

A study on the social significance of architectural workshop

-A case study on a workshop of rammed earth-

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Key Words: *Architectural workshop, Collaborative activity, Natural materials, Rammed earth, Environmentally-friendly*

1. Purpose and Background of the Study

With the development of housings in the high-growth period of Japan, we have used industrial materials to build almost every house instead of natural materials. As a result we have given up building our house by ourselves and the collaborative activity of the community has been disappearing. In addition, we use the materials, which can't be returned to nature, for our houses, and most of the materials are eventually thrown into the fire. That also causes the global heating.

Recently, from the point of view of these environmental considerations, people reconsider about using natural materials for housings and architectural workshops are gradually become prevalent. These architectural workshops make us recall that we had built our houses by ourselves with the natural materials in the past and give us the chance of reconsider about our housings.

This study reveals significance and effect of the architectural workshops in the modern society which is not environmentally-friendly.

2. Method of the study

Summarize the effect of using the natural materials for housings and analyze the past architectural workshops with information from existing researches. And also introduce "Hands-on kind of workshop" as a new type of architectural workshop, then discuss about the worth of architectural workshop using examples from the workshop of rammed earth held in October 2013.

3. Conclusion

We can see and experience the process of the construction of our housings through the workshop and after that we can understand about housings in a deeper way by those architectural workshops.

We have many way of experience on the process of building houses but joining the hand-on kind of workshop may be the best way of thinking about modern society which lose the humane lives and making an improvement the contemporary state. It may also establish the true democracy by breaking away from the uniformed society.

And if we can make the social system that we can join to build our own house easily with natural materials which we can get locally by establishing the business enterprise like an incorporated non-profit organization, we can say that the workshops have big social significance.

Today, we have to think about sustainable society and need to reconsider about the value of natural materials. Therefore architectural workshops, especially hand-on kind of workshops, work well and we can keep our houses long time with emotional attachment and take over from generation to generation.

In such a modern society, we have few opportunities to make our own houses, so architectural workshops will be good chance of reconsider about our housings. And we have to pay attention to how hand-on kind of workshops will develop and respond to society's requests, and help the development of hand-on kind of workshops.

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