

Columbia University

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Urban Planning Studio: Redeveloping Tokyo Core - Aoyama Street

Spring 2014

Monday 2:00-6:00 PM

Instructor: Naka Matsumoto

Office Hours: Arranged by email

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Course Background

In 1964, when the Japanese economy was rapidly growing after World War II, Tokyo hosted the Olympic Games. A tremendous amount of money was spent to quickly improve the city's infrastructure, which became the basis for Japanese economic growth in the following decades.

After more than half a century, Tokyo is hosting the Olympics again in 2020. The Tokyo City office is planning to do a 'face lift' of old facilities and infrastructure using a considerable amount of funds. However, this time, Tokyo is facing different issues from those of 60 years ago, including an aging population and increased concerns regarding the threat of natural disasters, namely earthquakes. How Tokyo will deal with these issues in conjunction with hosting the big event needs to be carefully considered since just building extensive new facilities and infrastructure will not work.

Client

Hulic Inc., is a private real estate development company with a broader vision of being a part of Tokyo's redevelopment. We were tasked with developing a plan for potential redevelopment in the Tokyo core area. (To be developed more)

In this studio, students will investigate ways the city can prepare for the upcoming Olympics and improve its long-term outlook through the renewal of out-of-dated infrastructure, housing and office stock. The course will culminate in the presentation of the proposal and the final report to the client.

CASE: Aoyama Street – defining new identity

Aoyama Street is one of the main streets in Tokyo -- connecting major commercial districts such as Shibuya with the Olympic stadium – yet it does not have a clear identity compared with the other major streets in the city such as Omotesando and Ginza. The street has a mixture of housings (old and new), relatively small offices, retail shops, and schools. A challenge of the course will be to give a unique

identity to Aoyama Street that increases its image, hence building a sense of community and inviting more visitors.

This studio will have following overarching goals;

- Craft an innovative approach to creating new types of housing, office and retail zones, which will give new identity to the area
- Consider how the diverse population – residents, visitors, elderly and young – can coexist comfortably
- Develop a sustainable plan for Olympics with consideration of post-Olympics time
- Develop a disaster plan – how to secure safety and sustainability for residents, visitors, and those who are trying to reach Shibuya from major business districts via Shibuya station

The purpose of this studio is to prepare students to be planning professionals, especially within an international setting where different culture and rules exist. Understanding the context of the case as well as the culture and social structure of the area is important for any planning project. Students will learn to collect and analyze various data that will be the basis of the proposal. At the same time, fresh and innovative ideas are encouraged to create unique future visions.

Fulfilling the tasks from the client is the most important aspect of the project. Students will work as a team of planning professionals with a real client, thus all presentations that are scheduled throughout the semester have to be coordinated, completed, and professionally presented.

Evaluations

Active participation and contribution to class discussion	15%
Mini-presentations in class	15%
Group project	70%

Suggested Readings

Jinnai, Hidenobu (1995) *Tokyo: A Spatial Anthropology*, University of California Press

Chapter 1 and 2

Sacchi, Livio (2004) *Tokyo: City and Architecture*, New York: Universe (Rizzoli)

Chapter 2

Ashihara, Yoshinobu (1998) *The Aesthetics of Tokyo: Chaos and Order*, Tokyo: Ichigaya Publishing

Selected Chapter (to be uploaded)

Radovic, Darko (2013) *small Tokyo/ スモール・トーキョー*, Tokyo: Frick Studio

Selected Chapters (to be uploaded)

Schedule

This course consists of three parts: Phase I is for understanding the case and planning in Tokyo. This phase will involve a variety of guest lectures and student research. In Phase II, students will visit the site in Tokyo for approximately 10 days and attend lectures by Japanese planners and scholars, work with

Japanese graduate students and give a presentation to the client. In Phase III, students will develop final proposals.

Phase I-a - Defining Issues and Procedures

Jan 27 Past projects / History of Tokyo planning (guest speaker)

Feb 3 Contemporary issues (guest speaker)

Phase I-b - Data Collection and Analysis (Guest speakers and mini presentations by students)*

Feb 10 History of Tokyo / Aging Society s

Feb 17 Housing and Family / Land use and Regulations

Feb 24 Disaster Planning / Olympics

Mar 3 Urban Design / Historic Preservation

Mar 10 *In-Class presentation for Mid Term / research method – Field work*

Mid Term

Mar 13, 14

Phase II - Site Visit

Mar 17 to Mar 25 (TBC)

Phase III- Recommendations and Report Preparation

Mar 31 Students Works

Apr 7 Student Works

Apr 14 Student Works

Apr 21 Student Works

Apr 28 *In-Class presentation*

Final Presentation

May 5, 6

Final Report Due

May 12 (TBD)

Travel schedule (Tentative)

Day 1 (Sun) Departing NYC

Day 2 (Mon) Arriving in Tokyo

Day 3 (Tue) Meeting with Clients – Site Visit (Other streets in Tokyo – Roppongi, Omotesando, Shibuya, Ginza)

Day 4 (Wed) Meeting with Japanese students - site visit by team

Day 5 (Thu) **Guest speakers**, Site visit

Day 6 (Fri) **Guest Speakers**, Site visit

Day 7 (Sat) mini-presentation with Japanese students

Day 8 (Sun)

Day 9 (Mon) Presentation to Client

Day 10 (Tue) Leaving Tokyo, arriving NYC

From Day 4 to Day 7 will be joint work shop with Keio University (Shonan Fujisawa Campus)