AGING TOKYO

老い東京

Adam Frampton and Yuko Sono          Columbia GSAPP x Waseda University      July 2018 (TBC)
2016
Housing the Majority: Baishizhou Urban Village
Shenzhen, China
GSAPP Summer Workshop
Drawing by Lindsey Wikstrom
Due to the world’s highest life expectancy and lowest fertility rate, nearly one quarter of Japan’s population is currently over the age of 65.¹ Japan’s population is shrinking and becoming more elderly. By 2100, Tokyo’s population is forecast to drop from thirteen million to seven million people. At that time, Tokyo’s population over 65 is expected to equal the “working age population” of those between the ages of 15 to 64², a radical shift in the proportion of those engaged in labor. This signifies a fundamental transformation in not only social and economic structures, but also urban form and architectural typologies of housing.

One team has looked at Sugamo, a shopping street that has been termed the elderly Harajuku, referring to another neighborhood of Tokyo which is known as the center of youth culture and fashion. The team has examined not only Sugamo’s stores which provide retail products and services aimed at seniors, but also Sugamo’s ecology of architectural and urban elements, including the adjacent Koganji Shrine.
矢崎海苔店の地蔵通通りの入り口は、菅郷商店街に招待する玄関口が通りに飾られています。高齢者を歓迎し、菅野に到着するのに苦労したときのジェスチャーです。

宗教記事/フラワーショップ

神への捧げ物のための記事を購入する。家庭用の花もあります。

衣類/履物/アクセサリー

衣類、特に赤い下着は、着用者に良好な健康をもたらすと考えられています。見た目よりも快適に作られた履物やアクセサリー。

バラエティストリートフード/日本茶

様々なストリートフードの珍味と日本のお茶。

化粧品/漢方薬/その他の薬

ほとんどの高齢者が使用します。化粧品と医薬品の両方が、高齢者をより若く感じさせるのに役立ちます。

家具製造およびアウトレット

安い家具店の提供。寝そべりのための快適な家具。退職後のレジャーで。

高建寺

隣人の中で最も崇拝された神社のひとつ。ここで神のアイドルを浴びることは、あなたの痛みを和らげるのに役立ちと信じられています。

ヘルスケア保険サービス

高齢者が医療費を支払うのを助けうため。

儀式を行うためのオープンスペース

神のアイドルの入浴は、寺院を囲む共通の広場で行われます。フェスティバルやその他の休暇の間に重要な集会スペースです。

国際コーヒーショップ/グローバリズムとその準備若者と高齢者。

アクセシブルストリート

住宅につながるアクセス可能な通り。

歩行者専用道路

自転車とサービス車両のためのオープン。

スーパー・マーケット/コンビニエンスストア

スーパーマーケット/コンビニエンスストア。
In the periphery, another team looked at Takashimadaira, a prototypical Modernist public housing project (danchi) that has become a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) and which caters to a concentration of elderly residents. This team has speculated that the residential units themselves may offer the possibility to flexibly adapt to new types of users and living situations.
Another team investigated the neighborhoods of Yanaka and Nezu, an area of low-rise wood-construction buildings (mokuzou-misshuu-chiiki). Having survived the earthquake of 1923 and destruction during World War II, these neighborhoods have much older buildings, a deep-rooted community, and concentration of elderly people. The team has investigated how the spaces between buildings facilitate interaction and community between its inhabitants.
Finally, in the city center, one team has studied private, purpose-built residential facilities whose fee-paying tenants require a range of care, from independent to more assisted living. With their diverse programs that include not only residential units but also numerous amenities and other functions, these facilities can be seen as “cities within the city,” or, as Michael Foucault has termed, “heterotopias” for the elderly.
Phase

Aging Tokyo Workshop, Summer 2017

Approach / output

Background information
Case studies
Mapping
Identify trends
Identify opportunities

Initial exhibition or short publication

Aging Tokyo Workshop, Summer 2018

Projection & speculation
Prototypes
Proposals

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1994
Toyo Ito
Old People’s House in Yatsushiro
Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyushu

2006
Sou Fujimoto
Group home for elderly with dementia
Noboribetsu City, Hokkaido Prefecture

2012
Junya Ishigami
Home for the Elderly (unbuilt)
Akita Prefecture
The workshop has also undertaken an exploration of the unique urban environment of Tokyo. For a city becoming older, Tokyo is ironically characterized by its newness, constant reinvention and renewal: the average lifespan of residential buildings is merely 26 years.\(^3\) Coupled with increasingly subdivided and smaller lots, along with a proliferation of single-family homes, Tokyo (and Japan in general) has become well-known for its architectural experimentation, particularly in the realm of housing in the post-Bubble economy. Students and faculty visited a number of significant projects, both contemporary as well as post-War and connected to the Metabolism movement. Finally, as an opportunity to understand the milieu of contemporary architectural production, the workshop visited four studios and offices of practicing architects in Tokyo, including Atelier Bow-Wow, Shigeru Ban, Junya Ishigami, and SANAA.
