

# About GEN COMPANY

My name is Tomohiko Murakami and I am a representative of the organization, engaged in creating buildings and event space. I spent more than 10 years in the Kansai area, being trained as a “Miyadaiku”, which means a carpenter specialized in shrine and temple architecture. When I returned to my hometown, Eniwa, Hokkaido in 2012, I started refurbishing a 70-year-old farmer’s house and a warehouse to turn them into my “base” with a help of my friends and family. There are even vegetable patches behind the house, and I named the house “Tomo no Ie.”

“Tekizai Tekisho” is a lesson widely known among Miyadaiku. It refers to each tree having individuality and a soul so the types of trees should be altered according to what we make. Having been inspired by this lesson, we set our philosophy to utilizing what we already have and working as a team. Shrines and temples require only the best part of the wood so the rest of the materials are usually discarded. (And we even have to pay for it!) Although shrines and temples remain for a long period of time by their nature, as well as the traditional techniques used in construction, both the buildings and techniques are in a non-circulative system in which we live today. Therefore I have come to think that utilizing what we already have can be a solution for the next generation. As long as we are engaged in manufacturing, we always have to deal with resource disposal issues. What if we can reduce such waste? Tomo no Ie is where I experimentally approach such issues by utilizing materials given and produced in my space.

Temples originally belonged to the land therefore it was the citizen’s work to build and maintain the buildings. Miyadaiku not only design, manage projects and construct but also distribute

appropriate resources to carry out a project. Its construction period is usually longer than building general residential homes so that the relationship built among the construction team and their behavior are eventually restored to the local society. Having been trained under such a philosophy, I am reminded to work with a team. Although the value of craftsmanship is reevaluated in today's world where technologies have been developed considerably, people have less opportunity to experience such expertise in the era of efficiency, uniformities and labor division. What is more, modern society relies on consuming provided products or services rather than creating your own. When we look back at the history of mankind, our ancestors have been inventing tools and improve them repeatedly to overcome difficulties. I strongly believe that it is necessary for us to regain such skills of "creativity" to live through the upcoming era.

As long as it's possible, we should make and repair things by our own hands. Through creation, communities grow. I hope creation by individuals will enrich our life and nurture local societies at the same time. I would like to share the joy of hand creation.



Born in Eniwa, Hokkaido in 1978, Murakami is a representative of GEN COMPANY. He works as a second level licensed architect and first class Kominka (old house) appraiser.

He graduated from The Sapporo School of The Arts with a major in industrial and architectural design and has been engaged in shrine and temple architecture mainly in the Kansai area. He returned to Eniwa in 2012. By utilizing his expertise and design skills, his work spans the fields of carpentry, architecture and design.

Name	GEN COMPANY
Incorporated	April 2012
Description of Business	<b>PRODUCING BUILDINGS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Design and delivery of temples and shrines, residential homes, commercial facilities and entertainment space.a</li></ul> <b>LIFESTYLE DESIGN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Interior, furniture and homeware design</li></ul> <b>PROPOSAL AND MANAGEMENT OF INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES THROUGH CRAFT MAKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Workshop, event and exhibition</li><li>- Management of an alternative space “Tomo no Ie 2”</li><li>- Project leader of “ARAMAKI” <a href="http://aramaki.world">http://aramaki.world</a></li></ul>
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