

POST-DISASTER PLACEMAKING IN THE DESIGNATED PUBLIC SPACE
—Case studies of coastal cities after the Great East Japan Earthquake —

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[SYNOPSIS]

This study clarified the post-disaster placemaking and the transformation of places of people in the designated public space after the by the Great East Japan Earthquake. We define post-disaster placemaking as a process of regenerating the physical setting, activities, and meaning of a place.

In Chapter 2, we found that post-disaster placemaking in the Arahama area of Sendai City, functioned as a process of reconnecting social capital, creating multilayered bundles of meaning, and that this has led to the regeneration of Arahama. In Chapter 3, a case study on the transformation of places of residence was conducted in Rikuzentakata City and Ishinomaki City, where the Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park is located. The Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park is not yet recognized as a place for many residents, but the survivors are not vulnerable but are engaged in citizen-driven placemaking that inherits the place before the disaster and gives it a new meaning after the disaster. This has the potential to contribute to the transformation of memorial parks into people's place. Spatial planning and place governance should be integrated to regenerate the sense of place and places for people place. In Chapter 4, the analysis was conducted focusing on disaster remains in the town of Otsuchi. Although the newly developed places are not widely recognized as people's places yet, nearly half of the respondents consider them as "part of the daily landscape. We interpreted this as acceptance of the experience of disaster, weaving it into their daily lives, and finding meaning in it as place of attachment to the community.