

Changing and confusing housing landscape in Japan

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Japanese cityscapes are often disorderly changing and diverse because of rapid urban development and economic growth after the World War II. Lack of landscape knowledge and late legal preparation are one of the main reasons. Housing landscapes has the same problem. In this article, housing landscapes means housing estates landscape. Today, it becomes confusing conditions because of new techniques and materials, people can build western or modern style houses from a variety of choices. And also traditional Japanese style houses are remained. Built houses show a marked tendency toward western, modern and simplistic style compared to Japanese traditional style. This resulted in diversified and confusing housing landscape in Japan.

In Japan, there are many researches on house landscapes by the house styles. However, not many researches are done to study the changing colors of house landscapes or the awareness of residents whom are responsible for the changing landscapes. Furthermore, in some regions with unique historical landscapes, residents feel apprehensive of the change of landscape but could not think of an effective way to avoid it, thus making the change of landscapes an unavoidable problem.

I chose Higashi-Hiroshima City of Hiroshima Prefecture for this study. Higashi-Hiroshima locates in the basin of hilly region. The city had a unique landscape of houses with reddish brown roof shingles and white walls scattered in rural districts. However, increasing in population and houses due to the relocation of some universities and industrial buildings, housing landscape is changing and resulted in the ruin of regional landscape by various housing styles. This study is analyze the changing of house landscapes from the view point of housing styles and housing wall colors in housing estates over the years. Moreover, I will try to illustrate investigation results.

Keywords: housing landscapes