

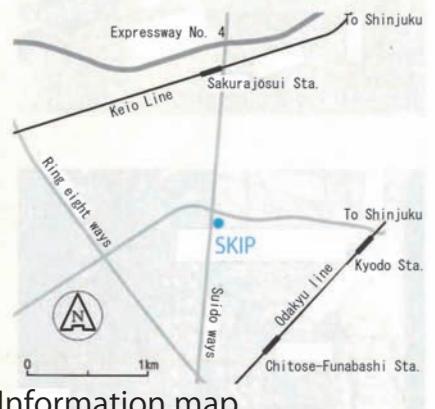
"SKIP"

Working Support Center for People with Mental Retardation



East appearance

Design was focused to provide harmony with the Surroundings.



Information map

Architectural Summary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Name | Working Support Center for People with Mental Retardation "SKIP" |
| Location | Funabashi 5-33-1, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo |
| zoning | Semi-industrial district, Building coverage ; 70% Floor/area ratio ; 200% |
| Area | Site area ; 979 m ² Construction area ; 631 m ² Total floor area ; 1383 m ² |
| Structure | RC structure |
| stories | Basement floor, 2 stories above ground |
| Client | Setagaya municipal government |
| Designer | (Arc) TAKATANI / Sekkei-Keikaku (Str) Ren structural design office (Engineering) Sogo Setsubi keikaku |
| Contractors | (arc) Orihara construction (Elect) Yaesu electric company (Air) Taguchi Nikkuu JV (Plumb) Ishikawa equipment |
| Construction period | June 1996 - October 1997 |
| Finishing material | |
| (Roofing) | Fluorine steel t=0.8, Bituminous membrane waterproof, |
| | Roof garden |
| (Wall) | Porcelain tile of 45 square, Exposed concrete with fluorine resin |
| (Window) | aluminum sash |



View from the corridor on the second floor

<Translated from Nikkei Architecture 1998.2.23>

Seeing situation over the corridor

Working environment of a mentally-handicapped person is still severe. It is difficult for people with disabilities to work in the same environment as non-handicapped. Creating a workable environment by corporates has not made much progress.

Setagaya-ward has made a dozen of welfare facilities in order to train mentally-handicapped person to develop the vocational ability. But against the aim those facilities have been just providing working places for the handicapped people who cannot work with the non handicapped. Therefore Setagaya-ward decided to make a facility dedicated only to the vocational training. It is SKIP, Working Support Center for People with Mental Retardation.

SKIP trains mentally-handicapped persons for two years, and trainees should leave the facility to start working for the ordinary firms. Trainees learn printing

and laundry service here. Printing is relatively easy to learn. In addition, there are many printing offices in Setagaya-ward. And three nursing homes nearby need daily laundry service.

Tokihiko Takatani and Associates was selected in the architectural design competition in 1993. Takatani presented two conceptions in design. First conception is to realize "normalization". Second is to make the building to stimulate mentally-handicapped persons' sensitivity.

"Normalization", Takatani says, is that the facility normally and naturally exists in the townscape. He put the outdoor corridor along the street, as an intermediate space between the towns and the building.

Neighborhood resident can see the situation of the facility through the outdoor corridor and the trainees can see the residents at an appropriate distance.

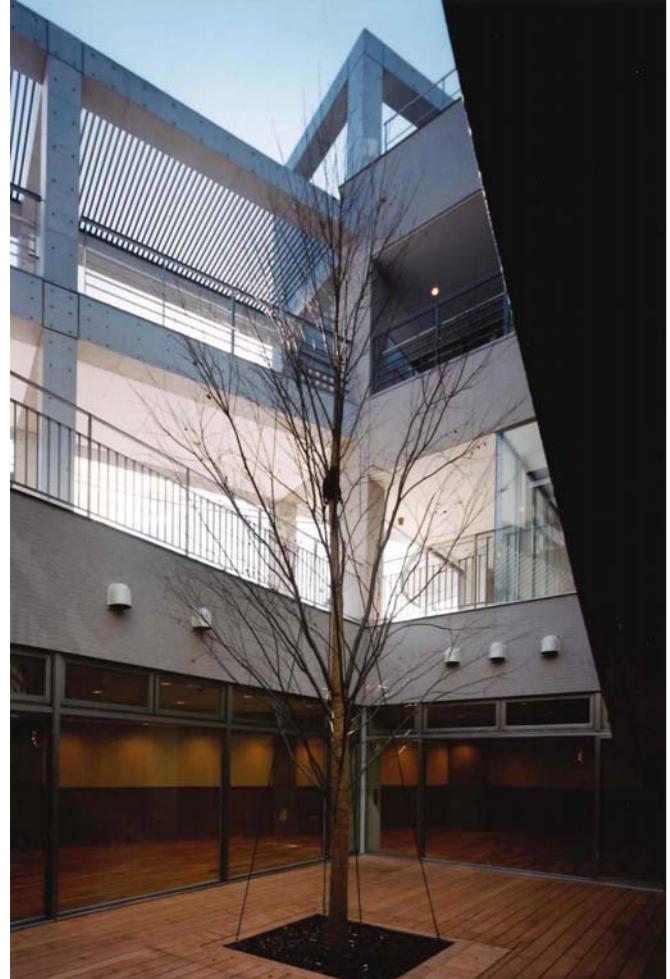


View from the second floor corridor, overlooking the courtyard

The theme of the design is the light and wind that enter the courtyard. Trainees can feel the change of the light and mind from anywhere he/she is.



The north side of the second floor corridor



Courtyard

▲ It is possible to enter directly from the outside through the stairs left to the break room. It is possible for the parents to choose this path so as not to disturb trainees in the first floor training room.

To stimulate the sensitivity, the courtyard surrounded by inner and outdoor corridors was put in the center of the building. For example a trainee can walk up to the break room either through the inner corridor or outer one, in both ways they can see the Katsura tree in the courtyard. Takatani says "I learned the handicapped people have a fine sensitivity to the surroundings" . Although they could stay in this building at most for two years, they would not forget what they experienced in this building, life and work feeling the light, green and wind from the courtyard.

◀ Courtyard is the first basement floor to create a reasonable distance of the outside.



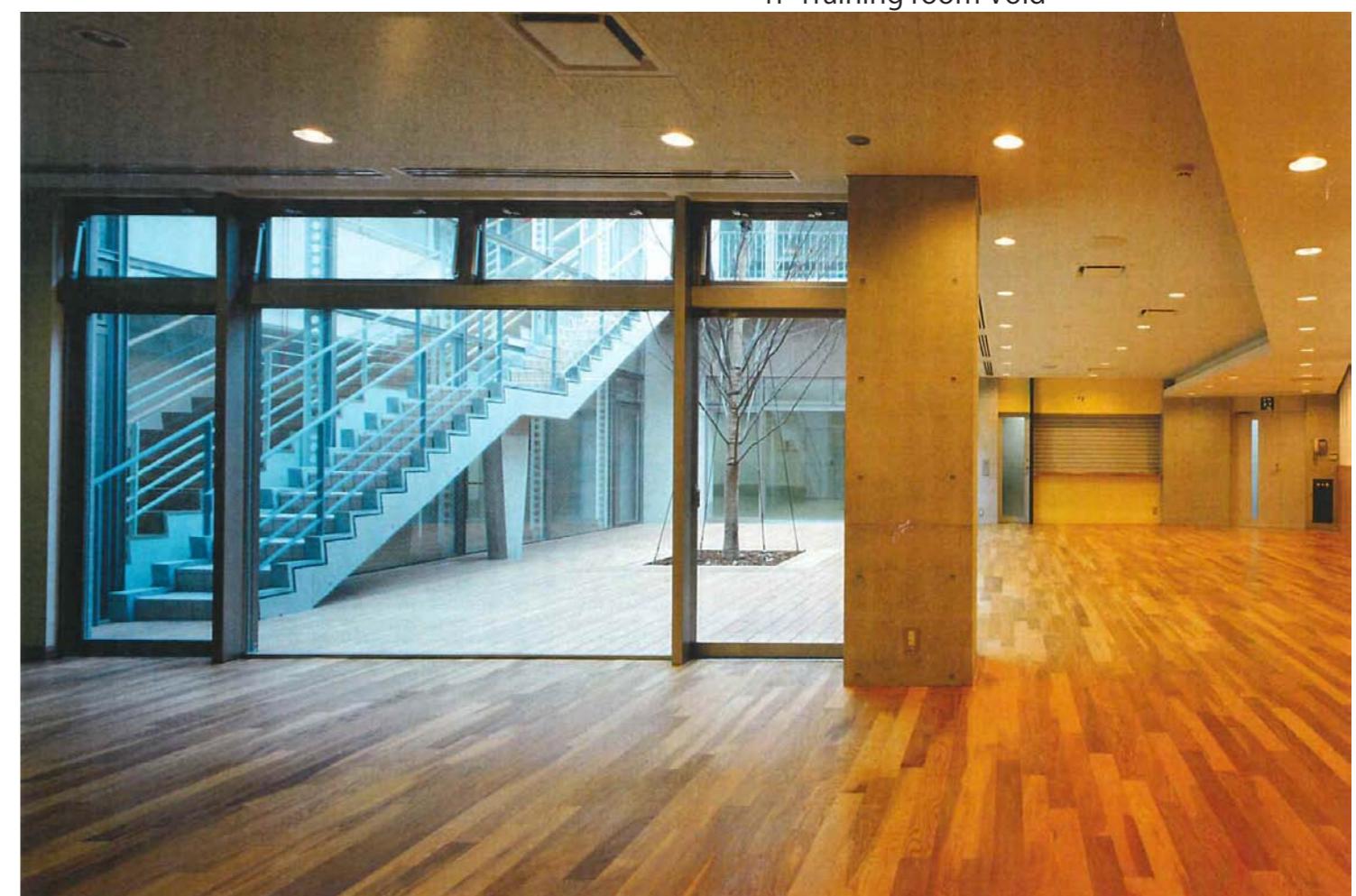
1F Training room Place to clean laundry service.

"This building is not like conventional welfare facility I know. We have never seen a courtyard, open structure with full light and open air ambience or corridor open to outside. Whether this facility is good or not will be estimated when the first trainee leave the facilities two years after" said Mr Takada, facility manager of Tokyo Training Association for Mentally-Handicapped Person.

Already he put a large mirror on the entrance wall and is going to add some pieces of equipment to the training room. In April, 20 people start a new life with 13 staffs.



1F Training room Void



Cafeteria of basement floor



Break room



View from the second floor Conference room



Evening scene of entrance

Training in the environment similar to the normal factory

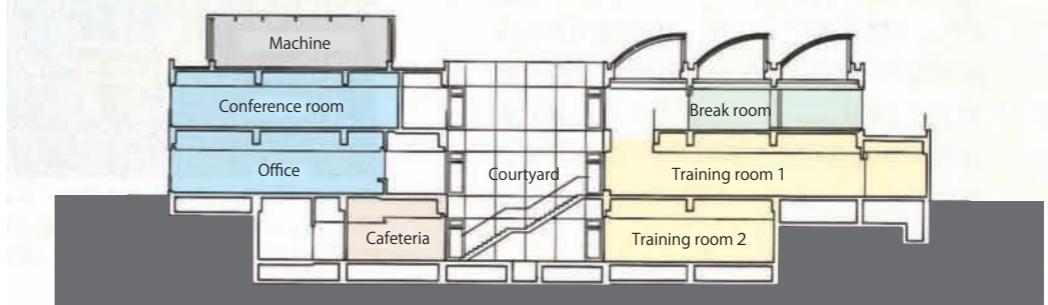
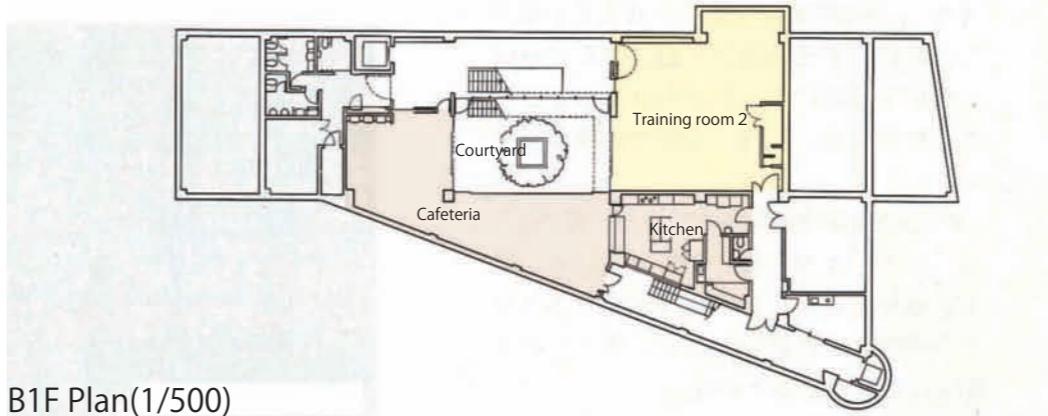
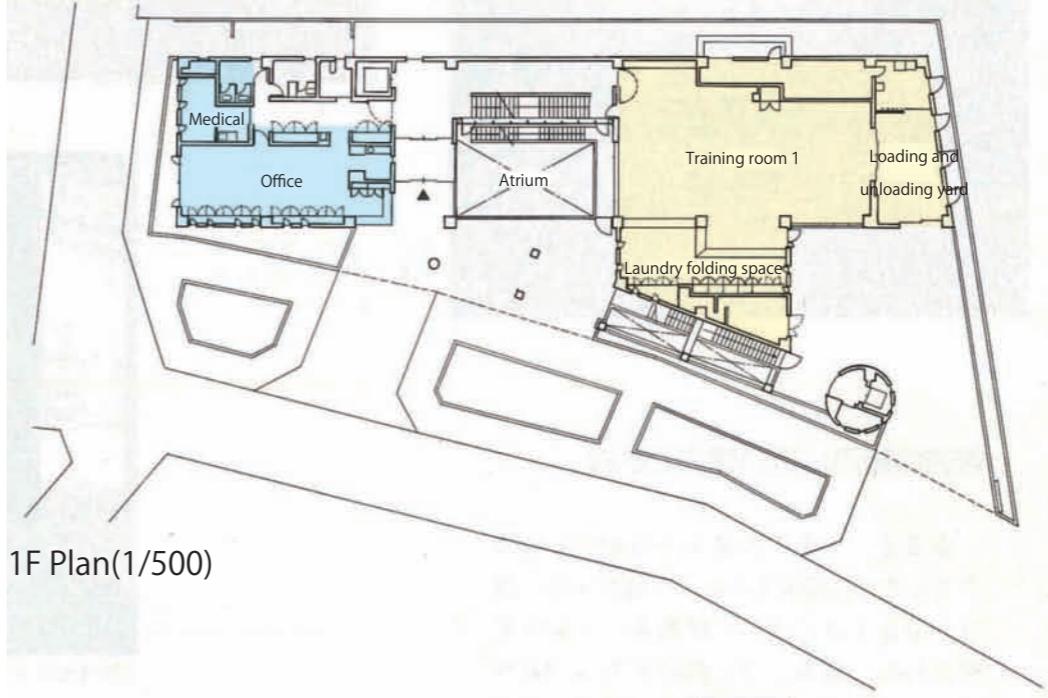
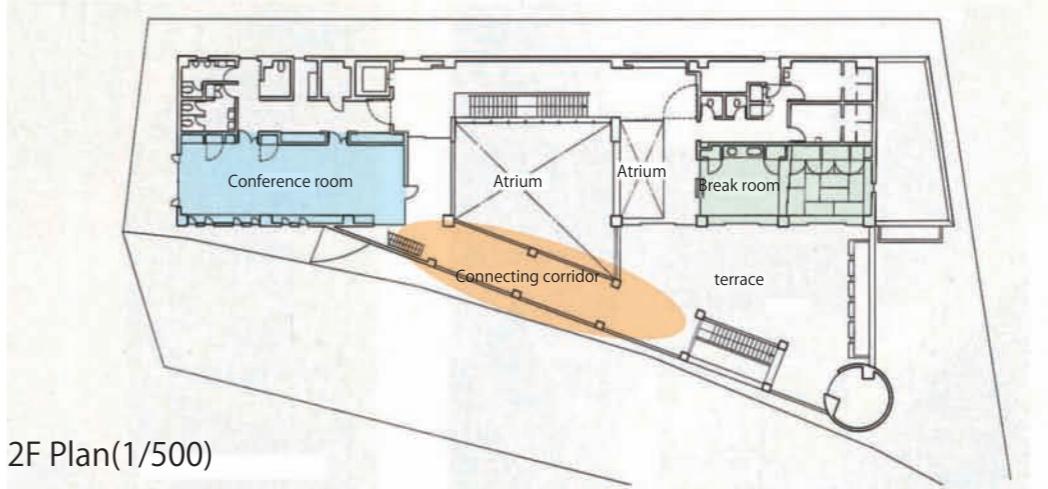
This facility is equipped with fewer safety devices than a conventional welfare building.

Trainees have to become accustomed to this normal surroundings. Takatani says "when I visited the firm which employed many mentally- handicapped persons, the manager advised me to train them in the same environment as an ordinary company can provide. If they are trained in an overprotective environment, they would not be able to work in ordinary surroundings."

For example, some handrails are supported by glass structure whereas conventional welfare facility does not use glass.

On the other hand, laundry folding space is equipped with floor heating.

Says Takatani "We are not over-protective. Every worker, handi-capped or not, should work in a more comfortable environment than now." Mr. Takada, a manager of this facility, says "It' s one of the training for them to become accustomed to this environment to get a job with an ordinary company."



◀ Visitors can see inside the facility through the corridor.

