

IC - (21158) - THE TRANSFORMATION OF FRONT/BACK-SIDE SPACE IN JINBOCHO, TOKYO – FROM 1980S TILL NOW

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Background and objectives

This study focuses on a pair of dualistic concepts of front-side and back-side in urban space. The build and demolish constructions reform the built environment and drive the back-side space to appear and disappear in some places during the past years.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

This paper aims to clarify the characteristics of these 2 kinds of space in contemporary Japanese urban exterior space through years as well as to explain the attendant usage patterns, taking Jinbocho as the main research site. Initially, the space enclosed by the interface with the main access of buildings is extracted as front-side space. Otherwise, the space is regarded as back-side space. Secondly, 4 typical years are extracted between the 1980s till now, and the locations and configurations of front-side space and back-side space of each year are mapped for morphological analysis respectively and transformational analysis comparatively. Thirdly, the usage patterns of front/back-side space are achieved by the observation of temporary events and permanent usage.

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

Finally, as a result, front-side space is inclined to be continuous while back-side space is inclined to be fragmentary. Meanwhile, though front-side space and back-side space are the opposite concepts, they are not clearly separated in the Japanese urban context. In other words, there exist some states in between. Besides, compared to front-side space, back-side space has more flexibility to hold different events or provide a place to stay as potential urban publicly accessible space.

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

The urban structure is clarified by the concept of the front and back, and the results could be used in the urban revitalization in the future.

Palavras-chave : morphology, transformation, fragment, ambiguity, publicly accessible space