

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (21087) - MEANING AND VALUE OF JAPANESE LIVING-ENVIRONMENT FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN

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Background and objectives

In Japan, research on the history of housing began about 100 years ago, and Hirotaro Ota's "*Zusetu-Nihon-Jutakushi*" (1948) is the oldest book on complete history of Japanese housing. In 1970s, number of classes on housing history was increasing in the department of architecture in universities and in the department of home economics in women's colleges in Japan (Michio Fujioka ed., 1970). Since then, there have been a lot of research on history of housing and on classification, and preservation activities, as well as education in and out of museums and universities.

In this study, we discuss how foreign residents in Japan perceive and value these houses and their surrounding environments, i.e. living-environment, that Japanese people cherish so much by now.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

First, 11 representative photographs of ordinary people's living-environment, which are considered to be important in Japanese housing history, were selected. Then a web questionnaire was conducted with these photographs, where Chinese residents in Japan were asked 1) preference, 2) impressions, 3) willingness to live, 4) conservation consciousness, and 5) motivation to visit.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Based on 53 valid responses, overall evaluation of Japan's living-environment tends to be positive. Especially, preference and atmospheric evaluation. And an interesting point, we find that some of the Japanese living-environments bring foreigners feel nostalgic impression. Strong positive correlations between conservation consciousness and preference (correlation coefficient 0.95), motivation to visit and preference (correlation coefficient 0.92) are found.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

Through this research, we clarified foreign residents' evaluation to the Japanese living-environment, which is a favorite landscape for them. Despite cultural differences and gaps with the familiar living-environment, foreigners feel nostalgic to some of the living-environment.

It is suggested that the Japanese living-environment can also be valued by foreigners. Preservation and introduction including real experience of it are also very meaningful for the world.

Palavras-chave : Japanese Living-Environment, Foreign Residents in Japan, Place Attachment, Value