

# SYLLABUS\_Field Research

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**Field Research:**      **Utatsu Fishing Villages, Miyagi**  
Disaster-Resilient Planning, Design & Reconstruction  
Fall 2011@Minamisanriku

**Members:**      Shun Kanda                      MIT Architecture/Keio Visiting Professor  
                         Yoshihiro Hiraoka              Miyagi U. Architecture & students (tbd)  
                         James Wescoat                  MIT Architecture/Disaster-Resilient Planning  
                         Saya Suzuki                      MIT Field Research Assistant  
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**Consultants:**      Duncan Kincaid                  MIT DUSP Computer Resource Network  
                         Takahiro Saito (tbd)            Film-maker, Interpreter/Sendai

**PREMISE**      Minamisanriku is comprised of numerous villages which have been destroyed by the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Many are micro-fishing settlements harbored within characteristically beautiful bays along the Sanriku coastline. These have been traditionally the home of a highly productive scallop, urchin, oyster, *konbu* niche market. These communities, as long-standing well-knit social groups are solidly committed to their post-disaster recovery of their livelihood and the reconstruction of their environment. There is great doubt however as to the central government's part in meeting the needs of these people relative to timeliness and appropriateness of support. A sense of abandonment and a delayed roadmap for their future pervade at this point, half-a-year now past 3/11.

**PROJECT**      On-site survey of selected fishing villages in Utatsu, Minamisanriku-cho utilizing the Transect/Rapid Visual Site Analysis method. This method was introduced by the MIT group in July 2011 with highly successful results for the central area of Utatsu district. During this fall, the field research members will focus on taking the Transect method further to identify specific disaster-resilient planning recommendations, working closely with the people of these communities. Through this study and by publicizing its results, our goal is to enable funding support and realistic reconstruction visions for a sustainable future particularly at these precious seacoast village scales.

**END PRODUCT:** Planning Strategies for the Villages  
Report & Publication, Symposium Presentations

## OUTLINE

**SCHEDULE:**      October, November, December 2011

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**Supporting References**      URL: <http://mit.edu.japan3-11>

**Appendix**                      Proposal: MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative