

Fukuoka City: towards a City of Beauty and Character

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Summary: Since the enactment of the Landscape Act in 2004, landscape administration of local governments in Japan has changed from the previous system based on local ordinances, to the new one based on the Landscape Act. With this change, city governments all over Japan have formulated landscape plans. In 1987 the Fukuoka City landscape ordinance was introduced, and at that time a basic landscape development plan was created. Since the enactment of the Landscape Act, Fukuoka City has promoted the expression “Urban development with beauty and character befitting Fukuoka City,” and has furthermore developed the Fukuoka City Landscape Plan. This paper offers proposals on an approach to “the creation of a city with beauty and character” from the point of view of the people of Fukuoka City through an analysis of the content of measures for this expression given in the Fukuoka City Master Plan and the current landscape situation, citing examples from a city advanced in this field.

Keywords: Fukuoka City, urban landscape, elements of landscape, developing a good landscape, landscape plan

1. Introduction

“Grand Design Fukuoka 2011” outlines measures and projects on which Fukuoka City has been focusing in the period between 2008 and 2011. This design shows three points for urban development over the four years: “Fukuoka: a city where children grow up healthily with full smile,” “Fukuoka: an environmentally-friendly city where both citizens and businesses care about the environment,” “Fukuoka: a center of exchange in Kyushu and Asia¹⁾.”

Among the aims described above, in order to realize the second one, Fukuoka City is promoting the creation of (1) a compact green city that co-exists with the environment, and (2) a city of beauty and character. To achieve these ends, the city will provide itself with beauty and character using historical and regional characteristics. Other measures will be also taken as follows: preserving its abundant natural environs such as those of Hakata Bay, Mt. Aburayama and Mt. Sefuri; greening the seaside, riverside areas, urban areas, and arterial roads of the city together with its citizens; and making the best use of accumulated know-how in landscapes, human resources, etc.

How in detail are (1) and (2) above described in “Grand Design Fukuoka 2011”? Items (1) and (2) are in Policy Target 7 of “Grand Design Fukuoka 2011,” “becoming a beautiful city in harmony with comfort, housing, and employment,” which analyzes the current situation and describes the issues and directions of its efforts. The analysis points out that there are problems in the areas of the ratio of green space to total space, which has not achieved stated targets, anti-social behavior such as illegal car and bicycle parking and littering, and also the need to coordinate higher buildings with historical landscapes, while the city aims at “urban development of beauty and character by fully using the sea and history.” Based on the analysis and problems raised above, the city should take specific measures. For example, “considering ways to resolve problems in urban parks,” “developing urban landscapes and a circuit-style environment,” and “developing a good landscape in the Gokusho area by making full use of available approaches.” The directions of measures to resolve each issue has been given by the city, as indicated above, however, in concrete terms the efforts required to create “a city with beautiful landscapes” for the city as a whole city have not been announced.

The Landscape Act, the first ever law enacted in Japan with the objective of developing good urban and rural landscapes, was enacted in 2004. Simultaneously, other laws including the Urban Green Space Conservation Act, and the Outdoor Advertisement Act were revised. These three laws are referred to as the “three landscape acts.” Furthermore, the department related to parks and green spaces in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) was deliberately reorganized into the Parks, Green Spaces and Landscape Division to implement comprehensive measures to develop good landscapes. Japan did not prepare for a law to define landscape and establish rules until July 2003 when MLIT outlined the “Beautiful Country” initiative²⁾. This delay was caused by the idea that “landscape” was dependent on individual personal values and views.

The Act provides a legal basis for landscape administration, which was previously based on local government ordinance. Since the Landscape Act was enacted, efforts such as formulating landscape plans and designating landscape planning areas have increased all over Japan. As a result, MLIT revealed that 392 local governments were regarded as landscape administrative organizations and 163 of them had formulated landscape plans as of the end of March 2009. Having said that, only 27 landscape planning areas had been designated by the City Planning Act, which can be used to restrict land use. It is necessary for all parties concerned to reach a consensus when designating any area as landscape planning area. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that the fact that there were just 27 areas is due to the time that is needed to reach such a consensus. In the future, it is expected that more and more areas will be designated as landscape planning areas in order to realize “beautiful communities.”

This paper discusses an approach to “the creation of a city of beauty and character” in the future, by taking into account the current situation.

2. Current situation surrounding landscapes in Fukuoka City

2.1 Elements of landscapes of Fukuoka City

First of all, this section focuses on an outline of landscape. On the one hand, Article 2 of the Landscape Act states basic philosophy: good landscapes are essential to “building a beautiful and dignified land, creating an attractive and comfortable living environment.” In view of the fact that good landscapes play a significant role in promoting “tourism and other interregional exchange,” every effort should be made to create and conserve good landscapes. On the other hand, while Article 7 defines terms used in the Act, it does not define what “good landscapes” are. In part this is because it is difficult to define a good landscape uniformly, and as stated in both Articles 2 (2) and (3), a good landscape of an area is closely related to the particular characteristics of that area such as its nature, history, and culture. The other reason is that personal judgment of a landscape seems too subjective and dependent on sensitivity. Considering the purpose of the Landscape Act, good landscapes and the beauty of Fukuoka City need to be defined not only through selection of history, nature, and culture, but also through urban infrastructure such as roads and rivers. Therefore, initially, not only history and nature but also roads and rivers should be taken into consideration when extracting elements of landscapes in Fukuoka City.

(1) Historical landscapes in Fukuoka City

While Fukuoka City’s history goes back to the Jomon Era (around the 145th century B.C. to the 10th century A.D.); it would be more appropriate in terms of landscapes, to regard the Early Yayoi Era (around the middle of the 10th century B.C. to the middle of the 3 century A.D.) as its beginning because of the discovery of sites dating back to the period, including Itazuke, Kanenokuma, and Yoshitake-Takagi.

Although these sites from the Yayoi Era with high value in terms of archaeology are - mainly Itazuke site (Photo 1), the oldest so-far-discovered rice-cultivating village in Japan - preserved in many cases as historical parks, they may not be of significant value from the view point of landscape.

Of course, it is possible that sites dating from both the Yayoi and Jomon Eras - the Nakahachiman site or Imajuku sites - could be made full use of as tourism resources. It was in the Wa Era (5th to 7th centuries) when

Fukuoka City appeared in history once again. Shikanoshima Island - along with Uminonakamichi, a peninsula connecting Shikanoshima Island to mainland Fukuoka - is an important element of Fukuoka City in terms of a natural landscape not only as a historical site but also as a symbol of the city (Photo 2). The island is famous as being the site where the Kin-in or gold seal was excavated. The seal bears characters that are read: “Kan no Wa no Na no Kokuo (king of the Na state of the Wa [vassal] of Han Dynasty).” Furthermore, the island is also well known for being admired the most frequently as a place in “Manyoshu (The Anthology of Myriad Leaves)” compiled in the 8th century.

Moreover, in the late Kofun Period, Kanke - a foreign exchange office - was established in Nanotsu, Fukuoka City. Korokan, an ancient guest house for foreign diplomats, was built in the Heian Period (794 - 1185). Currently, the Fukuoka City Board of Education is conducting an archaeological investigation in the area around the latter, which has become a part of Maizuru Park.

In the Heian Period, firstly, Kashii Shrine was built in dedication to both Emperor Chuai and Empress Jingu (Photo 3). The *furosui*, or “water of perpetual youth,” that springs out in the precincts of the shrine, was selected as one of the 100 best water sources in Japan by the Ministry of the Environment, and the legendary camphor trees there are said to have been planted by the empress.

Furthermore, Hakozaki Shrine was founded in 923, with a view to the threat of Shinra (present-day Korea) and to the trade with China. Hakata enjoyed prosperity because Tairano Kiyomori, the leader of the Heike Clan designated Hakata Port as base of Japan-China trade in the late Heian Period when Kushida Shrine was built. The Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival is said to originate from the legend that the founder of Shotenji Temple scattered sacred water on the streets to rid Hakata of a plague. The climax of the festival is a float race known as Oiyama, which starts from the shrine (Photo 4).



Photo 1 Itazuke site (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 2 Uminonakamichi Seaside Park and Shikanoshima Island (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 3 Kashii Shrine (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 4 Final float race (Oiyama float race) (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)

In the Kamakura Period (1185 - 1333), the Gokusho area became a center of international trade and cultural exchanges in Hakata because of several famous institutions such as Shofukuji Temple established by the founder of the Japanese Zen sect, Yosai, in 1195, and Jotenji Temple (Photo 5) founded by a high ranking monk, Hoichi Kokushi, in 1242. Remarkably, the area escaped damage from World War II and still retains historic landscapes.

In order to prepare for a possible Mongolian invasion, stone fortifications called Genkoubourui were built in the Hakata Bay area, where the ruins still exist, mainly in the Imazu area. It seems to the author that they are hardly an embodiment of Fukuoka City landscape despite the fact that they are an invaluable historical heritage.

It is widely known that the Taiko-machi-wari (Figure 1), land readjustment ordered by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, general and politician of the Sengoku Era (mid 15th century to early 17th century), formed the basis of Fukuoka's urban development in modern times. He ordered feudal lords and military commanders like Josui Kuroda and Mitsunari Ishida to reconstruct the then war-devastated Hakata. This process was based on ten or more *nagare*³⁾, or avenues, which formed a framework for the city. Hakata-bu, as it is known today including Kawabata-machi (town), Gofuku-machi, Reizen-machi and Naraya-machi, consists of these avenues. In fact, the local teams that carry the floats called Kakiyamakasa in the Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival originate from these *nagare*. Hakata-bu was badly damaged during World War II and then rebuilt by a war-damage land adjustment scheme during the post-war years. While there was an extensive reorganization of the road structure, in which a significant number of *nagare* are, with a change in size, incorporated in the city's current road system. In fact, the history of these *nagare* running north-south and east-west date back to the Taiko-machi-wari (land readjustment). Doi-machi Nagare, Nishi-machi Nagare, Gofuku-machi Nagare, Higashi-Nagare are examples of the former; Shin-machi Nagare, Ishido Nagare, Uo-machi Nagare of the latter. Today, the area has a number of mid-to-high-rise buildings and is not what it used to be, except for Ishido Nagare where several Hakata-*machiya* - urban houses built in the Meiji and Taisho Periods around the turn of 20th century - still exist. In the author's view, the state of the *nagare* should be considered in the future.

In 1600 Nagamasa Kuroda, the first son of Josui Kuroda, succeeded his predecessor Hideaki Kobayakawa, the nephew of Hideyoshi Toyotomi, as lord of Najima Castle in Higashi Ward, Fukuoka City as it is known today. The following year, Nagamasa Kuroda started constructing Fukuoka castle in the then Fukuzaki, Kego-mura (village) currently Chuo Ward - founding a castle town. Only limited sections of the *ohori* (moat) surrounding Fukuoka Castle remain in Ohori Park and the castle ruins. The road structure from the time, mainly Showa-dori Ave., Watanabe-dori Ave., and Meiji-dori Ave., have remained intact through the war-damage reconstruction efforts. Fukuoka Castle Ruins and Ohori Park are indispensable when it comes to thinking about Fukuoka's landscapes.

Since the Meiji Era (1868 - 1912) several undertakings have contributed to the city's development. One of the most important examples is the success in attracting the newly established Kyushu University in 1911. The university is constructing its New Campus (Ito Campus) in an area spanning the Motooka/Kuwabara district in Fukuoka City's Nishi Ward, Maebaru City, and Shima-machi. It will relocate and integrate its Hakozaiki, Ropponmatsu and



Photo 5 Jotenji Temple (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Figure 1 Gokusho area map around 1800 annotated by author (Source: reference³⁾)



Figure 2 Map of Fukuoka castle town and its suburbs around 1800 (Source: reference³⁾)

Haru-machi campuses there. The Hakozaki Campus, with historical architecture such as the Engineering Main Building (Photo 6) and Headquarters Main Building, will continue to be a crucial factor for historical landscape in the city, even after the university will have completed its relocation and integration.

(2) Natural landscapes in Fukuoka City

Fukuoka City faces the Genkai Sea to the north and embraces Hakata Bay along a coastal line from Uminonakamichi, Shikanoshima Island, Ikinomatsubara to Itoshima Peninsula. The shape of the coastal line looks like a crane with its wings spreading out (Photo 7). This area was referred to as the “eight beautiful pine groves” (matsubara) in Chikuzen (former name of the area), which included Chiyonomatsubara, Ikinomatsubara, Shikanomatsubara and Natamatsubara, and is still famous for its scenic beauty. The majority of the area has been designated either as urbanization control districts or as quasi-national parks, therefore, development is severely restricted and the natural beauty of the area will be preserved into the future.

However, former pine groves were lost due to the development of port facilities on land reclaimed along Hakata Bay from Island City to Nishi Park (Photo 8). Within the area of reclaimed land, pine groves have revived only in Gigyo and Momochi mainly through the efforts of Hakata-yume-matsubara-no-kai, a non-profit organization (NPO) (Photo 9). The challenge is how we will restore and create natural landscape in the area in the future.

Mountain areas surrounding Fukuoka City, such as Mt. Aburayama and Mt. Sefuri in the south of the city or Mt. Mikazuki in the east, are not only places for citizen’s relaxation recreation for instance Mt. Aburayama Citizens’ Forest but also precious resources for green landscape. Mt. Aburayama, where once there were a large number of temples, has a rich natural environment with a wide variety of seasonal plants including cherry blossom, azalea, and maple. From several observation points on the mountain, one such point being marked by a pair of rocks, one large and one small, the entire city can be overlooked. Furthermore, Mt. Tachibana in the Mt. Mikazuki area is the northernmost place where camphor trees grow naturally. The species of virgin camphor trees in the forest on the mountain is designated as a protected species by the government. During the Sengoku Era, a castle was founded on Mt. Tachibana, becoming a center of battle in several wars⁴⁾. The two mountain areas in the south and east of the city are along with Hakata Bay, an important part of the character of the city.

Looking at urban areas of the city, two representative natural landscapes are Ohori Park (Photo 10) and Maizuru Park, which have historical landscape elements as mentioned above.



Photo 6 Engineering Main Building, Kyushu University
(Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)

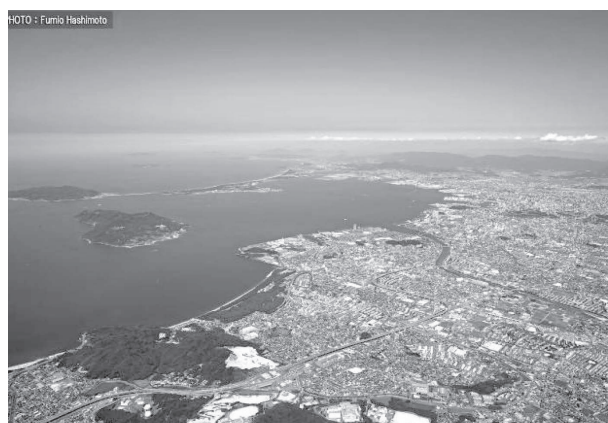


Photo 7 Panoramic view of Fukuoka City
(Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)

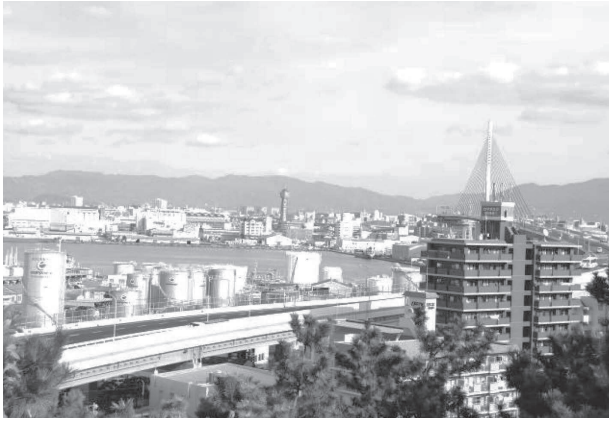


Photo 8 View towards Hakata Bay from Nishi Park



Photo 9 View from Mt. Atago



Photo 10 Ohori Park (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 11 Hakozaiki Shrine (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 12 Ribbon Citeo Nakagawa

Moreover, in areas around the two parks there are natural green landscapes such as Minami Park, Nishi Park, Fukuoka Gokoku Shrine, and Mt. Konosu. In spring, both Ohori and Maizuru Parks are places well known as beautiful cherry blossom viewing spots in Fukuoka City. Scenery in all of these areas is preserved because they are designated as scenic districts, and the construction of buildings is severely restricted in order to maintain urban scenery by the City Planning Act. The problem is to what extent these areas bordering urban scenic districts should be preserved in respect of maintaining landscape resources.

The same issue is likely to come up in areas bordering both Kashii Shrine and Hakozaiki Shrine (Photo 11) .

(3) River landscapes and road landscapes

There are no first-class rivers in Fukuoka City, but second-class rivers such as Muromi, Naka, Mikasa and

Najima Rivers flow into Hakata Bay. They are always at risk of flooding whenever it rains heavily, and needless to say, safety measures should be strengthened for these rivers. When it comes to river development, not only environmental and recreational aspects, but beautiful river landscape should also be taken into account. A good example of this is the Muromi River green area.

Photo 12 shows Ribbon Citeo Nakagawa. By promoting river improvement and urban development in a unified manner, not only facilities for recreation can be improved and the riverside environment enriched, but at the same time it seems that attractive urban space can also be created. In terms of urban development, while there are some urban areas in Fukuoka City where river improvement has been ignored, urban development that incorporates the beneficial effects of river development such as above-mentioned examples, will be needed in the future.

Two main areas in Fukuoka City were developed following two different plans. One area is the central part of Hakata-bu which was planned through Taiko-machi-wari (1597). The other is an area from Tenjin to Ohori Park which was developed in the 16th century by the Chikuzen Kuroda Clan. A land readjustment project in modern times was completed over approximately 25% of urbanization promotion areas, mainly urban areas including the two areas just mentioned. Land readjustment led to the systematic establishment of a road infrastructure, however, road width was not made uniform. There is the additional problem that the linkage between roads built on land reclaimed from the sea for city expansion and existing land is incomplete. Furthermore, there are cases where the road network has not been given sufficient consideration from the point of view of the city as a whole, because the primary contractors, mainly private companies, which carried out the development of infrastructure under land readjustment could change between fiscal years. Certainly, all roads are not necessarily systematic. Tenjin-nishi Intersection is a good example of this. Although it might not be an ideal intersection from the view of the traffic authorities, it creates a road landscape peculiar to Fukuoka City, harmonizing Daimyo Catholic Church with Tenjin-nishi Intersection Promenade. On the contrary, Tenjin-hashiguchi Intersection is favorable from the view point of traffic, but not landscape.

Looking at Figure 2 more closely, it can be seen that roads in Fukuoka City were constructed to be straight and heading to the coastal area, overlooking pine groves on the shore. This was excellent urban development capturing the characteristics of the city, which has played an important part in foreign exchange since ancient times.

Let's consider today's road system in Fukuoka City. Regardless of its aim of being "A City open to sea," the city does not always put a great emphasis on harmonization between the road system, both old urban and new reclaimed areas, and the landscape of Hakata Bay. More specifically, pedestrians do not have a view of Uminonakamichi or Saitozaki across Hakata Bay from Taihaku-dori Ave. due to large buildings that have been constructed along the edge of Hakata Bay. Furthermore, those buildings contribute to the heat island effect because they interrupt the flow of wind to urban areas.

It is extremely difficult to recreate roads once they have been established. Under such circumstances, a road system which made best use of Hakata Bay should have been built in the past.

In order to encourage a sense of unity with marine areas, Fukuoka Urban Express Route 1 has been constructed as a half-under-passing route in Momochi Seaside. When it comes to main landscape areas, authorities sometimes need to adopt such a policy in spite of the following facts: firstly, severe conditions are imposed on the construction of an urban expressway because costs must be recovered through tolls by the operator, Fukuoka-Kitakyushu Expressway Public Corporation); and secondly, the authorities must bear an additional burden in both construction and maintenance costs when building an expressway as a half-under-passing route.

Road landscape is formed by street trees and buildings along roads. For pedestrian comfort in particular, maximum attention needs to be paid to these road features. Furthermore, factors that can spoil landscapes, including outdoor advertisements and overhead lines also need to be sufficiently considered in order to create a beautiful landscape and bring enjoyment when walking on the street. Comparing Photos 13 and 14, it is clear that the advertisement spoils the rural landscape. To make matters worse, the color of the advertisement, red, might be considered as not harmonizing with the view.



Photo 13 Kyushu University New Campus



Photo 14 Kyushu University New Campus with advertisement

As roadside features, street trees not only play an important role in contributing to a beautiful landscape but also provide a wide variety of additional benefits such as the absorption of carbon dioxide and cause us to feel a sense of the season. The city trees and flowers of Fukuoka are Kuroganemochi (*Ilex rotunda*) and Kusunoki (*Chinaamonum Camphora*), and Fuyo (*Hybiscus multabilis*) and Sazanka (*Camellia sasanpua*) respectively. Kuroganemochi is planted along both Taihaku-dori Ave. and Watanabe-dori Ave., both main arterial roads. Kuroganemochi is appropriate for these leading avenues of the city because it is an evergreen tree and can withstand exhaust emissions relatively well.

Ginkgo biloba and *Elaeocarpus sylvestris* Poir. var. *ellipticus* Hara are planted along Showa-dori Ave., and *Elaeocarpus sylvestris* Poir. var. *ellipticus* Hara along Meiji-dori Ave. The trees are characteristics of the avenues. While *Elaeocarpus sylvestris* Poir. var. *ellipticus* Hara is an evergreen tree, *Ginkgo biloba* is a deciduous tree which can display a vivid sense of the season.

An example of an avenue with a name taken from a tree is Keyaki (Japanese zelkova)-dori Ave. (Photo 15), which is representative of avenue in the city with abundant greenery, and raises asset values of the avenue as well. It is crucial for us to regard street trees as an important factor of road landscape, and to take into account not only maintenance but also landscape formation favorable to Fukuoka City when selecting trees. Discussion on what kind of a tree should be chosen for a street tree from the entire city's point of view might be preferable. Analysis of seasonal variation in landscapes is also interesting.



Photo 15 Keyaki-dori Ave. (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁸⁾)

Unfortunately, it is likely that in Fukuoka City there are few street trees that contribute to a wide variety of seasonal changes. The main reason for this could be the difficulty of maintenance. Road landscape with trees and flowers through which citizens could enjoy changes of the seasons would be a characteristic that would make Fukuoka a more beautiful city.

2.2 Landscape factors in Fukuoka City

The author would like to take the following landscape factors for discussion on the beauty of Fukuoka City.

- (a) Natural landscapes such as the coastal line from Shikanoshima Island to Nishinoura and Miyanoura in Nishi Ward, and Hakata Bay
- (b) Natural landscapes including mountains, mainly Mt. Mikazuki and Mt. Aburayama
- (c) Natural landscapes, e.g. Ohori Park, Fukuoka Castle Ruins, Nishi Park, Minami Park
- (d) Water landscapes in main rivers such as Muromi River and Naka River
- (e) Historical landscapes with historic monuments mainly in the Gokusho area
- (f) Historical landscapes such as Kyushu University Hakozaki Campus and Hakozaki Shrine, and Kashii Shrine together with their surrounding areas
- (g) Landscapes alongside arterial roads such as Taihaku-dori Ave., Showa-dori Ave. and Meiji-dori Ave
- (h) Landscapes including roads/avenues or town scenery originally formed under Taiko-machi-wari

3. Citizens' awareness of the city's beauty (landscape)

A survey conducted by Fukuoka City shows that nearly 54% of its citizens believed that the city had beautiful urban landscapes when the Fukuoka City Master Plan was compiled in 2002. While this figure stabilized at around 55% in 2007 when another survey was conducted, the stated aim of the plan is that this proportion should rise to about 70% by 2015.

From the survey, despite the fact that the plan defines beauty vaguely, it can be assumed that citizens think that specific items are beautiful because there was no significant change regarding citizens' awareness of beauty in Fukuoka City between 2002 and 2007. The survey⁵⁾ carried out in 2007, which includes a more detailed questionnaire than that used in 2002, is considered below.

Figure 3 illustrates some points from the 2007 survey on urban landscapes. Four items were included: natural landscapes, historical landscapes, town landscapes, and street parking/littering. Although in terms of natural and historical landscapes around 80% and 50% responded favorably respectively, the figures for the other items remained low at about 30%.

When it comes to street parking/littering, Fukuoka City enacted in 2005 the "Ordinance to Create a Human-

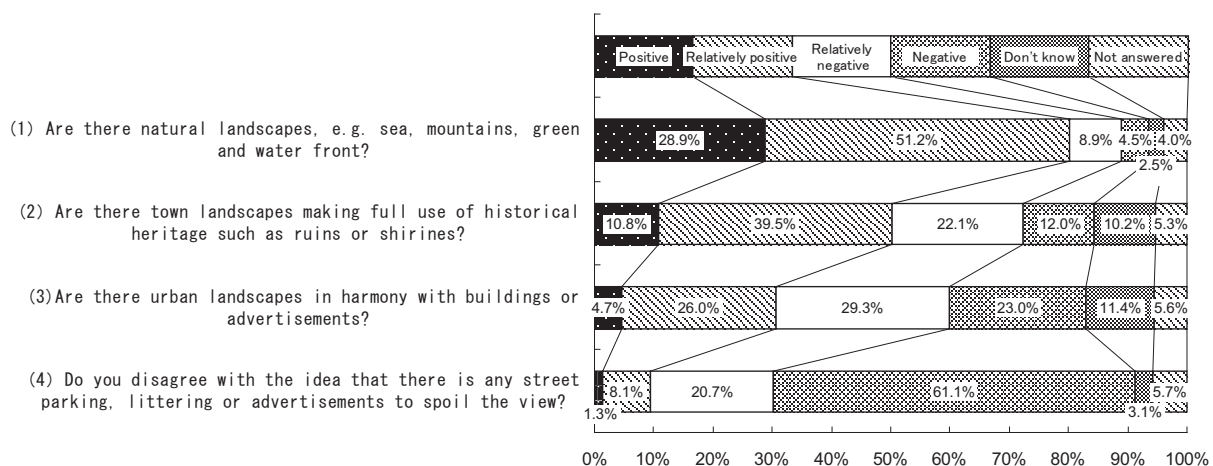


Figure 3 Evaluation of urban landscapes by citizens of Fukuoka (Source: Fukuoka City⁵⁾)

friendly City with Safety and Comfort” in order to improve morals and manners, including street parking and littering. This paper will not deal however with street parking and littering.

Over 90% of respondents rated greenery in Mt. Tachibana or Mt. Aburayama, Hakata Bay and its coastal line, greenery in urban areas such as Ohori Park and Minami Park as beautiful natural landscapes (Figure 4).

Landscapes in Fukuoka City are analyzed for the Fukuoka City Urban Beautification Award.

The award committee recognizes architecture and activities, recommended by the citizens of Fukuoka. The award is given to those contributing to a better urban landscape peculiar to Fukuoka, in harmony with the surrounding environment and avenues, and to the enhancement of the atmosphere. The Fukuoka Urban Beautification Award has been presented for nearly 150 works such as architecture, sculptures, trees, parks and bridges, since it was established in 1986. Selected works include architecture mainly from the modern period, rarely from times earlier than that. It might mean that modernity is a characteristic of Fukuoka City, which has made rapid progress since the end

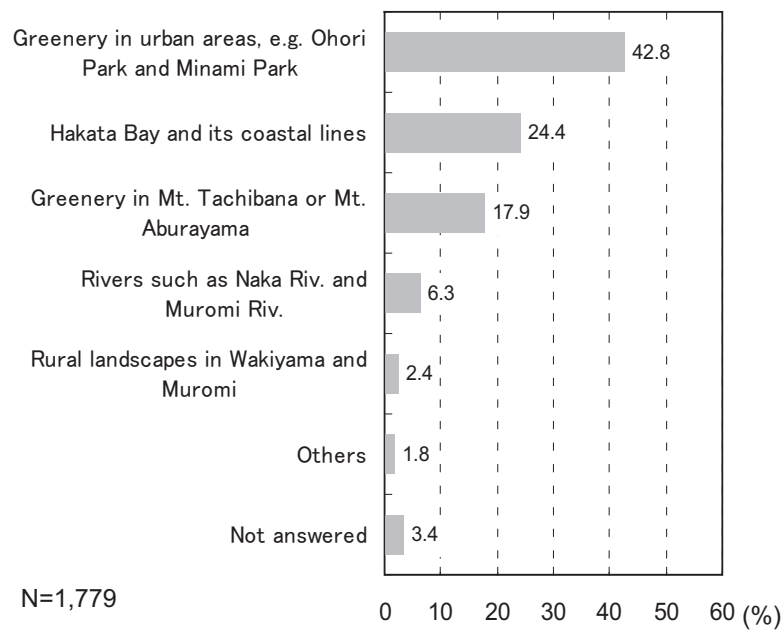


Figure 4 Places rated as natural environment by citizens of Fukuoka (Source: Fukuoka City⁵⁾)

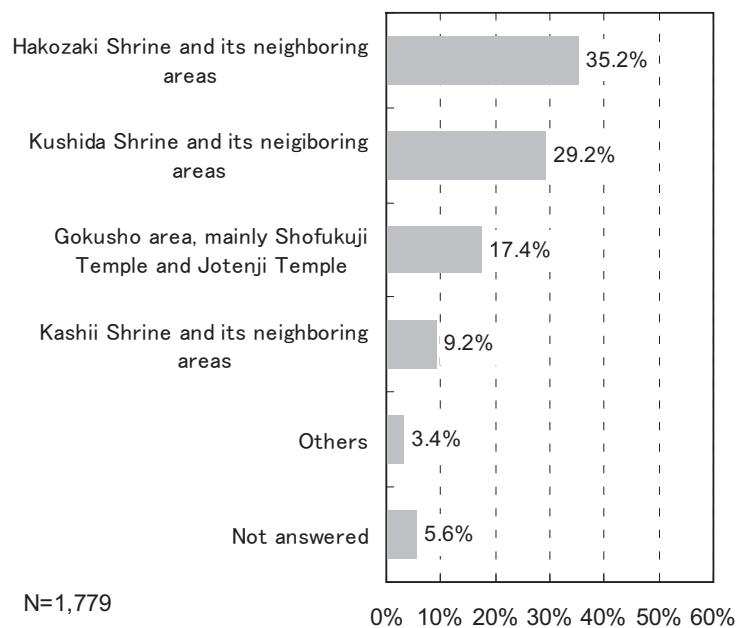


Figure 5 Places rated as historical landscapes by citizens of Fukuoka (Source: Fukuoka City⁵⁾)

of World War II. It should be noted that citizens have recommend historical architecture and tree-lined avenues for the award as follows: Kyushu University Headquarters Building 1 and Engineering Main Building, camphor tree-lined avenue in Kashii Shrine, Keyaki-dori Ave. and moat by Fukuoka Castle Ruins in Maizuru Park.

Essay contests on landscape have been held 12 times to mark the award as of 2008. The themes for the essay contest in the most recent three years have been “Landscape in Fukuoka,” “Special landscape” and “Fashionable landscape.” A number of applicants include in their essays natural charms which they consider to be beautiful landscapes peculiar to Fukuoka, to be preserved for future generations. Citizens have included in their essays for example: cherry blossom streets in Fukuoka, greenery in Mt. Aburayama, Hakata Bay including Uminonakamichi, Shikanoshima Island, Noko Island, Ohori Park and Fukuoka Castle Ruins. As can be seen in this, section 3, it can be reasonable that landscape factors forming beauty, mentioned in the previous section are recognized by the majority of citizens in Fukuoka City (Photos 16, 17 and 18).

4. Case of Kyoto City

As mentioned in Chapter 1, regional governments all over Japan have made a variety of efforts to create beautiful urban developments since the enactment of the Landscape Act in 2004. Among them, it is Kyoto City which has taken the most progressive approaches. Moreover, since it was built 1200 years ago, Kyoto has survived all wars except the Onin War (1467 - 1477), which resulted in the loss of many cultural properties because the city was the main battlefield. For this reason Kyoto may be the city where the atmosphere of Japanese history and culture is the most deeply reflected of all places in Japan, leading to an excellent understanding of tradition and history by its citizens. It is this awareness that has been a base for making progressive efforts toward achieving the aims of the



Photo16 Muromi River (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 17 Cherry blossoms in Fukuoka Castle Ruins (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)



Photo 18 Moat in Fukuoka Castle Ruins (Courtesy: Fukuoka City⁹⁾)

Landscape Act. Therefore, Kyoto City's efforts towards conservation, renaissance and creation of good landscapes provide useful lessons for Fukuoka City. This section describes some of the points of Kyoto City's Policy for Landscape Preservation (2007).

4.1 Main landscape elements of Kyoto City

It is relatively difficult to select individual landscape elements in Kyoto City. This is because not only does each item form landscape, but also each item is in harmony with the whole, and together they create the landscape of an ancient city (Photo 19). Kyoto City's Policy for Landscape Preservation comprises landscape policies suited to regional characteristics by region in order to preserve, regenerate and create beautiful landscapes. The author has selected "natural elements" and "historical elements" for further consideration below.

(1) Natural elements

One of the most significant features of Kyoto comes from its geographical characteristics; you can see ranges of mountains from its urban areas because Kyoto is an inland city, making up part of the northern half of the Kyoto (Yamashiro) Basin, which is surrounded on three sides by mountains known as Higashiyama, Kitayama and Nishiyama. The other feature is that Kyoto, nestled amid rolling mountains, keenly reflects the changes of the seasons, especially in the color variation of seasonal trees, due to the extreme temperatures.

Kyoto City's Policy for Landscape Preservation analyses natural characteristics of individual regions such as Mt. Hiei and Mt. Inari in the Higashiyama area, Mt. Kinugasa and Mt. Funa in the Nishiyama area, Mt. Atago and Mt. Ogura in the Nishiyama area, and Mt. Daigo and Mt. Otowa in the Daigo area. The policy also recognizes rivers and trees along their banks, as important components of natural landscapes. Rivers includes Kamo River, Katsura River, Uji River and Kisarazu River, flowing down from mountains into urban areas. (Photos 20, 21 and 22)

(2) Historical elements

Needless to say, there are a large number of both shrines and temples in Kyoto. As many as fourteen of them



Photo 19 Panoramic view of Kyoto City (Source: Kyoto City⁶⁾)



Photo 20 Kamo River (Source: Kyoto City⁶⁾)



Photo 21 Mt. Inari (Source: Kyoto City⁶⁾)



Photo 22 Katsura River (Source: Kyoto City⁶⁾)



Photo 23 Rokuonji Kinkaku



Photo 24 Kiyomizu Temple

have been designated as World Heritage sites, such as Rokuonji Temple (Photo 23), Jishouji Temple, Kiyomizu Temple (Photo 24), Nishi Honganji Temple and Kamo-wake-ikazuchi-jinja Shrine. These historical sites, with mountain backdrops and/or surrounded by harmonious greenery, constitute attractive historical landscapes.

4.2 Fundamental concepts on landscape conservation, renaissance and creation

With the above-mentioned landscape elements, Kyoto City has promoted conservation, regeneration and creation of landscapes based on the following concepts⁶⁾.

- (a) Preserving natural landscapes conforming to scenery in the basin and creating an urban environment to coexist with nature by greening actively based on nature like greenery and waterfront
- (b) Creating an urban image in harmony with historical landscapes to be conserved and regenerated, and beautiful new landscapes
- (c) Creating a wide variety of characteristic spaces which make full use of the atmosphere in Kyoto through ordinary life in the city, resulting into the production of a Kyoto-like space
- (d) Adding value to Kyoto, leading to an increase in the number of residents and visitors, and investments into local tourism and intellectual industries, and as a result developing resources to sustain and improve the strength of the urban area

4.3 Features of Kyoto City landscape policy

Kyoto possesses, as mentioned above, a rich natural environment and historical landscapes. This means that its citizens have a foundation to be proud of, and to protect and nurture. This can easily be taken advantage of through regulation or design, and through the full use of various acts such as the City Planning Act and Cultural Assets Preservation Act (Figures 6 and 7).

In addition, the main features are indicated in new landscape policy established in 2007. It reveals what points of view from what places should be taken into account when preserving and creating vistaed views and borrowed landscapes and how to consider land use.

Looking at conservation and creation of vistaed views in the Vistaed View Creation Ordinance, it states that 38 magnificent vistaed views and borrowed landscapes are to be conserved, classifying the 38 locations into eight categories: Temple Views (17), Street Views (4), Waterfront Views (2), Background Views of Garden (2), Mountain Views (3), Bonfire Character Views (7), Lookout Views (2), and Bird's Eye Views (1).

It also defines viewing spots such as historical buildings and high public places where people can enjoy magnificent landscapes. For example, the former includes shrines, temples and Kyoto Imperial Palace, and the latter parks, rivers, bridges, roads and streets. Among them, spots named in the UNESCO list are designated as viewing spots for Temple Views. Areas within 500 meters of viewing spots are classified as Close View Preservation Zones (Figure 8). Street Views are to be designated as eyespots viewing spots to harmonize with mountains behind buildings. Lookout Views relates to traditional Kyoto culture such as viewing the five fires on Gozan Daimonji, Myoho, etc. (Figure 9). As outlined in this section, the conservation, renaissance and creation of landscapes in Kyoto City is quite suited to its characteristics.

5. Those who enjoy the beauty of Fukuoka City and viewing points

Who will enjoy the landscape elements noted in the previous section? Article 2 of the Landscape Act says that "In view of the fact that good landscapes are essential for building a beautiful and dignified land and creating an attractive and comfortable living environment, every effort shall be made to create and conserve good landscapes so that present and future generations of people can enjoy the benefits of landscapes as the common property of the people of Japan." This could apply to Fukuoka City, which means that good landscapes are common assets of its citizens contributing to the creation of a rich living environment. In order for them to remain as common assets of



Figure 6 Preservation Areas for Natural Scenery (Source: Kyoto City⁶⁾)

Notes: Category 1 Area
Category 2 Area

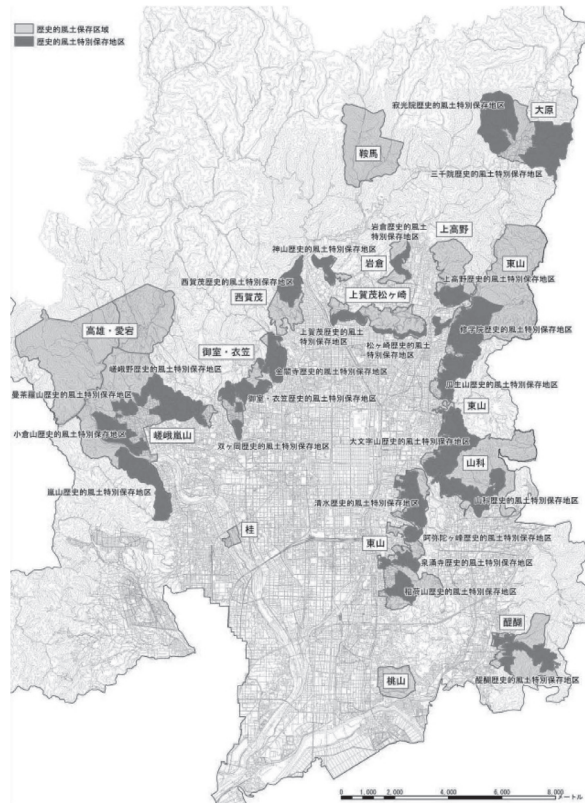


Figure 7 Preservation Districts for Historical Landscape (Source: Kyoto City⁶⁾)

Notes: Preservation Districts of Historical Landscape
Special Preservation Areas of Historical Landscape



Figure 8 Closed View Preservation Area of Kiyomizu Temple (Source: Kyoto City⁷⁾)

Notes: Location: latitude 34°59'40"N., longitude 135°47'8"E.
Okuno-in Hall

- Details
 - Viewing Point : World Heritage site
 - Closed View Preservation Area :
 - Within 500m from the World Heritage site
 - Standards
- In order to conserve a good skyline and elegant background such as trees of Kiyomizu Temple and historical assets, buildings shall not interrupt Temple Views.

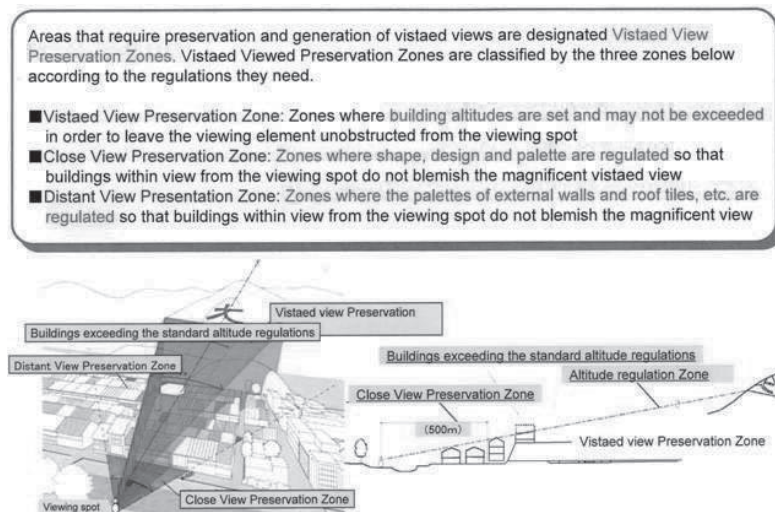


Figure 9 Vistaed View Preservation Zone designation (Source : Kyoto City⁶⁾)

Fukuoka citizens, the landscapes must be enjoyed by all of them. Although it may be possible for certain individuals to appreciate them, it is difficult for administrative organizations to preserve them in the case that the only people who can enjoy the landscapes are certain individuals, because such landscapes cannot then be referred to as common assets of the citizens.

In 2001, the Tokyo District Court ruled in favor of a plaintiff group, local residents in Daigaku-Dori, Kunitachi City. The reason was that in this case local residents had preserved a beautiful landscape through their long-term activities in their area, and they therefore had interests to enjoy the landscape⁶⁾. However, it is necessary to note that interests are not rights. In short, a beautiful landscape can be an object of protection of rights, even if the efforts are made by residents in a particular area, not necessarily by the entire city.

There are two cases of Fukuoka City landscapes: one is enjoyed universally by all the citizens and another is benefited from through consistent efforts by residents in particular areas. One of the latter examples is efforts in the Gokusho area. Another example is efforts by Karatsu-kaido-Meinohama-machizukuri-kyogikai, an urban development organization which works to conserve *machiya* - wooden houses with a narrow but deep frontage that also double as shops at the same time - such as Maizuru Miso-gura, Maizuru Company (a *miso* manufacturer) in the Meinohama area, Nishi Ward. This area could be conserved by the authorities if the campaign to protect beautiful scenery in Karatsu-kaido (a main street) achieves its goals.

Furthermore, there are both beautiful and attractive places in urban areas, for example, the Daimyo and Haruyoshi areas. Citizens and especially local residents no doubt know other locations that they feel are beautiful and attractive. However, places such as narrow back streets are not discussed in this paper because its main purpose is to deal with beautiful landscapes of Fukuoka City from the point of the entire city. However, a report on back streets was compiled in 2008 by Citizen Researchers of the Fukuoka Asia Urban Research Center (URC).

In order to preserve beautiful landscapes as common assets of citizens, it is crucial for many people to visit them. The following are high places from which landscape elements noted in 2.2 can be overlooked.

Actually, there are not a lot of public places from which to overlook Hakata Bay at close range, but Nishi Park, and observation points at both Mt. Atago and Minami Park are good examples of this. The deck on the second floor between JR Hakata City, which is under construction, and Hakata Station Bus Terminal will be a new example of this. For mountain views, another spot is an observation point at Gringrin, the core facility of Central Park on Island City, an artificial island in Hakata Bay in Higashi Ward. There are other points from which the mountain ranges around the city can be viewed, for example Torikai-Nanakuma-sen, a city road. All the points mentioned here can easily be accessed by Fukuoka citizens. From the URC Citizen Researcher Report it appears that that each citizen has his/her own favorite places from which to enjoy landscapes.

Similar to the cases in Kyoto City, in terms of temples and shrines, in the Gokusho area, Hakozaiki Shrine and Kashii Shrine, points from which these landscapes can be viewed are crucially important - as are Fukuoka Castle Ruins from whose simple observation platform you can command a fine panorama of Fukuoka City. In addition, a view of the Ruins from Meiji-dori Ave. across the moat is magnificent.

Other views include a row of mountains that can be seen in the distance from the riverside and greenery of Muromi River.

6. Fukuoka City: towards a city of beauty and character

This section discusses how to establish a direction that Fukuoka City could take towards the creation of beautiful landscape with reference to Kyoto City, a city with advanced landscape policies.

The most significant point which differentiates Kyoto City from Fukuoka City is geographical characteristics. While the former has the landscapes of a basin surrounded by mountains, the latter has both mountains behind the city center and, the seawater surface of Hakata Bay and coastal line, often referred to as a natural breakwater (Photo 25).

However, in Fukuoka City there is no landscape similar to the “Bonfire Character” chosen as a Vistaed View by Kyoto City. Furthermore, great differences exist between the two cities. For example, Kyoto City embraces a vast area of land with historical constructions, the richness of borrowed landscapes, and historical landmarks designated as World Heritage sites.

However, the two cities do have some landscape elements in common, such as rows of mountains, avenues, views and waterfronts. Taking viewing spots into consideration, the following five subsections discuss how to preserve, conserve, and create each element.

6.1 Conservation and renaissance of Hakata Bay and its coastal line

The features of Fukuoka City exist in a beautiful natural coastal line bordering on Hakata Bay to the north. The beauty has been admired since the Manyoshu, the oldest existing anthology of poetry, was compiled. This fact corroborates the historical value of the landscape. Land use along more than half of the coastal line is restricted because some of the areas are designated as quasi national parks or urbanization control areas. Additionally, most parts of Uminonakamichi are being built and improved as a national park. Therefore, it is certain that many splendid natural landscapes will be preserved in the future.

However, reclamation in Hakata Bay has caused the disappearance of the original coastal line and with it the disappearance of white sand and green pines in urban areas like Hakozaiki Wharf, although these features can still be seen in Momochi Seaside Park. Areas such as these could form the first impressions of visitors to Fukuoka City if they arrive by ship. Furthermore, compared to a view blessed with natural features from Mt. Atago, a view from

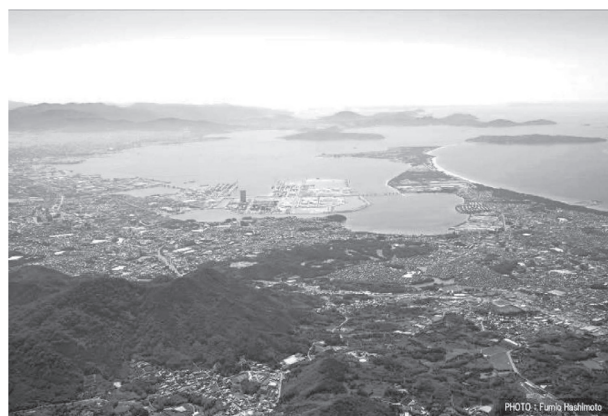


Photo 25 Aerial view of Hakata Bay from above Mt. Tachibana (Courtesy: Fukuoka City¹⁰⁾)

areas such as Hakozaki Wharf cannot be described as beautiful landscapes even though they do appear to be lively (Photo 26).

If lush greenery could be developed in the reclaimed areas, mainly Hakozaki Wharf, a green corridor would be created in Hakata Bay from Seaside Momochi (Photo 27), creating a natural landscape harmonized with the seawater surface. Fortunately, some wharfs including Hakozaki Wharf and Chuo Wharf are being transformed into new spaces as a result of port functions being developed on Island City, another reclaimed area in Higashi Ward.

Fukuoka City needs to begin discussions on its future redevelopment into an advanced city rich in natural space and excellent design, bearing in mind that it will take a lot of time for Fukuoka to transform into such a city.

The reclaimed areas are also valuable, close to Tenjin-Hakata area, center of the city. Redevelopment of valuable areas close to the Tenjin-Hakata area of the city would provide space for citizens to relax.

On the one hand, special measures need not to be taken for natural landscapes from the observation point on Mt. Atago because Seaside Momochi is designated as an urban landscape forming district, and areas from Nagatare Coast to Kitazaki as quasi-national parks. These places can be overlooked from the observation point. On the other hand, restrictions on new buildings that would interrupt the view on the north side of Mt. Atago should be considered.

If reconstructed, it would be preferable for facilities such as Fukuoka Sunpalace Hotel & Hall to be appropriately built in such a way as to preserve a view of Hakata Bay from Taihaku-dori Ave., or the deck on the second floor between JR Hakata City and Hakata Station Bus Terminal.

6.2 Conservation of a row of mountains

From urban areas in Fukuoka City, Mt. Aburayama (597m) and Mt. Mikazukiyama (272m) behind the city can be seen. These mountains will not be destroyed by development because, as a rule, areas located 100 meters or more above sea level are designated as urbanization control areas. A view of the mountains from major public facilities could further enhance the beauty of Fukuoka City.

In addition to Mt. Atago mentioned above, the rooftop of Gringrin in Island City Central Park can be taken into account as a viewing spot. Another magnificent landscape is Mt. Aburayama as seen from Ohori Park.

Photo 28 shows a row of mountains as seen from Gringrin. Unfortunately, it is obscured by a number of apartment blocks. This aspect should be discussed in future plans for mid-to-high-rise buildings.

Photo 29 shows a view of Mt. Mikazukiyama from Island City, and Photo 30 shows a view of Mt. Aburayama from the road that runs past Kanayama Station on the Nanakuma Line, part of the Fukuoka City Subway.

Comparison between Photos 28, 29 and 30 reveals a great difference in landscape. Especially, looking at Photo 30, overhead lines including power transmission cables badly disrupt the mountain view. Despite the fact that it takes time and a large of budget to lay power lines underground, it would be preferable to create strategies to prioritize some landscapes as candidate sites after choosing the main landscapes in Fukuoka City.



Photo 26 Reclaimed land viewed from Nishi Park



Photo 27 Seaside Momochi viewed from the sea



Photo 28 Mt. Mikazuki viewed from Gringrin rooftop



Photo 29 Mt. Mikazuki viewed from Island City



Photo 30 Mt. Aburayama viewed from Kanayama Station

To achieve this end, it is important to find points from which mountains can be seen. Moreover, laying power lines underground is a challenge not only to preserve mountain landscapes but also to beautify entire urban areas which play a principal role in attracting conventions and visitors to the city.

6.3 Conservation and renaissance of river landscapes

The main rivers in Fukuoka City have their own features, which are related to the fact that at times they may flood. On the one hand, it is undeniable that disaster prevention measures come first. On the other hand, it is necessary for the city authorities to consider river development suitable to each area while taking the functions of rivers into account. Firstly, the banks of Muromi River in Nishi Ward from Chikushi-bashi Bridge to Matsukaze-bashi Bridge, which cross the river, have been designated as a greenery area. Various flowers and trees like *Rhododendron sp. Hirado Series* and *Rhaphiolepis indica var. umbellata* contribute to seasonal changes there. Additionally, abundant natural landscape consists not only of river water surface and greenery on the banks, but also the view of Mt. Aburayama from the river. In the near future, the Fukushige and Hashimoto areas in Nishi Ward, where there is greenery, could become urbanization promotion areas. It is necessary to discuss how the green areas should be conserved and how high buildings should appear after taking views from the riverside green area into consideration (Photo 31).

Secondly, relating to Naka River, the right bank from Nanotsu-ohashi Bridge to Seiryu Park, and the right bank from Hyakunen-bashi Bridge to Kiyomi-ohashi Bridge, and a part of the left bank have been designated as both river green zones and riverside green areas. Furthermore, Fukuoka City has been promoting the development and improvement of the river, and urban development in the Minoshima area and its neighboring areas, which are along the river. Moreover, we can surely say that the cherry blossom tree-lined streets in Nakasu have a Fukuoka-like view with their lively atmosphere.

In the near future, it is necessary that the improvement of landscapes such as cherry blossom tree-lined streets be promoted, in order to develop them by applying the characteristics of each area. Along the Naka River, some parts of the banks have not been improved (Photo 32) yet. It is necessary not only to bolster disaster-prevention countermeasures in the river as a whole, but also to offer attractions with local characteristics by expanding greenery on riversides and making use of them for sports and other recreational activities for citizens. Furthermore, it is difficult to say that effective river building and improvement for urban development has been carried out along Hakata River. Therefore, urban development with an awareness of rivers is required.

There have been two serious floods in recent years in Naka River, and therefore disaster preventive measures such as increasing the capacity of the river to carry water have been prioritized in the city government's improvement of the river. In the future, while the improvement of rainwater drainage and a temporary reservoir must be prioritized over the development of landscapes, it will be preferable to keep greenery or flowers in at least some parts of the area.

Regarding Tatara River, on the one hand, a part of the right bank is being developed as greenery area, and so it will be green in the future. On the other hand, the majority of the district on the left bank of the river and its tributary Umi River is designated for use as an industrial area. Putting more emphasis on improving the disaster prevention functions of the area is more desirable.

Coordination of all the Class B rivers, which were mentioned above, with Fukuoka Prefecture - the river administrator - is indispensable. Ideally speaking, in the case that the major parts of such rivers are located in Fukuoka City, like Muromi River, Fukuoka City should be the administrator - enabling it to be free to improve and preserve some Class B rivers - while transferring some revenue from the prefecture to the city, as well by redefining who the administrator is.

6.4 Conservation of historical landscapes

Fukuoka City (Hakata) originates from the Gokusho area, which has many old temples and contributed to the city's development. Some historical landscapes are designated not only as green space conservation zones with rich greenery, but also as urban landscape forming districts under the Urban Landscape Ordinance, resulting in their conservation to some extent.

However, sufficient measures to deal with mid-to-high-rise buildings in these areas cannot be taken because the ordinance is not legally binding. The Gokusho area, therefore, needs to be designated immediately as a landscape zone, or otherwise as a city planning area under the City Planning Act, which preserves historical landscapes and benefits tourists. Regarding restrictions under the designation, it is desirable that people do not see mid-to-high-rise buildings over the roofs of temples in the area. A unique style of wall called "Hakata-bei" (Photo 33) is a precious historical asset which has a special construction style, and is related to Taiko-machi-wari. The wall constructed in



Photo 31 Mt. Aburayama from riverside green area, Muromi River



Photo 32 Mt. Aburayama from Naka River

this style has to be preserved and renewed as a landscape element along with Shofukuji Temple. There is a city ordinance to promote the building of Hakata-machiya style houses, in cases where houses are newly constructed, however, this may not be enough. More active support, such as a rise in the subsidy rate, will be needed in the future.

Kashii Shrine does not need special landscape measures. The main reason is that the areas around the shrine are designated as green space conservation zones and most of its neighboring areas as Category 1 low-rise exclusive residential districts. Therefore, there will not be landscape-disturbing factors in these areas. On the contrary, concerning Hakozaki Shrine, which is also designated as a green space conserving zone, maximum and minimum building height restrictions will be needed within this newly defined area in the future, because it is possible that construction of high-rise buildings will be planned due to the neighboring area being a commercial district with floor area ratios as high as 400%. However, height restriction within 500m World Heritage sites as in Kyoto City may be too strict. The scope to restrict building height should be discussed based on the standard that buildings do not block views of a temple or shrine.

Finally, taking Ohori Park and Maizuru Park as examples, the two parks symbolize greenery in Fukuoka City, are also designated as green space conservation areas along with Nishi Park and Minami Park. In particular, the Korokan Ruins located in parts of Maizuru Park and Ohori Park have been excavated by the Fukuoka City Board of Education, thus together with Fukuoka Castle Ruins the two parks have a dual historical heritage. These parks are the core of the Central Park concept incorporated in the Fukuoka City Master Plan. If the ruins were to be restored, they could represent both historical and natural landscapes in Fukuoka City, playing an important role effectively and efficiently in attracting many visitors and tourists.

There is a wide difference between opinions on whether or not a castle tower was ever built as part of what are now castle ruins. Under the circumstances, it is reasonable that the Fukuoka City Board of Education would phase in the restoration of the castle following verification of historical fact. A more active discussion of this issue would be expected during planning for the relocation of public facilities such as the Fukuoka High Court away from the parks.

6.5 Creation of town landscapes

Town landscapes and main roads in Fukuoka City need to be discussed simultaneously.

Firstly in this sub-section, landscapes in urban districts are described. On the one hand, urban roads such as Watanabe-dori Ave. or Meiji-dori Ave. were designated as urban landscape forming districts under the Urban Landscape Ordinance in 1987. In these areas, it is obligatory to notify the mayor before new construction of high buildings, other structures and outdoor advertisements. Regarding of restrictions on structures under the Civil Aeronautics Act, any structures higher than approximately 45 meters in Taihaku-dori Ave. and 63 meters in Tenjin may not be installed or allowed to remain. This is because Fukuoka Airport is located near the city's urban areas. A regular skyline is inevitably preserved in these areas due to these restrictions. Furthermore, good landscapes in individual avenues are conserved not only because of the promotion of sidewalk widening and street tree planting



Photo 33 Hakata-bei

that accompanied the extension of Fukuoka City Subway and Tenjin Chikagai underground shopping mall, but also because of the designation of urban landscape forming districts and notification of large-sized buildings to the mayor under the ordinance. On the other hand, many office buildings, peculiar to the structure of the city's economy, are not harmonized with roads. The avenues should be more open to the people using them in order to create a lively atmosphere as a commercial center.

Secondly, town landscapes in Hakata-bu created under Taiko-machi-wari are mentioned. The former *nagare* (avenues) have been incorporated into current road systems and improved along with city development, leaving them without the character they had when first constructed. Among them, Ishido Nagare, which was located in the Gokusho area, encouragement for the reconstruction of Hakata-machiya has been given through urban landscape forming policy. However, from the point of view of landscape, it may be hard to say that development in the area has advanced.

Furthermore, as you can see from Photo 34, even in a street along which the final float race of the Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival passes, there are overhead power lines. The Gokusho area is called the birthplace of Fukuoka. In addition to the reconstruction of Hakata-machiya and Hakata-bei as mentioned above, more drastic incentives and measures such as the laying of power lines underground should be given consideration. Power lines are buried underground in only some parts of the tourist routes of Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka in Kyoto City.

In terms of the Fukuoka City Greenery Enrichment Master Plan to be announced in the near future, the city is discussing whether or not building owners should be obliged to plant trees and flowers along street sides of their houses when reconstructing a building. The author strongly recommends that the city discuss the issue in a positive way because the obligation would contribute to better landscapes with rich greenery.

7. Conclusion

Although the majority of Fukuoka citizens agree with the idea that the city already is, and will become more beautiful, it is relatively difficult to evaluate how beautiful it is now. The main reason is that each citizen has different criteria relating to this issue. For example, while on the one hand, in Tokyo landscapes with a number of super-high-rise buildings are accepted as symbols of prosperity, on the other hand, Kyoto preserves historical landscapes even to the extent of enforcing height restrictions on buildings in old urban areas. These attitudes to landscapes depend on a city's characteristics and senses.

The Japan Urban Design Institute has ranked Japanese cities on how beautiful they are by using a wide range of criteria such as landscapes with a view, urban framework including natural environment in city areas, urban quality such as townscape, history, culture and design. According to "The 2008 Most Beautiful City Ranking," among cities with a population of 100,000 or more as of 2000, the top eight cities were Kyoto City, Kamakura City, Kanazawa City, and others which have a rich history and natural environment, and promote development and improvement of



Photo 34 Street along which final float race passes (former Higashi Nagare)

their cities by using their resources with great care. These cities were also highly ranked among cities where Japanese say they would like to travel, and the results also reflected Japanese people's sensibility to what a city should be. In fact, a beautiful city has tourism value, too. Government-ordinance-designated cities such as Fukuoka City, Sendai City, Yokohama City, and Hiroshima City were ranked just under the top cities mentioned above.

As you can be understood, the beauty of a city has a huge impact on tourism and visitors. A study on a city landscape's influence on land prices has also been advancing in recent years.

There are a number of economic analysis methods that cover the improvement of landscapes. One of them is the hedonic approach. "The hedonic approach uses property price data (c.f. rent, dealing price) and property performance data (c.f. site condition, structure, area, environmental performance) and analyzes the effect of the property's performance on the property's price by estimating the recurrence equation with the price data as variables to be explained and performance data as explanatory variables." A second example is the Contingent Valuation Method (CVM). This is a survey-based economic technique for the valuation of non-market resources, such as environmental preservation or the impact of contamination. A third example is conjoint analysis. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) has indicated that the impact of landscape assessment on market price accounts for only a small percentage when using the hedonic approach.

In order to continue to advance urban beautification, comprehensive understanding and support by its citizens, as in Kyoto City, are necessary. Moreover, provision of information that shows urban beautification has a positive effect on land price is required.

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