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Proposal for Sanart Conference in Ankara, May 2002

The Settlement Movement in Japan in the early 1920's

The Settlement movement that had begun with the founding of Toynbee Hall in a slum area of London in 1884, soon spread to the United States, and finally reached to Japan in the 1890's. At that time, Japan's economy was rapidly growing. By the end of the nineteenth century, agriculture provided less than half the national product as the share of manufacturing increased steadily. Industrialization concentrated labor in the cities. Its side effect was the increase in urban poverty and miseries of squalid housing, ill health, among other related problems. It was in 1897 when Sen Katayama, a pioneering social worker of Japan, who had observed the settlement movement in Britain and the United States, established Kingsley Hall in Tokyo, one of the first settlement houses in Japan.

After the Great Earthquake of 1923, some professors and students of Tokyo Imperial University founded Tokyo Teikoku Daigaku Settlement. It was the first university settlement in Japan. In 1928, it was followed by Kanto Gakuin Settlement established by the College of Social Service Administration of Kanto Gakuin in Yokohama. Before these university settlements, however, there was a noteworthy settlement house in Osaka. It was the Kita-shimin-kan founded by Osaka city in 1921.

Academic Biography

Studied at Kyoto Institute of Technology and its Graduate School, 1971-1977

Studied at Osaka City University Graduate School, 1977-1983

Fulbright Scholar at Yale University and SUNY Buffalo, 1979-81

Government of Canada Fellow at Toronto University, 1983-84

Research Associate at Kyoto Institute of Technology, 1984-1989

Associate Professor at Kyoto Institute of Technology, 1989-1998

Guest Professor at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 1997

Associate Professor at Osaka University Graduate School of Letters, 1998-2002

Professor at Osaka University Graduate School of Letters, 2002-

Major Publication (Books):

H. Fujita, William Morris, Tokyo, 1996

H. Fujita, Design Theory and History of Modern Japan, Kyoto, 1999

H. Fujita, J. M. W. Turner, Tokyo, 2001

Design History Forum (H. Fujita, Chief Editor), A History of Japanese and Western Design;
Exchange and Influence, Kyoto, 2001