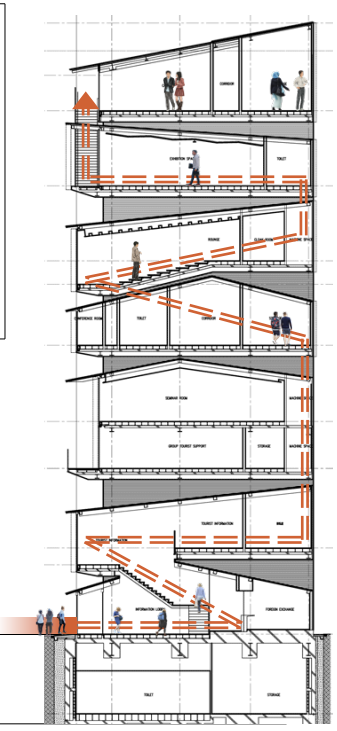
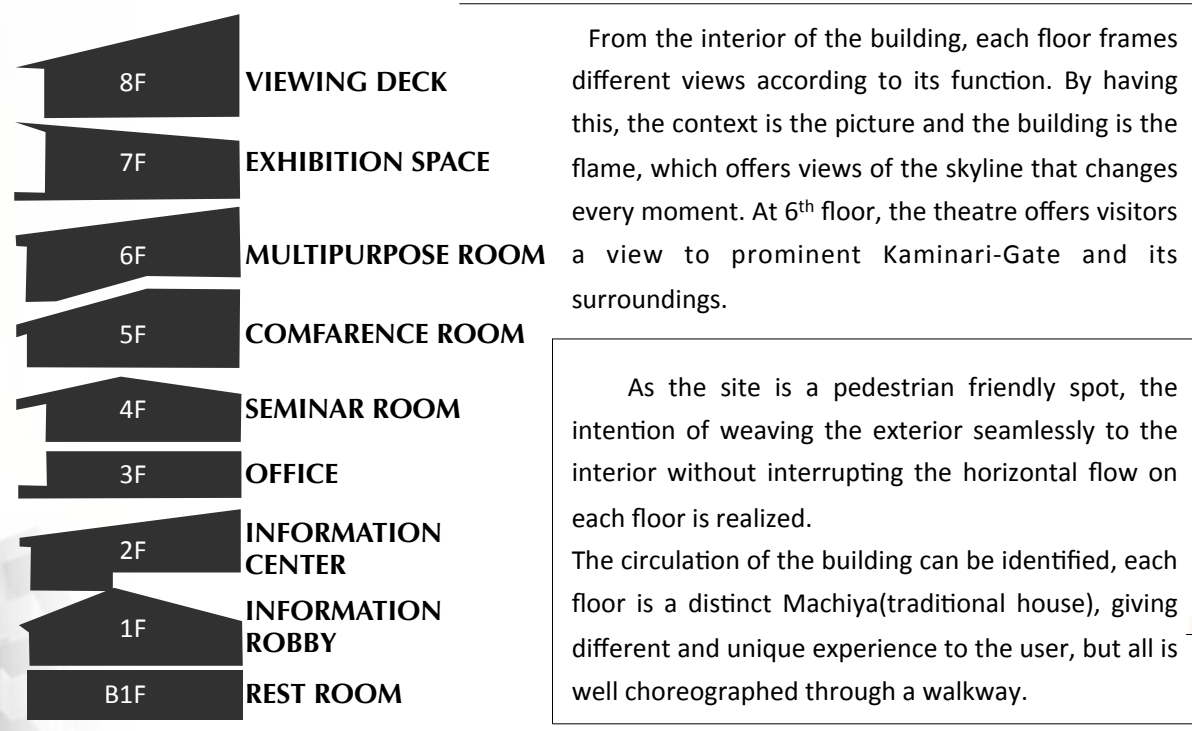


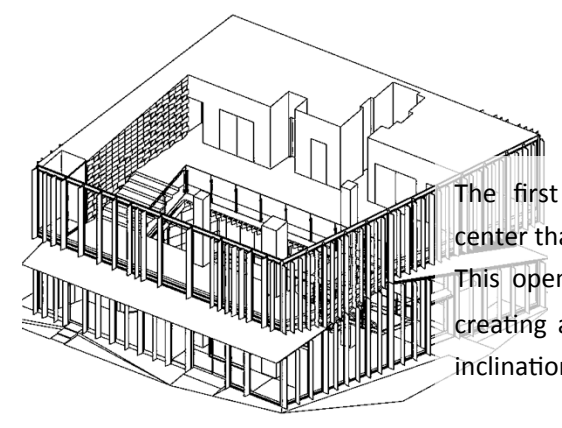
## SPACE ORGANIZATION AND ACCESS HIERARCHY



The information center is chamfered to a 45 degree slant, where the entrance faces the Kaminarimon and Senso-ji to create a relationship between the building and the historical context. The entrance is placed strategically along with the Nakamise Street axis, which shows tribute from the postmodernism building to the history.

## PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

This complex building has a plural program that included a tourist information center, a conference hall, a multipurpose hall would accommodate and an exhibition space. Visitors are able to go an observation deck on the eighth floor. It's possible to get a bird's-eye view of a town of TOKYO SKYTREE and Asakusa from the deck.

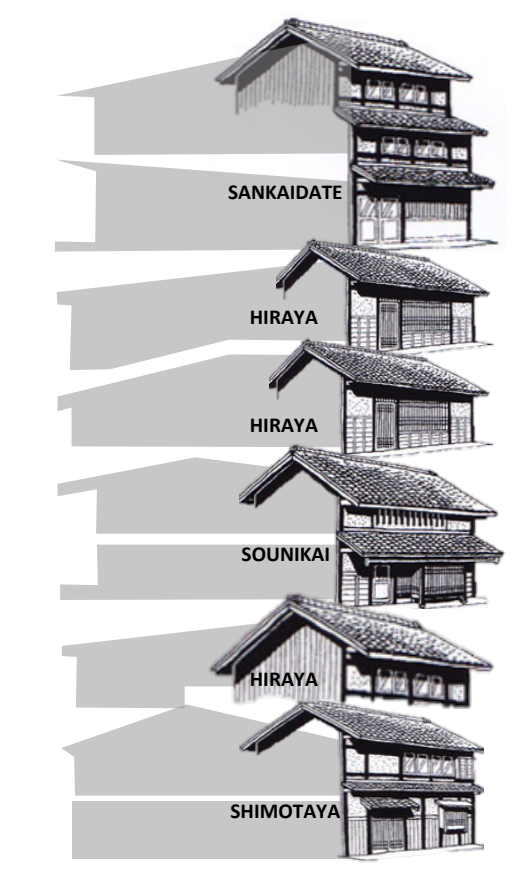


The first and second floor are the Information center that performs by Multilingual languages. This open space has an atrium and indoor stairs, creating a sequence in which visitors can feel the inclination of the two roofs.

## VISUAL MAKING ELEMENTS

		The vertical louvers diffuses its verticality to emphasize the roof and floor, a reminder of Wa(和), in harmony to the earth and sky. It also a tie between the building to Kaminari Gate and Temple.
		The interior wall of the building are clad with larch and oak different design iteration such as horizontal trellis and origami-inspired folds.
		The glass curtain wall is used on façade which redefined Shoji paper. It allows clear view but also reflects the skyline which does not reveal the interior directly.
		The pergola rooftop is a reinterpreted version of the baked-tiles roof of Machiya, traditionally the wooden boards weighed down with stones.

## FORM OF THE BUILDING

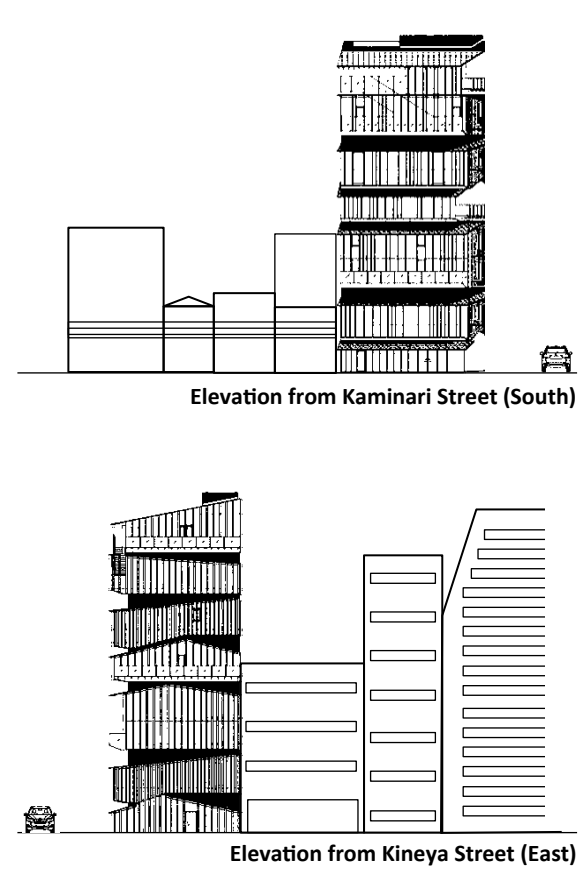


The disciplinary framework of the building typology is refined as "a stack of Machiya houses" to retrace the vernacular identity of Asakusa. The Machiya style is adapted in this building to help renece the "Shitamachi" context making locals or visitors feel a sense of belonging of Edo atmosphere.

The building consists 4 types of Machiyas; Hiraya, Shimotaya, Sounikai and Sankaidate stacked together to create asymmetrical perspectives toward outside at different floors, that embrace Oku(asymmetry).

The materials are kept minimal to emphasize the organization and arrangement of material.

## SKYLINE, COMPRESSION AND HEIGHT



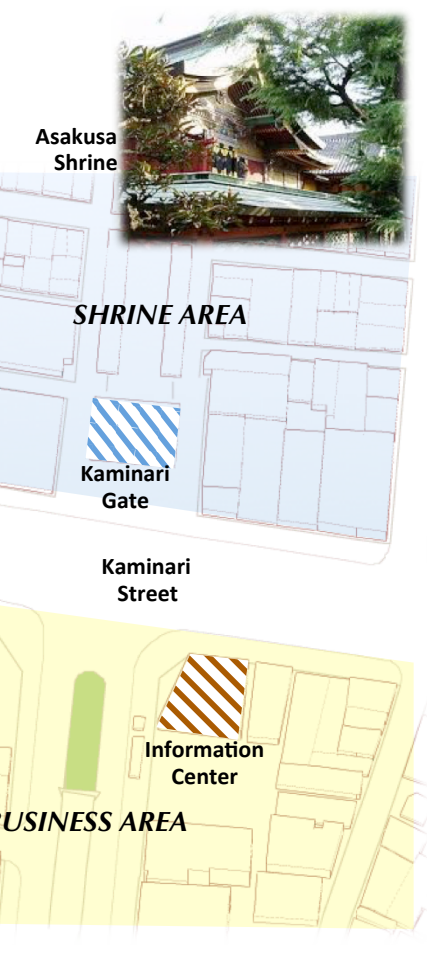
•Height : 39m, 8floor  
The building faces two big streets; Kaminari Street on south and Kineya Street on east.

Along Kaminari Street is an old shopping district which consists of two or three floor's shophouses (8-15m height). So when we see the skyline from the street, the 39m building is too high and too symbolic.

From Kineya Street, the skyline seems in harmony. Kineya Street was redeveloped recently, so the surroundings are new and big compression buildings which are 30-40m height. We can see the difference of skyline between these two streets.

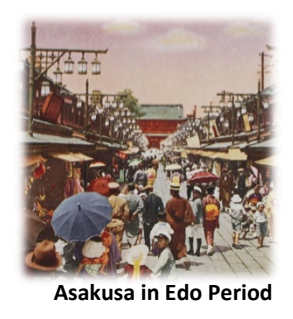
## SITE CONTEXTS

This information center is located in Asakusa area which is the Shitamachi area of Tokyo, away from flashy lights and business centers. Shitamachi means downtown, but it also refers to the physical level of the land. There is a big gate in front of the building which is called Kaminari Gate. The gate is a symbol of Asakusa area and also a boundary business center and a Shrine area. Visitors are attracted to Nakamise shipping street from the gate. The street is the only path to get to the shrine. The south side of the building is just a commercialized busy area. We can not find any traditions and cultures.



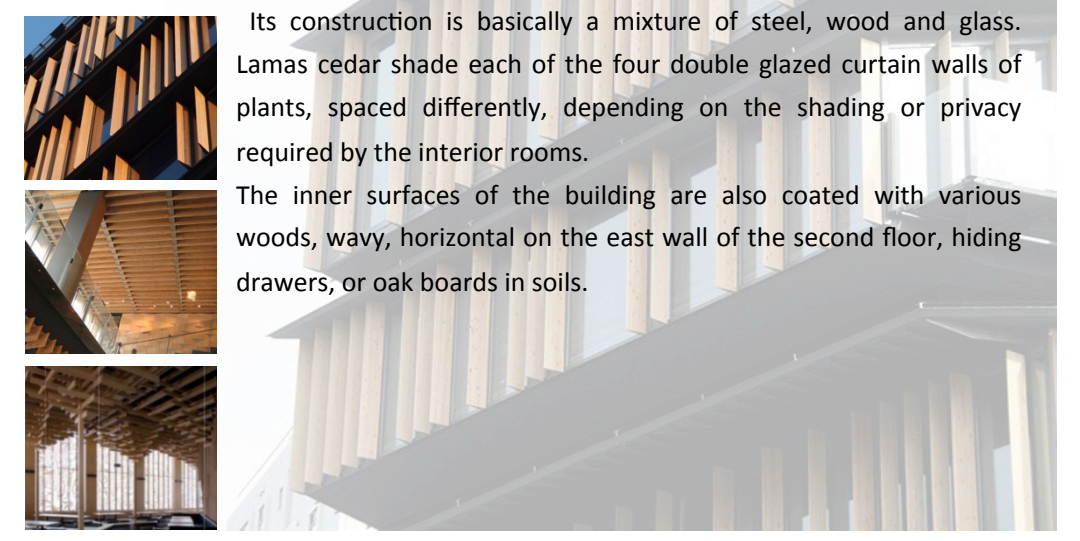
## DIMENSIONS OF HISTORY AND SOCIAL MEMORIES

For many centuries, Asekusa used to be Tokyo's leading entertainment district during the Edo Period(1603-1868) when the district was still located outside the city limits, Asakusa was the site of kabuki theaters, movie theaters and hotels. However, large parts of Asakusa were destroyed in the air raids of World War Two. And while the area around the rebuilt shrine has regained its former popularity after the war.



In the present day, this atmosphere still remains in the small shops and restaurants that have remained in more or less the same state since then, giving this townscape a charming, 'Japanese' air to it that attracts hundreds of visitors every day. The opening of subway station and the 634 meter tall Tokyo Skytree, a twenty minute walk from Asakusa, have led to an increase of tourists recentry. The Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center opened in 2012. The main facility is a convenient sightseeing and geographical information center with staff and guidance in four different languages on hand.

## BUILDING MATERIAL AND SYSTEMS



Its construction is basically a mixture of steel, wood and glass. Lamas cedar shade each of the four double glazed curtain walls of plants, spaced differently, depending on the shading or privacy required by the interior rooms. The inner surfaces of the building are also coated with various woods, wavy, horizontal on the east wall of the second floor, hiding drawers, or oak boards in soils.

As a composition of stacked layers, the architect takes what would otherwise be a fragmented accumulation and its facade conceals long vertical members, a reinterpretation of the traditional lattice facades. This does not only provide a concise picture of construction in general, but gently illuminates the way.

