

Project: Blue Bottle Coffee Fukuoka Tenjin

Design Team: CASE-REAL

Size: 335.55 m<sup>2</sup>

Location: Fukuoka, JAPAN

Feature:



**Project** - Nestled within the vibrant heart of Fukuoka, the Blue Bottle Coffee Fukuoka Tenjin café stands as a captivating intersection between the bustling city and the serene tranquility of the Kego Shrine. Designed by the esteemed architecture firm CASE-REAL, this remarkable project seamlessly integrates the contrasting elements of its urban and spiritual surroundings.

At the core of the design lies a strategic decision to centralize the kitchen, transforming it into a symbolic stage that visually connects the two distinct pathways around the café. This thoughtful layout not only establishes a strong identity reminiscent of Blue Bottle's brand, but also serves to create a harmonious flow between the bustling street-facing side and the more serene approach to the shrine.

Further enhancing the spatial experience, the architects have ingeniously addressed the site's 50-centimeter height difference between the street and the shrine approach. By gradually raising the height towards the shrine, they have crafted a vibrant standing area on the street side, while the shrine-facing side offers a calming atmosphere with comfortable sofa spaces.

The material palette, featuring light beige-toned extruded cement panels and warm walnut wood, strikes a delicate balance between the urban and the natural, seamlessly blending the café's interiors with the surrounding environment. Through this thoughtful design, CASE-REAL has succeeded in creating a sanctuary that serves as a gentle link between the city and the shrine, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the unique intersection of these two distinct realms.

**Design Team** - Established in 2000 and formally founded in 2009, CASE-REAL has emerged as a renowned architecture and design firm led by the visionary designer Koichi Futatsumata. With a multidisciplinary approach, the studio specializes in crafting exceptional spatial designs, from interiors and furniture to products and architecture.

CASE-REAL's portfolio showcases a remarkable ability to seamlessly blend cutting-edge creativity with a deep understanding of each project's unique environment and objectives. Guided by Futatsumata's keen eye for detail and innovative mindset, the talented team at CASE-REAL consistently delivers design solutions that are not only visually striking but also functionally and conceptually robust.

The firm's diverse range of accolades, including prestigious awards and global recognition, such as shortlistings for the Dezeen Awards and the FRAME Awards, underscores the studio's exceptional prowess in the architectural design industry. CASE-REAL's work has been featured in renowned publications and has even found a permanent home in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, solidifying its reputation as a formidable force in the world of design.