

Art Biotop Nasu

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*art biotop*

A photograph of a forest floor. In the center, there is a large, dark, weathered tree stump. The ground is covered in a thick layer of green moss. To the left of the stump, there is a small, young pine tree. To the right, there is a taller, thin tree with green leaves. The background is filled with more trees and foliage, creating a dense forest atmosphere.

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An innovative garden located in Yokozawa in the Nasu Highlands surrounded by beautiful trees and clean water where time passes slowly.

Wisdom passes from nature to man.

The creation of a utopian art colony has long been a dream of man, such as Mathildenhöhe in Darmstadt and the colony built by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner in the early part of the 20th century.

Botanical Farm Garden Art Biotop has been designed in the same context. The architecture and the landscape work together to create an ideal environment for the incubation of ideas.



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Envisions coexistence with nature and  
the cyclical process of learning together.

The Botanical Farm Garden Art Biotop  
 We began with the creation of the Water Garden in 2017, and will continue with the unique cottages connecting heaven and earth, the restaurant, and Spa facilities to be completed in 2019.



Drafted in April 2017

**Art Biotop AIR Residence** ————— The current Art Biotop AIR Residence is a place for authentic studio creation as well as our onsite programs. The idea is that guests will be inspired to create through their natural energy.

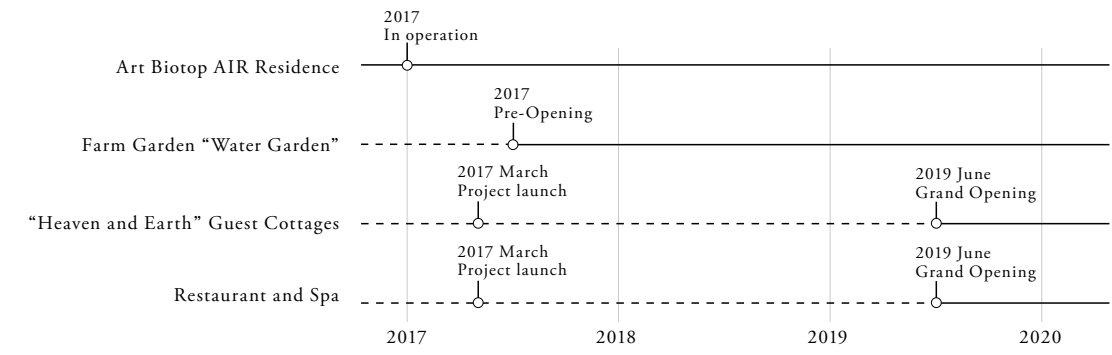
**Farm Garden “Water Garden”** ————— Unlike conventional farming that struggles to expand crop acreage in order to increase efficiency, the Botanical Farm Garden makes visitors feel as if they’re staying in a garden. At Water Garden, which symbolizes the Botanical Farm Garden, interpersonal communications are particularly important. Making the most of nature, land art on a human scale results in a new natural environment created by man’s wisdom.

**Cottage** ————— The guest rooms in the forest are simple and private, connecting heaven and earth in order to feel the fresh air and surrounding wilderness. The cottages are designed for comfort and relaxation and to be a true second home.  
 (Heaven and Earth: a tentative name)

**Farm Restaurant** ————— The restaurant “Farm Garden” is set in a forest and has an open and modern exterior. Lunch and dinner will incorporate fresh ingredients produced within 40 kilometers of Yokozawa to emphasize the quality of local life. Coexistence with nature and consideration for the environment are recurring themes for the development of the Botanical Farm Garden Project.

**SPA** ————— Guests can enjoy warm and cold temperatures in the outdoor bath. In the tranquility of the spa, surrounded by the forest, you will rejuvenate body and soul.

**Schedule**



The primary objective of this project was to create a new form of nature as an extension of nature as we now know it; the future of nature through the eyes of man.

The site was originally heavily wooded before it was cleared for rice fields. Later, it became meadowlands. By maximizing the environmental potential of this land, we will create a new landscape that fuses “density” and “relationship” which do not coexist in nature. By restructuring the elements of the existing ecosystem, a new environment will be created.

Trees, water, moss. These three existing elements are combined and re-emerge to form a new landscape.

We researched the species and configuration of the original trees on the property and carefully rearranged them in different places. We'll create numerous ponds between the trees to allow the reflection of the sunlight that filters through and plant moss to fill the spaces between the trees and ponds.

The landscape created by this method consists of the same environmental components originally on the site but will become “new nature” by combining the various elements in a new configuration.

The new nature will emerge by restructuring the relationship of those elements found in nature that could not be made by man and the elements of manmade art that cannot be found in nature.

In the future, natural environments may very well become flexible and transparent, incorporating man's activities with nature in dynamic relation with one another.

Junya Ishigami | Architect, Water Garden design

## New landscape art drawn the wisdom of nature

Our intrinsic nature comes alive.

Nature and man are not in conflict with each other but rather we are all an intrinsic part of nature. When we realize that there is nature within us, our attitude toward nature shifts. Our bodies come from nature; they're not manmade. Languages and cities, however, do arise from human consciousness rather than nature. Therefore, only by facing the nature within us can man truly feel a part of that nature. The water garden encourages us to hold these dialogues so that man and nature can be connected. From the wisdom of nature, we dig deep for the wisdom of man. We absorb the beautiful art of nature and overwrap it with the art of man. This results in the effortless art of harmonious coexistence. Land art is a scene that emerges from nature to allow a relationship between nature and man. The water garden encapsulates the concept of living and learning together with nature that has been Art Biotop's aim for the last ten years. Here, we will see our inner nature flowing and overflowing at the Water Garden.

Toshiharu Ito | Art Historian,  
Professor of Fine Arts Department of Intermedia Art,  
Tokyo University of the Arts



An image sketch of the Water Garden in 2014

Farm Garden “Water Garden,” “Farm Restaurant,” and “Spa Facilities” design

## Junya Ishigami

<http://www.jnyi.jp/>

Born in 1974 in Kanagawa Prefecture/199? MA Architecture from Tokyo University of the Arts, School of Fine Arts./199? Worked for Kazuyo Sejima Architecture Design Office/2004 Established Junya Ishigami Architecture Design Office. Major works include Kanagawa Engineering University KAIT Workshop/2008 Representative of Japanese Pavilion at the 11th Venezia Biennale International Architecture Exhibition/2010 Held personal exhibition, “The New Scale of Architecture” at Toyoda City Museum /Awarded many significant prizes, including the Institute of Architecture Japan Award, Mainichi Design Award, and the Golden Lion Prize from 12th La Biennale de Venezia 2010.

Design Cottages “Heaven and Earth” (a tentative name), “Library Lounge”

## Shigeru Ban

<http://www.shigerubanarchitects.com/>

1982-1983 Worked at Arata Isozaki Atelier/1984 Graduated from Cooper Union, Architecture Department/1985 Established Shigeru Ban Architecture Design Office/1995-2000 Consultant at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/2001-08 Professor at Keio University, Environmental Information Department/2010 GSD Visiting Professor at Harvard University/Recent work “Pompidou Center Metz”/Awarded many significant prizes, including the Institute of Architecture Japan Award: The Best Architecture, Yoshioka Prize, JIA New Comer Prize, French Cultural Award, and so on.

message

For this amazing opportunity:

Every Japanese architect knows the main building of Niki Club, designed by Akira Watanabe. For the property expansion, thanks to interior designer Takashi Sugimoto and architect Terence Conran, Hitomi Kitayama's Niki Club is the only example of a successful resort hotel with first class modern architecture in Japan. For an architect, there is no honor greater than being asked to design her next project. She has been creating rare art and cultural values in Japan while establishing a wonderful business brand. This is also a major project that will serve to advance her wonderful record. I am committed to undertake this responsibility and look forward to much debate with Hitomi and her team to achieve a truly inspired design.

Art Direction

## Kenya Hara

<http://www.ndc.co.jp/hara/>

Designer. Born in 1958, Kenya Hara is the president of Nippon Design Center and professor at Musashino Art University. Regarding design as universal wisdom accumulated by society, he has produced a large variety of design proposals and projects focusing on communication. Notable examples include art direction for MUJI, visual identity for Daikanyama Tsutaya Book Store, and the HOUSE VISION exhibition. His books, including Designing Design and White, have been translated into multiple languages.

Chief Producer

## Hitomi Kitayama

A founding member of Eikoh Inc., after serving as Executive Director of Business Planning and Operations, Hitomi established NIKI Club. She is also engaged in hotel management including residence hotels, Art Biotop Nasu, library café Gallery Satsu, and the guesthouse Numazu Club. Presently, she serves as NIKI Resort Representative Director, Specified Non Profit Corporation Art Biotop Administrative Director, Director for Specified nonprofit corporation, Design Nippon, and Counselor for Specified Non Profit Corporation 21 Support for Parenting.

〈Partner Companies〉 **Nikissimo Inc.,**

Collaboratively with Takara Leben CO., LTD, Nikissimo is engaged in the development of a business framework, brand development, and operations for Botanical Farm Garden Art Biotop.

Representative: Miyu Ishiwata, President and Representative Director

Address: 4-3-30 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083

**Takara Leben CO., LTD**

<http://www.leben.co.jp/>

With the vision “Think Happiness and Make it Happen” and the mission “Ability to empathize with others; sincere efforts and the ability to implement,” Takara Leben develops new condominiums as its main brand and is also engaged in rental properties, mega solar, and so on. Committed to happiness for people and their surroundings and giving shape to their dream homes, Takara Leben promotes the creation of safe and reassuring communities and to establishing an environmentally friendly society.



Representative: Kazuichi Shimada, President and Representative Director, CEO

Established: September 21, 1972

Shares listed on: First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Security

Code: 8897

Capitalization: 4,819 million yen

Address: Shinjuku Sumitomo Building 26F

2-6-1 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-0226

〈Contracting Companies〉

**Tanabe Construction Company**

**Niki First Class Registered Architectural Design Office**

**Niki Resort Inc.**

**Yokozawa Farm Inc.**