

A STUDY ON CREATION OF LIVING ENVIRONMENTS BY INHABITANTS

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[SYNOPSIS]

In Japan, there are many cases in which students collaborate on projects with inhabitants in small cities. However, these are usually only making up the city planning presentations, building temporal spaces or temporal sculptures. In our program, students and inhabitants actually design and create the living environment together every year.

Niigata University (Prof. Dr. S. Nishimura) and inhabitants of Tochio-Omotemachi and Sanjo city in Japan have developing the actual sustainable town planning program as educational programs. The object of the scheme for these programs are for the inhabitants to preserve their environment and landscape by designing and building in collaboration with the students.

Our educational programs are not abstract ones, but form actual parts of various town planning schemes. Students, inhabitants and local professionals walk around the city, examine the characteristics of the environment and way of life, discuss planning and design. And they collaborate to build the actual architectural structures in their living environments for themselves every year. In these programs students are able to develop their creative abilities as professional engineers in actual town planning by collaborating on a designing and building process with them.

We make up the sustainable frameworks for improving these environments with local inhabitants as follows; 1st is to collaborate with the students and the inhabitants. 2nd is to carry out both design and construction. 3rd. is to create new environments that would last for 100 years. 4th is to work gradually with just small budget. 5th is to maintain the communication with all participants. 6th is to use local materials and skills like. 7th is to ask for the help of local professionals as volunteers.