

Sechie

- Coexisting with Nature -



This house consists of a stage, storage, and a garden. The stage has no function, and all modern housing functions (water supply, storage, and bedroom) are stored in the storage. The three-dimensional garden facing the stage has both an effect of a closed system that strengthens this composition and an open design that expands to the outside environment. It gently connects the upper and lower floors while bridging the stage and storage at each level. Coexistence with nature, that is, consciousness with ruthless states such as humans, plants, insects, and time, is the basis of this house.

The site is located at the point where two triangular blocks, where the land division of rice fields from the Edo period remains, meet the vertices of each other. To the south of this point, the riverbed gently descends to the underdrain river, and the north, the steep ground surface rises from the bank to the plateau. Therefore, the site's plane swings south on both sides, and the cross-section has a height difference of about 1 m.

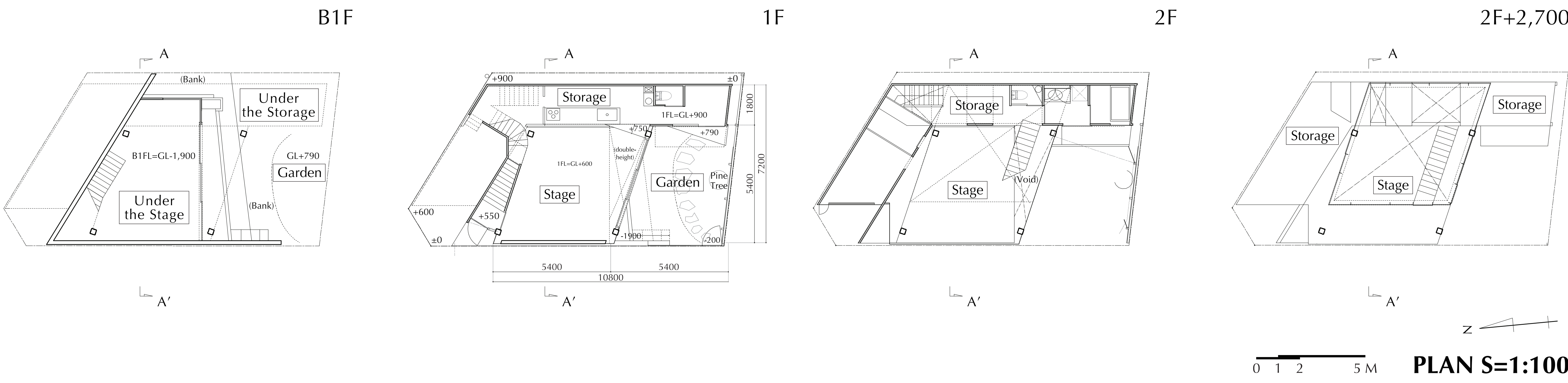
Taking advantage of these site features, we dared to set up the non-functional stage in the centre of the site and placed the storage behind it to trace the edge of the area. We aimed to create a space that emerges in human consciousness by setting the stage, useless as a house, in the centre and performing daily activities by going back and forth between the stage and the storage. We regard this as a *sechie* (meaning a ritual in Japanese; a spatialisation of consciousness) in our

daily lives. Thus we tried to make the behaviour of the people there, instead of a house as a container.

The stage carries the storage on its back, and the entire volume of the warehouse floats in the air. In addition, there is a 60mm gap between the stage and the storage at all levels. A person going back and forth between the stage and the storage must always straddle this clearance of only 60mm.

The structure is that only the pillars at the four corners of the stage are grounded. We considered the stage and the storage to be the fundamental architecture for Japanese traditional rituals and reorganised them three-dimensionally according to the deformed site, using the standard module (3 ken = 5.4-meter square) of the Noh (Japanese traditional dance) stage as a model. Since ancient times, houses have also been the stage for various rituals that are directly linked to human life, such as ceremonial occasions.

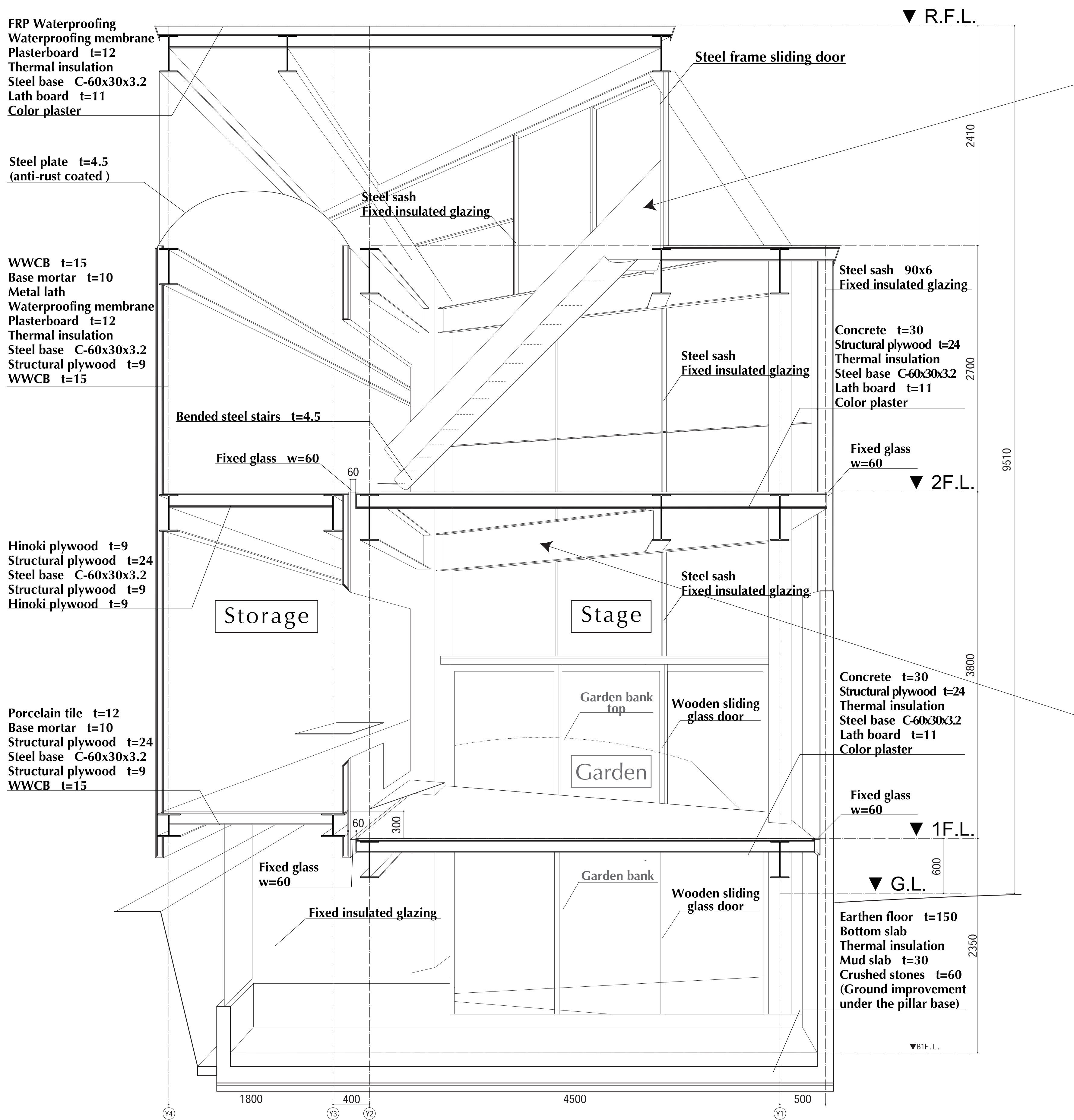
Also, in the monotone architecture as a whole, only some of the walls and ceilings of the stage have similar colour gradations with coloured plaster. The experience of coloured light that changes through the volume of the entire stage from under the stage (underground) to above the stage (top floor) makes you feel the existence of time.



Left: Entrance approach. The main entrance crosses the artificial hill from the gate and leads to the storage.

Bottom: Stage of B1. Under the storage that floats on the cantilever, the L-shaped embankment that surrounds the stage is used to create the garden.





People who go back and forth between the stage and the warehouse must always straddle this 60mm clearance. Only the cylindrical steel staircase leading to the roof of the *stage* bridges the warehouse and the stage.

Rituals are held in daily life, with several blood-related people changing from time to time and invited guests as appropriate. The concrete design that contributes to this is the colour of the plaster that is attached only to some of the walls and ceiling of the stage.

The plastered ceiling, which is finished with a gradation of similar colours from the basement ceiling to the ceiling on the top floor, allows residents and guests to experience different coloured lights depending on the sunlight that changes with time.

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Upper left: View the garden from the stage on the first floor.
Lower left: View of the west side in the morning.



Upper right: Downward view from the upper part of the second floor.
Lower right: View of the west side at night.

