outdoor deck, equipped with a seating area (enclosed by a low wall), kitchen and shower. A series of ladders and skylights connect the roof with the rooms below, so that each family member has their own means of access to the deck, like rabbits bolting up and down from their individual burrows.

Supported on slim laminated timber columns, the overhanging roof acts like a two-way spanning flat slab. Two double-skinned layers of structural plywood panels enclose a gridded core of 105mm square section timber members. This reduces the depth of the structure and gives the roof an elegantly thin profile.

Although the distinct lack of a handrail may induce palpitations in district surveyors and anyone with young children, the family seem entirely at ease with the roof-as-room arrangement, shinning nimbly up and down their ladders to eat, play, shower, sunbathe, converse, contemplate the view and even practise musical instruments. Their former house had a smaller and steeper roof, so in this respect, the new purpose-designed deck is a much more practical proposition. Despite being dependent on the agility of its occupants and the clemency of the weather, this little house shows what can be achieved with a minimum of resources and a slightly unconventional architectural imagination. C. S.

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Photographs
All photographs by Katsuhiro Kida except no. 1 which is by Shinkenchiku-sha