

iUP inter-University Program

Dates: July 28 – Aug 12, 2014

MIT JAPAN DESIGN WORKSHOP

Continuity / Transformation in Architecture & Community Form

The MIT Japan Design Workshop (JDW) is organized as a series of design charrettes on the theme of "Continuity/Transformation in Architecture & Community Form" within a specific architectural type, collective form and planning framework. These activities take place during the summer sojourn in selected sites in Kyoto, in regional villages, and a stopover in Tokyo, working with residents of local communities, volunteers, professionals and public officials. Projects are based in urban neighborhoods & rural communities with a distinct historical past yet undergoing controversial shifts in demographic change, ecologic & environmental alteration due to hyper-urbanization, physical transformation, loss of a sense of community and stressed visions for the future. Students conduct extensive fieldwork, rapid analysis, assessment, design & planning options and strategic propositions all in a compressed timeframe and delivery format. All projects of the workshop are on-site and with accountable client groups. The results of students' work are presented at public reviews, exhibits and publication and have often served as catalysts for subsequent implementations.

JDW collaborates with counterpart Japanese universities including Kyoto University of Art & Design, Keio University, Waseda University, University of Tokyo, and Miyagi University. JDW is made possible by the generous support of individuals and institutions in the U.S. and Japan. This annual program is based in the Department of Architecture at MIT. Shun Kanda has directed the MIT Japan Design Workshop from its inception in 1990.

This summer will be Year Four of JDW/MIT Japan 3.11 Initiative focusing on assisting the people of Tohoku in the rebuilding of their community in the aftermath of the unprecedented earthquake/tsunami/nuclear meltdown disaster which occurred on 3.11.2011. Having worked in Minamisanriku, Miyagi from 2011-2013, we will again engage in the design and building of "transitional architecture" this year in Rikuzen-Takata in Iwate-ken. All activities will be conducted in close collaboration with the residents of temporary housing, local community leaders and students of Prof. Otsuki of the University of Tokyo. Constraints will be present such as a minimum budget and improvised tools & construction equipment as well as lack of expert skilled workforce, workspace and transportation. At the same time, there will be ample opportunities to engage with a cross-section of local people and fellow participants in discussions surrounding imminent critical design/planning issues of housing relocation, alternative land-use, future community form, and management of a sustainable livelihood and eco-system for the entire region.

The Department of Architecture and the larger MIT community has played a significant role in the post-disaster recovery assistance and intends to continue in the years ahead.

_____ visit: <http://japan3-11.mit.edu/>

_____ For further details including costs, schedule, and registration, sign up online and/or email us directly: Shun Kanda kanda@mit.edu, or Saya Suzuki tktt503@gmail.com.
