure engineer: Kataoka Structural Engineers  
A two-story residence, renovated from one of five *nagayas* ("rowhouse", a style of traditional collective housing) that were built over 100 years ago. Being spared from the war damages of the Osaka Air Raid in 1945, areas allocated with *nagayas* and small alleyways, and streets remain. The renovation alleviates the darkness and claustrophobic feeling, which are typical characteristics of *nagayas*. It integrates light, and attempts to restore the sense of openness from the front to the back of the house that was presumably present at the time of its initial construction.

### d. Umaki Camp

Completed: 2013  
Main usage: Meeting hall  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location: Shodoshima town, Kagawa  
Structure engineer: Eisuke Mitsuda  
Structural Consultants  
Umaki camp is a community center built to foster interaction in the region as a part of the project Hishio no Sato + Sakate Port presented at Shodoshima for the Setouchi International Art Festival 2013. dot architects proposed and realized "a structure that can be made with three million yen" as a response to the project's theme "Relational Tourism." The staff in charge of the project moved to Shodoshima to oversee the construction, while the other members commuted to Shodoshima every weekend, starting the construction from scratch in the presence of the locals, tourists, and a 20-meter-tall *goshinboku* ("trees considered sacred in the precincts of Shinto shrines").

### e. Chidrori Bunka

Completed: 2017  
Main usage: office, Store, Exhibition space  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location: Osaka city, Osaka  
Structure engineer: Eisuke Mitsuda  
Structural Consultants  
Chidori Bunka, located in Kitakagaya in Suminoe Ward, Osaka, is a cultural center that contains a restaurant, a bar, a gallery, and more. Given the choice between scrap and build or renovation, dot architects went with renovation: "The character of the building embodied in the architectural details that remain since the time of its construction—that which served as temporary measures or that evoke the lifestyles of its previous inhabitants—cannot be restored once demolished. Due to cost implications, the construction process was divided into two phases: the first was completed in 2017, and the second began in 2018 and ended in 2020. dot architects are currently still involved, not only as architects but as locals of the area, in the management of the bar, organization of exhibitions and events, and other activities hosted at this center.

### f. Residence O

Year of project start: 2021-  
Main usage: private housing  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location of plan: Kagawa prefecture, Naoshima town  
A refurbishment design for a timber frame housing built roughly 50 years ago. Due to the gradual development from when it was built, the land form changed and the original entrance facing south had become less spacious. The plan started by replacing the entrance to the west side. The design aims to bring a large opening on the west, and a kitchen area with a top light to the north, filling the entire residence with light.

### g. Residence M

Year of project start: 2018-  
Main usage: private housing  
Model scale: 1/20  
Location of plan: Osaka prefecture, Ibaraki city  
Structural design: Kataoka Structural Engineers  
The site Ibaraki has the characteristics of being the commuter town of Osaka. This is a reconstruction of a housing built on a "lagpole" land-shaped with a thin strip of land leading to the road. Although a small city-residence, it has a large hall compared to the building's footprint. This hall space is planned to connect to all other rooms while maintaining a level of independence, as well as creating an escape for the line-of-sight from both inside and outside.

### h. Residence I

Year of project start: 2021-  
Main usage: private housing  
Model scale: 1/30  
Location of plan: Kyoto prefecture, Kyoto city  
Structural design: Kataoka Structural Engineers  
A refurbishment of a single-story housing built over 100 years ago. Perhaps due to a lack of materials at the time of construction, thin logs were used for much of the structure; the design aims to newly reinforce the structure, and deconstruct the small floor plan to create a spacious living area that continues into the garden.

### i. On-Hold House 2

Year of project start: 2022-  
Main usage: atelier, residence  
Model scale: 1/100  
Location of plan: Kagawa prefecture, Naoshima town  
Structural design: Kataoka Kozo  
Composed of three buildings for artists' residence, production atelier, and viewing room. Like the on-hold house, it is built on a stone foundation and the walls are made solely of cedar wood. This is an enlargement and development of the structure experimented with the on-hold house.

### j. Hino Kobo

Year of project start: 2022-  
Main usage: Workshop, residence, gallery, on-the-job training space, etc  
Model scale: 1/50  
Location of plan: Shiga prefecture, Hino town  
Structural design: Hirokazu Touki  
A small-scale multi-functional facility that promotes the qualities of Hino town in various ways, and encourages the communication between locals and with people from outside the town. As a new base for creative work including crafts, the space has the functions as a residence for artists, shared kitchen, gallery, on-the-job training space and library. As the site is located facing a road approaching a shrine, we have researched merchants that remain in Hino town so that the plan can inherit the local landscape.

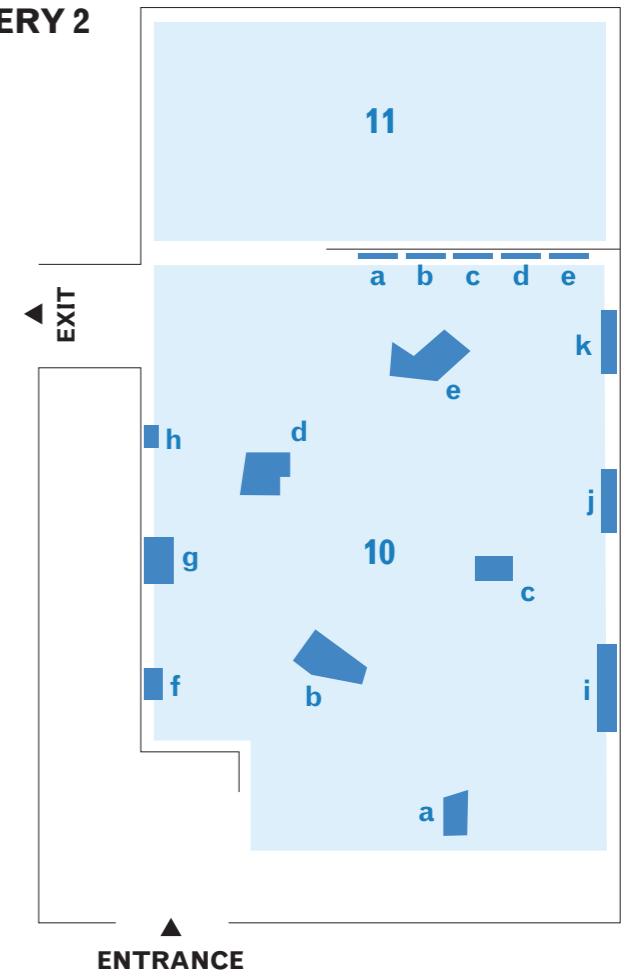
### k. MOCA OLIVE HILLTOP

Year of project start: 2022-  
Main usage: gallery  
Model scale: 1/100  
Location of plan: Kagawa prefecture, Shodoshima town  
Structural design: Eisuke Mitsuda Structural Consultants  
The building is to be used as a gallery and café. With a ridge descending south, the site is located with a steep mountain forest thickly covered with trees on the west, and an olive field on the slope to the east. Without clearing the mountain forest, or disturbing the olive field, the building plans to be constructed thin and long to fill the width of land as part of the ridge like a great wall between the mountainous world and the field world. The floor is on a slope almost the same as the grade of the land.

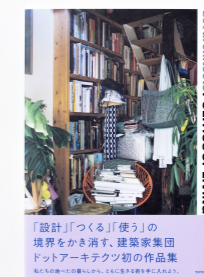
### 11. Cinema

The film is also made by us. We have worked on two independent films, *Omoiyari* produced with the people of Umaki, Shodoshima, and *The First Job of Galactic Transportation* produced in collaboration with contact Gonzo. Here we will screen *The First Job of Galactic Transportation* three times daily.  
Screen times: every day 12:00–, 14:00–, 16:00–  
Length: approx. 90 mins,  
Language: English (Japanese subtitles).

## GALLERY 2



## Related Publication: Available at Book Shop TOTO (2F)



『POLITICS OF LIVING』  
Author: dot architects  
Editor: MUESUM  
Publisher: May 2023  
Design: UMA/design farm  
Price: 4,400 JPY (tax included)

Cooperation: 1. Coop Kitakagaya Chishima Foundation for Creative Osaka, FABLAB KITAKAGAYA, Atelier Cafue, NEW DOMAIN 2. Journey around the community centres of Milan and Turin Kazuya Sakurada remo [record, expression and medium-organization] 4. Museum remo [record, expression and medium-organization], ichimaruni, Atelier cafue, contact Gonzo, graf 5. Library remo [record, expression and medium-organization] 7. Radio Station Konishi Kotarou (adanda) 8. Nogizaka Putter Golf??? Club! Jozenji Putter Golf organizer: Sendai mediatheque (Sendai Cultural Foundation), NAZE (contact Gonzo) 11. Cinema "Railway Art Festival vol.10 GDP THE MOVIE The First Job of Galactic Transportation" (2021) contact Gonzo / Art Area B1 • Osaka