



ACAE REPORT

The 37th ARCASIA Council Meeting, Hong Kong

The Japan Institute of Architects

September 26-28, 2016

1. BRIEF HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN :

The Meiji Restoration Government was established in 1868 after approximately 300 years of Tokugawa Shogunage Government. The Meiji Government established the Imperial College of Engineering at Tokyo in 1873. This was reorganized to Faculty of Engineering, University of Tokyo in 1886.

At that time many professors were invited to educate Japanese students to gain western technology, and British architect Mr. Josiah Conder was invited to the Department of Architecture. He taught Architecture in English and designed important architecture in Japan.

His disciples later became professors and educated young students in Japanese. And Architecture was taught in many universities in Japan.

The purpose of the education at this time is to educate students in western architecture.

At the World War II, most Japanese cities were destroyed by bombing, and after that, in order to restore the cities, it was requested to build safe houses and buildings economically as quickly as possible.

Moreover, because there are so many natural disasters such as earthquake and fire in Japan, the Building Standard Law, and the Kenchikushi Law – for Architects & Building Engineers- were enacted in 1950.

The former is to make the standard to safe people from those disasters, and the latter is to qualify the Kenchikushi (Architects & Building Engineers) to design architecture according to the Building Standard Law.

Therefore, after 1950, one of the important roles of the architectural education in Japan is educate “Kenchikushi” to gain the knowledge of the safety and its technology as well as the practical ability requested by both laws.

2. ROLE OF THE JIA IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN :

The Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) is Japan’s only professional organization of architects. Its principal role is to define and promote the social and legal status of professional architects in Japan. Founded in May 1987, the JIA unified two formerly separate associations that shared the same ideology: The Japan Architects Association (JAA) and The Japan Federation of Professional Architects Association (JFPAA). Accordingly, the JIA Education Committee was organized to oversee educational matters relating to the profession.

The JIA is a corporate juridical organization that was chartered by the Ministry of Construction (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, at present) in 1987. The JIA plays an influential role in establishing both local and foreign architectural qualifications, as well as professional examinations. However, it is the Japan Architectural Education and Information Center (JAEIC), under the authority of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation (MLIT), that administers the formal “KENCHIKUSHI” (Architect & Building Engineer) examination, as well as other qualifications and professional examinations.

3. CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE JIA AWARD AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2015:

Mr. Hidetsugu HORIKOSHI, Chairman
Mr. Tohru AJISAKA, Member
Mr. Masami KOBAYASHI, Member
Ms. Ryoko OKADA, Member
Mr. Satoshi MAEDA, Member
Mr. Toshiya YASUDA, Member
Mr. Hideki Yoshimatsu, Member
Mr. Hiroaki Otani, Member
Mr. Tatsuo Miyata, Member
Mr. Katsuya Fukushima, Member
Mr. Tohru Otsubo, Member

The chairman and members of the JIA Award and Education Committee are appointed for a term of two years by the President of the JIA.

4. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE JIA RELATED TO ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION :

- (1) The JIA's Open Desk System 2015: 124 students have applied to participate in this program. Participating students gain practical experience in JIA members' architectural offices.
- (2) Professional School 2015: This program supports practical training for young architects (including interns) working at JIA members' offices. In 2015, none of young architects participated in seminars.
- (3) Open School 2015: This is a practical education course for master degree students sponsored by JIA member offices. 62 students participated in this course during the summer of 2015.
- (4) JIA Graduate School Internship Program
For graduate school students JIA has the " JIA Graduate School Internship Program", which is different from the JIA Open Desk, open to both undergraduate and graduate students, and which fulfills the specific requirement given by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, that the graduate school is to be countable as the practical training period of one or two years in prior to the national qualification examination of the first class architect "Kenchikushi". While approximately one hundred architectural firms responded that they would accept the graduate students as the internship student, JIA shall organize promotional efforts to increase the number of supporting architectural firms during the fiscal year of 2015.

5. REGULAR STUDENT COMPETITIONS SPONSORED BY THE JIA

The JIA now annually sponsors the National Student Thesis Competition. The competition, which is judged by prominent architects, is two-tiered. A candidate must first be nominated by a local chapter. Then, finalists must compete in an open jury at the national convention.

6. LOCAL PUBLICATIONS OR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The JIA has regularly supported a variety of architectural-related conferences. During the past year, the JIA has been associated with the following events that published conference proceedings:

1. SB05 (The 2005 World Sustainable Building Conference)
2. The JIA has also been involved in the publication of "Asian Breeze," a compilation of buildings of sustainable design in Asia.
3. The JIA has published "JIA Architecture of the Year", which introduces 100 architects and their works selected by JIA in 2015.

The JIA Grand Prix and JIA Awards were selected from the works published in this book.

7. KEY ISSUES REGARDING ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION :

The JIA established the Qualification System for Registered Architects as a certification system that meets or exceeds the standards stipulated by the UIA Accord. It consists of four major components: (1) Professional Education; (2) Practical Training; (3) Qualifications; and (4) Professional Continuing Education.

Additionally, due to problematic issues resulting from 1st class Kenchikushi in 2005, both the Japanese Government and the National Assembly are considering the amendments to the Kenchikushi Law. One of the primary goals of these amendments is to formally review the educational requirements for Kenchikushi. Consequently, it is anticipated that university educational requirements may change.

In January, 2007, the Kenchikushi Law was amended, and details of the law were announced to be amended in August, 2008. (refer to the attached document “Details of the Amendment to Kenchikushi Law”)

One of the key issues of the current amendment is the requirement for the “internship” whereby completion of the graduate school education previously qualified as equivalent to two years of practical training, will no longer apply. It will be the responsibility of the graduate programs to structure the curriculum to satisfy the certain requirements set by the Kenchikushi Law. This amendment was put into effect in April 2009.

8. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE OF INTEREST

Student thesis exhibitions are popular events in Japan. In addition to JIA student competitions and thesis exhibition activities, the Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ) sponsors a graduate thesis exhibition which tours nationally. Another popular exhibition for graduates is sponsored by Lemon Gasui, an art supply store that has organized a graduate thesis design exhibition for the past 30 years. In support of continuing design education, the JIA sends representatives to attend the AIJ’s “Special Committee on the Design Education for the Twenty-first Century.”

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