

KYOTO CONSORTIUM FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic Year: 2009 - 2010 Semester: Fall

Course Title: What is Japanese lifestyle? Kyoto and the History of Housing

Instructor : Bettina Langner-Teramoto, Dipl. Ing. Architect

Number of meetings per week: **2** Hours per week in class: **3**

Course Description:

This course will be an introduction of the culture of Kyoto and the Kansai area by looking at the built environment with a focus on housing and its historical and cultural background.

Japanese housing architecture made a distinct contribution to the world history of building styles, reflecting the status and culture of different members of the society. A chronological overview of the mayor periods of Japanese history starting from Heian period towards the present provides the framework to look at characteristics of Japanese architecture: asymmetry versus symmetry, relation of inside and outside, ambiguity of space, living with the seasons.

We will first look at the traces of indigenous vernacular architecture which is based on the climate and nature of Japan. We study palace and castle architecture and how they are used to express the status and political power of the rulers in different periods of the history. The Muromachi and Momoyama period were the most fertile soil for many aspects of Japanese culture among them the tea ceremony and gardens. These influences on Japanese building styles lead to exquisite examples of the *sukiya shoin* like Katsura detached palace, but are also reflected in the vernacular architecture of the townhouses of the merchants *machiya*. The floating world of the Edo-period, the influence of Western architecture and modern engineering during the Meiji period and the boom of post-war modern architectural expression can all be traced in the city of Kyoto.

Housing is a basic cultural phenomenon that enables the students to always compare with their own experiences when analyzing Japanese housing styles and the development of spatial expression. Each period of history and group of the society came up with unique solutions to the elementary needs of housing, but is there something that can be called a

common Japanese lifestyle? The analysis will lead to a higher awareness of the context of our own experiences and the viewpoint of the foreigner.

The classes will be in a seminar style in a combination of lectures using slides, videos, plans and English texts, with group work and discussion about the projects and the readings. Parallel to the readings, direct exploration of the city is encouraged by creative projects. The classes are combined with excursions, which are prepared together with the students, providing first hand experience of the architecture discussed in the textbook. All creative projects and the research projects will be included in our own architectural guide book which will be produced by the students as a documentation of our work.

Requirements:

1. Regular and active participation in classes, discussions and excursions
2. Required readings to prepare classes and additional readings for the research project
3. Small creative projects as practical ways of analyzing spatial phenomena
Photos and drawings can be included in the guidebook produced by this class.
4. One main research project about one of the given subjects. Research starts with the preparation of the excursion, a presentation on site and a handout with plans and keywords. During class a summary of the research is presented and provided to all students, per person minimum 5 pages plus pictures, plans and references. This will be part of the architectural guide book we produce as a class. Depending on the number of students this can be done in small groups (2-3 students).
5. Written midterm and final presentations of chapters of the guidebook
6. Help with final layout and production of architectural guidebook.

Textbooks:

- Nishi, K. and K. Hozomi. *What is Japanese Architecture?*

Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1985.

- Dougill, John. *Kyoto A Cultural History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

For reference:

- Inaba, Kazuya and Shigenobu Nakayama. *Japanese Homes and Lifestyles*.

Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2000.

Additional Comments:

Related excursions as group or individual visits:

- ✧ Imperial Palace, Heian Shrine
- ✧ Nijo Castle, Nishi Hongwanji Shoin
- ✧ Omote Senke tea garden, Daitokuji: Heisei Taian Teahouse
- ✧ Daizenin Temple, Saihouji Temple
- ✧ Manshuin Temple, Katsura Detached Palace
- ✧ Shimabara Sumiya, Gion Shimbashi Preservation District
- ✧ Machiya: Hata house, Tondaya
- ✧ Meiji Architecture: Komai-tei, Sanjo Machiya
- ✧ Contemporary architecture: Houses in Kyoto area

Reading list:

General Readings:

“The architectural Map of Kyoto” Toto Shuppan 2000

“The architectural Map of Osaka / Kobe” Toto Shuppan 1999

“Chronology of Japanese History” bilingual book, Kodansha 2002

“Japanese History, 11 Experts reflect on the Past” bilingual book, Kodansha 2004

“Historical Kyoto”, Herbert E. Plutschow

“A Guide to the Japanese Gardens in Kyoto”, Ron Herman

“The Japanese House in Space Memory and Language”, Nakagawa, Takeshi. Tokyo: 2005

“The Art and Architecture of Japan”, Paine, Robert T. & Alexander Soper, 1955

“Place, Time and Being in Japanese Architecture”, Nute, Kevin. 2004

Palace Architecture:

“Architecture and Authority in Japan”, Coaldrake, William H.

“Space in Japanese Architecture”, Inoue, Mitsuo

Japanese Homes and Lifestyles, Kazuya Inaba

“Kyoto the Old Capital of Japan” Ponsonby-Fane. Kyoto: 1956

Castle Architecture and Shoin style:

“Feudal Architecture of Japan” Hirai, Kiyoshi. Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art, 74

“Architecture and Authority in Japan”, Coaldrake, William H.

“The Inner Harmony of the Japanese House” Atsushi Ueda,

“Architecture in the Shoin Style, Japanese Feudal Residences”, Hashimoto, Fumiyo. 1984

Sukiya Style:

"Edo Architecture Katsura and Nikko", Naomi Okawa, Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art

"Katsura a Princely Retreat" Naito, Akira & Nishikawa. 1977 *

"The Classic Tradition in Japanese Architecture, Modern Version of the Sukiya style" Itoh, Teiji and Yukio Futagawa, 1972

"Katsura Rikyu to Chashitsu, Genshoku Nihon no Bijutsu" Kawakami, Mitsugu. 1977

"Katsura imperial villa" editor: Ponciroli Virginia, Milan: Electa, 2005

"Katsura" publisher: Yoshida Yoshio. Tokyo: Shinkenchikusha, 1983

"Traditional Japanese Architecture and Design" Casa Brutus Extra Issue 2007

"Katsura Tradition and Creation in Japanese Architecture" Ishimoto Y. & Tange Kenzo. 1960

Tea Houses:

"Japanese Arts and the Tea Ceremony" T. & S. Hayashiya, M. Nakamura, Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art

"The Contemporary Tea House" Izosaki Arata, Ando Tadao, Fujimori Terunobu. Tokyo: Kodansha, 2007

"Measure and Construction of the Japanese House" Heino Engel

"The Unknown Craftsman" Yanagi Soetsu

"The Art of Chanoyu The Urasenke Tradition of Tea", Los Angeles: Urasenke Foundation, 1986

"Japanese Homes and their surroundings", Edward S. Morse

Japanese Gardens :

"Garden Art of Japan" Hayakawa, Masao. Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art

"A Guide to the Gardens of Kyoto", Treib, Marc, & Ron Herman.

"Japanese Gardens, Right Angel and Natural Form" Nitschke, Guenter. Koeln: Taschen, 1999

"Kyoto Gardens: Seasonal Images in Moss and Stone, Teien Kyo no Isho" Itoh, Teiji. 1982

"Space and Illusion in The Japanese Garden" Itoh, Teiji. 1973

"Sakuteiki, Vision of the Japanese Garden. A Modern Translation of Japan's Gardening Classic" Takei, Jiro & Keene, Mark Peter. 2001

"Sakuteiki The Book of Garden" Maruyama, Shigemaru.

"The Gardens of Japan", Itoh, Teiji. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1984

"The Tea Garden" Ohashi, Haruzo. Tokyo: Graphic-sha Publishing, 1989

"Mirei Shigemori Modernizing the Japanese Garden" Tschumi, Christian.

Berkeley, CA: Stone Bridge Press, 2005

"Shigemori Mirei, Creator of Spiritual Spaces" Mizobuchi, Hiroshi.

Kyoto: Tsushinsha Press, 2007

Kyo-machiya town houses:

"Machiya Architecture and History of the Kyoto Town House", Karin Loefgren

"The Inner Harmony of the Japanese House" Atsushi Ueda,

"Traditional Domestic Architecture of Japan" Itoh Teiji, Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art

"The Art of Japanese Joinery" Kiyoshi Seike,

"Japanese Homes and their surroundings", Edward S. Morse

Contemporary Architecture in Kansai:

"In DETAIL Japan, Architecture, Constructions, Ambiances" Christian Schittich,

"Contemporary Japanese Houses 1985-2005" Gallery Ma. Tokyo 2005

"Tadao Ando, Light and Water", Kenneth Frampton. New York: 2003

"The Grand Tour with ANDO" Casa Brutus Magazine 9/2002

"The Grand Tour with ANDO 2" Casa Brutus Magazine 9/2003

"Ando Complete Works" Philip Jodido. Koeln: 2007

"Projected Realities", Waro Kishi,

"Waro Kishi Conception and Practice" Kenchiku Bunka. July 1997

"Kishi Waro Works and Projects", Masayo Furuyama. 2005

"Shin Takamatsu Architecture and nothingness", Maurizio Vitta, 1996

"FOBA / Buildings" Umebayashi, Katsu and Thomas Daniell.

New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2005