

Research Project on the Urban Landscape in Shinjuku, Tokyo

-Exchange Presentation with Chulalongkorn University-

Urban Design Laboratory
Department of Urban Engineering,
Graduate School of Engineering,
The University of Tokyo



Background

- The landscape law was enforced in December 2004.

It is ...

- >>the first basic law on landscape in Japan.
- >>setting basis of landscape ordinances.
- >>targeted for every areas, not only historical or downtowns but also general urban areas.
- >>giving several menus for ordinances which each municipality can customize according to its situation.



Background

- Preparation of future **Landscape Plan** of Shinjuku City

Shinjuku city, known as a progressive municipality, intend to make advanced landscape plan based on the landscape law.



Urban Design Lab carry out basic research on landscape for the plan.

“Research Project on the Urban Landscape”

Outline of **Shinjuku City**, Tokyo

- The **subcenter** of Tokyo Metropolis
(The seat of the Tokyo metropolitan government)
- One of **the most busy downtowns** of Tokyo
(Around Shinjuku station; the largest terminal in Japan)
- Including **suburban residential area**
- Locating in **fringe area of Edo**
(old Tokyo)
- History of **lodging town** along
Kosyu-kaido (old main road)



Viewpoint of the research

Read the **Context** of the urban space

...From the standpoint of modern rationalism, with its reverence for clarity, it is truly difficult to form an overall picture of Tokyo's urban space. (ab.)

...And yet, **walking the streets of the city, one is treated to repeated changes in the cityscape.**

There is unexpected variety in the topography, with the high city's hills and cliffs, winding roads, shrine groves, and large, verdant estates; and the low city's canals and bridges, alleyways and storefront planter pots, and crowded entertainment centers. For the walker in Tokyo, the unexpected is always waiting. **Tokyo may not have the old buildings of New York, but each place evokes a distinctive atmosphere nurtured over a history: this makes Tokyo what it is.**



Hidenobu JINNAI (1985)
"Tokyo -A spatial Anthropology-"

Transition of Tokyo urban area after Edo period



Land use in Edo (old Tokyo)

- site for the samurai
= 60%
- site for merchants and
craftsmen
= 20%
- site for temples and
shrines
= 20%

Map of Edo (old Tokyo)
- Kobun period (1844-1848)

Transition of Tokyo urban area after Edo period

>>Most of frames of the present streets were formed in Edo period.

Hongo 1856 (The end of Edo period)



Hongo 2005



Transition of Tokyo urban area after Edo period

Expansion of Tokyo

Edo~Meiji period
(~1912)



After Kanto
Earthquake (1923~)



After High Economic Growth: commuting area
(1970~)



Process of the research

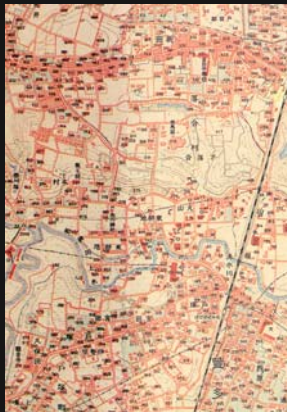
1. Research of old maps and literatures on local history (revealing old land use, formation process of streets, important facilities, old scenery etc.)
2. Research of the situation on urban planning
3. Field survey
4. Collection of "Landscape Resources"
5. Revealing the Landscape Structure
6. Making visions and policies for future landscape

Comparison of maps of different period

Ochiai 1910



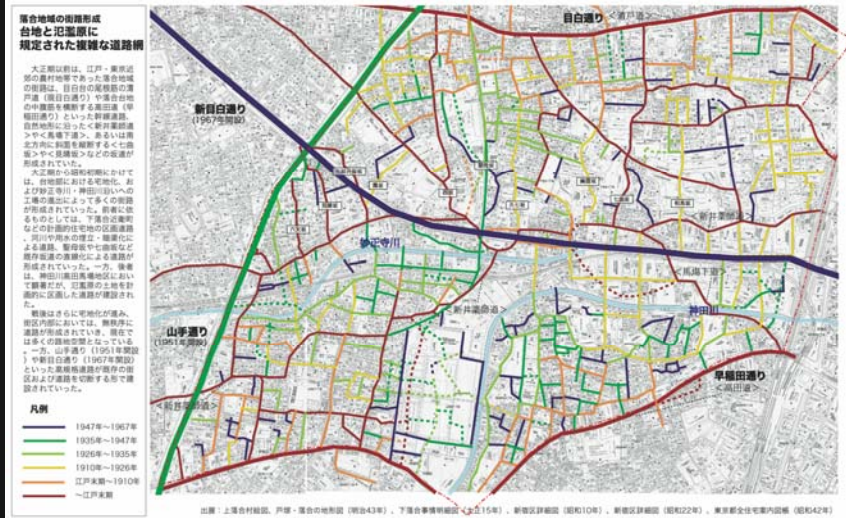
Ochiai 1923



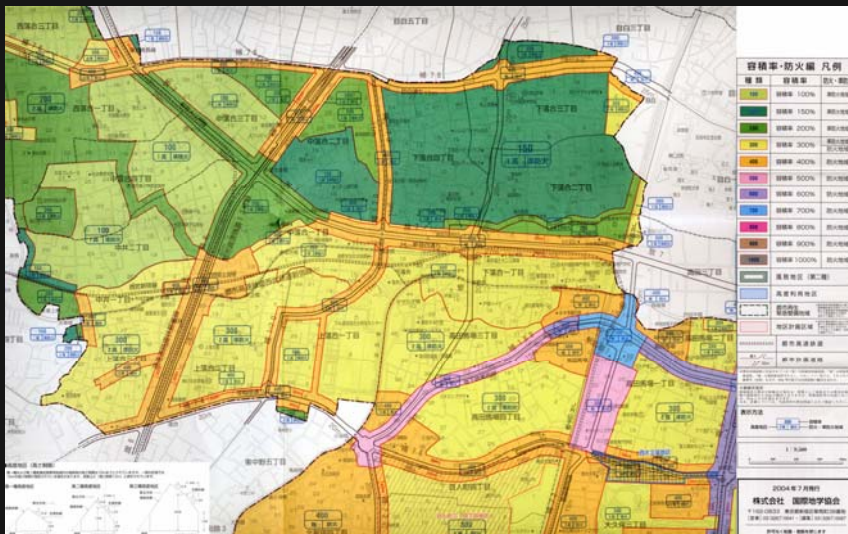
Ochiai 1940



Process of formation of streets



Zoning



Transition of landscape

Kagurazaka-shita



Field survey



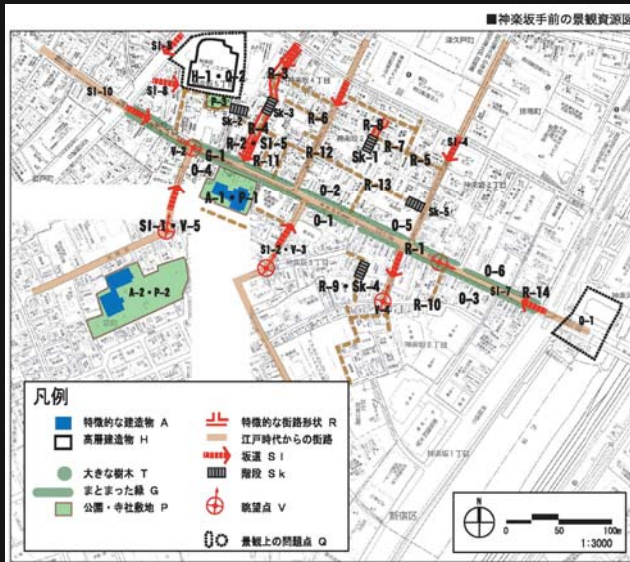
>>experience scenes

>>understand identity of the landscape

>>pick up "landscape resources"

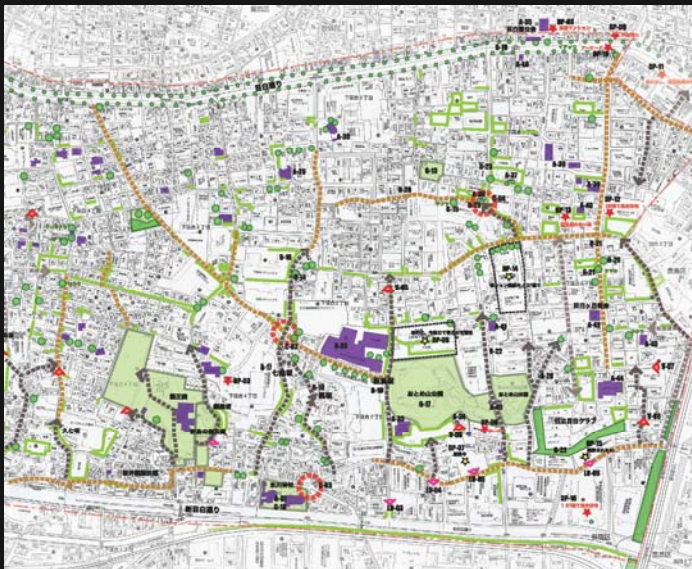
Landscape resources

Map of "Landscape Resources" in Kagurazaka



Landscape resources

Map of "Landscape Resources" in Shimo-Ochiai



Landscape resources

● Green/Open Space



Tree



Hedge/Garden Tree



Park



Temple



Shrine

Landscape resources

● Street



Slope/Stairs



Cross point



alleyway

● Others



architecture

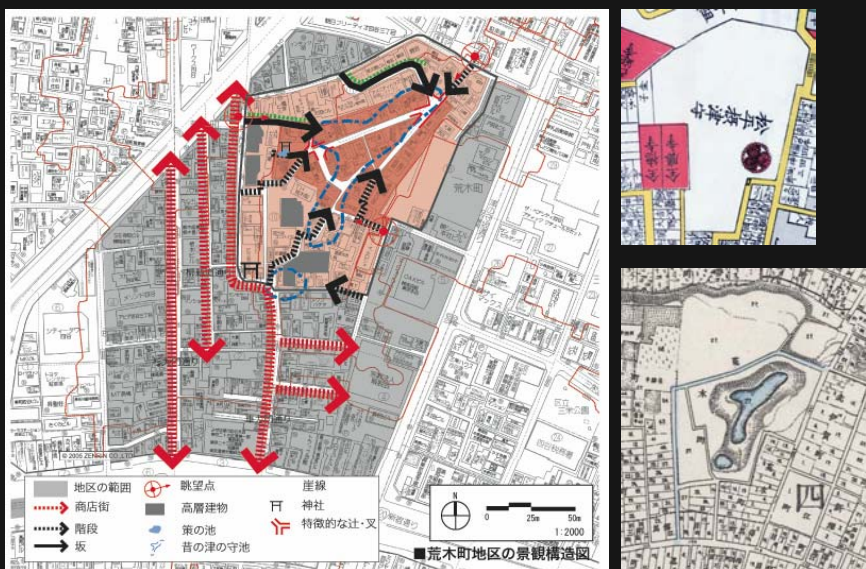


Important view

Landscape structure : Ushigome-dai



Landscape structure : Araki-cho



Conclusion

1. Every place in a city has its own history and spatial identity, regardless of its age. And it is possible to “read” context of the place in terms of landscape.
2. As well as preserving historical landscape, reinforcing characteristics of the landscape is important.
3. It is not easy to set some spheres which is considered to have the same identity of landscape.
4. It is disputable what should be the identity of the landscape.

