

Research on the Spatial Structure and Attractiveness of *Kyomachiya*-Renovated Cafe

Key Words: Spatial impression, Kyomachiya, Renovation, Cafe, floor layout

1. OBJECTIVES

This paper will mainly discuss the spatial structure inside of *kyomachiya*-renovated cafe (KRC), and reveal its attractiveness for both cafe users and shop keepers. It especially focuses on the unique characteristics not only “mood of Kyoto” or “traditional culture,” those are commonly recognized as *kyomachiya*'s value. It seems to be beneficial for the shop keepers to specify the shop originality based on its structural units which compose attractive floor layout. It will also help each one of them to differentiate from other KRCs. In addition, it will motivate people who have shop opening plans to choose and renovate *kyomachiya* by proving the structural advantages, in other words, substantial features which materialize their ideal shop concepts and lifestyles. It can be said that the conservation of *kyomachiya* will be encouraged by increase of KRC owner who will take a role of continual maintenance of the building.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This paper consists of three main researches; (i) Field survey of the structural units in KRCs, (ii) Analysis of the cafe user's spatial impression, and (iii) Consideration of the factors to use *kyomachiya* as a cafe and sometimes as a house from the standpoint of the shop keepers. First, it examines 52 KRCs in Kyoto city, and figures out the structural units of those, floor layout in particular. Second, it conducts a questionnaire to cafe users at four shops with different spatial structures based on the results of (i). It then analyzes attractiveness of the structural units and spatial impression by the multiple choice questions and also open ended questions. Regarding the benefits for the shop owners, it mainly asks their plans of rent hunting, renovation policies, and also shop concepts by interview with 42 shop keepers. It finally gives several considerations to the connection between their intentions and structural/spatial features of *kyomachiya* buildings.

3. RESULTS

First, the field survey shows that 70-80% shops have traditional floor layout such as *toriniwa* (earthen corridor), *tsuzukima* (adjoining rooms), and spot gardens. However, it hardly can be seen the original form and use of those, and nearly half of the shops mix modern style, open kitchen counter for instance, with the traditional structural units.

As a result of the questionnaire, *zashiki* (elevated Japanese style room) and spot garden have higher attractiveness than other structural units. It also shows that different spatial structure gives cafe users its own spatial impressions, and each of those is regarded as favorable characteristics. On the other hand, it is critical point that nobody feels “Kyoto” or “traditional.” These results suggest high possibility to enhance shop identity through the renovation process.

In shop keeper's point of view, 80% of them had not recognized *kyomachiya* itself, especially its image, as beneficial for their shop values until they first examined inside *the buildings*. Regardless of their concerns to make use of “*kyomachiya*,” the spatial structure and its traditional woody framework which is commonly regarded as “easy remodeling” are playing important roles to materialize their ideal shop concepts and lifestyles.

4. CONCLUSION

The original spatial and structural characteristics of *kyomachiya*, not only its abstract image, have possibilities for stimulating shop keepers to renovate it into their cafe shops and also residences. The various attractiveness of KRC are also created by the succession of those structural elements partly in new forms and combinations. It is expected that the further opportunities to inspect *kyomachiya* building and deepen its practical advantages will promote continual use.