Integration of Education, Research and Social Service at Architecture School in Collaboration with Local Community - Urban Design School Shibaura -

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Abstract
This paper reports how Urban Design School Shibaura (UDSS), a project the author has conducted since 2012 at Shibaura Institute of Technology, organizes education, research and social service with support from and contribution to the local community. Academic and local collaboration in general depends on individual programs. Today as issues of built environment grow complex, architectural schools need multiple ties with local communities.

UDSS promotes education, research and social service involving the local community, Shibaura District in Minato City, Tokyo. The education includes undergraduate studios and international workshops taking the district as study area. The research is carried out by the urban design laboratory, surveying topography and chronology of the district. The social service contains open seminars and exhibitions cooperated with the local community.

Empirical observation reveals liaisons between education, research and social service, raising respective performance and integrating each other. The local research provides educative information to the studio and the workshop serving as on-site training towards higher research. Exhibitions make public the research to and collect opinion from local people. Students’ analysis and proposals in the studio bring fresh perspectives to the local community. The seminars provide occasions students and local people learn together.

Keywords: architecture school; academic and local collaboration; integration of education, research and social service; urban design.

1. Introduction
This paper reports an architectural school collaborating with the local community. Academic and local collaboration in general depends on individual researchers and projects. Today as issues of built environment grow more and more complex, architectural schools need multiple ties with local communities. Empirical observation below reveals how the school integrates education, research and social service with support from and contribution to the local community (Fig.1).

The case is Urban Design School Shibaura (UDSS) which the author as an architecture and urban design professor has conducted since 2012 at Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT) with the local community of Shibaura District in Minato City, Tokyo, including schemes from Centers of Community (COC) and Super Global Universities, both the Educational Ministry of Japan promotes. As the name suggests, the institute founded its first school in 1928 and still runs the head quarter in the district.

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2. Education, Research and Social Service at UDSS
2.1. Education
UDSS’s education includes an undergraduate studio and a series of international workshops, both taking the district as study field.

Studio on Local Landmark
SIT Department of Engineering and Design offers an advanced studio to the undergraduate third year of the architecture and urban design course. Forty students work seven weeks on a timber public house called Kyodo-kaikan in ten-minute walk from the school, which was built 1936 as a meeting house for the local commercial community and had been used as a hostel until the municipal designation 2000 as a historical landmark.
The author designed the studio with Minato City officers. The studio studied the conversion in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and the extension in 2015 when the practical conversion work started. Students spent the first couple of weeks on surveying and making structural models before exploring conversion or extension schemes. The officers helped visit the site and collect the original drawings (Fig.2).

**International Workshop**


SIT and one of the foreign schools cooperated an eight-day workshop. Both students worked in mixed group. The study site in Tokyo was Shibaura District. The workshops overseas deployed traditional areas similar with Shibaura District, such as a wholesale marketplace of Seoul and an old harbor of Johor Bahru. The workshops included lectures and city walk as well as studio work and site analysis (Fig.3).

2.2. Research

UDSS’s research concerning Shibaura District is carried out by the urban design laboratory with a professor, the author, and a dozen students of master course and undergraduate 4th year. The laboratory made a city model 1:1000 in 2013 and another 1:600 in 2015, and donated both to Minato City after exhibiting to local events.

The research 2014 analyzed all the blocks looking at land use, shape, location and buildings, and 2015 traced the history and drew chronological maps. The district was formed in the first half of the 20th century by reclamation strip by strip articulated by waterways, which created long waterfront network and intimate and diverse urban tissue. The postwar metropolitan government shifted the port-and-harbor policy from furnishing the coast to constructing container yards in the outer area of Tokyo Bay. Shibaura District consequently in the last half of the 20th century became an old and inner harbor, and converted the land use from industrial and logistic to commercial and residential. The transition shows different landscape with old and new elements and holds both practical and academic interests (Fig.4, 5 and 9).
2.3. Social Service

UDSS has built direct relation with the local community in the social service. The open seminars provided students and local people with occasion to share knowledge and information in one place. Local events invited the studio and the laboratory to show the academic works.

Open Seminars

The department so far held twelve open seminars that students joined the operation and the local community helped publicize along with Minato City. The 2013 and 2014 seminars focused waterfront cities including the disaster areas of East Japan Great Earthquake 2011. The department 2015 cooperated a pair of seminars with Minato City, titled Shibaura Hyaku-kei, one hundred sceneries of Shibaura District. The attendants walked with an instructor in the district and discussed pictures they took while walking. The department designed the program with Minato City officers and sent two professors as instructor (Fig.6).

Exhibitions

The department and the laboratory disclosed works of the studio and the research seasonally and annually in the school and local events. The studio exhibited all the models and panels in the school entry hall, and sent selected works to annual events of Minato City in the end of fiscal years. The laboratory joined Shibaura Canal Festivals which the local community annually held in September, in which the students exhibited and explained models and drawings to visitors. That was very an active learning experience that the students discussed with visitors on the site and reviewed the academic work from the civic viewpoints (Fig.7).

Publication

UDSS immediately on the website released what it did and edited annual reports as well as contributed articles to the department yearbooks. Publication was essential for UDSS to overview the whole and connect each other of education, research and social service although it looked as secondary compared with concrete practices such as studios, workshops and seminars.

3. Liaisons

UDSS connects education, research and social service in both system and practice. Three bilateral liaisons form integration of the three (Fig.8).

Education and Research

Fieldwork in the local community during the studio and the workshop raised students in practical thinking and communication skill, leading to upper levels such as postgraduate or professions.

Local documents and drawings that the laboratory collected and produced in the research helped the undergraduate studio and the international workshop find sites and design programs as well as the students explore the district and develop ideas into schemes.

Research and Social Service

The professor organized the seminars open to public and lectured topics that they obtained from the research in the laboratories.

Models and drawings that the urban design laboratory produced and exhibited entertained the local people to enjoy understanding chronology and topography of their own neighborhood. The laboratory students became aware of public opinion while explaining and discussing with visitors in local events on their own research works that they exhibited.

Social Service and Education

The Minato City municipality showed the studio a set of technical drawings of the historic timber house and took students to the site and the inside, as well as provided the studio with occasions to exhibit the works in local events.

Forty students every year worked on the local landmark and produced conversion or extension schemes. The local community and the Minato City consequently saw forty possibilities for the local landmark, which were immature but innovative.

The international workshop invited a local council chairman and a Minato City officer as critics to the final presentation, who then contacted with not only academic but also international view towards the district.
4. Conclusions
Empirical observation above found liaisons between education, research and social service, raising respective performance and integrating each other.
- Local education raises students’ skills and motivation towards higher research.
- Local research provides educational information.
- Visualization of research entertains and enlights local communities.
- Students’ proposals bring alternative perspectives to local communities.
- Open seminars produce occasion students and local people learn together.
- Exhibitions testify the academic research and education from public viewpoints.

NOTES
1. Fig.9 appears in Reference (2), drawn on Reference (1).

REFERENCES
(2) Hidetoshi Maeda, Urban Tissue of Tokyo Inner Harbor, Case Study of Shibaura District, South East Asia Technical Universities Consortium, 10th Symposium 2016.