

Africa x Japan x World:
Space for transforming violence into peace

FINAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Initial Goals:

The origins of this project lie in a number of informal conversations and discussions held in Japan and Africa among the individuals who would later form the project team and invited guests. A number of these individuals have a strong background in African conflict and development; others have a strong background in architecture and design; and still others are qualified to speak authoritatively on both subjects. In many respects, the "Africa x Japan x World" project was a way of bringing these people together for intensive joint investigation and exchange, to generate ideas and raise questions which would then be brought to the wider world. It is important to understand that this project brought together experts from worlds which are usually quite separate. Geographically, it brought together Africans and Japanese (as well as other nationalities). It also brought city dwellers into close contact with rural people. In terms of specialties, it brought architects, artists, and designers together with people who work in the world of peace studies, development, and conflict resolution. Finally, it linked people over time, both in the sense that elderly were brought together with young people, and also in that throughout the project the participants were immersed in environments in which the presence, thoughts, and values of the original builders and occupants of centuries ago can still be felt.

Many questions underlay the planning and conception of this project. Is it possible to design and create a new kind of "space of peace," one that would have meaning in the contemporary world? Could a new "space of peace" institution help provide an environment conducive to conflict resolution in Africa, as well as in other parts of the world? What could such a space look like? What features and characteristics should it have? How could it communicate the idea of peace, and provide a peaceful atmosphere itself? What does Japan have to offer in this regard, to Africa and the rest of the world? What does Africa have to offer? Contemporary society is plagued by many kinds of conflict, and many "spaces of violence" have emerged, and yet there may be shared characteristics which could be uncovered by using design-oriented observation and analysis. In order to seek insight into these problems, it was decided to invite African designers and builders to Japan for two weeks of travel, study, contact with local communities, and workshops. The generous funding provided by the Japan Foundation, along with the cooperation and assistance of many other individuals, institutions and organizations, made it possible to complete the project successfully in the period from October 30, to November 15, 2010. (Detailed description of activities follows)

Summary of Achievement:

At the outset of the planning phase of the project, a number of goals, guidelines, and points of significance were set out. In particular, the organizers stated the significance of the project to fall broadly under six categories:

1. Because the project would involve people and areas of African culture and society which Japanese people are not often exposed to, it would have the effect of broadening the intellectual exchange between Japan and Africa.
2. Because the project would bring the guests and participants to several regions outside of Tokyo, it would provide an opportunity for contact and outreach to communities which do not usually benefit from such activities.

3. Because one major assumption of the project is that "Africa has something to teach the Japanese," it would help overcome the one-way communication that usually characterizes Africa-Japan exchanges, and would actually provide an opportunity to learn from each other and create something together.
4. The project would provide an opportunity to investigate new ways of thinking about "spaces of peace" and "spaces of violence."
5. In particular, the project would highlight and make visible a variety of new models of "space of peace."
6. Heavy emphasis would be placed on participatory workshops which would encourage the creativity of the participants and produce visible results and deeper understanding; this would spark greater future interest among participants.

In our opinion, all of these goals were satisfied beyond our expectations. To summarize the results:

1. Intellectual exchange between Africa and Japan was broadened.
2. Steps were made to eliminate prejudice against Africa in Japan.
3. New theories about "spaces of violence" and "spaces of peace" were formulated and shared.
4. Understanding of peace and violence in Africa, Japan, and the rest of the world was promoted.
5. Concrete imagery relating to transforming spaces of violence into spaces of peace were generated and shared.
6. New creative tools and methods for making international conferences more productive were devised and used ("lukasa workshops").

Summary of Future Plans:

Future plans can be divided into three areas: 1) The next step of the project, 2) producing the "output" of the current project, and 3) other initiatives and activities which have spun off from the current project.

1) The next step of the project: A proposal to continue the project in 2011 will be submitted to the Japan Foundation. This proposal will aim to bring the same team together to conduct similar activities in African countries such as Mozambique and Zambia, particularly in rural communities. It will be considered "Part II" of the current project. In particular, we feel there is great potential for holding the type of highly productive hands-on "lukasa" workshops that were pioneered and refined in Japan during the current project in African communities, and that significant results would be obtained.

2) The output of the current project: The material generated during the project includes thousands of photos, many maps, many drawings and sketches, a number of excellent texts, and hours of video. This will be collated and organized for publication, however, we will consider the material complete after the successful completion of Part II in 2011, and will delay publication until that new material can be added. Publication in print, electronically, and in other media is being considered.

3) Other initiatives: These are described in detail in a later section. They include holding "lukasa workshops" for other educational institutions and organizations; assisting in the production of tatami-like floor mats in Zambia; and investigating the possibility of providing architectural CAD training and equipment for Zambia.

PLANNING

Members and organization -- who and why:

Azby BROWN: Director, KIT Future Design Institute

Prof. Brown is a recognized expert in traditional Japanese architecture and lifestyle, and has conducted research in many aspects of design in addition to his own creative work. He has taught design at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology for 15 years, and has pioneered a number of techniques for hand-based creative education. He founded the KIT Future Design Institute in 2003 in order to conduct collaborative research into creativity and the hand.

Miyako TAKESHITA: Curator, KIT Future Design Institute

Ms Takeshita is an expert in contemporary art with a strong background in African art. She has long curatorial, exhibition planning, and publishing experience. At the Future Design Institute she is responsible for curating and planning research projects and activities.

Sayaka FUNADA-CLASSEN: Associate Professor, Graduate School, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Dr. Funada- Classen is an expert in Peace and Conflict studies. She has conducted extensive field research for over 10 years in Mozambique, Zambia, Rwanda, and other areas. Her work has given her great first-hand knowledge of environmental, social, and economic stresses experienced in post-colonial Africa, and has allowed her to develop strong working relationships with many individuals and organizations in these target areas.

Masako YONEKAWA: Special Associate Professor, Utsunomia University;

Prof. Yonekawa is an expert in African conflict, and is the former Director of the UNHCR Goma Field Office, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her work highlights the causes and contributing factors of conflict and investigates ways to achieve resolution.

Koichi NISHIMURA: Executive Editor, Mainichi Newspaper

Mr. Nishimura is a journalist based in Osaka. His writing documents changes in communities in Japan, particularly Western Japan, and his travels have brought him into contact with many leading designers, planners, and other individuals engaged in revitalizing communities suffering from demographic and economic decline.

For organizational purposes, the KIT Future Design Institute was the host institution for the project, under Prof. Brown's direction, and responsibility for project accounting was held by Mr. Minami of the KIT Research Promotion Office. Planning and organizational tasks were divided among project members, who were in frequent contact during the planning stage and throughout the project.

Overseas guests -- who and why:

After much discussion, it was decided to invite two guests from Africa. They are:

José FORJAZ (Mozambique): Architect, Chairman of the Architecture Dep't. of Mozambique National University)

Dr. Forjaz participated in Mozambique's struggle for independence, and since independence, has led the development of architectural and urban planning in Mozambique and other African countries, and has worked in government to promote the preservation and development of his country's culture. He is deeply knowledgeable about Japanese culture, and has translated "In Praise of Shadow" by MaJu-

nichiro Tanizaki into Portuguese. He has also designed buildings in Kitakyushu City. In many respects the concept of this project "spaces of violence/ spaces of peace" derive from his thinking and discussions, and because of his deep knowledge of both African and Japanese spatial design, he plays a key role in this project.

Mubita MUBITA (Zambia) : Achitect; traditional builder for the Royal Family of Zambia

Mr. Mubita is a trained architect who works in his home country of Zambia. As part of the royal family of the Lozi people of western Zambia, he plays an important role in maintaining traditional building techniques. His work takes advantage of traditional local materials, and he has designed and built a wide variety of structures, from ritual spaces for the royal family, to commercial lodges, as well as small homes for widows. has been building a variety of buildings. In their use of materials and design attitudes, much of his work has a lot in common with traditional Japanese buildings. Because of his long experience in handcrafted architecture, his view of Japanese traditional design from an African perspective plays a vital role in this project.

In addition, we welcomed the paicipation of another expert in African affairs:

Maria Margarida Chavez MARQUES (Mozambique): Ms Marques is the Vice Director of the Mozambique Office of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

How sites in Japan were chosen:

The sites visited during this project were chosen based on several criteria. One, each site needed to have some significance for the discussion of violence and peace, as well as for design, environment, history, and social issues of conflict. Second, they needed to be physically accessible within the project period and within the budget. Third, key persons knowledgeable about the site and willing to act as collaborators and guides needed to be present and accessible. Finally, the initial leg would begin in Tokyo where most of the project members are based and convenient international transportation is available, and should end in Yokohama, where the final workshop and symposium would be held. Based on these criteria, four sites, in addition to Tokyo and Yokohama, were chosen. They are: Kyoto, Iwami-Ginzan (Shimane Pref), Hiroshima, and Sasayama (Hyogo Pref.).

Activities, including study, meetings, workshops, and cultural exchange were planned for each site taking into account the specific contexts of each. These activities are described in the "Execution" section below.

Schedule:

The schedule was as follows:

- Oct 31: Overseas guests arrive
- 1. Nov 1-2: Tokyo
- 2. Nov 3-5: Kyoto
- 3. Nov 6-8: Iwami Ginzan
- 4. Nov 9: Hiroshima
- 5. Nov 10-12: Sasayama
- 6. Nov 13-14: Yokohama



Map showing sites visited

Budget:

The overall budget provided by the Japan Foundation was: ¥2,493,679
(as of February 22, 2011)

This was divided into the following categories and amounts:

International air tickets:.....¥559,571

Domestic travel:.....220,460

Hotels:.....981,490

Research material and publication:.....68,254

Fees and assistance:.....471,650

Other (car rental, shipping, etc):.....192,254

TOTAL¥2,493,679

In addition, sponsorship and support in-kind was provided by the following organizations:

Sponsorship: City of YOKOHAMA, City of SASAYAMA

Support: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies; Tokushoji; Iori Co., Ltd.;

Note Foundation; Iwami-Ginzan Lifestyle Culture Institute Co., Ltd.;

Tagyoabeke Co., Ltd.; Tokyo KanKan Co., Ltd.;

BankART1929

The project was completed within the budget.

Changes:

Although it was anticipated that changes would have to be made to the plan and/or schedule, ultimately only minor logistical difficulties were encountered, all of them luggage-related. These were easily resolved, and no programs or schedules were affected.

EXECUTION

Summary of trip and events:

The project was conceived of as a "moveable research meeting," in which the project members and overseas guests -- which will be referred to as the "team" from now on -- would move from site to site for two weeks to gather information and make observations, while continuing several ongoing discussions. These discussions were summarized in the workshop and symposium in Yokohama, at the end of the project. The activities in Tokyo at the beginning of the project, on the other hand, were intended to be an orientation.

Travel between cities was by both train (Shinkansen) and rental automobile, a van which was large enough to hold eight people, but admittedly not in great comfort. While on one or two occasions, due to work conflicts, one or another project member was unable to be present at a site for a day or more, in almost all cases the entire team of eight persons traveled together and stayed together at each site.

Details:

1. Tokyo Oct. 30- Nov. 2, 2010

"Identifying 'Spaces of Peace' and 'Spaces of Violence'"

The Tokyo leg of the project was basically a series of orientation sessions and workshops. In particular, the subject of Tokyo as a psychologically "violent" place was discussed, and examples of "spaces of peace" within the city were sought and identified. The overall outlines, terminology, and rubric of the project were discussed, and initial observations and opinions were recoded.



Sun., Oct. 30:

Guests arrived from overseas, and checked into their hotels in Tokyo

Mon., Nov. 1:

Meeting: Initial meeting and briefing at Tokyo Univ. of Foreign Studies (TUFS).

Presentation: Team members made brief presentations to "Peace and Conflict in Africa" class at TUFS.

Tues., Nov. 2:

Study: Prof. Brown gave overseas guests a tour of the traditional garden and teahouses at the Nezu Museum, and of new architecture in the Omotesando area

Meeting: Meeting at Future Design Institute

Workshop: Orientation workshop at TUFS Hongo Satellite campus with 3rd year students.



2. Kyoto Nov. 3-5, 2010:

"Sensing Violence and Peace in Traditional Japanese Spaces"

Kyoto was chosen as a site primarily because of its historical significance to Japanese culture, particularly the culture of tea and of traditional architecture on general. In particular, we were interested in the teahouse as a prototypical "space of peace," and organized two very different tea ceremonies for the team to experience. We were also interested in the fate of Kyoto's great traditional neighborhoods, both in a technical and design sense (how the old buildings and streetscapes can be preserved technically) and in a social sense as well (what kinds of conflicts have arisen as demographic, economic, and lifestyle changes have begun to force changes in the old neighborhoods). Thanks to cooperation from the Iori Co., Ltd., the team was able to stay in a traditional *machiya*, and use it as a base of operation. This fostered discussion and allowed team members to become comfortable with each other. Other activities included study excursions to temples and the Gosho palace, and a walking tour of a Kyoto district.



Wed., Nov. 3:

Travel: The team traveled from Tokyo to Kyoto by Shinkansen

Study: Team members made an excursion to Kiyomizu-dera to examine space, structure, and materials

Thurs., Nov. 4:

Study: Met with Architect Ryuichi Kinoshita of the Regional Planning Workshop at a building site, who explained his work preserving traditional *machiya*. The team examined the building in detail, and discussed the social issues and conflicts involved in such preservation work.

Meeting: Lunchtime meeting at restaurant Alto Rettanto, renovation of old *machiya* designed by Mr. Kinoshita. This was followed by a walking tour of the district, where the changes to the old neighborhoods and the lifestyle of the inhabitants were discussed.



Kyoto, cont'd.



Workshop: The team went to Tokushoji temple. This temple has a fine new teahouse designed by Prof. Terunobu Fujimori. The abbot of the temple, the Rev. Hitoshi Akino, held a tea ceremony for the team. This was followed by a workshop at the temple. The presenters were:

Mr. Ryuichi Kinoshita: Gave a slide lecture on the historical development of Kyoto houses and neighborhoods, and discussed the recent social conflicts that have emerged as old houses are destroyed to make room for apartment buildings.

Prof. Sacco Oussouby (Kyoto Seika Univ.): Prof. Sacco is from Mali, and has lived in Kyoto for many years. He gave a two-part presentation on "territory and living space," in which he identified similar territory-marking behavior in both Mali and Kyoto, and discussed the ways such behavior helps avoid conflict.

The presentations were followed by a lively discussion.



Fri., Nov.5:

Study: Teachers from the Origins program provided a tea ceremony lesson, held in the tearoom of the machiya in which the team was staying.



Study: Team members visited Kyoto Gosho palace, followed by Ryoanji temple.

3. Iwami-Ginzan Nov. 6-8, 2010

"Transforming the "Resource Curse" into a Blessing"

Iwami Ginzan was chosen as a site because its recent status as a UNESCO World Heritage site highlights a number of issues concerning resources, exploitation, hidden history, and community efforts to maintain control of its destiny. Having once had a population of 200,000 during the most productive years of its famous silver mines, the population of Omori is now only 400. Nevertheless, the town has remained continuously occupied for centuries, preserves its historical townscape, and has a strong sense of tradition. Despite the declining population and economic fortunes of the area, the proposal to seek World Heritage status was met with opposition from some residents. The team was hosted by Daikichi Matsuba and his wife Tomi, who have built a thriving clothing and household design company based in the town called "Iwami-Ginzan Lifestyle Culture Institute Co, Ltd." Their venture to revive the town has led them to renovate a number of old houses there, including the "Tagyo Abe-ke," a former samurai house which is now an inn, where the team stayed. A number of study sessions, workshops, and other activities were held at this site.



Sat., Nov.6:

Travel: The team traveled by rental van from Kyoto to Iwami-Ginzan, arriving in the evening.

Sun., Nov.7:

Study: The team toured the town and heard its history from a local historical guide

Study: Mr. Matsuba presented the work of the Iwami-Ginzan Lifestyle Culture Institute Co. and described the challenges his work as faced, as well as the conflicts that arose over the erasure of unpleasant aspects of history as the site was prepared for new tourist activities.



Workshop: In an old farmhouse which had been relocated and rebuilt by the Iwami-Ginzan Lifestyle Culture Institute Co., Prof. Yonekawa gave a presentation on the causes of conflict, using the history of the Congo conflict as an example, and drawing wider conclusions about the role of territory, resources, religion, and ethnicity in other conflicts around the world. This workshop was attended by students from TUFs as well as staff of the Iwami-Ginzan Lifestyle Culture Institute Co..



Iwami-Ginzan, cont'd.



Presentation: Students from TUFFS performed a song and dance from Kenya for the team and the hosts.



Mon., Nov.8:

Study: Team members toured the site of the Iwami-Ginzan silver mine, and gathered information on how the site had been changed and prepared for World Heritage status. The sites where towns once stood and are now being excavated were visited.



Workshop: This workshop was a summary of what had been seen in Iwami-Ginzan and its significance for our study of peace and violence. Team members along with members of the community freely discussed the direction our findings were leading us.



Presentation: A community member demonstrated a traditional humorous dance that told the story of "catching loaches."

4. Hiroshima Nov. 9

"Encountering a Symbolic Space of Transformation: from Violence to Peace"

Hiroshima was chosen as a site not only because of the unprecedented scale of the violence which destroyed the city and its historical significance as the first city to be destroyed by the atomic bomb, but also because the postwar history of the city embodies a remarkable transformation from a site of violence to the site of global peace activities. Our visit here provided team members with the opportunity to learn about the bombing from a first hand account by atom bomb survivor Kanji Yamazaki. We were also able to learn about important social and political aspects of the postwar transformation of the city from local historians, and to meet with Mr. Richard Reaper, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Mr. Zenpei Kunimoto, Executive Director. Finally, the team was able to visit Miyajima, another World heritage site.

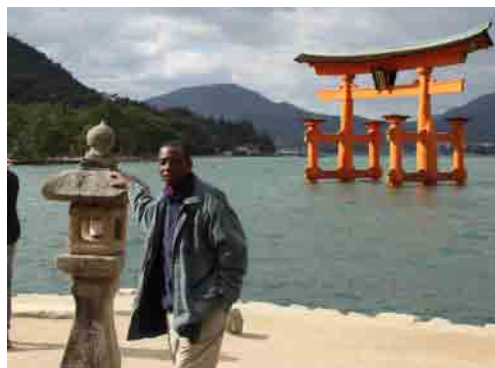


Tues., Nov.9:

Travel: By rental van from Iwami-Ginzan to Hiroshima. Check into hotels.

Study: Team members toured the Atom Bomb Dome with architectural historian Ms Shinobu Amano of the HPCF.

Study: Team members, accompanied by TUFs students, traveled by boat to Miyajima, a World Heritage site and one of the most remarkable building complexes in Japan. This site combines deep environmental sensibility with an awareness of light, wind, and other natural phenomena, and beautifully illustrates "human coexistence with the natural landscape."



Study: Team members returned to the Peace Memorial and toured the museum.

Workshop: Mr. Kanji Yamazaki, an atom bomb survivor, spoke to the group about his experiences. He showed photographs and illustrations of his neighborhood, which stood on the site of the Peace Museum, and described how he managed to survive, and recalled his friends and family members who died in the bombing.

Workshop: Over dinner, a workshop was held to discuss the transformation of Hiroshima from a disaster site into a global symbol of peace. Mr. Kazuya Yamashita gave a slide presentation about the fate of buildings which survived the bombing, many of which were destroyed later as part of real-estate development. Dr. Forjaz presented his work, and Mr. Mubita presented his. Mr. Richard Reaper, director of the Peace Memorial was present, as were Mr. Kunimoto, Ms Amano, and Ms Elizabeth Baldwin.



5. Sasayama Nov. 10-12

"Building a Path to the Future: from Violence to Peace"

Sasayama was selected as a site because despite the presence of many attractive resources, including onsen, productive farmland, and a large stock of well-constructed traditional farmhouses, in recent years the town has experienced economic hardship. The vice-mayor of the town, Mr. Yukio Kinno, has spearheaded an effort to revive the community, increase tourism, and make the area more attractive to younger residents. He has wisely chosen design and lifestyle as embodied in traditional farmhouses and townhouses as a catalyst, and has implemented a visionary program that involves establishing NPOs, environmental activities, education, and cultural exchange. The team stayed together at a traditional farmhouse which has been comfortably remodeled as part of the "Maryuama Village" redevelopment. This redevelopment involves community members as staff and management, and provides a location for cultural and community activities. In particular, while in Sasayama, the team were guests at a traditional outdoor "*koicha*" tea ceremony, and reciprocated by preparing African tea and homemade sorghum beer provided by Mr. Mubita.

Wed., Nov. 10

Travel: From Hiroshima to Sasayama by rental van. Arrived Sasayama at night.



Thurs., Nov 11

Study: The team received a tour of Sasayama from Vice Mayor Kinno. The tour included the site of "*Nobunjuku*," an old farmstead currently under renovation to become a conference and study center. This farmstead is remarkable in its completeness, having terraced rice fields, chestnut groves, persimmon (*kaki*) trees, tea fields, and accessible satoyama forest.



Workshop, Part 1: Tea ceremony. With the aid of other community members, Mr. Shinnosuke Matsuda, a Maruyama Village resident, demonstrated an outdoor *koicha* tea ceremony of the type practiced by warriors before battle. The team expressed great interest in the notion that warriors can intentionally focus their minds on peaceful activities and the need for compassion before battle. Approximately 15 community members participated.

Sasayama , cont'd.



Workshop, Part 2: Mr. Mubita had prepared a special beer made from fermented sorghum flour, as well as a kind of African tea. He gave a demonstration of how these beverages are served in a traditional context among the Lozi people, and served the drinks to assembled members of the community. Approximately 15 community members participated.



Presentation: Over dinner prepared by community members, Dr. Forjaz and Mr. Mubita presented slides of their work.

Fri., Nov. 12

Travel: The team travelled to Kyoto by rental van, and then to Yokohama by Shinkansen, arriving in the late afternoon.

6. Yokohama, Nov. 12-15

"Designing 'Spaces of Peace' for the Future: Deconstruction of 'Spaces of Violence' "

Yokohama was chosen as the site for the final activities of the project because of its history as an international port, its accessibility to Tokyo and the surrounding area, the availability of a ideal venue, BankArt Studio, which agreed to sponsor the events, and Yokohama's familiarity as the locus for the Fourth Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) of 2008. Two public events were planned and promoted through posters, flyers, direct email, and web announcements. The first, a hands-on workshop, was held on Sat., Nov 13, and the second, a symposium, was held on Sun., Nov 14. From the beginning, the team considered it important to hold unique, creative events, to break out of the communication habits formed by participation in typical international conferences. We believed that better, more productive communication and problem solving was possible if proper attention was given to the atmosphere and communication process itself. The results exceeded our expectations.

The project ended with a final dinner meeting in Yokohama Chinatown on Nov. 14, at which the possible form of the project output as well as future plans were discussed. The overseas guests departed on Nov. 15 and 16.



Sat., Nov. 13

HANDS-ON DESIGN WORKSHOP: 14:00 - 17:00

Yokohama BankART Mini Gallery, 1F

(Admission was ¥500, space was limited to 30 persons, reservations were required. Translation was provided)

This 3-hour workshop included learning, making, and presentation. Participants were introduced to the promise and problems of contemporary Africa, to its culture, and to its traditional arts and music. Then, using clay, string, paper, sticks, and other simple materials, teams of participants made simple models of spaces of conflict, and learned to negotiate shared design solutions. Finally, the teams presented their ideas and shared their experiences.

Each group of participants was provided with a conflict scenario written by the project team. These were based on actual histories and sites of conflict in Japan and abroad, both historical and contemporary. Each table had six participants, divided into teams of three persons each, each team representing a opposing side in the conflict. In addition, a project member acted as a facilitator; each facilitator had extra information and instructions. The workshop took 3 hours, most of the time spent in hand work and discussion. A total of 28 people participated. These included university students of peace studies, people with a professional background in African issues, architects and designers, high school students, and others. Ages ranged from teens to elderly.

Yokohama, cont'd.

Workshop Program:

I- Orientation and introduction:

1. Presentation of an overview of the project (Azby Brown)
2. Presentation of background on the lukasa and the power of the hand (Miyako Takeshita)
3. Presentation of the causes of conflict and violence (Masako Yonekawa)

II- Group work: Making new "lukasas" in order to resolve conflict

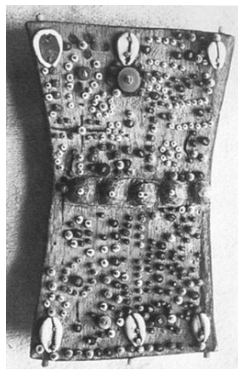
4. Each team modeled the initial state of the conflict space
5. Through the process of modeling by hand, the teams discussed possible resolutions and ways to make "spaces of peace."

III- Presentation of results

6. Each group presented their work and described their resolution process, and Prof. Forjaz, Ms. Marques, and Mr. Mubita provided critiques.
7. Summary (Sayaka Funada-Classen)



"World Heritage" scenario team at work



Lukasa, the inspiration



"City Redevelopment" scenario team at work



Overall view of workshop in progress



Detail of model



Critique by Dr. Forjaz, Mr. Mubita, and Ms Marques.

Yokohama, cont'd.



Sun., Nov. 14, 2010

SYMPOSIUM: 14:00 - 17:00

Yokohama BankART Mini Gallery, 1F

(Admission was free; translation was provided)

From the perspective of their different backgrounds, the panelists discussed their findings and impressions from the 10-day study trip in Japan. What is the meaning of "peace" in the world today? Are there in fact shared concerns and objectives upon which robust peace can be established? What are the roles of modernity and traditional culture, of national identity and other affiliations? How can physical settings for negotiation and other institutions encourage conflicting parties to cooperate? Finally, what can designers do to give birth to this process? An opening performance of African drums was provided by Mr. Batuzolako Madimu Hector. Prof. Brown then gave an overview of the project and the work of the overseas guests, and Prof Forjaz, Mr. Mubita, and Ms Marques presented their thoughts on "Spaces of Peace." A second performance of African drums was held during a break, at which African tea was served and the lukasa models made at the previous day's workshops were viewed. The participants reconvened for "well-side" discussion held in small groups. These discussions were summarized and shared, and team members gave final comments. The symposium ended with more music, and spontaneous dancing by all of the participants.

Symposium Program:

1. Opening music, African drums
2. Introduction and description of the project by Azby Brown
3. Presentation by Dr. Jose Forjaz
4. Presentation by Mr. Mubita Mubita
5. Presentation by Ms Marques
6. Break: music, tea, and viewing workshop results
7. Small-group discussions
8. Sharing results of small group discussions
9. Presentation of Mr. Nishimura's text (he could not be present)
10. Final comments
11. Closing music

Yokohama, cont'd.



Symposium speakers during presentations



African drums



Ms Takeshita explains workshop results



Small-group discussion with Dr. Forjaz



Free discussion



Spontaneous dancing closed the symposium

Meeting: A final meeting was held with all project team members at a restaurant in Chinatown. The organization of all materials gathered during the project -photos, texts, videos, etc -- was discussed, as was the possible form of the final output. All team members expressed the desire to continue to work together as a team, and agreed about the importance of applying for a grant to bring the work to Africa in 2011.

Sat., Nov. 15

Travel: Mr. Mubita departed Japan

Sun., Nov 16

Travel: Dr. Forjaz and Ms Marques departed Japan

MEDIA

Newspaper:

The progress of the group and the nature of the project, workshops, and meetings were documented by Mr. Nishimura of the Mainichi Newspaper. Two about the articles were published in the Mainichi Shimbun while the project was under way. In addition, Mr. ?? of the Asahi Shimbun attended the workshop in Yokohama on Nov. 13, and his article describing the event was published the following day, on Nov. 14.



Mainichi Shimbun, Kansai edition,
Friday, Nov. 5



Mainichi Shimbun, Kansai edition,
Monday, Nov. 8



Asahi Shimbun, Tokyo Edition
Sunday, Nov. 14

Web:

Prof. Funada-Classen made regular postings of text and photos to the project blog at < <http://spacepeace.exblog.jp> >. Other information pages were posted at: < www.kanazawa-it.ac.jp/fdi/FDI/Africa_x_Japan_x_World_E.html > and < www.kanazawa-it.ac.jp/fdi/FDI/Africa_x_Japan_x_World_J.html >., and at the bankART website: < <http://bankart1929.seesaa.net/> >. The Design Observer blog < <http://designobserver.com/> > has commissioned an illustrated article about the project, which will appear in coming weeks.



Project Blog



Information web page



BankART blog

Posters/flyers:

A combined full-color poster/flyer with informatio in both Japanese ad English was designed by the Future Design Institute, and 800 copies printed. These were distributed to educational and cultural institutions for display and further distribution.



Poster/flyer front



Poster/flyer back

INITIATIVES

In the course of discussions held among the team members during the project, a number of ideas and possibilities emerged for related projects and activities in Japan and Africa. Some of these initiatives are still in the discussion stage, and their feasibility has yet to be determined. However, immediate opportunity has arisen to hold "Lukasa" workshops at other institutions in Japan.

"Lukasa" workshops:

The response from peace-studies professionals who participated in the workshop at BankART on Nov 13 was overwhelmingly positive. As we had hoped, others recognized that this method of work and discussion was extremely productive and allowed more significant results to be achieved in a shorter period of time, and also left participants with a strong sense of understanding and accomplishment. The value of these workshops for peace studies and conflict resolution education was immediately grasped, and team members were approached about the possibility of holding similar workshops at other institutions in Japan. Response from overseas colleagues has been extremely positive as well. Team members are currently planning workshops for the near future in Japan and abroad.

Zambia Architecture and Computing Initiative:

This project is in the feasibility analysis stage. Its purpose is to provide computers, software, and basic instruction in the use of architectural CAD software for builders and students in Lusaka, Zambia. The reason is that even educated and experienced builders in Zambia can find themselves in poverty. Being able to produce the necessary working drawings faster will enable many to compete with larger and better capitalized firms to bid for and obtain larger projects and better-paying work. Access to computers, CAD software, and printers, along with the requisite know-how, can enable many to be more competitive in their fields, achieve a higher quality of life, and provide better service to their communities. We propose assisting local builders in establishing a small classroom where these skills can be obtained. This initiative would seek donations of used computer from Japanese architectural firms; software has already been offered by a major European architecture CAD software manufacturer. A Zambian-based NPO has expressed interest in discussing the feasibility of the project.

Zambia Tatami Project:

Mr. Mubita was struck by the merits and comfort of the ubiquitous tatami he found in Japan, and we were able to arrange a special study visit to a tatami maker in Iwami Ginzan. Mr. Mubita noted that in material and basic weaving technique, Japanese tatami were very similar to Zambian floor mats, and a similar item could be made in Zambia for local use using abundant and inexpensive local materials and available skilled hand labor. Mr. Mubita brought a number of tatami samples back to Zambia with him and will begin investigating the possibility of making a new type of tatami there.

Sasayama teahouse:

Mr. Matsuda of Maruyama Village, Sasayama, who provided us with a koicha tea demonstration, expressed interest in having Dr. Forjaz design a teahouse for him to be built in Sasayama. Dr. Forjaz agreed, and has begun conceptualizing the project. When completed, it will be the first teahouse designed by a African built in Japan.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the "Africa x Japan x World: Space for transforming violence into peace" project was completed on time, on budget, with no significant problems, and having gotten an overwhelmingly positive response from participants and observers alike. As stated above, despite our widely different cultural backgrounds and specialties, Forjaz, Marques, Mubita, Funada-Classen, Yoneyama, Takeshita, Nishimura, and Brown were able to establish a quality and depth of cooperation and teamwork that is rare in such ventures. All of us feel we have grown thanks to our participation in the project, and feel it has given us each a strong sense of direction which will shape and guide our future work. We are ready to bring our findings to Africa and put them in practice there in the near future, and we all feel that our teamwork will continue in a variety of ways long into the future. It is incredibly gratifying to build such strong collegial relationships through this kind of work, and perhaps these results illustrate the true meaning and potential of "cultural exchange."

At present we are planning the next step of this project, which has the working title "Africa x Japan x World II." We propose to travel to Mozambique, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conduct field studies, meet with local communities, and conduct workshops. We sincerely hope that the funding we seek for this stage of the project will be allocated.

In addition, as mentioned above, the output for the current project is being prepared under the direction of Prof. Brown for eventual publication. We are convinced that the content of the project and the results of our studies hold tremendous potential significance for communities all over the world. While the immediate locus of our studies this year was Japan, we have been able to extrapolate many important underlying principles of territory, time, environment, resources, identity, power, tradition, modernization, and memory, that operate across the global geography and throughout history to either promote conflict or inhibit it, to render the places we live either peaceful or violent. It is our goal to make these principles more legible for a wide readership and to make tools available to those who can make use of them to help understand and resolve conflicts on a variety of scales, from family to neighborhood to town to country to international relations.

We extend our extreme thanks and appreciation to the Japan Foundation and our many supporters and collaborators who made this project possible, and we look forward to its future continuation.