



Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

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Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term

Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

Preface

The Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts (The Ando Program) started in 1993 when the world-renowned Osaka native, Ando Tadao, received the Carlsberg Architectural Prize in Denmark in 1992 and donated the proceeds to the government of Osaka Prefecture. The program hosted 241 excellent trainees from 19 countries and regions who were striving to become architects in Osaka. The program provided them with experiences like no other, such as joining internships at famous companies and enjoying a stay with Japanese host families.

Among the trainees that were invited to the program, some went on to study at Japanese graduate schools, some went on to work for Japanese companies, some continued to contribute as links between their home countries and regions with Japan, some went on to become educators at higher learning institutions, and some shared their knowledge of Japan to the next generation of learners. The experience gained from this training has become a valuable asset to each and every one of them.

The Ando Program, which has aimed to foster young people who will play an active role in the next generation for the promotion of the development and exchange in Asia, has come to an end in 2020 against the backdrop of the remarkable development of the Asian region and the accelerating globalization of the world.

We have been able to continue the program for 27 years with the cooperation of the Tadao Ando Architectural & Associates, host companies, and other related organizations and volunteers who agreed with the purpose of this project. Your work and gifts of cooperation will always be appreciated.

This historical program aimed to convey to many young people the significance of contributing to their home regions while having a global perspective while creating amicable relationships and exchanges between Japan and Asian countries. We have created this commemorative book with a feeling of gratitude to everyone involved.

I sincerely hope that this commemoration will reach not only the people concerned but also many other people and that the ideology behind the Ando program will be passed on to future generations.

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Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

Chairman Yoshikawa Hidetaka

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Program Overview

Purpose

By utilizing donations from architect Ando Tadao, an Osaka native, and a variety of corporate sponsors, the primary purpose of this program was to invite overseas art and architecture students and young professionals to Osaka and to help them learn about Japanese culture, art, and architecture, in addition to supporting architectural development in the participants' home countries.

Eligibility (As of 2019)

Trainees must be citizens of an Asian country, currently living in Asia, and under the age of 35 with a high level of English proficiency. The participants must also meet one of the following requirements:

- Be currently enrolled in or a graduate of a master's or doctorate program in architecture or a related field.
- Hold a bachelor's degree and currently work as an architect or in a related field.

Number of Trainees and Nationalities Total in the Program's History

19 countries, 241 trainees

Full List of Hosting Organizations

Osaka Prefectural Government, Kindai University, Kobe Design University, Osaka Prefecture University, Osaka University, and the following general construction companies in Osaka

- Asanuma Corporation - Osaka Main Office
- Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. - Head Office - Head Branch
- Konoike Construction Co., Ltd. – Osaka Main Office
- Obayashi Corporation - Osaka Main Office
- Shimizu Corporation – KANSAI Construction and Civil Engineering Headquarters
- Takenaka Corporation - Head Office - Osaka Main Office
- Zenitaka Corporation - Head Office - Osaka Branch

Activities

- Practical training sessions at general construction companies including visits to construction sites
- Excursions to visit buildings designed by Ando Tadao and historically significant sites in Osaka and the Kansai region
- Lectures and site visits related to urban planning and regulations by Osaka Prefectural Government
- Architecture workshop with university students
- Discussion program with an architectural specialist
- Homestay with OFIX volunteer families



Ando Tadao

1941	Born in Osaka Japan
1962-69	Self-educated in Architecture
1969	Established Tadao Ando Architects & Assoc.

Awards

1979	Architectural Institute of Japan, Annual Prize for "Row House, Sumiyoshi"
1985	The 5 th Alvar Aalto Medal, The Finnish Association of Architects
1989	French Academy of Architecture, Gold Medal
1993	Japan Art Academy Prize
1995	The Pritzker Architecture Prize (USA)
1996	The 8 th Praemium Imperiale (Japan)
2002	American Institute of Architects, Gold Medal The Kyoto Prize, Japan
2005	International Union of Architects, Gold Medal
2010	Order of Cultural Merit Medal
2013	Order of Arts & Letters (France), Commander
2015	Order of the Star (Italy), Grand Officer

Affiliations

2002	The Royal Academy of Arts in London, Honorary Academician
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Academic Activities

1987	Yale University, Visiting Professor
1988	Columbia University, Visiting Professor
1990	Harvard University, Visiting Professor
1997	The University of Tokyo, Professor
2003	The University of Tokyo, Professor Emeritus
2005	University of California, Berkeley, Regent's Prof. The University of Tokyo, Special University Professor Emeritus

Representative Works

1983	Rokko Housing I, II (1993), III (1999), Kobe
1988	ALLERIA【akka】 Osaka City
1989	Church of the Light, Ibaraki, Osaka
1992	Benesse House/Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum & Annex (1995) Naoshima, Kagawa
1994	Chikatsu-Asuka Historical Museum, Kanan,
2000	Awaji-Yumebutai (Awaji Island Proj.) Awaji
2001	Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis USA Teatro Armani, Milan, Italy Sayamaike Historical Museum, Osakasayama Shiba Ryotaro Memorial Museum Osaka
2002	Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kobe The Int'l library of Children's Literature, Tokyo Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, USA
2003	4x4 House, Kobe
2004	Chichu Art Museum, Naoshima, Kagawa Langen Foundation, Hombroice Museum, Germany
2006	Omotesando Regeneration Project (Omotesando Hills), Tokyo The Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy
2007	21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Tokyo
2010	Chaska Chayamachi, Osaka
2012	Kamigatarakugo Association, Osaka
2013	ANDO MUSEUM, Naoshima Kagawa
2014	21 st Century Christ Church, Hiroo, Tokyo Shanghai Poly Grand Theatre, Shanghai
2015	International Library of Children's Literature Arch Building, Tokyo
2017	Mitsumasa Anno Museum, Kyotango, Kyoto
2020	Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, Osaka

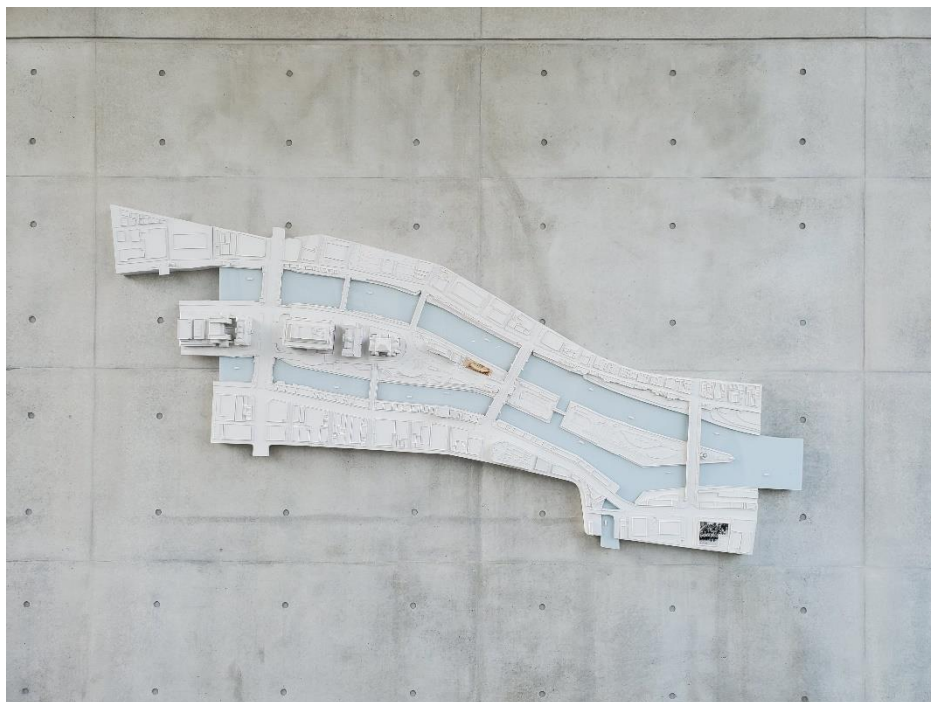
Comments

&

Essays

Obayashi Corporation
Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.
Takenaka Corporation
Zenitaka Corporation
Gunter Nitschke & Esther Tsoi

30 Alumni Participants
(In order of year of participation)



Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest



A Message from Obayashi Corporation

Obayashi Corporation accepted participants of Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Arts and Architectures every year since 1995. We appreciated the concept of this Program “to invite art and architecture students and young professionals in Asian countries to Osaka and to help them learn about Japanese art and architecture, in addition to supporting architectural development in the participants' home countries.” and carried out our activities to contribute to the Program as one of construction companies founded in Osaka.

In the training, participants were invited to site observation of completed and work-in-process construction projects, hands-on training at divisions to assist construction work such as designing, as well as observation of civil engineering and development project sites unique to general contractors. In addition, in recent years, we carried out sessions in our curriculum though which the participants were exposed to history and culture of Osaka beyond the border of construction industry.


All of the participants we met were strongly motivated to make utmost efforts to learn Japanese construction and design technologies, and we were impressed to see them asking us questions proactively comparing their home towns and Osaka. They made a presentation on their tasks on the last day of the training, and we were amazed at proposals they deliberately developed about the status quo of Japan and future of their own country within a limited time for preparation.

Also, our curriculum included an exchange program between the participants and our employees of a similar age. Apparently, they enjoyed talking about not only architecture but also “anime” and “manga”.

One thing we noticed about the participants we accepted was that they considered themselves as representing their own country, and had a very high level of awareness on what their country should be in the future. In addition, we recognized they had a stronger awareness about social issues than employees in our company and regarded them as their own, and so we were inspired by them.

We believe that this is sheer realization of the objectives of this Ando Program are “to invite art and architecture students and young professionals in Asian countries to Osaka and to help them learn about Japanese art and architecture, in addition to supporting architectural development in the participants' home countries.”. We appreciated the annual acceptance of participants as an opportunity for development of our own staff.

In closing, we sincerely offer best wishes for the participants, hoping for their contribution to their country utilizing knowledge and experiences they acquired in the Ando Program.



【Project offices and completed facilities that participants visited in the program】

(Construction in process)

- Civil work of Nakanoshima Line, Keihan Railway (Section 5)
- Reconstruction of Umeda Hankyu Building
- Construction of Osaka Station New North Building (provisional name)
- Construction of New Nissei Hospital building
- Seismic retrofitting work of Central Temple, Grand head temple SHITENNOJI Temple commemorating 1400 years after decease of Prince Shotoku

(Completed)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge | • Osaka Castle |
| • Grand Front Osaka | • Osaka Station City |
| • Umeda Hankyu Building | • Koshien Stadium |
| • Minamiza Theatre, Kyoto | |
| • Tower of the Sun(Expo '70 Commemorative Park) | |



Site observation (Tower of the Sun, 2017)



Presentation on the last day of training (2017)



Discussion with young architects and engineers in Obayashi Corporation (2016)



Kimono wearing in Osaka Museum of Housing and Living (2018)



A Message from Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.

‘We will meet again, sometime somewhere in the world, under “Endless Heart”!’

Shuji Ikeda, General Manager, Department of Human Resources and Organizational Development, Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.


I sincerely congratulate all people involved in Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Arts and Architecture for publication of its commemorative journal. I also would like to express my sincere respect to them for their utmost efforts for execution of the Ando Program. I am honored to be given this opportunity to look back on our activities in the framework of the Program.


The Ando Program started in 1993. As we, Daiwa House, felt strong empathy for the spirit of this Program, we accepted 31 participants in total in 14 years from 2006 to 2019 from 11 countries and regions. Looking back on our footsteps, we feel we were privileged to enjoy encounters with so many participants. But at the same time, we cannot but ask ourselves whether our program met their expectations, and feel again how grave our responsibilities were.

Dear participants, how did you like the training in our company?

As aforementioned, we continued participation to this Program, and we regarded it as an annual event. While we struggled to hammer out contents of our program each year, a point of our constant focus was to “offer opportunities for best satisfaction with no regret for participants”. As we recognized all of participants joined the Program with strong determination, we prepared our program as meticulously as possible. In addition, during the program, we tried to figure out “what is the experience they can enjoy only in Japan and only in our company?” through discussion with them. Based on this idea, we sometimes changed contents of our program flexibly. We were also determined that we should not accept them for mere training or site observation. On the contrary, we wished they could acquire novel views and concepts rooted in the spirit of Diversity & Inclusion of Japan as well as our company, as we believed it would give them opportunities to refresh their views on their expertise and their life in the future. Also, we offered our program as a forum of exchange and networking among them, envisaging that they could take advantage of the experience there in their respective field with wider perspectives. These were the convictions we had in mind as a host company. But at the same time, we should not forget that we learned so much from the participants as well.

What was the most impressive was that we ourselves were immensely inspired by the young and talented architects for their serious attitude and motivation to learn with their strong will to “make one’s own country better”. All of our staff members who were involved in our program, either young or experienced, say that this is the most important asset they acquired through the program.






Also, the participants helped us foster solidarity among us the hosting members. When we set up our curriculum, we tried to familiarize them with most of our business domains including our B to B business, as they kindly chose our company among many of host companies. During the training period every year, we set up a project team in a cross-sectional manner, and the participants were just like catalyst for us; they connected our members from different departments which tended to work independently.

As a last simple comment but not the least, it was our pleasure to recognize that they became big fans of our company every year. This is nicely represented in their presentations at the closing ceremony, and they let us open our eyes on the strengths of our company as we observed their presentations. We were so glad like we were praised personally.

We made all possible efforts in this way, and were rewarded with unexpected gifts. We are sure we gained more than we gave, but we are more than glad if we could contribute to their learning even to some degree, and we are very grateful to have been given the opportunities to exchange with many participants.

The participants kindly chose our company to expose themselves to our spirit, business, technologies and employees even in a short period. We are thrilled when we imagine that they now work actively in the world in the same field of architecture as ours. Dear participants, stay safe and healthy. We are looking forward to meeting you again, under our symbol logo “Endless Heart”, somewhere in the world.

In closing, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to staff of Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Arts and Architecture for giving us the precious and invaluable opportunities. We are certain that this Program achieved a great contribution for development and exchange of young and highly motivated architects in the world.





A Message from Takenaka Corporation

The trainees, whom we welcomed to our design department at Takenaka Corporation for 2 to 3 weeks, learned about Japanese architectural philosophy and design techniques. (Implemented with support provided through a staff responsible for each individual trainee.)

Comments from the trainers in charge for individual trainees are as follows.

【2017】

□Mr. Ashlon Lionel Frank (Trainer in charge : Design dept. Jun Kanazawa)

There were several ongoing projects at the time of your acceptance. We got you involved not only in my project but also different projects in the group, as you were able to experience the process of how our architecture would be built, the design concepts and our team working environment. I still clearly remember when you introduced yourself, and made me realize how differently architecture would be created in Japan and in foreign countries, which was so much impressive. It was a short period of time, but I was also able to learn the differences as well as some of the common architectural ideas between Japan and the world. I am grateful for having received the precious opportunity.

□Ms. Zhao Yating (Trainer in charge : Design dept. Akiko Ishimoto)

In 2017, we welcomed a trainee, Ms. Zhao Yating from China in the workplace where I belonged at that time. Looking back on it now, except for the tour and the training part, we treated him just like one of our design staff, asked him to take charge of a part of the project in progress, and he enthusiastically engaged in the design review and proposal. What impressed me was that there were a lot in common with the sense and the value in design, even in different countries. Quite many things were learned from him as well, for example, he mastered how to use the devise which were not so popular at our office at that time yet. I wish him all the best in the future.


【2018】

□Ms. Uzma Alam (Trainer in charge : Design dept. Satoshi Chida)

Although it was just a short period of two weeks, the time spent together with a trainee from Asia, Ms. Uzma Alam was a very inspiring and precious experience for me. At that time, we had a plan for an international dormitory at a university, and had her participate in the project. It still reminds me of our discussion about what kind of image Asian people have for Japanese university dormitories, Japanese culture and how they feel about Japanese-style space design. In the process, I realized myself that I rediscovered Japanese culture and uniqueness of Japanese-style space.

Currently, I'm engaged in the design planning of a new campus for international students, and I assume that





I've made good use of the conversation taken and the experiences spent together with the trainee at that time. While pondering architecture created in Japan, I've also considered Japan from the perceptive of people from Asian countries, as my new habit since then.

Ando-sensei always works on a global scale beyond cultural boundaries, and I think this program creates new values beyond such boundaries for both of the participated trainee and the host company, as well.

【2019】

□Mr. Tran Tuan Hung (Trainer in charge : Design dept. Seiji Tanaka)


In 2019, we welcomed Mr. Tran Tuan Hung at our company. While having him work on architectural modeling, we tried to take him out diligently as he was able to experience architectures from various periods of time, such as the site offices of our projects, the masterpieces of historical architectures in Osaka city and Katsura Rikyu in Kyoto. I was particularly impressed with his enthusiastic attitude to learn by asking questions when we visited one of our site offices where BIM and Computational design were utilized, and lots of our conversation not just about architectural topics but also various other topics while drinking coffee together at some coffee shops. We assume that the experiences gained through the society and the architecture in different culture were precious opportunity for him to expand his perspective, as he works as a freelance architect. It was a book of Mr. Ando that I came across when I was a high school student, and which opened the door to architectural field for me. Therefore, I felt a kind of bond with what I was involved in Ando program in this way.

□Ms. Kanij Fateema (Trainer in charge : Design dept. Ayane Ichikawa)

In 2019, we welcomed Ms. Kanij Feteema from Bangladesh to our company.

It was only 2 weeks, but we had her experience the actual architectures actively in the short period of time, such as a lately completed high school at that time, Takenaka Carpentry Tool Museum and Katsura Rikyu, while working on reviewing the study for an actual project together in the office. She also participated in a technology introduction event with us, which was held by our partner company (Chikuwakai) during the training period, and we think that was one of the experiences unique to general contractor. Besides, at the time of the above event and the tour of Takenaka Carpentry Tool Museum, she showed a great interest in the models of Japanese wood joinery technique, and which made me realize that she had a strong interest in Japanese wooden architecture. I hope that those experiences she had during the training could be utilized somehow in her future activities as an architect.

On the other hand, for me as a trainer at the host company, it was such a great opportunity to reconsider the role of architectures (an architect) in a different culture through the daily conversation and the tour of the completed high school project, as she introduced me about the architectural culture (environment) in her country and her engaging work/projects. I'm grateful for having been involved in Ando Program.



A Message from Zenitaka Corporation

The Zenitaka Corporation participated Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts hosted by Osaka Foundation of International Exchange for the first time in October 1998. During 21 years since then until 2019, we accepted 44 participants from 10 countries including Vietnam and Indonesia. Here in this essay, we would like to look back on our footsteps with a few episodes while referring to their diligence.

In accepting the participants, we developed our program keeping in mind that we would like them to find attractiveness of Japan and to fully utilize knowledge and experiences acquired in Japan back in their country. We were eager to brush up our program every year for more fruitful training for them, choosing sites and places that could present fascinating aspects of Japanese architecture and civil engineering. When we look back, we notice that the program we developed to give them opportunities to learn about Japan was also a training opportunity for us as host staff. We definitely learned a lot, and the time with them gave us wonderful experiences and a great asset.

HR Department of the Osaka Head Office took an initiative in developing and implementing our training in the Ando Program, while staff from Design Department of the Osaka Head Office explained to participants during sessions in situ including observation of architectures mentioned later. We carried out sessions at sites of architectural and civil work in process, which people can rarely visit, supported by Department of Architecture and Department of Civil Engineering. Some participants let out surprised voice looking at structures under construction and/or how they were constructed, while others asked ardently how tools and equipment were used. They had something in common; strong passion to learn.

For three years from FY 2015 to FY 2017, Design Department of the Osaka Head Office assigned participants to practice designing with a task of “reconstruction of a structure constructed in Taisho Era” owned by our company. In this assignment, they were provided with restrictions such as Building Standards Act by the Design Department and tried designing for such reconstruction. Each of them developed drawings and perspectives in compliance with rules in Japan (such as Building Standards Act) within a limited time during the training, and then presented on the last day of the training. Each of their output was extremely unique, beyond our imagination. Also, we were impressed with the way they spoke with confidence during the presentation, and noticed we could learn much from their attitude to present in front of audience and communicate their idea to people.



Meanwhile, we could receive participants' request regarding which architecture they wanted to see in Japan before beginning of our training in FY 2017 onward. Responding to their request, we took them to Row House in Sumiyoshi, our regular destination, and other architectural masterpieces designed by Mr. Tadao Ando scattered in Shinsaibashi area for observation, including ones constructed by our company. In addition, they observed various

buildings (including national treasures and contemporary architecture), walked along Japanese historical buildings and old streets, felt the surrounding atmosphere, and enjoyed encounter with local people and communities. We believe it was a novel experience for them.

One of the contents in our recent program was a visit to Ozaki branch of Nishi-Hongwanji Temple, which our company had constructed more than 300 years ago, and we called “the roots” of our company. The chief priest explained about its existing main hall, dining hall, guest room, Hettsui (a facility used for cooking food), main gate etc. to them through an interpreter, and we were impressed they were listening to him attentively. He explained about not only the buildings but also the motif of the ceiling painting, a painter of sliding door painting, ornamental covers of nails used in the guest room. The participants as well as we extended one’s imagination to difficulties and extraordinary aesthetics of the forerunners who had been involved in its construction, and could not help but be stuck in owe. We held a farewell party every year at the end of our program, and when we asked some of the participants which content was the most impressive, they answered “Ozaki branch of Nishi-Hongwanji Temple”. Some of them said that they were moved when they saw a 300-year-old temple building still in use. Upon their response, we realized that the significance of the history still touched the heart of young people from overseas transcending time.

There is an interesting episode of an unexpected encounter. When one of our executive officers was planning a visit to Ho Chi Ming City in July 2019, his team came up with an idea of asking the situation of job search of students to a professor at a local university. They asked a Vietnamese employee who was newly hired in 2019 to introduce his ex-supervisor, and he kindly took an appointment with him through Facebook. In fact, the professor was an ex-participant of the Ando Program in October 2018, and had a training in our company. How did we notice he was with us? Because we issue a quarterly inhouse newsletter “Tsuchioto”, and an article of the Ando Program was posted on it every year with pictures. At the time, we hosted 2 of the participants, and the “Tsuchioto” covered their training. The new employee who had been asked for the introduction said that he was very surprised by the coincidence, looking at the picture of his ex-supervisor of the university in the newsletter.

As is known by now, the Ando Program was set up by Mr. Tadao Ando when he was awarded Carlsberg Architectural Prize, upholding an objective of “to invite overseas art and architecture students and young professionals to Osaka and to help them learn about Japanese culture, art, and architecture, in addition to supporting architectural development in the participants’ home countries”. Its strict screening process selected overseas participants who had enormous capabilities and strong commitment to learn Japanese architecture and arts as well as to utilize their findings for development of architecture and arts in their home country. We were deeply touched by their motivation, and learned the importance of holding a strong will to persevere and accomplish our initial objectives.



On the occasion of the end of the Ando Program, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for giving us opportunities to meet many participants from various countries. We are honored to have been a part of it, and hope we could contribute to the Program even to some degree for accomplishment of its objectives. Also, we wish the ex-participants remember the days of the training in our company as pleasant memory. Above all, it is our sincere hope that the ex-participants of the Ando Program utilize their abilities in full in their home country.





Gunter Nitschke
Architect, M.R.T.P.I.,
Director, Institute for East Asian
Architecture and Urbanism

Esther Tsoi
M. Arch. Harvard,
Licensed Architect, State of NY
Lecturer at Kyoto University

It had been a pleasure for me to be invited to join Prof. Gunter Nitschke on the planning and hosting of the discussions and tours in Kyoto for OFIX Ando Program throughout the years. Last year, it was regrettable to know that such great program had to come to an end.

Growing up in the concrete jungle of Hong Kong, while it was still a bustling hub of British colony under the rule of Margaret Thatcher, I came across Gunter's book "From Shinto to Ando". Like many teenagers in those years, we were fascinated with everything Japanese—from sweets to music to pop culture. As for me, I was contemplating about pursuing a study in architecture in the future. Gunter's book opened my eyes on the reading and understanding of the Japanese concept of space. After that, I went through a study of engineering at The University of Hong Kong and then a Master in Architecture at Harvard. After practicing in the States for years and using up my H1-B visa quota, I met my husband in Kyoto, who is a traditional Japanese sukiya carpenter. Then, I met Gunter in a studio critique at Kyoto Seika University. I still remember vividly his fashion of bright purple on that day. He had a vibrant presence in a room of grey and black.

For me, it was a fateful meeting of the writer who had introduced me to the architectural world of Japan. After that, I had become a teacher of architecture at Japanese universities and I often told my students that the 3 architects whose works I liked most, before I had formal architectural education, were Norman Foster, Tadao Ando and Le Corbusier. So, collaborating with

The program had gone on steadily for years, despite that the outside world and even my own life had a lot of changes. Every year (for a long time it would be from Yoshino san at OFIX) I would receive a polite request for a 2-day reservation in autumn. Then Gunter would contact me to talk about this year's selection, theme and to discuss about the trip in Kyoto. At most other times, I would only need to decide on a trip itinerary 2 weeks to 2 months in advance—but not the case for OFIX Ando program. Gunter and the staff at OFIX would need to have an idea at least half year in advance. Every year, we managed to come up with new proposals and it had all gone well. Some places are not even available to visit anymore—like the fabulous 紫織庵 Shiorian machiya of kimono trade, that also has a teahouse in the middle of Kyoto city. Early on, we had also joined the 千両ヶ辻 Senryogatsuji street festival at Nishijin. It was extremely memorable and Gunter had always asked to encore. Unfortunately, our date had never coincided in September again so we could not do an encore of joining the street festival.



Every year I would be meeting the participants after they had already arrived and had begun internship at the various firms in Osaka. I would be meeting their very bright and anticipatory looks —eager to learn and share, which was very different from the often confused and tired looks that I receive from a normal Japanese university classroom. The participants, from all kinds of backgrounds and countries, would be eager to present their papers in fluent English. It was really an experience that I would like to transmit straight back to my Japanese students. These participants that had come to Japan first time on Ando's sponsorship could exchange views in an international forum with ease and eagerness about their researches. Whereas, it was hard to imagine my Japanese students at the same age could do the same. For me, it was an annual respite to be back in an international academic context. I hoped the companies and host families in Osaka would feel the same impact.



All in all, a program that had happened every year and that I had nearly taken for granted about, came to an unavoidable and abrupt end. Gunter himself had moved onto writing a new book, developing some ideas that he had mentioned.



Discussions over the years had been mainly based around Gunter's interest in sustainable architecture—an idea that is core in traditional Japanese architecture, but had been largely forgotten and ignored. For me, I had come from designing glassy high rises in Hong Kong and the US, and now in the business of building upon traditional sukiya carpentry techniques and materials. Like many participants—from Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Korea etc... I have an urgent need to learn and apply a nation's traditional heritage into new forms and uses. It was inspiring to see other countries' efforts and examples, to learn about the networks, and to meet fellow professionals of similar age and like-minds. Please let the struggle and fight continue.

Over the years, another topic that had bothered me was the discussion about memories of colonization. Is colonial architecture a heritage worth conserving? Gunter, who had left Germany after WWII, had not agreed on the importance of architectural cultural heritage after colonization. Whereas for us who grew up in Hong Kong and the Philippines, etc, colonial architecture as well as the historical districts are part of a positive and definitive heritage for us. For Gunter, indigenous architecture, be it from India, Nepal, Indonesia... are the ones that are worthy of respect and

and care. And yet, something that had been bothering him for years is the way how Japanese had preserved machiya in Gion by only putting up a facade in front of concrete buildings. All these choices and adjustments—between old and new societies and technologies, had been fascinating topics to discuss between participants from different backgrounds.



My small practice in Kyoto is involved in small projects that would require sensitivities and techniques in traditional sukiya carpentry, as well as access and correct judgement on the selection of woods (meiboku). So, we are doing a small part in preserving and renewal of Japanese traditional construction. Yet I am not sure how the next generation would be like—for one thing Japanese taste as well as construction law had shifted. Most people would be satisfied if the space or object “looks Japanese” enough to gain likes on Instagram. Unlike old tea people, who would appreciate the material and spatial arrangements. Culture is becoming skin deep. And I would say it is also because we have a lot of other concerns and choices in life, unlike our ancestors who have more simple lives, and were much more focused in what they have.

Every year, the conference of OFIX Ando program would pull me out from my everyday small sphere of teaching and practice, to re-evaluate where my values stand, and to learn new perspectives and troubles from the global participants. I am glad to know fellow comrades that share same concerns in architectural preservation and renewal, in being environmentally friendly and also being popular. The talks had been interesting. Thanks so much to the vision and generosity of funding by Tadao Ando, the leadership and inspiration of Gunter, and the management and effort of all staff involved at OFIX.





Name	Ismurini Dwiari
Host Company	Takenaka Corporation (2000)
Occupation	Instructor, Regional and Urban Planning Dept., Engineering Faculty, Brawijaya University
Country/Area	Indonesia

Memories of the Project

It was almost 2 decades ago, but the Program gives me an ‘unforgettable amazing memory’. I was in love with Japan since my childhood through ‘manga and anime’, so that from the beginning it became “a dream come true” to participate in the Program. Life is beautiful and I am always grateful to God for His creation of this perfect universe and for all the creatures which have formed stronger since the first day.

Almost 30 participants from Asian countries interacted together wonderfully since each of us came from different backgrounds, all based on one common thing that the program categorized us as ‘youth architects’ who communicate with one language to enhance our horizons through intensive activities in Japan as one of the leading developed countries not only in Asia but also in the world. The program was designed beautifully and merged theory and practice within the class as well as in the field of site construction work.

One thing which amazes me till now is how precise the buildings and the city of Osaka and Kyoto had been developed from the planning concept – implementation – monitoring & evaluation. Team work is absolutely strong for each step, whereby each actor plays in his/her best role. Moreover, Japan is also harmoniously able to put it together between traditional and modern – postmodern values. Henceforth, I have been trying to do my best at every single time with the role that has been given to me.

Experience at the Host Company

I was arranged to have internship in Zenitaka company at Division of Planning. I learnt not only limited to technical matters but also human relationships. The assigned staffs brought me to some site construction works such as high-rise buildings as well as landed houses. They also brought me to a high-rise building under construction with a special design response to earthquakes. There was a high-rise building model simulation video of the earthquake that gave an easier understanding about the advanced structural design. They also explained the chronological changes of the low-rise building in response to the earthquakes, with examples of hundred year old houses in Arashiyama as well as modern houses in Kyoto that are different in building material and construction design.

Due to more frequent and severe earthquakes, Indonesia also applied firm building codes in response to earthquakes for both high and low-rise buildings. It was truly an honour that the President warmly gave me a chance to have a courtesy visit. I really learnt in depth with them since they did not only introduce their world of work, but also showed the daily life of Japanese people – the morning ritual ceremony in the office and communication in and out of the office. Sincerely, I do appreciate their understanding toward my poor Japanese that absolutely made it not easy to communicate.

Current Projects

I have been working as a teacher in Regional and Urban Planning Department, Engineering Faculty, Brawijaya University Indonesia since 1999. Basically, I might categorize my current project into two types. Firstly, as a university teacher, my ultimate task is how to develop the highest competency of the student regarding their knowledge in relation with the regional and urban planning world, along with their development of constructive personal ability as an excellent young generation brings happiness to the world.

Secondly, in relation with the government as academicians, I am really eager to be involved in the real planning process and development so that its partnership between the two institutions might bring a better result of planning documentation to be implemented.

Therefore, I continuously need to improve my intellectual ability as well as broaden networks to reach the goal of the two projects. An example for the first project is about exchange students under MoU between Engineering Faculty/Graduate School of Engineering of Kyoto University and Brawijaya University, whereby both students will stay about a week up to a month in the host university annually with two main activities: i) classical course with related subjects combined with ii) field study at a construction company or a local government for a certain project. The example of the second project is a kind of spatial detail plan or development for a certain city or regency in Indonesia, whereby students will involve on it as part of the compulsory 'Field Work' course.

*Workshop on Urban
Infrastructure Management
(10/03/2018 – OSAKA CITY)*



Message to Ando-sensei

Sensei, please accept my sincere gratitude for your great idea of creating the exchange program. Prior to the program, several times I cancelled 'my international study' due to a simple irrational thought. The program means a lot for me. Firstly, I do believe that everything is possible as long as we like to do it with the whole positive energy that we have. That one was my first impression from the beautifully built-up areas in Osaka and Kyoto, in particular when we had a worthwhile chance to visit your office – listening to your beautiful thoughts on how to create the buildings for the happiness of human beings with its surrounding warmth and beautiful environment.

For most of it, we fortunately had a chance to feel the atmosphere of some of your iconic and recognizable creations – the Church of Light and Chikatsu Asuka Museum. Secondly, that is very true that we are different in many aspects, but since we live in togetherness on 'one earth', interdependency between one to another is indispensable. This horizon gave me more courage to study abroad as well as a strong belief on doing the best thing for others – not only limited to the thought but also to the real 'right' actions. I have been continuously widening my knowledge and perspective, one of it is when I completed my doctoral degree in Kyoto University, in 2011. I will endlessly spread the spirit of exchange to the whole world as you showed us. Moichido, Sensei, hontou ni domo arigatou gozaimashita

*Housing Settlement Planning in Aru Tengah District, Kepulauan
Aru Regency,
Indonesia (2019)*





Name	Herry Santosa (Dr. Eng. Ir. ST. MT.)
Host Company	Shimizu Corporation (2002)
Occupation	Head of Architecture Dept., Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Brawijaya
Country/Area	Indonesia

Memories of the Project

Participation in the Ando program and training at the Shimizu company and the opportunity to have a homestay program in a Japanese family was my first memorable experience living in Japan. When I attended the training for one month in the Architecture and Civil Engineering division at Shimizu Company, I had gained much practical experience working in the Architect profession. I had felt the experience of Japanese people's work culture as a hard worker, time discipline, upholding professional work, and respect toward senior colleagues. On another occasion, I also had the opportunity to enjoy a homestay program with a Japanese family. I had felt how to live with a Japanese family with all its traditions and culture, which has a life order full of concepts of efficiency, economics, order, politeness, and cultured behavior.

On the other hand, there were two primary appealing activities in the Ando program. The first activity was a presentation from each country's delegation about the uniqueness of each one's architecture and culture. While the second one was a study tour to Ando's masterpiece building, and a visit to the office of the Ando Architects Bureau. One thing that has become an in-depth understanding is an apprehension of Ando's architectural design process in exploring the design ideas in each manifestation of his masterpieces.

Experience at the Host Company

One of the primary businesses of Shimizu Company is engaged in is Construction, Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Property Services. During my training at the Shimizu Company, I had joined to work in the division of Architecture Planning and Design. Honestly, the biggest problem is communication between work teams that mostly use Japanese. In such conditions, language and architectural working symbols play a significant role in anticipating communication deadlocks between team members.

Architects have two practical experiences that I had learned; one is the method of visualizing 3-dimensional building design ideas, and the second is the technical making of working drawings. The first experience for architects' profession was how to create 3D visualizations of building design ideas in real-life portraits through digital montage techniques. This technique is capable of showing the effect of each building design form directly on the surrounding visual and spatial environment. At the same time, the other experience of the architects' profession was the technique and method of making technical working drawings, which in general are called Engineering Design (DED). The DED document was very technical and contained all sets of symbols and information related to technical details during the construction phase in the field. Now, both experience and professional practice knowledge of the architect has become my work culture in practicing the profession and in the

learning process at the Architectural Drawing Studio.

Current Projects

The most important and significant project I have ever handled was the design project of the Dekanat's Building of the Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Brawijaya, in 2010. This building functions as a service and academic management, administrative and financial management, and student affairs from eight departments in the Faculty of Engineering. The Dekanat's Building has seven floors and was built in 3 years in stages. The design phase involved two Deans of the Faculty of Engineering in two time periods of office. One aspect of primary concern is the designing process of the appearance and shape of buildings, which must reflect the building symbol of educational institutions and the Faculty of Engineering environment's nuances. Therefore, the design of the front view of the Dekanat's building has three potent vertical symbols reflecting the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, i.e., education, research, and community service. Also, the formation of a building roof has to follow the roof typology's alignment in Universitas Brawijaya, which uses a multilevel pyramid roof pattern. Because of the limitations of the building footprint with the surrounding building environment, the Dekanat's building must have sufficient air circulation and open space to the surrounding buildings. The Dekanat's building also has a multipurpose room facility located on the 2nd floor to accommodate meeting activities that correspond to all eight departments in the Faculty of Engineering.

Figure 1.
The front
view of the Dekanat's
building



Message to Ando-sensei

I am very grateful for participating in the Ando program at the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX). I could gain knowledge and experience firsthand working in Japanese companies, participating in homestay activities, and visiting Ando's works, and opportunities to meet with trainees from other countries. All of these things provided a meaningful and memorable experience and also valuable lessons on my personal and professional life journey to the present.

I feel this activity is essential in building exchanges of information, knowledge, and experience between countries, not only in Architecture but also in all aspects of the people's professional life and culture. On this occasion, I also was able to learn and understand the growth of an Ando architectural masterpiece through the results of his work. Ando's building design was stimulated and initiated from the philosophy of life and culture of Japanese society in interrelationships between past, present, and future. On the other hand, I also catch a glimpse of the importance of work ethic in architectural professional practice. I also hope that this kind of program would not come to a standstill, but it can be sustained in other forms and models with similar goals and intentions. Overall, the Ando program is genuinely fascinating and provides a profound in-depth experience, not only in architectural and scientific matters but also for the entire system of life, work, and culture of Japanese society.

Figure 2.
The perspective view
of the Dekanat's
building





Name	Anny Fong Man Sze
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2006)
Occupation	Architect
Country/Area	Hong Kong



Memories of the Project

The Ando Program, being one of the most precious memories in my life, provided me opportunities to expose myself to both modern architecture and traditional architecture. During my visit to modern architecture like Water Temple in Awaji Island, Sayamaike Museum and Chichu Art Museum in Naoshima by Ando-sensei, I was deeply impressed by the architectural spaces which are inspiring, spiritual and sensational through their simple form and minimal materials. On the other hand, I was extremely touched to see how the Japanese respect and conserve Japanese tradition, culture and values in Japanese gardens and historical buildings such as the well-preserved Kiyomizudera, Kinkaku-ji, Shitennoji and Osaka Castle. Led by Mr. Gunter Nitschke in the program, I could understand more about ‘Zen’ in Japanese culture which was incredibly demonstrated in Ando-sensei’s architecture and Japanese gardens. Not only encouraging me to study how architecture can truly connect to human beings, it also gave me insight to explore how architecture can inspire others through spatial experience other than having nice form, layout and details.


In addition, I could always indulge myself through visiting both historical buildings and modern buildings which are successful to show how human construction blends seamlessly with nature and the surrounding environment. I am driven by all these experiences to explore the best way to achieve connections between

architecture with nature and existing site context from my studies to professional practice.

Experience at the Host Company

My training in my host company, Daiwa House, had widened my horizon to understand how their build-to-order houses can be built efficiently yet suit different users’ need and requirements by setting up different models and a wide range of proprietary elements in construction for users to select. Since such practice is not found in Hong Kong, the credits in these built-to-order houses and ideology behind them are good samples for us to develop future houses or even high-rise buildings. We can provide quality houses with standardized or modular design while allowing flexibility for customers in a similar way. On the other hand, high-rise buildings which are common in Hong Kong can allow a greater extent of this repetition, suggesting we can benefit more in efficient construction through modular design and proprietary construction elements.

While Daiwa House developed movable and prefabricated buildings early in the 1950s, it is considered that the developed housing models and construction technology including high-level seismic absorption capabilities to withstand massive earthquakes are precedence for the latest trend and increasing desire in the construction industry throughout the world for prefabrication and MiC (Modular Integrated Construction). Though MiC technology is still not well developed in Hong Kong,



it is highly promoted by our government and various building types are required to adopt it as much as possible to enhance construction efficiency, reduce construction waste and nuisance as well as minimize site labour for safer construction sites.

Current Projects

During my past practice, I have focused on design and construction for different school extension projects and have also been involved in projects of a different nature, namely gardens, shopping malls, residential buildings and office buildings.

For my latest built school project, I was the project architect responsible for the demolition of an existing gymnasium and the construction of a new teaching building on the campus of the Chinese International School to meet the need of the latest teaching mode and environment for secondary school students in addition of renovation works throughout the whole campus.

Currently, I am working for government projects like staff quarters and school projects from feasibility study to construction stage. Considering different site context and distinguished characteristics in the community of each district, the feasibility study will be useful to explore the design and development potential before commencement of the subsequent design and construction stages. In-depth discussion with school principals and teachers are always essential during the design process to understand the need of students from different ages or different needs like the students having intellectual disability in special schools.

Two of my school projects will be completed tentatively in 2021 to meet the population intake of housing development in the district of Queen's Hill. It is anticipated the design of the two schools can cope with the unique needs and operation of the two different school sponsoring bodies and can also be coherent with

each other and the surrounding environment at the same time.


Message to Ando-sensei

I would like to express my gratitude to Ando-sensei, being the master in architecture, for giving me the opportunity to join this program.

Visiting different projects by Ando-sensei was what I had always looked for during the program. It became more fruitful with the company of other architectural students from different countries which encouraged idea exchange. Instead of adopting numerous materials and introducing different architectural languages, Ando-sensei made use of simple form, minimal materials and natural elements such as light, wind and greenery to create stunning space which everyone can experience and enjoy is what fascinated me most. I believe it is a pure experience of the architectural space and it represents the beauty of simplicity which requires one to experience, to feel and to touch in person rather than envisage it through media like books and videos.

Ando-sensei's architecture gave a lot of inspiration to my thesis in master study about creating introspective journey through architecture. It also fosters my belief that conscious design in architectural layout and details can create influential space, from sensational experience of individual to a community regardless of the building scale. Ando-sensei's passion in architectural design further motivated me to keep my enthusiasm in architectural design and pursue my professional career whole-heartedly in making meaningful places for others.

During our visit to Ando-sensei's office, we missed the chance to meet him in person. I am still longing for a chance to meet Ando-sensei for learning his design process and creative experience to accomplish different building projects.





Name	Setyo Nugroho
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2018)
Occupation	Faculty Member, Dept. of Architecture, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember Surabaya Indonesia
Country/Area	Indonesia / (currently) Japan

Memories of the Project

I participated Ando Program in 2006, when I was in my final year of undergraduate degree at the department of architecture Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) Indonesia. It was my very first time going abroad. Many things that I had never seen before in Surabaya and Indonesia, I could find in Japan. My precious memory of joining the program was I got many new friends from different cultures and backgrounds. After completing our tasks at our host-companies almost every night, we gathered at the hotel lobby and shared many stories and experiences. We also went to many places in Osaka together in the weekend.

During the program, we visited many of Ando Sensei's masterpieces. However, two sites were kept on my mind: Water temple and Awaji Yumebutai. Both were located at Awaji Island, Hyogo prefecture. I could feel the silence in the temple from the material choices and spatial arrangement. In Awaji Yumebutai, I understood the importance of spatial connectivity with a beautiful sequential view. These experiences directly influenced me in thinking about architecture and space. Ando Sensei's works gave me an understanding that as an architect, we must bring the spirit of place to our design to create emotional bonding between the architecture and the users.

Experience at the Host Company

My host company was Zenitaka corporation. It was the closest company from our Hotel in Utsubo Honmachi. From the Hotel, it took about 5-8 minutes on foot. The staff was nice, friendly, and always helped us during the training. My activities during the training were site visits of projects constructed by the company. I remembered we visited the construction project not far from the Osaka Castle, it was the Police Headquarters. I learned about the earthquake-resistance structures to protect from any great earthquakes. Not only did we visit the project site, we were also able to request which architectural site we would like to visit the most. I requested Church of Light and Shiba Ryotaro Museum which were both designed by Ando Sensei. The sites were bit far from Osaka City, but the staff nicely took us to those destinations. Moreover, we also visited and experienced Japanese traditional architecture (Shitennoji temple) and culture (tea ceremony).

In my spare time at the company, I spent the time at the reading room with a large collection of books ranging from structure, to construction and architecture. Because I often stayed and read books there, at my farewell, the staff gave me an illustrative book about high-building construction. This book was really useful for me to understand the process of construction projects from the groundbreaking to the completion which were described in illustrations like a comic.

Later, this book contributed to my understanding when I worked at the construction project in Vietnam.

Current Projects

I have been living in Higashi Hiroshima since 2017 to pursue my 5-year-PhD program at Hiroshima University. For 5 years, I am not only doing research for my own research, but I am also conducting collaborative project with other students in rural towns of Japan. My current projects are academic research in the field of urban design.

My previous experiences of joining Ando Program influenced me a lot especially on the appreciation of locality and cultural value. They are related to the topic of “sense of places”. I have two projects: my dissertation project on the place attachment of border towns in Savannakhet (Laos) and Myawaddy (Myanmar); and a collaborative project in the Hiroshima rural town of Mitarai on investigating the local perception of sense of place. The purpose of these projects is to observe the process of building a sense of place by the local resident in the context of spatial experiences.



Project in Mitarai

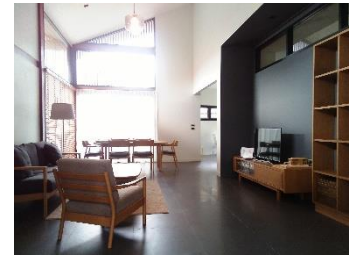
Message to Ando-sensei

I would like to thank Ando Tadao Sensei for this opportunity joining the program. I was proud for being the alumnus of Ando Program. The program had gathered young architects from all over Asia to gain the skills and experience from the Japanese architectures directly. Personally, through this program, I had expanded my networking in Japan. Whenever I came to Japan, I always contacted them, and we created a strong bond as friends and families. Here, I strongly believed the Japanese proverb of “ichigo ichie” which means treasuring the unrepeatable nature of a moment.

In 2006, we, our trainees did not get a chance to meet personally with Ando Sensei. But I believed that we would meet somewhere at a different occasion.. I hope that all alumni of the Ando Program could contribute their knowledge to the society through visible (architecture, buildable) and invisible projects (research). My memory of 2006 Ando Program will stay in my heart.



Name	Wanat Tanprasert
Host Company	Obayashi Corporation (2006)
Occupation	Project Management Dept. Manager, Siam Piwat Co., Ltd.
Country/Area	Thailand



Memories of the Project

Participation in the international exchange program may be one of the best opportunities to temporarily live in foreign countries and learn about different cultures. Even though it was just about a 30-day period, joining in the Ando program became a memorable living and learning experience.

This journey was my second time for visiting Japan and it was totally different from a leisure trip before. However, earlier travel experience in this country was very useful and could be adaptable for daily routines and activities like map reading, remembering the locations, or commuting trains. Since it is well-known about Japan's train punctuality, the program also similarly kept many tasks' schedule on track & on time and it was very well-organized even though many persons were being coordinated. Furthermore, it offered a wide range of advantageous activities, from architectural discussion to practical training, from architecture tour to local homestay, so these events efficiently drew the trainee's attention to knowledge and cultural learning experiences. Consequently, this program's outcome already broadened my horizons.

In addition, it is a certainty that the deep impression of Japanese architectures would be occurred by connecting with sense of feeling and perception at the actual sites and spaces, not just by only reading books or seeing pictures.

Experience at the Host Company

Weekday practical training was scheduled as a significant activity because it took almost half of entire period of the program. My host company was Obayashi Corporation at this time. Their arrangements were neatly set in order and clearly divided into design, civil engineering, and architectural session.

Many informative materials about building design & construction were prepared and presented by the corporate staff during the course. These also led me and fellow participants to site visits which included historic buildings, construction projects and modern architectures for more understanding and appreciation. At the same time, there was a challenge for trainees to practice in the design session program that had particularly required architectural design and presentation skills. However, the design program did not focus on whether the final work result was right or wrong. It intended to emphasize the design process through analysis thinking, conceptual design proposal, group discussion, decision making and finalization. From the beginning to the end of practical training, it was a learning experience that fit with the objectives of this program.

Practical training in the host company also gave a chance to realize about considerable disciplines, dedication and diligence in their working cultures. These may be the key roles to drive Japan's economy to then become one of the most important influential countries.

Current Projects

Airport Rail Link

Airport Rail Link project was presented in my portfolio that had been submitted for Ando program application documents since 2006. Later it was completed and operated in 2010. The project was established to support and maximize the service level of the airport and connection to inner city. It was the first high-speed electrified double track railway system in Thailand. There were 8 stations and the City Air Terminal in the initial stage.

Main architectural features were designed to relate to the airport with triangular and curved shapes that had been integrated into the buildings. Natural lighting and ventilation were included in the project where possible. Its design concept and use of materials was intended to create modern public transportation facilities.

House 136

There was a program interview which had been published in OFIX report on January 2007. At that time, one of my responses in the interview was about a plan to build my own house in the future. Almost 10 years later it had finally been done.

There was a single-story house that had existed in the land lot since 40 years ago. It had to be demolished but many wooden parts from the roof structure were planned to be kept and reused by transforming them as new elements. The new house design was conformed to site restraints, orientation and basic requirements. Steel members and reclaimed woods were taken into consideration. After taking action in design and construction stages, the result was a two-story house that met design intention and construction cost.

Message to Ando-sensei

The Professionals

Since the purpose of the Ando program had been introduced, it was clear to encourage better understanding about Japanese culture and architectures, improve trainee's abilities and build connections. According to these objectives, it was truly a successful and invaluable program.

The most important, having experience in many projects designed by Tadao Ando was remarkable. His works draw architecture-lovers from all over the world to see the space by their eyes and touch famous exposed concrete wall by their hands. If there is an exhibition dedicated to his works to be held anywhere, it will be worthwhile to visit and appreciate his artistic drawings and materials.

"The Professionals" is a documentary program which has been broadcasting on the NHK World-Japan TV channel. It presents the meaning of professional from exceptional Japanese people in various work fields. Every participant would give their responses for the question "What *is* professional?" in the end of each episode. This TV program reminds me of Ando-sensei because he has been globally honored as an acclaimed professional architect. If the program is going to feature with him, it will be a must-watch episode to realize his practice and vision beyond architectural works. Furthermore, I strongly believe his response to the mentioned question will be a motivational and inspirational saying for all the people.

Last but not least, it is my willingness to express kind regards and deep gratitude to Ando-sensei and everyone who have been involved in the program and hope this meaningful connection will be continuously kept going.



Name	Rekyan Puruhita Sari
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2007)
Occupation	Staff of Directorate General of Human Settlements, Ministry of Public Works & Housing
Country/Area	Indonesia



Memories of the Project

Still fresh in my memories is the moment when I participated in the Osaka Invitational Program for Short-term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts (Tadao Ando Program) from 17 October to 14 November 2007. As a trainee, representing as an architecture student from Institute Technology of Sepuluh Nopember, Indonesia, I met trainees from other Asian countries.

At that time, I was an undergraduate student that had already finished my final project and awaiting for my diploma to get started with my career. I tried to use the program to reexplore my interest in the fields of architectures and arts. In my undergraduate study I was interested in vernacular and historical architecture, public policy and ethics.

During the course of the Ando Program, I became a trainee at Zenitaka Corporation, exchanged meetings with the Osaka Prefecture Government, and also participated in the Asia Youth Symposium 2007 with Kobe Design University. I recognize how the project was being planned and executed, how buildings and culture could be preserved in Kyoto. I also had the chance to meet with fellow students and practitioners from Asia exchanging ideas, learnt about their projects and experience their various cultures.

In the end of my journey as a trainee, I brought back new confidence and passion towards Architecture and Arts and tried to make my own steps. I participated in an exchange of ideas with fellow students in Surabaya. I also joined Indonesian Architects Association and then


worked with the Ministry of Public Works and Housings in 2008.

Experience at the Host Company

During the program, as trainee in Zenitaka Corporation I had the opportunity to visit Zenitaka's projects and iconic buildings in Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto. This included ongoing and finished buildings, with various unique characteristics such as high-rise buildings, basement construction, going across the river traffic tunnel, and the preservation of Mr. Zenitaka family's traditional house. I also visited the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Hyogo Prefecture that allowed me to also learn about disaster risk reduction as part of public policy, including the role of community in disaster relief efforts and during the rehabilitation phase.

Through this program, I could truly appreciate the hard work by the construction industry to deliver strong and beautiful buildings and preservation of cultural heritages. This program also allows me to open my perspectives to incorporate environment, historic values, cultures and socially responsible communities that are vulnerable to disasters.

The program also provided me in advance to prepare for my current organization which is primarily a public service role. I was involved on site providing assistance through provision of temporary shelters for community affected by natural disasters, in various locations across Indonesia.



I understood that in my current capacity as a public servant of Indonesia which is prone to natural disasters, area and housing development should also take into consideration the disaster risk reduction aspect since its inception. With this realization in mind, I had the opportunity to take my Master's degree on Urban Management and Development in Rotterdam, Netherlands and finished my study in 2013.

Current Projects

Presently, I am learning and working together with remarkable team in the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. My field of work is public space and settlement development. Several of my projects in the past are (1) fishermen housing area in Semarang, Central Java (2) nation-wide tourism development area, and (3) National Slum Upgrading Project (NSUP)

Tourism area development focuses on development of the tourism supporting infrastructure and its amenities. This is a joint ministerial project between my ministry and ministry of Tourism since 2016. The works started with surveys and the making of area masterplans. The first phase of development took place in 2018-2019, and now we are at the second phase 2020-2021 at ten Tourism Development Areas all over Indonesia which are: Morotai, Wakatobi, Mandalika, Bromo Tengger and Semeru mountains, Tanjung Lesung, Lake Toba, Tanjung Kelayang, Seribu Islands, Labuhan Bajo, and Borobudur area.

Another project that I am currently working on is a community-based development program providing infrastructure and housing to support local communities in East Java Province. The local governments and communities have a lead role as project initiator. Working together with other stakeholders is not easy and takes a lot of time to have common ground and develop short-term, mid-term and long-term goals of the works

at hand.

This year in particular my work focused on phase 2 of Bromo-Tengger and Semeru Tourism Development Area. This work is challenging since it requires balance between cultural values, land acquisition (procurement), and developing nature friendly amenities with view of disaster risk reduction aspect since it is located inside a natural reserve and very close to active volcanoes.


Message to Ando-sensei

Osaka Invitational Program for Short-term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts is important project as self-exploration how to embrace Architecture and Arts, I embrace the knowledge of human safety, intelligence of nature, and time value from the projects I had visited.

Having a young and fresh mind was part of the advantages to know what you want to do in this profession, I was young and had many paths ahead, having experienced a whole month discovering Japan, through its heritage sites, modern public buildings, and civic design. From this project a lot of young and promising talents across Asia could gain confidence and passion and continue to shine in his/her respective field of work.

My highest appreciation to Tadao Ando Sensei for allowing me to experience it and it opened a path for me to become the architect I am today. Currently I'm still searching for the best ideal design and dedication to my organization. I hope I will be able contribute to the world of Architecture and Arts.

In today's condition, time and place are not a hindrance. What I received in 2007, I hope to continue to practice it, enrich and help communities to have a better environment and settlements to live in. I hope in the future, the alumni and trainees, wherever we are now, could still be connected through online events to abdicate our knowledge





Name	Lun Lee Chu, Chloe
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2008)
Occupation	Architect / Project Manager, Campus Development Office, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Country/Area	Hong Kong

Memories of the Project

Getting to know architects from different cultural background was a precious experience. Participants come from various nations in Asia, Europe and America. Architects from different cultural background and traditions, have different concerns and different focus on their designs. I recalled that one of the architects who was from Sri Lanka, had shared with me her vision. She wanted to be an architect because she wanted to design houses that can cope with earthquakes and tsunamis. She had witnessed the homeless and homes being destroyed by natural disasters and she wanted to create a safe home for her family and the next generation. Her ideas and enthusiasm inspired me that architecture is not only for aesthetics and dramatic appearance, but it has a core and primitive value for human beings. Her vision is to contribute to mankind. This reminds me of being humble and sensitive to basic needs rather than just drawing fancy designs. From this project I also learned to respect people with different traditions and cultures. I applied the same to my career, which reminds me of being a humble listener before making any subjective judgement. I respect different parties and stakeholders working on same project and listen to their concerns and address them equally.

Experience at the Host Company

House construction methods at Daiwa House was very impressive. The construction site was neat and tidy. All the building elements, such as walls, floors, and

ceilings are designed in panels and modules. They were prefabricated in the factory; therefore, quality can be guaranteed and the construction time can be shortened. It was possible to build a house in just one month. The building industry in Hong Kong is also developing a similar kind of construction method, called Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) and Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA). I researched the two methods and suggested to apply for a Hospital project that I worked on. The concept of DfMA is very similar to the panel and module system used in Daiwa House. The aim is to design components installed in the factory and allow for mass production. Hence construction time on-site is shortened.

In my previous Hospital project, it was essential to have a wash basin with a soap dispenser and mirrors at all entrances of the wards. Due to its large quantity, it was designed to apply DfMA, so a wall panel with mounted wash basin, soap dispenser and mirror with all pipe works installed behind was proposed to mass production. DfMA can be widely applied in installation with building services, e.g., a frame mounted with air ducts, electric and data trunking and pipe works which to be installed in a congested ceiling void.



Current Projects

I currently work as Architect/Project manager in the Campus Development Office at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I obtained my bachelor and master degrees in The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and I felt very grateful to come back as a staff member. The Undergraduate degree of Architecture is under the Faculty of Social Science in CUHK. The founder of Department of Architecture believes that Architecture is not only an arts subject nor an engineering subject. Architecture is a study about people, so the program is designed to be under Social Science together with Sociology, Psychology, etc. I am always interested in public architecture which everyone could experience and have memories about the places, either good or bad, with family or friends.

Before I joined the Campus Development Office, I have worked on Museum M+ for West Kowloon Cultural District, a Police Headquarter for East Kowloon and a psychiatric hospital. I enjoyed working in the campus for different scales and types of projects, including new buildings, spatial re-organization for existing buildings and renovations. My current projects include a 300-place student hostel, an extension to the Art Museum and some renovation works and spatial re-organization of existing facilities. The Art Museum not only houses art works collection but also evolve as a teaching museum for the Department of Fine Arts. The new extension of the Art Museum is designed to be a site of creation, dialogue, and also keeping its core mission in art education. There will be an Artist's Studio inside the museum. Students are encouraged to visit and study the art works and learn from different curated diverse exhibitions and regular organized symposium. This will become a teaching museum for all professors, teachers,

artists, curators and most importantly students in The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Message to Ando-sensei

I remember in one of the books, Ando-sensei mentioned the importance of experiencing architecture by travelling. Ando-sensei has travelled to the States to experience architecture by visiting. I think that's why Ando-sensei funded this project, to allow Architecture students from different countries to get an opportunity to visit his Architecture and his home country. Apart from visiting Ando-sensei's architecture and his office, the experience of working in a Japanese company is also very valuable. From my host company Daiwa House, I talked to different departments, from the design team to factory and even sales & marketing. I visited several construction sites and spent a week visiting their factory in Nara. Everyone in Daiwa House was friendly and willing to share all their knowledge to us. I felt really grateful about it and I appreciated their kindness.

Personally, I thanked Ando-sensei's generosity in funding the program for years and allowed a chance for me to experience and explore Kansai and Ando's architecture. Under the epidemic situation, travelling become impossible, but I found hidden gems in my own hometown. I took this chance to reflect and refresh myself. It might be a call for us to rethink the importance of life. Architects always give other an impression of working overtime, I hope this chance reminds every architect what is most important and should be treasured. At last, I hope Ando-sensei stays healthy (genki) and happy.





Name	Eka Swadiansa
Host Company	Takenaka Corporation (2009)
Occupation	Architect
Country/Area	Indonesia



Memories of the Project

The *OFIX-Ando Program* was like multi-layered once in a lifetime opportunity. A journey where I started as freshman in the big-highly intimidating architecture world; aiming high but at the same time knew not where to start. Acting as beacon of hope, it was really crucial for me to experience all that were offered right at the very beginning of my career: (1) The insightful chat with Ando-sama himself whom inevitably became my patron both as an architect and human being; (2) Visiting, visualizing, and most importantly absorbing the ambience of his major works, (3) The training at Takenaka Corporation to grasp firsthand experience on working at the highest level environment, (4) The culturally mesmerizing Kyoto tour which introduced me to Nitschke-san whom then became my mentor and very dear friend; and last but not least (5) Cherishing the rich conversation with fellow young Asian architects whom I shared such dear memories with.

Experience at the Host Company

Back in 2009 I took the program very seriously. Initially it was ‘only’ to include visitation to *Chikatsu Asuka*, *Sayamaike Museum*, *Honpukuji Temple* and *the Westin Awaji*; through the generous aid of my colleagues in Takenaka: Ohira-san, Miyajima-san, and Yukawa-san; I extended my visit to *Church of Light*, *Galleria Akka* and *the Time's*. It was also through my working hours in the hosting company where I first developed interest towards construction details. And perhaps it was this sudden ‘details-frenzies’ that had made Takahashi-

san; my group leader, lend me his access card to the company’s library and photocopy machine. Such generosity which cost me overweight baggage on my departure flight.

Current Projects

Returning home, I spent another 3 years ‘career hopping’ from one company to another to refine my structural and project management skills. During my free time I spent many hours doing competition works, delivering a total of 75 submissions to date. In 2012, after residing in Bali, I (re)established my independent studio: *Office of Strategic Architecture* (OSA, www.studio-osa.com). During these studio’s early years, competition activities remained pivotal. So far we have never won any major competitions other than 11 ‘minor ones’; however many of our proposals were done in large scale tenders such as: *Kaohsiung Maritime and Pop Culture Center*, *Taiwan Tower* (Phase 1&2), *New Taipei Museum of Art*, *Sydney Green Square Library*, *Sydney Parramatta Towers*, *Indonesia National Museum* (Phase 3), *Helsinki Guggenheim Museum* (top 100 from 5000+ proposals), and *Strelka Russian Mass Housing* (top 300 from 3000+ proposals). It took us few years before OSA starting to received ‘worth mentioned’ projects.

The *Santangelo-Bando Residence* (2014-18) located in the prestigious Burning Tree-Bethesda neighborhood, right on the northern outskirt of VA/MD/WV Washington DC conurbation areas. This retired banker-lawyer couple home, was transforming

the 325 square meter already-deteriorating building envelopes, and extending it into 72 sqm Master Suite (master bedroom, private sitting, 2 baths and walk in closet), 105 sqm Master Extension (private library, winter room), 56 sqm ‘Summer *Quincho*’ (wooden house attached on the building’s second floor), 4 ‘stand-alone’ units (total of 243 sqm rooms with their own pantry and bath), and 145 sqm Common Area that linked all the programs. Constructed by outsourcing 5 containers of wooden components (including custom made *Quincho*) and volcanic-rock sanitary; this single-building house can be operated as 5 separate entities with 4 stand alones rented out during working season, and used to house the couple’s 4 children during the holiday season.



Laguna Gili (2017-18) was a small resort extension project which cross-programmatically provides 760 sqm complex functions of (resort’s) dining hall, lobby, front office, main kitchen; along with (PADI CDC’s) recreational scuba diving services, instructor development school, small office and shop. There was only 530 sqm site available, ‘squeezed and dispersed in between’ 1 existing swimming pool and 1 new 5 meter deep diving pool in a beach-front setting. The design strategy was to ‘group and stack together’ functionally-related programs under 1 ‘big roof’ inspired by Expo70’s main pavilion. However, located in the remote Gili Trawangan island, logistics had always been the project’s main challenge; resulting to the use of customized lightweight pretension 12/12 steel structures clad with Merbau iron wood, the same finishes used

in *Santangelo-Bando Residence*.

Message to Ando-sensei

It was also Ando-sama’s appointments in *Yale*, *Columbia*, *Harvard*, *Todai*, and *UC Berkeley* that inspired me to explore academic possibilities. Having OFIX-Ando grant in my CV had been instrumental in kick-starting my research activities without the need of having fixed academic position, hence keeping my slow growth practices alive. Learning by doing since 2011, research publications had eventually led to lecture/presentation invitations from prestigious institutions including: *the MIT* (Cambridge-Mass, 2014), *Lingnan University* (Hong Kong, 2016-20), *ENSA Normandie* (Rouen, 2017) and *ENSA PLV* (Paris, 2018).

There were 2 points I remembered the most from the discussion at Ando-sama’s office. (1) It was Le Corbusier whom had inspired him during his early days. For this reason I initiated SPIRIT_45 group in early 2018, and visited: *Villa la Roche*, *Villa Savoye*, *Maison du Suisse & Bresil*, *Chapelle du Ronchamp*, *Couvent de la Tourette* and *Firminy Vert*. By mid-2018 however, business was growing tough thus I relocated myself to rural East Java. Just before Covid-19 hit, the studio’s operational cost becoming unbearable. And as OSA forced to seize its physical operation, I switched to deep research mode. (2) Ando-sama was repeatedly mentioning the idea of ‘united Asia’. It took me a decade to fully understand what he meant. Hence mid last year I initiated SPIRIT_47 in Hong Kong; gathering 14 young Asian architects with solidly built portfolios, to ignite our very own version of *CIAM*.

I will always be forever in debt to Ando-sama and OFIX. But rest assured, even though the *OFIX-Ando Program* had come to an end, Tadao Ando’s legacies shall live on through our works; his former trainees.



Name	Kai-hsiang Liang
Host Company	Obayashi Corporation (2009)
Occupation	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Space Design, Kunshan University of Science & Technology
Country/Area	Taiwan

Memories of the Project

Participating in the 2009 Ando Program brought me a lot of precious memories. At that time, I met nine friends from all over Asia. During the short training period, we exchanged stories and customs of each other's hometowns. Therefore, we understood that the world is big, and must respect different cultures. For example, when designers from different countries try to design a garden, some designers will want to plant the most beautiful flowers that the public likes, and some designers will insist on planting local plants so that the plants form an endless ecosystem. Different ideas are a new stimulus to me, and they affect me deeply. I am glad to make these friends. To this day, we still keep in touch.

In addition, Japan and Taiwan have many similarities, such as aging and earthquake issues, but Japan is more advanced than Taiwan. I also brought these advanced technologies and concepts back to Taiwan to contribute to my hometown. Finally, during my internship in Obayashi Corporation in Japan, I was taken care of by many senior staff. The senior staff taught me not only knowledge, but also better attitudes towards the environment, which greatly affected me. Therefore, after I returned to Taiwan, I started to work in education, and brought what I learned before to my students and influenced more people.

Experience at the Host Company

I was an intern at the Obayashi Corporation in 2009, and the design project provided to me by the company was a river bank improvement project. My first idea was to design a very special shape to attract the public's attention. After reading it, the senior staff of the company told me that the design should not only be good-looking. Designers should consider the needs of users and the corresponding behaviors. In addition, Obayashi Corporation also took me to visit and learn a lot about various spatial designs to prevent earthquake disasters. Those technologies and equipment are very important, but education is even more important. Education includes various exercises to cooperate with spatial design, and make people know how to reduce injuries and wait for rescue smoothly when an earthquake comes.

After finishing my internship and returning to Taiwan, I was thinking about how to tell more people what I learned, and finally decided to become a teacher. I am mainly teaching space design. In the course, I emphasize that the design should be user-oriented, and that the design of space should not only focus on appearance, but also consider the usual use behavior, and how to protect the most people during earthquakes or disasters.

Current Projects

I am currently an assistant professor in the Department of Space Design, Kunshan University of Science and Technology, Tainan, Taiwan. My research field is mainly "Space Design" and "Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing". The former is closely related to users; the latter is to study how computers help designers complete their ideal designs. My research shows that due to technological progress, future space design will become more and more diverse. For example, the so-called "space" is not limited to reality, but can also be virtual reality or even augmented reality. Designers can freely create various spaces at this time, and can even realize a world like Harry Potter's movies. The space is no longer eternal, but will be full of changes.

However, when space design is no longer subject to too many restrictions, will users feel better space quality? In fact, in all space design, only the user can determine whether the result of the space design is "good" or "bad". In the future, space design will have more and more functions. Should the space function show all functions in front of users like a traditional newspaper job advertisement? Or is it like a "Google page", it has many functions, but is hidden at the beginning, waiting for the user to respond immediately after the request? I think the key is to focus on users. The so-called good space design should meet all users' needs.



Message to Ando-sensei

People say "the purpose of knowledge is true; the purpose of moral is good; the purpose of art is beauty." "Truth", "Goodness", and "Beauty" are indispensable in a good design. Only all these three coexist, then a perfect world will be formed. The previous sentence is very suitable for me to explain Mr. Tadao Ando. Mr. Ando has always been a role model for me throughout my life.

Regarding "truth", this is reflected in Mr. Ando's insistence on materials. He always uses the essence of the material. For example, his fair-faced concrete does not have any decoration or camouflage. Regarding the "goodness", it is reflected in Mr. Ando's attitude towards a friendly environment. Some cases emphasize tree planting; some cases emphasize sustainable architecture. Regarding the "beauty", it is reflected in Mr. Ando's requirements for aesthetic details. The various details in the case are worth learning for all designers.

In the process of participating in the 2009 Ando Program, I also gained a lot. Acquiring various architectural knowledge and techniques is "truth", making friends from all over Asia is "good", and experiencing Japanese traditional culture is "beauty". I would like to thank Mr. Ando for giving me this opportunity and opening my eyes. I would also like to thank all the staff of the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX) for taking care of me at that time, and I still miss you all and the Ando Program. Thank you and hope to keep in touch in the future.





Name	Mayura Gadkari
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2011)
Occupation	Conservation Architect for Historic Cities at National Institute of Urban Affairs
Country/Area	India



Memories of the Project

I still remember very vividly when I received the email from OFIX that my application was accepted and that I was one of the trainees for the Ando Program, 2011. This came as a relief as the few weeks prior to that were quite stressful; I had to complete my thesis and other obligations for my Master's program at my University and then return to my home town for preparations.

For me, the learning process of the Ando program, however, started much earlier back in my home country, with the presentations and papers that we had to write, Japanese language lessons that were a part of the preparations and the overall reading I did about the Japanese culture. It brings back many vivid memories as I write this.

When I met my fellow trainees at the Kansai airport, we bonded immediately, thanks to our hosts from OFIX, Alvin and Suenaga-san (fondly called as Otto-san). OFIX had made such wonderful arrangements for all of us with attention to detail; for our accommodation, our daily commute, our activities for the month ahead, they welcomed us and immediately made us feel at home in a foreign country. This hospitality and warmth that our hosts displayed was my first impression of Japanese culture. Till this day, I try to imbibe that into my personality; the warmth, the discipline and the everlasting smiles on their faces.

Experience at the Host Company

My host company was Daiwa House. To be honest, I did not have any international exposure prior to this program and hence, seeing the operations of a company like Daiwa House up close was an experience of a lifetime. I cannot express enough gratitude to the program and Ando-sensei for giving me this opportunity.

Hiroki-san & Yuri-san, our coordinators at Daiwa and Yuko-san, our interpreter (we lovingly called her Oka-san) were very patient with Ivan, my fellow trainee & I, while we learnt about the different departments at Daiwa and interacted with the respective representatives. Daiwa is such a versatile company and each day that we visited the office, a new initiative of the company was introduced to us. We were thrilled to visit and learn about their robotics division where we had the opportunity to interact with robots and that was an experience of a lifetime.

What I took back from my training days at Daiwa and what I still strive to use in my day-to-day professional and personal life is the discipline and the passion for improving the quality of life of people in Japan. Their innovative design principles for planning compact and luxury residences, the construction technology used by them and the science behind it with respect to disaster resistance is so much of an inspiration for us. In addition, it is motivating to see how socially-responsive their innovations are.

Current Projects

I have been working with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) since April 2016 as a Conservation Architect. This position requires me to work on historic cities in the country and in the past 4.5 years I have worked with several city and state Governments to develop strategic frameworks, management plans, rules and regulations for conserving tangible cultural heritage. My current project is an interesting one where we are preparing a Conservation Plan for the historic city of Ahmedabad, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list in early 2017. Although NIUA is based out of New Delhi, we have appointed a dedicated local team in the city of Ahmedabad to work closely with the city administration, to achieve our objective of improving the quality of life of the citizens in the historic core by infrastructure augmentation and modifications in development regulations.

Although India has several sites on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, Ahmedabad became the first city to have the coveted honour, with the city of Jaipur following the year later. This particular exercise is a pioneer in the country and shall set an example for planning for other historic cities. The walled city of Ahmedabad has residential neighbourhoods, markets, community spaces, institutions among others, which strive to retain their presence and character among the development pressures. The Conservation plan shall attempt to address the same through revised development control regulations that shall assist the owners of the heritage buildings in maintaining the valuable inheritance.

Interestingly, this was also the city that I presented as a case study at the session that Prof. Günter Nitschke conducted with us on Renewal and Preservation in

Sustainable Global Environment in the Ando Program, 2011, which Prof. Nitschke appreciated greatly. I always remember the visit to Kyoto conducted by Prof. Nitschke as it has immense relevance to my project.

Message to Ando-sensei

I am at a loss of words as I start to write this message for Ando-sensei. I still remember the day when we had a courtesy call to his studio in Osaka. While we were interacting with the team members at the office and waiting anxiously to meet Sensei, a humble persona walked in and gave a warm smile to us. All of us were awestruck in front of the Mastermind; a renowned architect, the Pritzker winner, whose buildings we had studied throughout our architecture education.

Any number of words are not enough to express gratitude towards Ando-sensei for giving me and all my fellow trainees over the past several years this opportunity to come to visit his country, spend a month learning valuable lessons from the people of Japan and take back fond memories with us to cherish for a lifetime. I can speak for myself that I wouldn't have been able to make a trip to Japan that early in my life if it wasn't for Sensei and this program that he has so very generously contributed for the last 27 years.

Lastly, I would like to express immense gratitude towards Sensei for helping us understand what makes the country of Japan, it is its people; disciplined yet culturally and spiritually rooted. It is my wish that I am able to imbibe certain qualities of Sensei in me. Sensei, you are truly inspiring in every way and thank you for everything you did for us! Domo arigatou gozaimashita!





Name	Yusfan Adeputera Yusran (Dr.Techn.Ir.St.,MT.,Ars.)
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2011)
Occupation	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture Universitas Brawijaya
Country/Area	Indonesia

Memories of the Project

My involvement with several Daiwa House projects has been very influential to this day in the way I supervise projects. Even though it was just an observation, I got a lot of experience. One example is even though the work culture at Daiwa is very serious, somehow the workers find a way to make the atmosphere humorous and enjoyable. I encountered this experience while at the Narayama factory. This is something very rare for Japanese people who are very focused when they are at work. In this factory, two employees who accompanied us wholeheartedly explained some of the latest technologies of Daiwa House that had been implemented into their house development, such as testing earthquake simulations floors, soundproofing units, and trying fireproof wall technology. These observations influenced me into looking at future home technology. I realized for a moment that this is what we have to do now, especially in Indonesia where people still use conventional materials such as bricks and roof tiles which are very dangerous if they collapse. And with these observations, I am trying to produce research that uses local materials to use with these technologies in Indonesian homes.

Experience at the Host Company

I learned many valuable things from Daiwa House Industry. Also, I got many precious experiences from the headquarter in Osaka to the laboratory and the factory in Narayama. One thing that I can't forget is how prefabrication construction will change our

perspective about housing in the future. The vision that the founder, Nobuo Ishibashi, has dreamed of, proves that nothing is impossible and becomes a passion for future house development that demands efficiency and effectiveness.

Until now, I am still envisaging on how to implement those technologies in Indonesia because as one of the ring-fire countries, we need it to converse about our conventional bricked houses. In my lectures, I still teach those principles that I gained from the training because this is the chance where I can transfer the knowledge. It is not only how to build a prefabrication house but specifically, how to build something based on in-depth research.

How Daiwa manages their laboratory by researching all vernacular houses in the world makes me realize that everyone is different in making their home. So, we should comprehend that a house is not only an object, but it is also a reflection of the occupant therein. When I wore the Daiwa outfit at that time, I felt very proud and felt that I was a part of it. It was a personal experience that will never be forgotten. I hope sometime in the future Daiwa wants to consider developing a prefab house industry in Indonesia and I would be very pleased to get involved.

Current Projects

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Architecture Universitas Brawijaya where I research and teach about the development of the vernacular architecture of Indonesia (Nusantara). After finishing

my doctoral study from the Institute of History of Art and Building Archeology and Restoration Technische Universität Wien Austria, my research interest focuses on conserving the vernacular houses as well as digging the sustainable principles therein and integrate it into the modern architectural design. I am active in international conferences and forums to introduce Nusantara architecture to the world. I've published several scientific papers and the latest publication is a book about the implementation of ex-situ conservation in terms of architecture. I was also a trainee of the Ando Program to learn Japanese architecture as well as being involved in the housing research laboratory of Daiwa House Company in Osaka in 2011. Until now, I am a member of the International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism (INTBAU) and Architecture, Culture and Spirituality Forum (ACS).

As the Japanese modern architecture, many of the vernacular principles in Nusantara also could be used in Indonesian contemporary architecture, especially those pointed out in fostering the culture as the basic philosophy. Currently, as a researcher, I try to foster these principles of vernacular architecture to modern design. Through theoretical and scientific studies, the culture that enlivens tacitly in the Indonesian peoples has a chance to be evoked as explicit knowledge. Not only as a homaged practice, but a culture that also could be used for the future.

Besides, I try to promote an untypical approach to conserving vernacular houses in Indonesia. With my first book publication titled Ex-situ Conservation of Nusantara Architecture, I try to stimulate the local who doesn't want to live in the wooden vernacular house anymore to relocate their house to the museum. This approach is heard as provocative, especially for old-school preservationists. But if we want our culture to

still live and to be fostered by our descendants, then we should consider this approach undoubtedly.

Messege to Ando-sensei

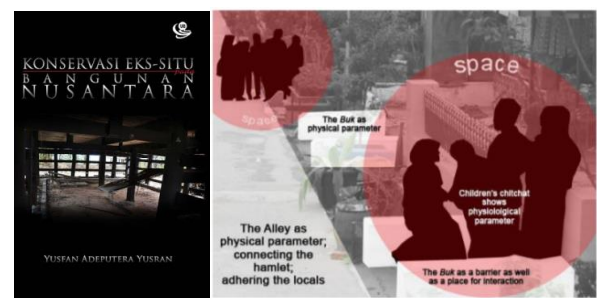
How sad to hear that this program has reached its end. This feeling is mixed considering that so much laughter adorns every year and so much hope is brought by the participants when they landed in Osaka on the first day. Likewise, as we left Osaka, the tears of sadness among participants who imagined the bond of brotherhood and all the sweet memories for the past month would soon leave as the planes taking us home took off, in the hope that one day we will meet again, even though it may never be again.

When OFIX announced that there will be a reunion, I immediately prepared to participate in the hope I could meet with those memories again. However, with this condition, it seems like it's just a dream.

Ando sensei, I don't know if you have time to read this message. But if you read it, my deepest gratitude for giving me the chance to join this program. I am honored to be one of the trainees. Your opportunity also opened my chance to explore all the continents in the world because I had never been anywhere before.

I can only pray here, may God continue to bless you every day with health and the best life has to offer, and hopefully, from us be reborn a new Ando who does things like you did to give our future generations the chance to get out of the box.

どうもありがとうございます, 安藤 先生





Name	Hareesh Haridasan
Host Company	Takenaka Corporation (2012)
Occupation	Assistant Professor, School of Architecture
Country/Area	India

Memories of the Project

The Ando Program for me was the most memorable in many aspects. It was 2012 and previous year one of my senior was selected for the program. I was fascinated by the stories and experiences shared by the seniors.

The applications for 2012 was announced somewhere in April to May. I was encouraged by my Professors at University to apply for this program. That's how it began the entire journey of the Ando Program. I was overjoyed when I got the acceptance letter from OFIX.

Initially I was enthralled by the warmth and support provided by OFIX especially Suenaga san and Yoshino san. Thanks to Facebook we are still connected. This holds true to my other fellow Ando Program Alumni. This program gave us an exposure to Japan and its beautiful culture. The homestay at the Mori family and the visit to Historic sites at Nara and Fushimi Inari are memorable. The Mori family had widely travelled and they were familiar with India. They prepared Indian cuisine –dal curry for dinner and I was surprised by that gesture. I was also excited about origami which they practiced.

I vividly remember the time spent in exploring Osaka city with fellow Ando Program trainees. The visit to the Church of Light by Tadao Ando and the Instant Noodles Museum are memorable ones. Time flies quickly and all the memories are still fresh in my mind.

Experience at the Host Company

Along with Hilda Artarina from Indonesia, I was assigned Takenaka Corporation in Osaka as the host company. The company had different departments dealing with different aspects of built environment. This company has rich history with respect to built environment and century's old practice in construction especially in Japan.

I was assigned a team working predominantly in industrial buildings and resorts. The section that I was assigned was headed by Mr. Kurata and assisted by Mr. Doi. Working with this team I was exposed to the work culture of Takenaka Corporation in particular and Japan in general. I was particularly impressed by the Monday morning meetings wherein the past weeks work is discussed. This session generally trouble shoots any issues faced by the team in their work.

My interaction with Takenaka's team was not limited to office in Osaka. Mr Sugimoto was gracious enough to accompany us to various site visits. These site visits exposed us to the then construction technology practices. I could witness near completion state of Abeno Harukas, the tallest building in Osaka. Personally, it was first time I am seeing such tall building then. The visit gave me insights into details essential for such super tall buildings. I was also intrigued by the use of base isolators in tall buildings and the thought process behind safety. I was fortunate to visit the Takenaka Carpentry Tools museum which gave an insight on historic construction system using

timber. Japan is known for its timber architecture.

Current Projects

I graduated from CEPT University in Ahmedabad with a post-graduate degree in Architecture and Settlement Conservation. Since then until end of May 2020, I was associated with various organisations associated with cultural heritage preservations. I worked briefly with INTACH Pondicherry Chapter wherein I was involved in making the urban management plan. I was associated with DRONAH (from August 2013 to June 2015) on conservation and restoration projects in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. From August 2015 to May 2020, I was associated with National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures (NCSHS), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. Working with these organisations gave a deep insight into the world of built heritage preservation.

While I was associated with DRONAH in Gurgaon, India, I was fortunate to be associated with projects such as Jantar Mantar and Bazaars of Jaipur. These sites as of today are part of the world heritage city of Jaipur. This rich experience revolved around project management and execution of the project.

Through NCSHS, I was able to work on some of the important historic buildings in India. The use of new and emerging technology in the construction industry is an important take away from my internship in Japan. The association with NCSHS had lots of research component engrained in it. I was fortunate to work on important temple restoration and assessment projects in Tamil Nadu predominantly.

The association with NCSHS had many recall moments from training session at Takenaka Corporation.

Since June 2020, I am associated with Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore as Assistant

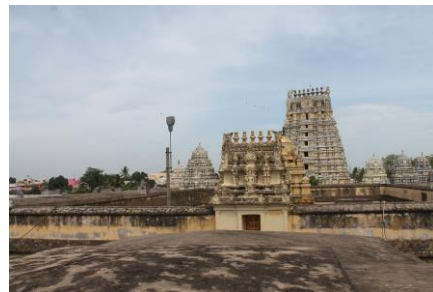
Professor in School of Architecture.

Message to Ando-sensei

Tadao Ando, the master architect is an inspirational figure to many. He has inspired many professionals especially in Asia. His simplistic yet phenomenal work talks about the value it possesses. I would wish for his well-being in this pandemic situation we are in. We as Ando Program trainees were lucky in meeting him in person as well as seeing some of his works.

Conversations with Students was a wonderful gift from Ando san along with book on architectural details. Personally, I enjoyed reading the book Conversations with Students. I have a question for Ando san based on this book. Ando san objects to use the term critical regionalism for his works. Critical regionalism is a term coined by Kenneth Frampton. I would like to know Ando san's objection to this term.

Second question for Ando san would be your opinion on changes in architectural practices in coming decade.



Ekambaranathar Temple in Kanchipuram (Source: NCSHS, IIT Madras)



Unfinished Gopuram (gateway) of temple in Thiruvellarai. (Source: NCSHS, IIT Madras)



Name	Hilda Multi Artarina
Host Company	Takenaka Corporation (2012)
Occupation	Government employee at Dept. of Public Works and Spatial Planning
Country/Area	Indonesia

Memories of the Project

The Ando Program experiences I had in Osaka were very valuable, but the best thing for me was the opportunity to meet and to collaborate with students and young architects from several different countries in Asia. We had a chance to study together and to work side by side, while exchanging ideas and knowledge to learn from each other. This would furthermore provide an insight into nationalities and diverse cultures throughout the world and would be a great chance to promote the relationship and strengthen the cooperation between students from various countries.

During weekends, my fellow trainees and I used to visit interesting architectural landmarks in Osaka such as Osaka Castle, Osaka Maritime Museum, Shopping center in Dotonbori, Shinsaibashi, anime center Den Den town, Hep Five, Namba Park, Tsutenkaku Tower, Tennoji temple, Ramen Museum in Ikeda, Osaka Banpaku Kinen Koen, and not to forget to Church of the Light which is one of the legendary works of Tadao Ando.


All of the valuable experiences I got from Osaka had motivated me to study further and to travel more to enrich myself with new experiences and insights that hardly found in daily lives. Therefore, after my Ando Program journey ended, I developed an intention to further my study in Japan. In 2014 I applied for a scholarship and got accepted in the Department of Urban Engineering, The University of Tokyo. I chose to study in this field because it is indeed very important

to support my current work which is not only dealing with architecture and buildings, but also dealing with urban design and spatial planning.

Experience at the Host Company

I was assigned at Takenaka Corporation with a colleague from India, Hareesh Haridashan. Takenaka Corporation is Japan's oldest architectural, engineering and construction firm. It has been operating since 1610 and has long history rich in tradition for having created a large number of Japan's most prominent landmarks. Having trained at Takenaka Corporation is one of the best opportunities I had as we were exposed with distinguished experiences and new knowledge every day. We also got a chance to get involved in the design process which was very interesting. Team members were always supporting and encouraging us to generate new ideas and achieve the best result. We are very fortunate because the overall training process was well balanced between office work and field work or construction site visits.

One of the most memorable experiences during our training period was when we were invited to visit Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum in Kobe. This museum is not only a place for conserving remarkable tools from the past, but also as a place for passing on the spirit of making things (*monozukuri*) which demonstrate the skill of traditional craftsmanship that the Japanese have cherished since antiquity.



In this museum we can learn about the world and history of Japanese carpentry world, complete with the remarkable equipment which convey the skills, wisdom, and spirit of the carpenter who make masterful use of them, as well as the resulting architecture and woodworking. Japanese carpenters or *Daiku*, became the pioneer for the future development of Japanese architecture as they were the qualified architects in their era.

Visiting this Museum had myself realize that architecture is one of the best jobs in the world! A true architect wholeheartedly works with commitment, perseverance and creativity to produce a work that not only considers client satisfaction but also puts high consideration in the environmental and socio-cultural impacts it causes. Being an architect means being at the forefront of innovation and change. This work is constantly evolving as it offers a seamless experience that encourages us to explore new things continuously, be it in terms of materials, building technology, construction methods, environmental issues, or in terms of experimenting with different approaches regarding the design concepts or client demands.

Current Projects

Currently I work as a government employee in the Department of Public Works and Spatial Planning in Tuban. I am assigned as a head for Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Subdivision. Our works are focusing on city planning and urban quality improvement projects, as well as establishing spatial planning regulations.

Working in urban design and planning field is like studying architecture in the broader field with broader perspectives. It involves the arrangement and design of not only buildings but also of public spaces, transport systems, services, as well as

amenities.


Architecture has a broad range of studies, covering topics that range from safety to amenity, traditional to modern, environment to art, and landscape to urban planning. While urban design blends Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and City Planning together to make urban areas functional and attractive. It plays the role during the process of transforming places as it has the ability to bring other experts and communities together to produce good ideas and solving challenges.

Message to Ando-sensei

Since my early years as an architecture student, I really adored Ando-sensei's works. So, when I got a chance to meet him finally, I felt so nervous, yet very excited. I still remember the days I used to post some quotes from Ando-sensei on my bedroom wall as my source of strength and to remind me of why I chose this path. It was an unforgettable moment when I was able to listen to his short lecture directly in his office.

One of Ando-sensei's advice that I remember the most was that the world of architecture is very vast and it offers a wide variety of fields that we, as young architects, could choose to give our contribution to and focus on working there. He also reminded us that we are part of the world's citizens who must take responsibility for environmental improvement through architecture.

To Ando-sensei, thank you very much. I will be forever grateful for the contribution you had given to the architecture world as well as for the great impact you had left for us, young architect and urban designers. You have become a living proof that an architect is indeed one of the best jobs in the world.





Name	Suman Shakya
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2012)
Occupation	Project Architect / Urban Planner (CE Services Pvt. Ltd.)
Country/Area	Nepal



Memories of the Project

I had the privilege of joining the much coveted “Ando Program” for almost a month as a graduate student in urban planning among 8 participants from 8 different countries. The program consisted of job training, study tours, academic presentations and discussions, home stay and more to learn and experience the art and architecture along the lifestyle, tradition, and culture of Japan within the brief stay.

Travelling was one of the major aspects of the program; from commuting to the workplaces, leisurely trips, and study tours to experience the urbanscape of Osaka aside travels to Kyoto, Nara, and Hyogo. From the gigantic concourse of Kansai International Airport to the subtlety of the spaces created in the exemplary works of Ando himself and the traditional streetscapes of Kyoto, I got to experience the richness of Japanese architecture aside the heights of architectural and engineering innovation.

Besides the tremendous physical environment to be overwhelmed with, interaction programs were the next memorial facets of the program. From the courtesy call to the Osaka Prefectural Government to the youth symposium with the students of Kobe Design University and Ando trainees, a better and sustainable understanding of cities was envisioned. A courtesy call to Mr. Tadao Ando’s office in Umeda and meeting him was a dream realized. Home stay at the Morii family gave me the opportunity to experience the culture of a

Japanese family, feeling the joy of sleeping on the tatami floors and warmth of futons. Hence it was the learning of tradition and technology which influenced me to practice my profession as an architect keeping social milieu intact with the technological innovation.

Experience at the Host Company

Training at Daiwa House Industry as the host company was one of the major aspects of the program where I was imparted specialized knowledge on several aspects of design and construction technologies the company follows. The training was given as a series of lectures along site visits and a visit to the research centre in Nara.

Daiwa house industry specializes in the construction and sales of single house dwellings along condominiums and commercial buildings. As Japan was devastated following the wartime in 1945, a speedy construction became a necessity for the country, which the company specialized in. Starting with its first product “Pipe House” in 1959, pre-fabricated construction became a hallmark of the company, along with earthquake resistant structure, energy efficiency, and safety measures.

The learning from the host company has indeed been an asset in my career as an architect/urban planner. The company I’m involved in Nepal, CE, is a lot similar to Daiwa House, which specializes in housing, commercial, and hospitality facilities. A great earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 hit Nepal in 2015

that claimed over 9000 lives and destroyed over 600,000 homes, considered one of the deadliest earthquakes in the country, similar to the great Hanshin earthquake of 1995. In the aftermath of the disaster, the architects and engineers had a social responsibility to adopt fast and earthquake resistant technology. This is where I could share the technologies learnt from Daiwa House, including brace structure, damper, and base isolation system.

Current Projects

My recent projects include two prestigious projects in Nepal and Bhutan, meant to stand as an epitome of the context and people. I found the challenge of addressing the urban fabric and societal needs in both the projects accomplishing which was the most satisfying aspect.

Multi-Level Car Parking in Bhutan was developed as an iconic project to address the rapid urbanization of Bhutan, which has seen an increase in car ownership resulting in unorganized parking and congestion in the city. The project was developed under public private partnership with the private sector given the tenure of 22 years to design, construct, and operate the car parking building facilities following which the ownership transfers to the government. Under the project, two multi-level car parking buildings were built at the ends of the arterial road in Thimphu City, Norzin Lam. Aside from the capacity of parking spaces for 350 cars, 20% of the buildings consist of commercial spaces. To address the sloping terrain of Thimphu City, the buildings were constructed with two basements and four floors fully given the richness of traditional Bhutanese architecture, as needed by the guidelines of Bhutan's municipal body, Thromde.

Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, is one of the significant religious destinations of Nepal, with a tremendous flow of tourists. The second international

airport of the country is soon coming into operation in the region bolstering tourism. In order to cater to the needs of tourism, a private company "Hub Lumbini" has ventured to develop the region as a tourist destination. Under the project, many hospitality and commercial facilities like hotels, restaurants, an amusement park, a multiplex shall be developed to develop Lumbini as one of the major tourist destinations of the country.

Message to Ando-sensei

"Ando Program" has been a stepping stone in my career and influenced the enhancement of my profession. It gave me the exposure to development and technological innovation happening in Japan along understanding the field of art and architecture better. Blending the social need and technology to form the crux of architectural practice was best exemplified through the program.

The program is a quintessential platform for aspiring architects to excel in their profession aside contributing to the development of their countries. Besides, it forms an outstanding arena for the like-minded scholars and professionals to share their ideas, seldom achieved in other programs. Such programs definitely need continuity in the future. It was saddening to hear the program is coming to an end. Perhaps, it's time for all the stakeholders including the academic institutes and host companies to impart their support to carry the legacy of the program in their own way.





Name	Anna Katrina Alcaraz - Sansone di Campobianco
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2014)
Occupation	Architect / Resort owner
Country/Area	Philippines

Memories of the Project

Japan has always been a country I've wanted to visit. Although the focus was in the Kansai region, I remember the satiety of the experience, not leaving me wanting for more. The hospitality, efficiency, the care that was given to every aspect of our stay, the time that everyone involved gave and willingly spent with us was especially heart-warming, from the welcome in the airport, to meeting even government officials, until the final send-off.

This gave an imprint on me as I venture into tourism. The desire to give each guest a seamless welcoming experience.

The guided tours in each of Ando-sensei's masterpieces were definite highlights, I looked forward to each one of them. Some more iconic than others, no photo nor book can compare to experiencing the texture, the volumes, and have a personal understanding of the building, its concept and inspirations, that left an indelible mark on me.

Visiting Japan's historical city, Kyoto, made me understand that framing and borrowing views, has been a practice done for generations. Together with my previous European travels, some of Ando-sensei's buildings, such as the Awaji Yumebutai, remind me of the Roman scale. And it is the merging of both east and west philosophies, which he made in his own language.

This influenced me to own my experiences and interpretations, and be more confident in my own vision.

Experience at the Host Company

I was delighted that our host companies were established construction companies, as I believe that the most remarkable buildings are a fusion of both design and engineering method. They brought us to two of their ongoing projects, one in Osaka centre and the other in Kyoto. As I do projects in a remote island, away from the city, my unconscious take-away was to do prefabrication of building elements even just on the same site. Although it requires more precision and care, it makes the flow of the construction process in a more orderly manner.

Every day was a thought out itinerary from a member of their design team with the objective to give us a greater grip of the Japanese culture and architecture: from art and historical museums, temples and castles, the tallest building — Harukas, Namba Park (which was actually a commercial mall), to the earthquake memorial and longest suspension bridge, the Akashi Kaikyo in Kobe, and even more Ando-sensei built works in the area, which were not included in the general program. Even if I had two or three months on my own and a lot of money to spend, I don't think I would be able to create the richness of exposure and experience that the Zenitaka team prepared for us. Most of this knowledge is subliminal, which I'm sure I have incorporated in my design work.

Current Projects

A year after joining the Ando Program, my husband and I decided to invest in a beachfront property in a budding surf town south of the Philippines, Siargao Island. Tourism was on the rise, and we longed to be closer to nature. I designed and built (as “foreman”) our boutique resort named L’Osteria. I was supposed to direct the design from the city. However, the work was not the quality that we wanted, hence, I had to relocate and direct the construction as well.

I did not consider myself an expert in construction, (I never expected I would get into it) but I knew what I wanted. As the only woman in the site, even though I was the owner (!), I encountered a lot of challenges. Being present, I also got myself more acquainted with the locally available hardwood which made a big difference in how the project came out. The lumber arrives still wet; we process them onsite until the final product, may it be a rafter, a handrail, a door, or a piece of furniture. We gave a lot of respect for the material, thus it shined. We’re proud to have given hospitality to some important people in our country. We are still three rooms/villas and a restaurant as of the moment, about to start on the fourth, when the pandemic arrived.

This became my showcase project, and started to receive more commissions to work on projects in the island.



Message to Ando-sensei

I am overcome with gratitude for having been chosen as one of the trainees six years ago. I consider the experience a Masterclass, and it’s not just online, it’s a well-organised real life classroom. Thank you for your generosity of setting up the foundation. I am reminded daily of your altruism as we call our son Ando (short for Armando Giulio).

In university, you were one of the architects I looked up to the most. I was touched by your use of the simplest materials together with light to evoke in one a feeling of serenity. I promised myself I would visit the Church of the Light one day. Never would have thought that I would actually get to meet you!

After being exposed to more of your works, my favourite now is the Water Temple, which is a complete antithesis of a building. There is no defined entrance; there is no facade. It’s like a stripping away of illusions, one has to go deep down to achieve enlightenment. It doesn’t call for attention but rather introspection, reflection... the power of space.

The expansiveness of the experience and the connections I’ve gained through the Ando Program is priceless. I don’t know if I would achieve great heights as an architect, but I’m sure someday I would be able to pay it forward in some way. Arigatōgozaimashita for the opportunity, Ando-sensei.





Name	Jeanne Elisabeth Lere Dawa
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2014)
Occupation	Architect in GFAB Architects
Country/Area	Indonesia

Memories of the Project

I was lucky to be part of the Ando Program as a trainee in 2014. This program allowed me to level up as a young architect, a unique experience that not everyone can have. Firstly, I was able to visit so many notable projects by Ando Sensei. I even spent a night at *Awaji Yumebutai*. The trip was more special since it was accompanied by one of his staff who relentlessly explained the projects and answered so many questions. Thanks to this particular trip, I was able to learn the construction of his famous concrete walls and to understand more about his design philosophy.

Secondly, I was able to deepen my understanding about Japanese culture and history through the various plans on the schedule. A trip to Osaka Prefectural Government allowed me to learn about the city's development and preservation. The joint studio with Kinki University also allowed me to exchange opinions with fellow students. Furthermore, I experienced living with a host family, even though it was only for a night. Lastly, I was able to build some connections that I cherish until now. The fellow trainees, the host company, and the family have been very supportive even until now. All these experiences, knowledge, and connections are essential for me. They gave me new perspectives of different cultures and, of course, the architecture world itself. Some things that made me as I am now.

Experience at the Host Company

Zenitaka, my host company, had unique programs for the interns. Instead of sitting at the office and working on a project, every day, they took us to various places as if we were on an architectural field trip. Accompanied by 1 or 2 staff from the design department and an interpreter, we got introduced to Japanese architecture, both the modern and traditional ones around Kansai. They also took us to the Zenitaka's construction site. On this trip, the Zenitaka staff would let us explore the buildings while they would explain the design and the construction techniques and technology. These were fascinating since they were more updated than in my home country. Some things that I can apply whenever I am designing a project. Exposure to various project designs also gave me innovative and exciting design ideas for my projects.

The other thing that I learned from Zenitaka is work ethics. Time was always valuable, and people would arrive 5 or 10 minutes earlier. The Zenitaka staff members were hard-working, efficient, and well prepared. Every training day, the staff would give a short brief about the schedule and the reference of the projects. They always did their best to explain things. If we had unanswered questions, they would search it and explain it on the next day. These are very valuable for my work and its relationship with other colleagues.

Current Projects

My current project is called TH40, a project with my current company, GFAB Architects. TH40 is a 3-bedrooms house owned by a foreigner who dreams of having a second home in a tropical country. The house is perching on the green hillside at the southern Lombok Island – Indonesia, overlooking the ocean and sunset. Due to its location, the house is tailored to the topography, resulting in a 3-levels home with a ‘top-down’ entry. The roofs are conceived as roof gardens with infinity edges to finish in the ocean beyond. The design itself attempts to maximize the views while blurring the distinction between the interiors and landscapes. Therefore, all the room layouts are facing towards the astonishing view with full height sliding doors. The living-dining area is opened to all sides with a reflecting pond as the natural air conditioning and fence. The master bedroom and guest bedroom are located next to each other with an infinity pool in front, providing an undisturbed vista. Naturally, the third bedroom is under the swimming pool to maximize the topography. This third level also allows the residents to access the beautiful tropical garden.

The materials are reduced to a simple palette to camouflage the house in its natural surroundings. The palette ranges from off-form concrete with different patterns, local rubble stone, to timbers with limited areas of natural colored plaster. The green element is also part of the palette, where we put several planters around the house to make it more tropical.



Message to Ando-sensei

First of all, I would like to say my gratitude to Ando Sensei for being my inspiration when I was in university. The first time I found your project (The Church of Light), I was so moved by the simplicity yet beautiful design. Ever since then, I have researched a lot about your work, even I made one of your work as my precedent in my studio work. Eventually, I came to know about the Ando Program.

In regards to that matter, I would like to thank you for establishing the Ando Program, so it allowed me to come to Japan. Having this opportunity to learn from Japan for a month made a significant change in my career. This program helps me to broaden my perspective on the design philosophy in architecture and the development of technology in construction. It also allows me to have a better understanding of Japanese culture and tradition. However, the most important thing is providing me an opportunity to bring all those experiences and knowledge back to my home country.

Finally, I truly appreciate for giving me a chance to be part of this program. Meeting with you and visiting your projects is one of my greatest treasures. I hope there would be another chance for the other young architects to experience what I got from the Ando Program.





Name	Kabita Pandey
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2014)
Occupation	Technical Officer/Architect/Urban Planner at Nepal Academy of Science & Technology
Country/Area	Nepal

Memories of the Project

It was in the year 2014 A.D. when I got selected as a trainee for the Ando program. I was pursuing my Masters' course in Urban Planning back then. I was lucky to get trained at Daiwa House Industry Pvt. Ltd. It was a great opportunity to endeavor in such a prestigious project where I got to learn about Arts and Architecture in a practical way. It was quite an experience where I got to understand the culture, diversity, architecture, new research and development and the varieties of methods of implying it. Besides, I cannot forget my colleagues from different countries who were a part of the program with me and I would like to thank the amazing hosts who were there with us.

Currently I am enrolled in one of the prestigious institutions of our country, i.e., Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and have been working as a Technical Officer / Architect / Urban Planner since 2015 A.D. Here, I am working as Unit Chief for Disaster Risk Reduction Program, Indigenous Technology Program as well as a project Architect for the Technology building. Although my scope of work varies from research and development to the designing and construction of different buildings, I am backed up by the knowledge and experiences which I received from my host company. I am extremely grateful to my host company as well as Mr. Tadao Ando for providing me a platform where I got to enhance my skills and knowledge and inspire me to work on Research and Development works.

Experience at the Host Company

One of the greatest experiences during my stay in Osaka, Japan was the training at my host company i.e. Daiwa House Industry Pvt. Ltd. where I got to understand and learn various projects, technologies, Arts and Architecture in detail. I was fortunate to get trained on Earthquake resistive building Design, prefabricated housing design, latest technologies, materials and various researches such as: Sound proofing, Green wall, Smart House, Women Friendly House Design, Fire Resistive Building Material Design, etc. at my host company.

As Nepal lies in seismic prone zone as well as is vulnerable to other major disasters such as fire, flood, landslide, etc. the above scope of works such as Earthquake resistive building design, prefabricated house designs, Fire resistive building designs has been already incorporated as mandatory terms in the official books of Government of Nepal. Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) has been actively working in these fields. Besides, the concept of Smart Village and Smart City has also been introduced in Nepal and various projects has been introduced under this scope. The concept of Green wall and green roof has been introduced in the Technology Building of NAST itself. The knowledge and experiences form the training which I gained from my host company has been one of the greatest assets which I have been incorporating time and again in my projects in my beloved country Nepal.

Current Projects

I have been working as a Project Architect for the construction of Technology Building of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. This building is under construction is of approximately 4,605 m² housed with a vehicular accessible basement and having 4 floors extending above ground supported with modern applications and finishes complete with laboratories and offices with meeting rooms; and facilitated with lifts, HVAC, firefighting, plumbing & sanitation, electrical & communication systems. The building is combined with 3 blocks separated by the expansion joint and is designed according to the norms of green architecture, energy efficient technologies, earthquake and fire safety measures. Each unit contains their own office rooms, working stations and laboratories and each floor contains a dormitory for night shift of work on labs.

Similarly, I have been involved in various research works such as installation of Early Warning System for Lightning, Landslide and Earthquake in different places of Nepal through Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). I have been involved in various projects for Fire safety and construction of Fire Resistive house designs through NAST. Similarly, I have been involved in documentation and preservation of various Indigenous technologies of Nepal and believe this will help to preserve the culture and tradition of Nepal. Furthermore, I have been involved in different projects for smart villages and smart cities through NAST. I have been constantly using my experiences from the training program in my works as well.



Message to Ando-sensei

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Tadao Ando, the person whom I admire the most. He is truly an inspiration. I have been inspired by his works and enjoy reading his books and projects. During my stay in Osaka, Japan, I feel privileged to get to observe the fine works of Mr. Ando from my own eyes and experience his architectural journey through his works. I feel fortunate to get to learn his works as well as get trained from one of the best companies i.e. Daiwa House Industry Pvt. Ltd. I am truly thankful for such an amazing experience provided by them.

As a famous quote from Mr. Tadao Ando “I would like my architecture to inspire people to use their own resources, to move into the future.” There is no doubt he has inspired us to learn to use our own resources for the development to a better future. I assure you that I am incorporating my knowledge and experiences gained from the program into my works.

Lastly, I would like to convey that will always keep in mind the works, experiences and knowledges that I gained from the program.





Name	Vu Son Huy
Host Company	Obayashi Corporation (2014)
Occupation	Architect
Country/Area	Vietnam

Memories of the Project

Japan had been a big dream for me since I was small. Eventually, that dream came true when I was given the chance to visit Japan under the Ando program. One month gave me much more experience than I expected. Firstly, I had an opportunity to connect with talented people in Asia. Despite the differences in language and age, we shared the knowledge and experiences with each other. It helped us understand more about architecture and other countries also.

Secondly, I got to participate in an excellent architecture tour guided by very nice staff from the Ando office. Their guidance enabled us to understand more about Ando's buildings as well as architecture in Japan. What a precious chance! Thirdly, taking part in small workshops and training programs in this project broadened my mind significantly. We had a chance to exchange ideas with young students in Japan University.

Finally, understanding culture in Japan can be quite difficult if we travel as a tourist alone without knowing any Japanese. The Ando program gave us a chance to stay with a Japanese family. It was the very first time I had lived in a Japanese house and experienced their culture. We cooked and had meals together, played guitar, sang a traditional song. I felt like I had a second family in Japan, and I was really happy about that. Becoming one of the trainees in Tadao Ando's Program is one of the best memories I have ever had. I would like to say thanks to the program, OFIX and

to the people who supported us all the time in Japan. Thank you so much!

Experience at the Host Company

In 2014, I was trained in Obayashi Corporation, one of the leading construction companies in Japan. I have never worked in Japan before, so it put me under high pressure. During the 10 days of work in the host company, we could not only learn new things, but also have many experiences in a Japanese environment. First of all, Obayashi trained me to learn about a lot of technologies. During the training time, we listened to lectures on Obayashi's modern technology such as: green building design, earthquake resistance and construction technology. Although earthquakes are quite rare in Vietnam, everything I learned in Obayashi is still very useful to me in the future.

Secondly, on the field trip with the host company, we visited many construction sites and buildings in Japan. I was impressed by the conservation of the old theatre in Kyoto. The outside structure was preserved and they renovated the interior inside. I got many new ideas about preservation after visiting this site. Furthermore, when we went to Namba Park project, I felt so relaxed when staying in that green area, which later changed my mind greatly about green design. Last, but not least, I learned a lot from the Japanese attitude. People working in the construction sites did their job very carefully and enthusiastically. Japanese working attitude taught me a lot in my career. The training really helped me broaden

my viewpoint towards life and career. That training time was really a great memory that will stay with me my whole life. There is no word that can express my feeling now, but I would like to say thanks to Obayashi Corporation, especially for those who supported us during that time. Thank you!

Current Projects

Currently, my projects concentrate on housing, small buildings and interior design. In small scale projects, I work from concept developing to construction design, so that the quality of the final product can be assured. It takes more time than usual but I can learn a lot from each project. In my opinion, although each house is an independent unit, the environment surrounding it should be taken care of as well. One of them is the TM house. The area is about 800 square meters. The owner wanted to divide the whole area into three parts for their sons later. One part will be built first, thus we try to connect two other parts with it in the future.

When we did the survey, we saw many trees growing there, and we decided to keep some big ones. The house is L-shaped with a big yard in the east side to prevent too much sunshine going directly into the house. This house is located in the countryside of Vietnam, so we used some local materials like red brick and concrete to better match with the green tone of the trees. In the second project, we renovated an old building in HCMC into a Co-working space. The old structure was steel and lacked of greenery area and lighting. Our design focused on opening the space to natural lighting and keeping the old structure as much as possible in order to reduce cost and shorten the construction time.

Message to Ando-sensei

I would sincerely like to say thanks to you and the Ando program. It was one of the best programs which I have ever joined. As many other young architects in Asia, I think this is indeed a good opportunity for us to level up our knowledge and experience. In the present time, architecture is changing a lot and we always try to keep a fresh mind for new ideas and new things. However, we frequently question ourselves which way is good for young architects. In my country, fresh graduates and senior architects usually choose to work for their own company. Their job mostly focuses on housing and small scale where they can work more creatively and in detail. But as they don't have many chances to work with bigger projects, they lack knowledge and experience in working in large scales in the future.

As a trainee in Ando Program, I have learnt a lot from Japan and other countries. This program is very interesting and important for young architects. When took part in program, I connected with many talented people in Asia, and we still keep in touch and exchange knowledge with each other. I hope in the future, young people have more chances to gain knowledge and experience like what the Ando Program brought to me. Exchanging knowledge and best practices is crucial for a better architecture in the future.





Name	Duong Huong Ly
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2015)
Occupation	Project Designer
Country/Area	Vietnam

Memories of the Project

I was a shy student before joining this program. Being a part of this program gave me a great opportunity to know who I want to be. It is difficult to describe how I felt when I stood between two concrete walls while felt relieved at a same time. The feeling does not come from the building itself but from the spirit beyond the materialism. Ando sensei's works not only gave me the inspiration to be an architect but also taught me how to be a good person. Thanks to his generosity, many young people's dreams come true, many students become talented architects and continue to inspire the next generation.

Moreover, making friends with young Asian architects was also my pleasure. I still remember their faces, their talents and how nice they are: Tang, a hard-working, talented architect and a good father, Fitri, a friendly girl from Bali who always has a pleasant smile, Shabnam, a talented and motivated girl from Bangladesh who was very kind to me, Hee Jung, a Korean architect who inspired me by her energy, Sony: a lovely girl from Nepal who persevered in her passion, Chaitu, he is calm but always has a sense of humour. Nino, a young man from Philippines with lots of optimism. Making friends and learning from them are one of the most valuable memories I have ever had in my life.

Experience at the Host Company

During the training time, we had a chance to visit the Centre of Technology development of Daiwa House to know how they use technology to improve life. Besides, we also learnt about their history and their valuable philosophy which made me feel very appreciative for being a part of their environment.

All staff members were very enthusiastic and work with all their heart. I thank you so much Ms. Banda for taking care of us, Ms. Nakai, Mr. Kong and Mr. Aoshima for being our interpreter and helping us to understand deeply our lecture. I realized that Daiwa house Company combined perfectly the tradition of Japan with the innovation of technology.

My country is a developing country so that this experience is priceless for me. The philosophy of DaiwaHouse inspired me a lot and helped me to become a more persevered and inquisitive person. After being back home, I worked for a company and fortunately, my boss is very open-minded so I could share my lesson I have learnt from Japan to him. Besides, I also spent more time to research innovative technology that could be applied into my project in order to improve the comfort as well as the safety for people.

During this pandemic time, thanks to the open mindedness and the solidarity of us, our company has gone through the most difficult time and has a plan for further development.

Current Projects

I am currently working on a preservation project named “The Villa”. This project is a 100 year old mansion located in a quiet quarter in district 3, Ho Chi Minh city. Its value comes from the variety of different styles and different compositions combined with the ultra-richness of details. Its interior has a series of beautiful mural paintings in each room. Layers of history can be visible and reflected in the design.

Our jobs should honour history and find the ways to tell stories and solutions with minimizing impact on buildings should be the only choice. This building has a long history, passing two wars with many different owners, it is difficult to imagine how it looked at the beginning. We had to refer back to the historical documents to restore its original appearance.

Due to its rarity, some materials needed to be imported from France. We also needed to collaborate closely to conservation experts from Italy and France to restore all the mural paintings on the wall. However, our ambition is not only restoration but also giving it a modern touch by designing a contemporary artwork for its façade.

After considering many options, we decided to create a glass sphere inspired from the Moon. At day time, it will become a transparent sphere which reflects the surrounding landscape but when the light is on at night, it will become a Moon chandelier. After its completion, we hope that we can bring a new spirit to the preservation project in Vietnam.



Message to Ando-sensei

Dear Ando sensei,

“Thank you” could not be enough to express my gratitude for you. Before being selected as a trainee for your program, your project had inspired me since I was in high school. I have witnessed the globalization of my country and the demolishment of many traditional houses. Those houses were my house, my grandma’s house and my friends’ houses with lots of memories. People replaced my house, my memories by the new and empty skyscrapers or some “fake” historical buildings.

At that time, my dream was to become an architect who has influence on the young generation in Vietnam to preserve Asian traditional architecture. However, my perspective had been changed since I joined Ando program as a trainee. In your project, emotion is the most important material, not concrete. I also realized that preservation is not enough, architecture always needs a contemporary breath to live and develop. This new approach had totally changed my life. Thanks to your program, although I am still a young professional but I have my own dream and my own purpose to believe and to pursue.

I remember the day I met you in your office, I was very anxious at this time and wondered whether you are very strict. However, I was surprised when I met a humble man who I can easily meet at the metro. Your humbleness, your perseverance and your generosity not only taught me how to be a good architect but also taught me how to be a good person.



Name	Niño Angeliko Ricardo
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2015)
Occupation	Architecture & Senior BIM Specialist, Cracknell
Country/Area	Philippines / (currently) Dubai

Memories of the Project

When I applied for the program in 2015, I thought this was a long shot for me. That's why I was thrilled when I received an email of confirmation from OFIX that I got accepted on the program. This marked the first time I visited Japan. There was no culture shock for me after I have arrived after a couple of hours or even in the entire month of living in Osaka, I felt the familiarity of being an Asian through the Japanese culture and the commonalities Filipinos and the Japanese share. I have spent my childhood on watching "animé" on TV, which piqued my curiosity about the real life in Japan. During my college days as an architecture student, Japanese architecture always gave me a sense of calmness and necessary restraint from the chaos of the world. The program, in a way, gave me an opportunity to escape the chaos and confusion about my purpose as an architect that I was into.

The program provided a holistic experience of Japan, its unique essence, and vibrancy as a culture which is evident in the built environment. This gave me a deeper understanding of how and why their architecture is ingeniously built in such technique, style, and meaning. Experiencing the Japanese society through its basic form, the family, is also a memorable experience for me because I felt the reality of Japanese life.

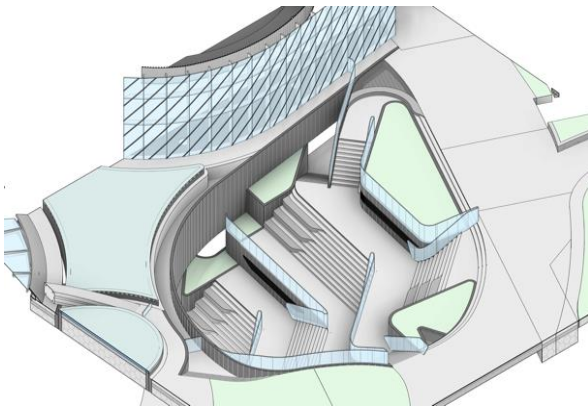
Experience at the Host Company

Zenitaka corporation, my host company, gave me a glimpse of the incredible work ethos of the Japanese design professionals. Their dedication and unparalleled professionalism have instilled in me that great work is always founded on discipline. But my few days of internship with them was not all with a serious tone. The innate comic personality of Zenitaka people made me feel at home and comfortable, with our design discussions lighter but filled with insightful facts that helped me understand more of Japan's built environment.

The internship days have helped me prepare for more diverse design collaboration with other nationalities, and trained me to let the design discussions be as loose as possible to let the ideas be expressed without hesitation. Because I believe that hesitation or the act of holding back can be of a costly hindrance to a possibility of something great. This intangible value has guided me effectively through the uncharted sea of unknowns in design without being pushy or demanding.

Current Projects

At the moment of this writing, I am currently a Senior BIM Specialist at Cracknell, a landscape architecture firm in Dubai. I have taken a different path now and am trying to focus my career on digital design and exploring the role of technology in the future of architecture. My work involves building digital landscape models for technical coordination and documentation. It may seem I have given up the reins of design, but the way I see it is this can augment and even enrich my experience as an architect.



Message to Ando-sensei

Finally, to Architect Tadao Ando, I can never thank you enough for your generosity in giving us (then-young) professionals an extraordinary chance in experiencing your architectural masterpieces in a special way. I have only seen your work through glossy books and magazines and thought it's very exclusive to the few, but when I was actually there standing inside your architecture, I was wrong. You have masterfully redefined the building typologies and made it distinguishable to your style. The Chichu Art Museum, for instance, made me feel I wasn't in a museum but instead in a sacred space. The grandeur and serenity of the museum felt more sacred than a church. This and your other works are essentially pragmatic but rich in meaning. It was such an honor to meet you in your office in 2015, and I hope your work will inspire more architects.

This experience will always have a special place in my heart, and one of the defining moments in my career as an architect.



Name	Ishika Alim
Host Company	Obayashi Corporation (2016)
Occupation	Master Student of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (Intake VIII)
Country/Area	Bangladesh

Memories of the Project

I still remember the day I set foot in Osaka. The excitement of visiting the country of my dream along with the honor of meeting the living legend Tadao Ando Sensei, with whom I got introduced to during my first year of bachelor's degree in architecture, made it the most cherished moment of my life.

The entire time of the exchange was exhilarating! It was a constant learning process through making different experiences and meeting diverse people. The exposure to the Japanese working environment taught me to be respectful and dedicated to my work. The unique homestay experience taught me to appreciate a whole new culture and lifestyle. The OFIX representative and all other staff from Osaka Prefecture Government Office involved in the program taught me hospitality, warmth, patience, friendship, and empathy. I experienced the immense power of 'light and space' through the designs of Ando sensei and his community involvement taught me compassion. The mindfulness and the wise words of Professor Gunther Nitchke inspired me to be sensitive and think critically. Last but not the least, my fellow trainees taught me the power of friendship and knowledge exchange, beyond the boundaries.

The bonding and network that were established during Summer 2016 is still intact even after all these years and that is the most cherished aspect of the entire experience for me.

Experience at the Host Company

Being a trainee in one of the leading companies in the world, Obayashi Corporation was an exceptional experience. Japanese work culture and dedication was known to me before but experiencing it in real time and space was exciting and overwhelming.

The experience in Obayashi was diverse in a sense that we were exposed to different projects in different times. There were multiple site visits to a diverse range of projects, starting from residential condominiums to waste management plants. From understanding what makes a successful public space in a very realistic context and demand-based design through 'Grand Front Osaka', to an extremely futuristic design concept like Space Elevator – the experience extracted from Obayashi were essentially thought provoking and stimulating. The construction site visits and the quality control were very helpful later while working on various interior and landscape projects. Moreover, part of my master's thesis focuses on context-based public space design and the knowledge gained from the Grand Front Osaka visit aided with the data collection and demand analysis to propose an integrated plan.

Besides architectural aspects involving hands-on experience in BIM software and conceptual design for the New Osaka Museum—which I enjoyed to the fullest, Obayashi essentially endorsed my soft-skills such as communication, teamwork, and work ethics. However, the learnings do not confine only to Obayashi, but the whole collective experience endorsed my

professional and personal growth which have been essential to work and study in an international context later.

Current Projects

Our most recent project, as part of IUSD and Erasmus exchange program, was implemented in Cairo. The project focused on designing integrated strategic plan to revitalize and connect an important but overlooked historical area, Ezbet-el-muslemin situated in the historic core Heliopolis.

From the analysis it was found that through urban sprawl, the scarce economic and ecological resources of the country are drained, and social segregation and spatial fragmentation is perpetuated. While Heliopolis planned in 1900, itself is unique within the socio-spatially fragmented fabric of Cairo, the site is an interesting anomaly. It has transformed its identity several times but always safeguarding interests of wide range of socio-economic groups.

An approach to systems thinking was taken to understand the cascading effects of the problem on various scales to propose a long-term strategic plan to integrate the site with the recent development in Heliopolis. The proposal consisted of seven phases to identify, restore and revitalize the hidden historic gems in the area and transform them as anchors for future urban development. To test the initial phase – creating awareness, documentation of the historic buildings and promoting them, an interactive children's walk was conducted with 10 participants. The test walk was a huge success to connect different stakeholders and to reveal the significance of the area to the dwellers and outsiders. It was an exceptional learning experience working with children and in a context so different in terms of socio-cultural values and language. It was challenging yet fulfilling at the same time.

Message to Ando-sensei

It was a moment of absolute honor and privilege meeting the master of light, Tadao Ando. To be entirely honest it was intimidating, yet a very powerful and inspiring moment of my life. As architecture students, we grow up studying his designs vigorously. Studying his sketches, sections and elevations in the books were the '101' for us to understand the power of light and nature in designing spaces. However, little did I know how profound it can be to experience his spaces in real time, in real scale! They felt robust, they felt bold, yet fluid and sensitive enough to melt with nature, just like Ando sensei himself!

Not just as an architect but a person as a whole, Tadao Ando is an example of great life lessons and inspiration. I remember Ando sensei telling us that this is a difficult and challenging time to be an architect, which I whole heartedly acknowledge. However, the answer to the challenge can also be found by looking into his own life and how he dealt with the challenges to curve through his way and thrive eventually. The value of the scholarship cannot be measured in a sense how it inspired those aspiring architects who have always dreamed of experiencing the legendary 'Ando spaces.' Not to mention the rare opportunity of knowledge and cultural exchange, and establishing global contacts – an opportunity second to none. My heartfelt gratitude to Ando sensei and to the respective associates for carrying out this beautiful initiative successfully for 27 years and for enabling us to experience something so influential.

Photo- interactive

children walk:

unveiling the

hidden heritage –

walkability and

environmental awareness - reflection and data collection, Cairo 2020.





Name	Kimberly Anne C. Tan-Afuan
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2016)
Occupation	Architect
Country/Area	Philippines



Memories of the Project

Having admired Japanese Architecture since my days as an Architecture student, I was more than thrilled and honored to be accepted into the Ando Program in 2016. Joining the Ando Program was nothing short of heart-warming, exhilarating and inspiring.

I encountered a lot of firsts during the Ando Program; from taking an international flight alone, befriending people of various nationalities, presenting my work in a conference setting, to witnessing the Architectural masterpieces of a world-acclaimed Architect. The month-long Program was filled with seminars, conferences, company trainings, workshops, cultural events, and architectural tours that I found had been great opportunities for expanding my architectural knowledge and skills. Personally, I found the architectural tours to have left the deepest and most lasting impression in me. Never have I truly understood how powerful lines and shapes, colors and textures, light and shadow can be in heightening one's perception of architecture until I was immersed in Ando Sensei's built works.

The Ando Program was a humbling learning experience. It helped expand my perception of the world and allowed me to be more aspirational and open-minded. As a growing architect, it also made me seek for a higher level of sensitivity and sensibility in my own architectural work.

Experience at the Host Company

Training at Zenitaka Corporation was a combination of office design work and site visits. Within a 10-day internship period in the Osaka office's Design Department, my fellow trainee, Minh Vu, and I were introduced to Japan's Building Standard Law which I found very informative. Not only did we learn about design regulations for designing buildings with disaster resiliency - particularly against earthquakes; but we were even taken out to see buildings that have earthquake-resilient features such as seismic gaps and dampers.

We also had the opportunity of visiting historical buildings owned by Zenitaka Corporation. One of the buildings, the Kyoumachibori building, was the subject of our training's design exercise. The task of redesigning the Kyoumachibori gave us a chance to delve into the question of striking a balance between tradition and modernity in architecture. Another historical building which we were taken to visit was a well-preserved 19th C. merchant's residence in the heart of Osaka. This experience allowed us to see up close a well-reserved example of traditional Japanese timber construction.

Our training at Zenitaka gave us a glimpse of Japan's construction industry. We witnessed how well-planned projects were as well as how well-managed construction sites were. What I have learnt overall is the importance of gaining new knowledge and having a good work ethic. These insights are what I have been

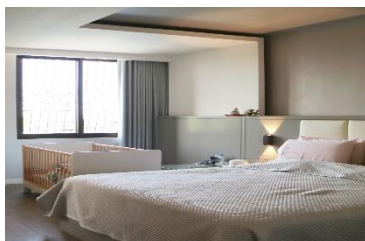
applying in my own practice.

Current Projects

The type of projects which I have worked on since starting my career in Architecture has been mostly residential in nature. Since I started working as a freelance architect, my projects have included condominium units, apartment floors, and single-detached houses for individual families. Most of them are located in urban centers around Manila.

Acting as both a project architect and head designer, my task has usually been to guide clients through the entire process of designing and overseeing the construction of their dream homes. In one recently completed project, I planned and designed the renovation of an outdated apartment floor into a more up-to-date home for a young couple and their growing family. Each room was designed to suit the taste of each family member while keeping in harmony to the theme of “timelessness”. In this project, I experimented on the application of clean lines and a neutral color palette to achieve a visually stimulating yet relaxing atmosphere.

Currently, I am working on the design of a house for a Filipino family of Chinese descent. This project requires a design that would adapt traditional Chinese architecture in the current urban Philippine context. Working on this project has so far involved researching on various forms of vernacular Chinese architecture and on possible bioclimatic design strategies which are applicable to the project’s tropical setting. An early design study resulted in a house with a Chinese pagoda-like form with a double roof structure and courtyard elements.



*Image 1. Apartment
Renovation in Manila*

Message to Ando-sensei

Firstly, I would like to thank Ando-Sensei for producing great works of architecture that have immensely inspired my generation of architects and design professionals, myself included. Many of us look up to Ando-Sensei for his strong architectural visions and for his unwavering passion in translating these visions into reality.

I would also like to thank Ando-Sensei for making possible more than three decades of the Ando Program. My fellow trainees and I had been deeply touched by his outpour of generosity and hospitality while we were still participants of the Ando Program. Over the course of our training, my peers and I had gained so much new insight and knowledge on Japanese culture, arts and Architecture. We had been very fortunate to have the opportunity of visiting many of Ando-Sensei’s works around the Kansai region.

Being immersed in Ando-Sensei’s architectural masterpieces and seeing firsthand how masterfully light and space are manipulated within the surrounding environment had been an uplifting experience. Ando-Sensei’s works, particularly the Church of Light in Ibaraki, has always made me reflect on my own approach toward architecture. They are what I would consider timeless and meaningful examples of architecture. They are also what I aspire my architecture to become.

I hope Ando-Sensei’s architectural legacy would continue to inspire many more generations of designers; motivating them to pursue architecture that bears its soul and can nourish people’s souls.



Name	Janfour Cuales
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2018)
Occupation	Architect, Archiweave Company
Country/Area	Philippines

Memories of the Project

The visual harmony in Shokokuji stone garden, the interplay of light and emotions in Ando-sensei's spaces, the fragrance of Hinoki wood, the pursuit of excellence from our host construction companies and the bonds with the attendees and hosts are some of the numerous things that I will never forget about the training.

Prior to the program, I had only seen Japan and its Architecture through magazines, books and the internet. Only through pictures and words had I discovered Ando-sensei's works.

I could not even imagine how it feels inside these structures and fully understand the exemplary construction techniques of Japanese designers and builders through these visual mediums.

When the invitation transpired and I finally got to visit Japan for the first time, the lessons from the books I had read about Japanese Architecture came alive and even branched out to other areas of learning.

Only by walking through Ando-sensei's spaces was I able to appreciate how human emotions are so important in designing architecture. Only by visiting old stone gardens such as the one in Shokokuji temple was I able to learn how to fully appreciate space. And only by training in a Japanese company such as the Daiwa House Industry was I able to understand why Japanese construction companies greatly excel in what they do.

Since then, I've always kept these lessons in mind in my personal projects and endeavors.

Experience at the Host Company

The Daiwa House Industry team introduced us to the values of their founder, Nobuo Ishibashi. Their logo symbolizes an endless heart which represents their bond with the customers.

It was amazing to learn that the company's growth was always based upon the needs of the community from the industrialization of construction in the 1950s and their specialization of prefabricated houses in recent times. It was fascinating to see the amount of dedication they have in the endeavors they pursue and the extent to which they give value to their clients. One of the facilities that we visited was meant to test the soundproofing of walls, the fire resistance of materials, and the seismic effect on buildings. A visitor could feel and see those effects for themselves.

One of Daiwa House Industry's most recent projects is focused on the "super-aging" population of Japan. They ventured into developing robotic assistance for nurses and therapeutic robots called "PARO" to provide company to the elderly.

For a trainee, the company has opened my eyes to new construction methods, the excellence that they pursue and their empathy towards the community. Every time I've encountered a new project, I've always tried to integrate these lessons from the program. From methods of efficiency in construction to how a project affects a community, the lessons I learned will continue to influence future projects in so many ways.

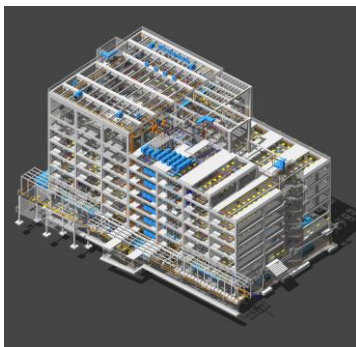
Current Projects

Most of my current projects are either building information modelling (BIM) or from Architecture competitions. One of these is an 8-story structure in the Philippines. The BIM technology used is comparable to building a structure in a computer first before building it in real life. This is done to determine in advance the construction issues of a project before the actual construction begins.

The architectural, structural, mechanical, plumbing, fire protection and other engineering trades are coordinated together in advance and clashes are solved beforehand to minimize errors, delays and construction costs. As of August of 2020, the majority of the issues being coordinated are on the MEPF trades.

Another area I'm currently focusing on are in competitions. The second project is a shortlisted entry from a competition in Singapore. The brief was to successfully integrate working pods in an indoor environment.

My entry was focused on the interior space and how individual elements should work together for its clarity. Although this is a small project, the temples in Kyoto and Ando-sensei's works have influenced this project so much. The appreciation of light and nature, the reverence for the emotions conjured in a space and the value of emptiness, are intangible qualities that I wish to study more and explore in future projects.



Message to Ando-sensei

It feels surreal that 10 years before the program, I had read about Ando-sensei's works in a university library back in the Philippines. Journalists wrote about his travels in other countries, his influences, and his exemplary projects such as the Azuma house and how these projects had "universes" of their own. Since then I had this farfetched dream to visit the Azuma house.

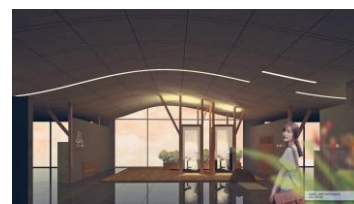
10 years later, this dream became a reality during the program and with the help of my host family who went out of their way to bring me there. My host family even introduced me to ginger ale which I enjoyed tremendously.

It blew my mind that we had the opportunity to visit numerous projects and even went to temples in Kyoto. It was in these visits and study trips that I could comprehend the influence of spaces in a person's emotions.

A lot of authors say that Ando-sensei's dog was named after Le Corbusier. I too have wanted to rename my cherished companion. Sadly, my brother had already named him Aristotle after the Greek philosopher. I might have to find other ways of honoring Ando-sensei.

After the program, I came to learn about Ando-sensei's generosity through donations for the young victims of the Hanshin earthquake, giving them hope and the ability to pursue their dreams.

Although it has been said many times, arigatou gozaimashita Ando-sensei for your immense generosity and for giving us too, the ability to also pursue our dreams.





Name	Divya Manek
Host Company	Obayashi Corporation (2018)
Occupation	Graduate student, Pennsylvania State University, Landscape Architecture
Country/Area	India

Memories of the Project

Japan is no stranger to disasters, but Typhoon Jebi in September 2018, caused widespread panic when its aftermath shut down Kansai International Airport. However, we, the *Ando* Trainees were assured that alternate arrangements would be made in case the airport did not re-open in time for the *Ando* Program.

When my flight finally touched down on architects Renzo Piano's grand design, I stopped to marvel at the quick recovery of such a large and complicated service. The office of the Disaster Management is not just an ordinary department at the Osaka Prefecture Government- It is like the bridge of the ship which studies the impending disasters and plans for careful mitigation.

During my visit to their office, the day after Osaka's next typhoon, I witnessed first-hand, the disaster management force at their peak. Over the next month I befriended the kindest cohort I could have asked for. Jiang san, our efficient program coordinator, much like a disaster manager, ensured that excited trainees left the hotel on time.

It has been nearly two years since then. I have forgotten most of the Japanese I had retained, but I still carry with me, the core principle of Japan- the ability to recover from all odds. Frankly, I can think of no better skill required to survive a pandemic, away from one's home country.

Experience at the Host Company

My father and I have always loved Kabuki art and hence, I most looked forward to watching a *kabuki* musical in Japan. When OFIX read about that, they ensured I that I intern at the company that renovated the Minamiza Theatre at Kyoto, the oldest kabuki stage in Japan. I wasn't the only one excited at the special access we were granted to the catwalks and trap rooms off the stage, my senior architect happily sat down on a tatami mat in the dressing-room and pretended to dress up. Like every experience in Japan, my short internship at Obayashi Corporation was unique and wrapped around the rich culture of Osaka.

The company recognised that it was important for an international architect to understand Japan's culture, before delving into their work. Dressing up in a kimono at the Osaka Museum of Housing and Living and learning tea-ceremony etiquettes in Kyoto allowed me to immerse myself in Japanese culture that would not have been possible inside the office. I remember visiting 55-storyed earthquake-resistant Branz Tower and the Hanshin-Uozaki project which was raising an entire railway line from Osaka to Kobe to remedy the disruption it caused to the community. I also remember experiencing my first ride on the Shinkansen and eating traditional Japanese Okonomiyaki- the first time I cooked my own food in a restaurant. My host company taught me that even small tasks could be carried out with importance and care.

Current Projects

At the graduate program of Landscape Architecture at Pennsylvania State University, I am studying amphibious communities in Iquitos, Peru that have been living in water for generations since they migrated from the Amazon rainforests. They face forced relocation to drier lands as the flood water rises more each year. Millions worldwide will be affected by flooding due to climate change. While walls have been adopted by human civilizations for thousands of years to keep water out, it is a temporary solution. With the climate change accelerating each year, humans will need more walls and they will have to keep getting higher. While the land of a desired area stays dry, the water is merely directed elsewhere, losing rich ecosystems.

Relocating an entire town causes significant disruption to communities, their livelihoods and quality of living. A relocation heavily damages our environment as more forests are converted to land for human settlements and agriculture. Moreover, communities that grew up on water do not want to be relocated, they prefer to live in their flooded homes. Their livelihoods depend on their surroundings and they know how to flourish on wetlands. Integrating wetlands into coastal and riverine communities may potentially hold a lesser damaging solution to address flooding.

"I would like my architecture to inspire people to use their own resources, to move into the future." -Tadao Ando

The future is here. We need to prepare.

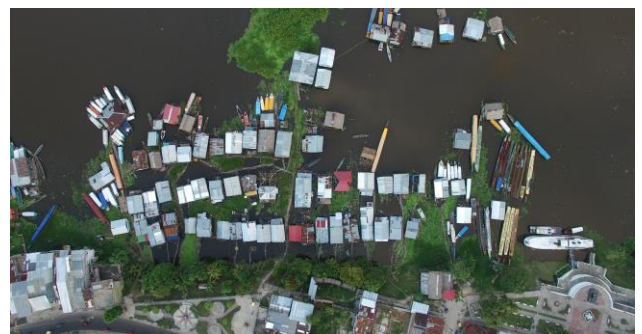


Message to Ando-sensei

At the crack of dawn on a chilly October morning, eight architects who were usually late for breakfast, silently sprinted across the sprawling resort of the Westin Awaji to the Hyakudanen, to witness the first rays of the Sun bounce off the sparkling water of the Osaka Bay. We each found a different favourite spot on the hundred stepped gardens and waited for the sun to rise- sitting together, yet apart. Not a virus, it was a powerful design which compelled us to silently contemplate the beauty of nature as it unfolded before us.

I have travelled globally but none of the experiences in any of my travels made me feel as overwhelmed as this sunrise did. At my school, I am the only architect in my cohort of Landscape Architects and I often find myself unable to explain that architecture indeed has a sensitive connection with its surroundings. It is probably because architecture today rarely reflects empathy with nature- the fundamental legacy of the Greek civilization.

Unfortunately, no media can do justice to the unique experience that your spaces can bestow upon a being. I am very grateful to you for establishing this international program for cross cultural dialogues. I could have visited Japan on my own, but I never would have experienced the depth and richness of your culture that the *Ando Program* offered.





Name	Lee Khai Sin
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2018)
Occupation	Architectural Designer
Country/Area	Malaysia / Singapore



Memories of the Project

I will never forget my first year of my undergraduate program, a project named “Meet the Famous People”, had been my first explorations on Tadao Ando and his fascinating projects. Those early studio’s discussions about art museums, natural lighting designs, topics on “architecture of in and out”, “the feeling of spaces” have much referred to Ando’s projects. This gradually increased my interests on his works until my first visit to some of his projects at Osaka in 2016. Amazing experiences gained through the explorations in person to see, touch and feel the buildings, contexts, and details which hardly be fulfilled through virtual materials.

It was an honour to have the second chance to visit more Ando’s projects in Kansai region. I appreciated the explanation from the interpreters as I understood further about the history and background of his projects through the Ando Program.

As the main objective of the program is to allow trainees to understand Japanese culture and contribute to the development of architecture and arts in their home countries, I could appreciate a beautiful encounter with everyone that I met; especially the other 7 trainees from different countries, OFIX Staffs, interpreters, my host family, and coordinators of host company.

Lastly, the most memorable and important moment was to be able to meet Ando Sensei in person. The courtesy meeting with a short conversation with him and a quick tour at his office would forever be a memorable day in my architectural life.


Experience at the Host Company

It was a fruitful and valuable experience being a trainee in Daiwa House Industry (D.H.I.). My desire to learn about the housing industry, earthquake resistance and building technology in Japan was fulfilled throughout the training.

I was deeply impressed by D.H.I.’s history and development. Through its earlier inventions of the Pipe House & the Midget House in the 1950’s, D.H.I. provided better disaster-resistance houses and fulfilled the increasing demands of living during the postwar period. The ingenuity, perseverance and forward thinking of the founder have shown the housing development in Japan and how it benefits to individuals and society.

D.H.I. also is positioned as a role model who continually seeks to improve with time and social needs. This can be seen through their efforts on inventing new typologies through architectural knowledge and technology. I was impressed by the advanced building technology and energy management systems including electric division, water and waste management systems which rarely have been applied in my country. Besides, visiting Nara Factory and Central Research Laboratory also gave a glimpse of prefabrication house production and knowledge on earthquake measures, sound proof testing and etc.

In conclusion, being a trainee in D.H.I is like visiting a living lab where I could experience different architectural aspects through eyesight and touch.



Although things that I learned may not be applied directly to my current job, they are important as a valuable lesson which has widened my perspectives and visions towards architecture and technology.

Current Projects

Located at the Northern Tanzania, standing proudly in Ngorongoro Conservation Area is Ngorongoro Crater. It was formed when a large volcano erupted and collapsed on itself. The explosion created a caldera approximately two and a half million years ago. (Team, V., 2020) The land is fascinating with an incredible amount of wildlife. It was enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979 and one of the 7 Natural Wonders of Africa. (Team, V., 2020)

Being one of the hotspots of African safari adventure, a resort named FS Ngorongoro is proposed to accommodate the increasing number of tourists at Ngorongoro Crater. Located at the South-West of Lake Magadi, a project site with approximately 40500 sq.m is selected. With roughly 4.5 hours of drive from the downtown, Arusha, the journey to approach to the resort are fascinating safari sceneries, campsites, and lodges. Visitors are welcomed by an arrival walkway where water cascade fountains are located on both sides.

FS Ngorongoro is designed mainly in two parts. The 4-storey block with a rustic appearance and a repetition of timber louvers in random placement is the main block, which is mainly composed of public facilities including a lobby, lounge, all day dining and etc. The bedrooms and suites are allocated on the East wing of the block.

On the West wing, a cluster of tree hut-like structures are designed and comprised of other public facilities a like specialty restaurant, discovery center, and kid's areas. The difference of height of the tree huts is to accommodate the steep slope site. Besides, the buildings

and walkways that intertwine the tree houses are aimed to produce more fun and unique hospitality experience.

Message to Ando-sensei

It was a great honour to be selected as one of the participants in the Ando Program 2018. I consider myself as a lucky one to have the chance to visit most of your masterpieces in the Kansai region, and most importantly, to be able to see you in person. Thank you, Ando Sensei, and your fellow colleagues for the kind sharing and explanation during the tour. Those thoughtful explanations plus our self-observation have given me further understanding and impression to all of your projects during the tour.

The Ando Program has successfully provided me architectural knowledge of Japan quite thoroughly. In fact, I could perceive a different perception towards architecture and architectural career. As a fresh graduate or young architect, working in a developing city might easily lead us to practice architecture in more "commercial" way. I appreciate your advice during the courtesy visit, "Always be conscious about your strengths in this field while never forgetting about people, culture, and nature." This reminds me that how impactful the roles of architecture are to the inhabitants and environment.

I always think that practicing architecture is like making an art piece. Every production of art pieces might be associated to ones' interests, knowledge, career/ life experiences or background. A special value would be placed in ones' heart if any observer could appreciate the art piece, similar to architecture. The success of architecture might not just rely on the functionality but the ideas, thoughts, and history that give inspiration. I think the world is blessed to have Ando Sensei as our master and inspiration.



Name	Made Harris Kuncara
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2018)
Occupation	Master Student of Building Architecture, Politecnico di Milano
Country/Area	Indonesia / (currently) Italy

Memories of the Project

I always remember the Ando Program as a sweet break for me. At that time, I was kind of frustrated at my work, since none of my designs were built or realized as they were. I also was in the middle of confusion, since I failed to enter my dream university in America with the Fulbright scholarship. My friends in my office encouraged me to apply to the Ando program, but I never expected to be accepted. When I received the email of my acceptance, I was happy and thrilled. This was like one the best things that had ever happened in my life. The day I departed to Japan was also during my birthday. It was like a dream for me after all those struggles.

This was also my first time to face with Japan's professionalism in architecture and construction sector. Through discussions, visits, and field trips, I noticed that Japanese sincerity and perfection create its way to shape a masterpiece. I also should say the word "sustainable" is really emphasized in the program. This program taught us to be more responsible toward the natural environment regarding our profession. In more practical use, it also showed how an architect can be actively participating in creating a better environment. This also made me think of what is a green design practice rather than just a "green wash" movement.

Thanks to Tadao Ando for making this program become possible. It is an eye-opening program. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all of the OFIX staff, the

translators (Especially Nakai san and Kon san), Prof. Gunter Nitschke, Prof. Esther Tsoi, Daiwa House staff, Shimaoka family, Osaka Government, and others. Thanks for bringing wonderful memories to me and I hope we can meet again someday.

Experience at the Host Company

Daiwa House graciously accepted us in their special training program. They make sure all of the innovations in Daiwa were shown to us. I had learned about the determination and vision of its founder, Nobuo Ishibashi. With his sharp mind, he was able to help Japan from providing affordable housing to enhancing green technologies. They also pleasantly give us a tour of their project that they had worked on until now. At first gaze, it may look like an ordinary house, but soon we learned incredible facts behind it. For example, I was fascinated by the amount of time that they dedicated to research on the materials and details to create an environmentally friendly building. I also need to mention the warmth of all the translators through the trip. They were friendly and kind to accompany us.

From the founder of Daiwa, I learned that strong will combined with tireless dedication is the key for achieving our dreams, especially in entrepreneurship. Surely, we have our failures, but we are always able to rise. From Daiwa employees, once again, I admired their strong dedication and commitment to their company. Their humbleness impressed me. After learning all of those things, it recharged my personal

motivation to help participate in building Indonesia's environment whether through architecture or entrepreneurship.

Current Projects

Currently I am still enrolled in Politecnico di Milano as a master student in Building Architecture. I received a scholarship from the Indonesian Ministry of Finance (LPDP). I decided to study in Europe to expand my perspective in Architecture as I was also inspired by Tadao Ando's journey in Europe. One thing I noticed different in Europe is their effort in preserving their local heritage. While they keep building more futuristic buildings, they also preserved the old buildings with modern innovation while maintaining the original aspects of it. I learned about that in my first semester and in my free time I love to walk around the cities in Europe and find out about how the past and the future could harmoniously blended.

In my second semester, my main studio was Architecture for Complex Construction. My friends and I were proposed to design a tower for the undervalued social class. I think the new things that I learned is doing more teamwork, new software and critical thinking. The project is situated in Mumbai, India. It is adjacent to the largest settlement slum area in Asia, Dharavi. We envisioned on how the new tower could support the complexity and versatility of the slum area while maintaining its sustainable and contemporary aspects. I am thankful for the experience that I learned from the



Ando Program. I become more sensitive to the context, material, and feeling of the space, which is really helpful with in-built basic logic on this project.

Message to Ando-sensei

First of all, I sincerely have gratitude for the opportunity that was given by Ando-san to all of us. I was touched by your generosity. It is something that I had never expected to meet a great architect with a great background. I knew your reputation as the great architect from my university. A lot of my teachers admire your architectural approach. At that time, I recognized the character of your design, value of experience, and the harmonious form of collided geometric design in your projects become something that captivated my eyes. I was also impressed by your life story. It is like watching a fictional movie, from a boxer into a world-renowned architect. It always becomes my life reminder. To have a strong vision, determination and hard work.

During a visit to your works, I realize how nature becomes the protagonist instead of the building itself. The sequence of space and materiality creates a surprising act and contemplating feeling for me. I especially felt this when we had an opportunity to visit Awaji. Through reading the construction process and watching your interview, I noticed the importance to give back to nature. This message was relevant with the current situation of Indonesia. Currently, we tend to pursue economic growth over the environmental balance. The program that you created, embraced me to be daring to take action to create a better environment. In fact, I must do it, since it was the only way for me to pay back all of your kindness. Lastly, I just want to say thank you again and wish for the best in your life; to be always happy and healthy.



Name	Pitchapa Nuyuth
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2018)
Occupation	Master Degree Student
Country/Area	Thailand / (currently) Japan

Memories of the Project

I still remember how the Ando Program has changed my life significantly. I was about to give up learning a Master Degree in Architecture and start exploring other passions of my life. Earlier after my graduation from university, I was about to give up my architecture passion because I had a thought that I might not be suitable for this profession. Although, after graduation I still wanted to give myself a try being an architect. No longer after that I had one of the greatest opportunities to be a part of the Ando Program that has changed my life into the direction I did not expect it to be.

Now I am enrolled in a Master Degree program at Yokohama National University and sometimes I also have plenty flash backs about how I ended up here in Japan. Attending the Ando program has fueled my love in architecture magnificently as I had witnessed the architectural experiences from Ando-sensei's projects, which he is the architect and a teacher I have always respected since my time at university.

Being a part of this program not only gave me a great chance to learn and earn experiences both from internship and traveling, but also have me a chance to explore my greatest passion in my life. From now on I will continue trying and learning as much as possible in Japan.

Experience at the Host Company

During the Ando program, I was an intern student at Zenitaka Corporation and my year's main focus was to learn from Zenitaka's main projects. I have seen one of the oldest architecture structures from Zenitaka's oldest era to the newest current projects. Therefore, I had an opportunity to see many good wooden construction's details from the past and also a chance to see conventional structures from today's era.

I want to thank Zenitaka for having me as one of their intern students and also for taking care of me as I was one of their family. Moreover, my days during the internship was smooth because of the efforts of the volunteered translators as well. What I have learned from this training program is that the language is not the boundary for people to understand each other. Even though, I did not speak any Japanese at that time, I could communicate with Zenitaka staffs well enough to understand the ideas of Zenitaka's designs and the cheerful stories from the Zenitaka employees.

Now, I am a master student in Japan, I am able to adapt some of the knowledges I have gained during the training with Zenitaka. I have a belief that I could learn from the real-life experiences as well. I have widened my perspective about Japanese's architectural practices, cultures and also the importance of communication with people.

Current Projects

Currently, I am an enrolled as a master student in Japan at YGSA of Yokohama National University. At YGSA, students have to change their studios every semester which is a good opportunity for students to learn from many perspectives of the professors and my current studio is the Nishizawa Ryue Studio.

This current project is about the redefinition of Irohakai Shotengai (いろはかい商店街の再定義) which is located in Sanya of Tokyo. Sanya has its special atmosphere since the past, although many shopping streets are facing the dead end of the economic situation with an addition of new city developments. Sanya and many old neighborhoods in Tokyo are being developed into directions which completely disconnect them from their old lifestyles. The townhouses on the shopping streets are being removed and being turned into a bigger apartment. Gradually, Shoutengai or the shopping street's neighborhood will lose its identity and quality as a living room on the street.

I proposed a way of redesigning the Shotengai which maintains its role as the community street living room and gave a new meaning to the Shotengai as a living place for everyone. My proposal is a wish for creating a place that the old lifestyle and the new comers could blend in, spending time and living together on the street. The shotengai will be renovated to be hotel on the second floor and other supportive functions on the first floor with the new design of mini parks networks along the street.



Message to Ando-sensei

During my high school, I had walked into the Garden of Fine Arts Kyoto and that walk had opened my door of architectural passion. At that time, I had no idea who Ando-sensei was but I realized that this garden space gave me a great image of how nature, architecture and art coexist together which my experience was slowly being formed as I walked each step into the project. From that day I came to realize the greatness of the architecture space.

Ando-sensei is one of the architects I have admirations with and always tried to learn the way of their thinking. All of the architects I have explored are my teachers I have never met and being a part of Ando Program gave me a chance to sense the project outside the books I have read. Moreover, I also have one of the rare opportunities to witness Ando-sensei's teaching directly at his architecture firm. It was a dream that every student is fond of.

I would like to thank Ando-sensei for this dream I had always dreamed about. It was one of the best chances that I was given in my life as an architect and also a door to the new adventures as a Master student in Japan of mine. Thank you everyone who was a part of the beautiful program, and Thank you Ando-sensei for creating wonderful architecture to this world.

本当にありがとうございました。



Name	Uzma Alam
Host Company	Takenaka Corporation (2018)
Occupation	Architect at Atelier Archscape
Country/Area	Bangladesh

Memories of the Project

The Ando Program will always remain a memorable part of my life, not only because I had the opportunity to meet one of my favorite architects, but also because I had the fortune of learning about a new nation, one that is known for its culture and hospitality.

Starting from our visit to the Osaka Prefecture Government office to training under prestigious architecture firms of Japan, I had the chance to learn a lot from the program. The workshop in Kindai University enlightened me on how people from different countries identify with architecture, and the host family, through their hospitality, shared with me their Japanese lifestyle. My favorite part was definitely the visits to Ando Sensei's architectural masterpieces. However, I am pleasantly surprised by how I cherish Kyoto and the study tour with Professor Günter Nitschke. Whilst I thoroughly enjoyed the Professor's numerous insights into Japanese philosophy and architecture, Kyoto has become one of my most loved cities because of its rustic charm, historical landmarks and canal walkways. The smell of *Kinmokusei* still lingers in my memory.

The program enhanced in me the desire to learn and discover more about traditions and cultures. It also gave me the confidence to deal with any situation alone. The visit to Japan was my first solo trip and an endeavor that has changed my perception of life and architecture as a profession immensely.

Experience at the Host Company

I was an architectural trainee at Takenaka Corporation, and the scale of the firm had intimidated me at first. However, I was lucky to have been trained under Chida-san, a kind and patient person, who constantly imparted his professional skills and architectural knowledge with me.

During my 10 days of training, I was trusted with the task of designing the library lounge of a university campus and the façade of a hotel. Through the projects, I learnt details about Japanese style seating arrangements, modules of tatami flooring, use of color, and studies on the transitional relationship between interior and exterior. It particularly intrigued me how the architects in the Corporation would use tracing paper to make design decisions before computerizing it. I have started appreciating and using this technique again as this is something we do in our academic life, but stop al-together once we become professionals in Bangladesh.

Training under Takenaka, I learnt how they value Japanese culture and integrate those into their work through a modern approach. This has inspired me to work with the alcove and *mashrabiya*, which are common in heritage architecture of my country. Their use of local materials has encouraged me more to think of ways to incorporate materials abundant in Bangladesh. The dedication towards architecture that I witnessed in Takenaka shall be a constant reminder and

inspiration for me in my practice.

Current Projects

Soon after returning home from the Program, I decided to leave my job and start my own venture in 2019. I was sure establishing an architectural firm in today's fast paced world would be a challenge, but it gave me the creative freedom I was craving for.

We are a team of young architects, striving to provide personalized solutions for homes and businesses. Currently, we are working on a 5-storied building that is to serve as a triplex single-family residence and a small office space for the client. We have tried to incorporate local materials and traditional design components to define the architecture of the building. It is a blessing that my fellow co-worker shares the same adoration for Ando Sensei's work as I do, and the project reflects our understanding on his use of light and shadow, and the relationship between interior and exterior. Large *verandahs* and *mashrabiyas* are characteristic of the architecture, while the merging of materials like brick, concrete and wood create its aesthetic.

Apart from the residence, we are also involved in the interior renovation of a renowned local newspaper office. The original office was built in the 90's and we have been entrusted to give it a more modern outlook. At the moment, we only offer consultancy services, but look forward to providing full built solutions in the future. While we aim to deliver architecture that is aesthetically pleasing, we also opt for simplicity making functionality and sustainability key factors that drive our design.

Message to Ando-sensei

Ando Sensei has been one of my favorite architects ever since I discovered his architecture in my 3rd academic year. Despite the opportunity to explore his work in Japan, it will take me a lifetime to truly comprehend his designs. His minimalistic architecture is a mastery of light and shadow and his spaces echo silence in a way that is beyond my grasp. I discovered how strongly his philosophies were influenced from Japanese culture, and this has led me in turn to try and embody my culture in my work.

I will remain forever grateful to him for founding and funding this program in collaboration with OFIX, motivating architects from around Asia to get together and perceive his architecture and Japan in a new light. He granted me the opportunity to witness a memorable 29 days, where I encountered many wonderful people and got the chance to share amazing experiences with them. The program not only helped me to have an in-depth knowledge on his architecture, but also encouraged me to think about aspects such as culture, sustainability, and people intensely. It influenced me to understand design in microcosm and appreciate the co-existence of architecture and nature profoundly.

Finally, the program allowed me to interact with the people of Japan, who are justly known for their sincerity and humbleness, and portray a great model of society. They are an inspiration that I have brought back home, and it has and will continue to help me in many of my endeavors.





Name	Katherine Leonin Almero
Host Company	Zenitaka Corporation (2019)
Occupation	Architect
Country/Area	Philippines

Memories of the Project

The most memorable part of the Ando Program was our Ando Study Tours. You could say that we toured almost all the cities in the Kansai Region. Each day was a full schedule, but we didn't really mind being tired in the evening because of the wonderful experiences we got.

Most of Ando-sensei's masterpieces that we visited, I have seen in various Architecture books. Though these books give you a clear image and description of Ando-sensei's work, it does not really compare to experiencing them firsthand. The magic of his works does not lie on the aesthetics alone, it has a life and spirit that you can only feel when you experience them yourself. Every detail was planned to give out a unique experience to each project. It was truly a joy to explore the developments with discoveries and surprises achieved with the masterful use of space, nature, and architecture. These experiences have changed my perspective and way of designing.

I have started to incorporate 'playfulness', as what Ando-sensei would have described it, into my projects. I used to design with a focus on arranging spaces efficiently, followed by aesthetics and experiences. I have shifted to designing the overall experience first. With this way of designing, aesthetics and space planning is naturally embodied in the design. This is the program's greatest influence on me, and I am incredibly grateful for it.

Experience at the Host Company

My stay with Zenitaka Corporation was different from the training that my other co-trainees experienced. Instead of observing and learning inside the confines of the office, we were given the opportunity to experience architecture firsthand just like our Ando Study Tours. It was a deeper and closer look into what Japanese Architecture is, from the old temples to the modern towers present in the main business district of Osaka. Our guides explained to us how each unique architectural element was developed with regards to the Japanese culture.

Aside from experiencing built architecture, we also got to visit various construction sites with the Project Architects and Engineers guiding us about the innovative construction methods and practices they employed in each project.

It is interesting to examine how different architecture was developed based on the culture and environment of each country. Though Japan and the Philippines are separated by a large body of water, there are various architectural elements that are quite similar. These similarities make it easy to take inspiration from the practicality of contemporary Japanese architecture and their efficient command of small spaces. I have greatly benefited from applying the principles I observed in their small space planning into my own projects. Though I haven't been able to apply the innovative construction strategies that I learned, I look forward for the opportunity to apply them in my future construction

projects.

Current Projects

Most of my projects are mixed-use developments, majority of which are high-rise buildings. One notable project is a mixed-use masterplan involving two office towers, a residential tower, a hotel tower, and a shopping mall complex. All the buildings are connected in varying floor levels from sloping ground floor gardens to bridges. I really liked this project because we designed the masterplan with a focus on playing with levels and perspectives. The project was set to be directly connected with the city's underground metro line. We envisioned this MRT connection to have a play with sight lines and visual framing. The user would have multiple choices to enter the masterplan. The main approach would include entering multiple levels with final ascent/exit from the MRT connected structure leading to the second level deck instead of the ground level. The underground connection tries to remove the feeling of an enclosed space with a wide atrium that is partially open from above – the MRT connection can be seen by the ground level garden users. This opening would also act as a wayfinding element where MRT users can instinctively know the location of the exit by the stream of sunlight coming from the open area.

Another project that I really enjoyed was a competition I did with some of my friends – Zafra, V., Bawar, F., and Manibog, E. It was a community center for a small barangay of Greater Metro Manila. We used the concept of micro public spaces and the inevitable crossing of pathways.



Message to Ando-sensei

My co-trainees and I were the last batch of the Tadao Ando Program. It was short but we all became close friends and kept in contact until now.

The Ando Program has made me realize that I really do love architecture. It has rekindled my dream of pursuing higher architecture studies. The brief experience of attending lectures and joining workshops has made me remember my college days wherein days were filled with learning. After graduating college, my days were mostly focused on apprenticeship and work. I have forgotten about my dream of pursuing a master's degree in Japan. I am grateful that I had a momentary taste of this possibility through your program and it has made my dream stronger.

For every one of us trainees, the program is not just a short-term overseas training. It has inspired and changed our perspectives in one way or another. For some, like myself, it has rekindled our sleeping dream. I am sure that every Ando Alumni would still want this program to continue and give the same experience to other young architects and designers.

The Ando Program will always hold a special part in my life and career. Ando-sensei, THANK YOU SO MUCH for giving us this special experience. I hope that you can continue to provide the world with your unique and playful architecture. I am proud to say that I am one of the 241 Ando Trainees that has met and called you “Ando-sensei” personally.

ありがとうございます、あんどうせんせい。





Name	Nguyen Quy Phu
Host Company	Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. (2019)
Occupation	Architecture Designer
Country/Area	Vietnam

Memories of the Project

Since I became aware of “Architecture”, Japan and Tadao Ando have remained as my ever inspiration. Participating in “Tadao Ando” Program, I learned a lot more than I anticipated. I was familiar with Japanese Architectural Culture as well as Tadao Ando’s works before coming to Japan, nonetheless, I was again in awe of the atmosphere once I stepped foot into one of those buildings that I saw online-images of for hundreds of times. The diverse architecture that we, the participants, visited and all of the interesting people that we met have remained one of the dearest parts in my memory.

I also did not expect the meeting and conversations with Prof. Günter Nitschke to be so profound. His introduction to books and his knowledge as well as his gift for “winning” the symposium will forever remain as my inspiration and the source for further knowledge. The free time that we had during the programs had us, the participants, share meals and interesting conversations. I truly appreciate all the people that took the time to participate, as well as the effort to organize such a high-quality program. I left Japan a tiny bit wiser as I had seen more of the world and I had learned a little more about architecture. The whole experience, overall, has helped me to connect with global colleagues and become more aware of international situations.

Experience at the Host Company

Sonali and I together participated in various training sessions from material research to structure, modular assembly lines, and sound to visual experience. The training at DAIWA house touched on almost all of the subjects that I was curious about and even more, so much more than I expected and I believe I still need time to digest all of it.

In the first few days, we had lectures at the headquarter of DAIWA house, where we can see the panoramic scene of the whole of Osaka. The view was breathtaking. There were also two ladies accompanying us throughout the whole journey. They were so nice and so polite that I believe they had indirectly taught me to behave better. To be honest, coming from a country like Vietnam, where we still very much rely on manual work, the industrial way of working in DAIWA house was eye-opening. The robotics that they presented and the insulation testing that they demonstrated all seem very far from the reality of the working environment of Vietnam. I am motivated to see the sustainable construction techniques being applied to the building industry in Vietnam.

I’ve yet to have the opportunity to apply the knowledge I learned at DAIWA House for my daily works because my tasks are mostly in the designing phase. However, I’m sure the experience I had with DAIWA house has made me more conscious of the reality of construction works, and thus I constantly look

for ways to have architecture be easily and sustainably built with local technology.

Current Projects

The last work that I did was for an international competition, where I proposed a masterplan/urban-design solution for the future of District 33 in Yerevan, Armenia. I believe the words from the jury will speak the best of my intention.

“The project was most successful in incorporating the existing urban fabric and heritage remaining on the site within a new development scheme. It clearly outlines a process that will allow multiple stakeholders, whether investors or designers, to be involved in the project without dictating an overarching architectural/design direction. Rather, it offers a ‘framework for cultural expression’ where multiple design directions may be played out. The authors are successful in maintaining the domestic scale of the existing urban environment while incorporating the outlined brief requirements for more density. The attention devoted to resolving a diversity of spaces, use and function makes the project poised to move quickly from ideation to implementation.”

The project is called “Palimpsest”, it is named after the writing methods when leather is a scarce material. One of the reasons why we have so many constructions so fast is simply because of the abundantly available building materials, I believe this “mindless” attitude toward construction due to the cheap building material cost has not only contributed toward climate change but also disrupted many communities. This proposal aims to change that, starting from the attitude, by working with our built environment not as “tabula rasa” but continuous palimpsest, that we have to be always conscious of the history as well as the future.


Message to Ando-sensei

Firstly, I wish you health and serenity as you have given a lot to the world through your architecture. I don’t believe I am in the position to be able to actually deliver a proper message for Ando-sensei, I can only express my gratitude and my thankfulness for your generosity, for funding such a meaningful program. I believe the Ando program, since its founding, has opened the world of Architecture for many young talents in Asia, thus surely has made the world a better place. I want to assure you that your generosity will not be wasted. We as young architects are very ambitious. We want to have works as good or great as yours, and we want to continue that architectural tradition to contribute to the culture of architecture.

I wish for you to have continuous happy and joyous conversations with people around you because you shared with us not only profound teaching but also humorous moments. After all, I have the sense that architecture is supposed to be simple and natural. After seeing the way your architecture presented itself, seeing the way you introduce your thinking and answering young people’s question, and seeing the way your client happily showed us around after long completion of the building, I have the sense that if it is built appropriately, architecture can also make both users and the architect happy. For this simple knowledge, I will forever be grateful.

Lastly, I want to say thank you. Arigatou gozaimasu!





Final Words

After 3 years, in July of 2020, the Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest was opened. The library was born from an idea of Ando sensei that he wanted to create a facility where children could engage in books and art to further develop their imaginations.

I decided I wanted to include this facility into the memorial and made my first visit to it. It was in the afternoon on a weekday, so I could leisurely explore the vicinity. While I was taking photographs, I happened to notice a particular sign. The contents were moving to my soul, and I decided that I wanted to share it with all of the participants of the Ando program. I also found it suitable as the final words of this program and this memorial.

Youth

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind.

It is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination,

a vigor of the emotions,

a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over love of ease.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years;

people grow old only by deserting their ideals.

Years wrinkle the skin, but

to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair--these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.

Whether seventy or sixteen, there is in every being's heart love of wonder, the sweet amazement at the stars and the starlike things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for what's next, and the joy and the game of life.

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt;

as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear, as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

So long as your heart receives message of beauty, cheer, courage, grandeur and power from the earth, from men and from the Infinite so long as you are young.

When the wires are all down and all the central place of your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then you are grown old indeed and may God have mercy on your soul.

Samuel Ullman





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