

Urban Planning Laboratory

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“Urban Planning Research Declaration: Our method shall be urban design, our mentality shall be the doctrine of provincial cities, and our attitude shall be a complete appreciation of cities and architecture!” This is a riff on the famous city creation declaration of “Our method shall be readjustment, our mentality shall be the doctrine of small cities, and our attitude shall be a complete appreciation of cities.” I include it here because it perfectly describes my research style and goals.

Theme 1 ▶ Study on land use planning and land use controls in Japan

Entering an age of falling population and low economic growth, city planning needs to consider not only these factors but also effects upon the Earth’s environment. In particular, provincial cities have a requirement to be compact and sustainable. One of the major factors that influences city planning is land use planning. This theme therefore focuses on suburban land use planning for provincial cities. While closely inspecting land use controls, including city planning areas, area division, the land development permission system, the district plan system and voluntary ordinances by local governments, we seek to highlight the issues between actual development and the systems & operations in place, and to inquire into issues relating to them. In the 2016-2017 academic years, it is our intention to advance our research into international comparative research into preventive measures for city shrinkage, research relating to formulation status of location optimization plans, etc.



Individual developments distribution in urbanization control area included of Tunami Hazard area : Hamamatsu City

Theme 2 ▶ Study on history of modern urban planning and city making in Japanese cities

Japanese research into the history of modern urban planning has been focused first and foremost on large cities and colonial cities from the world war period, but the development of domestic provincial cities has not yet been fully explained. This research targets major domestic provincial cities to which the old Urban Planning Act applied in a relatively early period, and seeks to make clear the ideals behind the planning and the planning techniques used in both the pre-war period and post-war reconstruction period. We also seek to make clear the meaning this history holds today, and how it is continued or discontinued in current urban planning. In the 2016-2017 academic year we intend to place our focus on the relationship between land use planning according to the war damage reconstruction plan, and land use planning in the period when the area division system was introduced.



Initial concept association diagram for the Gifu post-war reconstruction urban planning

Theme 3 ▶ Study on urban design methods

Some of the issues faced by urban design include three dimensional design, going beyond two dimensional land planning on a regional scale and allowing explorations of the form and design of buildings, processes that presume the participation of a variety of planning bodies, and the systems and income & expenditure management required in order to realize those plans, while research into urban design seeks to uncover new values and regional planning resources in order to create rich urban spaces. For the 2016-2017 academic year, we are placing our focus on the relationship between post-war reconstruction urban planning and modern downtown development policies.



Uncovering the riddle of the axis lines on the path leading to Zenkoji temple (left), A view of Ueda, as seen in the 1966 movie “The Inugami’s family” (middle), The same location in the summer of 2002 (right)

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