

stepping-stones house



"Besides being a "sonata", this Requiem is also a dream, during which my character will meet both the living and the dead on equal terms: people, things and places that were, perhaps, in need of a prayer, a prayer that my character can only express in his own way, through a novel."

What a house can be

The words "house" and "family"

Especially in the old days, the word "house" tended to be synonymous with "family". In Japanese, we sometimes use the word "house" as "family" and, in fact, the word "家族:family" is made from two characters "家:house" and "族:group (or tribe)". I think there should be this kind of recognition of the word "house" in not only my country but also in other countries.

However, the meaning of a marriage or family has changed and now we can be individuals in economical terms or in any terms. In other words, it's not necessary to stay and work with a family, and "house" is not always synonymous with "family".

Hence there can be many choices and we can have really individual lifestyles. For example, some husbands and wives live separately from the beginning, and have their own separate living space. They have decided to live in this way as a family.

A house as a personal possession

Thus I think a house, especially a house for one person, can be like a personal possession. In other words, it can be like a car or clothes for us. A house can be made for self-satisfaction or to attract people. Also a house can show your opinion.

Of course it's not economical or ecological to build a house for only one person and we should not build only this kind of house. However, we should remember a house could be like a personal possession and it can be really original and a deeply personal space.

stepping-stones house



one possibility, a house as your story

This project "stepping-stones house" is made to illustrate one possibility of a house. I think a house can be like your inner world or your way of living. We could live in the house as if we are living in our own inner world, our story. I hope this house will be an incentive to remember that there can be more possibilities of houses.



Stepping-stone House

The house for "I" in Requiem written by Antonio Tabucchi

Who "I" is

One day, he walks around Lisbon as if he was flowing in a stream or as if he was trying to find the right places for himself. He meets a variety of people or things, and has a diversity of experience at various places. And this day itself, which is sometimes like a dream sometimes like a reality, becomes a requiem for him.

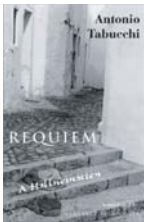
From ordinary scenes, in other words, from normal life he finds something important for himself. He can listen to the song from the series of events as if each event is a code or each person, words or things are notes.



Like a stepping-stones

I think his way of living is like stepping-stones. He is in the stream of the life and he choose the scenes some how intentionally, some how unconsciously.

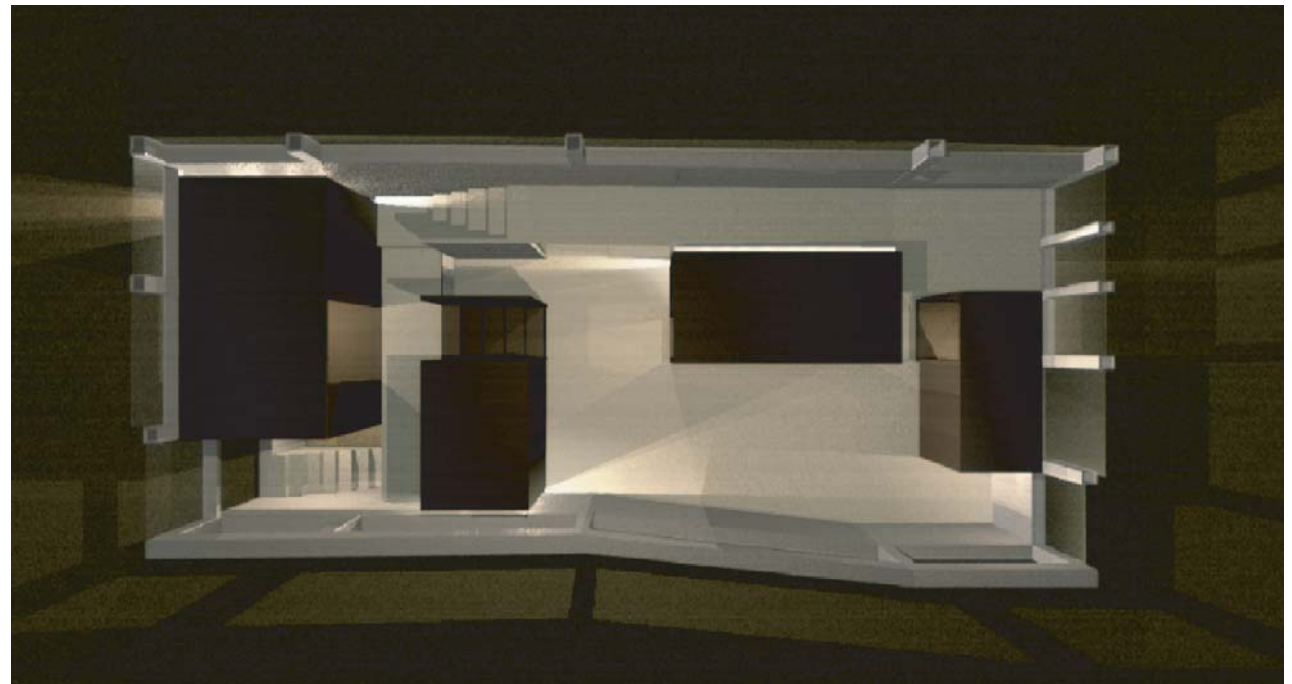
Stones change the direction of the stream and create specific places. He can feel the beat of the river or the world itself. He can feel the song of the wind and sunlight. I think his house can be this kind of place.



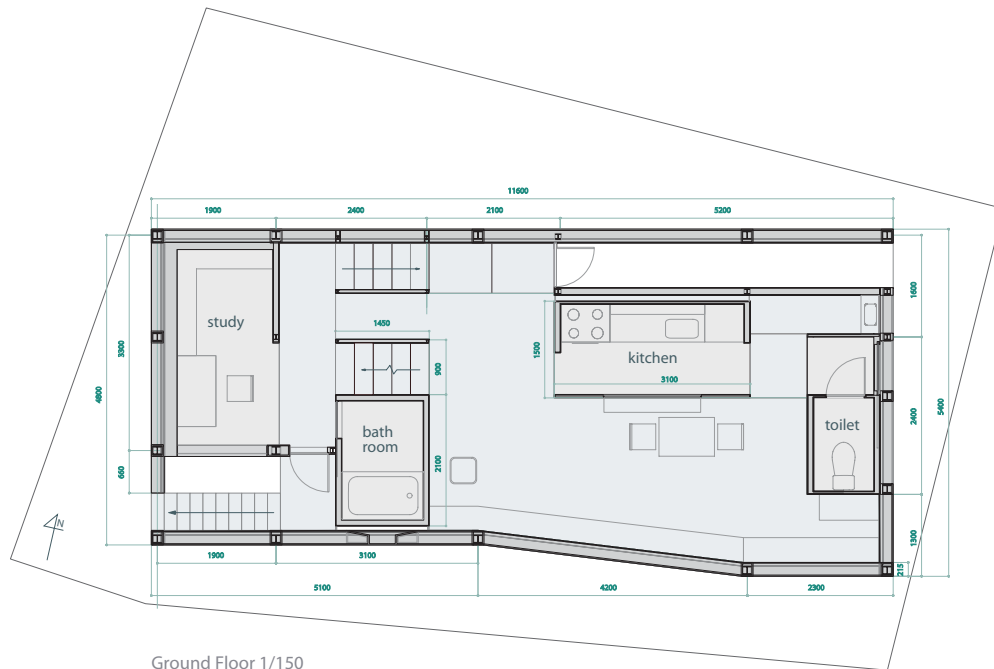
Though the requiem he composes is not magnificent, it is pure and eternal. It is the beauty of ordinary scenes. It is the beat of the world.

Imagine he lives there, as if he steps stones, and feels the rhythm.

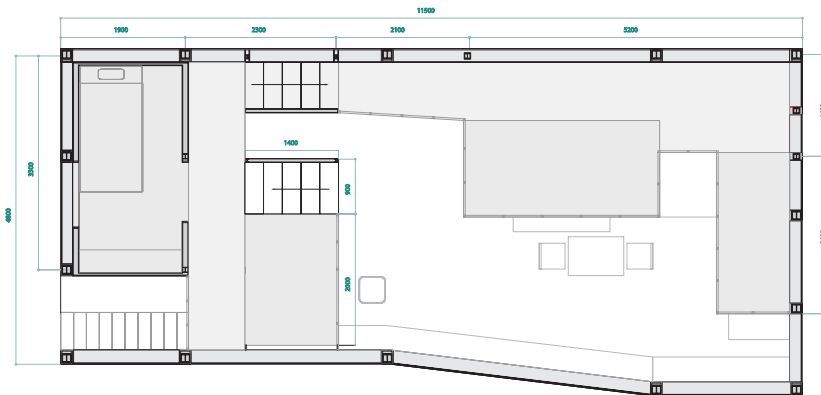
Imagine he lives there, as if he stays on a stone, and listens to a song of the silence.



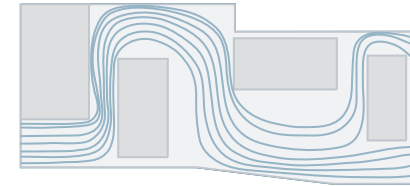
Lights as streams The spaces between walls and boxes are used for indirect lightning. At night, he stays in a stream of the light as if he is in a stream of a river.



Ground Floor 1/150



First Floor 1/150

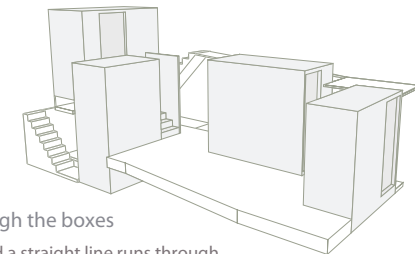


Rooms as stones

In this house, rooms are like boxes and these are laid out as the stepping-stones. Boxes create several spaces, which are not completely separated from others.

Stepping from one box to another, he lives here.

He walks like a stream and from time to time he finds a right place for his feeling. He may read books there. He may lie there and listen to the beat of something.



The line, which goes through the boxes

The boxes are half opened and a straight line runs through, then the line works as a backbone of this house or his life and sunlight from the west flows through it.

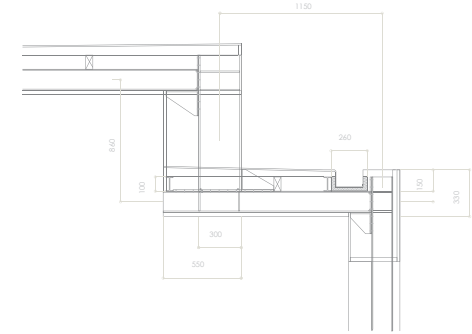
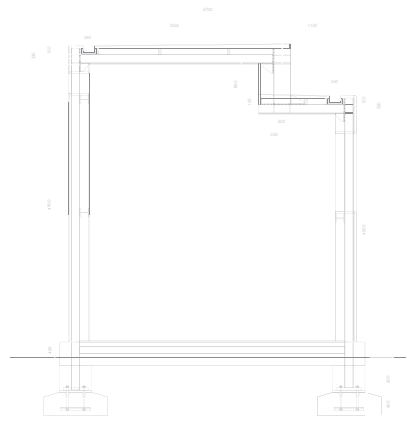


SECTION 1/150

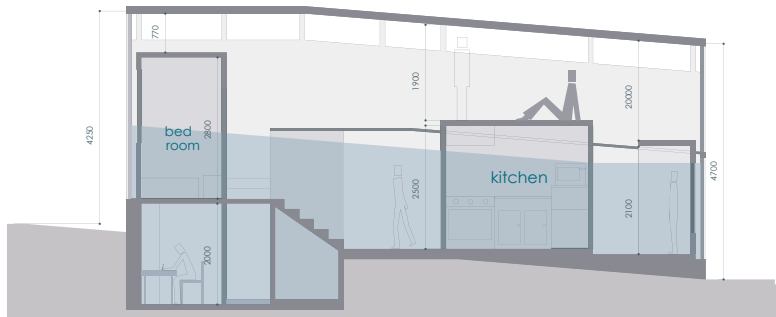


"I'm happy with the noises that drift up from the street, which bear no message and are lost, just as we are lost."

On the ground floor, he is in the stream of the world or his ordinary life.
On the first floor, he can be separated from the main stream and, in the silence, he can listen to the music of the stream.

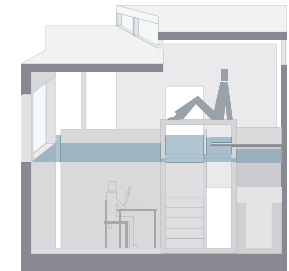
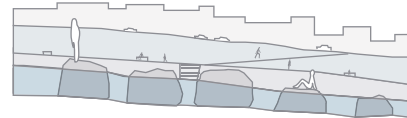


SECTION 1/150



The line of window

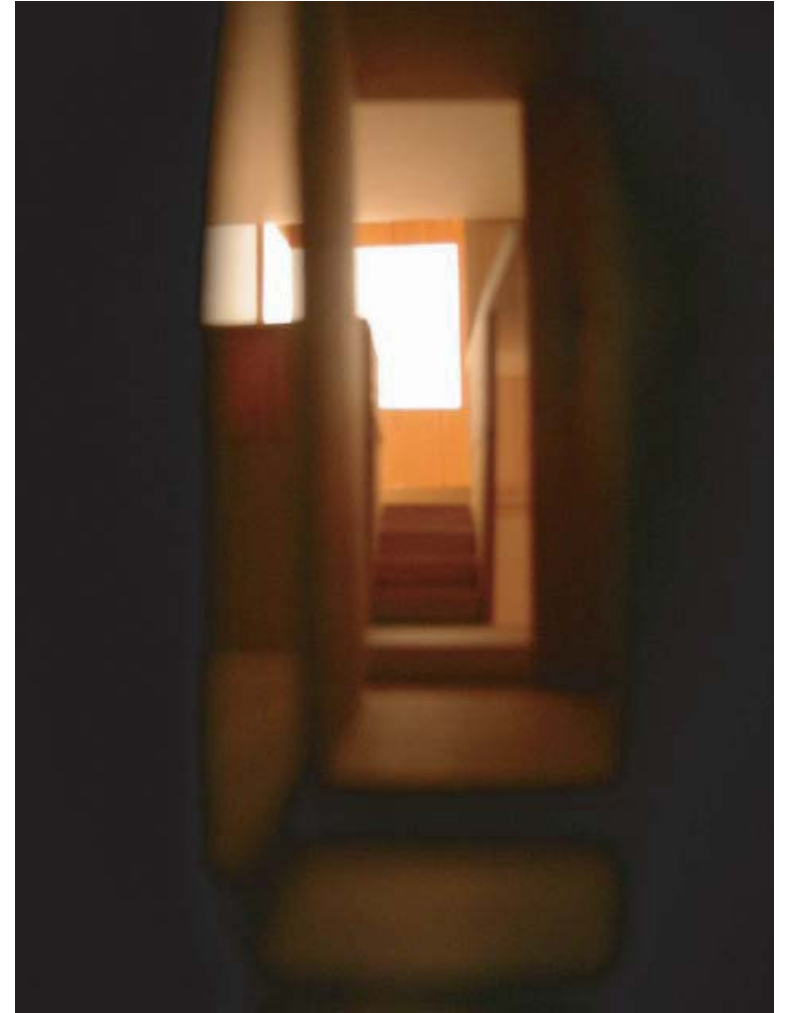
When you imagine the bottom lines of the south side window as the level of a river, and imagine those the of north side windows as the line of the bank.



SECTION 1/150

Views from the top of boxes

On the boxes, the sights he can see when he stands up or sits down are different as if we can see the outline of the city on the stepping-stone when we raise our eyes up.



"The garden was plunged in silence, a cool breeze had got up, it caressed the mulberry leaves. Good night, I said, or rather, goodbye. Who or what was I saying goodbye to? I didn't really know, but that was what I felt like saying, out loud. Goodbye and good night to you all, I said again. Then I leaned my head back and looked up at the moon."

Antonio Tabucchi (translated from the Portuguese by Margarer Jull Costa)
Requiem: a hallucination (W.W. Norton: 1994)