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Needed Shelter

Images: AaDa

The Chen house is realized on an old Japanese cherry-farm in the Datun -mountains of North-Taiwan by [Marco Casagrande](#) and Frank Chen. It is designed as a vessel to react on the demanding wind, flooding and heat conditions on the site. The house is a stick raised above the ground in order to let the flood waters run under. The different spaces are connected to a flexible movement within the axis of outdoor and indoor functions.

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The smaller bathroom and kitchen unit act as a kicker stabilizing the wooden structure during the frequent typhoons and earthquakes.

The bioclimatic architecture is designed to catch the cool breeze from the Datun River during the hot days and to let in the small winds circulating on the site between the fresh water reservoir pond and the farmlands. A fireplace is used during the winter for heating and for cooking tea. In connection with the bathroom is a small sauna.

The house is not strong or heavy – it is weak and flexible. It is also not closing the environment out, but designed to give the farmers a needed shelter.

Project: Chen house

Location: Sanjhih, Taipei County, Taiwan

Architects: Marco Casagrande and Frank Chen

Site: 3890 sq m

Building foot print: 138 sq m

Interior space: 62,5 sq m

Completed: 2008

author: Katerina Tasheva date: 11 March, 2009

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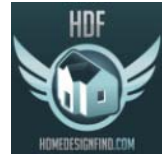
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