

# Archives

## 2025

from I-AUD



Archives  
2025

from  
I-AUD

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in Architecture and Urban Design  
(I-AUD)

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Remarks for the 11th Graduates from “International Program in  
Architecture and Urban Design” of Meiji University

The more we have globally common issues in environmental and socio-cultural fields in the cities, the smaller the world becomes with advanced ICT and transportation progress, the more we need skillful planners and designers who can deal with these serious issues globally and professionally. So as to respond to these strong needs in Japan and especially in ASEAN countries, we have launched a new “International Program in Architecture and Urban Design (I-AUD)” in April 2013 at a new campus in Nakano. I-AUD offers 2-year graduate program that is operated completely in English and its JABEE accreditation certifies substantial equivalency to other accredited programs under the Canberra Accord to comply with the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architecture Education. Since then, 12 years have passed and one zodiac cycle has come to a full circle. We are pleased to celebrate the graduation of 11th graduates who are the last ones to have studies at Nakano campus just before I-AUD moved to Surugadai Campus from April 2025. After the retirement of the two important professors, Masami Kobayashi and Manuel Tardits, whose contribution in the first cycle of I-AUD will be much remembered, we have welcomed two new faculty members from FY2024. The five instructors Hiroyuki Sasaki, Tomoaki Tanaka, Yutaka Sho, Junko Tamura, and Michel van Ackere, are in charge of teaching and managing the program in AY2024. Manuel Tardits continued to teach as a visiting lecturer.

The number of the 11th graduated students are 21, including the students from France, Myanmar, and China. They also studied together with the exchange students from France, Thailand and Singapore. We are proud to share that we have sent out 251 graduates since we launched the I-AUD program, among which more than 220 graduates are qualified by JABEE on the Canberra Accord.

Now, we are back to the regular operation in the post-COVID-19 era, and are offereing all courses, studios and workshops in face-to-face format since the last academic year. In addition, we held collaborative design workshops with our partner institutions in Bangkok, Taipei, Sydney, and London. Now, we are pleased to see the students’ active activities in campus and locations overseas. We wish much success and bright future to these students who have participated in the program.

From April 2025, I-AUD has moved to 10th and 16th floors of Grobal Front in Surugadai Campus. We hope I-AUD continues to develop in the next zodiac cycle, and strengthen our position as an intellectual core on academic platform in Asia.

April 2025

Professor of Department of Architecture at Meiji University  
International Program in Architecture and Urban Design

Tomoaki Tanaka



I-AUD International Program in Architecture and Urban Design

Thesis Project

Water as a New Trace of the Anthropocene

—— Designing Resilient Prototypes for the Sea Level Rise in Southeast Asian Coastal Communities  
Thae Thiri Tun

Exploring Discreteness

—— A Topological Notation as an Alternative to Compactness in Mountainous Village Design  
Daichi Kunori

Nighttime Urban Performativity

—— Focusing on the Temporality of Urban Environments for Marginalized Communities  
Jia Wenqing

Advanced Design Studio

Adv. DS A

Tokyo 2040: Toward More Livable,  
Sustainable and Healthier Future

—— Harumi-dori Corridor (Hibiya – Ginza – Higashi-Ginza – Tsukiji)

Adv. DS B

Urban Molecules: From Object to Event

—— The case of Bishopsgate Goods Yard, London

Designing with Country on Wareamah

—— Leveraging Architectural Processes to Build Circularities in Sydney Harbor, Australia

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—— A joint studio with Tamkang University, Taiwan

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—— Challenges on shrinking rural area in Japan:  
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Revitalization of Creative District in Song Wat of  
Bangkok



Water as a New Trace of the Anthropocene

Designing Resilient Prototypes for the Sea Level Rise in Southeast Asian Coastal Communities

Thae Thiri Tun

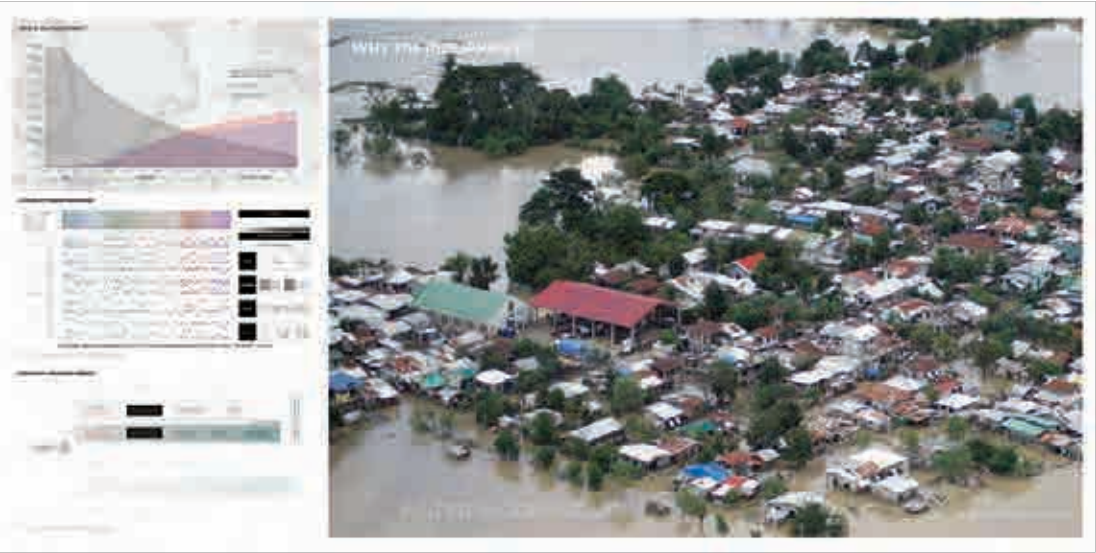
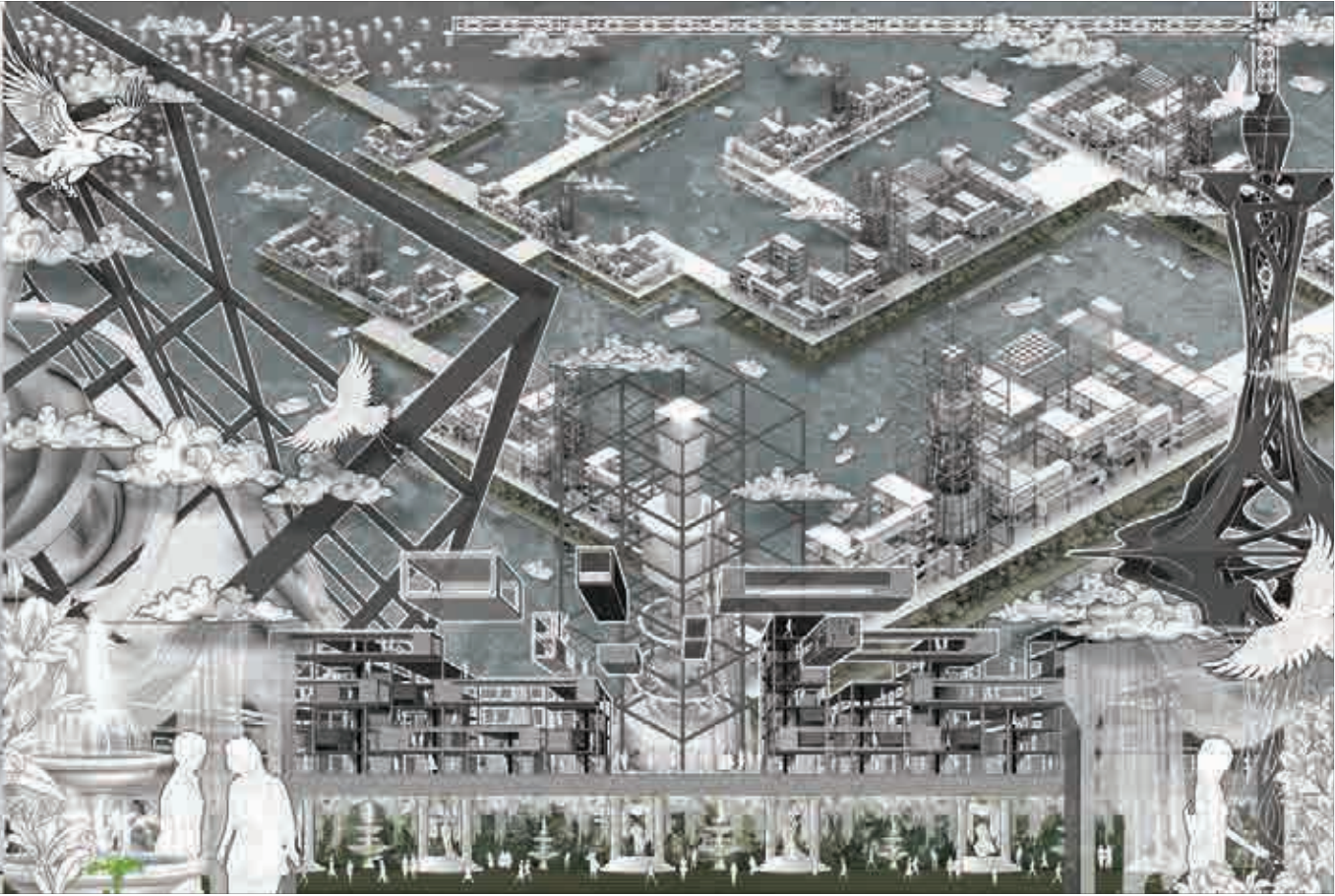
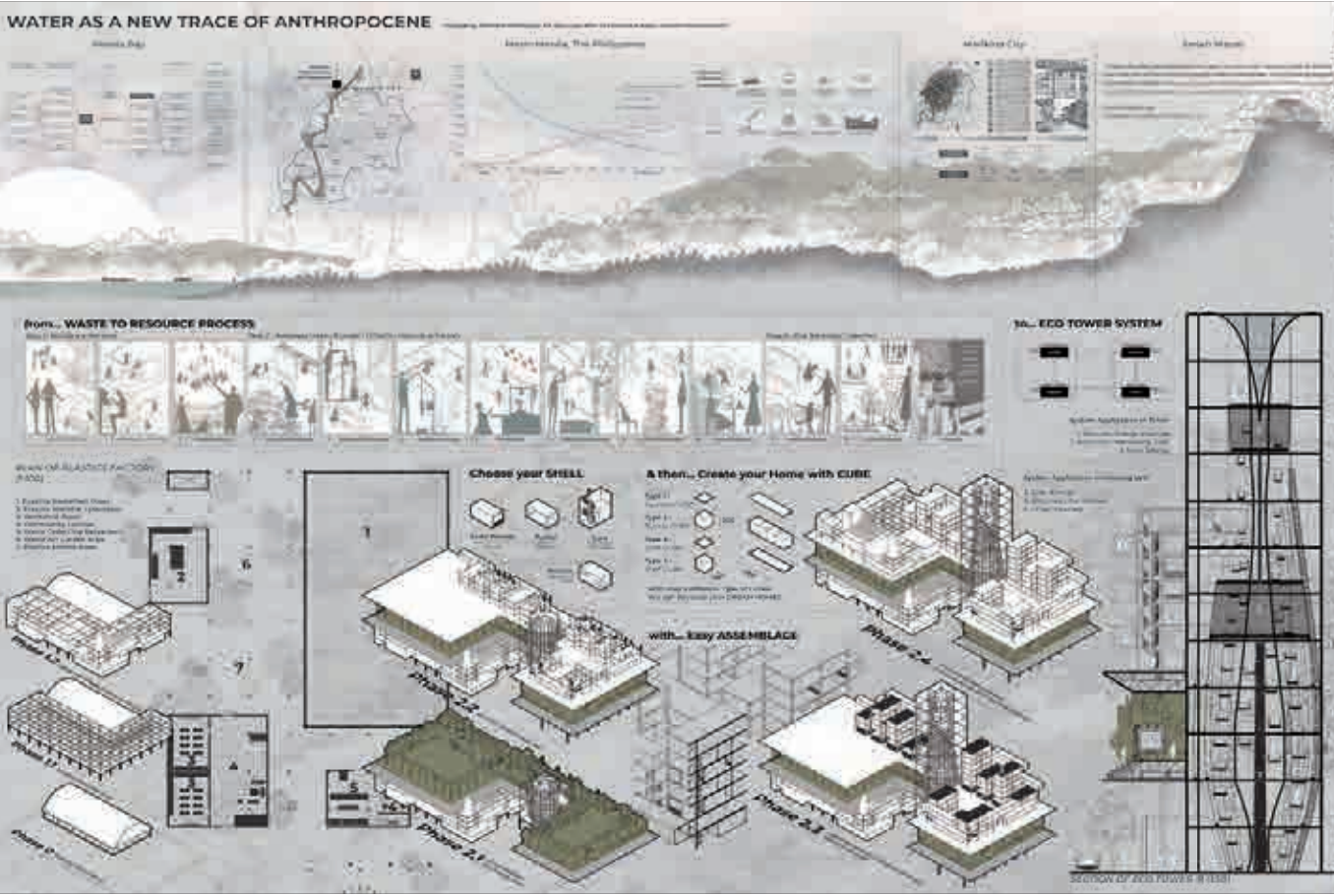
- Profile
- Born in Yangon, Myanmar
  - Graduated from Thanlyin Technological University in 2021
  - Completed I-AUD Program in 2025
  - Working at Kengo Kuma & Associates

- Data
- Program: Mixed Used Self-Sustained Community Buildings
  - Site: Marikina, Metro Manila, The Philippines
  - Drawing: A1 × 18
  - Model: 1 Site Development Plan (1:2000 scale), 2 Section Model (1:100 scale)

**Summary**

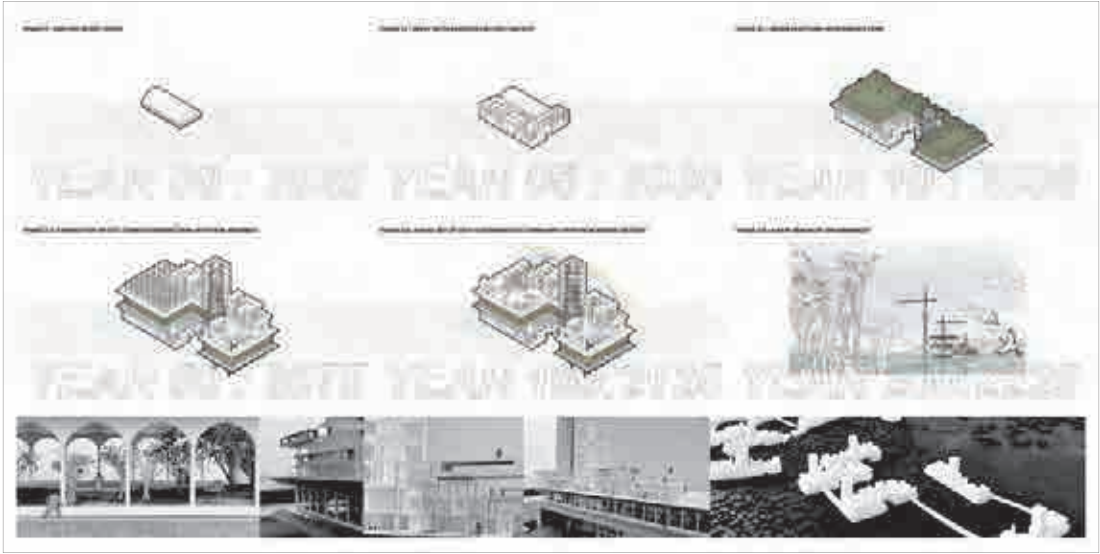
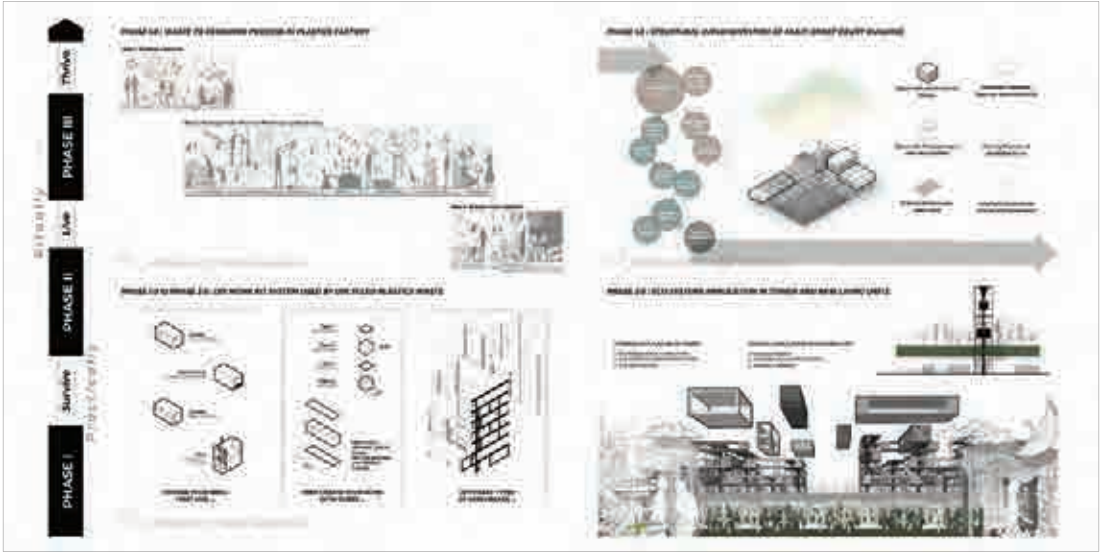
Southeast Asian coastal cities face escalating climate risks, particularly flooding and sea-level rise, exacerbated by rapid urbanization. This study examines Bangkok, Metro Manila, and Ho Chi Minh City, where low-lying topographies and dense populations heighten vulnerabilities. Metro Manila, the primary case study, experiences severe flooding due to its proximity to the Pasig and Marikina Rivers, seasonal monsoons, and unchecked urban expansion.

To address these challenges, this research develops a resilient architectural prototype integrating sustainable water management and renewable energy systems. Community engagement ensures the design meets local needs, particularly in flood-prone areas. Experimental methods assess the prototype’s adaptability to different climate scenarios. Lessons from case studies inform a broader framework for resilient urban design, promoting climate adaptation in Southeast Asia’s coastal cities. This study aims to contribute to sustainable, flood-resilient urban planning that safeguards infrastructure and communities against intensifying climate threats.



**Comment**

With the increasing awareness of global warming and flooding, this thesis envisions a future Marikina shaped by serious flood challenges. Merging climate change with bottom-up awareness, it proposes community-led urbanism using 3D-printed building materials from recycled waste. Beyond disaster prevention, it links daily rituals to environmental consciousness, offering a compelling vision of resilience through ecology, technology, and local empowerment.



- Problems in Marikina and Study about the resilient vernacular architecture
- Field Work in Marikina and its Findings
- Concept of Self-sustained Community and its Development by Phases
- Incrementation in Phase by Time and the Long-Term Vision



Exploring Discreteness

A Topological Notation as an Alternative to Compactness in Mountainous Village Design

Daichi Kunori

Profile

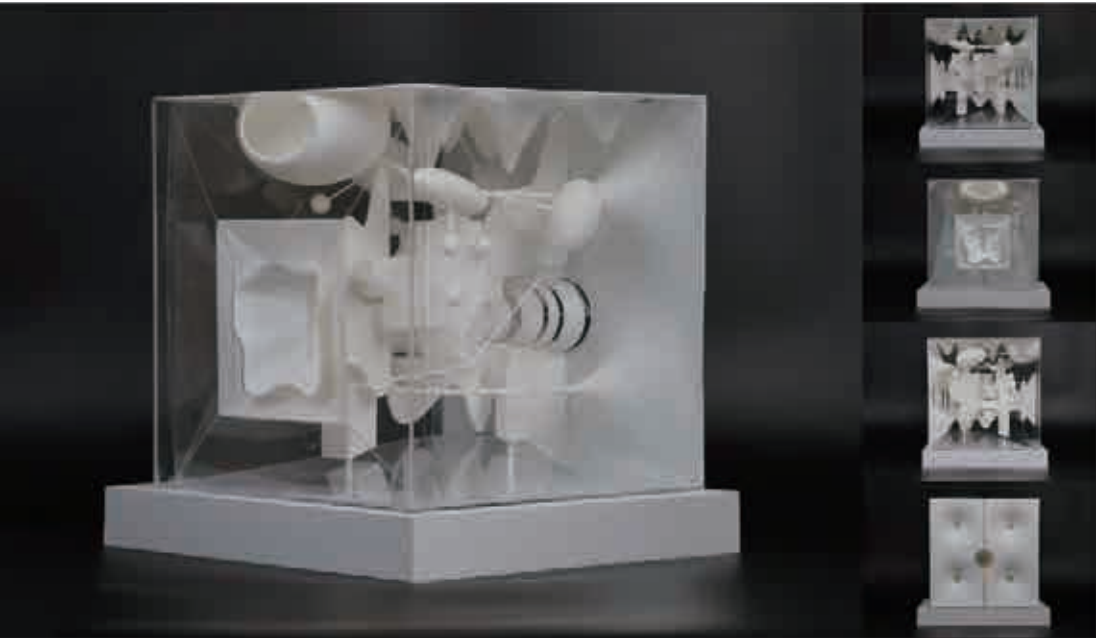
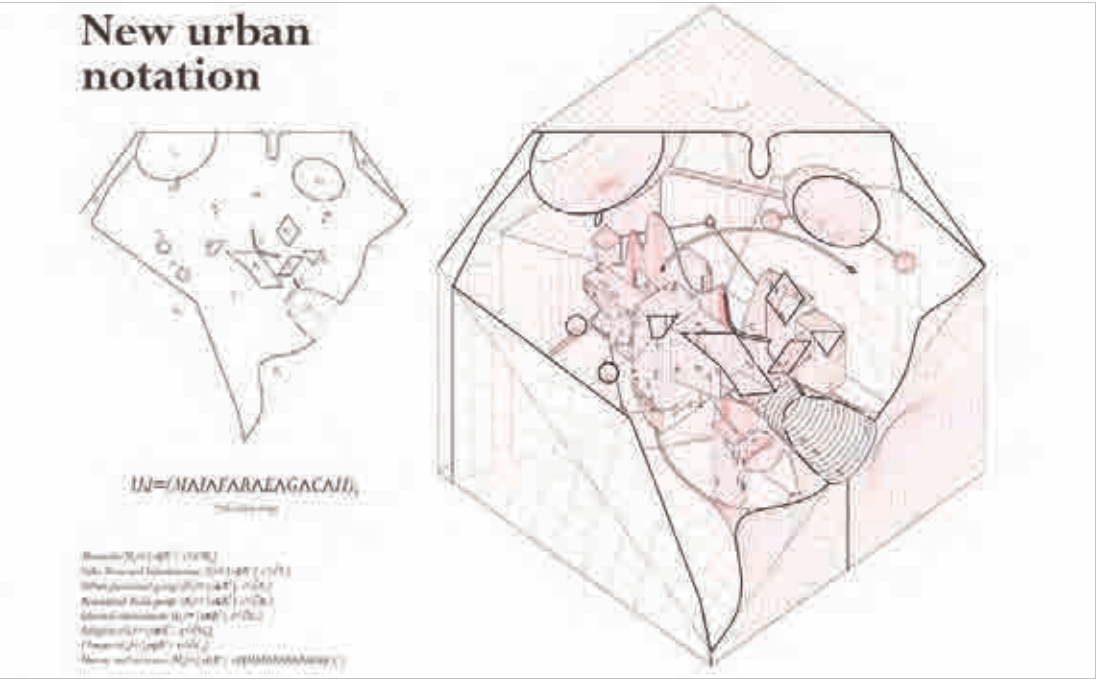
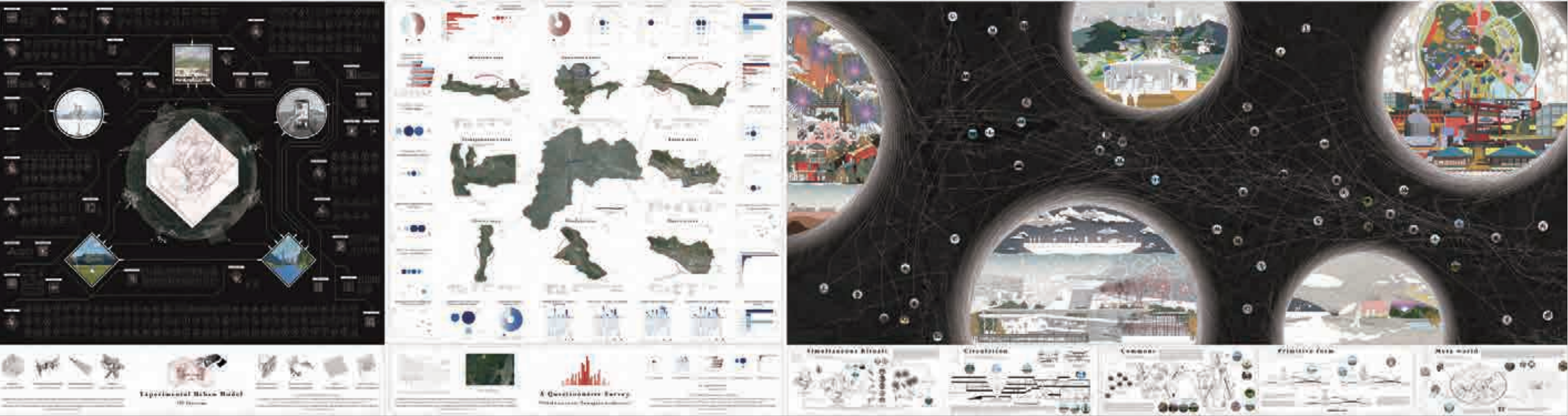
- Born in Tokyo, Japan
- from Meiji University in 2022
- Completed I-AUD Program in 2025
- Working at Taisei corporation

Data

- Program: Park, Metaverse, Multipurpose factory, Community Center, Memorial watchtower
- Site: Nishikawa Town in Yamagata prefecture
- Drawing: A1 × 24
- Model: 1 Experimental Urban Model, 5 architectural model (1:50-150 scale)

Summary

This paper aims to create a sustainable mountainous region in Japan by exploring a collective approach that transcends physical distance to form a “whole” out of “parts” of a village, rather than a concentration of villages like “Compact village” in linear cities in mountainous regions. Based on a comparative study of three villages in Japan’s mountainous regions, creating an Experimental urban model using topology to visualize the structural connections of villages based on eight urban common components. This model allows us to create a set of 357 urban subsets, which represents a new “urban condition” and presents the separability and connectability of the various parts. Using this new “urban condition” as a clue, attempting to design a new combination of parts that is not bound by existing concepts by using five unique patterns and actually assigning them to the Nishikawa-Town in Yamagata Prefecture.



Comment

In the face of rural decline and a challenging landscape, this thesis explores discreteness as a spatial alternative. By extracting a topological model from the distinctive spatial qualities of mountainous rural areas, it generates new relationships to inform architectural design. The project uncovers latent potential in *Nishikawa-machi*, Yamagata Prefecture, proposing a renewed yet locally grounded vision for its future townscape.

1. Section of Model to create a set of subsets
2. Experimental Urban Model (Physical model)
3. 5 unique patterns in design part





# Nighttime Urban Performativity

Focusing on the Temporality of Urban Environments for Marginalized Communities

Jia Wenqing

Profile

- Born in Henan, China
- Graduated from Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in 2022
- Completed I-AUD Program in 2025
- Working at Kengo Kuma & Associates

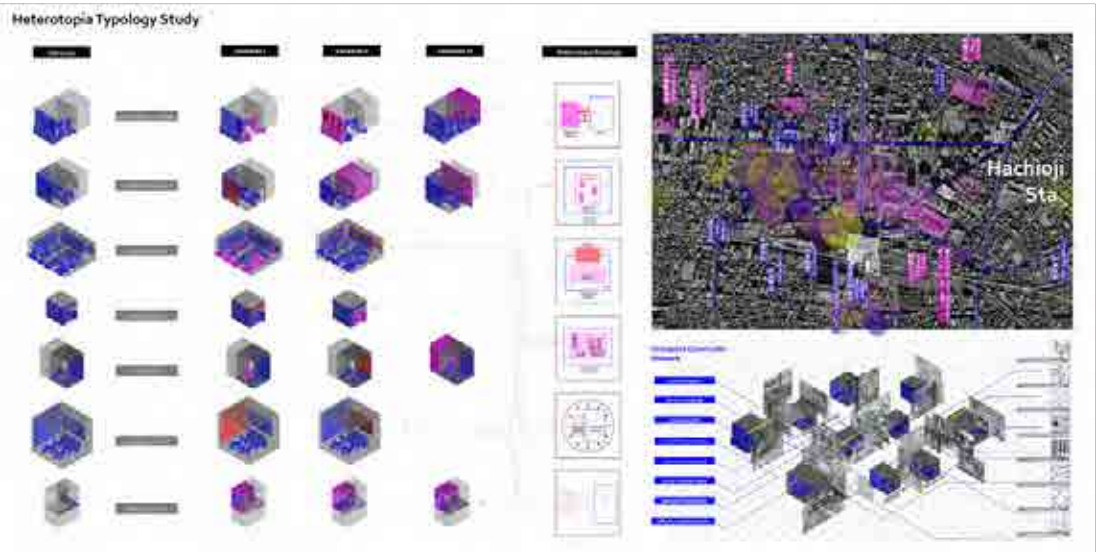
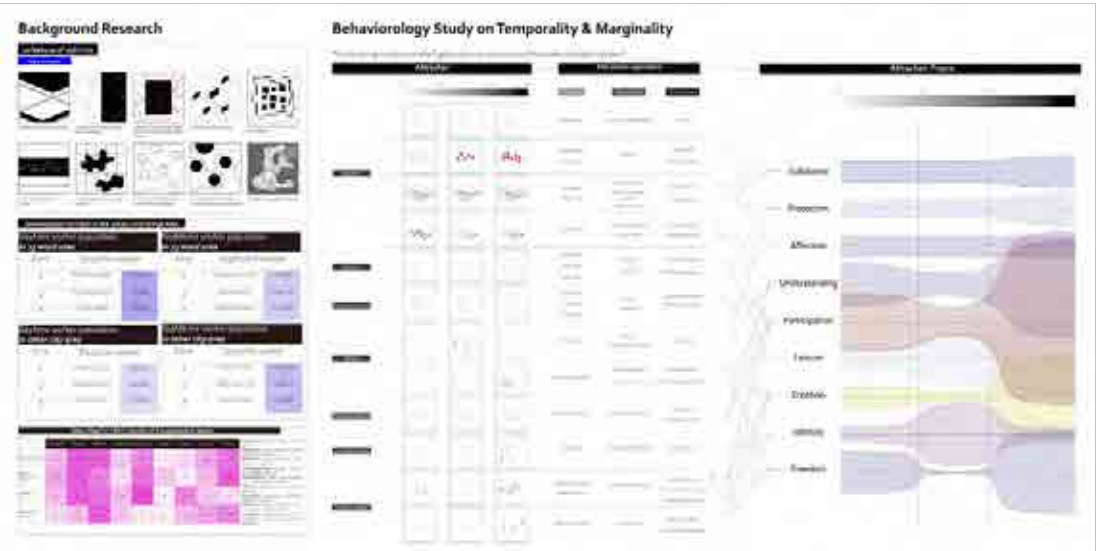
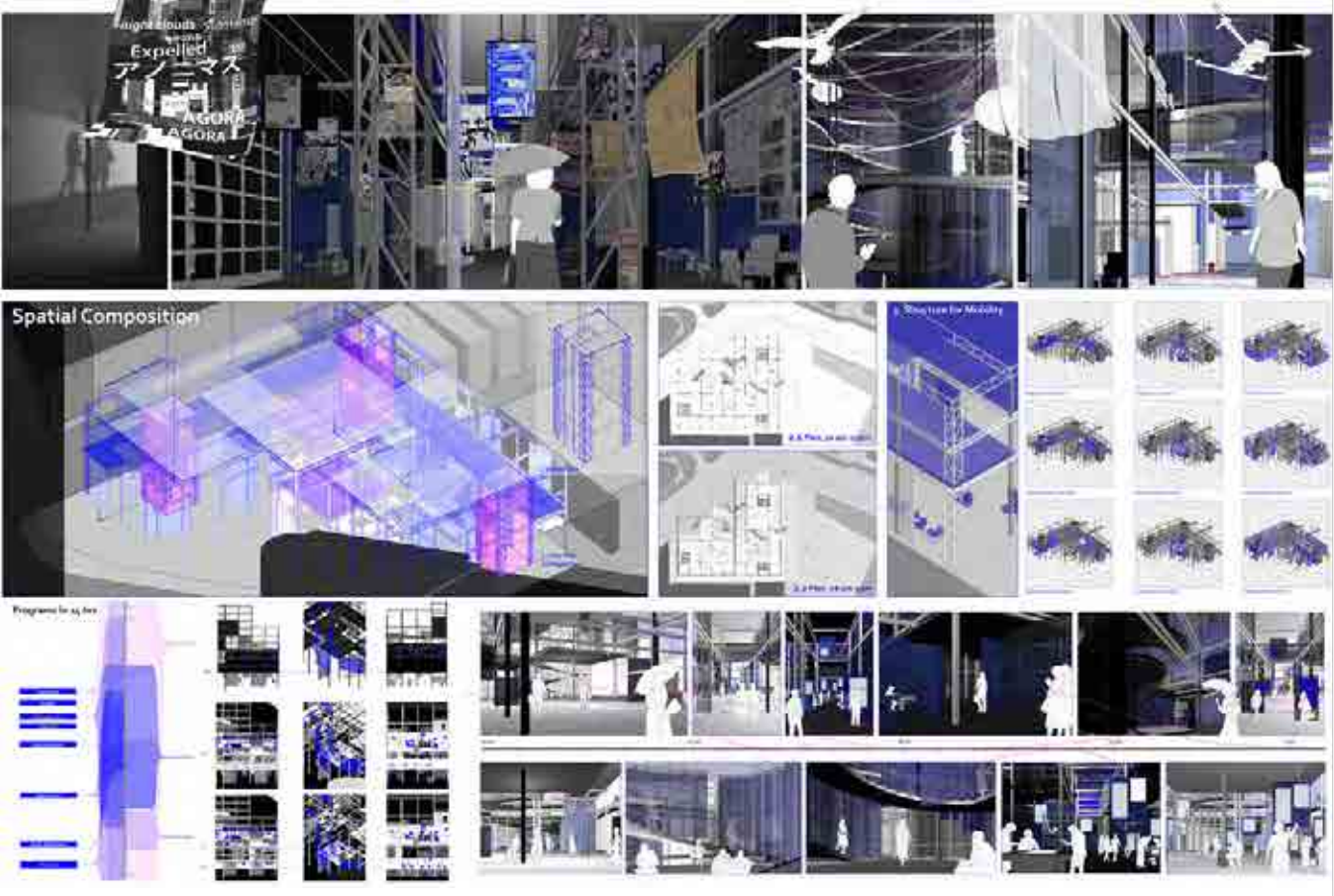
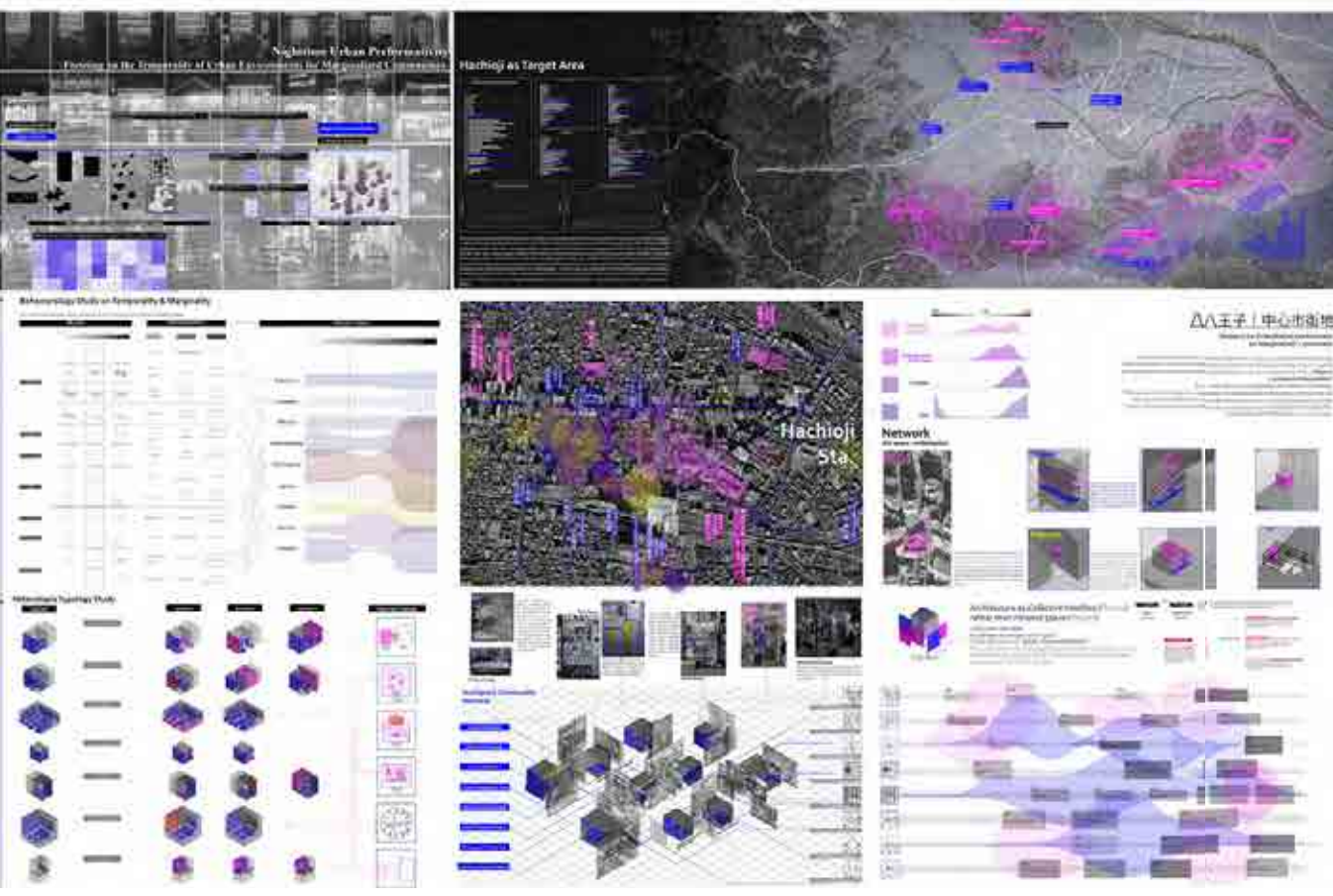
Data

- Program: Nighttime Public Education Infrastructure Model
- Site: Hachioji, Tokyo
- Drawing: A1 × 18
- Model: 1 Model including site and detailed structure in 1:200

Summary

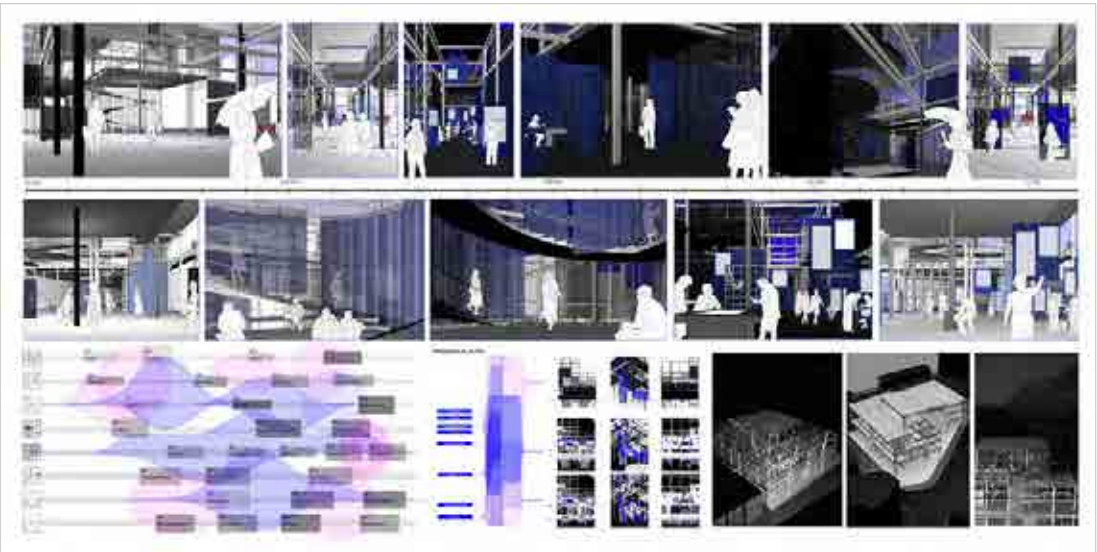
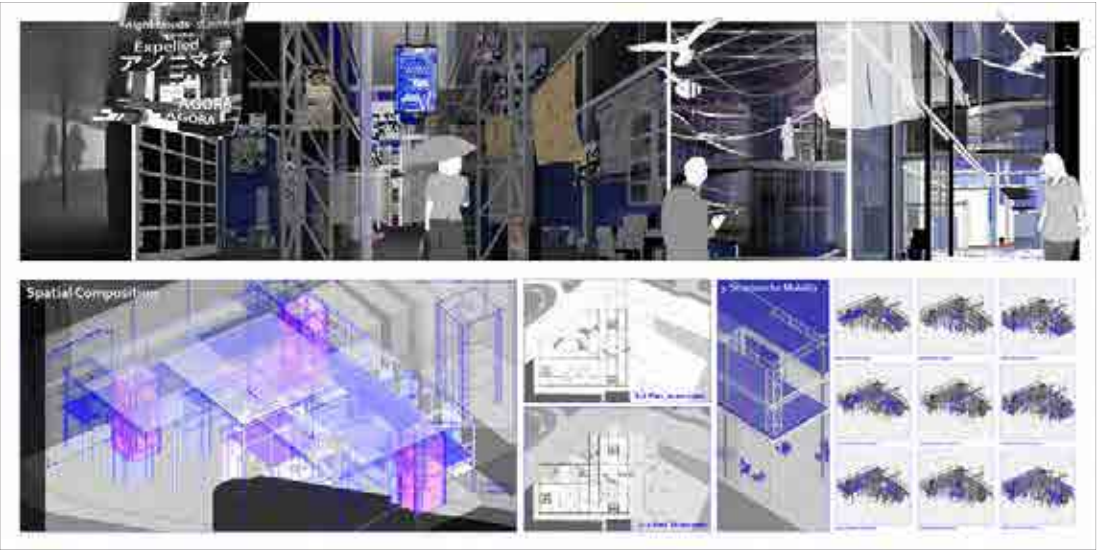
The research of nighttime urban performativity investigates the diverse functioning of urban facilities over a 24-hour cycle via the study of urban behaviorology, which emphasizes the flexibility and adaptability needed to meet the diverse needs of nighttime users. Based on this study, a design proposal – framed around the concept of “architecture as interface” – advocates for nocturnal spaces that promote basic education, cultivation, and incubation of marginalized communities. The proposal increases the spontaneity and interactivity of the community, enabling them to navigate and thrive within nocturnal environments. By creating a linkage between night and day, a soft contact zone is formed between the social minority and majority. The project addresses the inherent socio-spatial segregation and temporal marginalization of the current urban framework and reimagines nocturnal urban environments as a tool for social equity that can bridge the gaps between marginalized and mainstream populations.

1. Nocturnal Urbanism and Behaviorology Study on Temporality & Marginality
2. Heterotopia Typology Study & Immigrant Network in Site area (Hachioji)



Comment

The thesis began with a more general search for a spatial language appropriately responsive to the unique conditions and vagaries of nocturnal activity. This start point was methodically and intelligently broadened into a sociologically pertinent proposal for marginalized communities, an overlooked but important segment of contemporary Japan. The final project is both architecturally and programmatically unique - strategically sited, well-resolved, and beautifully rendered.



3. Nighttime Agora Vision for the Marginalized & Architectural Design for Mobility
4. Temporality of Program and Activities & Physical Model Showing Structure





# Advanced Design Studio

Graduate Program  
1st year  
Advanced Design  
Studio A

## Tokyo 2040: Toward More Livable, Sustainable and Healthier Future

Harumi-dori Corridor  
(Hibiya – Ginza –  
Higashi-Ginza – Tsukiji)

Instructor

Hiroyuki Sasaki (organizer)  
Michel van Ackere  
Manuel Tardits  
Ayumi Okano (assistant lecturer)

Guest critics

Don O'keefe  
Masami Kobayashi

Workshop instructor

Chris Jarrett  
Jeffrey Nesbit



### • Assignments

The studio focuses on Harumi-dori Corridor, which stretches from Iwaidabashi Bridge through Tsukiji to Kachidokibashi Bridge. This area was an inlet at the mouth of the Sumida River in the early Edo period. With the formation of the city of Edo, the inlet was filled in, and towns for woodcutters and samurai families were built, and at the beginning of the Meiji period, a foreign settlement was established, all facing each other across the moats. As modernization progressed, the moats were filled in, highways, elevated railroads, and arterial streets were built, the unique neighborhoods were connected by Harumi-dori Avenue, and now it is attracting many inbound tourists. The relocation of the Tsukiji market and the development of the former market site are expected to further accelerate this trend.

As Asian cities are transforming

into characterless generic cities, how should the future of the Harumi-dori corridor be envisioned? Focusing on the Harumi-dori area, which has a diverse layered history from the Edo period to the present, this studio will explore the traces of history that still remain and the mutations that occurred during the process of urban formation, to envision the future of the Harumi-dori area and propose designs for architecture and public spaces that will contribute to the inheritance of the area's DNA and the creation of new DNA.

### • Studio Process

The studio consists of two major assignments and a 3-day intensive workshop with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC).

### Assignment 1 (group work)

Assignment 1 focuses on research

and analysis of the history and the transformation of urban structure and the exploration of the DNA and DNA mutations of the focus area.

### Assignment 2 (individual work)

Assignment 2 focuses on preparation of a base map including all significant information of the focus area and proposal of building and public space design for a selected site that each student selects out of 4 designated sites. The common required programs for all four sites include, but not limited to, a hotel and open/semi-open/internal spaces with public character such as plazas, atriums, and passages.

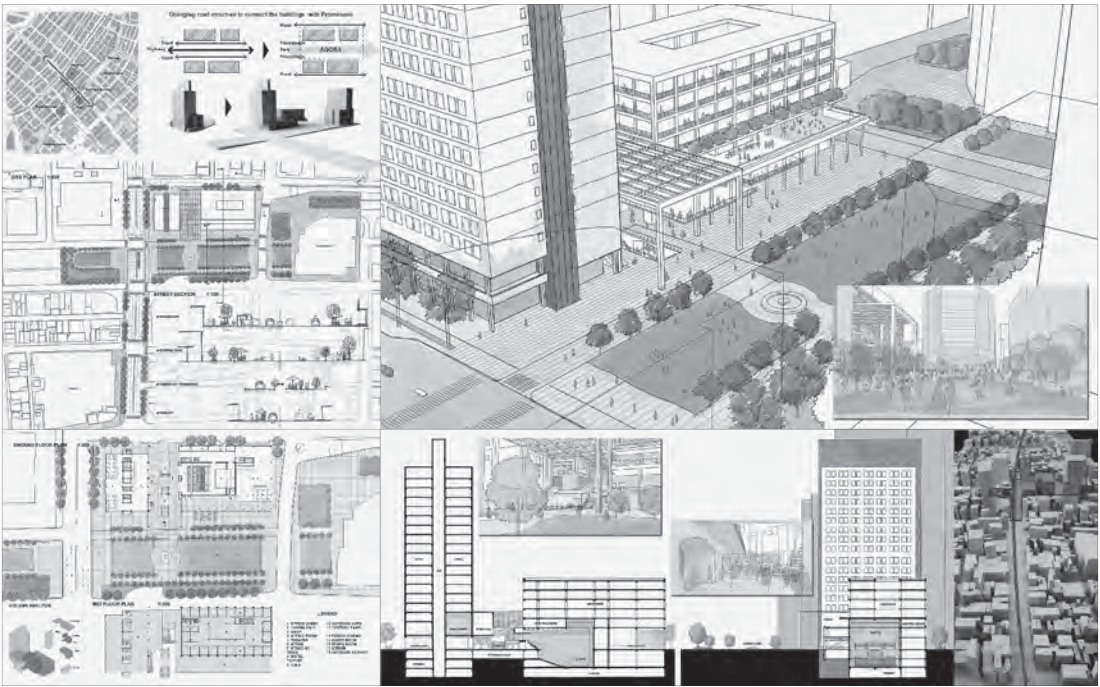
### Joint Workshop with UNCC

The workshop with UNCC focuses on Namiyoke Street and mixed groups of Meiji and UNCC propose temporary over-the-counter market designs.

### • General Review

This studio, which selected four sites with different characteristics in the Harumi-dori district, where various histories are layered and buried, produced many achievements as the first project the students undertook after entering I-AUD. In the group work of the first half, students worked together to explore the layers of history of the target district, which is unique to Tokyo. In the individual work of the second half, in which each student selected a site of his or her choice and made an individual design proposal, many excellent proposals were made by deciphering the historical and geographical contexts surrounding the site. Furthermore, the joint workshop with UNCC, despite its short duration, produced many interesting proposals and provided a valuable opportunity for exchange between the two schools.

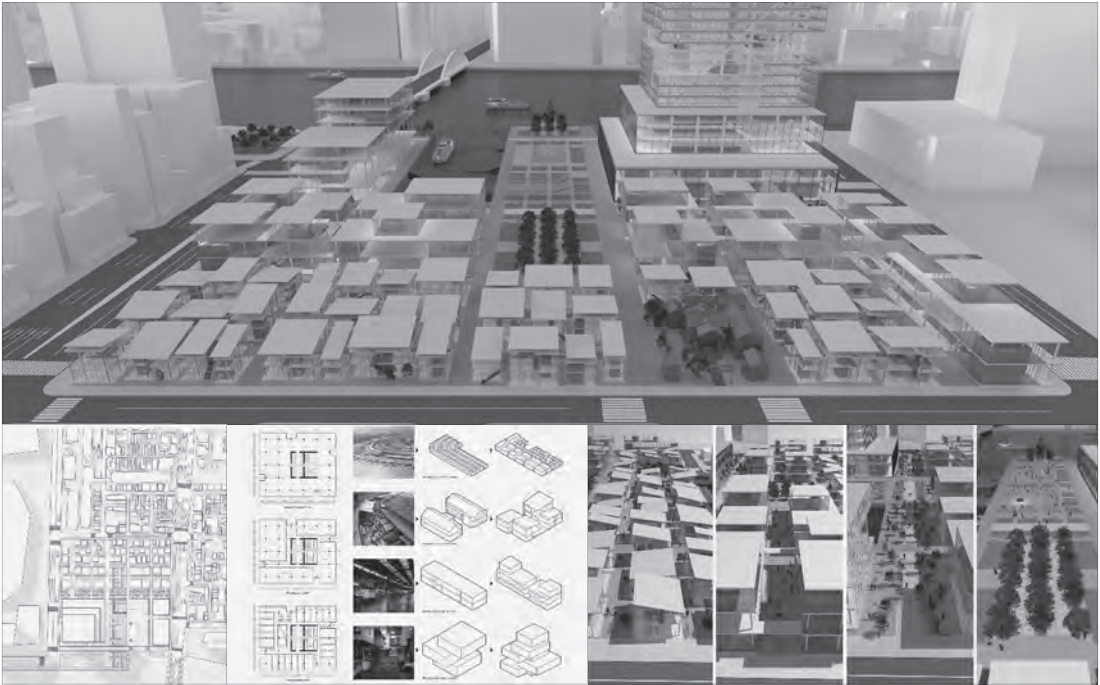




# THEATER AGORA

Chen Sihan

Theater Agora revitalizes Tokyo’s Higashi-Ginza by transforming the elevated highway along Harumi-dori into a green promenade that reconnects three historic theaters – Togeki, Kabuki-za, and Shinbashi Enbujo. Inspired by the site’s canal history, the project introduces a linear cultural park and semi-public space that strengthens pedestrian flow and spatial continuity. By reshaping road structures and preserving the Togeki site, it establishes a new identity along Harumi-dori – turning it into a vibrant cultural spine where theater, memory, and daily life converge.

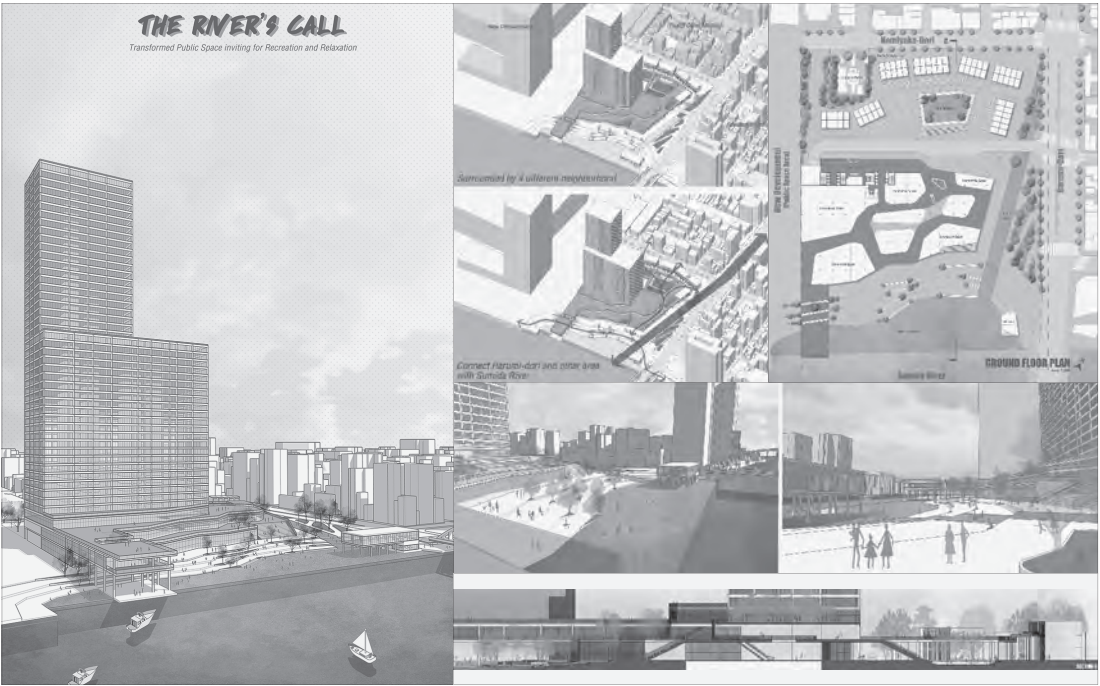


# Reimagining Urban Vacancies

Street Architecture-Centered Design for Historical Scenario Reconstruction

Li Yudong

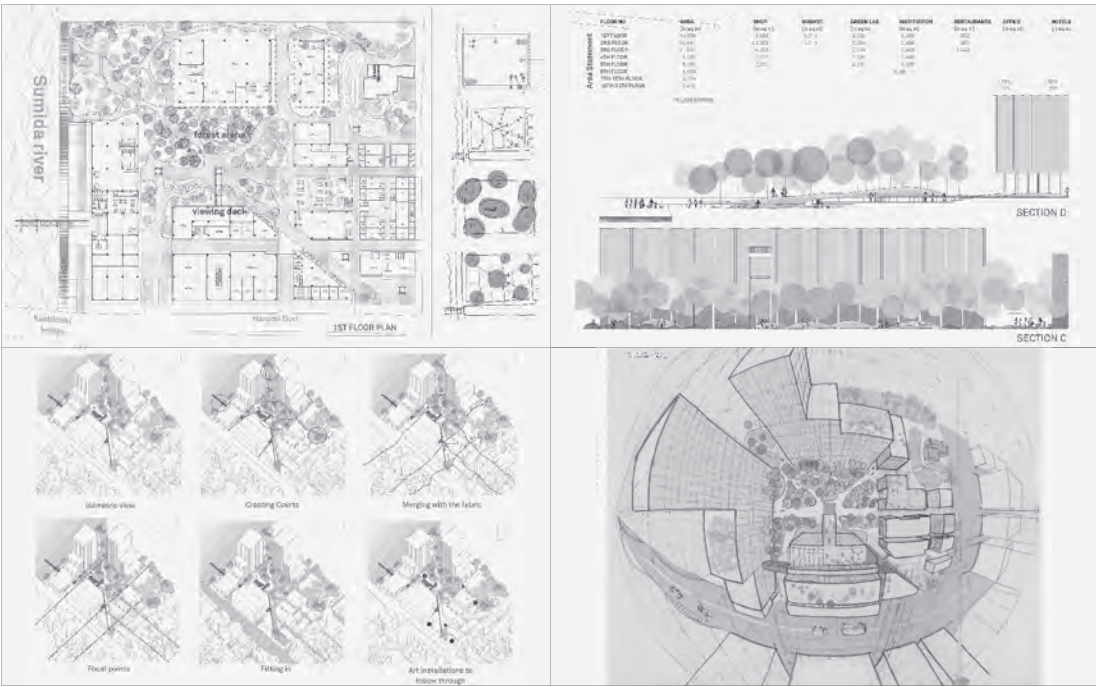
Before 1910, the area developed along waterways. After the Harumi Corridor’s completion, it became a unified core. This project restores the historic water city structure, creating a scenic commercial hub. The north integrates with Tsukiji Outer Market, forming a pedestrian shopping zone. Waterways return to the site, reviving the fish market ambiance. A transit hub will link metro and water buses, while a high-rise office and residential tower supports MICE development.



# The River’s Call

Chompunuch Puengpanwuth

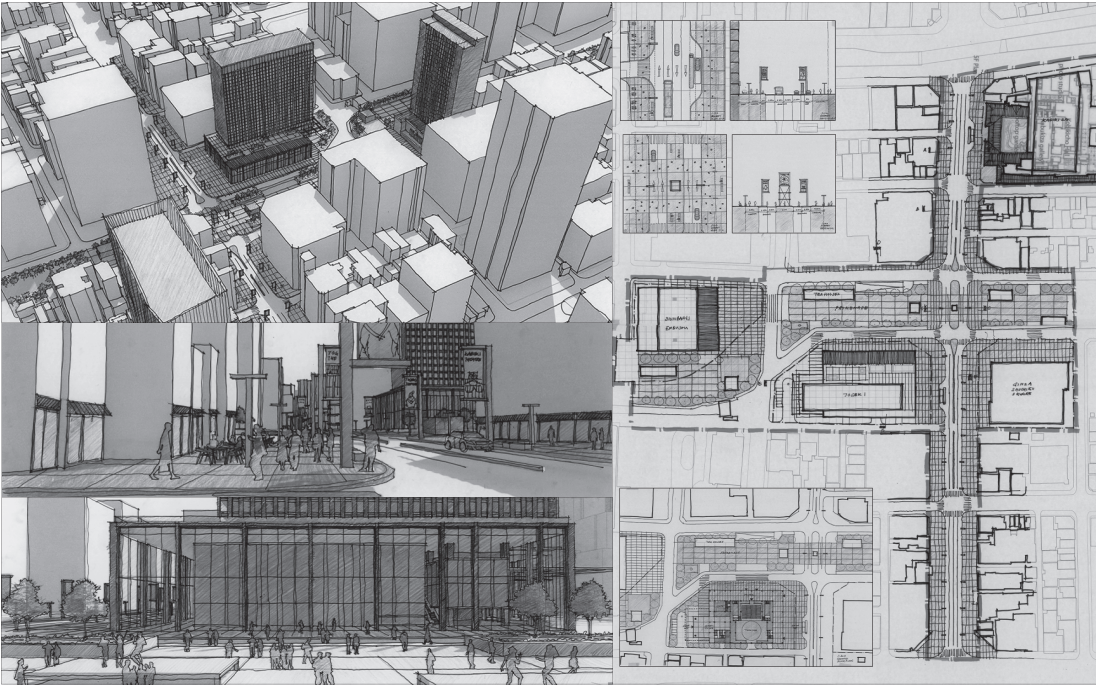
Two key changes in Tsukiji’s urban landscape were reclaimed land along the Sumida River and the expansion of Harumi-dori. However, the city and river remain disconnected due to a high embankment, and Harumi-dori’s influence is minimal. The proposal aims to revitalize the riverfront, reconnecting the city and waterway. A Fountain Plaza will welcome visitors, and multi-level pedestrian walkways will guide them from the market to the waterfront. The project, ‘THE RIVER’S CALL,’ will unite the city and river in a vibrant, connected space.



# INTERMEDIATE URBANISM

Poran Buragohain

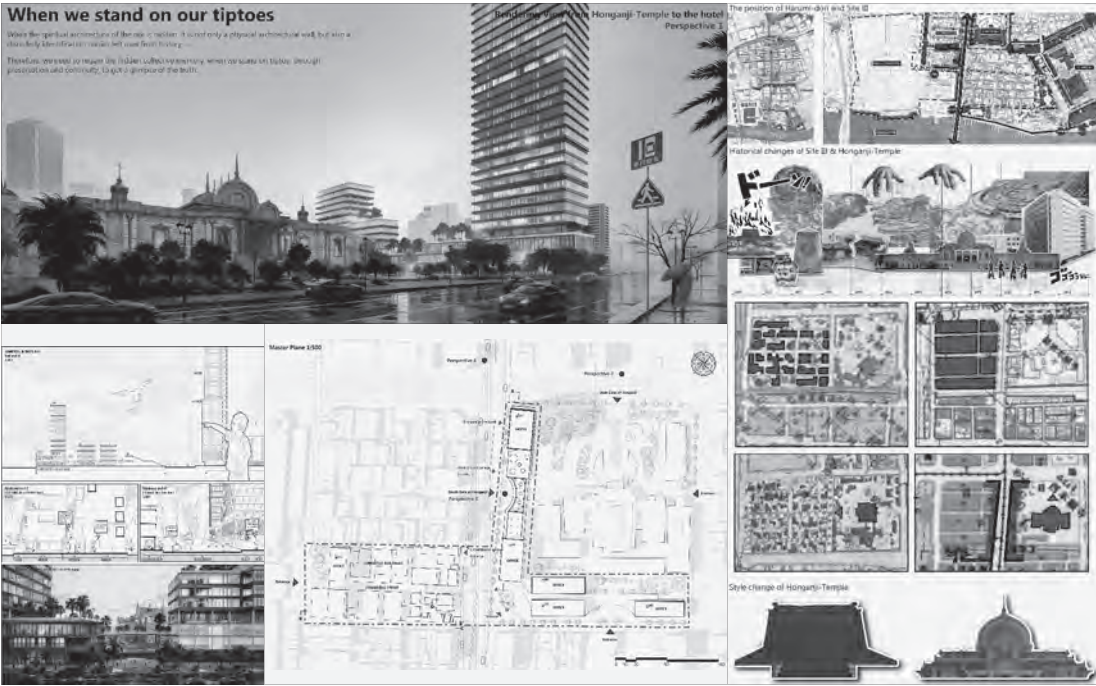
Rooted in a fusion of ideas, the project envisions an interconnected network of courts to generate movement across the site. It channels volumes from Tsukiji Market’s low-rise structures toward the river and upcoming developments, while weaving into the market’s fabric and Harumi Dori. This approach bridges the area’s fragmented urban design, creating an intermediate ground that harmonizes the informal vibrancy of the market with the structured elegance of future buildings along the Sumida River.



# Higashi-Ginza San-za Theatre Cluster District

Choy Rui Zhi

Inspired by the historical Kobikicho district, this project envisions a composition of traditional theatre (Kabuki-za), contemporary theatre (Shinbashi Enbujo), and creative theatre (Togeki) in Higashi-Ginza, to revitalize the historic Edo San-za theatre street. The design is structured around three elements: raising flags along Harumi-Dori, creating a performing arts promenade, and introducing city rooms. Within this vision, Togeki is redeveloped into a small creative theatre with a performing arts gallery and a luxury hotel.



# When We Stand on Our Tiptoes

Yu Gaotian

My design revitalizes Site 3 by reconnecting Tsukiji and Hongwanji, historically divided by Harumi Avenue. Inspired by the site’s transformations – fire, earthquake, and urban growth – the project reinforces identity through collective memory. Strategies include restoring the South Gate, opening public spaces to unify the district, and redesigning the landscape to harmonize new buildings with Hongwanji. The plan also preserves the street texture of the Tsukiji market, reinforcing spatial continuity and cultural heritage along Harumi Avenue.



# Urban Molecules: From Object to Event

The case of Bishopsgate Goods  
Yard, London

| Tutor  |
|--|
| Junko Tamura   |
| Guest critics  |
| Michele Roelofsma (UEL),<br>Toshiya Kogawa (UEL),<br>Hiromasa Shirai (Asia University)<br>and Masami Kobayashi |

## • Assignments

The redevelopment of Bishopsgate Goodsyard, strategically located at the nexus between the City of London and dynamic areas such as Shoreditch and Spitalfields, presents an exemplary model in urban regeneration. This project aims to deliver responsible and inclusive regeneration through a mixed-use development that integrates affordable housing while preserving the area’s rich cultural heritage. Situated near vital transport links and surrounded by significant cultural landmarks, the development plan strives to retain the local character amidst the challenges of modern development. It addresses the balance of historical preservation with community needs and sustainable urban growth, thereby encouraging a comprehensive urban transformation that respects both past and future. This approach seeks to not only enhance the infrastructure but also enrich the social fabric of the area, ensuring that the redevelopment contributes positively to the broader cityscape.

## • Studio Process

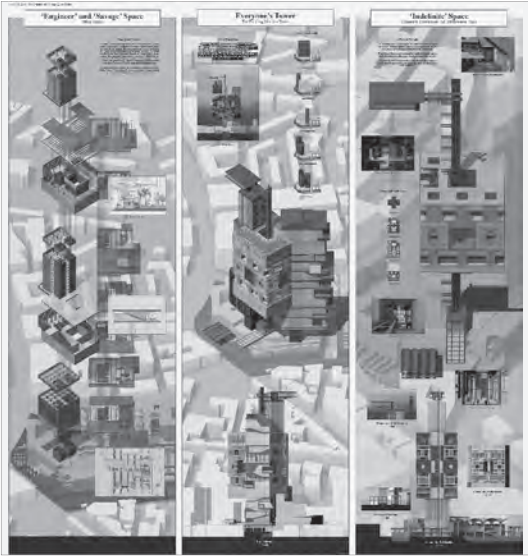
**Phase 1.**  
**Understanding the ‘Real’ – Research and Site Analysis:**  
Research and site analysis will be conducted at three scales: Greater London, Region scale, District scale, focusing on different aspects. The goal is to achieve a precise in-depth multi-scalar and multi-topics reading of each of the sites and their surroundings.

**Phase 2.**  
**Narrating the ‘Imaginary’:**  
Select a piece of literature from provided list, one per person, to describe the city and the society. Quote two to three phrases from the literature, then describe to narrate the image of the city. This component illustrates the conceptual element that explains the theory, visionary and the imaginary of the project.

**Phase 3.**  
**Urban Typology:**  
Urban typology describes the types of blocks and buildings that are developed within the master plan.

**Phase 4.**  
**Architecture design:**  
Architecture design translates urban typology into detailed design at the architecture scale with respective programmes.

**Phase 5.**  
**Master Plan:**  
From the parts (architecture design), design the whole (master plan). Each programme will negotiate with the form of adjacent buildings, weaving a fabric of spaces into a connected, living network.



## Everyone’s Tower

Choy Rui Zhi and  
Kwan Chun Tung

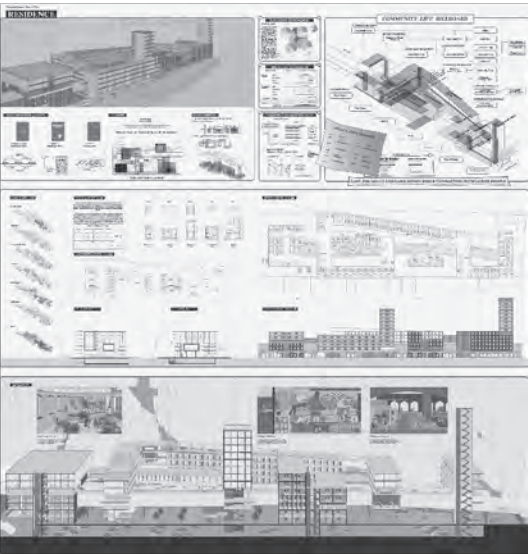
Everyone’s Tower reflects the ego of society in London, dealing with the contestation between the political and religious power of the city developers and the Bangladeshi community in Bishopsgate Goodsyard. Extracting symbolic architectural elements of power, the tower is composed as a collage of 3 towers representing engineered, savage, and indefinite spaces, where one contemplates between the whole and parts, order and chaos of society. Within this juxtaposition, revolution, thought, and doubt is provoked to create liberation of the mind.



## Between Scales and Realms

He Qiliang and Haruto Sudo

Both projects begin with the concept of the London Wall and connection. The station links old and new, inspired by the shifting scales in *Alice in Wonderland*, and uses varying arch sizes to define spaces at different heights. The hotel extends the existing streetscape with a continuous façade, employing arches – a recurring site element – whose scale and direction shift horizontally and vertically. From bottom to top, arches become increasingly regular, expressing transitions in space, function, and architectural rhythm.



## A House Within A House

Chen Sihon and Yuta Iwami

This project proposes a mixed housing model combining social housing and condominiums in a culturally diverse, socially unequal area. It aims to empower social housing residents through interaction with a varied population. The layout optimises the mix of households, students, and social housing residents, with shared spaces fostering engagement. Designed to promote inclusion, skill-building, and cohesion, the scheme supports meaningful connections and a more integrated living environment across social and cultural boundaries.

## Graduate Program 2nd year Advanced Design Studio B

# Designing with Country on Warea- mah

Leveraging Architectural  
Processes to Build Circularities  
in Sydney Harbor, Australia

| Instructors  |
|--|
| Yutaka Sho   |
| Guest critics  |
| Brook Jackson<br>(University of Technology Sydney),<br>Matte Ager-McConnell<br>(University of Technology Sydney) |

## • Assignments

ADS-B in Sydney aimed to develop architectural design and research skills while centering care and justice, and pursued these goals by designing with ecological systems to embody memory in space. Following historical and ecological research and material experiments, students designed an ecological commemorative space on Wareamah (Cockatoo Island) in Sydney, Australia.

Almost every square meter of the earth has been occupied, colonized, taken, or evacuated, creating uneven power balance between the settlers and the colonized. This was also true on Wareamah, once a ceremonial Country for the indigenous peoples, then a penitentiary under the colonial rule, a shipyard, now a national park. Effects of violence were visible on the island after generations, and ecology registered those memories. But we found that ecology also regenerated. Instead of treating ecology as neutral, and architects’ work as objective, this studio incorporated history and memory of the designer, and human and nonhuman actors in design.

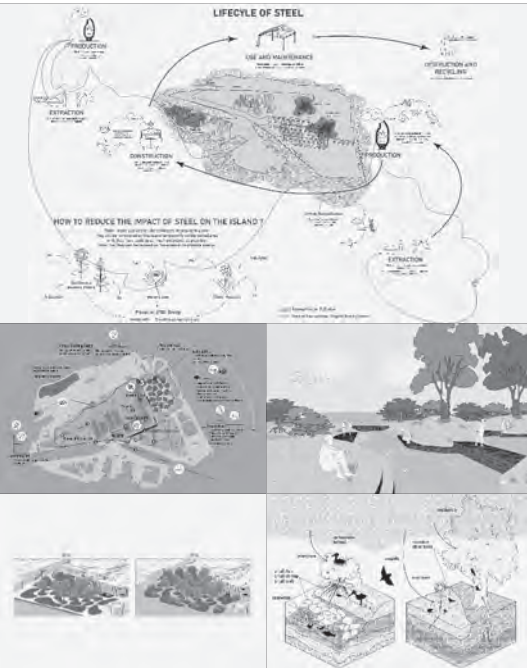
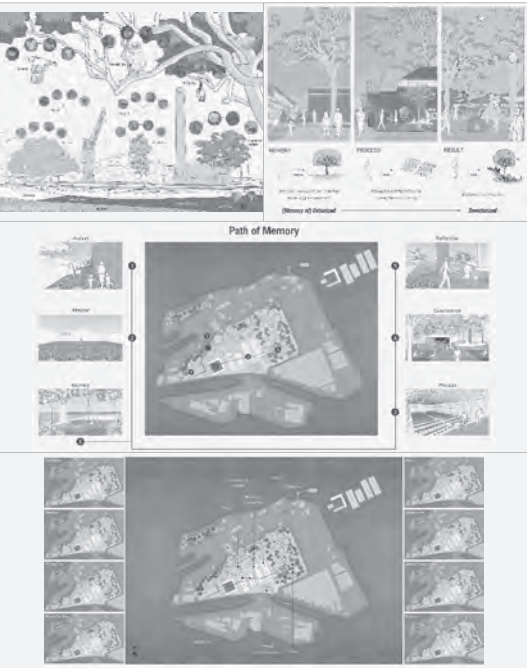
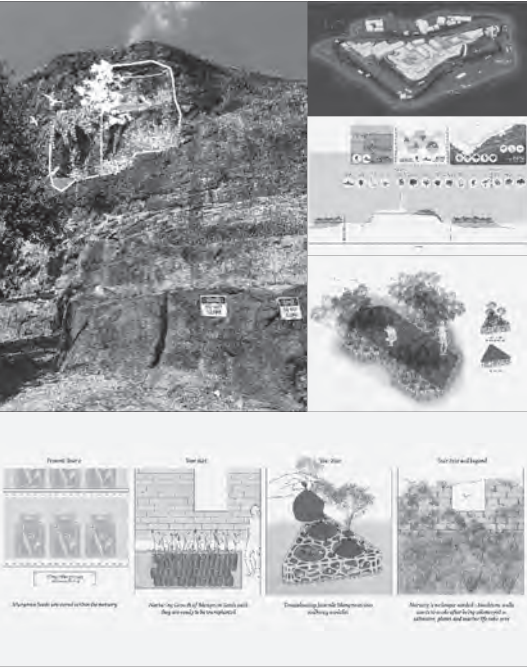
## • Studio Process

**Module 1:**  
Research. Students conducted library, architectural, object, and mapping research to develop situated knowledge about Wareamah from the perspective of ecological memory, starting with materials. Research groups explored how humans and nonhumans have produced, used, or otherwise engaged the materials overtime. The research was conducted in parallel to developing positionality. The students also produced a design goal that was shared among the entire studio.

**Module 2:**  
Material Making. Based on the shared goal and research, students proposed an initial material assemblage design that responded to ecological memories, habitation and care for the island.

**Module 3:**  
Wareamah Visit. During the visit, we met with the First Nation designers who have been developing methods of designing with Country. Up to this point, the research was reading-intensive, but students documented and learned from Country.

**Module 4:**  
Architectural Proposal. Students proposed an architectural project that realized the shared design goal and responded to the ecological memory of Wareamah, with the chosen materials.



## Tracing Sandstone

Jiawen Liu and Angie Ong

Since Wareamah is built on sandstone, the evidence of its past lies in its topological changes and alterations made to its shoreline through human interventions. By tracing both manmade and natural changes on sandstone, the project visualized the extent of the transformations, and uncover a part of the island’s Aboriginal history. The walking paths follow the original shorelines and also from today, gone by the time the sea level rise erases all but the tallest elevations of the island in 250 years.

## Country’s Echo: Honoring Cockatoo Island’s past through a design resonating with its natural history

Chompunuch Puengpanwuth  
(some work with Suguru Tabata)

According to the indigenous concept of Country, this project recreated the historical ecological conditions of the native forest, colonial deforestation, and today’s reforestation efforts to critically examine their impacts. The project attempted to restore the indigenous ecology and care practices, while facing the colonial injustice and loss.

## Adoptive Reuse of Wareamah’s Industrial Past

Alice Hubert-Habart and  
Mikoto Shiozaki

Wareamah’s shipyard structures, ports, soil and water remember the historical past in forms of architecture and pollutants. The project proposes reusing existing structures as plant nurseries capable of extracting the pollutants. The project also recycles steel from the dilapidated metal structures for new constructions such as suspended walkways and roof gardens to revive the island with materials already present.



# Tradition, Colonialism, Globalism, and Sustainability: Dadaocheng, Taipei

A joint studio with  
Tamkang University, Taiwan

|  |
|--|
| Instructor   |
| Michel van Ackere                                      |
| Joint Instructor                                       |
| Tzen-Ying (Jenny) Ling<br>(Tamkang University, Taiwan) |
| Midterm Review   |
| Hsiang-Yi (Melody) Ho<br>(HYMH Design, Taipei)         |
| Final Review   |
| Tomoaki Tanaka (Meiji University)                      |

• **Assignments**

The Studio investigated the Dadaocheng area of Taipei, a historical district along the Tamsui River front. Dadaocheng’s well-known Dihua Street is vibrant, with a mix of older merchants and residents, historical renovations, and tourist driven energy. This said, the cityscape surrounding Dihua Street suffers from the following issues:

1. *erasure of its historical connections to the Tamsui River*
2. *recent additions of ill-conceived large buildings and open spaces*
3. *lack of cultural facilities*
4. *lack of adequate traffic and parking planning*
5. *lack of affordable housing for younger residents*

With these issues in mind, students developed new visions for the Dadaocheng District via the simultaneous transformation of three sites – Yongle Market, Dadaocheng Park, and the Riverfront Gate area.

• **Studio Process**

**Phase 1:**  
In the first half of the studio, the students worked in teams with counterparts from Tamkang University – developing a conceptual understanding and analysis of the district, as well as researching its history and morphology.

**Phase 2:**  
Midway through the semester, the students traveled to Taipei to summarize and present their group analysis work at Tamkang University’s Tamsui Campus. They further conducted site visits and surveys of Taipei’s Dadaocheng district and surroundings in anticipation of Phases 3 and 4.

**Phase 3:**  
After returning to Tokyo, students completed a series of massing exercises at 1:500 scale on the three Dadaocheng sites – with target programs of 30,000 sm commercial, 30,000 sm office, 30,000 sm housing, and 10,000 sm cultural space. Students were free to mix or isolate different programs on the three sites, and to include street, parking, and other vehicle-related concept level solutions.

**Phase 4:**  
Following their massing studies, students developed more detailed architectural planning for a single site at 1:200 scale, including models, 3-D sketches, and drawings of critical interior spaces.



## Awakening the Memory of Water

Manaho Yanagi

Currently, the Tamsui River – once a source of life for Taipei – is cut off via a seven-meter flood wall and a busy six-lane highway. This housing project envisions new lifestyles and cultural programs that respond to flooding threats while engaging nature, the river, and the city. The six lanes are replaced by two above ground and four below, gently curved to slow traffic. Set back from the road, the new housing block sits on an integrated *piloti* landscape for pop-up stores and food trucks, re-stitching the city to the river.

## Niche by Niche

Poran Buragohain

Each site in this project has been designed with a specific strategy to integrate newly adopted programs while preserving the historical context. In particular, the park site is transformed into a housing project that fuses modern design with traditional Taiwanese courtyard typologies. The design incorporates courtyards at different levels and scales, ranging from personal to community spaces. These courtyards can also be used for urban farming, fostering a sense of communal living and sustainability that is missing in most contemporary developments in this rapidly changing neighborhood.

## New Yongle Market

Li Yudong

This project focuses on replacing the aging Yongle Market and supporting the modernization of Dihua Street, in order to revitalize and transform its commercial activities. First, a place for gathering and resting is proposed – an open plaza that serves the entire neighborhood. This plaza is further activated by the addition of a theater and museum showcasing Dihua Street’s history. Finally, a new commercial building replaces the original functions of the Yongle Market, with fully open first and second floors that serve as a public amenity for the entire block.

# Discrete Compact City

Challenges on shrinking rural area in Japan: The case of Nishikawa-Machi, Yamagata Prefecture

|   |
|---|
| Tutor   |
| Tomoaki Tanaka,<br>Souhei Imamura, Junko Tamura |
| Guest critics                                   |
| Yu Ito, Hidehiro Yano,<br>Masami Kobayashi      |

• **Assignments**

Japan is the most aged society globally, with 28.7% of its population aged 65 and over – a figure expected to reach one third by 2036. Coupled with a declining population, projected to fall to 88 million by 2065, the country faces complex challenges: economic contraction, labour shortages, rural depopulation, and a proliferation of vacant dwellings (*akiya*). This architecture design studio critically engages with these demographic shifts through the lens of spatial practice.

Centred on Nishikawa-machi in Yamagata Prefecture – a rural town constrained by its mountainous geography – students will explore alternative development models that diverge from conventional compact city strategies. The studio addresses themes including ageing populations, internal migration, responsible tourism, local resource activation, and the adaptive reuse of built stock. Through site-specific research and speculative design, students will propose architectural and spatial frameworks to support community revitalisation and envision sustainable futures for ageing and shrinking regions.

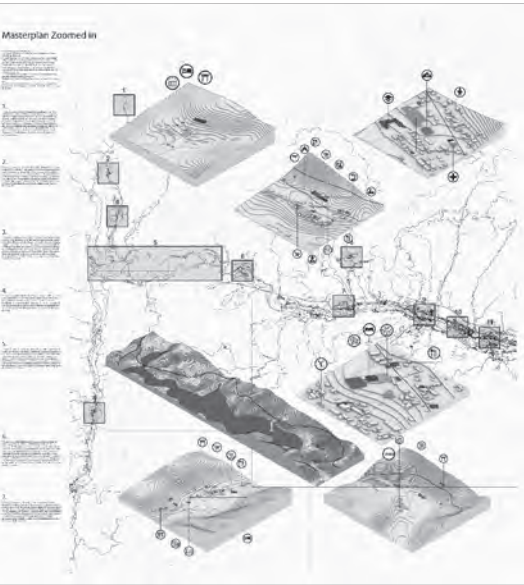
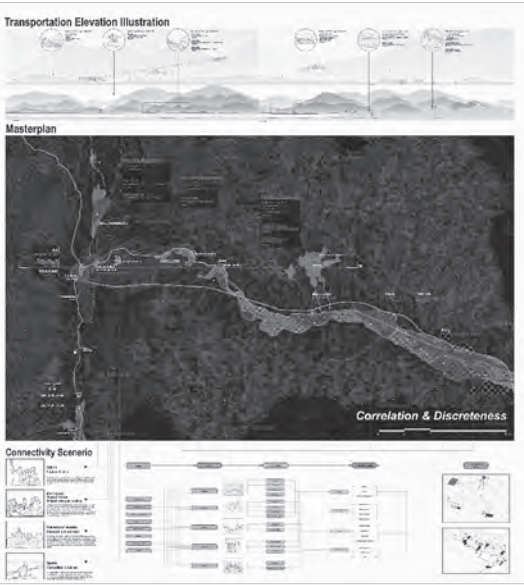
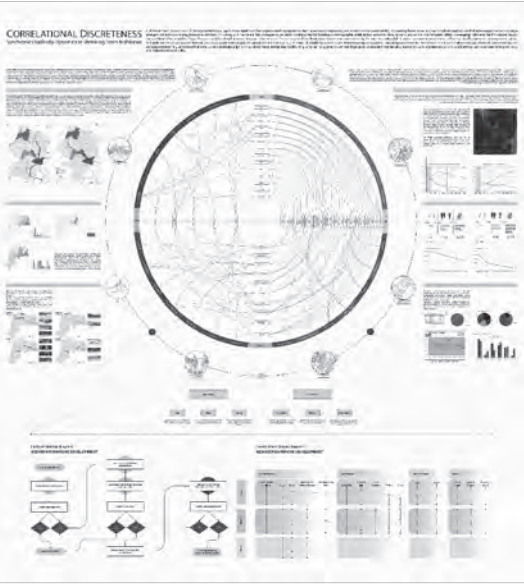
• **Studio Process**

**Phase 1. Research and Site Analysis:**  
The goal of research and analysis is to achieve a precise in depth multi-scalar and multi-topics reading of the project sites and their surroundings in terms of the urban fabrics, economy and industry, projected population and activities, infrastructure, accessibility and mobility, landscape and nature, sustainability and resilience issues, urban ecology (water, energy, waste), etc.

**Phase 2. Field work, Vision and Master Plan:**  
1) Field work – Confirm your mapping and scenarios through field work. Interview the residents if possible.  
2) Vision and Master Plan – Visualize your vision through master plan. Master plan translates concept plan and lessons from the field work into a concrete guide plan for the future.

**Phase 3. Conceptual Design for the Parts and Whole:**  
Select your site(s) or nodal points and specific area most appropriate for the individual work from previous studies and the field trip.

**Phase 4. Architecture design:**  
Integrate your concept and prepare a schematic design that includes a specific function and purposes of the building/node(s) (parts) and the network (whole).

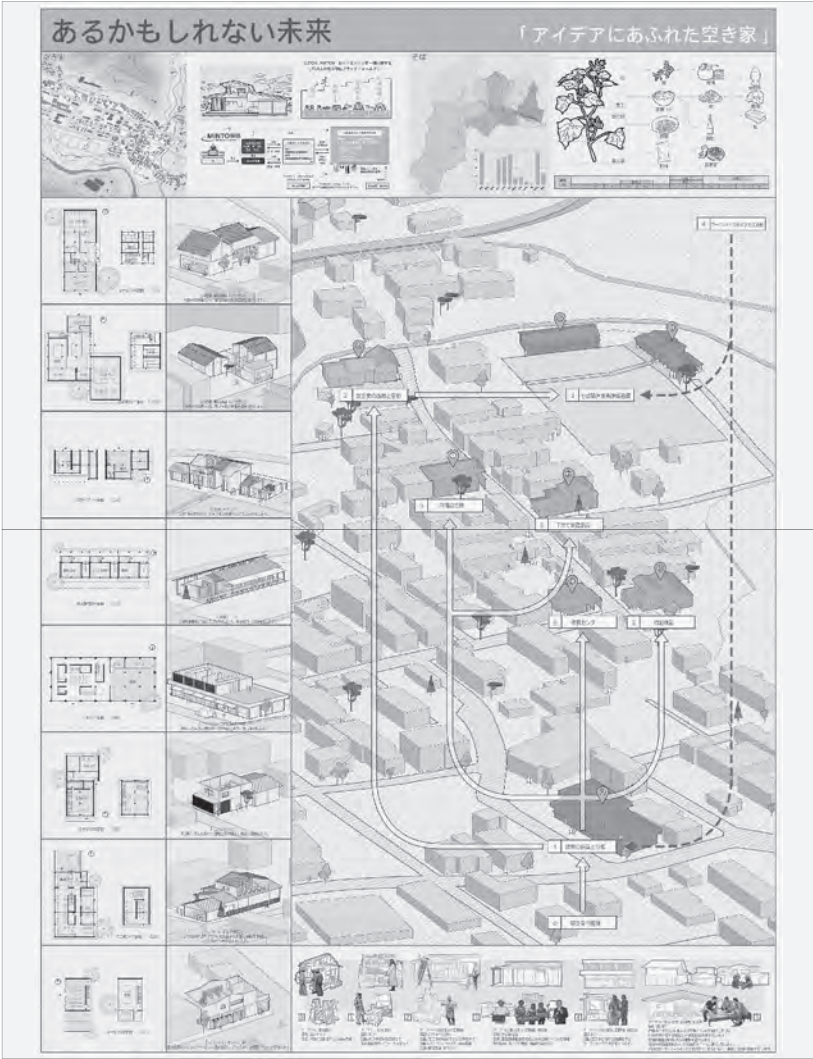


## Master Plan

Firdaws Bouderbala  
Hu Jinwei  
Kimly Mu Sek Sang  
Pai Thet  
Shogo kobori  
Jia Wenqing

The master plan explores the distinct characteristics and autonomy of each area, aiming to revitalise the town through strategic dispersion and new connections. By identifying both functionally concentrated zones and areas with potential, a new hub is proposed around Gassan Lake as the plan’s core. Three main categories emerge: community-focused sites in Nishikawa town, historically significant locations including Iwanezawa, Hondoji, and Oisawa, and the Gassan Lake area, envisioned as a central connector to unify and energise the broader region.

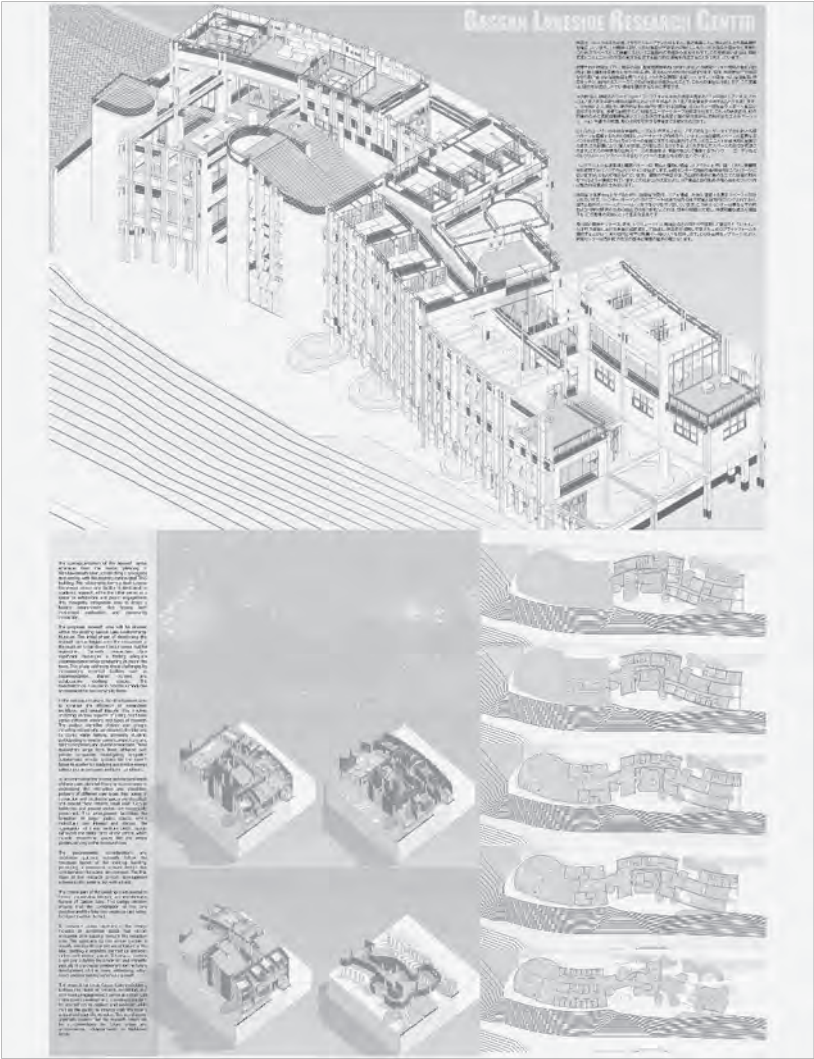




# A possible future: Akiya full of ideas

Hu Jinwei

This project explores new lifestyles for Nishikawa-machi residents by focusing on two existing opportunities: soba and Akiya. It proposes developing the soba industry to support the ageing population and revitalise the local economy. To address the rise in abandoned houses, the RIY (Rebuild It Yourself) initiative is introduced, reusing materials from Akiya in renovation workshops. Using the MINTO system for funding support, the plan integrates soba-related industries, Akiya renovation, and newcomer engagement to foster community regeneration and economic sustainability.



# Gassan Lakeside Research Center

Pai Thet

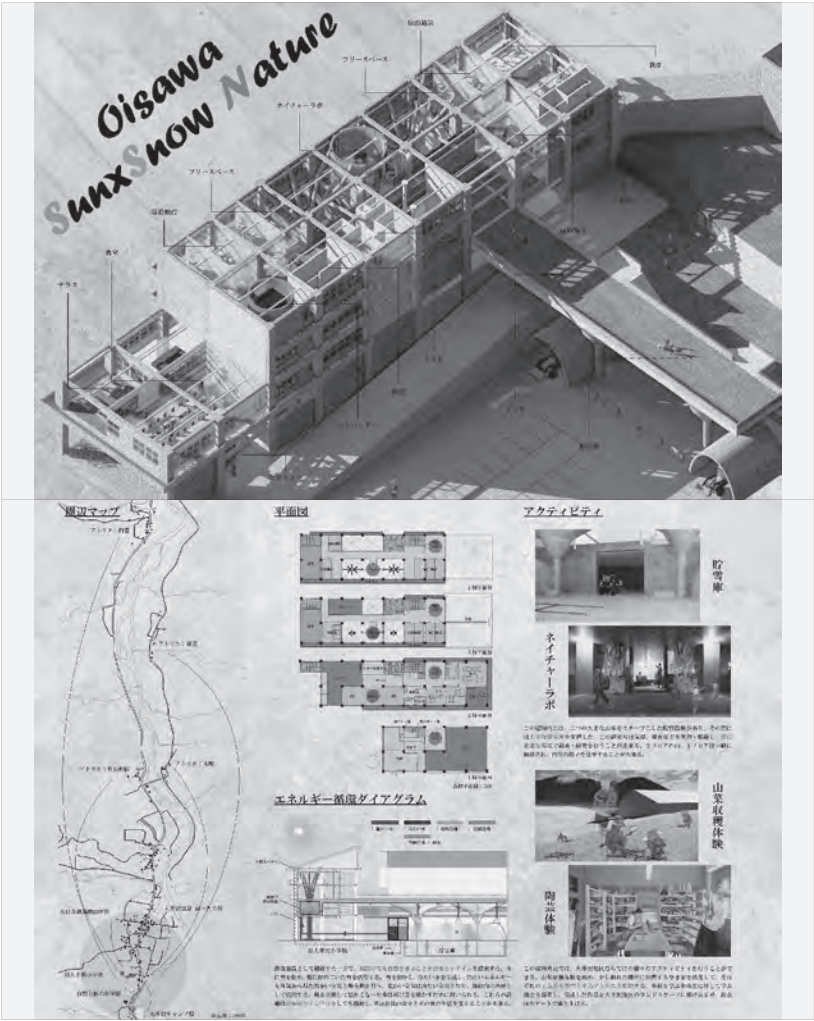
This project proposes a research center as part of the wider master plan for Nishikawa-machi, complementing the newly built TRAS facility. While TRAS focuses on exhibitions and public engagement, the research center supports academic study, creating a dual-purpose framework. Located within the Gassan Lake Environmental Museum, the first phase involves its renovation into a central research hub. Integrating research, recreation, and community interaction, the center fosters innovation and public involvement, becoming a key driver for environmental and urban development in the town.



# 流れ Descending

Jia Wenqing

Iwanesawa in Nishikawa-machi, historically a spiritual gateway to Mount Gassan, stands apart from the town as a secluded, sacred landscape. Shaped by time and tradition, it has embraced multiple identities. This project seeks to renew contemporary awareness of life and spirit by reimagining the site's narrative. Through the revitalisation of Kagura performances, the building becomes a bridge between past and present, sacred and secular – reconnecting people with cultural memory while offering a renewed sense of place and spiritual engagement.



# Oisawa SunxSnow Nature

Shogo Kobori

This project repurposes the former Oisawa Elementary School into a multifunctional facility based on three core concepts. It offers student accommodation for learning about the area's natural beauty, history, and traditions. An energy circulation system harnesses the surrounding environment, while essential infrastructure supports disaster evacuation and shelter. A snow room stores winter snow for summer use, enhancing sustainability. The interior design makes these systems visible, with energy pipes inspired by wild plants acting as symbolic elements throughout the building.





Graduate Program  
1st year  
Advanced Design  
Studio D

# Revitalization of Creative District in Song Wat of Bangkok

Instructor  
Tomoaki Tanaka (organizer)  
Hiroyuki Sasaki  
Hideki Hirahara  
(H2R Architects, Taipei)  
Sorachai Kornkasem  
(INDA, Chulalongkorn University)

Advisor  
Takanao Todo  
(INDA, Chulalongkorn University)

Participating Institutions  
Meiji University, International  
Program in Architecture and  
Urban Design (I-AUD)  
Chulalongkorn University,  
Faculty of Architecture, INDA  
National University of Singapore  
(NUS)  
Tamkang University (TKU)

## • Assignments and Studio Process

Students from I-AUD, INDA, NUS and TKU participated in this joint workshop held in Bangkok. Total of 41 students with diverse backgrounds from the four institutions were subdivided to form six groups. Each group conducted site survey on the target area around Yaowarat and Song Wat Road. Yaowarat is one of the oldest Chinese communities in Thailand that is known internationally as Bangkok's Chinatown. Song Wat Road is an old trading and warehouse area on the Chao Phraya River in the area adjacent to Yaowarat. After the site survey, students are requested to read the historical context of the target area and find resourced to promote local creative economy in the area. They had series of discussions and analysis in the groups to find out issues and opportunities for the urban intervention.

In the second phase after the mid-

term review, students are requested to design a proposal of architectural project that could be preservation, renovation and intervention of/to the existing structures. It is encouraged to utilize the cultural and artistic resources of the targeted area that were indicated in the site analysis in the earlier phase. Therefore, the program of the proposal may incorporate characters that can interact with the existing resources along Songwat Road, adjacent roads, and River Front. The project proposal is expected to be a catalyst to revitalize the urban space along the road and the river, and then intervene in the place that has strong historical character as a heritage of modernization in the city.

## • General Review

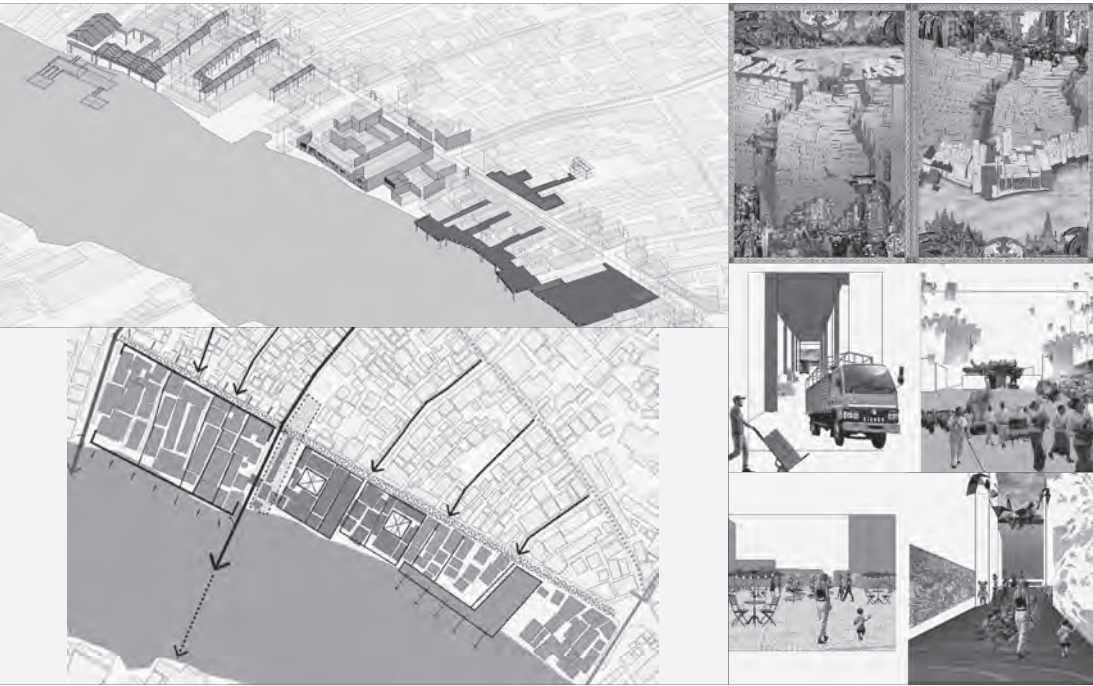
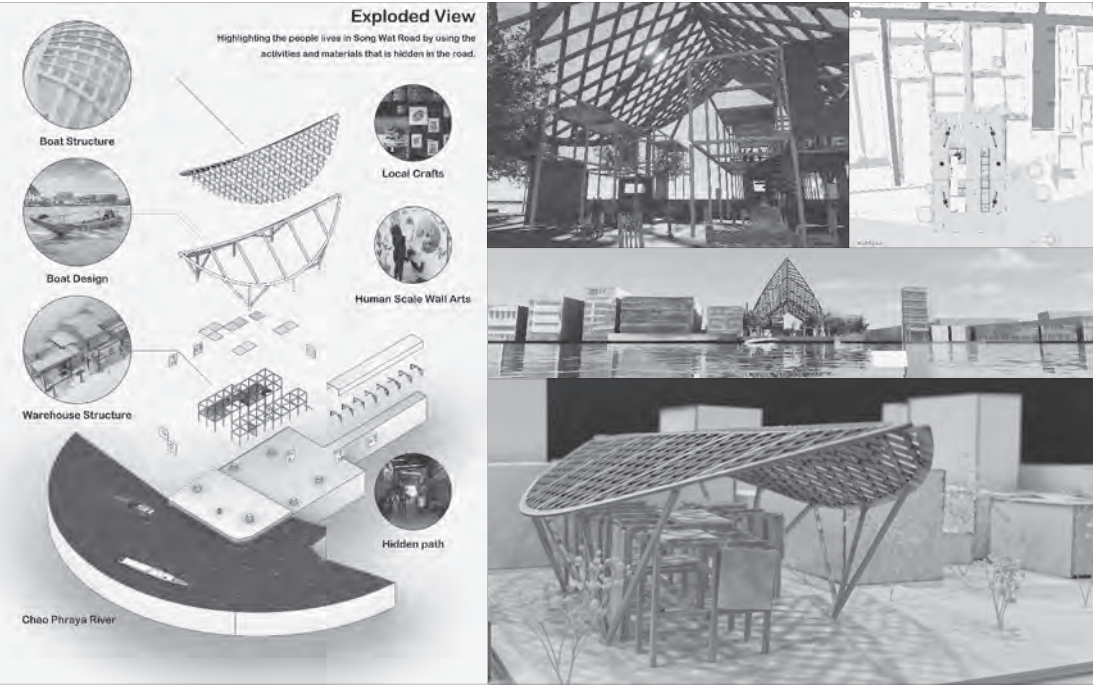
In this Joint Work shop 2024, I-AUD, Meiji University conducted 7-days joint workshop with INDA, Chulalongkorn University, National

University of Singapore and Tamkang University. In addition to the long-time alliance with INDA and NUS, we welcomed new members from TKU. Hideki Hirahara who used to teach at TKU as a visiting professor joined the workshop with TKU students. Total 41 students, 17 students from I-AUD, 14 students from INDA, 4 students from NUS and 6 students from TKY, participated in the workshop. The students were divided into 6 teams (6-7 members/team). Each team

was composed of students with diverse backgrounds and worked on the assignments in the workshop in the two phases. Through the joint design work, the students learned a great deal, and I-AUD students had the opportunity to experience design education environments overseas. In addition, extra learning program in Bangkok before the workshop provided an opportunity for I-AUD students to visit historical buildings and contemporary architecture to deepen their learning.

## Schedule

July 27 I-AUD students traveled from Tokyo to Bangkok  
July 28 I-AUD students had a field trip in Bangkok. Students from the partner institutions arrived in Bangkok  
DAY 1 7/29 Introduction, site visits, group session, etc.  
DAY 2 7/30 Fieldwork, Group Work, etc.  
DAY 3 7/31 Group work, esquisse, etc.  
DAY 4 8/1 Group work, Mid-term Review, etc.  
DAY 5 8/2 Group work, esquisse, etc.  
DAY 6 8/3 Group work, esquisse, etc.  
DAY 7 8/4 Presentation preparation, final review, etc.  
August 5 I-AUD students returned from Bangkok to Tokyo



## Group A: Magnet Song Wat

Keita Miyoshi  
Chen Sihon  
Ryu Eguchi  
Chen I-An (TKU)  
Jittibodee Jittaniyompanich (INDA)  
Nichakan Witchutraiphob (INDA)  
Neenara Bhandhumachinda (INDA)

There are many existing renovated places between Ratchawong Pier and the Square. Our goal is to trigger revitalization with two sites, then connect Song Wat Road with potential renovations – temple square, shopfront sidewalks, and alleys to the riverfront – enhancing access to the Chao Phraya River and the history of Song Wat.

## Group B: Whispers of Song Wat

Jaiwen Liu  
Suguru Tabata  
Zwe Yan Naing Hla Moe  
Hsu Hong-Yi (TKU)  
Tsz Kiu Pun (NUS)  
Titus Panichpakdee (INDA)  
Phasawin Torsuwan (INDA)

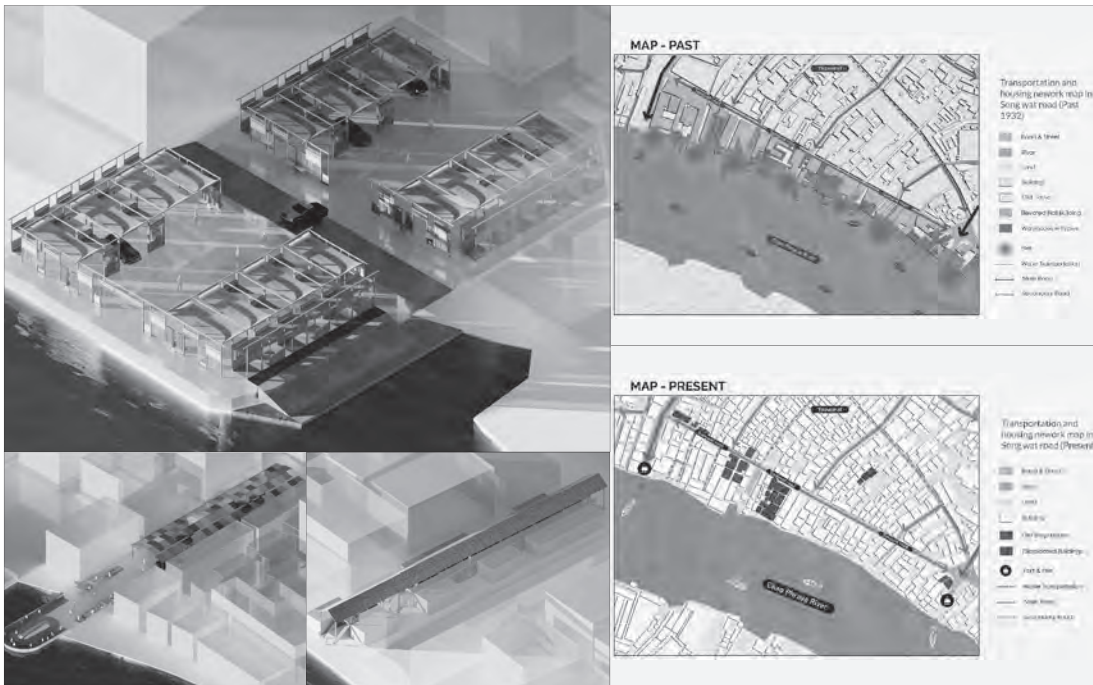
This Project revitalizes Song Wat Road by celebrating Thai art, craft, and heritage. Embracing "hidden-ness," it reveals cultural gems – cafes, galleries, and craft – through discreet design elements and alley access. That blends tradition and modernity, positioning Song Wat as a cultural landmark by Chao Phraya River.

## Group C: THROUGH THE RIVER

Alara Kalayci  
Naoki Takahashi  
Choy Rui Zhi  
Maxime Chung Hong Flamans (TKU)  
Kieron Tay (NUS)  
Natasha Vorapunpisut (INDA)  
Nada Ruengchinda (INDA)

This revitalization enhances links between the Chao Phraya River and Samphanthawong through subtle architectural gestures. Strengthening alleyways shaped by shophouse-warehouse intersections, the masterplan restores spiritual, commercial, culinary, and creative ties through promenades, food courts, and a bazaar.

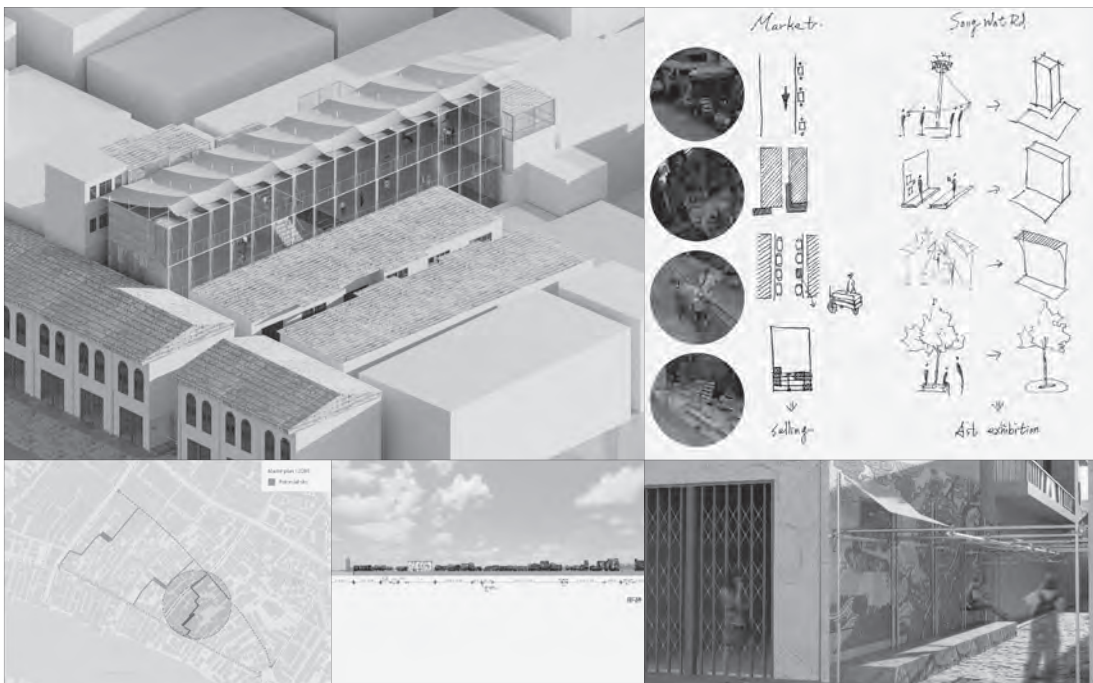




## Group D: Reimagine Song Wat Street: Reviving the river culture

Yuta Iwami  
Keisuke Yoshioka  
Li Yudong  
Chen Chun Wei (TKU)  
Wu Chenyu (NUS)  
Warunrat Tharasirisakul (INDA)  
Vanfaisaijong (INDA)

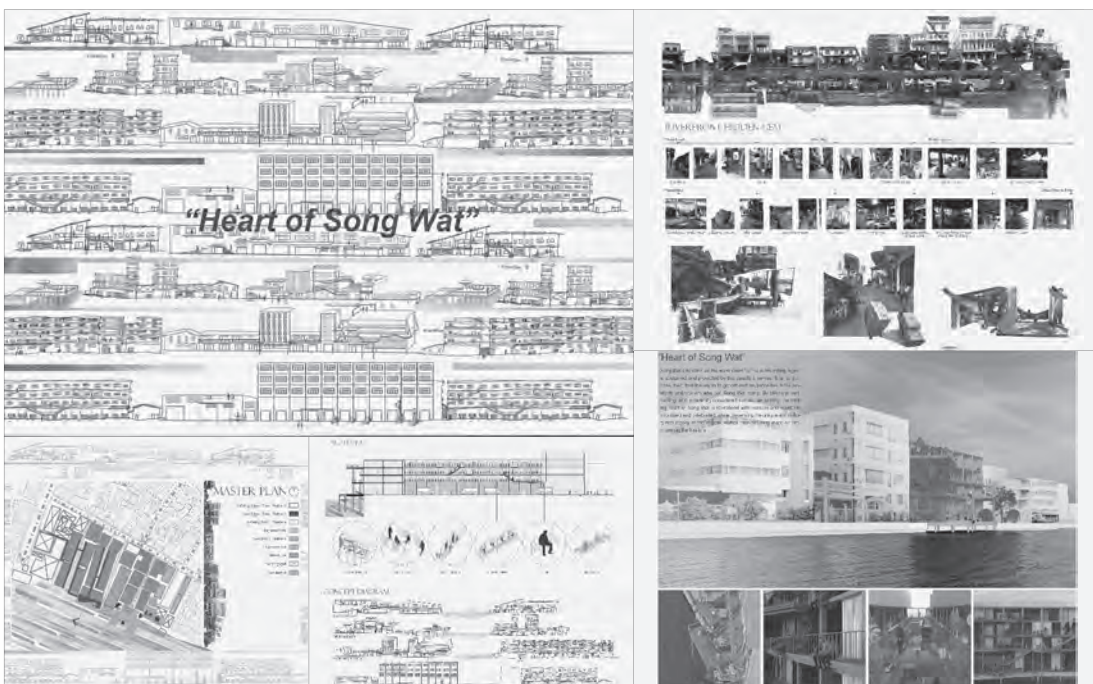
The project aims to revive riverside culture by renovating underutilized sidewalks, parking lots, and warehouses along Soi Street. Emphasizing access from street and river, the design enlivens quiet alleys and repositions the area as a potential logistics hub.



## Group E: Sam-Wat

Yuu Mukaiyama  
Yoshiyuki Hattori  
Kwan Chun-Tung  
Hsu Ting-Yu (TKU)  
Ajay Dubey (INDA)  
Teeradon Tananopparat (INDA)  
Malisa Rungtusanatham (INDA)

Our site bridges Song Wat and Samphaeng market, aiming to reconnect Coffee Street and Market Street. By inserting a new path and integrating each area's unique activities, the project breaks invisible boundaries, encourages interaction, improves circulation, and explores local development potential between these distinct yet disconnected streets.



## Group F: Heart of Song Wat

Poran Buragohain  
Haruto Sudo  
Chien Ting-Jung (TKU)  
Teo Pierre (NUS)  
Wachiraporn aramnueyporn (INDA)  
Natthaphat Chotanawut (INDA)  
Metasith Buditwaraphong (INDA)

This proposal revitalizes Song Wat by balancing function and heritage through thoughtful spatial design – stitching connections, shaping distinct spaces, and prioritizing both workers and residents. Rather than focusing on tourism, it reinforces Song Wat's identity as a living, working district rooted in its historic trading core and sustained by its local community.