Name	Job Title	Area of Expertise
YASUTAKE Atsuko	Professor	Architectural Planning, Housing

1. Main Research Topics

Summary

The scope of my study is based on architectural planning, but it also extends to regional planning. We will propose new imagery of residential areas, regions, and cities by studying the history and origins of buildings and urban development. This research will be conducted through surveys of statistical data, examination of historical records, and field investigations. Our goal is to determine the architectural spaces that best address social issues such as population decline.

① SHRINKING MASTER PLAN IN DEPOPULATION CITY

In Japan, the number of housing units exceeds the number of households, posing significant challenges amidst population decline, vacant homes, and urban shrinkage. There is a pressing need to explore designs that utilize low-density urban environments and manage urban downsizing.

Our research laboratory focuses on former coal mining towns as pioneers of population decline. Many coal mines in Kyushu closed in the 1960s, leading to significant population decline due to outmigration of workers. We examine post-closure policies and their effectiveness to study the restructuring of cities. Building on this research, we investigate disadvantaged residential areas such as islands, sloped terrain, and suburban detached housing areas facing challenges of aging populations and vacant homes after children move out.

As part of experimental initiatives on sloped terrain, we explore the conversion of vacant homes into shared housing and assess the potential for student participation in local community management. Additionally, we initiate activities harnessing sloped terrains to explore new residential paradigms and evaluate community responses.

2 LIVING ENVIRONMENT AFTER DISASTER

In recent years, natural disasters have become increasingly frequent. In Japan, when people are unable to remain in their homes after a disaster, temporary housing is provided. Our research focuses on the living environments of prefabricated temporary housing. Through surveys and behavioral studies with residents, we identify key challenges and propose solutions aimed at reducing the burden of environmental transition and fostering social interaction within these communities.

③ PRESERVATION OF THE NEGATIVE HERITAGES

Our research examines war and disaster-related remains from the perspective of community development, assessing their value as educational resources for citizens and as potential tourism assets. We investigate how these sites have been preserved and how they are currently used, while identifying the challenges involved. Since such sites rarely generate sufficient revenue as tourist attractions, we are exploring alternative methods of evaluation.

In Nagasaki—the last city to experience atomic bombing—we trace the post-war recovery process through studies of the Sakana-no-machi Housing Complex, a key project in the city's reconstruction. By analyzing this case, we aim to understand postwar housing recovery in Japan and explore its relevance for contemporary urban planning.

2. Keywords

Housing, Regional Planning, Post-disaster Reconstruction, historical building

3. Remarks and Websites

Looking ahead, our goal is to promote the positive reuse and management of vacant houses and buildings, while also focusing on the preservation and active tourism development of historical architecture and disaster-related heritage sites—often considered negative legacies. Through these efforts, we aim to contribute to sustainable and culturally rich urban and regional revitalization.

researchmap: https://researchmap.jp/yasutake8528521

Laboratory: https://www.st.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/laboratories/yasutake/