A window is the architectural element behaving between human and nature, and it can be regarded as a culture of building typology. This year, we particularly focus on designing windows, learning and finding their meanings in terms of Architectural Behaviorology.

In the autumn semester 2017, Studio Bow-Wow offers a trip to Japan to investigate the theme of the Window Behaviorology with a particular focus on Machiya, a traditional Japanese townhouse typology. Central part of the trip will be a 4-days stay in Kanazawa, chosen for its unique urban context characterized both by preservation of traditional urban forms and by an interesting variety of practices which seek to re-adapt Machiya type to contemporary life styles, thus representing a unique environment of investigation.

Field works, lectures by specialists, visits to traditional local craftsmanship and a contemporary window factory, along with visits to selected architectures will deepen the knowledge on the theme. The group will also spend several days in Tokyo, thus expanding the understanding of the window in the context of the large scale city, with particular focus on contemporary buildings, also through visits to some Atelier Bow-Wow built works. The trip will be an integral part of the design studio, giving the students an opportunity to visit the site and to experience the broader context. The students investigate the interaction between architectural elements, townscape, and people’s lives, as well as understanding 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.

Trip dates: 20th October (evening) – 29th October

The development of the modern technology and industry in the 20th century has constructed the barrier between our everyday life and the local resources such as nature, human skills, and their knowledge. Architectural Behaviorology is our architectural design methods, in which we focus on creating the better accessibility to such local resources. Through the lens of ethnographical network, we cultivate the local resources to rediscover unconscious and invisible relationships among them, and then activate them by proposing architectural design. The program under the Chair of Architectural Behaviorology has 6 themes in 6 years; "Window Behaviorology", "Genealogy of Architectural Typology", "Actor Network of Timber Construction", "Urban-Rural Exchange", "Urban Hybrid", "Urban Commons," comparing between one theme in Japan and the same one in Swiss/Europe each year.

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