



Architectural conservation and landscape

- Conservation, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings & Areas as Living Heritage in Japan-



KARIYA Yuga, Dr.

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I deeply respect the various activities you are continuing to carry out to preserve and revitalize Cairo's historic district, centering on the Souq El Shirah. I visited Cairo for the first time in this August and was very surprised to know your activities and learned a lot from them. Although Japan and Egypt are geographically far apart and have different history, culture, customs and practices, I felt that we have something in common in our efforts to preserve and revitalize our historic heritage.

Today, I would like to introduce mainly the preservation and revitalization of historic districts in Japan, focusing on case studies. First of all, let me briefly introduce myself here.

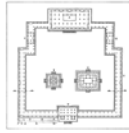
After completing my graduate studies, I worked for a long time in the Urban Planning Bureau of the Kyoto City government. As you know, Kyoto is one of Japan's leading historical cities. At Kyoto City Government, I was involved in urban planning and landscape conservation, as well as the registration of Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto as a World Cultural Heritage site. Later, in 1994, I moved to the Agency for Cultural Affairs in Japanese Government, where I was involved in the preservation of Japanese cultural property buildings, as well as the preservation of historical areas, or

"Preservation Districts for groups of traditional buildings. After working at one of the National College of Technology as a president, I am currently serving as chairman or a member of the preservation council of some local governments.

Variety of Japanese Historical Wooden Buildings



Main Hall & Pagoda
of Horyu-ji Temple



The Keep of
Himeji Castle

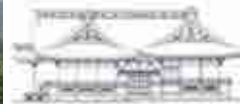


Shirakawa-village
Preservation District



Ohmori-Ginza
Preservation District

Main Hall of
Osaki-hachimangu Shrine



Five-storied Pagoda of
Muroji-temple



This page shows representative examples of historical buildings and historical townscapes in Japan. Most of the buildings in these pictures are components of World Cultural Heritage and are wooden structures. The buildings on the upper left are the main hall and the five-story pagoda of Horyu-ji Temple, both erected around the end of the 7th century.

Woodworking in a picture scroll from early medieval times



Picture scroll -MATSUZAKI-TENJIN ENGI 1311



spear plane



adze



chisel

saw

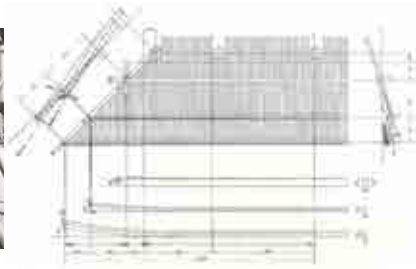


plane

3

Japanese wooden structures have been handed down through generations by craftsmen who skillfully use a wide variety of tools. The upper left panel shows craftsmen depicted in a folding screen painting from 1311. They used spear planes, hatchets, and other tools. The chisels, table planes, and saws are from a later period.

Traditional Techniques and Materials for Conservation



Kiku - A design technique for the eaves and the placement of the rafters and eaves support

Kiwari- Knowledge of proportion system. Each members must be cut in proper dimensions, which could realize refined feature when assembled, and which are sufficient to take the required load and sustain lateral forces.

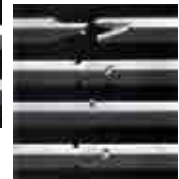


Main gate of Chion-in Temple,1621

Connection of
beams to post



Joints



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Along with skillful fabrication techniques, Japanese carpenters developed and refined a special dimensioning system for temple and shrine buildings, called KIWARI, and a method for geometrically deriving the curves of the eaves of temples and other structures, called KIKU, from around the 14th century to the 17th century. They also developed a sophisticated technique for connecting wood to wood accurately and beautifully at right angles and along lengths.



This is an example of the reroofing work of a vegetative roof - cypress bark roof - on a temple. The roof must be reroofed every 30-40 years.

Recent development of Cultural Heritage and Landscape protection System in Japan

1. System of **Preservation Districts** for Groups of Traditional Buildings, 1975, prescribed in the Law for Cultural Properties Protection (MEXT)
2. System of **Registration** for the preservation of buildings, 1996, prescribed in the Law for Cultural Properties Protection (MEXT)
3. System of **Cultural Landscape**, 2004, prescribed in the Law for Cultural Properties Protection (MEXT)
4. **Landscape Act**, 2004, (MLIT)
5. **Law on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape** in Communities, 2008, (MEXT, MLIT, MAFF)

MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, **MLIT**: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, **MAFF**: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

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In Japan, from the 1970s to the early 2000s, a legal system for cultural heritage protection and landscape protection was largely developed.

In 1975, the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties was amended to establish a system for the Preservation District for Groups of Traditional buildings. We call this system as Den-Ken. Den means tradition, Ken means buildings in Japanese.

In 1996, the registration system of tangible cultural properties, and in 2004, the protection system of cultural landscapes was established as a result of the amendment of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

In the same year, the Landscape Act was enacted.

In 2008, the Law on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in Communities was also enacted. We call this law as Reki-Machi law shortly in Japanese. Reki means history, Machi means town.

Number of Cultural Property Buildings - National Designation
/Registration/ Selection a s of November 2022

Important Cultural Property <National Treasure >
2,557 items, 5,373 buildings 230 items, 294 buildings >

Registered Cultural Buildings 13,546 items

Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings
126 districts, around 30,000 items, 4,024ha

Important Cultural Landscape 71 districts, 121,775ha

Number of approved Plans for the Maintenance and Improvement
of Historical landscape in Communities a s of November 2022

87 plans

This is the current number of cultural heritage buildings designated, registered, or selected and the number of plans approved by Law on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in Communities.

There are 5,373 important cultural heritage buildings, of which 294 are designated as national treasures. There are 13,546 registered tangible cultural properties, and 126 Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings, with approximately 13,000 traditional buildings and gardens. 71 districts have been selected as Important Cultural Landscapes, covering an area of 120,000 hectares.

By now, 87 plans on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in Communities, or Reki-Macchi, have been approved by the government.

Registration of Cultural Property Buildings

Institutionalized in 1996 after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 with the amendment of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Registration Criteria for Registered Tangible Cultural Properties

—Buildings, civil engineering structures and other structures—

■ 50 years have passed since its construction in principle, and which falls under any of the following items.

(1) Buildings that contribute to the historical landscape of the country

- Buildings that are widely known by a special nickname, etc.
- Buildings that are useful for learning about a place
- Buildings that appear in a painting or other work of art

(2) Buildings that have become the norm for modeling

- Buildings with outstanding design
- Buildings with prominent designers and builders
- Buildings that are early works of many later builders
- Buildings that are characteristic of the period or type of building

(3) Buildings that are not easy to recreate

- Buildings with superior technology and skills
- Buildings that use techniques and skills that are now rare
- A building with an unusual shape or design, of which there are few similar examples



The registration system of Tangible Cultural Properties was established in 1996 with the revision of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in response to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, when many historical buildings damaged by the earthquake were disposed of without proper investigation and evaluation. In principle, buildings and civil engineering structures that are more than 50 years old are eligible for registration. Specifically, buildings that meet one of the following three conditions are eligible for registration. The regulations for protection are not so rigid, and the understanding of the owner and neighboring community is required to protect and utilize those registered buildings. Subsidies are provided for design and supervision fees for repairs and utilization.

In the 26 years since the program was realized, 13,546 items have been registered nationwide. A variety of structures have been registered and measures taken to preserve them, including houses, elementary schools, town halls, train stations, banks, inns, hotels, factories, and erosion control dams, etc.

Law on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in Communities, Established in 2008

Plan for the maintenance and improvement of historic landscape

The municipality will enact plans to maintain and improve its historic landscapes. The government will apply and focus support on plans and measures that will maintain and improve historic landscape centered around designated cultural properties with high historical value.

The law aims at preserving and enhancing historic environment surrounding the built heritage that is protected under the Cultural Properties Protection Law. And the law also supports traditional activities, so called intangible operations, relating to the built heritage.

Currently, 87 city plans have been approved.

- ① Built heritage of historically high values
- ② Historic buildings related to the built heritage
- ③ Traditional activities related to the built heritage and/or its relevant historic buildings

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In 2008, the " Law on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in Communities" , so called Reki-Machi law, was enacted as a joint proposal by three ministries: (Ministry of Education, Culture Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries).

This law provides various preferential measures for the conservation of the historical environment of the region's historic sites such as castle ruins, important cultural properties such as shrines, temples, and houses, and nationally designated or selected cultural properties such as the Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings. Traditional events such as festivals closely related to these historic buildings are also eligible for protection. Municipalities determine these areas and prepare plans for the maintenance and improvement of their historic environment. Currently, 87 plans have been approved by three ministries of the government.

Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings

=Groups of traditional buildings of high value which form certain historic landscapes in combination with their surroundings=



126 districts are classified as Important Preservation Districts



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Then, I will introduce the topic of the Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Building, or so-called Den-Ken district shortly in Japanese words. Groups of highly valuable traditional buildings that form a historical landscape in harmony with the surrounding environment are recognized as cultural assets and designated as preservation districts, including their surroundings, for their protection. The national government selects the Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings, Den-Ken district, as Important Preservation District at the request of municipalities.

Representative examples of Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings

Post Town,
Sericulture manuf.



Ohuchi-juku/Fukushima

Castle town,
Samurai quarter



Hagi/Yamaguchi

Merchant Town



Sawara/Chiba

Port Town



Kobe/Hyogo

Mountain village,
Farming village,
Island village



Shirakawa/Gifu



Taketomi/Okinawa

Temple town,
Shrine town



Imaicho/Nara

Chaya-machi
(tea houses at
entertainment quarters)



Hgashiyama-
higashi/Ishikawa

Mine town, Historic
industrial town

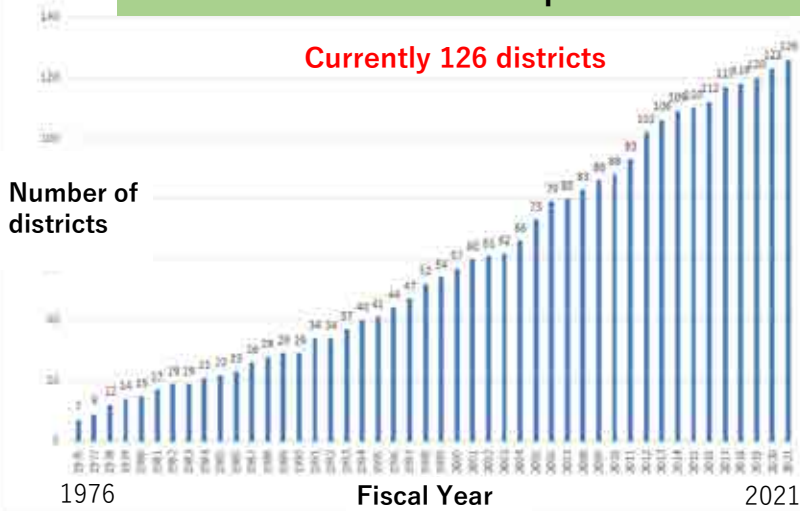


Ohmori-ginzan/Shimane

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There are various types of preservation districts, including post towns, castle towns, merchant towns, port towns, farming villages, mountain villages, temple towns, teahouse towns, and mining towns, etc.

Increase trend of the number of Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings



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The selection of Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings began in 1976, and today, 45 years later, the number has reached 126 districts nationwide. The number is expected to gradually increase in the future.

Keywords to understand the Preservation District System

Groups of Traditional Buildings:
as a type of Cultural Properties defined in the Protection Law

Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings:
defined by municipalities, to preserve groups of traditional buildings and its associated historic landscapes

Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings:
classified by the Government as preservation districts with especially high value in and for Japan

As regulation:

Rules of permission for alterations of the present condition of all buildings and

As incentive:

- Standard for financial assistance to repair and restoration work of the Traditional Buildings
- Standard for financial assistance to conduct façade enhancement work of non-traditional buildings

Determination of Preservation District

Inside of the City Planning Area and Quasi City Planning Area:
Municipality defines in accordance with the City Planning Act.

Outside of the City Planning Area and Quasi City Planning Area:
Municipal Board of Education defines in accordance with the Regulation.

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These include keywords regarding preservation districts. Any change to the existing conditions of buildings or land in preservation districts requires permission from the local government. Buildings designated as traditional structures are required to preserve their exteriors, and other general buildings and newly constructed buildings must also have their exteriors so as not to disturb the historic landscape.

The national and municipal governments provide subsidies for the repair of these traditional buildings and for the landscaping or rehabilitation of exterior of ordinary buildings. Tax incentives such as property tax and inheritance tax are also available.

1. During 1960's – 1970's, efforts to preserve the townscape of villages and urban neighborhoods started with local residents' movements.
Around 1967, the townscape preservation movement by local residents in Takayama, Tsumago, Shirakawa Village, etc. started, and the Japanese Association for MACHI-NAMI Conservation and Regeneration was established in 1974.
2. Municipal Regulations for Conservation of Historic Landscapes have established in accordance with the local residents' movement.
1966: Kanazawa, Kurashiki,
1972: Kyoto, Takahashi, Hagi, Hirado, Takayama, Kobe,
1973: Matsue, Tsuwano, Tsumago etc.
3. The system of Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings was institutionalized in 1975 with the amendment of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.



- a. About 55 years have passed since the townscape preservation movement by local residents began, and about 47 years have already passed since the system of Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings was institutionalized, and examples of designation, selection, and good results of preservation projects have been accumulated in various areas.
- b. In the process, the advantages of the preservation districts project have become clear: the project is not only for the protection of cultural assets, but also for the comprehensive and permanent preservation and maintenance of the living environment, and the support system for repair, landscaping, and disaster prevention projects is well-developed.
- c. In addition, it is expected to help halt the decline in population, the increase in vacant houses, and the aging of the population, as well as increase tourism through the reuse of traditional buildings.

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In the 1960s, residents of historic areas began a campaign for preservation, and in response, local governments enacted their own preservation ordinances. Then, in 1975, a national system of Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings was established.

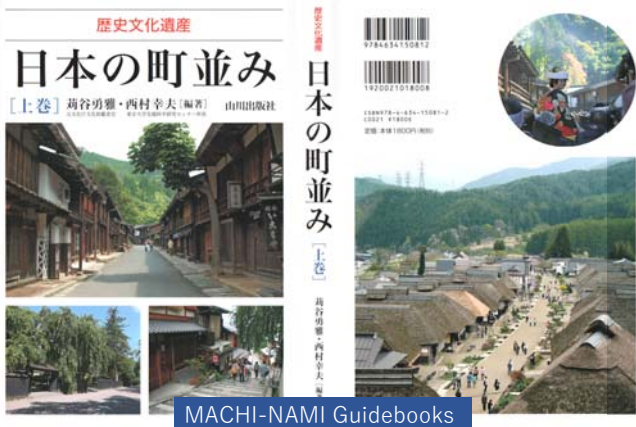
Today, several decades later, the system of preservation district, Den-Ken, is producing great results. In addition to preserving cultural heritage, the preservation and improvement of the surrounding environment has progressed, helping to halt the decline in population and increase in the number of vacant houses to a certain extent. It has also generated economic benefits such as the creation of tourist attractions.

MACHI-NAMI Conservation and Regeneration

The Japanese Association for MACHI-NAMI Conservation and Regeneration (Established in 1974, 67 resident associations)

Distribution Map of member organizations

Machi-Nami, 町並み, means Historic towns and settlements of Japan.



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MACHI-NAMI is a Japanese word refers to historical settlements and urban areas including rows of historical buildings. Residents' groups in historical areas throughout Japan have organized themselves into the National Federation for the Preservation of MACHI-NAMI and they are actively involved in its activities. The left is the cover of a guidebook on the MACHI-NAMI that I wrote and edited with my colleagues from across Japan.

Overview of Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

Preservation District (Sasayama, Hyogo pref.)



Samurai Quarter



Stone wall of castle



Merchant Town

What is a Group of Traditional Buildings?

- A package of traditional buildings,
- which is an evidence of architectural or urban development
- which has been brought in the geological, historic, and cultural context of the place

Repair



Fire Prevention system



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This page provides an overview of preservation districts. A group of traditional buildings is a package of traditional buildings, which is evidence of architectural or urban development, and has been brought in the geological, historic, and cultural context of a place.

To the left is an example of the Den-ken District in Tanba-Sasayama City in Hyogo Pref. Centered on the castle, it includes the samurai residence area and the merchant town area as a single preservation district. The upper right shows two examples of repair projects. The lower right shows the system of firefighting facilities, such as water guns, and hydrants throughout Shirakawa village.

Sirakawa village
Preservation District, Gifu Pref.



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This is a summer and winter view of the Den-Ken district in Shirakawa Village. The photos were taken from the hilltop of the ruins of a former castle. This district consists of the World Cultural Heritage Site.

Sirakawa village
Preservation District,
Gifu Pref.

Rethatching of a thatched roof
through “Yui” and volunteers.

“Yui” (tie-up) is a system in which villagers traditionally lend and borrow labor from each other in village life, and has been applied to roof thatching, rice planting, rice harvesting, marriages, funerals, and other events. The rethatching of the Gassho-zukuri thatched roofs in Shirakawa village needs to be completed in one to two days, so 200 to 300 people are needed at a time, and this has traditionally been done under the system of “Yui” (tie-up). Recently, however, due to the declining population and other factors, this event has become an event in which not only villagers but also many volunteers outside the village take part.



Reaping thatch by junior high school students



Drying thatch



Storage of dried thatch



©Shirakawa Village



The large Gassho-zukuri thatched roofs in Shirakawa Village are regularly re-thatched by all villagers and volunteers in a mutual aid system called “Yui” in Japanese or tie-up. The term of Gassho-zukuri comes from the fact that the shape of the steep thatched roof resembles that of praying hands.

Post Town

Tsumago-juku Preservation District, Nagano Pref.

Before selection (~1976)



Present (2022)



©Nagiso-cho



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I show you some photos of several Preservation Districts, comparing their previous and current landscapes. The first is Tsumago-juku, a former post town along the old Highway called Nakasendo, in Nagano Prefecture. Before the preservation project started, the town was lined with deteriorated buildings with large trucks passing through, but now the scenery of the old post town has been restored and the town has become a well-ordered landscape, attracting many tourists.

Post Town

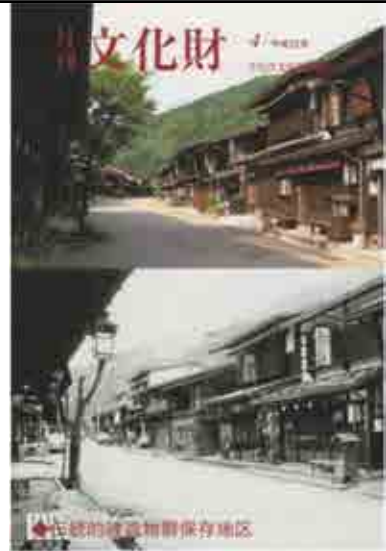
Narai-juku Preservation District, Nagano Pref.



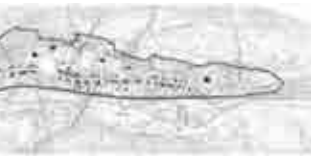
2022



2010



1978

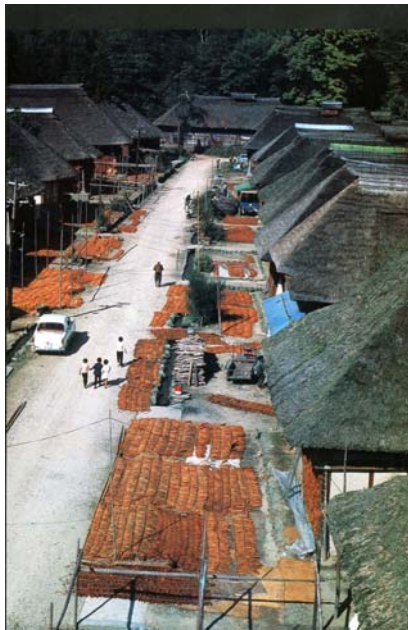


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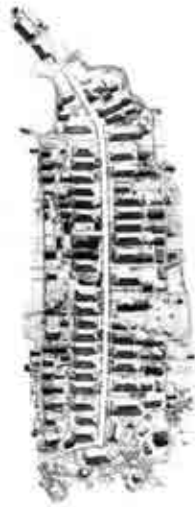
Narai-juku, also an old post town on the Nakasendo route, is shown in photos taken in different periods (1978, 2010, and 2022), showing the progress of repairing traditional buildings, rehabilitating general buildings, and changing the landscape to a more well-organized one.

Post Town

Ohuchi-juku Preservation District, Fukushima Pref.



1967



©Aizawa



2016



2016 21

Ohuchi-juku is also a post town in Fukushima Prefecture. After losing its function as a post town, it had become a modest agricultural village, but at the end of the 1960s, the beautiful scenery of its rows of thatched roof buildings were introduced in newspapers and magazines. It was later designated as a preservation district.

Merchant Town

Takayama San-machi Preservation District, Gifu Pref.



©Takayama City

2020



©Takayama City



2020

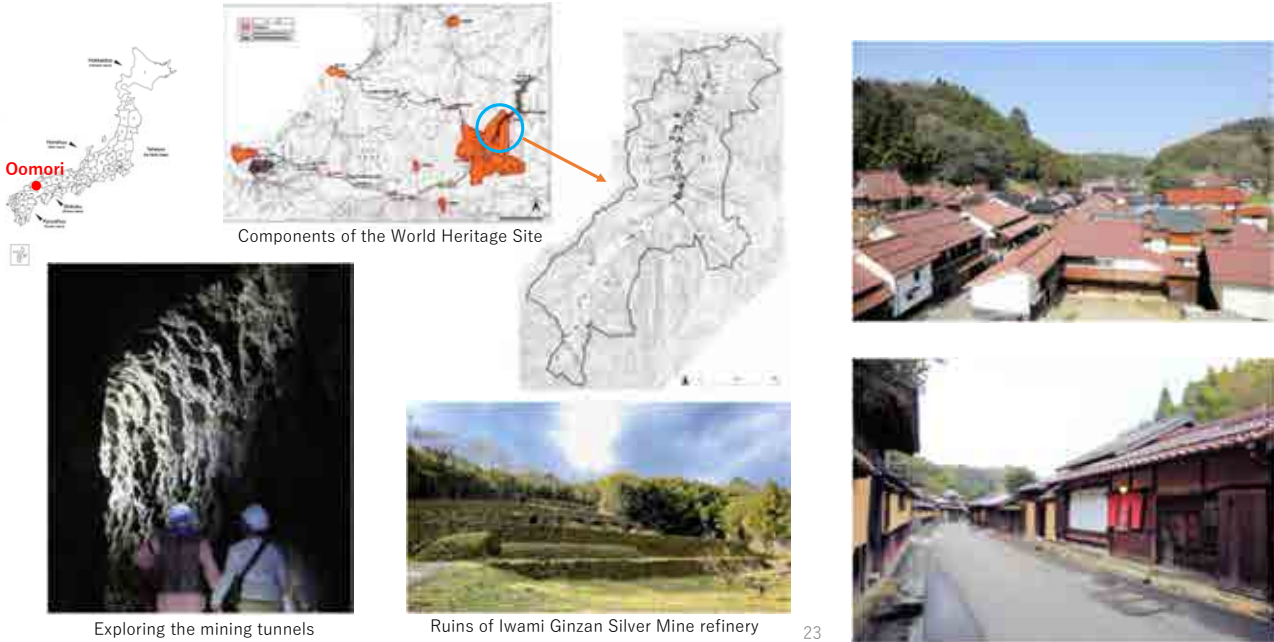


22

Takayama city has long been known for its townhouses of outstanding design backed by carpenter's advanced techniques. Takayama is also well known for the Takayama Festival held in spring and fall with its magnificent floats. In the preservation districts of the city, repairs and renovations have progressed, and the town has evolved into a more beautiful place.

World Heritage Site: Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape

Ohmori-Ginzan Preservation District, Shimane Pref.



Exploring the mining tunnels

Ruins of Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine refinery

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Let's take a look at the preservation district within the Iwami-Ginzan Silver Mine Area, a World Cultural Heritage Site. This is where the houses of the officials and merchants who managed the Iwami-Ginzan Silver Mine used to stand side by side, and even today, traditional buildings with red clay roof tiles still stand side by side. The remains of old mining tunnels and refineries can still be seen in the surrounding area.

**Ohmori-Ginzan Preservation
District, Shimane Pref.**

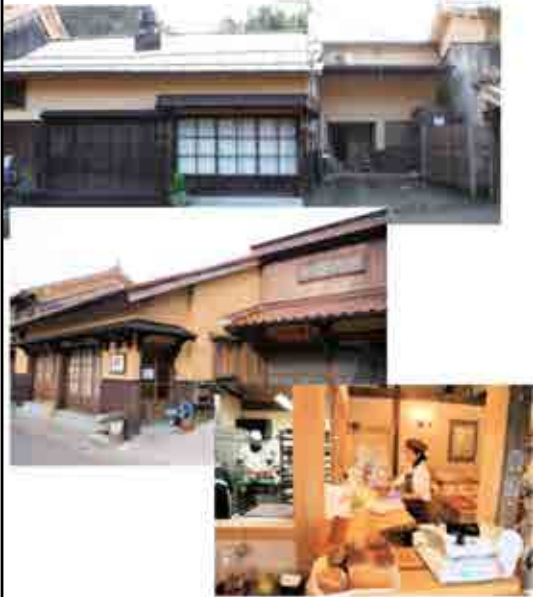
Former Kumagai Family Residence: Preservation, Repair and Public Use
Important cultural heritage, Merchant house, 1801



In the center of the district is the former Kumagaya House. Built in 1801, it was the home of a prominent merchant. After its restoration as an important cultural property, the interior has been opened to the public, and various events such as music concerts, tea ceremonies, art exhibitions, lectures, and hands-on learning events for children have been held there. The management of this heritage building is entrusted to a group of local women.

Ohmori-Ginzan Preservation District, Shimane Pref.

Restoration of an old building and conversion & reuse as a pastry shop.



Restoration of an old building and conversion & reuse as an event hall.

“The smallest Opera House in the world”

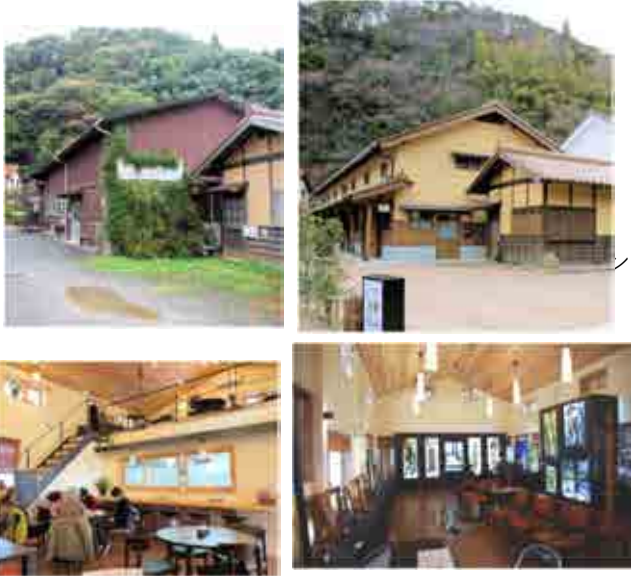


25

This is in the Omori-Ginzan preservation district. On the left, a traditional building was repaired and renovated to operate a bakery. On the right, an existing building has been repaired and renovated into a music hall. The owner is proud of it as the world's smallest opera house. The man who is standing on the stage is not the singer, but the owner himself.

Ohmori-Ginzan Preservation District, Shimane Pref.

Conversion From a store house to a restaurant and an exhibition hall.



Restoration and reuse of a deteriorated house to a meeting space and an accommodation



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These are other examples of repairs and renovations in the Omori-Ginzan Preservation District. On the left, the interior and exterior of an old factory were renovated to create a restaurant and exhibition hall. On the right, a deteriorated samurai residence was repaired and converted into a meeting facility and lodging.

**Ohmori-Ginzan Preservation District,
Shimane Pref.**



Restoration and reuse
of a deteriorated house
to an excellent accommodation.

“Stay as if you were living”



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This is another example in the Omori-Ginzan Preservation District. The main building and storehouse of an old samurai residence have been renovated to create a comfortable, high-quality small-scale accommodation facility. Guests eat dinner with the landlady and listen to her talk about the hardships of its preservation and repair activities.

Mino Preservation District, Gifu Pref.



This is the preservation district of Mino City, Gifu Prefecture. Here, washi (Japanese paper) industry has flourished, and the town remains lined with its wholesale stores. Roofed walls called "Udatsu" rise at the borders of houses. In spring, portable shrines decorated with washi paper-made flowers parade through the streets for the Hana Matsuri (flower festival).

Mino

Traditional buildings were converted to use as a Japanese style inn and a Mino Japanese paper shop.



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Vacant former Mino washi wholesaler's house and warehouse were repaired and renovated to become accommodations, a display and sales spaces, and a café.

Mino

Mino Preservation District, Gifu Pref.



Repair and conversion to Japanese Tearoom



Night view



30

Another historic building in the Mino preservation district has been repaired and renovated to become a café specializing in Japanese tea. To the right is a night view of the Mino preservation district. Every fall, a lighting design contest using washi paper is held, and the best works, selected from about 400 entries, are displayed in front of the houses.

KANAZAWA, Ishikawa Pref.



Kanazawa is one of Japan's leading historical cities. Kanazawa Castle, Kenrokuen Garden, and other historical monuments, fine and beautiful handicrafts, Japanese sweets, many fine museums and art galleries, which is gaining popularity in contrast to these monuments, are located in this city.

KANAZAWA, Ishikawa Pref.

Higashiyama-higashi Preservation District

Progress of repair and renovation
Improvement of Townscape

1974

2020



Kanazawa has four Den-Ken districts, preservation districts. One of them is Higashiyama Higashi Chaya-gai. The upper right photos show the current townscape. On the left is a comparison of the streetscape in 1974 and 2020. The buildings along the street have been repaired and restored, and the streetscape is now neater and tidier than before.

Higashi-iyayamason-Ochiai
Preservation District, Tokushima Pref.



061126



221014



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The Den-ken district of Ochiai settlement in Higashi Iyayama Village, which unfolds on a slope deep in the mountains of Tokushima Prefecture in Shikoku Island. In the photo on the left, taken in 2006, just after the district was selected as an Important Preservation District, almost all buildings have iron-sheet roofs painted blue or red. The photo on the right was taken about 16 years later, in October of this year. Many traditional buildings have been repaired and their roofs restored to their original thatched roofs. The roofs of other buildings have been repainted to a less conspicuous color. Below is an example of a restored building with a thatched roof.

Higashi-iyayamason-Ochiai
Preservation District, Tokushima Pref.

Before
051021



221014

221014

061126



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Here is a closer look at the changes over the past decade in the Ochiai Den-Ken district. You can clearly recognize the change in the color of the roof.

Higashi-iyayamason-Ochiai
Preservation District, Tokushima Pref.

Repair and utilization of traditional buildings -
development as lodging facilities



061126



221014



221014



35

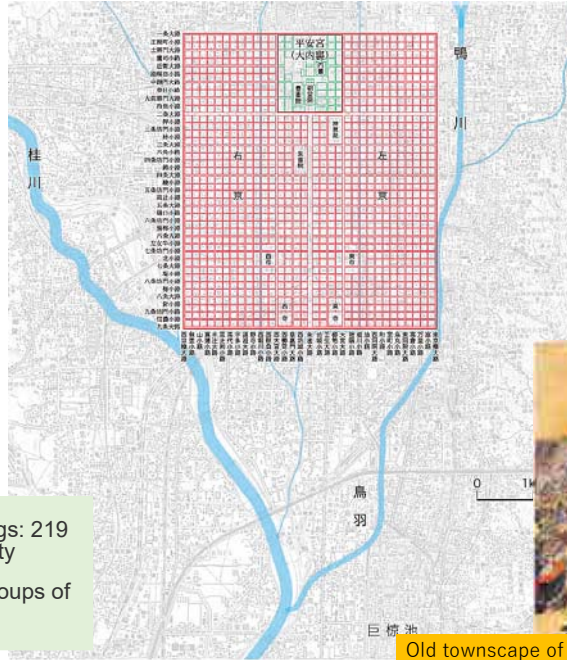
There are eight thatched lodging houses in the Ochiai district. The local government has repaired, restored, and renovated these deteriorated old vacant houses and entrusted their operation to a private sector. I stayed in one of them this October. The buildings in the upper left photos have been restored to original thatched structures as shown on the upper right. While maintaining the characteristics of traditional buildings, the interior has been restored and converted to comfortable modern living spaces.

KYOTO

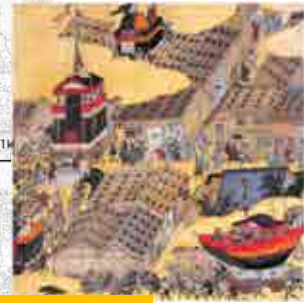
Population: 1.47million
Municipal Area: 828km²



National Treasure Buildings: 43
Important Cultural Property Buildings: 219
Registered Tangible Cultural Property Buildings: 452
Important Preservation District of groups of Traditional Buildings: 4
Important Cultural Landscape: 1



• Kyoto was designated as a capital of ancient Japan in 794.
• The original grid pattern structure of ancient Kyoto has almost maintained until now



Old townscape of KYOTO in the picture screen of 1574

Here is a case study of the historical city of Kyoto. Kyoto was settled as the capital of Japan in 794, adopting the street pattern of Chang'an in Tang China. That ancient street pattern has been carried over to modern Kyoto, which has a population of approximately 1.5 million.

KYOTO

Kyoto has many kinds of measures to protect its historical and natural landscapes.

For example:

Landscape districts are divided into 6 large aesthetic landscape districts, and 2 aesthetic landscape promotion districts suited to regional characteristics.

Landscape improvement districts are divided into 4 districts suited to regional characteristics.



For more than 90 years, Kyoto has worked to preserve the natural landscape, including the designation of scenic areas in the surrounding areas. Since the 1970s, Kyoto has also focused on the conservation of urban landscapes in the center of the historical city. As shown in the figure, Kyoto now regulates the conservation of landscapes by designating a wide variety of areas from mountainous areas and foothills to urban areas.

KYOTO

Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings(4 districts)



Historical Landscape Preservation and Improvement Districts(3 districts)



Community Scenic Betterment Districts(7 districts)



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There are four Important Preservation Districts, three Historic Landscape Preservation and Improvement Districts, and 7 Community Scenic Betterment Districts. Each of these districts has been guided by landscape regulations and subsidies, etc., with the agreement of residents.

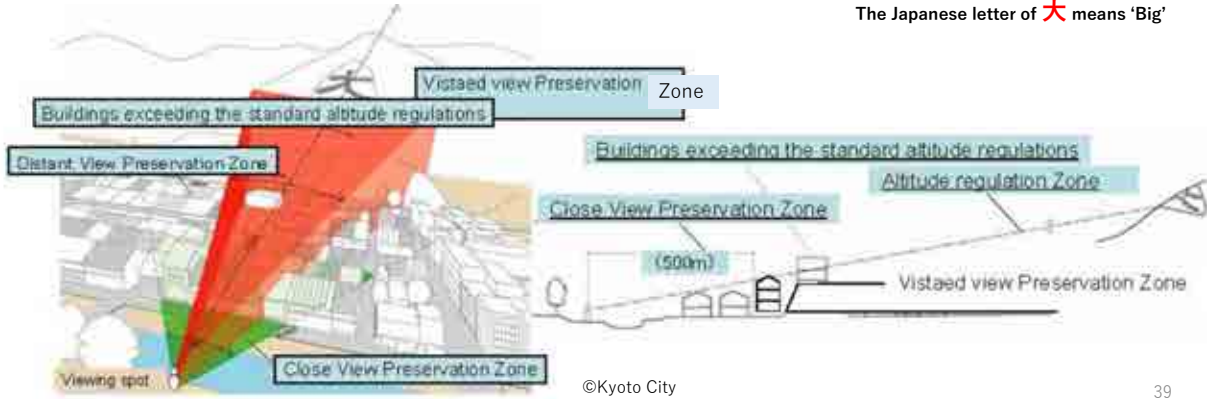
KYOTO

Vistaed view of Daimonji seen from Kamo River west bank



Vista Protection System

Daimonji Okuribi is lit every year during the Bon Festival to send off the spirits of ancestors. It is a very important religious event of Kyoto.
The Japanese letter of 大 means 'Big'



It is very important for Kyoto to have views of mountains from certain locations in the city. For example, the view of Mt. Daimonji from the west bank of the Kamo River is particularly important and is subject to strict view restrictions. The view of the Chinese character for "dai", which is displayed near the top of Mt. Daimonji during the Bon Festival, Buddhism event, each year, is especially important.

KYOTO

Shimogamo Shrine
one of the components
of the World Cultural
Heritage of Ancient
Kyoto

30 Important Cultural
properties including 2
National treasures.



Main approach to the shrine
in the Tadasu forest



Mitarai Festival

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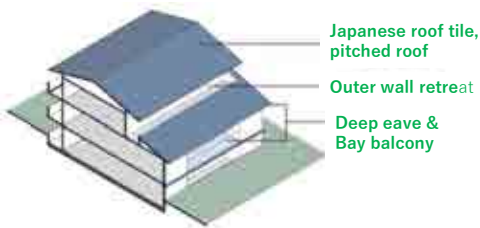
Shimogamo Shrine, one of the World Heritage Sites "Cultural Properties of Ancient Kyoto," consists of many cultural buildings, and is surrounded by thick trees. The Tadasunomori forest along the main approach to the shrine is especially important as a sacred forest.

KYOTO

A condominium built in the buffer zone of Shimogamo Shrine, one of the components of the World Cultural Heritage of Ancient Kyoto



Private condominium
• 100units,
• 3 floors,
• height:9.99m



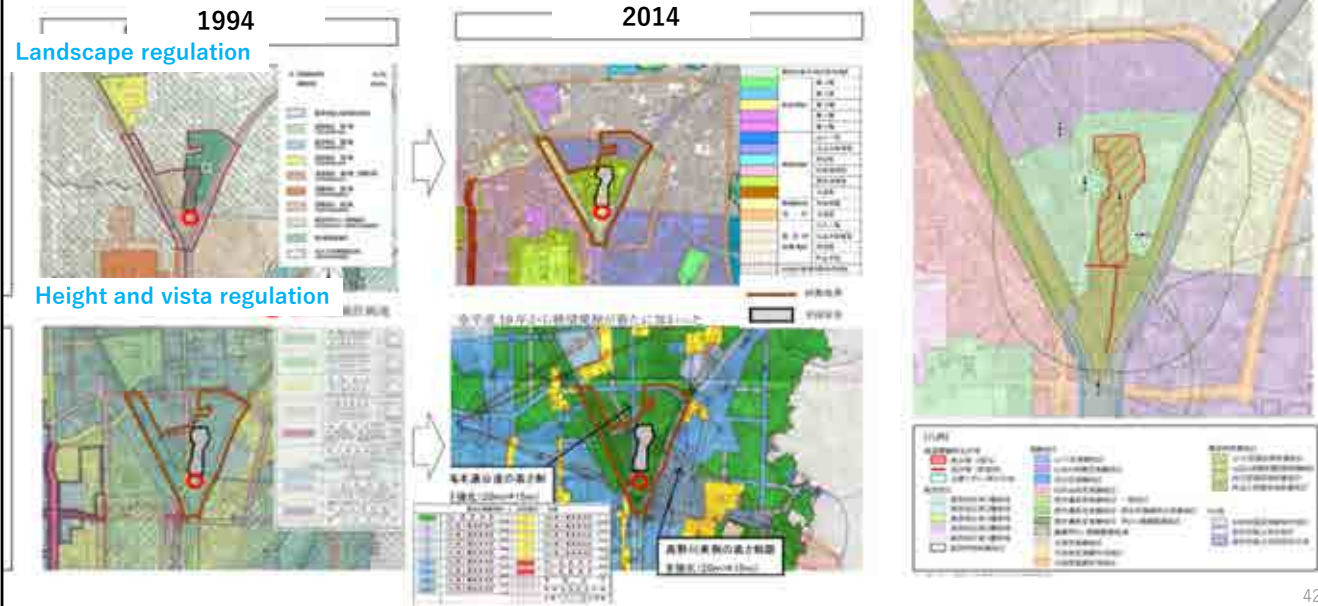
©Shimogamo Shrine and Others

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In recent years, condominium buildings were planned in that forest. Since the site is within the buffer zone of the World Heritage site, there was much debate over the pros and cons of its construction. As a result, as shown in this diagram, the height of the condominium is less than 10 meters, and it has a sloping roof with a Japanese tiled roof, which is typical of Kyoto.

The area around Shimogamo Shrine

Vista protection map



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These figures show the progress of regulations for landscape design, maximum height of building, and vista protection around Shimogamo Shrine over the 20 years, between 1994 and 2014. It can be observed that the regulations developed to more stringent and detailed.

KYOTO

Improvement of damaged landscape by progressive strict advertising regulation-Billboards have drastically decreased in these 15 years.

Shijyo Street



Parade of Floats along the main street of Kyoto at the Gion Festival



Sanjo Street



©Kyoto City

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Kyoto has been achieving success by enforcing regulations not only on buildings, but also on outdoor advertising. The photos above show the decrease in billboards on Shijo Street, Kyoto's central commercial street, from 2007 to 2016. These photos were all taken during the Gion Festival. Below shows the decrease in signage on Sanjo Street, another downtown area.

KYOTO

“Kyoto’s landscape protection policy is evolving year by year.”



2019 7/24 Parade of Floats along the main street of Kyoto at the Gion Festival

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This photo was taken during the Yamaboko procession, or floats parade of the 2019 Gion Festival on Shijo Street. Very little advertising material is visible on the buildings on either side. Kyoto's landscape protection policy has evolved over the years with the support of citizens, businesses, and tourists.

This morning, I showed some examples of the various efforts in Japan to preserve, protect, and revitalize historical buildings and landscapes.

In Egypt, in Cairo, and in Souq El Selah, it may take concerted, constant, and long-term efforts by residents, citizens and administrators.

I conclude my presentation with the hope that these efforts will result in the beautiful fruits of preservation and revitalization of historical buildings and landscapes in Egypt, Cairo, and Souq El Selah.

KEYWORDS

Machi-Nami: historical settlements and urban areas including rows of historical buildings.

Den-ken: a group of traditional buildings
(Den-Ken District: Preservation District for the Group of Traditional Buildings)

Reki-Machi: a plan for the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in Communities

Thank you for your attention.

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This morning, you learned three Japanese keywords, Machi-Nami, Den-Ken, Reki-Machi. Please remember them. Then, you will be an expert in the architectural preservation and landscape.

Thank you for your attention.