„Пречистеното минало”- етапи в развитието на опазването на архитектурното наследство в Акита, Япония

`The Purified Past`
Vernacular House Preservation in Akita Prefecture, Japan

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Plan of presentation

1. Vernacular house (*Minka*) preservation in Japan
2. Value of *minka* houses
3. Selection criteria for *minka* as cultural treasures
4. *Minka* as cultural properties in Tohoku
5. Important cultural treasures in Akita
   (1) Nara house (2) Saga house (3) Kakunodate samurai houses
6. Reuse of *minka* houses without designation
1. Vernacular house (Minka) preservation in Japan

- Mid 1950’s – urbanization, high economic growth – destruction of minka on a large scale
- Depopulation, economic decline of rural areas
- Renovations of minka - the search for `convenience` of maintenance and repair
- Open air minka museums in Japan - Hida, Toyonaka
- 1962- Bunka-cho research on minka
- 1966 – 5 prefectures per year
- Important cultural treasures of Japan – common national standard – local features/regional variety
2. Value of minka houses

- Private house as cultural property
- Historic environment versus anthropological milieu
- Authenticity of the dwelling: original spatial layout and the quest for scientific objectivity in the rebuilding of an ancient structure / an anthropological perspective of the house as a lived reality or an embodiment of a subjective culture of living
- A high degree of abstraction or `beautification` of the historic dwelling - a gap between physical form and spiritual milieu of the dwelling
2. Value of minka houses

• the surveys by *Bunka-cho* - the historic value of *minka* architecture implies a restoration to its original state of building/creation (*fukugen*)
• Preservation background:
  • 1) the historic value of the original building
  • 2) its comparative value in the context of other examples from the same region or area
3. Selection criteria for minka as cultural treasures in Akita

- 1968- Bunkacho Surveys - Akita Board of Education
- three phases- a preliminary survey, a technical survey and a final detailed survey.
- 1st phase - 153 houses
  1. Old age
  2. Well preserved
  3. Written evidence of its period of building
  4. To be representative example of its area
  5. Impressive architecture
- Documentation: layout plan, street façade photo, classification
3. Selection criteria for minka as cultural treasures in Akita

- 2nd Technical survey - 42 houses - six professional researchers
  1. Actual structural conditions
  2. Age of the used materials
  3. Dimensions of pillars and distances between them
  4. Degree of later renovations

- 3rd Detailed survey - 22 houses - a team - 4 were selected
  1. Old age
  2. Well preserved
  3. Regional variety/ local features
  4. To have a well-known/ clear year of its building
  5. Good architectural design qualities
3. Selection criteria for minka as cultural treasures in Akita

The cultural value of the house - a mixture of criteria for historic authenticity, scientific objectivity and a subjective aesthetic appreciation of its design qualities.

Preservation process of minka in Japan
- a creation of a beautified dwelling space as an idealized framework of Japanese rural lifestyle
- a process of hometown creation (furusatozukuri) and the construction of Japanese national identity after 1960`s.
3. Selection criteria for minka as cultural treasures in Akita

How historical past is preserved, represented and consumed in the vernacular houses turned into museums in Akita prefecture?
Designation of cultural treasures in Tohoku area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>Total number Designated buildings (A)</th>
<th>Total number of <em>minka</em> out of A (%)</th>
<th>Important Cultural Treasures (B)</th>
<th>Total number of <em>minka</em> out of B (%)</th>
<th>Prefectural Cultural Treasures (C)</th>
<th>Total number of <em>minka</em> out of C (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yamagata</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>12 (17%)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7 (26%)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aomori</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>11 (17%)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6 (21%)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iwate</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>17 (33%)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9 (47%)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akita</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9 (18%)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7 (33%)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2 (7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Important cultural treasures in Akita

(1) Nara house (2) Saga house (3) Kakunodate samurai houses

- important cultural treasures on national level from different historic periods (1965, 1974, 1976)
- 3 different approaches to preservation - the evolution of the concept of preservation in Japan.

Ten (Point) – Sen (Line)-Men (Surface) Preservation Trend, Machinami/Denken
Akita Fuzoku Emaki
Akita Fuzoku Emaki

2 roof types - minka rural house / machiya townhouse,

komise - late 18th century
Minka development - regional variety

Sugoya 直屋
Magariya 曲屋
Ryochumonzukuri 両中門造
4 types
1. Hinai 比内型
2. Akita 秋田型
3. Yuri 由利型
4. Higashi Okachi 東雄勝型
**Nara house**
1751-1761
fukugen –1965

Akita type
Ryochumonzukuri
Umayachumon
Zashiki chumon /Doen
2 zashiki for guests
Oe, ojiome, nedoko
Oe –kamidana, butsudan
Ojiome- daidokoro
Daily living, dining room
All late Edo period minka in Akita
Nara house- a place for experience of history
(rekishiteki taikenba)
Nara house
example of fukugen restoration
Nara house
zashiki chumon- Meiji period
Nara house
Nara house
Nara house
Nara house

Yoshizu tenjo
Nara house
Nara house
Nara house
Nara house

- Purification- Removal of any personal traces, family history and furniture
- Dissolution into a common unified pantheon of cultural treasures
- Discouragement for individuals to use the system of registered cultural treasures
Saga house-1974  
early 18th century

Continuous living of the owner
Compromise of newly built house besides the intact treasure
1982 – a grant for renovation of 88 million yen
80% covered by Japanese government
8.3% - Akita prefecture
8.3% - Akita city
3.4% (2.99 million Yen) – the owner
Renovation - fukugen
Saga house - early 18th century

Before restoration

After
Saga house

Before

After
Saga house

Before

After
Saga house

Akita minka-ryochumonzukuri, susumado window, kirizuma roof

Before

After
Saga house

Before

After
Saga house

Before

After
Saga house

Before

After
Before

After

Saga house - the center of ke oe
Saga house
front part of oe

After

Before
Saga house-niwa, 3 free standing pillars
mijiya (mizutameishi, nagashi) niwairori, kamado
Saga house

kamidana/butsudan in the oe (6.3 shaku)
Saga house
okuzashiki (7.5 shaku)
Saga house
ojome (dining room)-6.3 shaku
Saga house
nakazashiki, oe (7.5 shaku, 6.3 shaku)
Saga house- restoration (fukugen)

- Wooden structure- some original pillars (chestnut, cedar), wooden doors and fusuma retained
- Construction changes to remove the small roofs (geya) surrounding the house- to keep a unified look of the exterior
- New parts –cedar-painted in amber color a few times
- Spatial layout- removal of later modifications
- Interior treatment- Nara house, shoji design
- Exhibited artifacts- family furniture, treasures, memorabilia, Shinto altar
Kakunodate - 5 houses from early 18th-late 19th century, designated as `denken` in 1976 new stage of thinking about preservation

伝統的建造物群保存地区

Creation of living space for learning and education of residents and citizens - integration of nature, culture and town

Renovation Shufuku (not fukugen)
Kakunodate - Aoyagi house — 4 elements of townscape
4 categories of townscape evaluation

4 levels of preservation

4 categories of townscape evaluation:

Townscape 1 - 4 main features are retained - black wooden fence, gate, main house *moya*, front garden
With large trees

Townscape 2 - 3 out of four features retained

Townscape 3 - rebuilding of *moya*

Townscape 4 - *shinchiku*
Kakunodate
Kakunodate
Yugakusha

Reuse of minka in contemporary architectural compounds
Yugakusha- Showakan
(ex-Sato house 1935)
Showakan koryu saron
Zashiki and daidokoro
Tea room
Morobien, Ani machi
Morobien
Concluding remarks

- Meaning of preservation?
- What should we aim to preserve?
- In what way?
- Uniqueness/Universality