

# Urban Design Lab. Magazine

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interpreted by Yahara, thanks to Jack Farris

Urban Design(Nishimura & Kitazawa) Laboratory,  
The university of Tokyo

Faculty of engineering / Department of Urban Engineering  
<http://ud.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/index-j.html>

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## PROJECTS BEGIN

The activities of the projects have begun.  
How the projects' activities are going to be in 2007?

Each member of the projects told us the introduction and schedule of the projects.



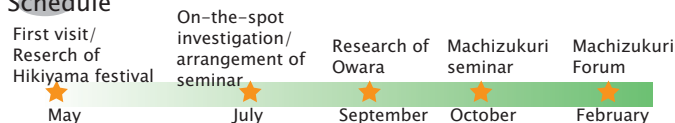
★: Plan to visit

### YATSUO 八尾 -Toyama city, Toyama prefecture-

We support machizukuri in Yatsuo, famous for the festivals called "Owara kazenobon" and "Hikiyama matsuri." Five students of master 1 course became members of the Yatsuo project, so we have 14 members in all.

Four years have passed since we started the Yatsuo project, this year is our final year. We plan to offer a proposal for revitalizing the whole

#### Schedule



town and to unify our past activities.

Until last year, we focused on Fukushima-chou, Nishi-machi, and Kamishin-machi, and this year we continue those efforts.

Our main activities are to support "machizukuri seminar" and machizukuri organization, to publish the machizukuri journal, and to hold a machizukuri forum.



(M2 Tadashi Hirabayashi)



Kitakata, in the Aizu area which is famous for its kura, is the base for our project.

Characteristic of our project is that we carry on research, planning proposals, holding events with residents' support. Last year, we carried out a "supporting landscape agreement" and a "making use of kura project."

it's been 7 years since our project began, we need

### KITAKATA 喜多方 -Kitakata City, Fukushima Prefecture-

to organize the activities which we have done. We'd like to unify our efforts this year, and to unite consciousness among local machizukuri groups and our lab.

#### Schedule



(M2 Taku Yoshida)

### TOMO 鞆 -Fukuyama City, Hiroshima prefecture-

Our project is based on Tomonoura, an old port of the Inland Sea. Now, Tomo faces a crisis relating to a trial based on land-bridge construction in June. In this situation, we carried out activities focusing on other port cities while seeking the significance of our project from last year.

This year, we plan to carry out cooperation activities like the "Minatomachi Network Setouchi." To be specific, we plan to carry out research of the history

of the Inland Sea and contemporary machizukuri at the point of "Kitamaesen(the merchant ships between Osaka and Hokkaido from Edo to Meiji era)". And to make vision for the town, as well as to propose what Tomo's machizukuri should be.

#### Schedule



(D1 Chikako Suzuki)



This project is to research the landscape characteristics of each district of Shinjuku Ward. Our research area of Shinjuku is large, not only the business district represented as subcenter. It contains a residential area from Kagurazaka in the East to Ochiai in the West.

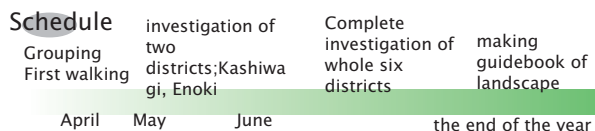
We look at areas from urban space to suburban district. With this new work, we continue our previous

### SHINJUKU 新宿 -Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo Metropolis-

efforts. This research is important because our achievements are going to be used as a base of the landscape planning. We want to do this responsibly.

(D2 Shin Nakajima)

#### Schedule



## Urban Engineering Alumni meeting

M2 Pornsan Vichenpradit

An Urban Engineering alumni meeting, which is held every five years, was held on April nineteenth. Particularly, this year general meeting and social gathering is held in honor of the 40th anniversary. Since the venue was the very exclusive hotel "Ritz Carlton Tokyo" in Tokyo Midtown, which was just opened last month. The hall was filled with many attendees even before the party started. Many people related to our lab got together, and that made the party fun. The groups mixed well. I have never seen such an opportunity that large amount of professors, alumni, and students gathered together.

Although the party was short, I realized how people from Urban Engineering connect with others.

## Kashiwa Urban Design Studio Begins

The Urban Design Studio 2007 has started. This year's theme of the studio is "to design new public spaces." We focus on six areas in Kashiwanoha and design small public spaces in each area. Students of the University of Tokyo, Tokyo University of Science, and Chiba University take part in this studio.

After walking around Kashiwanoha on April 14, now each group consist of 4-6 members to discuss what kind of building to build, and what the space is like in each site as a first stage.

At the final stage, we plan the development process from each small public space to large scale, the whole of the Kashiwanoha region. text Hiraoka



## First lab meeting in 2007 was held New members joined our lab.

Our first lab meeting was held after new members joined our lab. Eleven members joined to Urban Design Lab, and four members to Spatial Planning and Design Kitazawa lab, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences. The meeting room on the 8 floor was filled with many lab members. Started by the encouragement from both Prof. Nishimura and Kitazawa, we introduced activities of our lab, and the new member introduced themselves. WE also heard about our continuing projects: Keihin, Shinjuku, and Tomo.

After the meeting, we held a welcome party. New members had conversations and wondered things such as "which project should I choose," "what is master's course life is like?"

In the middle of the party, Mr. Hidenobu Jinnai, a professor of Hosei University who was at the same restaurant by chance appeared. And everyone got excited by seeing unexpectedly the rare gathering of the three professors.



text Shiozawa

above: at the lab meeting each new member introduced themselves  
below: welcome party at our favorite dining cafe

## introduction of new master 1 course members

|   |  |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Name<br>2. Coming from<br>3. Interests<br>4. Reason of coming to our lab.<br>5. Ambition for master's course<br>6. Future vision   | 1. Ai Kakibaya<br>2. Mathematical Engineering<br>3. walking, traveling<br>4. hope to making cities by myself<br>5. do my best from the start<br>6. make japan better | 1. Takato Kamagata<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. Urban Engineering<br>4. able to think humanscale, to draw<br>5. review from the basis<br>6. consult deliberately (but job hunting starts in a year)              | 1. Naohiro Kamenaga<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. Edo<br>4. Many things left under graduate, I want to continue until I'm satisfied.<br>5. equip myself concerning city<br>6. get a job concerning city | 1. Shuichi Kitamura<br>2. Multimedia culture, Yokohama National Univ.<br>3. traveling, cycling<br>4. visiting towns and talking with local people<br>5. Don't be defeat classmates having jobs<br>6. something about machizukuri work                                | 1. Junya Suzuki<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. tennis<br>4. there are many members<br>5. time management, having experiences abroad<br>6. developer   |
| 1. Akira Daido<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. I like Chinese history. Hobby is traveling Japan by myself<br>4. Mr. Nohara and Mr. Nakajima<br>5. go abroad!<br>6. not decided yet, researcher(?) | 1. Punnoi Nattapong<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. tennis, movies<br>4. Mr. Nohara and Mr. Nakajima<br>5. enjoy studying<br>6. not decided yet                        | 1. Yui Hiraoka<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. basketball, professional baseball, walking, people watching<br>4. seems lively<br>5. try various things positively. Just try things get interested<br>6. seeking now | 1. Keisuke Masuda<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. beer, wine, malt, Ryotaro Shiba, stringed instruments<br>4. projects seem interesting<br>5. do moderate<br>6. moderate life                             | 1. Yuri Yahara<br>2. Architecture, Hokkaido Univ.<br>3. historic preservation, traveling, walking, taking pictures<br>4. interests and projects having own theme<br>5. project activities, to improve my English<br>6. something contribute to historic preservation | 1. Nagisa Yamada<br>2. Urban Engineering<br>3. listening to music, practicing jazz piano<br>4. wanted to study under Prof. Kitazawa<br>5. to save time to sleep as long as possible<br>6. exterior designer, Mayor of Yokohama |

## 'Thinking Spaces for Making Places'

**Planning Research Conference 2007** M2 Fadzli Zubi  
10-12 April 2007, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland  
<http://www.sbe.hw.ac.uk/prc2007/>



Baba Yoshihiko and I attended the Planning Research Conference (PRC) 2007 held at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland from 10-12 April 2007. The theme of the Conference was 'Thinking Spaces for Making Places'. The annual Conference was well attended by about 100 participants including 4 plenary speakers.

The participants came from various backgrounds many of whom were University professors, lecturers, researchers and post-graduate students from Europe and also Asia. There were 4 themed paper tracks including:

1. Culture, Identity and Quality of Life;
2. Sustainable Urban Form and Growth Management;
3. Regenerating Economy, Society and Space; and
4. Regional Development and Resource Management.

I presented a paper related to my Master's research entitled 'Designing for a New Urban Image: Odaiba Waterfront City, Tokyo' whilst Baba Yoshihiko presented a paper related to his previous research entitled 'Think Space to Manage Place with Local Community - A Case Study of Shutoku District, Kyoto'. Just like the other presenters, we also received some comments and questions based on our presentations and we were more than obliged to respond to them. The three-day Conference seemed so short with many interesting papers to listen to. It was a matter of choosing which sessions suited our interests most. Having studied town planning in the UK before, both of us were delighted to get in touch again with some of the planning issues and challenges in the UK and also Europe.

Nevertheless, the Conference was not only about serious matters but also social affairs. The Secretariat organized a reception at the Edinburgh City Council City Chambers on the first evening which Baba Yoshihiko was more than happy to attend. Too bad I could not attend simply because I needed some rest after a long flight and besides I don't drink! There was also another reception on the second evening as well as a Conference Dinner for those who paid for it. Baba Yoshihiko obviously enjoyed all the nightlife and binge drinking but somehow managed to keep himself sober in the morning!

The Conference ended with a bus tour around Edinburgh on the third day. Even though it was just a brief tour, at least we got to learn something about the planning and development of some parts of Edinburgh. Among the highlights included a visit to the new Scottish Parliament Building which has a controversial design enough among the participants! Finally we parted with heavy hearts hoping to visit historic Edinburgh again in the near future.

## Symposium "Redesign of landscape" dialogue urban Engineering and information Engineering Between Japan and America

On April 25, the symposium entitled "Redesign of landscape" was held. Prof. Nishimura acted chairman, and Prof. Liebs and other two researchers; one of urban planning and the other of IT from the USA were invited as a Panelists.

This symposium aimed to discuss the possibility of new encounters among community design and IT. They discussed how to form lively community while making use of historic, cultural heritage and how IT plays a role for revitalizing community society and conomy.

In social places such as cafeterias, People should encounter others, but each stays alone; some listen to music with i-Pods and others work using personal computers which they bring. Thanks to the development of IT, it seems to affect human activities in cities by making them anti-social.

The latter of the discussion, they discussed the possibility of a spacial, urban design set in communication design as on websites.

text Shiozawa