

# AIA Japan Newsletter

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## 4th Quarter 2015 AIA Japan Newsletter Topics

- (1) CES Lecture Series, "We Build Green Cities" by PLACE/Propel Studio of Portland, Oregon
  - (2) Toyoo Ito/Harvard GSD Design Project Review
  - (3) AIA Japan Last Board Meeting of 2015 and Year-End Party
  - (4) AIA Japan Receives AIA Presidential Citation
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## (1) We Build Green Cities by PLACE/Propel Studio & Portland Development Commission

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PLACE, an international landscape architecture practice in partnership with the architecture firm Propel Studio, utilized an interactive community design workshop to engage local residents in the city planning and neighborhood revitalization process. The collaborative, along with the Portland Development Commission, choreographed a customizable urban design and planning kit for Japanese communities to organize a design charrette, a common practice in Portland, Oregon, USA.

The lecture at Herman Miller Japan showcased the work of each practice - PLACE and PROPEL - focusing on recent commissions. Demonstrating the merits of public-private partnerships and community involvement to inform the design process, the Portland team will also discuss lessons learned while collaborating in Japan – Aridagawa, Okinawa, and Tokyo.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. How Public Private partnerships serve as a leading force in the further development of cities and towns
2. How engaging the public in the design process leads to new ideas and more successful projects
3. Learn about the tools used to run these workshops

Open discussion to share successes and ideas between Portland and Japan designers.



PLACE and Propel Studio staff with students who visited them and AIAJ members.

## (2) Harvard University GSD Student Design Review By Toyoo Ito

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Daishi Yoshimoto, AIA Japan member, was the moderator for Harvard GSD Toyo Ito Fall Semester Studio Review, which was opened to the public with CES points provided for AIAJ members. Harvard University Graduate School of Design has been organizing an International Design Studio in collaboration with architects from around the world. Continuing from the year 2012, this year's 2nd Tokyo Studio consist of 12 GSD students working on the design themes supervised by architect Toyo Itoh of Ito Toyo Architects Office.

### **Title: Discover The Charm of Omi Island And Propose a Future Vision**

Omi Island is located in the center of Seto Inland Sea where the Oyamazumi Shinto Shrine is located, the main shrine of Yamazumi Shrines located throughout Japan and is a beautiful island blessed with scenes of the setting sun.

The students selected one theme from the following 3 design themes and proposed a realistic project that brings out the charm of the island.

#### **Theme 1: House of Off Grid Life**

Proposal for a house to allow coexistence with nature taking full advantage of the natural energy.

#### **Theme 2: Share House for Urban Residents**

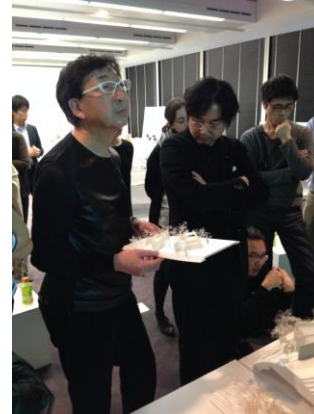
A Share House proposal for urban residents to enjoy holiday life with family and friends.

#### **Theme 3: Renewal of Ōyamazumi Shrine Approach Road**

Formerly bustling, this proposal is to rejuvenate the approach road leading to the historic shrine.



Presentation of student's works at Takenaka Corporation Headquarters Building.



Toyoo Ito, 2013 Pritzker Prize Winner, reviewing the Harvard GSD student's works.

## (3) AIA Japan Last Board Meeting of 2015 and Year-End Party

The last Board Meeting for AIA Japan in 2015 and Year-End Party was held on 9 December at the showroom/office of SHUKOH ONE in Aoyama. The venue was introduced to AIAJ by Marco Soranna of FIANDRE Japan, one of the Sponsors of AIA IR Kyoto Conference 2015.



Hisaya Sugiyama, AIA receives Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding service as former President & current Treasurer.



Jim Lambiasi, AIA receives Certificate of Appreciation for his long and outstanding service providing CES points for AIA Japan members.



Members and guests networking and enjoying Elio's Restaurant's Italian food Showroom/Office of SHUKOH ONE.



President-Elect George Kunihiro, FAIA commenting on student's presentation of AIAJ/JIA Study Program to the USA.



Ms. Siena Hirao, First Chairperson of AIA Students Japan Chapter.



Delicious Italian food catered by Elio's Restaurant, arranged by Matteo Belfiore, AIA Int'l Assoc.

## (4) AIA Japan Receives AIA Presidential Citation

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We are honored to receive the AIA Presidential Citation from Elizabeth Chu-Richter, FAIA, 2015 AIA National President, for our service in hosting the 2015 AIA International Region Conference in Kyoto, Japan.

The following quote from the citation reminds us about the meaning of volunteering, of which, all of you have so clearly understood and will continue to actively support in the future:

*"The very act of volunteering makes clear we are part of something larger than ourselves, to which we give our time to work for the good of what we freely elect as a noble enterprise. The reward of such selflessness is measured not in any coin, but in continuing dividends of gratitude for a job well done."*

