

Acceptance of Forest Aesthetics in Japan ? A Technological System Applicable for Different Countries and Vegetation

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1. Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

The existence of the Jingu Shrine forest is very precious as it provides vast green space in the center of the city. Upon the development of the forest plan for the inner garden of Meiji Jingu Shrine, although there seemed to have been the involvement of various forestry academics that had engaged in forest aesthetics during their studies abroad in Germany (Imaizumi, 2013), how the specific details were reflected in the forest garden plan was still unknown.

This study focuses on the specific area of forest management/silviculture, revealing both similarities and differences between the two, and considers the impact of forest aesthetics in constructing the Meiji Jingu Shrine forest.

2. Research Materials and Methods

2-1 Research Materials and Summary

The forest garden plan adopted the Meiji Jingu Shrine's monograph "Meiji Jingu Shrine grounds forest plan(Hongo 1921)" and for forest aesthetics, the second edition of the English version of "Forest Aesthetics (Cook2008) " was adopted as source materials.

2-2 Research Methods

From the overall review and design of the forest garden plan, contents that arise depending on the planning stage of the respective sections were extracted, descriptions about forest aesthetics corresponding to these items were extracted, matches the contents of the forest garden plan to the contents of the forest aesthetics was prepared, and upon clarifying the similarities and differences, the effect of forest aesthetics on the forest garden plan was considered (Shimizu et al.2014).

3. Results and Discussions

In the table of contents of the forest garden plan, the components that apply to each "section" indicates the processes for the construction of the forest garden, and they substantially corresponded to the structure that are applicable to the chapters pertaining to forest aesthetics, application Part A, chapters for forest construction and forest economics (Shimizu et al.2014).

In addition, for each "section", as a result of determining whether there are similarities and differences in the contents of each "item" (5) that respectively corresponds to the forest garden planning and forest aesthetics, there were 22 items with similarities and 13 items with differences. Upon classification of these items, the differences were noted in the descriptions for location and purpose. Similarities were noted in scenic beauty, use, respecting site conditions, constructing a forest with variety, forest duration, ancient trees, ponds and fountains, flow, respecting the placement of the forest and landscape viewpoints. In particular, although the forest plan aims to achieve a forest strictly composed of Castanopsis, oak, and camphor, it became clear that the effects of forest aesthetics can be seen pervasively in forest construction, by taking advantage of the original composition of the forest upon construction, considering the planting of coniferous trees in an area wooded with red pines and broadleaf deciduous trees, methods to utilize the original forest, and taking that as a concept of developing beauty.

Citations and References:

- 1) Yoshiko Imaizumi (2013): Meiji Shrine, Shinchosha, pp.351
- 2) Takanori Hongo (1921): Meiji Jingu Shrine Inner Garden Forest Garden General and Future Silvicultural Methods, Meiji Jingu Shrine Monograph, Volume 13 Construction Management section (2)
- 3) Heinrich von Salisch: Forest Aesthetics, Walter L.Cook Jr. other translations (2008), Forest History Society, pp.346
- 4) Seigo Ito, Yuko Shimizu (2014): Effects of forest aesthetics in the Meiji Jingu Shrine Forest Garden Plan, The 2014 Institute of Landscape Architecture Chubu Branch Conference Research Presentation Abstracts, 39-40.
- 5) An item is, for example, the comparison of information on the natural environment, targeted design, and consideration of silvicultural methods by item.

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