





1

Relax Space



2

Dinning Space

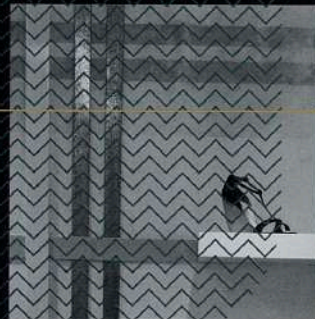


3

Leisure Space



X SPACE



Riccardo Tossani Architecture

Italian apparel designer GAS commissioned Riccardo Tossani Architecture to design the fashion house's first standalone store in Japan to reflect the retailer's graduation to a more avantgarde image. The design concept seeks to express this image change through themes of evolution and connection with the vibrant local street culture of Omotesando, Tokyo.

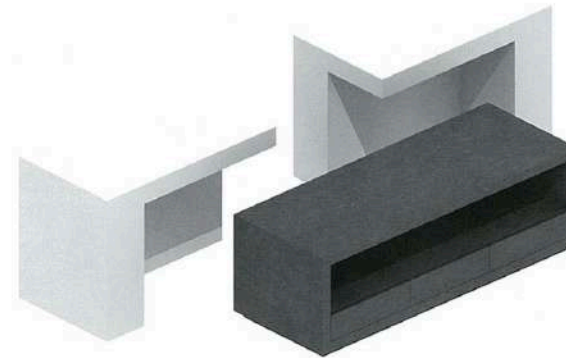
As a multidisciplinary design practice, Riccardo Tossani Architecture approached the project simultaneously as an interlaced architectural, urban and interior design. Portions of the existing ground floor slab, facade and internal finishes were removed to allow a complete reinvention of the tenancy into a space that expresses transformation while at the same time preserving the building's cultural history.

The façade was designed with folded sheets of zinc, a material chosen specifically for its rapid changes in coloration under natural and city environmental influences. The facade wraps through large windows to the inside of the store, and with a timber piazza which continues the level of the shop floor into the

street, allows the store and urban environment to interact. Similarly, the street alignment, subtly offset from that of the building, is carried into the store through the lighting geometry.

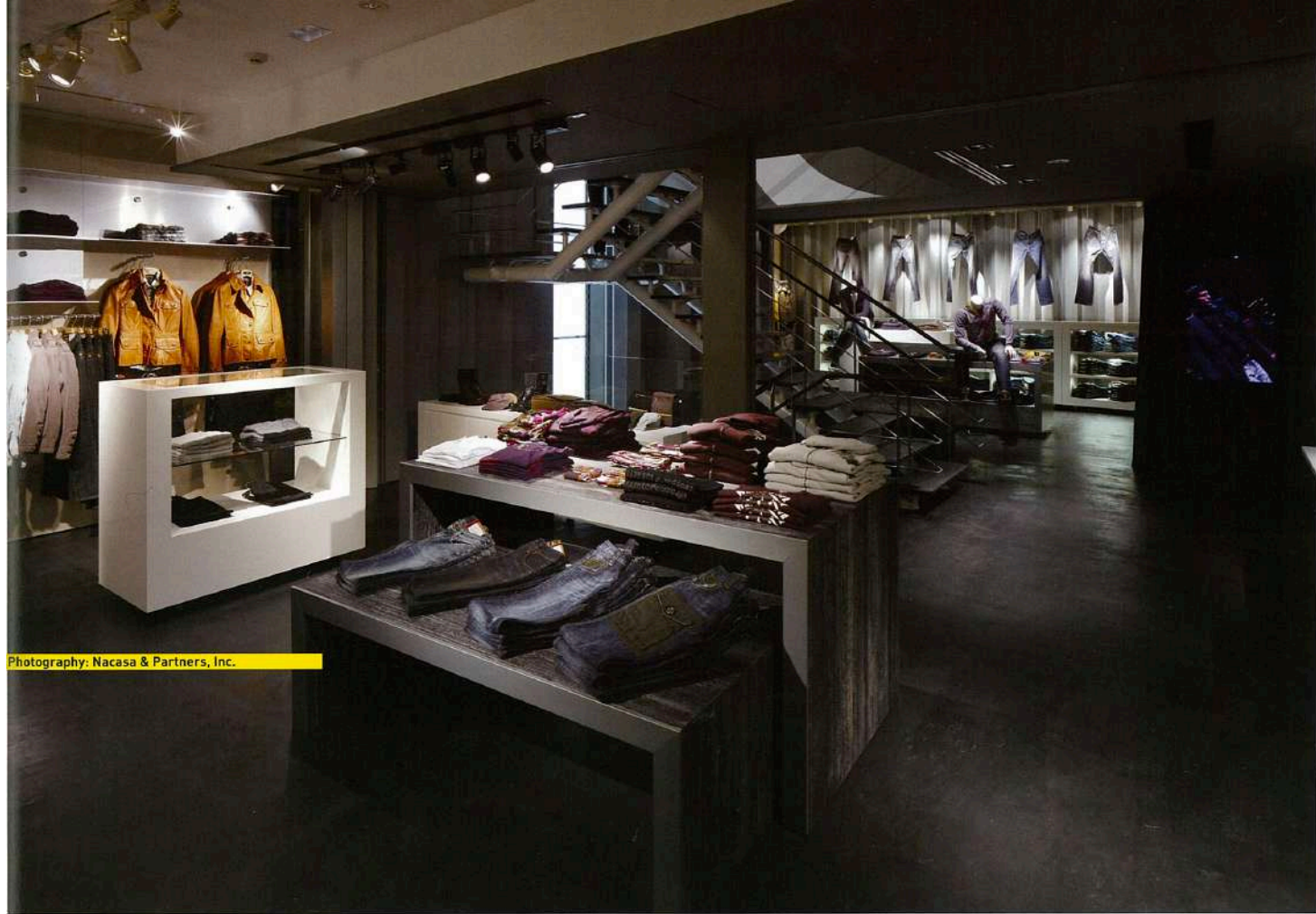
Two new floors were inserted to create a three level volume, the whole connected by a light steel stair with raw timber treads enveloped by the fluid murals of Kami, a renowned Japanese graffiti artist. Each level has its own character; exposed concrete and stone in the basement speak of the building's origins, the ground floor and its terrace embrace the activity of the street, while the show space layout of the first floor encourages customers to linger.

Throughout, the Japanese concept of "wabisabi" is integrated – plain timber, stone, concrete and steel express this philosophy of the "unfinished", surfaces whose patina will develop unique character over time, and perpetuate the underlying theme of evolution.



Project: GAS Japan Flagship Store, Tokyo, Japan





Photography: Nacasa & Partners, Inc.

