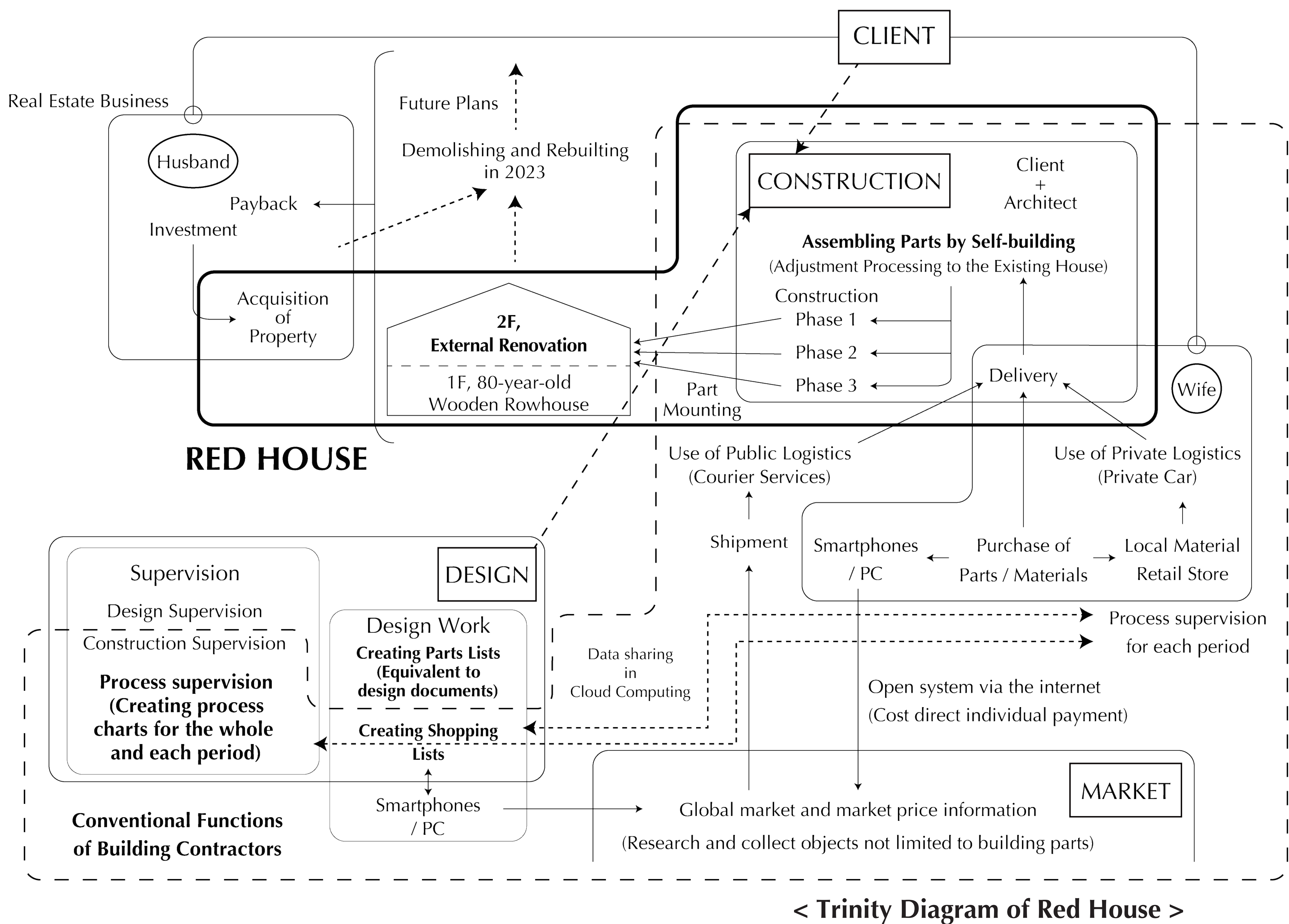


Red House

- Re-editing of construction methods and Occupational Ability -

Interior view of the corridor. (photo© Takuya Seki)





Red House is a renovated accommodation and multipurpose rental space that connects the second floor of an existing 80-year-old wooden rowhouse. It was supposed to be for a large family from overseas or as a workshop/gallery for young artists. The owner has acquired this house in 2019 and plans to dismantle it and build a new one in 2023. This project has put in the gap (real estate stock period). Therefore, the investment was minimised, and self-building was adopted by re-editing the conventional roles of the owner, design, and construction.

Making the best use of the Internet, we created a *parts list* and a *shopping list* instead of the conventional design documents. Based on that, the owner himself bought the parts and materials at almost the lowest price and brought them to the site. The important role of the design is to accurately indicate the timing in three phases. We designed the movement of logistics and construction inside and outside the site, not the building, and converted it into a space setting.

All renovations do not have a standard detail, so we need to include bricolage with a natural and craft approach. Thus, *Red House* is a collection of parts made using these techniques. The name *Red House* refers to a non-standardisation method for adjusting *parts* that combine standardised ready-made products with existing houses. In other words, the understanding that renovation is the act of investing capital in the gaps of the newly built real estate industry in Japan today is collectively called *Red House*. The name includes not only William Morris but also some past *anti-thesis* to modern and contemporary architecture, such as Raymond Loewy's *lipstick* red and Arata Isozaki's *Shinjuku White House*. For this reason, the taboos in modern new construction, such as hobby crafts by hand, Japanese-Western style, and irrelevance of each room, are more familiar to the wooden rowhouse that was naturally bricolage in 80 years of construction.



South side appearance. We repaired the inside and outside other than the structure. (photo© Takuya Seki)



Production scenery of parts. Based on the *shopping list*, the owner (the wife) and their children also made housing parts.



The bedroom. The bed was made by reusing the tatami mats of the Japanese-style room that had been peeled off, and the mirror stand of the powder room was made by assembling ready-made products and parts from existing houses. (photo© Takuya Seki)



Japanese-style room. The existing tatami mats have been peeled off and replaced with floors made from ready-made drainboards. Taking advantage of the low size of the closet before the war, it was diverted to the alcove. (photo© Takuya Seki)



Painting existing off-the-shelf wallpaper. An irrational method in the concept of new construction may be rational in the renovation.

