



Section Perspective, KURA NINE by Atelier Bow-Wow, 2017

The development of modern technology and industry in the 20th century has constructed a barrier between our everyday life and local resources such as nature, human skills, and their knowledge. Architectural Behaviorology is our architectural design method which focuses on creating a better accessibility to such resources. Our objective is to cultivate these resources in order to rediscover their forgotten potential through the lens of ethnographical network, and activate them by proposing an architectural design. The program under the Chair of Architectural Behaviorology focuses on 6 themes along 6 years: 'Window Behaviorology' 'Genealogy of Architectural Typology' 'Actor Network of Timber Construction' 'Urban-Rural Exchange' 'Urban Hybrid' 'Urban Commons,' developing one theme both in Japan and in Switzerland/Europe each year.

Design Studio Autumn 2018 Timber Behaviorology in Japan

We can think of timber construction as something behaving in between human and nature, that can be regarded as the local culture of our built environment. This year, through the lens of Architectural Behaviorology, we focus in particular on designing a timber construction, learning to find its meanings at various scales, while comparing between Japanese and Swiss building culture. Both Japan and Switzerland have abundant timber resources of trees planted artificially during the period of economic growth in the last centuries. Today these resources are suffering from the pressure of the global market, and from the disappearance of skills and knowledge of traditional carpentry due to the mechanization of the industry. Our field of study in the autumn semester will be in Gifu, one of the richest prefecture in Japan in term of forests. In the design studio, students will examine the existing actor network of timber construction with design method— from traditional to modern—and at multiple scales—from territory to detail—in order to understand the relationships between buildings and society, visualizing them by actor network maps with an ethnographical approach. Then, through drawings and models, the students will propose a reimagined timber construction as an intervention within this network, for a better future of Gifu.

Students choosing design class Kaijima in priority 1 during internal enrolment do not choose a seminar week in HS 2018. Trip to Japan during seminar week is mandatory and will be credited as seminar week.

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Supervisor: Yoshiharu Tsukamoto
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Language: English

Seminar Week Autumn 2018 Timber Behaviorology in Japan

In the autumn semester 2018, Studio Bow-Wow offers a trip to investigate the theme of Timber Behaviorology in Japan. In a week-long trip, we will visit cities and villages in Japan (in the regions of Gifu, Chiba and Tokyo), chosen for their unique contexts of timber architecture related to construction systems, culture, and industries. Field works, lectures by specialists, visits to traditional local craftsmanship and a contemporary factory, along with visits to selected architectures will deepen the knowledge on the theme. We will also visit several contemporary buildings in order to understand timber construction in the context of today's architectural practices. Japanese students will join the trip to exchange the study and culture.

The trip will be an integral part of the design studio, giving the students an opportunity to visit the site and to experience its broader context. The students will investigate the interaction between architectural elements, townscape and people's lives, as well as understand cultural and historical implications, all of which would be essential insights for their projects. Enrolment in this seminar week is mandatory for students attending the design studio.

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Trip dates: October 19th (evening) – October 28th, 2018
Cost category: C
Language: English