

October 15, 2022



11:30-16:00

Iruma City, Saitama

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood in Iruma City, Saitama. The houses are mostly two-story buildings with grey roofs, interspersed with green trees. A yellow car is visible on a street in the foreground.

AIA Japan Architectural Tour JOHNSON TOWN

Photo: George Morita

JOHNSON TOWN is a residential area located in Iruma City, Saitama Prefecture. In front of the former Iruma Air Base, which was called "JOHNSON AIR BASE," a residential area for military personnel and officers called "U.S. Army House" was built before and after World War II. Approximately 20 years after the full return of Johnson Air Base to Japan, the buildings were completely dilapidated, and the town had almost become a slum.

After Tatsuo Isono, the current owner of Isono Shokai, became a president, Osamu Watanabe of Osamu Watanabe Architects involved, and this project started to restore the town by renovating the remaining houses and rebuilding the others.

By creating an environment not only for living but also for working, the community has grown into a place where families raising children, the elderly, and people with disabilities can live and work happily, where interactions take place, and where a close-knit community lives.

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