Development of a Community Design House by Collaboration between the University and Residents A Case Study on Tsukishima Nagaya School

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Abstract

Community design is definitely spreading and collaboration between universities and residents is increasing. There are cases to establish a community design house and start up activities utilizing vacant facilities.

In 2013, the Center of Community program supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology started and cooperation between universities and residents has been increasing. However, there are few analytical reports about how community design houses develop by collaboration between universities and residents.

Shibaura Institute of Technology was chosen one of the Center of Community programs and opened the Tsukishima Nagaya School as a community design house in Tsukishima, Chuo-Ward, Tokyo, where the university and local residents started collaborative activities. The building is a traditional row-house built in 1926, which was renovated in 2003, combing two units of a row-house. Regional Design Laboratory of Shibaura Institute of Technology operates Nagaya School and handles its website to spread information.

When Chuo-Ward Community College was held in 2014, some participants of the *nagaya* (row-house) course remained and became resident members of Tsukishima Nagaya School. The 15 resident members played the role of helping students and developed projects that led to concrete results in Tsukishima. Resident members include volunteer town guides, translator, community newspaper editor, university professor, web designer etc.

Nagaya School has been operating for several years, and we pick up its activities in three years from January 2014 until December 2016, and classify them into nine categories such as Shibaura Institute of Technology Class, Public Lecture, Chat, Exchange, Project, English Class etc. In 2014, Nagaya School activities were mainly Shibaura Institute of Technology Class, Public Lecture, Chat and Research by a Student. In 2015, its activities developed to Project that were led to specific achievement, such as Alley Map, of which creation resulted in Exchange programs. In 2016, the Project program, such as the creation of the Guidebook triggered voluntary program of English Class by resident members.

This paper analyzed activities in three years of Nagaya School and specified the following four points. 1) The Chuo-Ward Community college triggers residents to join in Nagaya School. 2) Each of the resident members of Nagaya School has some peculiar skills such as translation, editing a community newspaper, administration of websites etc. 3) Nagaya School's activities develop from casual chats to specific projects with achievements such as Alley Map, led by suggestion and initiative of the Shibaura Institute of Technology professor and students. 4) Projects with achievement cause residents to voluntary activities, such as English Class. From these four points, we showed how to build and operate a community design house utilizing a historical dwelling, by collaboration between residents and universities.

Keywords: Community Design House, Tsukishima Nagaya School, Tsukishima

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1. Introduction

1-1.Background and Purpose

Community design is definitely spreading and collaboration between universities and residents is increasing. There are cases to establish community design houses and start up their activities by utilizing vacant facilities.

In 2013, the Center of Community[1] (COC) project supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(The Educational Ministry) started and cooperation between universities and residents has been increasing since.

However, there are few analytical reports about how community design houses develop by collaboration between universities and residents.

Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT) was chosen one of the COC programs and opened the Tsukishima Nagaya School[2] (Nagaya School) as a community design house in Tsukishima, Chuo-Ward, Tokyo, where SIT and local residents started their activities.

The purpose of this paper is to show how to build and operate a community design house by collaboration between universities and residents, utilizing a historical dwelling and analyzing three years activities of Nagaya School.

1-2.Methodology

Nagaya School has been operating for several years, and we pick up its activities in three years from January 2014 until December 2016. In chapter 2 we show the history of Tsukishima and the developing process of Nagaya School. In chapter 3 the overview of Nagaya School is described with details of its activities in these three years, followed by profiles and roles of the Nagaya School members. In chapter 4, we specify the development of activities by analyzing the number of activities in Nagaya School.

2. Tsukishima Nagaya School

2-1 Tsukishima

The map around Tsukishima and the location of Tsukishima Nagaya School are shown in Figure-1.

Tsukishima is located along the Sumida River, built in 1892 on land reclaimed from Tokyo Bay. In the beginning of the 20th century, many factories and warehouses were built in Tsukishima, and alleys (*roji*) and row-houses took shape of present day as the housing demand for workers increased. Tsukishima is also known for the town of *Monja-yaki*[1], and there are more than 70 *monja* restaurants on Nishinaka-Dori Shopping Street, which is a popular sightseeing spot.

As for the public transportation, Tsukishima has 2 lines of subway. In 1988, the Yurakucho subway line was built followed by the Toei Oedo line in 2000.

Tsukishima has greatly developed in past two decades, and currently, has 14 high-rise buildings, but the community also keeps some row-houses along the alleys, which preserve the traditional Japanese way of life.

2-2 Tsukishima Nagaya School

The plan and images of Nagaya School are shown in Figure-2.

The building is a traditional row-house built in 1926, and was renovated in 2003 combing two units of a row-house. It faces a street of 5.4 m wide and a small alley along the house. Nagaya School is a shared house. Its first floor is the office and Nagaya School and the second floor is a residence. It has an area of 9-*tatami*[2] (7.29 sq^2.m.), where SIT students and residents gather.
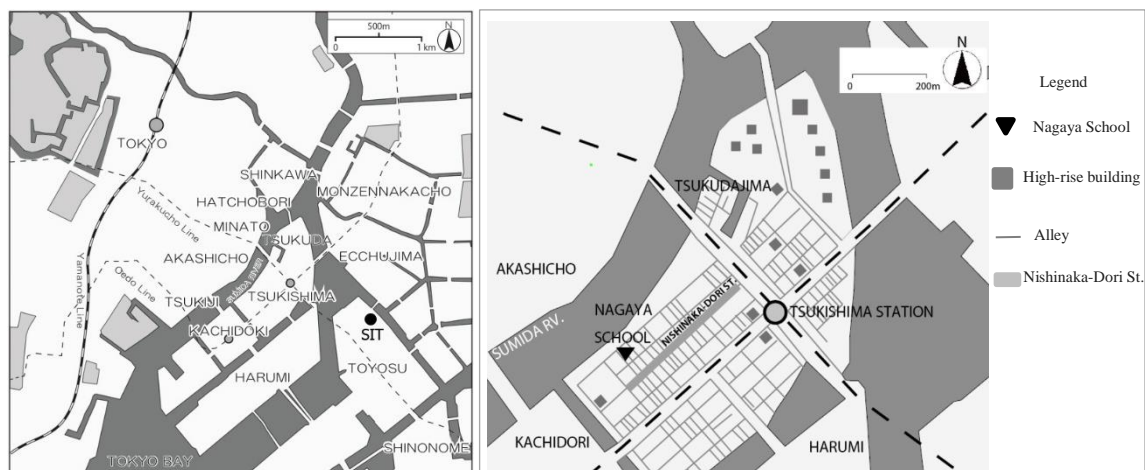
Figure-1. Tsukishima Map and location of Tsukishima Nagaya School

Nagaya School was established in October 2013, when SIT was designated as COC by the Educational Ministry. Regional Design Laboratory of SIT operates Nagaya School and handles the website to spread information. As of December 2016, Nagaya School has 15 active resident members.

Although most activities began in 2014, Tsukishima Alley Walking Map (Alley Map) had been presented in Japanese by the

Figure-2. Plan, Exterior and Interior of Nagaya School

SIT professor and students in 2011, which was translated in English by the help of Nagaya School members in 2015.

3. Activity in Nagaya School
3-1 Outline of Activities

Nagaya School's over-all activities in three years are shown in Table-1.

In 2014, most activities were related with SIT and the public lecture triggered Nagaya School to be held once a month. In 2015, nearly half of activities were Exchange programs and the SIT professor and students started making the Alley Map English version in collaboration with residents. In 2016, the main activity was making of Tsukishima Walking Guidebook (Guidebook) in English. Also some of the members started their own activity called Nagaya School English Class.

The number of activities has increased from 11 times in 2014, to 16 times in 2015, and 21 times in 2016. Within these of three years, while resident members grew from 11 to 15, 115 SIT students, and 167 people visited Nagaya School, and totally 522 people participated in the Nagaya School activities.

Table-1. Activities in three years of Nagaya School

Year	M/D	Activity Content	Category	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	I.	J.	K.	L.	M.	N.	O.	SIT Students	Professor	Overseas	Japanese	Other Participants	Total Participants
2014	1/11	New Year party and a seminar	SIT Class																13	◇			2	16
	1/27	SIT students had a seminar and presentation on the development of community.	SIT Class	●	●														9	◇				12
	5/12	SIT students had a class in Nagaya School.	SIT Class																28	◇				29
	5/24	The residents had a lecture on the development of community in Tsukishima.	Public lecture	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						◇			12	24
	5/31	Walking in Tsukishima	Public lecture	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						◇			12	24
	6/15	Members had a chat over snacks	Chat	●	●	●			●	●	●									◇			2	9
	7/19	Future plans and exchange of information on Tsukishima town.	Discussion	●	●	●			●	●		●		●						◇				8
	9/27	Prepared and planned the activities of Nagaya school.	Chat				●	●	●	●		●	●							◇				7
	10/19	Student's research	Research	●			●		●				●	●					1	◇				8
	11/23	Walking supported by a smarthphone	Research	●					●			●		●					1					5
	11/29	Walking supported by a smarthphone	Research	●					●			●						●	1				1	6
2015	2/20	A TV Show interview mainly about the 2020 Olympics	Exchange		●						●								2	◇			1	6
	3/7	Exchange information	Discussion	●	●				●			●	●											5
	3/24	An association group visited and exchange information about the 2020 Olympic.	Exchange								●								2	◇			7	11
	4/18	SIT students walked in Tsukishima and visited Nagaya School.	SIT Class																10	◇				11
	4/25	Exchanged views and discussied about the Alley Map Japanese/English versions.	Project		●	●	●		●	●		●	●						1					8
	5/8	Michigan University visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki*.	Exchange																4	◇	16			21
	5/23	California University visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki*.	Exchange																4	◇	4			9
	5/30	Resident members were informed about the contest.	Project		●					●	●									◇			11	15
	7/11	Resident members were informed about the award ceremony (Walk21)	Project	●	●		●		●			●	●							◇			2	9
	7/19	An accociation visited in Nagaya School, and the professor guided about Tsukishima and They ate *monjayaki*.	Exchange																	◇			24	25
	8/1	Sumiyoshi Shrine festival	Event	●			●		●			●							8	◇				13
	9/19	Members shared information about the NHK program	Chat	●	●				●							●	●						1	7
	10/11	Students praticted presentation in the Walk21	Project	●	●				●								●		3	◇				8
	10/12	Utah University visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki.*	Exchange	●	●		●		●			●	●				●		2	◇	16			19
	11/15	Students reported on their presentation in Walk21	Project	●	●		●		●				●				●		1	◇			1	9
	12/19	Meeting and discussion on the newspaper article about Tsukishima.	Discussion		●		●		●	●			●		●		●			◇			2	8
2016	1/23	Students made a presentation.	SIT Class				●		●						●				2	◇				8
	2/20	Members visited a newly renovated row-house	Chat				●			●		●					●			◇				5
	3/26	Members visited a newly renovated row-house	Chat	●	●		●			●						●				◇				6
	4/16	Ibaragi University visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki.*	Exchange						●										3	◇		7	2	14
	4/23	Students show a draft of Tsukishima Guidebook.	Project	●	●		●		●			●				●	●		1	◇				9
	4/23	Started English Class	English class				●		●		●					●								4
	5/3	Waseda University visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki.*	Exchange																	◇		19		20
	5/21	SIT Students walked in Tsukishima and visited Nagaya School.	SIT Class																9	◇				10
	5/28	Students presented the Guidebook and exchanged views with members.	Project		●				●	●	●					●	●		2	◇				8
	6/9	Read the Nagaya School website	English class	●	●		●		●		●					●	●							8
	6/25	Decided content and composition of Guidebook	Project	●	●				●										3	◇				6
	7/14	Read the English website of Nagaya School	English class		●	●	●		●								●		3					8
	7/30	Started English translation of Guidebook	Project	●	●	●	●		●			●				●	●			◇				9
	8/21	Tokyo Metropolitan visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki.*	Exchange																1	◇		15		17
	8/29	Washington University visited Nagaya School, walked in Tsukishima and ate *monja-yaki .*	Exchange						●										2	◇	10			13
	9/17	Students rehearsed presentation of Tsukishima Walking Guidebook for the conference (Walk21 in Hong kong)	Project		●	●			●		●								3	◇				7
	10/13	Read the Guidebook English version.	English class	●	●		●		●								●							5
	10/29	Students reported on the conference (Walk21 in Hong kong)	Project	●	●	●			●			●					●		2	◇				8
	11/10	Read the Guidebook English version.	English class	●	●		●		●								●		1					6
	11/26	The Thai student participated in Nagaya School for the first time and had a conversation with members.	Project	●	●		●		●						●	●			2	◇				10
	12/17	Students exchanged ideas based on the conference.	Project	●	●	●	●		●	●					●		●	●		◇				9
		Total number		26	29	11	22	4	33	10	7	15	12	6	2	8	17	2	115	38		167		522

Legend) ● :Members participated, ◇ :Professor participated, Numbers: a numbers of participated

3-2 Categories of Activities

Nagaya School had many kinds of activities in three years. Table-2 shows the categories of activities.

①SIT Class

Some classes of Architecture Department were held at Nagaya School. The topic was the development of community and city planning. After the lecture, students were able to walk around Tsukishima. The learning outside the classrooms is a chance for students to gain some extra experiences and knowledges in the real situation. Students understand more about living culture from alleys and row-houses.

②Public Lecture

Sometimes lectures were provided by the SIT professor for local residents and Nagaya School members. The topic was the development of community design in Tsukishima. After finishing the indoor lecture, the participants had a tour in Tsukishima, including a river cruise by ship.

③Chat

Nagaya School members do not have only meetings and discussions, but also casual chats while they enjoy tea or coffee with snacks. This is one of the relaxed moments for them, and sometimes after the meeting, they go to a *monja-yaki* restaurant near Nagaya School to have dinner together.

④Research by a Student

The 4th year student from SIT studied "walking the town by using smarthphone" in Tsukishima. Resident members helped and gave advice to the student. They had an experimental walk in Tsukishima by using a map on the smarthphone.

⑤Discussion

Resident members share various topics of Tsukishima. They choose what they are most interested in and exchange opinions. Topics range from issues about community in Tsukishima to the 2020 Olympics, etc.

⑥Exchange

In February 2015, Nagaya School started exchange programs with outside groups. Most of the visitors are Japanese and foreign students, while some of them are from Japanese companies. Nagaya School members provided guided-tours around Tsukishima to visitors.

⑦Event

The Sumiyoshi Shrine's grand festival is held every three years in Tsukudajima[3] and Tsukishima. The SIT professor and students and Nagaya School members join in this festival, during which Nagaya School becomes their station.

⑧Project

The SIT professor and students and Nagaya School members work together on projects. The first occasion was the creation of the Alley Map English version. The second project was Guidebook. Both projects received a good feedback from Walk21 conferences (in Vienna Austria[4] and in Hong Kong[5]) and participants of Tsukishima walking tours.

⑨English Class

After the exchange programs in 2015, more universities and overseas students visited Nagaya School. One of the members offered English classes in Nagaya School to improve their English skill and to have firm knowledge on Tsukishima. The members read English articles of the Nagaya School website and the Guidebook English version in the class.

3-3 Main Achievements

Alley Map and Guidebook are shown in Figure-3.

In October 2015, the Alley Map English version was created by collaboration between SIT and resident members. This project won the Walking Visionaries Awards Voting Prize in Vienna, Austria. As a result, from 2015 Nagaya School started to receive plenty of visitors from foreign countries, including Michigan University, California University and Utah University. In October 2016, they also created the Guidebook English version and joined Walk21 conference in Hong Kong.

Table-2. Categories of activities

Category	Content	Picture of activity	Date	Activity
SIT class	Some classes of Architecture Department were held at Nagaya School.The topic was the development of community and city planning. After the lecture, students were able to walk around Tsukishima.		2014 12 May	SIT students had a lecture in Nagaya School. The topic was the development of community. This was a great chance for students to learn outside the classroom.
Public lecture	The lectures were provided by the SIT professor for residents and Nagaya School members. The topic is the development of community design in Tsukishima.		2014 31 May	The Professor from SIT gave a lecture to the residents in Tsukishima. Then they walked around allies of Tsukishima and cruised on the Sumida River along the Tsukishima island.
Chat	This is one of the relaxing moments for resident members. In the early stage of Nagaya School, chat was the usual activity.		2014 15 June	Members discuss and exchange views about publication of a local magazine.
Research by a Student	An SIT student studied on "walking the town by using a smartphone" in Tsukishima.		2014 19 Oct	The undergraduate student had an experimental walk in Tsukishima by using a map on the smartphone and received advice from resident members.
Discussion	The discussion topics range from city planning to local issues, including how to improve Nagaya School. Resident members join this activity and exchange views.		2015 19 Dec	Resident members and the professor discussed about local issues of the Tsukishima community. After the discussion, they had a New Year party in the restaurant near Nagaya School.
Exchange	This activity is open to Japanese and foreign students, along with Japanese companies who are interested in a tour in Tsukishima		2015 11Oct	Students from Utah University received a warm welcome from the Nagaya School members. The members guided visitors for survey in Tsukishima. After the tour, they had *monja-yaki*.
Event	The Sumiyoshi Shrine's grand festival is held every three years in Tsukuda and Tsukishima.		2015 1 Aug	During the Sumiyoshi shrine festival, Nagaya School becomes their station. Students and members get together and strengthen their spirit of team work through the festivity.
Project	Projects are worked out by collaboration between students and resident members. From this activity, they achieve specific results such as Alley Map and Walking Guidebook.		2016 15June	The students and members discussed the composition and contents of the Tsukishima Walking Guidebook Japanese version.
English Class	This program is provided by resident members. Its purpose is to improve English skill of Nagaya School members.		2016 23Apr	Resident members started to have English Class. The first class was held in April 2016. Their texts were the English website of Nagaya School and Guidebook.

Alley Map   Walking Guidebook

Figure-3. Alley Map and Walking Guide Book

3-4 Nagaya School Members

Nagaya School has 15 resident members, and their profiles are listed in Table-3.

They are four men and eleven women. Some of the members live in Tsukishima, but the rest are from the other areas. One of the members was born in Tsukishima. The types of the residence where members live are different, most of them live in condominiums and only three members live in independent family houses. More than half of the members are above 60 years old.

Nagaya School had 11 original resident members, and every year new members joined and the number of Nagaya School member became 15 by 2016. They played a role to help students and developed projects with achievement in Tsukishima. Resident members include volunteer town guides, former magazine editor, Chuo-Ward media reporter, translator, canoe club member, former theater member, architect, music school president, community newspaper editor, university professor, web designer and housewives.

For example, B. was born in Tsukishima and has lived in this area for 80 years in an independent family house in the corner of a *nagaya* row. He is a person who has seen how Tsukishima has changed all these years. He knows the history of Tsukishima inside-out and teaches it to SIT students. He is a volunteer town guide, who guides and gives information on Tsukishima to many visitors and foreign students who visit Nagaya School.

F. is a pianist and a translator of English, Chinese and Japanese as well in her 60s. She supported SIT to make the Alley Map and Guidebook English version. She is the leader of English Class of Nagaya School.

M. is a community newspaper editor in his 60s. He lives in an independent family house in the other area. He became a Nagaya School members in 2015. He writes ads and articles of events and activities of Nagaya School on the community newspaper for promoting Nagaya School to the local community.

N. is a university professor and in her 60s. She lives in the other area but owns a row house in Tsukishima. She attended in Nagaya School first time in September 2015 and joined the English Class of Nagaya School.

Table-3.Resident Members Profile.

Name	Sex		Age						Resident Address			Type of accomodation		Personal Profile	Original member	Consentrative activity				Note
	Female	Male	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	Tsukishima	Chuo Ward	Other	Apartment	Single-house			Discussion	Alley Map	Guidebook	English class	
A.		●						○		●		○		Volunteer town guide	◇	●	●	●		
B.		●						○	●				○	Volunteer town guide, born in Tsukishima.	◇	●	●	●	●	
C.	●				○				●			○		Hospital doctor, living in Tsukuda over 30 years	◇	●		●		Share snacks and drinks
D.	●				○					●		○		Chuo-ku media reporter	◇	●	●	●	●	
E.	●					○			●			○		Housewife	◇	●				
F.	●				○				●			○		Pianist,Translator (English,Chinese, Japanese)	◇	●	●	●	●	
G.	●				○					●		○		Housewife	◇	●				
H.	●			○					●			○		Canoe club member	◇	●				
I.	●				○					●		○		Former theater actress, volunteering reading picture books for children.	◇	●	●	●		
J.	●			○						●		○		Architect	◇	●				
K.	●					○			●			○		Housewife	◇	●				
L.	●				○				●			○		Music school president		●				
M.		●			○						●		○	Community newspaper editor		●		●		Appeal Nagaya School
N.	●				○						●	○		University Professor		●		●	●	
O.		●	○						●				○	Web designer		●				Administer the website
	11	4	1	4	5	3		2	9	4	2	12	3							

Legend) ●:Sex, Resident address and Consentrative activity, ○ :Age and Type of house, ◇ :original member

4. Development of Activities

The number of activities in Nagaya School for three years is shown in Figure-4.

In 2014, Nagaya School was mainly used for SIT Class, Public Lecture, Chat and Research by a Student.

In 2015, activities of Project, which earned specific achievement, such as Alley Map increased and the creation of Alley Map was led to Exchange programs.

Figure-4. Number of activities in Nagaya School for three years.

In 2016, the Project program such as the creation of Guidebook triggered voluntary English Class by resident members.

During these three years, main activities were SIT Class and Chat in 2014, but from 2015, they shifted to Project and Exchange which required collaboration between SIT and residents. The development of activities proved collaboration between SIT and resident members initiated a variety of activities.

5. Conclusion

This paper has analyzed activities in three years of Nagaya School and specified the following four points.

1.) The course of Chuo-Ward Community College triggers residents to join in Nagaya School.
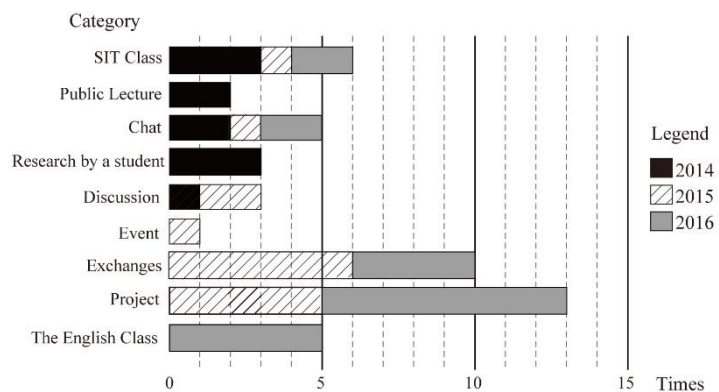2.) Each of the resident members of Nagaya School has some peculiar skills such as translation,

editing of the community newspaper, administration of websites etc.
3.) Nagaya School's activities developed from casual chats to projects with achievements such as Alley Map, led by suggestion and initiative of the SIT professor and students.
4.) Projects with achievement lead Nagaya School members to voluntary activities such as English class.

From these four points we showed how to build and operate a community design house utilizing a historical dwelling by collaboration between residents and university.

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our project advisor and the resident members of Nagaya School for guidance and advices to our study on the Nagaya School project.

Notes

1) *Monja-yaki* is a popular Japanese food (thin batter with ingredients fried on the table-top grill.)
2) A *tatami* is a type of mat used as a flooring material in traditional Japanese-style rooms. The standard size is 0.9 meters wide and 1.8 meters length.
3) Tsukudajima used to be fisherman's town next to Tsukishima.
4) Walk21 in 2015 (Vienna Austria): the conference that SIT students attended with the Alley Map English version.
5) Walk21 in 2016 (Hong Kong): the conference that SIT students attended with the Walking Guidebook English version.

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