

UDLM

12

vol.300

Dec. 31th
2020

Staggered Moments of
Urban Planning in Three Countries

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It is not very difficult to find the staggered moments throughout the course of history of Urban Planning between each country. Let's have a look at the discussion with the foreign OB/OG of the Lab.

The photo was taken near Sogen Temple, Takayama City, Gifu, Japan

URBAN DESIGN LAB. MAGAZINE

Urban Planning & Design Dialogue

- Discuss about the Current Situation and Future of Urban Planning with Foreign OB/OG -

In the December number of the Lab Magazine, we invited CHI san (Vietnam) and FU san (China), who got their PhD. at the University of Tokyo, to join a session with Nakajima sensei. We found that both Vietnam and China are

facing the changing period of Urban Planning. Let's have a look at these issues they are facing now, and figure out how they tried to deal with it by applying the knowledge they've learned from Urban Design Lab and Japan.

Introduction of the Guests

DR. Naoto NAKAJIMA
 - Associate Professor of Department of Urban Engineering (the University of Tokyo, Japan)
 - March 2015 Associate Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University- April 2013
 - PhD (The University of Tokyo, Japan)- 2006

DR. Le Quynh CHI
 - Vice-leader of Department of Urban Planning (University of Civil Engineering, Vietnam)
 - President of NUCE Urban Planning and Development Association, Vietnam
 - M.Eng., PhD (The University of Tokyo, Japan)-2009

DR. Shulan FU
 - Associate professor of the Department of Urban Planning (Zhejiang University, China)
 - KFAS-Kyujanggak Fellow (2018-2019) at Seoul National University
 - PhD (The University of Tokyo, Japan)- 2012

N = DR. Naoto Nakajima C = DR. Le Quynh CHI F = DR. Shulan FU S = Students

Q 1. The Current Works

The main contents of their current work on Urban Planning & Design/Research interests/Recent concerns on Urban Planning, life.

C I have been working as a lecturer in Vietnam for almost ten years.

I am now the president of the University of Civil Engineering(Vietnam), instructing undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students in the Department of Urban Planning in NUCE.

After graduating from the University of Tokyo, I worked as a project researcher with Nishimura sensei in Japan for a year and a half. Then I returned to Hangzhou (China), which is my hometown and the location of my PhD thesis. I am currently a lecturer in the Department of Original and Urban Planning of Zhejiang University, while also continuing my study of urban history.

In addition, I got the chance to work as a visiting scholar at Seoul National University in Korea from 2018 to 2019.

Q 2. The Current State of Both Nations in Urban Planning & Design

Topics on top-down & bottom-up issues/the relationship between Urban Planning and Conservation/ Urban Design and Urban Planning

C The urban planning landscape in Vietnam is undergoing transformation in recent years. Consequently, the research works and lectures on urban planning are also changing.

Besides teaching, we are going to research with the government, while trying to make an impact on government policies.

China is also experiencing a significant transformation in the field of Urban Planning. Ministry of construction might lose its power in the future, with the authority shifting to the Ministry of Natural Resources.



CHI san mentioned that their current work has a very strong relationship with national policy. I think the relationship between universities and the government might differ from country to country. That kind of top-down method is not very common in Japan.
 What kind of project and works are your lab and students doing now?

Our students are trying to implement effective and innovative means of urban planning by working with the government, while working with the community as well.

N I agree with you. I think the balance between working with the national government and local community is very important.



I think the community power is based on **the right of land** as for China. The residents in urban areas seemed to be weak about this because they don't own the right to their lands.

- F** But I think in some **rural areas**, it might be possible for the local community to have more influence on urban construction. For instance, in the rural areas, which seems to be more conserved in Zhejiang, there are some **community-based planning**. Most of my current projects are based on historical towns and villages. But since we have a national guideline on the design of this kind of planning, you would have to adhere to the guideline to obtain a development permit.

I have also been involved in **conservation projects in Vietnam** in the past couple of years. Our team is making the policy for the government. We also have strict guidelines on the project, and sometimes there are some conflicts between the residents and the government.



- C** For example, we have a vision on the conservation of a village by applying the methods I learned in Japan. But the new local leadership **prefers development to conservation**. Recently, the government made some plans which seemed to be very good for development, but would not significantly benefit the living standards of the local people.

I remember once I asked Nishimura sensei **why we needed to conserve** this area, he said that the most important thing is to improve the life of the local residents. So I have been struggling to deal with these problems for a very long time.



Sometimes I feel the characteristics of Urban Planning is mainly about promoting development instead of conservation.

I think you are now moving to the point of **creating a connection between the fields of Urban Planning and Conservation**.

Do you have conservation courses in the Urban Planning department in your country?

We only have conservation courses for graduate courses. **F**

- C** Since I am in charge of the building program, we have a conservation course for both undergraduate and graduate studies in urban planning. I set these because I think it's very important for students to become more open minded and give careful consideration to that.

I think this issue might also be related to **the characteristics of each city**. **N**

- S** What do you think about **the differences between Urban Planning and Urban Design** in each country?

We have an Urban planning system that is similar to the construction planning system with more focus on **physical design**. **C** Urban Design is one part of Urban Planning according to the regulations in Vietnam, which means that when we do master planning, we will also do the proposals for the urban design framework. Moreover, Urban Design in Vietnam focuses more on physical design.

Recently, the country is encouraging the professionals to do some strategic planning as well.

- N** When it comes to the differences between Urban Planning and Urban Design in Japan, I think Urban Design is one part of Urban Planning, which seems to be the same structure as the one in Vietnam.

Personally, I think Urban Design is highly integrated with Urban Planning, Architecture and Landscape.

Since Urban Planning is established for a longer period of time, it may be a more **complex system** which includes both physical planning and design, as well as the discussions on social and historical issues.

Q 3. The Experience form Japan

The most important thing learned from the Lab or other experiences in Japan



I think the most important thing is that I have developed my **communication skills** through the machizukuri projects. It was a very good experience to interact with people from all walks of life.

Another important brought up in different culture I've learned is that **what is good research**.

I learned something about **methodology**. For example, how to approach and solve problems, and I have acquired **advanced knowledge** that I started to experience after ten years in Vietnam.



- C** Furthermore, I learned a lot about **conservation** from the projects in the Lab, like how to work with the community and collect information, etc. I worked with Kubota sensei about these even after I came back to Vietnam.



Not only have we learned from the lab, we have also learned from you through our interactions on different cultures, and discussions on Urban Planning, etc. It is great for us to have this kind of online session. Let's keep in touch with each other.

P.S. Thank you very much for participating. Merry Christmas and hope you have the best of luck in the year to come in advance.

Talk about yourself!

Introduction of International Students

There are 4 international students in our laboratory. Although some of them are joining in the laboratory projects, it seems there is seldom opportunity to introduce themselves. So I hope this article helps everyone to know them and start to communicate!

QUESTION : 1.Where are you from? / 2.Alma mater / 3.Why do you come to Japan? / 4.The favorite place in your country.



KIM Youngjoon (D1)

1. Seocho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
2. Yonsei University
3. To study urban planning history deeply and experience the life in Tokyo metropolitan area

4. Until 1960s, south of Hangang river, Gangnam area, was not developed at all. But during Korean economic miracle in 1970s and with 1988 Seoul Olympics, Gangnam area became the most wealth and highly developed urban district in South Korea. **Hangang river park and Olympic expressway** are the symbol of modern urban development in South Korea, and indispensable urban infrastructure in Seoul.



MIAO Siran (M2)

1. Kunming, Yunnan, China
2. Tongji University
3. I like Japanese culture and design, especially the conciseness and profoundness in urban and architectural space.

4. **The Old Town of Lijiang** is my favorite place and also a World Heritage Site in my hometown. It is a well-preserved ancient town with a history of about 800 years, in which you will indulge in the beauty of the ancient oriental streetscape.



CHEN Jinyu (M1)

1. Xiamen, Fujian, China
2. China Academy of Art
3. Aesthetics and attitude of Japanese art and design / Nishimura sensei's works and daily activities of Urban Design Lab

4. The history of Hangzhou centered on **West Lake** itself. There are not only **natural beauty and historical buildings** beside West Lake, but also the **residents' life** which shows the **daily stories** around West Lake over a very long time period.



YESHI Samdrup (M1)

1. Bidung, Trashigang, Bhutan
2. Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology
3. Urban Design Lab specializes in relevant field of urban planning that I want to pursue.

4. **Bumthang** is located in the centre part of Bhutan. Historically the place is very important and is one of the **most important socio-cultural centre in Bhutan**. Apart from aesthetics of the landscape, the valley houses historic monuments and settlements, which are protected till date. **The developments, emphasized on community vitality and preservation of vernacular architecture** has synced well into the existing setup.



COLUMN

BOOK OF THE MONTH



スクリーン・スタディーズ
デジタル時代の映像
／メディア経験

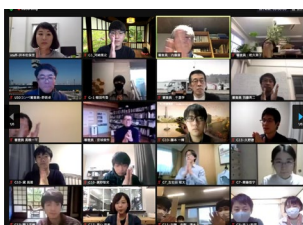
光岡寿郎、大久保達編
東京大学出版会 2019

推薦者
M2 園部

ゼロ年代を学生とした過ごした若手研究者 16 名による論文集。メディア研究と映像文化研究の間を架橋するために提示されている「スクリーン」という概念装置は、都市空間に増殖し続けるデジタル映像環境を考える新しい視座を提供しているように感じる。

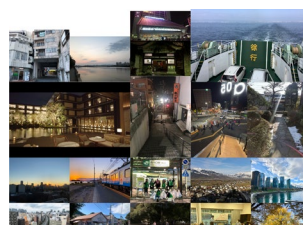
WEB MAGAZINE

続きは都市デザイン研究室 HP で！
<https://udy.u-tokyo.ac.jp/a/blog/>



ポストコロナの都市像を描く

研究室メンバーが参加した U-30 復興デザインコンペを振り返ります。コロナと絡めた復興ストーリーの構築という喫緊の課題に立ち向かいました。藤本チームが最優秀賞を受賞しました。(M1 藤本)



研究室忘年会オンライン開催

現在の状況を鑑み、オンラインで研究室忘年会を開催しました。研究室メンバーによる「今年の一枚」では、それぞれの一年を象徴する写真を、振り返りと共に紹介してもらいました。(M1 松坂)

LOOKING BACK AT DECEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2nd | スタジオ中間ジュリー |
| 4th | 富士吉田 PJ ケーススタディ説明会 |
| 5th | 復興デザインスタジオ U-30 コンペ |
| 18-19th | 上野 PJ 「塵」 路上パフォーマンス + オンライン朗読スナック |
| 19-20th | 小高 PJ リース作り |
| 23rd | スタジオ最終ジュリー |
| 25th | 研究室忘年会 |
| 研究室会議 7th,18th,25th | |

POSTSCRIPT

I'm encouraged by every teacher's strength and courage to work with different challenges in the field of Urban Planning in each country. I think studying abroad sometimes can teach us to learn from others more than schools. And it helps us to keep searching for our value. (M1 CHEN)