

---

## Yasui Architects & Engineers, Tokyo Office “Mitoshiro Creative District” Obtaining the WELL Gold Certification (WELL V2)

---

Yasui Architects & Engineers, Tokyo Office “Mitoshiro Creative District” has received the WELLv2 Gold Certification from the WELL Building Standard (or “WELL”), a building health performance rating system established in the US.

### The independent WELL certification process

We sought to pursue the independent WELL certification process with the unique and unconventional prioritization of our staff and visitors’ ease, comfort, focus, communication, relaxation, and self-directed events and activities.

The six concepts and innovation styles presented by the Tokyo Office “Mitoshiro Creative District” have also all been highly regarded and acclaimed by other international certification bodies. We will continue striving to create ever-evolving work environments based on our principles and actions, conveying them to the world.



### Concept 1: Opening up to the community

Kanda is an area brimming with a rich heritage and culture. We constantly consider how our new office can add to the value of the neighborhood. The first floor was designed to be an open space not only used by working employees but also by local residents to visit, gather, and interact.

The ever-present stimulation offered by the rich culture of the Kanda community encourages our employees to maintain outward-looking and creative mindsets.



## Concept 2: Using the memories of the area

The new office is in a building with a 60-year history. In a city where new things are constantly being born, we revisited the origins of architecture. By paying attention to the “history” weaved into this particular location and excavating the value that the architecture already possesses, the new office functions as a bridge instead of simply renewing the building, conveying the many memories fostered there. With renovations that express the original value of the building, a distinct space where old and new elements coexist could be achieved.



Exterior view at the time of completion (about 60 years prior) (Courtesy of Obayashi Corporation)



Exterior/seismic renovations in 2002; exterior(partial)/interior/facility renovations in 2024

## Concept 3: A place for connection

By allowing light and air to flow through the atrium, people and information can move without restriction between the first and third floors. The unrestrained creativity generated by chance encounters and exchanges starts on the first floor, connected to the town, continuing through an open stairwell, inviting circulation to the second and third floors. This promotes the free flow of employees, facilitating information sharing and creative collisions. The intention was to establish a hub in this place, which has transformed into a creative source, generating ideas and societal values to support the future. The “One Office” has increased the number of steps employees take by 25% in a day (compared to the former office), also benefiting employee wellness.

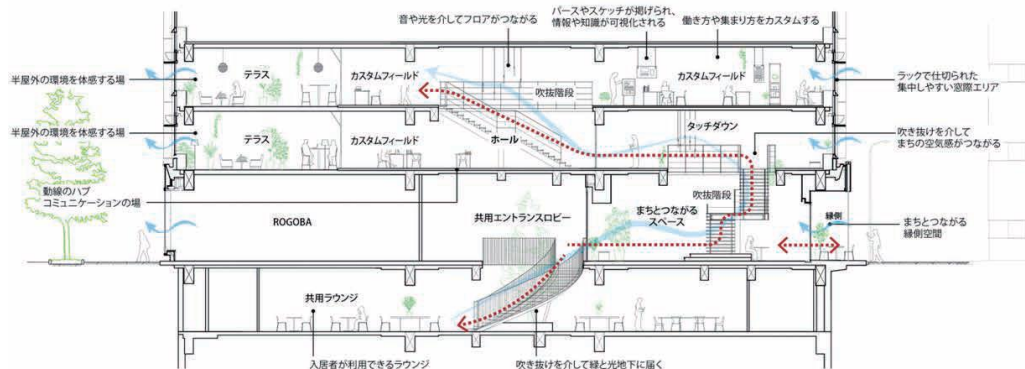
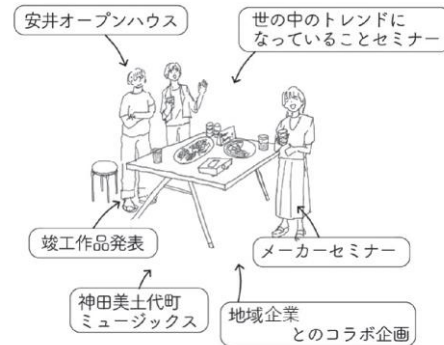


Figure first published in Shinkenchiku, June 2024.

#### Concept 4: A place for independent planning and implementation

Attention was given not only to hardware but also to meticulously constructing a design process enabling every individual employee to proactively do what they would like to do, centered on “arranging work conditions, including the work environment, people, and style, to be conducive to creativity.” With individual activities always altering the workspace scenery, it becomes a place for not only work but also growth.



#### Concept 5: In harmony with the environment

We took an approach of steering clear of large-scale construction and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reusing the existing building in consideration of maintaining harmony with the environment. This resulted in energy savings of more than 40%. As a design firm with the responsibility and vision for a sustainable future, various methods and innovations were implemented, such as environmental control and biophilic design.



#### Concept 6: Transformation and growth

Freely customizable “Blank space” was left to meet the changing needs of our employees and the local community. The workspace transforms and grows with the autonomous thoughts and actions of the employees. That change in the environment naturally promotes change in the minds of those who work there as well. The flexible and ever-evolving space will become a place that grows and develops with those who gather there, facing the future.



Work is also an act that enriches our lives. A space that balances productivity and well-being is necessary to allow every employee to work in a healthy and fulfilling way, both mentally and physically. The touch of nature has been integrated to encourage relaxation and concentration while using the latest digital technology, such as indoor environmental control, to produce comfort regardless of seasonal and climatic changes.

#### [What is WELL?]

Developed by the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), an American public benefit corporation looking to ensure “the physical and mental health of people who spend time in these

spaces.” It is an international certification system that evaluates buildings from a health perspective. It assesses the wellness of the space’s users not only by the physical architecture and facility but also by how effectively it is used, the structures put in place to improve productivity, and a broad range of other criteria. Many companies and organizations have acquired this certification as a recognized certification system worldwide.

For more information on the WELL certification, please visit:

(English) <https://www.wellcertified.com/>

(Japanese) [https://www.gbj.or.jp/well/about\\_well/](https://www.gbj.or.jp/well/about_well/)

■ Yasui Architects & Engineers, Tokyo Office “Mitoshiro Creative District” Building Overview

Location: 1 Kanda Mitoshiro-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Year of renovation: 2024

Office area: approximately 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>

Number of employees: roughly 250 people (12 m<sup>2</sup>/person) \*as of September 2024



---

Related inquiries

Public Relations / CSR, Yasui Architects and Engineers, Inc.

E-mail [info-yasuipr@yasui-archi.co.jp](mailto:info-yasuipr@yasui-archi.co.jp)