JapanDesign Workshop

Summer 2016 JULY 21 ~ AUGUST 8, 2016

Continuity / Transformation in Architecture & Community Form

The Japan Design Workshop is conducted annually over a three-week sojourn including Kyoto, Tokyo and living in regional rural villages. The workshop's recurrent theme is Continuity/Transformation in Architecture & Community Form.

Workshop projects take place in selected contexts with a distinct historical character of tradition and natural beauty yet undergoing unprecedented challenges from demographic shifts, ecologic & environmental alteration due to natural disasters on one hand, and hyper-urbanization & extreme tourism on the other. Students are asked to conduct extensive fieldwork, rapid analysis, design & planning alternatives and strategic propositions - all in a compressed timeframe, teamwork and delivery format.

Our activities are 100% on-site, in real time, with accountable client groups. Specific projects this summer include the design & construction of a "Stage for All" みんなの舞台 – a temporary gathering place for a community on Izu-Oshima island devastated by a 2013 typhoon & landslide, as well as in assisting the villages of Tané near Lake Biwa which due to accelerated depopulation is classified as a marginal/endangered settlement.

Japan Design Workshop is planned and conducted with a counterpart Japanese university and are carried out jointly with their students, faculty and other volunteer individuals, professionals and NPO members locally and from around the world. Our principal collaborators in 2016 are the University of Tokyo and i_ADW (international Advanced Design Workshop). Accommodations include staying in a Kyoto temple, rural home-stays, a traditional island inn and a city hotel in Tokyo. Meals, accommodations, and local transportation are your own expenses. Roundtrip airfare will be covered by the program.

Japan Design Workshop is made possible by the generous support of individuals and institutions in the U.S. and Japan. The program is based in the School of Architecture & Planning at MIT, but students from other universities are encouraged to join. Shun Kanda has directed the Japan Design Workshop from its inception in 1990.

Students currently in advanced-level architecture programs (not graduating in June 2016) are eligible. Enrollment is limited. Participants are selected on the basis of their qualification, submitted application materials, and faculty reference. Interested students should submit the attached APPLICATION FORM by email to Shun Kanda (kanda@mit.edu).

Deadline for Application: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

• a portfolio is not required at this time, read the additional details on the Application Form.