

H

Akiya
Deconstruction
Guidelines

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Preface

We aim to propose a new perspective towards the negative stigma on deconstruction of vacant houses, typically associated with loss and disconnection from the past. By evoking memories of architecture and re-recognizing “attachment,” the past transforms into a legacy that could be inherited to the future. This book is a guideline to deconstruction ceremony - a medium for dialogue between the past and present, as well as the community and the built environment.

Roles

Owner

Manager

Master of Ceremonies

Craftsman

Ceremony Stuff

Participants

All of the Roles listed above are performed by local individuals willing to volunteer.

Naming refers to preferable skill sets for each Role, but prior knowledge or experience in the field are not mandatory. The aim of the book is to make any person capable of performing the whole Deconstruction Ceremony just by following the guidelines provided for each Step.

The term “hiring” used further in the instructions does not imply paid labor.

Phase 1

Preparation

Phase 1 Preparation

Step 1

Owner

- Decides to deconstruct the house

Step 2

Owner

- Hires the Manager

Step 3

Owner

- Shares the requested information with the Manager

Manager

- Creates a list of everyone related to the house (previous owners, tenants, etc.)
- Gathers information on the local community (sets the estimated number of people to be invited)
- Hires a Craftsman

Step 4

Owner

- Assists with contacting if needed

Manager

- Contacts every person asking their availability and willingness to participate, sets the date of the Initiation

Craftsman

- Collects basic data of the house, including site, structure, and estimated amount of objects inside (for further Deconstruction Ceremony planning)
- Plans the Deconstruction process adjusting steps listed in the Book to the house

Step 5

Owner

- Shares the requested information by Manager
- Confirms the approval for the interventions to be performed in Step 3 of the Initiation

Manager

- Collects the data on the history of the house
- Writes the outline of history in chronological order to be later used by Master of Ceremony

Craftsman

- Develops the design of Invitation Letters, Object Stickers, Entry Book for Initiation
- Designs the intervention(s) to be performed to the house during in Step 3 of the Initiation
- Determines constructual feasibility of the Intervention
- Gets Intervention approved by the Owner, makes any necessary corrections if requested
- Writes the list of items to be provided by the Manager which are necessary for the Deconstruction
- Requests the Manager to provide Volunteers to help with the realization if necessary

Step 6

Owner

- Hands out Invitations in person.

Manager

- Sends out invitations to locals
- Purchases the items for the Deconstruction Ceremony following the sample lists from the book, making adjustments depending on the requests made by the Craftsman, estimated number of participants and any specifics of the house
- Writes out instructions for Composition Ritual to be later distributed among participants following the guidelines provided in the book
- Gives out finished Composition Ritual instructions draft to the Craftsman for Production of the Brochures
- Employs the Master of Ceremony
- Finds volunteers from the local community willing to act as the Ceremony Staff (curating, physical labor, food preparation, etc)

Craftsman

- Develops Composition Map for the house following the Composition Rules provided in the book to be later distributed among participants (based on site / structure / object count data)
- Develops the Layout Design for the Brochures (based on the instructions for Composition Ritual from the Manager)

Step 7

Manager

- Holds a meeting with Master of Ceremony (Provides him with base information on the history of the house)
- Holds a meeting with Volunteers (Makes them familiar with tasks to be performed)
- Confirms presence of all necessary Supplies (Lists rechecking, printing out Media etc.)
- Prepares the Deconstruction site
- Delivers supplies to the site (tools, props etc.)

List of Items / Actions to be Designed

Invitation letters

Stickers

*(to be placed on objects during Initiation
indicating their origin - the House)*

Entry Book

Composition Map

Intervention Act

Design Generation Tool

Purpose:

Connecting vacant houses, their owners, and surrounding residents

Required Information:

- Name of the owner of the vacant house
- Location of the vacant house

Instructions:

1. Name: “Sakijima Assembly Hall” “Mr. Kawamoto”
2. Input the location of the vacant house: 34.3369079, 133.1242920
3. The outline of the city, ward, or town where the vacant house is located is detected
4. This outline is divided into 26 segments from the point closest to the vacant house, and each segment is assigned an alphabet letter (A is assigned to the point closest to the outline)
5. By drawing lines from the point corresponding to the alphabet letter of the homeowner’s name to the location of the vacant house, a unique graphic is generated based on the resident and the dwelling place.

Utilization Methods:

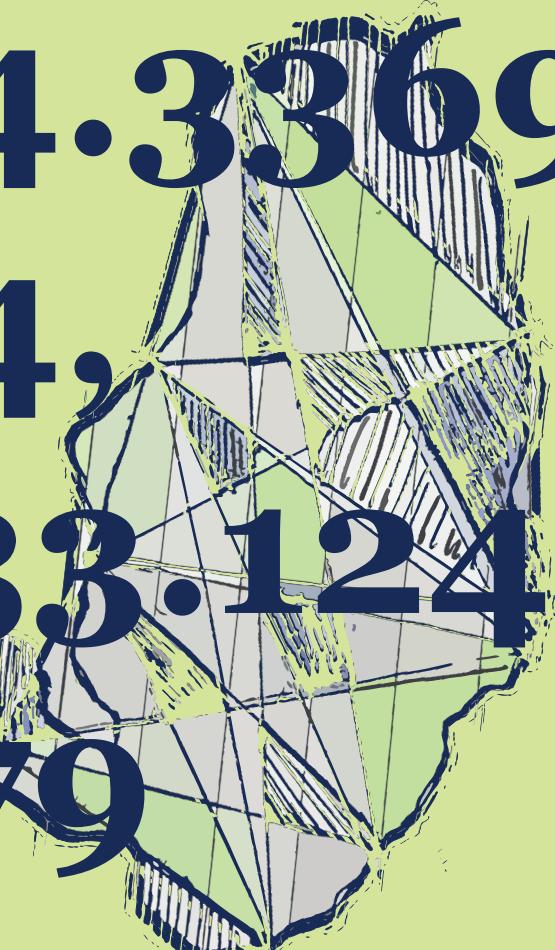
1. Handing out as a flyer/poster

By recognizing “vacant house” as “a house where Mr/Ms. Kawamura lived,” it induces desire to participate in the deconstruction.

2. Connect past and present owners through a sticker

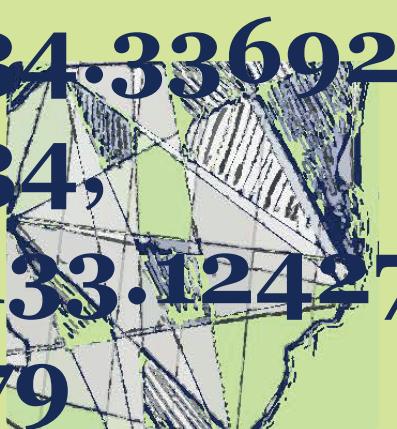
If the recipient decides to hand it over at the demolition festival, a new graphic and sticker for that community is generated. Different design stickers are attached for the first, second, etc., fostering a sense of affection and continuation.

34.33692
34,
133.1242
779

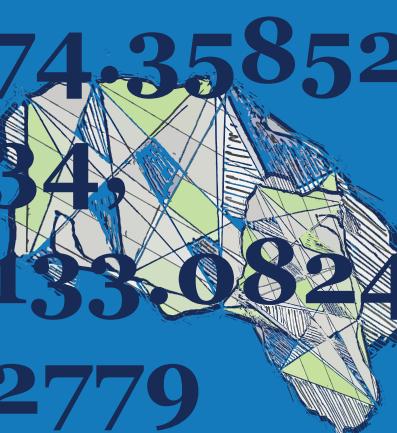


佐木島

34.33692
34,
133.12427
79



74.35852
34,
133.0824
2779



他の市区町村

解体祭

2023

34.3369
234,
133.1242
779



日時：
【initiation】
2023年5月31日
9:00～18:00

【Deconstruction】
2023年6月1日・2日
9:00～18:00

場所：
三原市鷺浦町向田野浦
須ノ上集会所

Phase 2

Initiation

Phase 2 Initiation

Day 1 of the Deconstruction Ceremony

Step 1. Gathering

All participants arrive at the site.

Participants:

Owner, People with direct relations to the house (previous Owners, Tenants etc.), Manager, Master of Ceremony, Construction Worker, Ceremony curating Stuff, Participants from the local community

Presence of listed participants depends on their availability

Step 2. Speech

Owner

- Gives a speech, content depends on his personal preferences

Master of Ceremonies

- Tells the History of the house based on the information previously provided by Manager

Step 3. Intervention Act

Opening(s) are made in the body of the House. The Aim is to make the most meaningful, core items of the House (ex. 幣串 heigushi, 神棚 kamidana etc.) visible from the exterior. These objects are to be later put on the bigger Altar during the Composition Ritual.

Craftsman

- Performs the Intervention Act

Ceremony Stuff

- Provide assistance if needed

Step 4. Composition Ritual

Composition Ritual is held following the Composition Rules. Participation in the Composition Ritual is not mandatory, every person can either participate or observe according to his will.

Master of Ceremony

- Distributes the Instruction Brochures with specific tasks to the Participants
- Curates the Process of the Composition Ritual

Ceremony Stuff

- Supervises the Process of the Composition Ritual, helps people to understand the tasks if necessary
- Controls the correctness of general placement of objects using the Composition Map

Participants

- Perform actions following the instructions from the Brochures they received

When the Composition Ritual is finished, Composition of the objects created during the process is temporarily left the way it turned out to be, disassembling process will start later.

Step 5. Lunch

All the participants are invited to enter the house and have lunch together. Ideally the owner of the House participates in the process.

Ceremony Stuff

- Prepares the space for lunch inside the house (arranges sitting etc.)
- Hands out food and drinks to participants
- Builds temporary structures for the next Step if they are to be built

Master of Ceremonies

- Invites people inside

Step 6. Observation

Participants are invited to Observe the House and the Composition of Items formed during the Composition Ritual.

If the funds are sufficient temporary structures are constructed by Ceremony Stuff providing the possibility of Observation from a higher perspective.

Ceremony Stuff

- Supervises the process preventing any accidents

Step 7. Exchange

Every Participant is invited to take one object from the House and take it for themselves. When taking the Object Process of Exchange takes place. Participant taking the Object writes his name and presumed future location of the Object taken from the House in the Entry Book. In exchange he is given a Sticker which he puts on the Object he is taking. Sticker indicates the origin of the Object - the House. Ideally, Owner is the person handing out the sticker and observing the Entry Process. If the Owner is not present, Master of Ceremony takes his role.

Owner / Master of Ceremony

- Hand out Stickers in Exchange

Ceremony Stuff

- Supervises the process

Participants

- Choose Objects to their liking, write entry in the Entry Book, get Sticker and place them on the taken Object.

Step 8. Closing Speech

The Initiation is completed

Owner

- Gives the Speech, content depends on his personal preference
If owner is not present Master of Ceremonies takes his role

Ceremony

If owner is not present Master of Ceremonies takes his roleman

Ceremony Stuff

- Documents the Composition of Items formed during the Composition Ritual
- Cleans the space in preparation for Deconstruction
- Collects the Items from the Composition Ritual
- Places them accordingly to the instructions given by the Craftsman

Composition Ritual

Composition Ritual

If no items belonging to the category stated in the rule can be found in the house and no additional remarks were added to the rule the step gets skipped.

Step 1. Preparation

1.1 Gather three items from the house:

Large sheets of fabric/tarp/platform

A large box-shaped item/furniture that can be used as an altar (~ 1m x 1m x 1.2m)

A smaller box-shaped item/furniture that can be used as an altar (~ 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.7m)

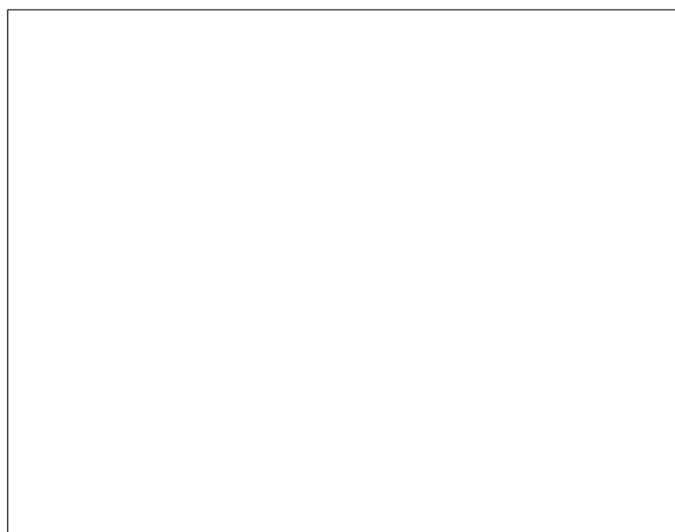
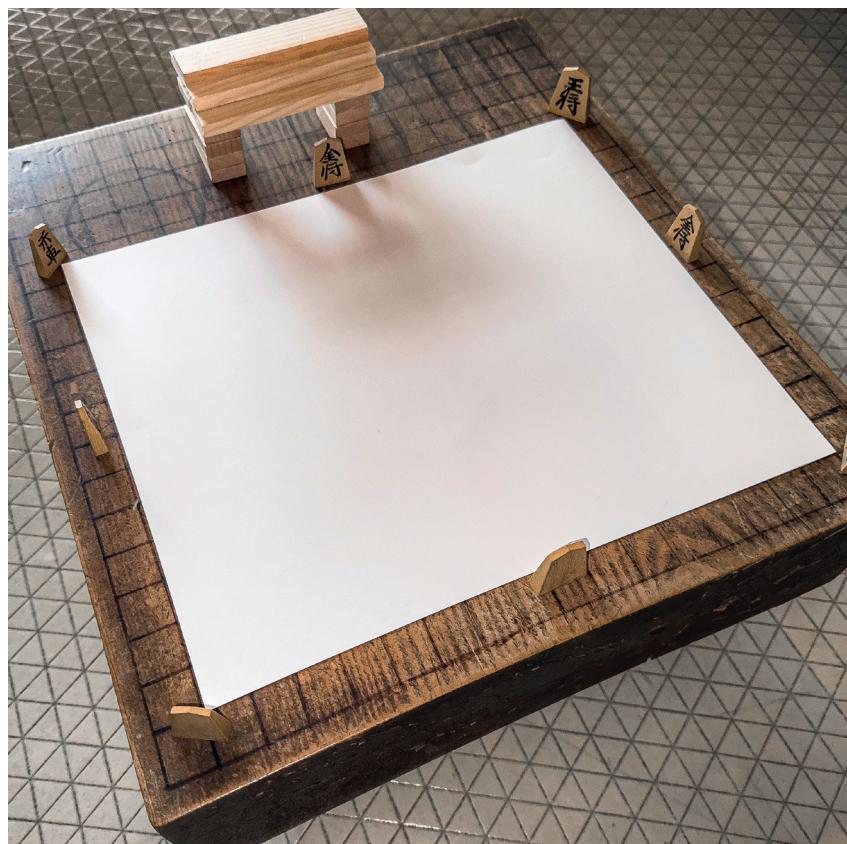
1.2 If these three items are not available within the house, they should have been purchased in advance according to the list.



Step 2. Fabric

2.1 Lay the fabric in an open space in front of the house. This will be the space for the Composition Ritual. All subsequent instructions take place within this space.

2.2 If there's no space in front of the house, use the biggest room in the house. Clear the room of all items and furniture to create as much space as possible. This will be the space for the Composition Ritual.



Step 3. Large Altar

3.1 Position the large altar at the opposite end of the house's entrance. Place items symbolizing protection on this altar.

Example:

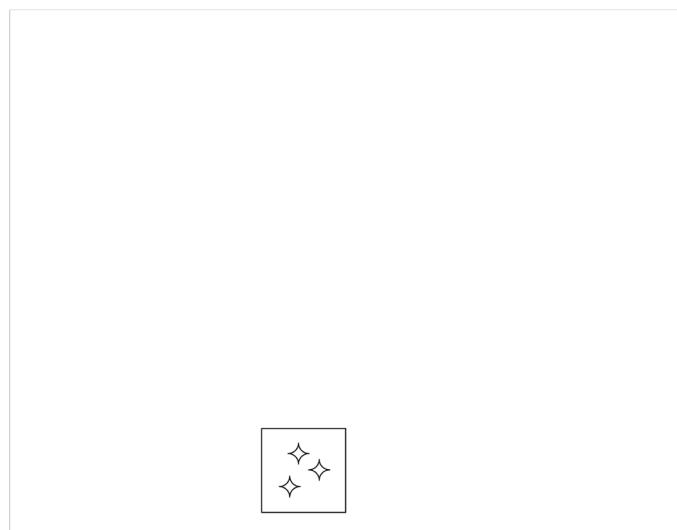
Items placed during construction ceremony; 幣串
heigushi;

3.2 If the house doesn't contain any of the items listed above, use any item symbolizing protection.

Example:

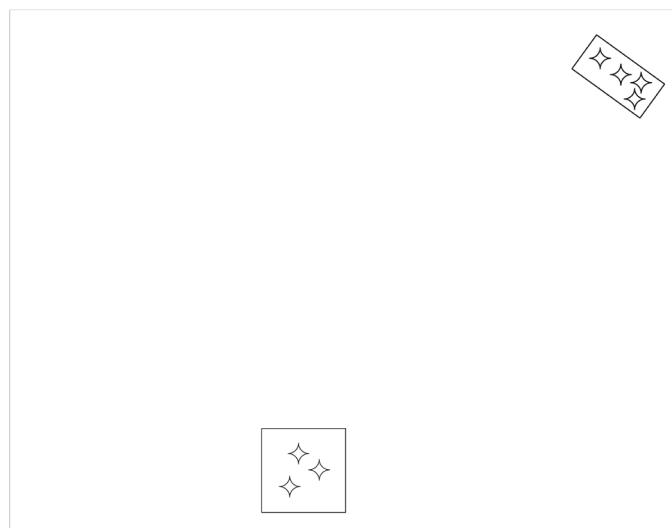
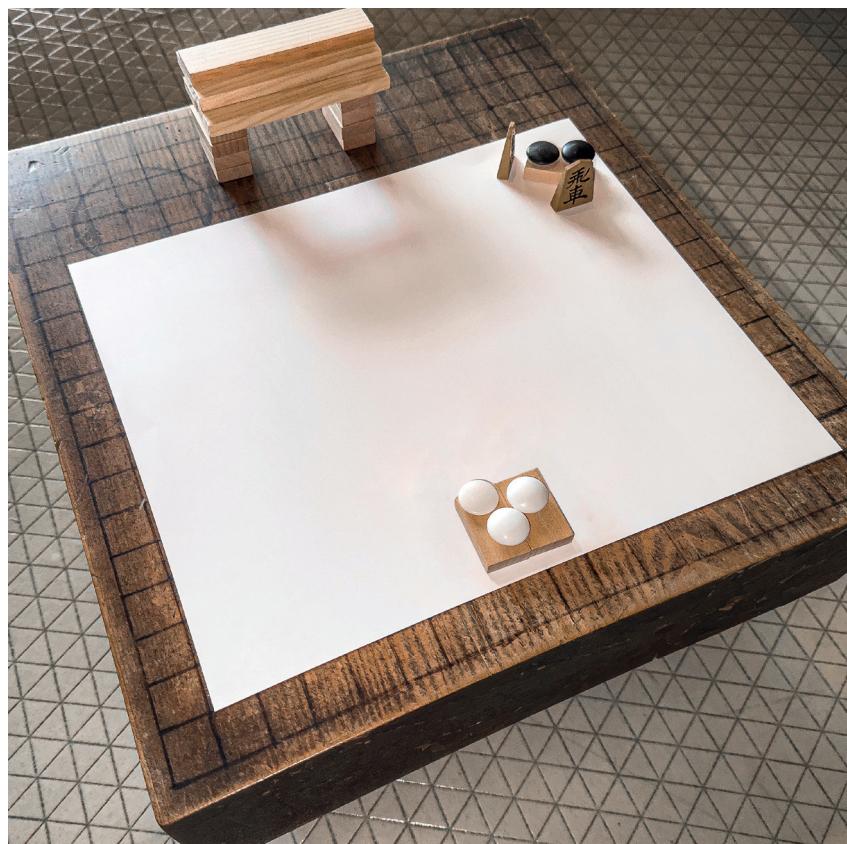
Door lock; Key; Piece of the facade;

3.3 If the Composition Ritual is taking place inside the house, position the large altar in the center of the room.



Step 4. Small Altar

- 4.1 Locate the small altar between the house undergoing deconstruction and the nearest other house.
- 4.2 If there are no other houses nearby, substitute with some other feature in the landscape that feels like an “anchor point.”
- 4.3 If there’s no suitable anchor point, place the small altar on the Northern side of the fabric.
- 4.4 The owner of the house should place as many “affectionate items” on the small altar as possible.
- 4.5 If the owner of the house is not present, the person with the closest ties to the house should assume this role.
- 4.6 If the Composition Ritual is taking place inside the house, position the small altar between the entrance to the room and the nearest window.
- 4.7 If there are no windows, place the small altar on the Northern side of the fabric.

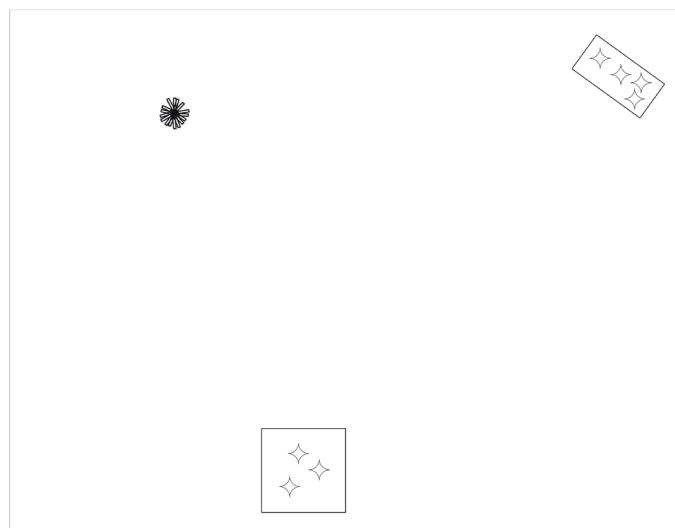
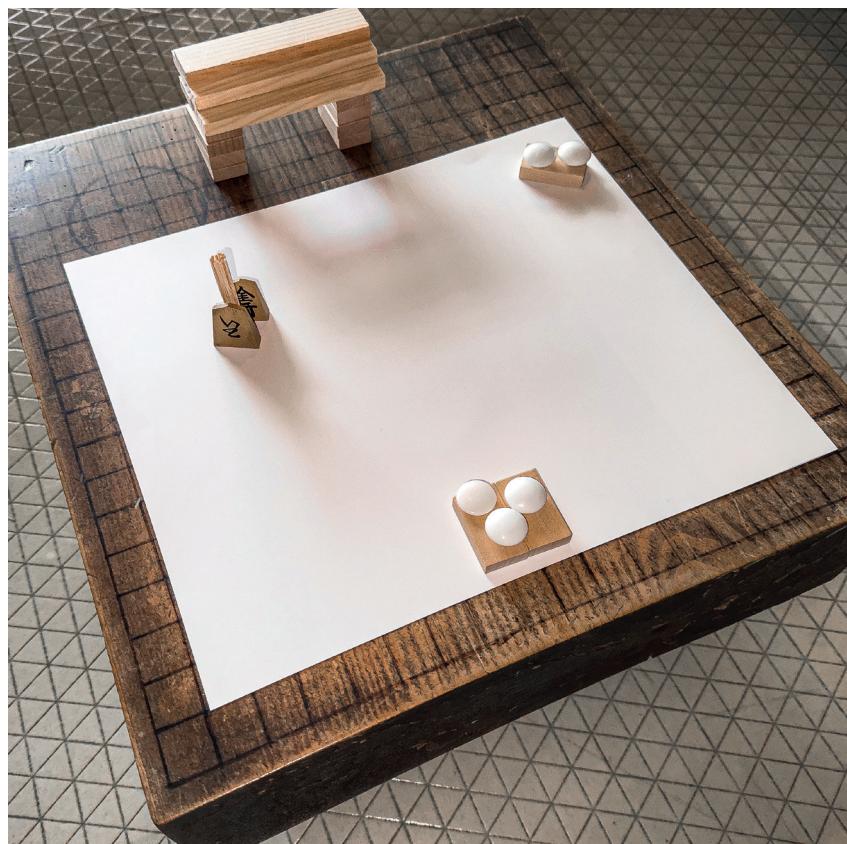


Step 5. Pole

From this point on, instructions can be interpreted liberally. For example, if there are numerous pole-shaped items in the house, it is recommended to construct multiple towers. Follow participants' instincts in whatever is fun and enjoyable, but be careful not to overcrowd the space.

5.1 Identify all pole-shaped, or just “long” items. Construct a cone-shaped tower from these items in a location that participants agree upon.

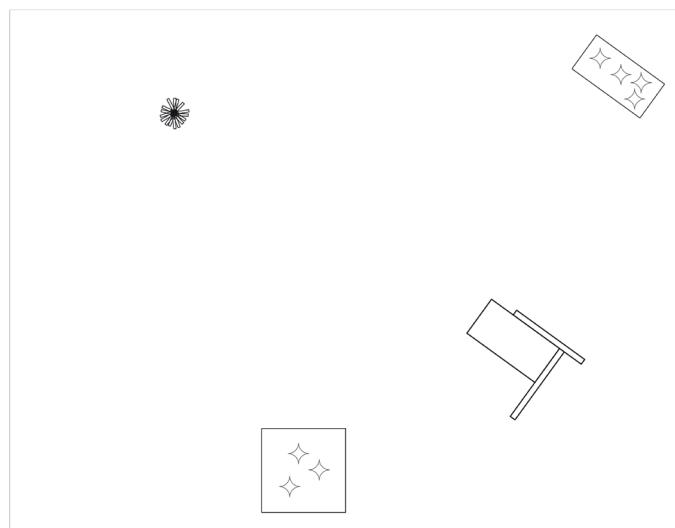
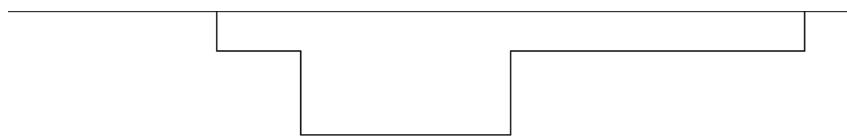
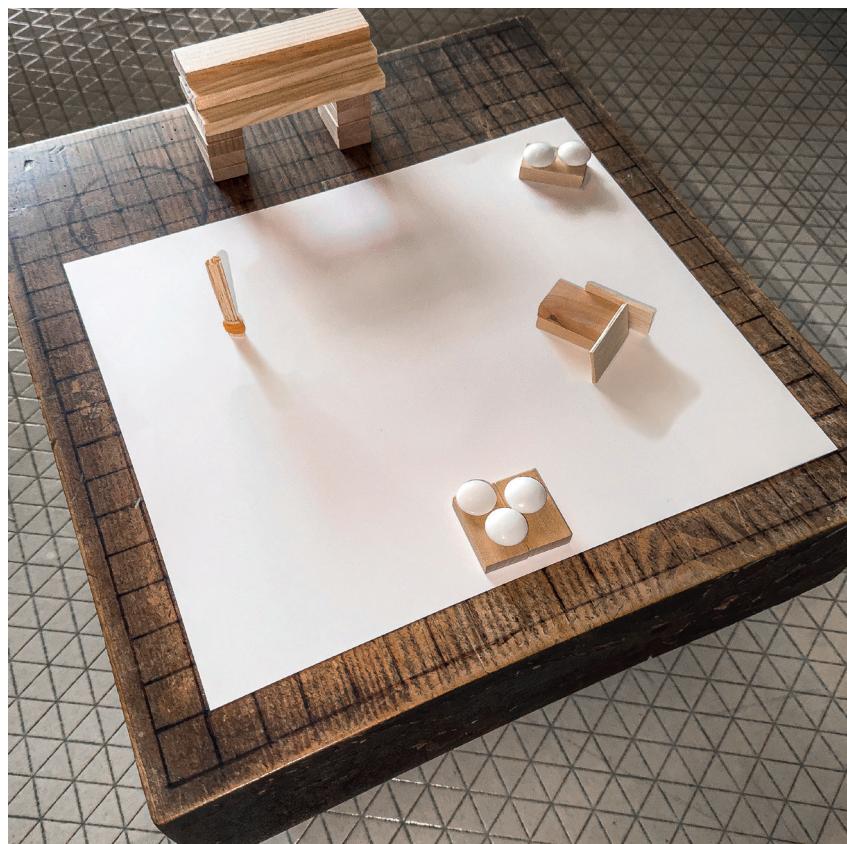
5.2 If the Composition Ritual is taking place inside the house, the height of the tower can vary depending on the room’s ceiling height.



Step 6. Large Furniture

6.1 Take out the largest piece of furniture that two people can manage. Position it wherever participants agree upon within the space.

6.2 If the furniture has doors and/or drawers, leave them open/extended out.



Step 7. Removable Partition (建具)

7.1 Take out two removable partitions. Place them lengthwise on the ground leaning against the furniture, wherever participants feel is appropriate.

Example:

Shoji; Fusuma; Door;

7.2 If there are no removable partitions in the house, use items similar in shape.

7.3 If there was no large furniture, place the partitions lengthwise on the ground leaning on each other, forming a roof-like shape. The placement direction depends on what participants feel is appropriate.

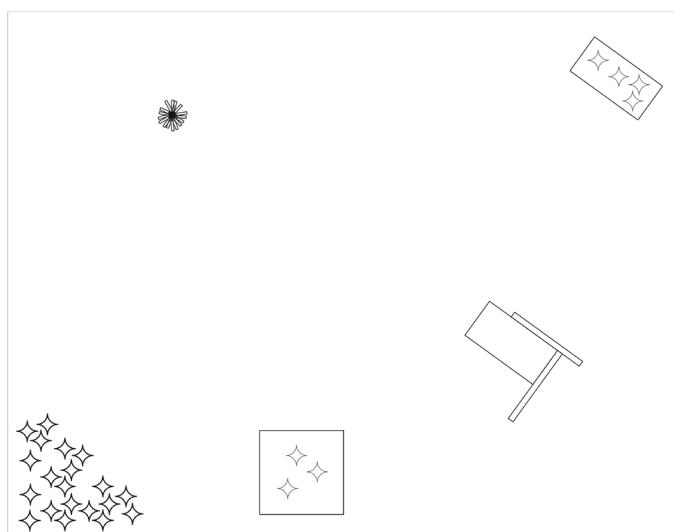


Left: Variations of 7.1
Top: Example of 7.3

Placement of items, represented by Go pieces and coffee filter paper in these images, will be explained in later steps.

Step 7. Joy Inspiring Items (Search)

- 8.1 Each participant should look through the remaining items in the house. Each participant selects one item that “inspires joy” in them and places it on the edge of the space. These “joy-inspiring” items will be moved later, so their current placement isn’t crucial.
- 8.2 If no items that ”inspire joy” can be found, something is wrong with you, look again.

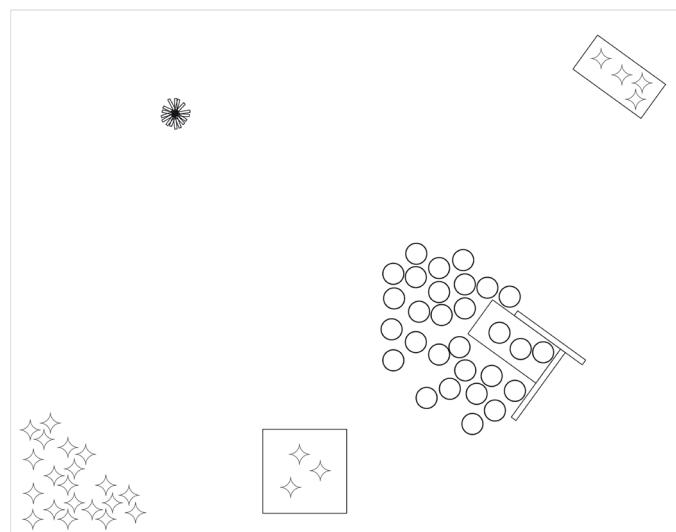
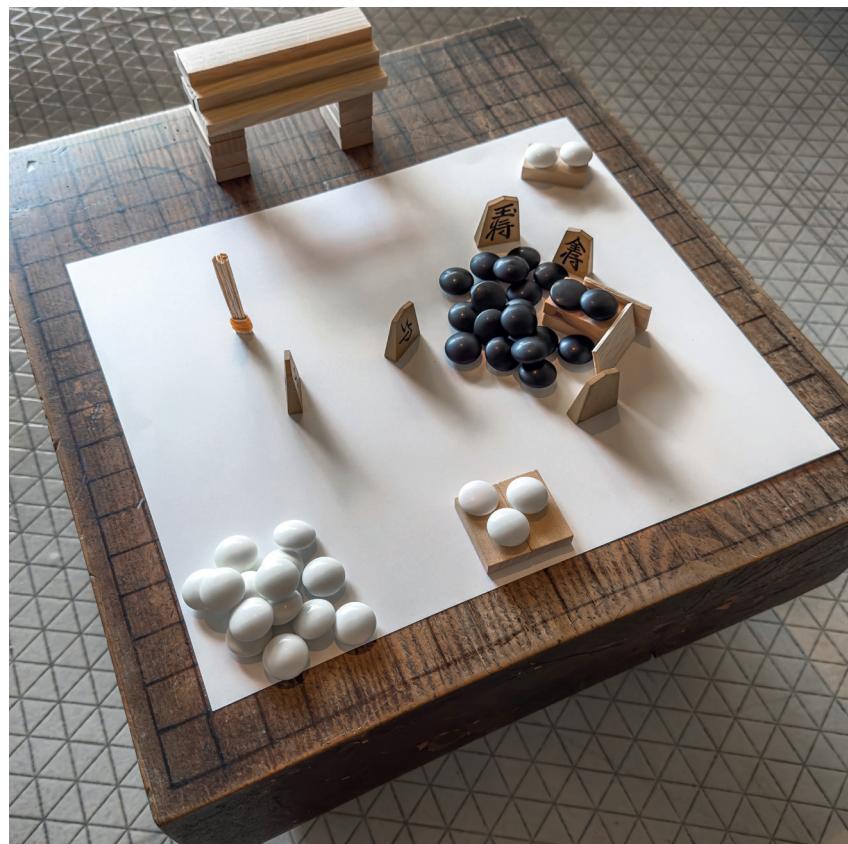


Step 9. Food (食)

9.1 Take out all items related to food (食). Place them on/in the large furniture*. Items that don't fit on/in this furniture, place on the ground in the direction delineated by the partitions.

“In” refers to places that are exposed/visible, hence why it was previously stated to open/extend all doors/drawers

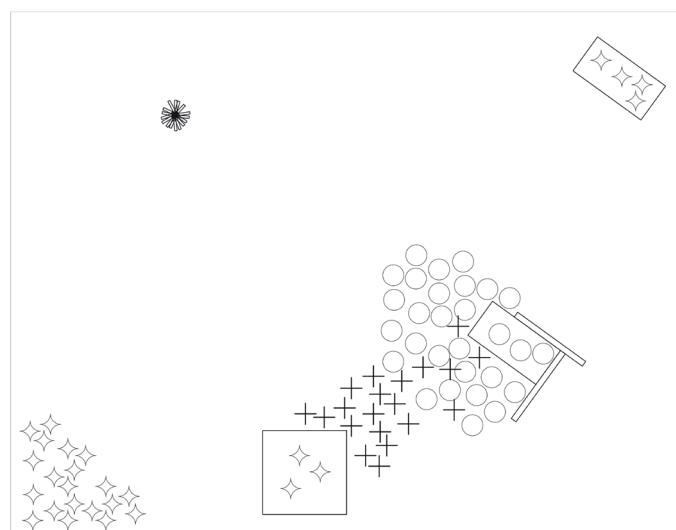
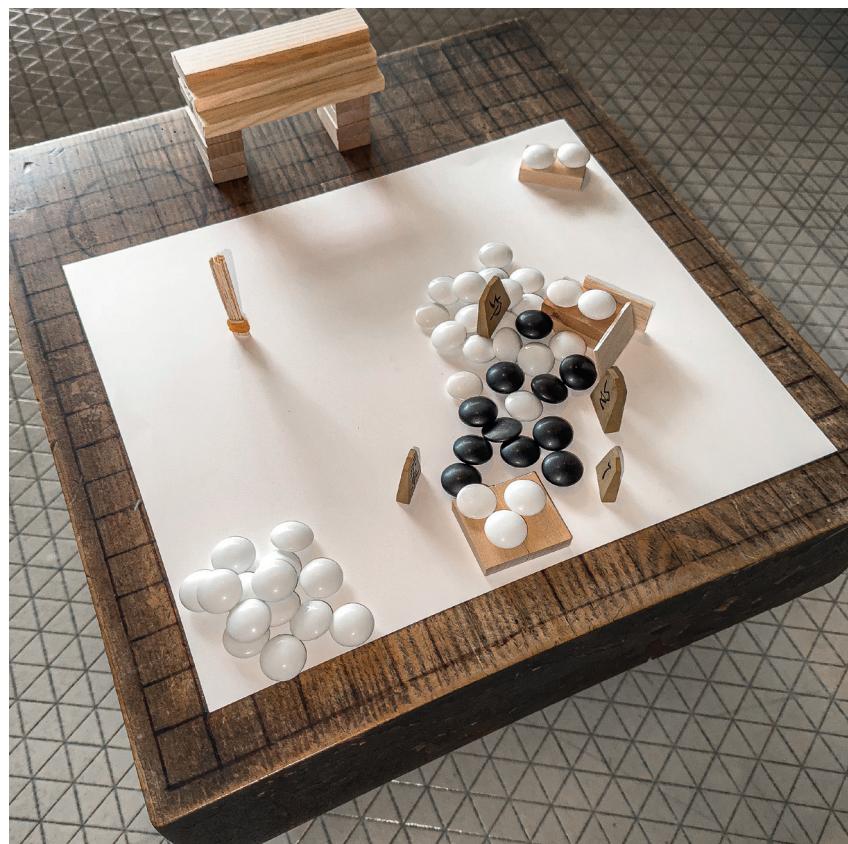
9.2 If there were no large furniture pieces, place the items in the two openings created by the partitions. The items should start to fan out in the directions delineated by the partitions.



Step 10. Life (生命)

10.1 Position items related to life continuation, reproduction (生命) starting from the large altar, leading towards the furniture.

10.2 If items of 食 and items of 生命 meet, merge the two clusters of items gradually.

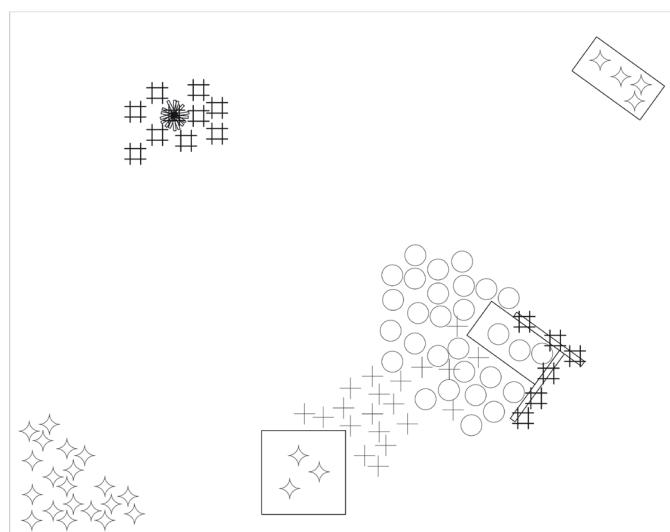
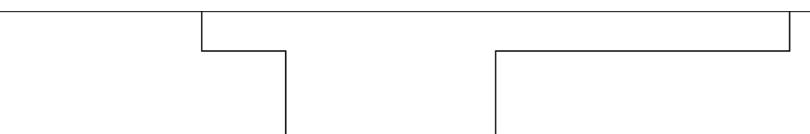
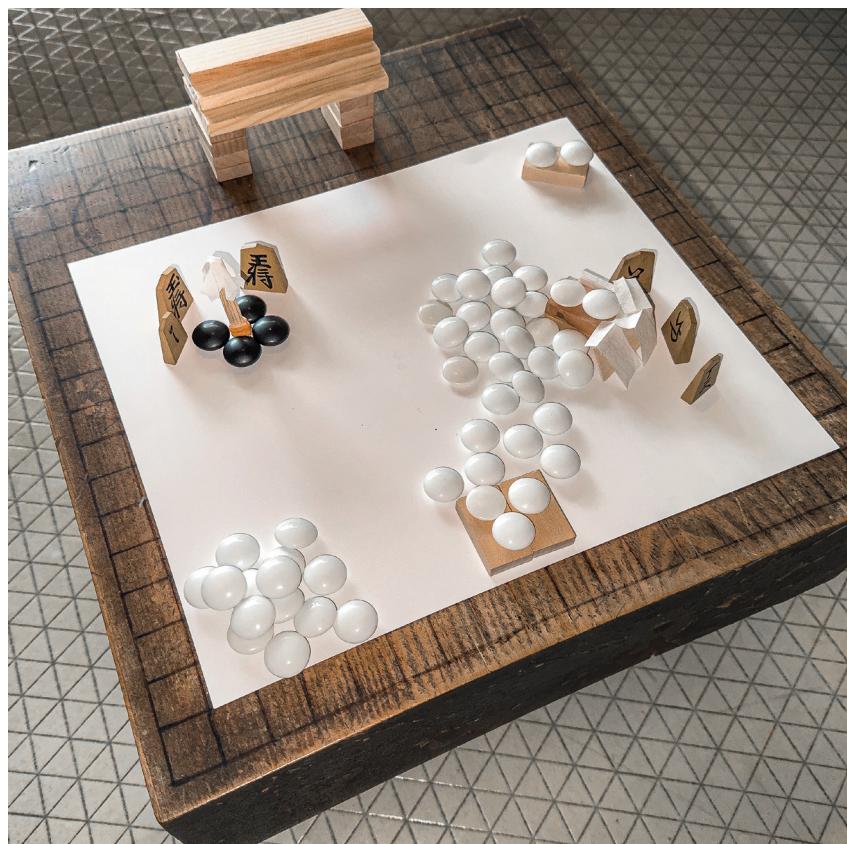


Step 11. Clothing (衣)

11.1 Take out items related to clothing (衣). For all fabrics, drape them over the tower and the partitions. If it becomes structurally unsound, do not try.

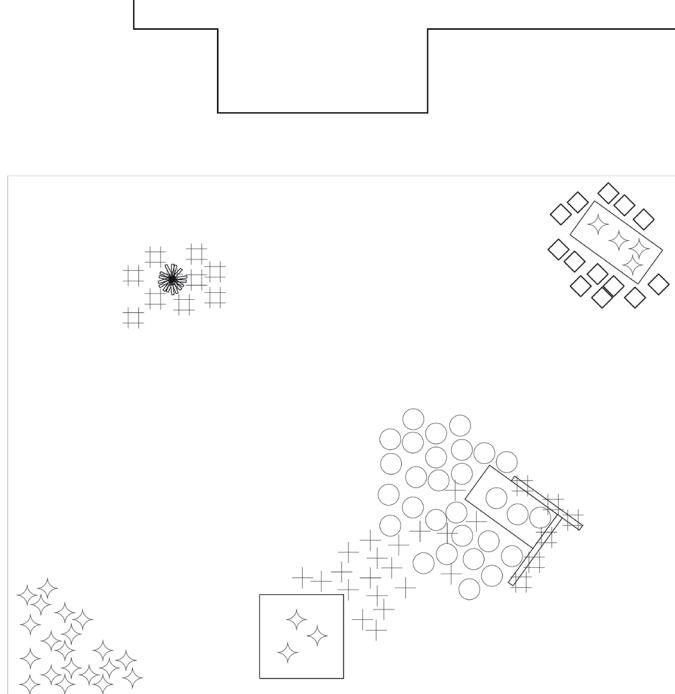
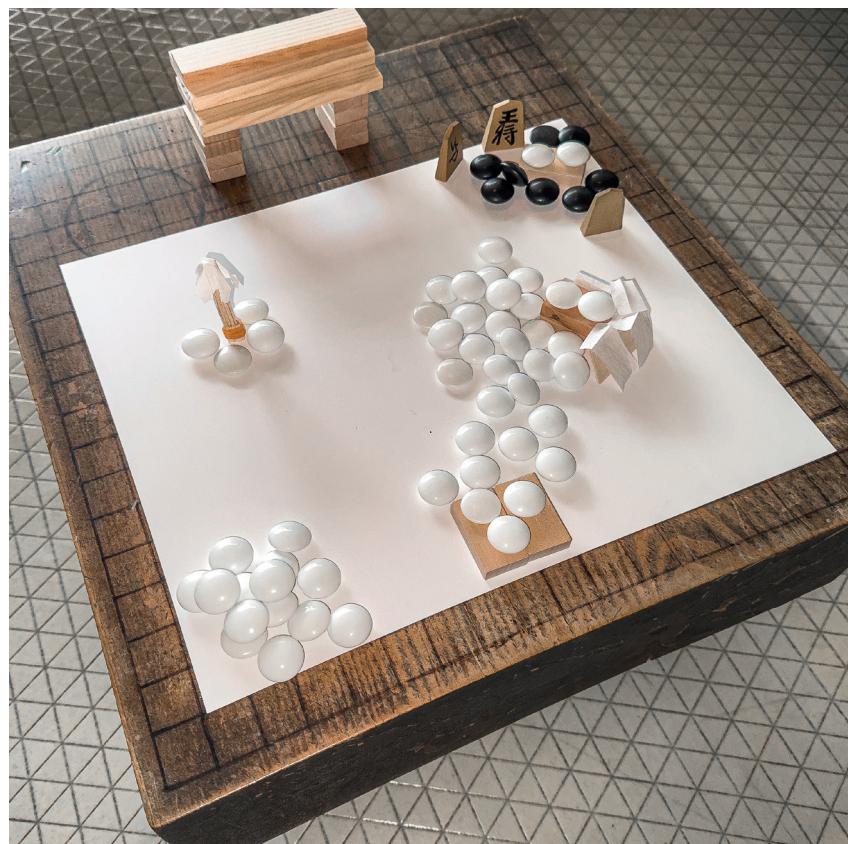
11.2 If the items are related to 衣 but are not fabrics, place them next to the tower.

11.3 If no towers were made in the previous step, do not take out non-fabric items.



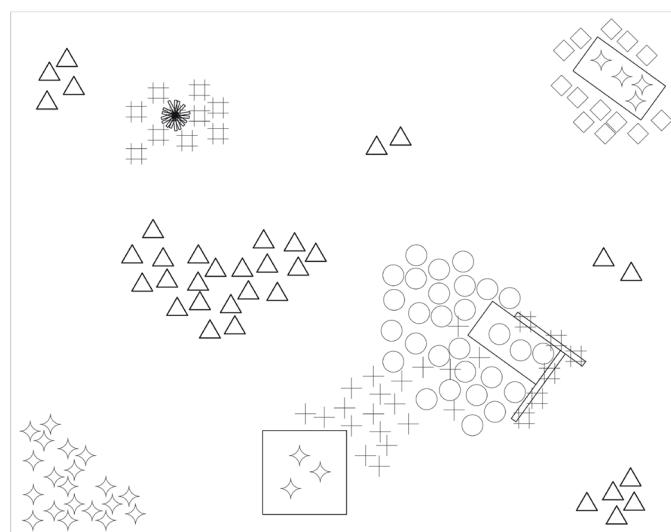
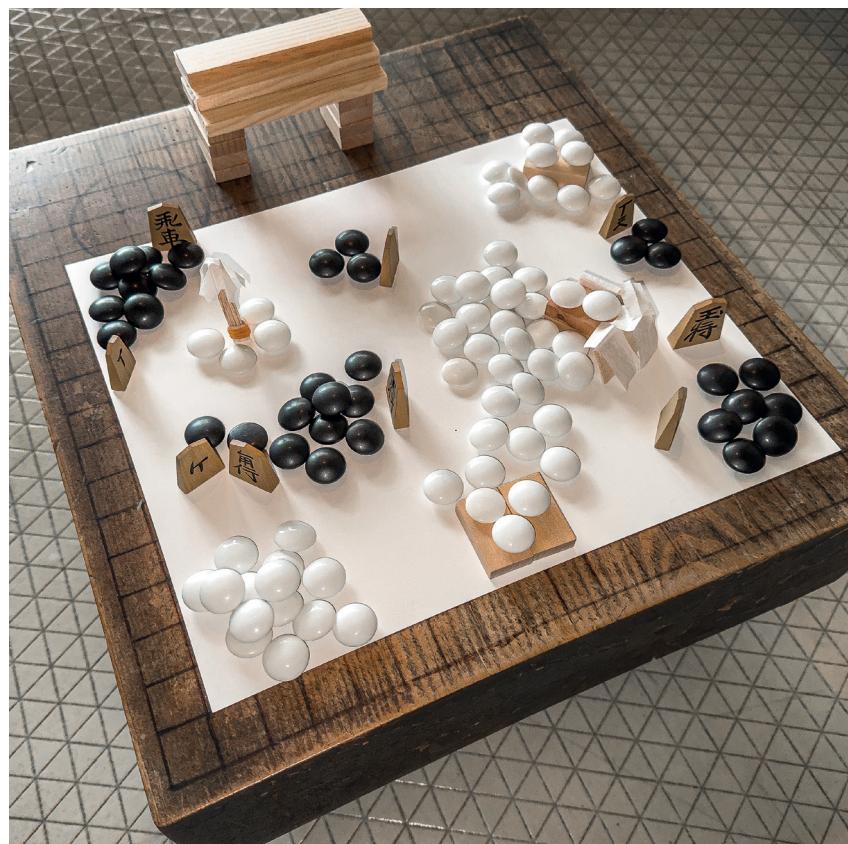
Step 12. Travels

12.1 Take out all items that have seen many “travels” outside the house. Place them around the small altar.



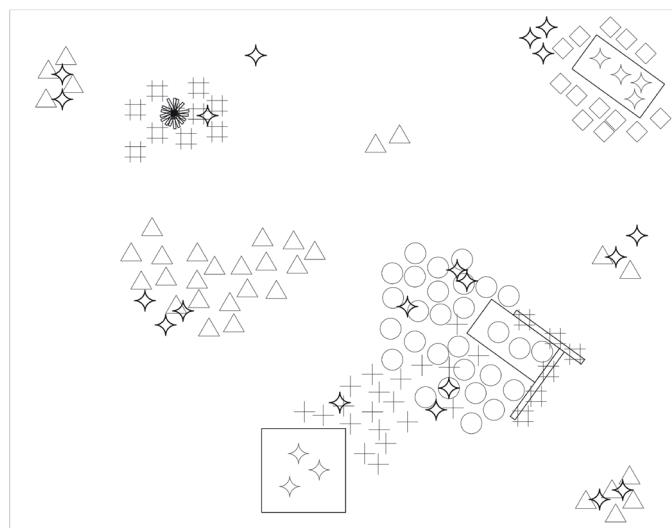
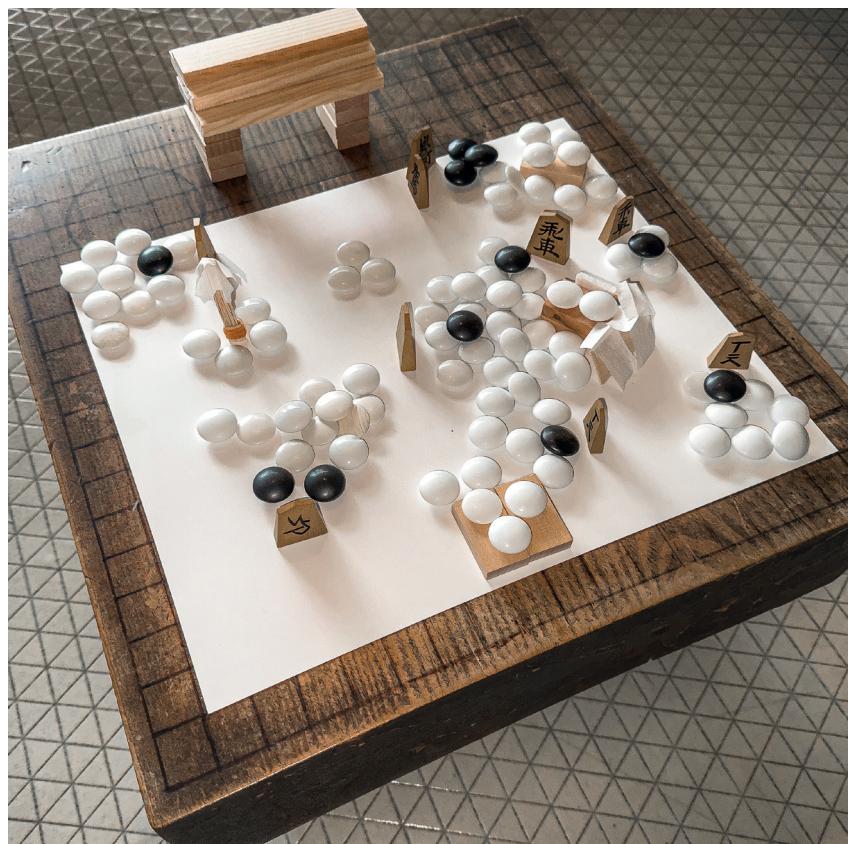
Step 13. Tiresome Items

13.1 Take out items that make people feel laborious or tiresome. Group them in clusters in empty spaces. If possible, fill up the rest of the empty space, while ensuring sizable paths for people to walk through.



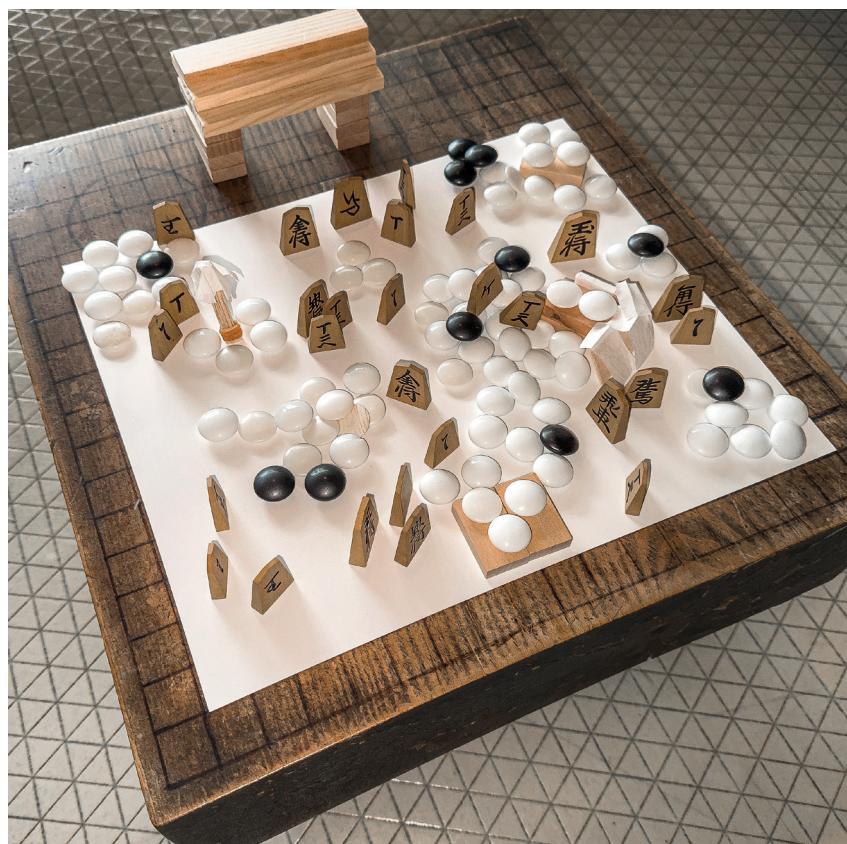
Step 14. Joy Inspiring Items (Placement)

14.1 All participants pick up previously marked items that inspire joy. Walk through the space and place them in spots they feel are suitable, without adhering to previous categories. Do not place on paths. These joy items should be viewed as highlights.



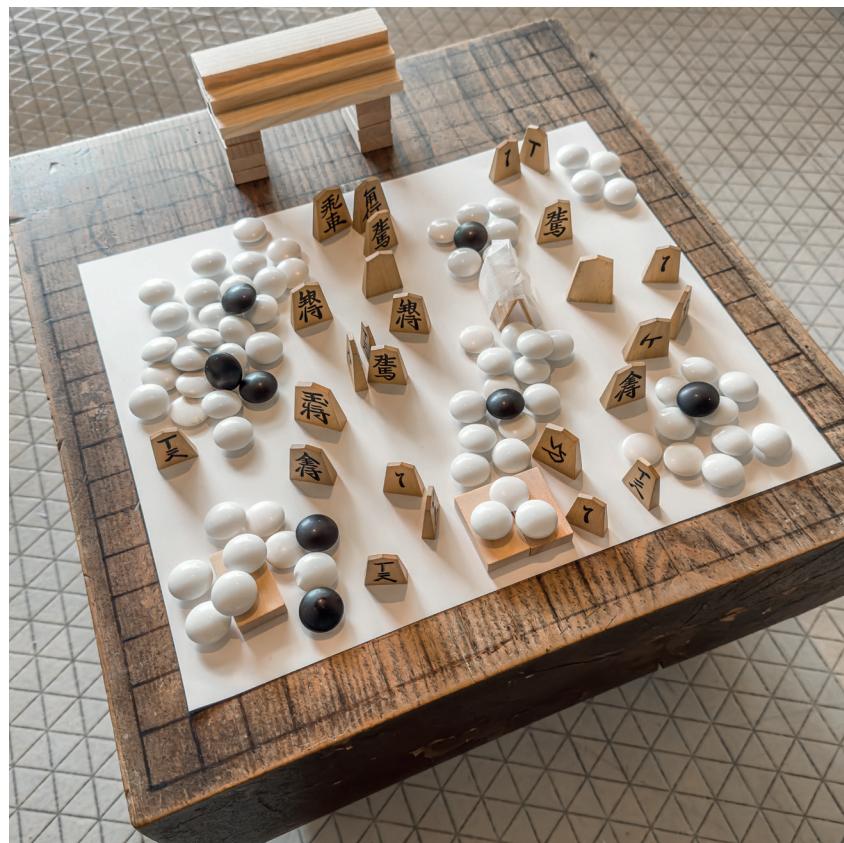
Step 15. Completion

15.1 Take some time to enjoy the composition you've created. The composition ritual is now complete.



Example of Another Possible Composition

In this instance, the neighboring house is in a different location. There are no “long” items usable for tower and no large furniture.



Phase 3

Deconstruction

Phase 3 Deconstruction

Day 2,3 of the Deconstruction Ceremony

Step 1 Preparation

1.1 Clear the site designated for the composition ceremony to be used as temporary storage. Any items remaining on the site should either be removed entirely or moved to the farthest corners of the area.

Step 2 Fixtures

2.1 Dismantle the **fixtures and plumbing**. Segregate the underlined items for disposal, while placing the rest in the temporary storage site.

Example:

Furniture; Cabinet; Fixed Countertop; Tatami; Fusuma; Shoji; Door; Window pane; Window frame; Bathtub; Washbasin; Toilet; Kitchen;

2.2 If available, reassemble the tatami and fusuma/shoji near the site to create a rest area to be used during the deconstruction process. Lay the tatami on the ground and erect the fusuma/shoji around the space. Using fabric to provide shade is recommended.

2.3 If the ceremony takes place during summer, fill the removed bathtub with water to create a pool. Remember to cool off after several hours of work.

Step 3 Interior Walls

3.1 Dismantle and remove the **interior walls**. If necessary, cut them away from the frame. Segregate the underlined items for disposal, while placing the others in the temporary storage site.

Example:

Gypsum board; Plywood; Mud walls;

3.2 Dismantle and remove the **base frame** of the interior wall.

3.3 Dismantle and remove the **ceiling**. Check the attic for any items left behind.

3.4 Dismantle and remove the **electrical installations**. Keep these separate from other materials as they will be recycled.

Example:

Electrical wiring; Lighting fixtures; Air conditioning units;
Plugs; Electric Panels;

3.5 Take a short break inside the house. Stand at one corner and converse with someone at the opposite corner. With the walls and ceilings removed, the entire house becomes a single, continuous space.

Step 4 Roofing

4.1 Three participants are to climb onto the roof, while the others form a line from the roof to the storage site. Dismantle the **roof tiles** piece by piece, passing them from person to person in a relay-style motion towards the storage site. Exercise extreme caution to avoid falling from or through the roof.

Example:

Kawara (clay roof tiles); Cement roof tiles; Corrugated tin sheet;

4.2 Remove the **waterproof roofing sheets**. Spread them out in a vacant space to expand the storage area.

4.3 Dismantle and remove the **roof boards**. Stack them in the storage area.

4.4 Dismantle and remove the **rafters**. Stack them in the storage area.

4.5 Take a short break inside the house. Lie down on the floor and look up to see the sky.

Step 5 Exterior Walls

5.1 Dismantle and remove the **cladding panels**. Segregate the underlined items for disposal, while placing the rest in the temporary storage site.

Example:

Ceramic siding; ALC panel; Corrugated tin sheet; Sprayed mortar; Cedar board cladding;

5.2 If the exterior wall is made of mud, carefully demolish it and collect the mud to return it to the soil. Any bamboo lath can be collected for future use.

Step 6 Floor

6.1 Dismantle and remove the **floorboards**. Stack them in the storage area.

6.2 Dismantle and remove the **joists**. Stack them in the storage area.

6.3 If the ground beneath the floor is exposed, lay a fabric sheet and expand the temporary storage space. This will prepare the area for storing larger structural components.

Step 7 Roof Frame

7.1 All participants should gather around and beneath the **ridge beam**. Two individuals will position themselves at each end of the **ridge beam**. Polish and cover the ridge beam with fabric. Tie ropes to several points along the **ridge beam**, with ground-level participants holding the other ends.

7.2 Initiate the dismantling of the **ridge beam** from the frame with a chant. Slowly lower it to the ground, while the ropes are pulled from both sides. Stack it in the storage area.

7.3 Tie ropes to several points on the **purlin**. Dismantle and lower it to the ground using the same method as in step 6.2. Stack it in the storage area.

7.4 Dismantle and lower the **roof pillars**. Stack them in the storage area.

Step 8 Beams

8.1 Assign a person to each pillar to serve as a support and prevent them from toppling. Remove the metal fittings from the beams.

8.2 Dismantle and lower the **beams**. As these are the heaviest components, multiple participants should work together to carry them. Use a chant to synchronize the effort. Stack them in the storage area.

Step 9 Pillars

9.1 Remove the **metal fittings** from the pillars.

9.2 Dismantle and remove the **bracing** from the pillars.

9.3 Tie ropes to several points on each **pillar**. Pull from all directions to secure the **pillar**. Then, slowly bring down the pillars and stack them in the storage area.

Step 10 Foundation

10.1 Dismantle and remove the **base joist** from the foundation. You may need to dismantle metal anchors beforehand. Stack these items in the storage site.

10.2 Preserve the **concrete/stone foundation** as a memorial. If removal is necessary, use heavy machinery.

Step 11 Closing

11.1 Wrap the stored materials with fabric to protect against decay. If feasible, construct a simple storage shelf for the stored materials. Rain and moisture are the primary causes of decay, but ensuring easy access also enhances the potential for reuse.

11.2 Arrange for a **carved stone** to be prepared in advance, or carve directly into the foundation on-site. This carving should include the date and the participants of the deconstruction ceremony. Any additional relevant information is welcome.

11.3 Prepare a variety of **seeds** for planting. Opt for plants that can easily grow from seeds and propagate on their own, such as herbs and wildflowers. In commemoration of the ceremony, throw a handful of seeds into the wind.

Example:

Poppy; Rosemary; Lavender;

11.4 Owner, Manager, MC - Deliver a speech to conclude the deconstruction ceremony. Keep it succinct, as everyone is eager for the next step.

11.5 Host a celebratory drink party.

Appendix

List of items to be purchased for the Initiation

Sheet of white fabric
(size depends on the area for the ceremony)

Table
(~ 1m x 1m x 1.2m)

Table
(~ 0,5m x 0,5m x 0,7m)

Ropes

Food / Drinks
(preferably purchased from local establishments)

*If any of the listed items can be found within the house, their use is preferable, and there's no need to buy substitutes.

*The amount of items should be estimated depending on the number of participants.

List of items to be purchased for the Deconstruction

Construction tools

Fabric for extra storage area

Cloth to cover the ridge beam

Ropes

Bucket for mud

Seeds, seedlings

Carved stone
(with information about the ceremony)

*If any of the listed items can be found within the house, their use is preferable, and there's no need to buy substitutes.

*The amount of items should be estimated depending on the number of participants.

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