We want to create a façade that feels like animal skin. The skin of living things has thickness. The thickness balances environmental differences between the inside and the outside of the body. And this thickness is gained from accumulated layers. In my view, façade of architecture can be thick with the existence of layers, therefore must be much thicker and more stratified. Accumulated layers show that the exterior changes gradually towards the interior – outdoor to indoor.

By being layered, the skin could become a structure to support architecture. The skin of sea cucumber is a great reference for this. Their bone is not located at the center of the body. It is broken into pieces and tucked into the skin. In my design also, bone is often scattered into the skin and the two elements are indistinguishable. As the result, such skin with thickness becomes soft and warm. Stroking it is so relaxing – like when you caress your sweetheart.

Exterior Wall with Thickness

Kengo Kuma & Associates

Sunny Hills Omotesando
Tokyo (J) 2012

Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center
Tokyo (J) 2012

GC Prostho Museum Research Center
Aichi (J) 2010

Chokkura Plaza
Tochigi (J) 2006