establish the height of the
envelope’s elongated aperture.
The duality is therefore not only
one of permeability, air of solid
and void (with the architects
likening the form to a pair of
uneven parallel bars), but also
one of controlled views, framing
the sky above the street and
giving a low level panorama
of the garden; a view cone
that incidentally and rather
cunningly maintains views of the
grandparents’ home while giving
privacy from big brother above.
The cross section also assists
cross ventilation with warm air
naturally exiting via the high-
level strip windows.
With this project, Tezuka
Architects’ playful twist
undoubtedly lies in the nine
sliding doors that allow the
house to completely open
to address the newly defined
garden. Not a new idea,
perhaps, but nevertheless an
exceptionally strong formal
move. Unlike many Japanese
homes, this one has real
capacity, easily accommodating
50 people at its inaugural party
which made maximum use of its
prestigious garden; an occasion
which led to the naming of this
fine home as the Engawa House
—a name that derives from the
Japanese for a multifunctional
enclosed verandah, protected by
sliding doors. Simple, direct and
delightfully translated.

ROB GREGORY

Site area: 1 Ha
Built area: 78 sqm
Floor area: 70 sqm

Architect
Tezuka Architects, Tokyo

Photographs
Edouard Surenner/VIEW

1. entrance (through cupboard)
2. garage
3. cellar
4. bedroom
5. bathroom
6. bedroom

Floor plan (scale approx. 1:125)

3.

The street route the density of
adjacent houses, separated whether
from winter by just 50cm.
3.6

A single volume house with an
imperceptible section addressing
the garden. The bedrooms lie in
the only cellular space.