

Inter Cultural Studies of Architecture (ICSA) in Japan 2012

Based on the general exchange agreement between Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) and Bahçeşehir University (BU), students and professors from the Faculty of Architecture and Design of BU joined us at Koshien Hall and the Architecture Studio on MWU's Kami-Koshien Campus from June 26th to August 3rd, 2012.

BU's students were tackling a design projects for third-year students. By participating in this program, they gained knowledge, learned techniques, and increased their awareness for designing of architecture. They also joined a basic design studio for first-year students and had the opportunity to experience such traditional Japanese culture as Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement under Ryuho Sasaoka, a headmaster of the Ikebana Misho-ryu Sasaoka in Kyoto) or woodworking (with Sadahide Kanda, a master carpenter in Hyogo). They also participated in fieldwork on Saturdays to explore such Japanese cities and architecture examples as Funaya in a town called Ine, Amanohashidate, Itsukushima Shrine, Nishi Honganji Temple, Himeji Castle, and the Jodo-do of the Jodo-ji Temple.

Participants

Professors: Assistant professor Murat Dündar, Research assistants Belinda Torus and Sinem Kültür
Students: Beyza Nur Bozkurt, Binnaz Kalcıoğlu, Didem Dinçkal, Ece Yağan, Gonca Hande Şahin, Gözde Uyar, Kübra Pars, and Şahsena Bildirici

1. Greetings

1.1. Welcome Party: June 28

Eight students and two teachers from Bahçeşehir University were greeted by the students and teachers of Mukogawa Women's University. Prof. Dr. Shigeyuki Okazaki (Chair, Department of Architecture, MWU) and Assist. Prof. Dr. Murat Dündar (Vice-Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Design, BU) gave speeches and the BU students and teachers introduced themselves. After that, MWU graduate students gave a welcome speech in Turkish, and MWU undergraduate students gave a speech in English.



Self introductions by BU students.



Welcome speeches in Turkish by MWU graduate students.

1.2. Courtesy Call on Chancellor Ryo Okawara and President Naosuke Itoigawa of MWU: June 29

BU students and teachers visited MWU's Central Campus and paid a courtesy call on Chancellor Ryo Okawara and President Naosuke Itoigawa of MWU. They expressed their happiness at coming to Japan. One of the BU students told about looking forward to riding a bicycle because few such opportunities exist in Turkey. Chancellor Okawara encouraged them to enjoy themselves and to study hard.



Meeting with Chancellor Ryo Okawara and President Naosuke Itoigawa



Commemorative photo

1.3. Courtesy Call on Nishinomiya Mayor Masahiro Kono: July 20

BU students and teachers visited the Nishinomiya City Hall and paid a courtesy call on Nishinomiya Mayor Masahiro Kono, who encouraged them. "I cannot tell you how pleased I am that the exchange between the two universities is bearing the fruit of an international conference. Please study architecture and form positive connections with the Japanese people."

The students thought that Nishinomiya resembled their hometowns and liked its beautiful nature and its cleanliness. They were surprised that they could travel safely anywhere due to Nishinomiya's good roads. The mayor explained the city's efforts to provide more bicycle parking places.



Assist. Prof. Murat Dündar of BU presented a souvenir to Mayor Kono.



Commemorative photo

1.4. Courtesy Call on Kobe Mayor Tatsuo Yada: July 24

BU students and teachers visited the Kobe City Hall and Kobe Mayor Tatsuo Yada.

After the 2011 Van earthquake in Turkey, the Turkey-Japan International Survey Group of Anti-earthquake Measures” headed by Prof. Dr. Shigeyuki Okazaki (Chair, Department of Architecture, Director of Institute of Turkish Culture Studies, MWU) was formed by MWU and Kobe City. The participants visited Turkey for earthquake surveys and symposium presentations. This courtesy call expressed thanks for the 2011 visit.

Mayor Yada encouraged Turkey and Kobe to continue their positive cooperation at the university, government, and local citizen levels. He warned the visitors about Japan’s hot summer. Next the students introduced themselves in Japanese, and Research assistant Sinem Kültür thanked the city in Japanese for its cooperation with the earthquake surveys and asked for additional cooperation in the future.



Speech in Japanese by Research assistant Sinem Kültür of BU.



Commemorative photo

2. Design Classes

2.1. Architectural Design Studio: June 29 to July 27

The exchange students tackled the same project as the third-year students in their studio. The theme, “designing a train station,” addressed how to safely move many passengers and how to make membrane roofing for the platforms. They made membrane roof models, drew perspectives, and planned layouts, elevations, and the sections. Next they got advice from teachers and Akihiro Noguchi, a membrane expert from Taiyo Kogyo Inc., and improved their initial ideas. Finally they made their final submissions and presented them to the final-jury.



Conversation with teacher



Conversation with teacher



Studying before inter-jury



Inter-jury



Inter-jury



Beyza's presentation at final-jury



Binnaz's presentation at final-jury



Didem's presentation at final-jury



Ece's presentation at final-jury



Gözde's presentation at final-jury



Hande's presentation at final-jury



Kübra's presentation at final-jury



Sahsena's presentation at final-jury

2.2. Basic Design Studio

For understanding Japanese culture, the students experienced Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) and woodworks with first-year MWU students.

2.2.1. Ikebana on June 28 and July 5

On June 28, the students experienced Ikebana under Headmaster Ryuho Sasaoka (Ikebana Misho-ryu Sasaoka, part-time MWU lecturer). On July 5, they collaborated with MWU students and made large-size Ikebanas and presented them.



Headmaster Ryuho Sasaoka instructed BU students in Ikebana



Ikebana lesson

2.2.2. Woodwork on July 12

The students used a plane and made rice paddles and chopsticks under Master Carpenter Sadahide Kanda, a part-time MWU lecturer. They increased their understanding of traditional Japanese carpentry techniques.



Master Carpenter Sadahide Kanda instructed BU students in using a plane.



BU students made rice paddles and chopsticks.

3. Fieldwork

3.1. Lecture and Visiting Architecture of Membrane Structure: June 29

Before designing a train station with a membrane structure, the Turkish students and MWU third-year students listened to a lecture from Akihiro Noguchi (engineer of Taiyo Kogyo Corporation) on the history of membrane structures, material, mechanical properties, construction techniques, and examples. Next, they visited the Rest House on Okura Beach in Akashi as an example of a suspended membrane structure.



Lecture on membrane structures by Mr. Noguchi



Visiting the Rest House on Okura Beach in Akashi

3.2. Visiting Funaya of Ine and Amanohashidate in Kyoto: June 30

The students visited Ine and Amanohashidate with MWU third-year and fourth-year students and saw Funaya (houses with unique boat garages) in Ine from the sea and land. After that, they moved to Amanohashidate which is one of Japan's three most famous scenic places. They went to Kasamatsu Park by cable car and experienced the fantastic misty view with the sea spray.



Funaya from marine taxi



When the sky and the earth are viewed upside down, Amanohashidate resembles a bridge across the sky

3.3. Visiting Itsukushima Shrine in Hiroshima: July 7

The students visited Miyajima Island, which is another of Japan's three most famous scenic places with third-year and fourth-year students at MWU. After arriving by ferry, they walked to Itsukushima Shrine along a beachfront road and visited many buildings in the shrine and viewed the mountain range over the Otorii (the grand gate). They sketched the buildings, the waterscape, and the green landscape around the shrine.



Photo taken on Hirabutai stage



BU and MWU students strengthened their friendship.

3.4. Visiting Nishi Honganji Temple in Kyoto: July 21

The students visited Nishi Honganji Temple with first-year MWU students. They went to Shiro-shoin, which is one great example of shoinzukuri, a traditional residential architectural style in Japan, and Hiunkaku, which is one of Kyoto's three great pavilions along with Kinkakuji and Ginkakuji Temples. They also saw the oldest Noh stage in Japan, Karesansui (a Japanese rock garden) in Shiro-shoin, and a beautiful garden that showed good communion with Hiunkaku.



Visiting Karamon Gate at Nishi Honganji Temple

3.5. Visiting Himeji Castle and Jodo-do of Jodoji Temple: July 28

The students visited Himeji Castle, which is being restored, and the Jodo-do of the Jodoji Temple, which is one of the few existing examples of Daibutsuyo style architecture, with first-year MWU students. At Himeji Castle, they observed the roofing and plastering work for the restoration and preservation from the roofed exhibition route. In the Jodo-do, they experienced the dynamic interior space of Daibutsuyo style architecture with the sunlight from behind the Buddha statues.



Visiting restoration and preservation work on Himeji Castle



Visiting Jodo-do of Jodoji Temple

4. Events

4.1. iaSU 2012 (2nd International Conference on Archi-Cultural Translations through the Silk Road): July 14 to 16

The 2nd International Conference on Archi-Cultural Translations through the Silk Road was held under the auspices of MWU. The BU students participated in the conference with MWU students.

On July 14 and 15, they attended the opening ceremony, the keynote lectures, the sessions and the closing ceremony. On July 16, they joined the Kyoto Tour with the other participants and visited Ryoanji, Kinkakuji, and Koseiin Temples and saw the Gion Festival.

4.2. Tea Ceremony Lesson: July 6

Before the conference, the students experienced the Tea Ceremony lesson with MWU students.



Tea Ceremony lesson



Tea Ceremony lesson

4.3. Farewell Party: July 27

After the jury, we had a farewell party for BU students. The third-year students at MWU, who had studied in the same studio for a month with the BU students, gave them presents. After that, each expressed their gratitude to the MWU students, and a commemorative photo was taken.



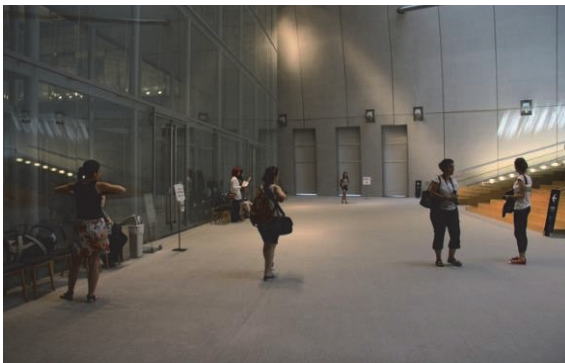
Thanking MWU students.



Photo after farewell party

4.4. Visiting Nara: July 30

Before returning to Turkey, the students visited the Nara Centennial Hall, Todaiji Temple and the Kasuga-taisha Shrine.



Visiting Nara Centennial Hall



Visiting Kasuga-taisha Shrine