

二〇一三年度

大阪府海外短期建築・芸術研修生招聘事業

THE ANDO PROGRAM 2013

Osaka Invitational Program for Short Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts 2013

(Tadao Ando - Carlsberg Architectural Prize-Winning Memorial Program)
Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

平成25年度大阪府海外短期建築・芸術研修生招聘事業
(安藤忠雄 - カールスバーグ賞受賞記念事業
公益財団法人 大阪府国際交流財団 (OFIX))

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Preface

Funded by Tadao Ando, the first recipient of the Carlsberg Architectural Prize in May, 1992, the entire amount of his winnings was donated to support the internationalization of Osaka, his childhood home. Through the Osaka Prefectural Government, The Foundation of International Exchange, and, in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Ando, The Osaka Invitational Program for Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts was established.

Along with the support of a variety of corporations and organizations, the program hosts approximately ten student participants from neighboring Asian countries for one month in the autumn every year.

Since its inception in 1993 the program has hosted 21 groups of trainees and a total of 185 participants from 19 different countries. Highly rated among aspiring architects, the Osaka Invitational Program for Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts offers what no other program can.

We at OFIX would like to express our deep appreciation for the cooperation of Mr. Ando, the sponsoring corporations and training companies as well as our volunteers and all those who have helped to make this program a great success.

We hope this report will serve as a reference not only for those involved with the program but also serve the 2013 trainees and their Japanese counterparts who will play a major part in our continuing globalization and foster future mutual cooperation and exchange.

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange
Chairman of the Board of Directors *Yukio Shibaike*



At Honpukuji Temple in Awaji island, with
Participants from Kobe Design University

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Cover Design by Cupcupin Glenda Mae Cruz

Osaka Invitational Program for Short- Term Overseas Trainees in Arts and Architecture



Program Overview

Purpose

Utilizing donations from Mr. Tadao Ando and a variety of corporate sponsors, the primary purpose of this program is to invite overseas art and architecture students and young professionals to Osaka. The objective is to create and foster a deeper understanding of Japanese culture, art, and architecture in addition to supporting architectural development in the participants' home countries.

Eligibility

Trainees must be of an Asian nationality, currently living in Asia, and under the age of 35 with a high level of English proficiency. The participants must also be:

- Currently enrolled in or a graduate of a Masters or Doctorate program in architecture or a related field.
- Holding a Bachelor's degree and currently working as an architect or in a related field.

Participants' Nationalities

Chinese, Filipino, Iranian, Indian, Indonesian, Nepalese, Sri Lankan, Thai

Program Duration

September 26 –October 23, 2013 (28 days)

Program Hosts

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange along with top tier general construction companies

Activities

- Practical training sessions with visits to construction sites.
- Group discussions with architecture and art students as well as professional architects.
- Excursions to visit buildings designed by Tadao Ando and historically significant sites in Osaka and the Kansai region.
- Home-stay with OFIX volunteer families.
- Participation in International Understanding Education Event (English Project).

Program Language

English

Profile of Tadao Ando



<Year>

- 1941 Born in Osaka, Japan
- 1962-69 Self-educated in architecture
Traveled in U.S.A., Europe, and Africa
- 1969 Established Tadao Ando Architect & Associates

Awards

- 1979 Annual Prize, Architectural Institute of Japan "Row House, Sumiyoshi"
- 1985 The 5th Alvar Aalto Medal, The Finnish Association of Architects, Finland
- 1989 Gold Medal of Architecture, Académie d' Architecture
(French Academy of Architecture), France
- 1993 Japan Art Academy Prize, Japan
- 1995 The Pritzker Architecture Prize, U.S.A.
- 1996 The 8th Premium Imperiale
- 2002 Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects, U.S.A.
Honorary Degree, Università Degli Studi di Roma, Italy
Honorary Degree, Tongji University, Shanghai, China
The Kyoto Prizes, Japan
- 2003 Person of Cultural Merit, Japan
- 2005 Gold Medal of Union Internationale des Architectes
- 2010 Order of Culture
- 2013 Commandeur, French Legion of Honour

Affiliations

- 2002 Honorary Academician, The Royal Academy of Arts in London

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 Professor
University of Tokyo, Honorary Professor Emeritus

Representative Works

- 1983 Rokko Housing I, II (1993), III (1999) Kobe
- 1989 Church of the Light, Ibaraki
- 1992 Benesse House/Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum & Annex (1995), Naoshima
- 1994 Chikatsu-Asuka Historical Museum, Kanan
- 2000 Awaji-Yumebutai (Awaji Island Project), Higashiura
FABRICA (Benetton Communications Research Center), Treviso
- 2001 Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis
ARMANI/TEATRO, Milan
Sayamaike Historical Museum, Osaka-Sayama
- 2002 Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kobe
The International Library of Children's Literature, Taito
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
- 2003 4 x 4 House, Kobe
- 2004 Chichu Art Museum, Naoshima
Langen Foundation, Hombroich Museum, Neuss
- 2006 Omotesando Regeneration Project (Omotesando Hills) Shibuya
The Palazzo Grassi, Venice
- 2007 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Akasaka
- 2009 Aqua Metropolises General Adviser (Aqua Metropolises Osaka 2009)
- 2010 Chaska Chayamachi, Osaka
- 2012 Kamigatarakugo Association, Osaka

2013 Training Schedule

Date	Day	Event	Coordinator	Accommodation
9/26	(THU)	Arrival in Osaka/ Orientation	OFIX	Cityroute Hotel
9/27	(FRI)	AM: Opening Ceremony, Courtesy Visit to Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka Discussion	Osaka Prefectural Government/OFIX	
		PM: Welcome Party, Visit Host Companies	OFIX/Host Companies	
9/28	(SAT)		Self Study	
9/29	(SUN)			
9/30	(MON)	Practical Training Session	Host Companies	
10/1	(TUE)			
10/2	(WED)			
10/3	(THU)	Discussion	Mr. Guenter Nitschke	
10/4	(FRI)	Kyoto Study Tour		
10/5	(SAT)	Home Stay with OFIX Volunteer Families	OFIX	Host Family
10/6	(SUN)			
10/7	(MON)	AM: Practical Training Session	Host Companies	Cityroute Hotel
		PM: Courtesy Visit to Tadao Ando Architect and Associates	OFIX	
10/8	(TUE)	Practical Training Session	Host Companies	
10/9	(WED)			
10/10	(THU)			
10/11	(FRI)	Ando Study Tour		
10/12	(SAT)		Self Study	
10/13	(SUN)			
10/14	(MON)	English Project (Osaka Prefecture University)	OPU/OFIX	
10/15	(TUE)	Practical Training Session	Host Companies	
10/16	(WED)			
10/17	(THU)			
10/18	(FRI)	Asia Youth Symposium on Architectural Interchange	Kobe Design University/OFIX	Westin Awaji
10/19	(SAT)			
10/20	(SUN)		Self Study	Cityroute Hotel
10/21	(MON)	Practical Training Session	Host Companies	
10/22	(TUE)	Closing Ceremony/Farewell Reception	OFIX	
10/23	(WED)	Departure from Osaka		

Host Companies (In Japanese Alphabetical Order)

Obayashi Corporation

Founded 1892

Daibiru Honkan Building, 3-6-32

Nakanoshima, Kitaku, Osaka 530-8520

website: <http://www.obayashi.co.jp>



Zenitaka Corporation

Founded 1705

Naniwasuji Twins West, 2-11, Nishi-Hommachi

2-chome Nishiku, Osaka 550-0005

website: <http://www.zenitaka.co.jp>

Zenitaka

Takenaka Corporation

Founded 1610

1-13, 4-chome, Hommachi, Chuo-ku,

Osaka 541-0053

website: <http://www.takenaka.co.jp>



Daiwa House Industry Co. , LTD

Founded 1955

3-3-5, Umeda 3-Chome, Kita-ku,

Osaka 530-8241

website: <http://www.daiwahouse.co.jp>



Trainee Profiles



Gozin Sara
(Shiraz, Iran)
Sakhteman Sanaat Iran
Consulting Engineers
Architect



Rirermvanich Karjvit
(Bangkok, Thailand)
Sittanant Company
Limited
Architect



Sulkhlan Priyanka
(Delhi, India)
Cept University
Graduate Student
/Architect



Miao Ting
(Shanghai, China)
Shanghai Construction
Design & Research
Institute, Co., Ltd.
Architect



Utami Adinda Sih Pinasti
Retno
(Surabaya, Indonesia)
Institut Teknologi Sepuluh
Nopember (ITS)
Graduate Student



K.C. Apil
(Kathmandu, Nepal)
Tribhuvan University
Graduate Student



Karunanayake Suranga
(Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
University of Peradeniya
Graduate Student



Cupcupin Glenda Mae
Cruz
(Manila, Philippines)
Edward Co Tan &
Architects
Interior Designer

Training Reports

Training reports were submitted by the 2013 trainees, each one of them covering a different event of the program. Please understand that the writing style of each report reflects each trainee's experiences, learning, and voice, and may thus differ.

Company Training

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Obayashi Corporation | Rirermvanich Karjvit (Thailand) |
| • Zenitaka Corporation | Sulkhlan Priyanaka (India) |
| • Takenaka Corporation | Miao Ting (China) |
| • Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd | Karunanayake Suranga (Sri Lanka) |
| • Discussion Program · Kyoto Study Tour | K.C. Apil (Nepal) |
| • English Project at
Osaka Prefecture University | Cupcupin Glenda Mae Cruz (Philippines) |
| • Asia Youth Symposium on Architectural
Interchange with Kobe Design University | Gozin Sara (Iran) |
| • Other Events | Utami Adinda Sih Pinasti Retno (Indonesia) |



Company Training

Obayashi Corporation

Submitted by Rirermvanich Karjvit, Thailand



At the age of nearly 30, I have never worked in a high-rise office building before, nor have I ever worked for a company the size of 8,000+ staff. The total number of staff in my family's construction company for which I am working is 9. We have a one-storey office located in a suburb of Bangkok, not in a high-rise building in the center of Osaka. We build small houses, not towers, stations, or airports. Although I have known about Obayashi Corporation before as they also have a well-established top-level construction company in Thailand, I was still quite thrilled when I first came to the 10th floor of Daibiru-Honkan building, sharing the floor with more than 200 staff who are working on some enormous projects my family's company can only dream of.

As a citizen of Bangkok, a chaotic city with very little discipline and almost everything unorganised, I was shocked by the exceptionally high level of discipline all the staff shared. I somehow mistakenly remembered that the office hours started at 08.00 so I came to the office at around 07.50 and the floor was already filled with almost all the staff. After a couple of days, I realised by the ring of the morning bell that it actually starts from 08.30, which means that most of the staff come to work about an hour before they are asked to. The same thing happened after the end-of-day bell rang at 17.15, nothing happened, nobody left their desk. At lunch, all the lights were turned off and people went for lunch nearby. Some of the staff took their power-nap at their desks but when the bell rang at 13.00, it automatically orchestrated everyone to raise their head and get back to work immediately.



During the training session, myself and Adinda-San, an Indonesian colleague from the Ando Program, were assigned to design a college of architecture in Neyagawa as a main task along with a team of Obayashi staff who worked closely with us during this very brief 9-day period. The design process was very intensive as we didn't have much time but it was fully packed with interesting things. We learned a lot about architectural design, engineering, and construction during the design process and the thing that impressed me the most was the working mentality. Although the project was not real, the staff still worked very hard despite their hectic schedule. As an architect, I have found that having this much support from a team of architects and engineers this early in the design process is a great thing, especially when they also share the design ambition and hardly ever say no. Every enquiry from us always came back with further studies, more options and plenty of useful information for the design. I believe that thanks to this exceptional support and willingness to find the right answer, the teamwork was very good and the quality of the work at the final presentation was quite satisfying.



Project Team (left)
Design Task (right)



Construction Site Visits

(Left) : Osaka Station (Top Right) : The Sanctus Tower
Hommachi,

(Middle Right) : Site Meeting at The Urbanex Kyoto

(Bottom Right) : Hanshin Expressway

Parallel with the design works, there were some visits and lectures such as a lecture from the project staff at the Obayashi Technical Research Institute, which showed us lots of new construction technology we had never seen before. On day 6, Mr. Tomita, the chief architect at the construction site of Osaka Station, gave us a lecture and a site visit, which was exceptionally impressive for me. Due to the fact that the walkway and the new roof of the station had to be built only within the two and a half hour time-frame of every day when the train stops operating, the construction method must be extremely well-planned and conducted and it completely was. This revealed how determined they are and how much they are willing to do to achieve something unbelievable. On the next day, the team of architects took us to the construction site of the Sanctus Tower, a high-end residential tower in Hommachi where I was really impressed by the extraordinarily clean and well-organised construction site. Also, I was amazed by the exceptional craftsmanship of the Japanese workers on site and how fast they can build using pre-fabricated parts while maintaining the quality of craftsmanship.

I am writing this report in my very final hours on the 10th floor of Daibiru-Honkan building and I am quite sure that I will hardly have a chance to work in a high-rise building on a floor containing more than 200 staff again in my life. At the end of this 9-day period, I feel like I have been to a new territory of working mentality in which people are willing to do the best they can no matter how impossible the task seems. I strongly believe that it is this mentality that makes the whole country of Japan one of the top countries in the world. I would like to use this occasion to say 'Thank you very much' again to everybody at Obayashi who kindly supported us throughout the training session, especially the project team and my colleague Adinda-san for the hard work and the moments we shared. Finally, being asked if I have any last words to express for Obayashi Corporation team at the final presentation, I would like to state again here that it was my honour to work even for a very brief period at this legendary company and I hope to take the working mentality back to my one-storey office as much as I can.

Company Training Zenitaka Corporation

Submitted by Sulkhlan Priyanka, India

Zenitaka

It was my second visit to Japan and this time I was thankful to OFIX for inviting me to participate as a trainee in this program. It was different this time as I had the responsibility of exchanging architectural information and cultural values with people from Japan as well as other trainees from various Asian countries.

I was also informed that I would be joining the Zenitaka Corporation for their formal training program. That gave me enough excitement as I discovered that Zenitaka Corporation is a 300 year old construction company. The portfolio, which included public spaces, sports facilities, townships, office buildings, and government buildings, made me look forward to the day I would visit my office and start my journey. I came to know that Apil K C from Nepal would be another trainee joining me and this added to my expectation as I thought he might know the language I speak as I thought that would add to my enjoyment.

First Visit to Zenitaka

After the welcome reception it was scheduled that we would visit our host companies. We both till now knew that our company is walking distance from our hotel but the moment came with a big surprise when we reached our office in exactly two minutes' walk. We were welcomed by our colleagues and we had a small discussion about what we would like to do during the program. I was happy that my company would encourage whatever I was interested to explore. The first impression we had about our company was that people here are so serious about their work. It was pin drop silence when we entered that gate to the studio but soon after the interaction we realized that being talented and hard-working colleagues they were also very friendly, helpful, and always fun to be around. The session was our first experience of bilingual interaction in architectural discussion. It took us a little time to adapt to it but soon with the efforts of interpreters and all staff members it became an easy task.

The Unique Schedule...

What will a trainee imagine? As an architect I thought site study, analysis, working with the conceptual team, working on some working drawings, setting some targets to be achieved, and a presentation that measures our learning at the end. But we were so lucky because Zenitaka had unique ideas to make us aware of their professional culture, construction techniques, city public spaces, history of the city and people. The schedule was a fun and learning ride for us that included site visits to historical buildings, public spaces, contemporary architectural sites, their construction sites, and different cities. Each day we had a new staff member and interpreter to interact with us. I was proud and felt lucky the same day that I was selected to be part of this corporation; also we were overwhelmed by the welcome party that the office people gave to make us feel part of the company now.



Construction Sites

We visited various sites of the company that are under construction or completed projects. This included visits to the Hirakata Municipal Hospital, Advanced Chemical Technology Centre Kyoto, residential apartments, Yamato University, a commercial building, and the National Museum of Art in Osaka. The staff member and interpreter gave us a short briefing every morning 9am at the office about the day's visit. They also prepared a small introduction report in English including drawings and specifications about the site, which helped us understand it in a better way. On the construction sites we had discussions with site engineers on the kind of techniques used for construction, equipment used to prevent earthquake hazards, and architectural designs. The visit thereafter to the site on each floor made us understand how Japanese on-site working culture is, different equipment, finishes, and most importantly how they take precautions to avoid disturbance in surrounding areas due to construction.

Historic Visits

Our program was not just about what Zenitaka was doing but it introduced us all the way to what kind of architecture has existed in various cities of Japan for centuries. We did not limit ourselves only to Osaka but also explored Kyoto and Nara City. Osaka Castle, the Golden Pavilion, Todaiji Temple, Fushimi Inari Shrine, a traditional house owned by Zenitaka, and Toji Temple are a few of the sites we visited. This experience made us aware of the rich architectural history of the country. Another very important part of these visits was the special conversation about the old traditions and the new culture of the places. The staff members and interpreters were very helpful to make us understand various facts, old construction techniques, and design elements of the buildings.

Contemporary Architecture and Iconic buildings

This part of the program gave us an opportunity to see other designers working in various cities. We went to Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Arts in Kobe, In Kobe, Church of the Light in Ibaraki, Oyamasaki

Museum of Art designed by Mr. Tadao Ando, Umeda Sky Building, the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe, and Akashi Kaikyo Bridge.

The overall experience of my company was interactive, healthy, friendly, informative, fun, and culturally rich. Other than the formal schedule there were many other gestures for which I would like to express appreciation and mention as part of special moments. Their search for a vegetarian restaurant with specialty in Indian and Nepali cuisine made us realize that people in Japan are so caring for their guests. During the discussion on the menus we always exchanged information on Japanese, Indian and Nepali food culture. There were times when we wanted to go to a particular shop and they helped us search the exact location. The parties at the office were so welcoming that we never felt we were outsiders. I heard about Manzai as Osakan culture, and we surely felt some part of that through the humorous side of the people during those times and believe me language was never a problem to have so much fun at the office. We got the opportunity to interact with so many staff members, interpreters, site engineers and Mr. Zenitaka. Each one of them with their total dedication provided their individual inputs to our learning in the training program. I would like to thank everyone for their care, love, and wishes in the form of the gifts they gave us at the farewell party.

This experience is not just a professional experience but also a personality development program. It was a once in a life-time experience of interacting with so many people from different countries, backgrounds, and cultures. With Japanese people we built professional contacts and so many lifetime friends, too. As a professional I learned about a city that was so different from cities in my country. The one month was a wholesome experience that will stay with me my whole life.



Company Training

Takenaka Corporation

Submitted by Miao Ting, China



This time Sara, a designer from Iran, and I were very fortunate to enter Takenaka Corporation for short-term training. Takenaka Corporation is a large Japanese construction company, and it is one of the five biggest construction companies in Japan.

Takenaka Corporation is a family-run comprehensive construction company that has experienced 17 generations and enjoyed a good reputation around the world. In the "World's Most Admired Companies" survey, it won first prize in the "Engineering, Construction" category. Takenaka Corporation is one of the most famous construction companies in Japan, because its design, construction, and management level is world-class.

The first time we visited the Takenaka Corporation Osaka headquarters, we were all attracted by its functional and neat facade and atmosphere, and even though the building was built a long time ago, it did not look old, but on the contrary, the big glass windows gave the facade a fashionable and grand look. At the main office in Osaka, there are more than 1000 people, divided into several major departments such as the design department, engineering department, business department, human resources department, logistics department, etc.



I had the big honor to be allocated to the NO.6 Design Department, which is mainly responsible for high-rise buildings and large commercial & complex building design. Now the highest building in Japan is "Abeno HARUKAS," which has been invested in by Kintetsu Corporation in Osaka, and was designed by this Department. During our training, Takenaka Corporation mainly showed this design process and design ideas, and invited us to participate in the design and discussion of some big projects, and organized visits to the projects that are already done. Although it was not long, I was impressed, mainly by the following points:

1 Unique enterprise culture

As a Japanese enterprise, Takenaka Corporation maintains strict discipline and rules, which would usually create a rigorous work environment and arguably the situation should be very serious, but at Takenaka Corporation, it makes its own characteristics. Designers do the work in a good order, cooperation of the various departments are also in accordance with the same standard, but everyone can keep a positive mood at work, and it's rare to hear anyone waste time by complaining. I found the answer by talking with the staff. Such a good situation occurs because the company takes a lot of time to create the benefits and welfare system, which is very strict and orderly, but also provides very comfortable and considerate welfare. For example, new employees will have a year of training time, in which they are encouraged to think about their own career plans, and one year later the departments that they worked for will judge their behavior and give them a performance evaluation. Once they pass, the qualified employees will be recognized by the company and will enjoy a higher level of treatment.

2 Standard process, design of multiple products

Takenaka is not only a design company, but also a big company that integrates design, construction, and scientific research together. The design department is the most important part of the company, the scale is very large, and according to the building types each design department can be divided into residential, office, culture, scientific research buildings, high-rise buildings, commercial complexes, etc. At the same time, each design department can also work with the others and form joint temporary project rooms for special projects according to the market situation.



3 Attention to cultural heritage, historical inheritance

Takenaka Corporation has a history of several hundred years. In addition to their main business, Takenaka Corporation is also involved in many cultural industries, such as the Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum in Kobe, which exhibits wood construction equipment and the development of wooden buildings in Japan. The richness of the company's historical heritage makes the Takenaka designer have a high sense of social responsibility and culture.

I miss you my dear colleagues, I miss you
Takenaka Corporation, I miss you dear Osaka!~



Company Training

Daiwa House Industry

Submitted by Karunanayake Suranga, Sri Lanka



Daiwa House Industry is a can-do company, as it developed Pipe House, which utilized sturdy metal pipes as building material; Daiwa House Industry is also a future-oriented company with a vision. Mr. Nobuo Ishibashi is the founder (see Fig 1) of this company and he shows how to dream and how to achieve goals in an efficient way. Daiwa House Industry has come a long way and today their scope of production is not only limited to housing, but they have also expanded their scope to provide products in a wide array of categories, including robots, environmental energy, and medical and nursing care, etc.



Fig 1: Mr. Nobuo Ishibashi

In the Daiwa House Industry training we learned a lot of new things and it helped us improve our knowledge in different ways as professional designers. We can categorize into three items the content of our company training as follows:

1 Lectures

One of the most interesting items is the lectures as every lecturer was very engaging, giving us full knowledge and explaining the experiences that they have had (see Figure 2). They provided lecture materials as much as possible and every time they encouraged us to ask questions. We did home designing exercises using PITT software and this gave us a productive experience of software usage. Energy conservation technology, green concepts, and earthquake resistance technology were particularly interesting and attractive for us. The Mentally committing robot® PARO® gave us a marvelous experience and unforgettable moment. HAL® (Hybrid Assisted Limb) robot suits and the crawlspace inspection robot MOOGLE are high-tech machines designed to help humans to make their lives easier.



Fig 2: with lecturers

Fig 3 :
Experiencing
New
Technology





Fig 4: Research Laboratory Experience



2 Daiwa Research Laboratory

Daiwa Group contributes to the developing world by doing various experiments and research in their Research Laboratory. Although it was a tight schedule we were able to visit the soil testing laboratory, experience Daiwa House's original earthquake-resistant system, watch tests of thermal and sound insulation material that are actually used in products, see Agri-Cube (a hydroponic vegetable factory unit), Home Energy Management System (HEMS), Smart House technology, and new building interior and exterior designs. It was a great opportunity to have this kind of experience of new technology. This helped us gain more advanced techniques and have marvelous experiences of how life has become easier with new technology.

3 Site Visits

We visited Hyogo Prefectural Museum, Nara temples, Osaka Castle, and Sky Building, thereby gaining a great knowledge and understanding about the history of Japanese architecture. And also we visited FOLEO shopping complex, Harumidai Housing development area, and construction sites. It helped us understand the practical construction knowledge, high technological construction equipment, methods, quick way of construction and onsite tests for structural purposes. Site visits bring vast knowledge and quick understanding of the things that we had in the lectures.



Fig 5: Visit to Nara

Daiwa Group staff made this wonderful opportunity a colorful and an unforgettable one. We never felt that we were in a foreign country as all of the staff members treated us so nicely and we appreciate their kind heartedness, sincerity, and hospitality. We are so lucky and honored to have training in Daiwa House Industry.

Discussion Program · Kyoto Study Tour

Submitted by K.C. Apil, Nepal

OFIX, or Ando Program in short is one of the most coveted international programs in the Department of architecture, Institute of Engineering, Nepal. In this report, I will be casting a few glimpses on the Discussion Program held in the program, on the theme of “Renewal and Preservation in a Sustainable Global Environment” and our tour in Kyoto, a heritage city. For the Discussion Program, we were asked to prepare reports on sustainability that take indigenous cultures into consideration. The Discussion started with an enlightening discourse by Prof. Guenter Nitschke and expanded in many directions as per the perception of each trainee. Before going to the trainees’ presentations, Prof Nitschke mentioned in particular an inspiring and thought-provoking statement about the position of designers in the present world of practice. Architecture could be best classified in 3 categories: Artistic, Scientific, and Humanitarian. As a human being and designer of this sustainable global world, we have to question ourselves, in which category are we standing? What is the path for an architect to follow the humanitarian aspect and address the deteriorating world of modernization? What are the steps, to hand over our home “EARTH” to future generations? Later he explained about the different phases of architectural development in Japan and changes in the urban form and architectural style. He also explained about Japanese culture, rites of renewal in Japanese tradition and architecture guided by the Japanese way of living in the past.

After that, fellow trainees were asked to present their presentations. The presentations were divided into two sessions. In first session Priyanka (India) put more emphasis on urban densification as a tool for sustainability. She started with the fine background of traditional Indian cities like Harappa and Shahjahanabad, how they were well-planned and sustainable with the compactness in the planning. She expressed that compactness has always helped to keep open places covered and cool. Secondly the culture has always been such that appreciates social gathering and even the coexistence of many religions. Thirdly, she mentioned awareness about the environment. India, being an agro-based country, always placed importance on land and its usage. Indian history consciously proved that dense cities are key to success for better environment and healthy society. In the later phase,

keeping the focus on the thesis topic “Re-scaling the urban form and humanizing spaces of the city,” she stated solutions for emerging cities with the urban densification method, achieving high density and importance of compact planning. It was very striking to perceive the presentation of Ms Sulkhlan in a very well-organized manner of comparative analysis between different cities and graphical representation of cities with different compactness levels.

Adinda (Indonesia) with a local indigenous case of Kampung Sukolilo settlement, presented about the program for Kampung Improvement in Surabaya. Kampung is a defining asset of Surabaya development and has existed long before the development of Surabaya City. The improvement program explained the theme of the discussion with preservation as maintaining the essence of the Kampung settlement and making it more valuable and renewal as renewing the settlement for a hygienic living standard. The program helped in promoting local knowledge and upgrading the lifestyle with basic improvements like: footpaths, water supply, sanitation, solid waste, public health, and elementary school facilities. Her intimate relationship to the program was very distinctly visible in her appealing voice and honest teary eyes and more importantly, in her conclusion “Renewability and preservation are not only an effort to keep and maintain a heritage; rather they should be an effort to keep a living heritage alive and consistent with residents’ livelihoods and beliefs.”

Suranga (Sri-Lanka) perceived the theme as the lesson learnt from Sri Lankan ancestors where he presented the case of Ulagalla Walawaaa (unique name for us and very sweet & funny to hear in the voice of Mr Suranga). The property of Ulagalla Walawaaa had been converted into a resort without making any changes to its original architectural appearance although a gym, pool, sauna, and archery station had been added as new construction. Ulagalla Walawaaa is accredited with a “Silver” LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council, with certain sustainable features of sustainable site, water efficiency, material and resources, energy and atmosphere, indoor environment quality, innovation and design process, and social and cultural awareness.



Karjvit (Thailand) with his very attractive husky accent of speaking presented the different perceptions in encoded sustainability, where we have been united as one in a digitally-encoded 'global' network where the definition of 'local' cultures has become blurry. Close association between the old craftsmanship and the new technology can offer new possibilities for old craftsmanship and let the old construction techniques appear in different ways while being easier, faster, and more precise. He also warned about the excessive use of digital design and fabrication, which may lead to forgetting of indigenous art but opens the possibilities for architects to design a piece with a higher level of complexity. Full responsibility must be taken by architects since craft has been completely relocated from the craftsmen's hands to theirs. Architects' task is to 'consciously' renew the old through new digital technology in order for the two to develop sustainably together through time. That's why he concluded with "while we live our contemporary life that this era offers, our task is to integrate what has already been here with what we have just discovered."

In a similar manner, starting the second session, Sara (Iran) expressed the sustainability theme through the recycling process with an emphasis on recycling building material. She discussed how recycling can help the environment to get closer to sustainability criteria, where urban environments have large amounts of resource consumption and waste production is beyond the balance of demand and natural supply. She talked about resource management as a conscious handling of natural resources, energy, and materials, and more renewable resource use. She illustrated with a case study of recycled material approach in Iran, an apartment built completely from recycled stone where leftover stones were used and created a subtle effect on the geometry of the project, which consisted of a façade with emphatic angles. The areas where recycling plays an important role in a sustainable environment are reducing landfill, reducing energy consumption, and decreasing pollution. She ended by calling for recycling to be applied as a priority involving expertise in all fields and coming up with something innovative and creative pieces of architecture.

Gentleman Miao (China) expressed his serious apprehension over the contemporary development of China and a global context where architectural context is often rudely gobbled and torn up. He put forward the important notion of "DE familiarization" with respect to the city context, referring to successful projects like the Suzhou Museum by Mr. I.M. Pei. He presented the project overview of a commercial building in a Siberian region of Russia, which was surrounded by strong Russian culture, sharply-angled lines and windows, post-classical style, and a warm-toned wall. He also put emphasis on a rational co-ordination of function with different design concepts for reflecting and extending city context. Putting an emphasis on reflection on the city building business, he focused on the appropriate orientation of the city, where it must be reasonable, sustainable, and must have the potential to produce a new city context, and only then can the architectural design be proved by history.

Likewise, Glenda (Philippines) promoted about the government project to improve the economy and provide a better life as well as to prevent drought and poverty despite the Philippines having abundant resources of nature. She explained about the project of one sector of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), initiated in 1987, namely the formulation of the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD). To further illustrate, she also explained about the preservation project of UNESCO's world heritage listed VIGAN CITY and province of BATANES. She believes that project was able to organize and empower the local community to become primary stakeholders and keepers of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The sustainability of Vigan's conservation management lies in its ability to engage the local stakeholders – the owners of the heritage houses, teaching institutions, artists and craftsmen, and business owners, and province of BATANES. She believes that project was able to organize and empower the local community to become primary stakeholders and keepers of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The sustainability of Vigan's conservation management lies in its ability to engage the local stakeholders – the owners of the heritage houses, teaching institutions, artists and craftsmen, and business owners.

Finally we ended our discussion with (Apil K.C, Nepal) my presentation of an ancient water supply system (dhungedharas), where I conveyed solemn concern over the global water scarcity and importance of traditional water supply systems in a very local context of Nepal. As of my perception, issues relating to the sustainable global environment can only be addressed with sustainable development of water resources that encompasses all components of the hydrologic system: water source, supply system, and user interface, best illustrated by the traditional water supply system of the Kathmandu valley, which has been standing tranquil for more than two thousand years and is still in its finest service. I ended my presentation with the concluding point of "Therefore, both from social and cultural or historical and archaeological or physical and sustainable view points, stone spouts are both the lifeline and ornaments of this magnificent historic valley. Among the many forms of water architecture found in Nepal, the hiti, no doubt, is the most elaborate and intricate in design and technology." After the completion of the discussion program by all the trainees, Prof. Nitschke concluded the program as a very successful and upright platform to share ideas and exchange our perceptions over global sustainability issues. Prof. Nitschke mentioned about changed perceptions of global sustainability into urban sustainability with indigenous culture, practices, and architecture. He also directed us to strive to be in a position to hand over a better world to future generations than what we were given by our ancestors. Next morning, we were set to visit the historical places of Kyoto!

The most awaited place to visit in Japan for me was the Japanese garden (Zen Garden), because of the spirituality, silence, and the meditational surroundings that it offers. I was informed that water was replaced in the garden with white sand for meditational purposes. On the way to the main hall of Nanzen-ji, we encountered very beautiful and grand works of architecture in Japanese style: Sanmon (the main gate of Nanzen-ji), the intricately carved structure of Hatto, Tea ceremony hall, collection of old paintings & artefacts and finally to the garden area.... I can't explain in words how sacred and divine I felt when I was in the garden. It was very silent yet evoked so much, it was very simple yet something very complicated to explain and it was very open yet very much sacred as something hidden for centuries. I don't know, what's the detail behind the pattern of those white pebbles, why the

place defined for meditation is isolated as a divine place and no one is there, maybe it's all hidden in the treasures of past. Prof. Nitschke himself as the author of a book about Japanese gardens explained about the importance of gardens in Japanese culture and in daily life. The purity in his watery eyes and his old veteran voice had so much to say in praise of those silent standing pebbles, trees, and stones since ages, as if he was the one to experience the garden in its very early age. After that, we went to the Teahouse where Japanese tea ceremony is held, right adjacent to a bucolic garden. The private house was turned into an open liveable museum with an exhibition of tea ceremony with fine pieces of kimono that were very old yet well-preserved. In the adjacent building, there was a workshop for making kimono, which was the finest instance of workmanship. I was very fascinated by the explanation of Japanese architecture and its relation to the livelihood, historical references, and hospitality of Japanese people, by Esther Tsoi San. At the very sophisticated railway station of Kyoto, we departed for the hotel. Finally here we ended our exciting program of discussion and the Kyoto tour with the precious lessons from Prof. Nitschke and Esther Tsoi.



In the end...It all feels like a dream, all of those 28 days in Japan with an all new environment, new friends, and a new living society and each moment was the best of the best. I can't explain in just a few words about the moments I experienced in Japan and my words of gratitude will always be insufficient if I try to address the hospitality offered by each and everyone in the entire programme. Memories are quite an absurd thing, "You will have tears in your eyes when you miss the moments you laughed and you'll laugh when you miss the moments you cried." Thank you very much for everything!!! They say, "When people get older, they start telling their stories" and I could relate this phrase with Prof. Nitschke and we are really thankful for the wise polished words he shared with us about the architecture, humanity, nature, culture, transition in global environment, and position of architects in this Global World. And yes! Thank you very much Ando Sensei.

English Project at Osaka Prefecture University

Submitted by Cupcupin Glenda Mae Cruz, Philippines

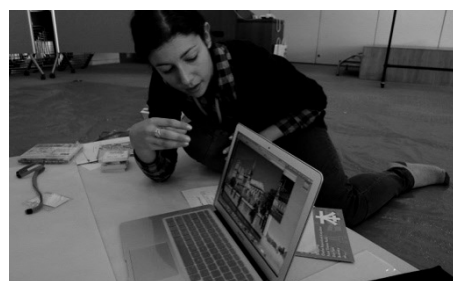
When we arrived in Osaka, we prepared for all the activities and programs that were scheduled for our entire stay. We trainees prepared all the presentations needed for the symposium and discussion programs ahead of time. When the scheduled date for the English Project came near we asked OFIX staff if we have to prepare something? But they just told us that there is nothing to prepare and that it will be just a casual event but if we have something to show the university students that will introduce our country that will be more than welcomed.

On October 14, the day for the English Project, we all met at the lobby at 9:30am except for Ting Miao who was not feeling well and had to rest for the day. On our way to the university, from the subway station it was a very long walk. But we enjoyed the walk and it gave us the chance to chat about different things. We arrived earlier than scheduled but in just about a minute or two the students cheerfully arrived at our meeting place. They were all so welcoming and joyful. We said our hellos then headed towards the place for the program. When we entered the room the fun atmosphere of tarpaulin mats laid on the floor underneath activity sheets greeted us where we would all brainstorm on the topic "Welcome to Osaka Promotion."



The project officially started when Dir. Terasako welcomed us with a short speech and the 24 participants (7 trainees and 17 OPU multi-national students) that were divided into 4 groups started introducing themselves within their groups and shared a little something about their countries. All participants enjoyed this interaction to the point we all asked for this part to be extended for a few more minutes because we were all amazed with each and everyone's country.

After the introduction and sumptuous bento lunch that was served to us we proceeded to the main event: the promotional drive for Osaka. Honestly, I believe this topic is not needed because Osaka doesn't need any promotion at all. We all love Osaka, and I have never encountered any foreigner that can say something bad about Osaka. The prefecture speaks for itself. But when we started to brainstorm little details started to come out. Such as, limited wifi hotspots, trash bins, variety of food selection and the biggest of all- the language barrier. These issues as well as the obvious beauty of Osaka, from the beautiful sights of Osaka Castle, museums, buildings, etc to delicious food and delicacies, were all brought up in all 4 groups' sessions.



As part of Group 1, we had a very young and fun approach with our drive "iOsaka" (I love Osaka. I am Osaka), in which we all wrote down on post-its all the good and bad aspects of Osaka. Since there are so many good points we categorized it all in 4 classifications (culture, famous places, sports, and food) to make it more understandable. Our campaign is very simple to understand. That is to improve Osaka by providing simple solutions to its struggling side. For example, we acknowledge that it will take time to make Osaka people familiar (speak and read) with the English language so maybe for the mean time English translations can be provided everywhere, from a website of must-try/visit places, directions/maps to food menus. The judges found our proposal good but their only comment was that we should have explained our title further.

Group 2's **"Osaka, Your Destination... Traditional, Modern, International"** is similar to Group 1's approach in terms of differentiating the good and bad side of Osaka. Their goal is to open Osaka more to foreigners not just for tour and leisure but for job opportunities as well, to attract more foreigners to live in Osaka. The panel advised them to market more the good qualities of Osaka and deliver its negative points in a different way to make their campaign more attractive.

"We are all Osaka: Manzai Festival" is Group 3's title for their program. They believe that putting on an event like an annual Manzai Festival will gain popularity for Osaka. Their inspiration came from the Cannes International Film Festival. They plan to make Osaka the comedy capital of the world, just like how Cannes became known for international films. Their plan is great and comes with a great and detailed preparation. They also included some sub-programs like home stay programs that are also shown in other groups' proposals.



Lastly, a literal fun approach to Osaka promotion is Group 4's **"Game Osaka."** Here they patterned their promotion on the famous adventure game Amazing Race. It encourages visitors to participate in a mass game of race. Visitors start to be invited from their airplane seats, from the moment they land in the airport and even up to their hotel rooms. They plan to scatter the news of their adventure all over Osaka. They cater from young to old people. Everyone can join. It is truly an adventurous and different proposal but they are also encouraged to consider the funding of the program as well as the assurance of the safety and different problems of the mass gamers.

The discussion ended with a friendly but perceptive critique from Dir. Sugimura, Director and Vice President of the International Exchange Organization.

Overall the entire visit at OPU was very fun and productive at the same time. All 4 groups were awarded for their effort and cooperation. The experience is very refreshing. It also made me realize about another characteristic of Osaka people: that even though they are already known all over the world because of the overwhelming great aspects of Osaka, still they believe they can still improve, and that we should never stop developing ourselves and we should continue to grow. Sadly, the program was only for several hours. Everyone agreed to keep in touch and maybe someday, somewhere everyone will meet once again and have a fruitful time. The trainees are all very thankful to OPU officers and students for organizing the program and for their very warm welcome.



Asia Youth Symposium on Architectural Interchange

Submitted by Gozin Sara, Iran

The Asia Youth Symposium on Architectural Interchange was held on October 18 and 19 at Kobe Design University and on Awaji Island. When we got to Kobe Design University (KDU), a university professor was already waiting for us. He started introducing the university campus to us right away. It was very interesting to see an art and design university in Japan to compare the environment, quality, and student works with counterparts in our own countries. It was a very well-equipped university for art and architecture. After the university tour, it was lunch time. We gathered in a large room where we met some KDU students and staff, and enjoyed getting to know each other. Presentations for the symposium started immediately after lunch at KDU. This year the theme of the Symposium was “Responsibilities of the Designer: Respect for Humans and Nature.” The Ando trainees and KDU students presented their reports and the professors mentioned very good points about them.

The speakers during the first session included Ali Akbar Khajuee Nejad, who made some important points about designing the future: when we think about the future, we are usually thinking about futuristic skyscrapers in already well-developed cities, imagining the urban environment to be like the present, only more so. The future will probably look different in developing countries, however, and there is no reason why they can't leapfrog to a greener, more equitable future rooted in their individual cultures. The next presenter, Sachiko Marumoto, examined the balance between preservation and continuing utilization of important historical properties, such as Ogawa House (Miki City, Hyogo), which is a registered tangible cultural property that also offers a wealth of cultural experiences to visitors. Miao Ting questioned the tendency of architects to focus primarily on the stylistic aspect of buildings, suggesting that issues such as environmental context and sustainability should be given more weight, while Priyanka Sulkhlan observed that humans and the structures they build should be a part of the ecosystem, rather than a force working against nature.

During the second session, Ruito Shibata examined the history of the use, transformation, and revitalization of the Onomichi wharf in the Seto Inland Sea; Juncen Zhou summarized the challenges inherent in landscape design, particularly the balance between human needs and nature preservation; and Yuji Toyoshima explained James J. Gibson's affordance theory, which states that factors to prompt human actions are built into the very structures of modern architecture. Karjvit Rirermvanich explored the need for an unselfconscious, vernacular architecture that fits its environment, rather than an artificially imposed aesthetic. In my presentation I (Sara Gozin) explored the relationship between the architectural space of homes and other buildings and human wellbeing: certain designs can promote mental wellness, while others contribute to their users' psychological problems.

The interesting point about the presentations was that all of the presenters pointed out a different view from common ideas about this theme: all of them obviously believed that this idea that humans are the center of everything and have the right to control nature is not right! But human beings should respect nature more and try to preserve and protect nature more than before. This idea results from noticing the current condition of the earth as we can see many harmful effects of the built environment on nature.

We left KDU after those two sessions to go to Awaji Yumebutai, the great complex designed by Tadao Ando. Along the way we chatted about our lives and countries with our new friends. At the Westin Awaji the KDU students had planned a fun game for that night. This game had a winner who won a Tadao Ando book. In spite of the rain we went around the site and enjoyed the unique Ando spaces. Making memories with our group and new friends made that night very special to us.



The next day started with the third session of the presentations at one of the conference rooms in the International Conference Center. This session was also very useful in terms of learning good points from professors and presenters. First up for the second day's sessions was Xiaopeng Liu, who observed that an ecologically sustainable urban environment that respects historical heritage buildings is also the most comfortable for humans. Ryoko Igaki reminded us that concepts such as sustainability, environmental protection, conservation of resources, and the search for alternative sources of energy developed in response to 20th century challenges including the Oil Crisis, depletion of resources, and pollution of the environment, and explained the difference between active and passive design, using solar power as an example. Karunanayake Suranga detailed the wisdom of the ancient architects of Sri Lanka, whose sturdy brick stupas are still in good condition today, and their prowess at planning sustainable but comfortable cities with ingenious irrigation systems and herb gardens. Adinda Utami described the experience of Surabaya, in which the citizens and local government shared the goal of greening the city, coming together to build an ecoscape that is friendly to both nature and human communities. According to her presentation, greening is most successful when there is a clear purpose, particularly providing a space for residents to relax and socialize, rather than simply pursuing greening for its own sake.

In the fourth session, Ke Wang noted that the spread of cities-within-cities, particularly of the HOPSCA (hotel, office, park, shopping malls, convention centers, and apartments) model, builds communities and is an efficient use of urban space and limited land, while Mengze Du stressed the need to return to nature, particularly the forest,

and fundamentally change our current socioeconomic system, in which we cavalierly destroy the environment and use up the earth's limited resources. K.C. Apil's presentation criticized the modernist approach to architecture and design as being "fashion statement" products of individualism that ignore the natural and cultural conditions of the site, and introduced the story of Kathmandu as a case study in successful urban revitalization through the embrace of environmentally appropriate aspects of traditional architecture and planning. Glenda Cupcupin stressed the need for architects working in Metro Manila to accommodate the local climate and recent typhoons, which will only get more destructive as global warming, the "modern cancer of society," worsens.

After a short rest for lunch we toured the whole great Westin Awaji complex. It was unbelievably well-designed and constructed. We were all impressed by the power of Mr. Ando in design. Every corner revealed a new aspect of architecture. From every location we could see a different nice perspective of the site. This tour was not only a tour to see a place but also it was a tour to communicate with new people, making good and long-lasting friendships and learning very good points about design and architecture.

Our day continued with visiting another masterpiece of Tadao Ando after leaving Westin Awaji: the Water Temple. It is needless to say that we enjoyed this one as well. It was simply perfect. As we were getting to the end of the program we all felt a little bit sad and we did not want to say goodbye, but the Asian Youth Symposium 2013 finished after visiting Water Temple and it was time to leave our new friends. These two days were very memorable and invaluable as well as the other precious days of Ando Program. Although this program came to its end, we all hope to keep our friendship for a long time.



Symposium Schedule

	October 18 (FRI)
11:00	Arriving at Kobe Design University
11:10~12:10	KDU Campus Tour
12:20~13:10	Welcome Reception
	Self Introduction
13:20~14:00	<Session 1>
	KDU: Khajuee Nejad Ali Akbar (Iran), Marumoto Sachiko (Japan)
	Trainees: Miao Ting (China), Sulkhlan Priyanka (India)
14:30~15:20	<Session 2>
	KDU: Shibata Ruito (Japan), Zhou Juncen (China), Toyoshima Yuji (Japan)
	Trainees: Rirermvanich Karjvit (Thailand), Gozin Sara (Iran)
16:10~	Leaving from KDU
16:40~	Visiting the Awaji service area
17:10	Arriving at Westin Awaji Island Hotel
18:00~19:00	Dinner and Discussion
19:10~21:30	Workshop
	Night-Session, Discussion
	October 19 (SAT)
9:30	Check-Out
10:00~10:40	<Session 3>
	KDU: Liu Xiaopeng (China), Igaki Ryoko (Japan)
	Trainees: Karunanayake Suranga (Sri Lanka), Utami Adinda Sih Pinasti Retno (Indonesia)
11:10~11:50	<Session 4>
	KDU: Wang Ke (China), Du Mengze (China)
	Trainees: K.C.Apil (Nepal), Cupcupin Glenda Mae Cruz (Philippines)
12:20~12:50	Overview
12:50~13:50	Lunch
13:50~15:50	Visiting the Awaji Yumebutai
15:50	Departing from the Awaji Yumebutai
16:15~17:00	Visiting Honpukuji Water Temple
17:00	Departing from Honpukuji Water Temple
17:30	End of Program

Presentation Schedule

Friday, October 18	
Speakers	Presentations
<Session 1>	
Ali Akbar Khajuee Nejad	Time tunnel of the world, the meaning of future and the concept of leapfrogging A discussion on different perspectives towards design for future
Marumoto Sachiko	Preservation and Utilization of "Ogawa House", a Cultural Property in Miki City
Miao Ting	Sharing of New "Contextualism"
Sulkhlan Priyanka	The Designer Reinforcing the relationship between Humanity and Nature
<Session 2>	
Shibata Ruito	Changing of the waterside in Setonaikai. The Usage of the Wharf Group of Onomichi
Juncen Zhou	My greeny future An idea of making city construction in landscape
Toyoshima Yuji	Affordance and Design
Rirermvanich Karjvit	Contemporary Primitive: A Digitally Sustainable Approach to Architecture
Gozin Sara	Architectural Effects on Human Spirit Investigating Side Effects which Cause Sick Space
Saturday, October 19	
Speakers	Presentations
<Session 3>	
Xiaopeng Liu	About Landscape Design Ecology and Sustainable Development
Igaki Ryoko	Architecture considering the environment
Karunanayake Suranga	The Responsibilities of Designer Design concepts from Great Ancestors
Utami Adinda Sih Pinasti Retno	Ecoscape of Surabaya Creating Social Space as an Effort in Connecting Nature, Human, and Local Wisdom
<Session 4>	
Ke Wang	The Current City Design: The Cities Within Cities
Mengze Du	Back to the Forest Looking at the design system we have today
K.C. Apil	Issues in Modern Architecture Departure from Past...
Cupcupin Glenda Mae Cruz	Global Warming! The Modern Cancer of Society



Other Events

Submitted by Utami Adinda Sih Pinasti Retno, Indonesia

Being a trainee in Ando Program is such a dream come true. I had already had this dream since 2009 when one of my predecessors, who was an Ando Program trainee in 2008, presented his experience from this program. I wrote about this dream in my diary and this year, 2013, I was the Ando program trainee. It was one of the best parts of my journey.

I met seven other trainees from various countries, which was like having a new family who have the same dreams and interests; Tadao Ando; and encountered a lot of architecture. Ando sensei is an icon of Japanese architecture who is well known worldwide. He has become an inspiration for everyone, especially for architects. In this program, I did not only get a good impression from Tadao Ando and his works, but also from Osaka as the host of this program. Osaka had become the best host for me.

This program started with a meeting with Osaka Prefectural Government. The staff members of Osaka received our arrival officially and did some presentations about Osaka. It was an honor for me because I felt well received and comfortable in Osaka.

On Monday, October 7, just like our daily routine, we 8 trainees went to our host companies. The difference was that we were scheduled to have a discussion with Mr. Tadao Ando in the afternoon. It was a rare opportunity to meet him. From Ando sensei, I learned a lot of things, especially about architectural approaches and local culture. Ando Sensei did not experience a formal education in architecture, but he has a depth of thought and cultural philosophy that is represented through his work.

When we had a discussion in an office that was designed by him, Ando Sensei told many stories about his architectural journey. He started with an architectural studying trip when he was young. He tried to learn architecture from the places where architecture was built and from architects as well, directly. According to Ando Sensei, the best way to learn about architecture is through experiencing the work. We learn by touching the surface, feeling the space, and experiencing the order. We can learn through literature, but it would be better to experience the culture of architecture, feel the neighborhood of the architectural work, and feel being part of the work.

As is well known among architects, Ando Sensei is known as an architect who is always trying to look at the culture and nature as the main approach in his design. He said that in design, it is important to know about the state of social culture and nature.



There is no failure in architecture. Failure is only one in architecture, i.e. if the work collapses. Along with the development process, the concept can be changed. The change of concept does not mean a failure for the architect. The change of concept along with development process means that the architect knows better about what he had designed more and more. In this discussion, Mr. Tadao Ando also expressed the importance to always develop cooperation among nations, especially in architecture. Works of Ando Sensei can also be found outside Japan. In his design efforts in other countries, Ando Sensei can still continue to bring the approach and philosophy of architecture, he believes, successfully. An architect must be fast and responsive in recognizing culture and nature, including those of other countries. Architects need to be sensitive.

Discussion with Ando Sensei has become one part of the agenda that is eagerly awaited by each trainee. As he said, for the study of architecture it would be better to go to the place and experience, as well as try to experience and understand the works of Ando Sensei.

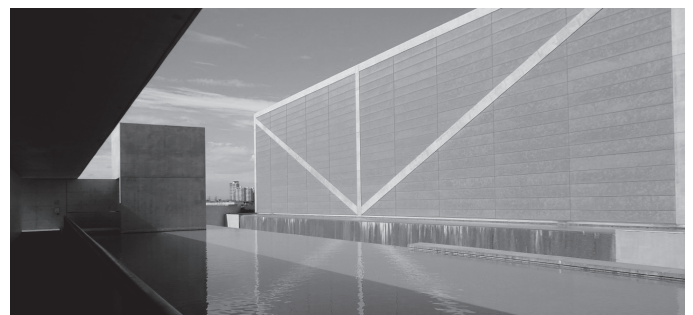
The Ando study tour was held on 11 October. The day was devoted to visiting three works of Mr. Tadao Ando. We visited 3 museums. The first museum we visited was Chikatsu Asuka Museum. Located in an archeological park, Fudoki no Oka, this museum offers a reconstruction of the historical periods through the order of space outside and inside the museum. On the exterior, the museum looked like a monumental concrete tower and order of staircase, in contrast with the interior of the monument. The interior is a part of the historical reconstruction.

The second museum we visited was Sayamaike Museum. Sayamaike Museum is located on the edge of Sayamaike pond, and the museum is synonymous with the element of water as part of the architecture. This museum testifies to the prowess of water development engineering of ancient Japan.

It has the hallmark of Tadao Ando: he designed the museum with respect to the surroundings and integrated this museum with the environment, water, space, and light. The last museum we visited was Shiba Ryotaro Museum.

The museum is part of the residence of Shiba Ryotaro, the legendary author in Japanese literature. Through this museum, we were able to feel the life of the author. The core part of this museum is a giant bookshelf that Ando designed with the hope that every visitor can sit and be inspired by looking at the bookshelf, as if to interact with the novelist, Shiba Ryotaro, himself. From the visits to the three museums, I sensed Ando Sensei's architectural perspective. He always pays a lot of attention to detail. Not only physical details, but also the philosophy of every order of architectural work space. It is such as he will always have a reason for all the details of his work, rational or irrational (culture, etc).

Ando Sensei has become an inspiration for many architects. The point is not that we can imitate his perspective and philosophy of architecture as an architect, but that we have to find our own identity and our own philosophy in architecture. This program only lasted for one month, and I do not deny that I miss Osaka, I miss the other trainees, and I miss everyone who helped this program and I want to do it again. But now I am in my country, dreaming about my role in developing this country, Indonesia.



Sayamaike Museum

Home Stay Program with OFIX Volunteer Families

<p>Wada Family (Suranga Karunanayake, Sri Lanka)</p> <p>I had a great weekend with the Wada family. I was a family member to them. They treated me as their son. We shared some old stories of Japan and Sri Lanka and it was amazing. I got the opportunity to ride a bicycle everywhere in Osaka, visiting Osaka Castle and shopping with them. It was a great honor to be a member of their family.</p>	<p>Mori Family (Sulkhlan Priyanka, India)</p> <p>I was blessed to be selected to stay with the Mori Family. They reminded me of my late grandma and grandpa. They are loving, caring and so much involved in making my stay more fruitful and fun. We made visits, ate delicious home made food and shared special moments of our lives with each other. I would like to thank them for giving me a home in Japan.</p>
<p>Takashiba Family (Rirermvanich Karjvit, Thailand)</p> <p>I had a casual and fun weekend with the very nice Takashiba family. We strolled around the neighborhoods in South Osaka, from Tennoji to their place in lovely Abiko, visiting several temples and lots of secret Tadao Ando's works including his very first design in Sumiyoshi. Kenichiro san was very nice and we discussed a lot about Japanese architecture and construction. Including their food and drinks, it was a great and authentic Osaka weekend.</p>	<p>Tomita Family (Cupcupin Glenda Mae Cruz, Philippines)</p> <p>My stay with otosan and okasan was a very unique experience. From the hotel, okasan and I went to the community center to help prepare food for all the Futon-Daiko participants. The day went so fast. Even though we were both so tired we still stayed up the whole night till around 2am with otosan to chat and learn a lot from one another. I loved my stay with them, sleeping in a Japanese bedroom and experiencing a very fun festival.</p>
<p>Ueda Family (Gozin Sara, Iran)</p> <p>Homestay program was very special. At her beautiful house, my host lady Sanae san let me cook for dinner in her kitchen and taught me Japanese flower arrangement called Ikebana. It was so interesting for me as I did not know anything about it before. On the next day, she prepared a very beautiful kimono for me to wear. After taking a lot of pictures with kimono in her beautiful garden we went to a tea ceremony, which was again something new and interesting for me. I appreciated her hospitality and kindness when she took me to a flower exhibition because she found that I liked Ikebana so much. I will always remember her smiling face.</p>	<p>Sawasaka Family (K.C. Apil, Nepal)</p> <p>Homestay program with the Sawasaka family was one of the most eventful moments. I was provided with a tatami room, and for the dinner, I learned to make Japanese Sushi which was very new to me and exciting. Next day, after exciting moments in Tennoji Zoo and we had wonderful moments with Kimono wearing and practiced tea ceremony. Satomi san taught me the popular Japanese culture of Origami and we discussed cultural differences between different countries. I am thankful for the hospitality offered by the Sawasaka family.</p>
<p>Shimaoka Family (Miao Ting, China)</p> <p>I really had a good time with the Shimaoka family. Although it was short, I've got an elder brother, a little sister, Dad and Mom. We spent a great time in beautiful and peaceful Nara. Everyone here was very friendly, even the deer. We visited the Toshodaji Temple, fed the deer, and tasted the local sushi together. My elder brother is very interested in Chinese culture and my beautiful little sister Jahayoung is from South Korea (she was home staying at their place). My dad and mom are very kind and they have traveled to China several times. I hope to meet them again one day in the near future.</p>	<p>Nakano Family (Utami Adinda Shi Pinasti Retno)</p> <p>I had a chance to stay with the Nakano family. My Japanese mom, Yuri Nakano, treated me like her own daughter. In my real family, I am the youngest daughter. I felt like an older sister for Yuna, the only daughter in the Nakano family. Just like my wish, I have a new family in Japan. Thank you so much for having treated me well Mr. and Mrs Nakano, Yuna (Japanese sister), and Japanese Grandmother.</p>

With Appreciation

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Homestay Volunteers

Mori Tsutou	Shimaoka Terumi	Ueda Sanae
Nakano Yuri	Takashiba Kenichiro	Wada Hiroko
Sawasaka Satomi	Tomita Yasuko	

Language Volunteers (Kansai Mini Wings)

Aoshima Yukio	Kitagawa Makoto	Sudou Morihisa
Goshima Nobuaki	Kon Takuya	Sugiyama Chiyoko
Kawasaki Hiroko	Okino Makoto	Toyama Jun

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(In alphabetical order)

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