

Integrating Development and Landscape Conservation: Historical Perspectives on Urban Landscape Formation and Planning Philosophy

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[SYNOPSIS]

The Scenic District system, originally used as a holistic approach to urban development management in historical cities, laid the groundwork for post-war landscape preservation measures. However, its operational details and actual impact remained unclear, highlighting the need for systematic evaluation through the analysis of individual development cases. This study aimed to clarify the actual implementation of design guidance and consulting services by systematically examining historical city development cases with robust landscape conservation initiatives.

The research delineated the evolution of urban infrastructure and green space predating the Scenic District system, particularly in the northern region of Kyoto Prefecture. It revealed a pioneering private-sector investment model similar to contemporary public-private partnerships, leveraging existing scenic assets such as shrines and water bodies, which ultimately influenced scenic beauty zone designations.

Following the introduction of the Scenic District, a collaborative framework between the national government and municipalities emerged, supported by the establishment of a third-party oversight body—the Scenic Beauty Committee. The organization continued to implement landscape conservation in agricultural water management after the war.

In the context of historical townscape preservation, the study highlighted Nara-machi's voluntary ordinance-driven landscape formation, fostering architectural designs that seamlessly integrate with traditional aesthetics. The use of administrative Japanese-style design guidance played a pivotal role in preserving the townscape's integrity, although future endeavors should focus on evaluating district buildings and the efficacy of design directives.