

# Principles of Spatial Structures and Regional Characteristics of Okura-Syo in the Edo Period, Research on Preservation and Utilization of Historic Buildings

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## Research Topics

- Spatial structures of Okura-syo owned by the Kaga Domain during the Edo Period
- Research of historic buildings in Natori City

## Research Seeds

My specialty is the History of Japanese Architecture. I am studying the Okura-syo, which was the most important facilities related to finance during the Shogunate and various feudal domains. The distribution facilities of Okura-syo used to store rice collected as a land tax paid by village residents. The rice was stored in the Okura and became "Kaimai." Many Okura-syo were built in Shogunate territory and territory of the various feudal domains. However, many Okura have disappeared (Fig. 1). I examined the building arrangement and the building structures of Okura-syo in areas where historical materials such as sketches were left. I clarified "The types of building arrangement, and the formation factors" of Okura-syo owned by the domain in the Tohoku Region or heavy snowfall area, up to the present day. The types of building arrangements differed by feudal domain. In addition, in the Kaga feudal domain, which had a large territory over three regions, the type of the building arrangement was different according to the region. I think that such Regional Characteristics of Okura-syo demonstrate the variety of the Edo Culture.

I established "The society to study of historic buildings in Natori City," in which I am acting as the representative. In cooperation with the board of education of Natori City, we clarified "The number of the historic buildings" and important historic buildings. Damage occurred to many historic buildings by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In Murata Town in southern Miyagi prefecture, damage occurred to the storehouses known as "Mise-gura." After the earthquake, the nation selected Murata Town for listing as a "Zyudenken-chiku (District for a group of important historic buildings)." Reconstruction of a cityscape thereby became difficult in Murata Town. Because of this, I made diagrams of restored buildings in Murata Town with computer graphics (CG). I am providing CG I had made, as shown in Fig. 2 to those local governments.



Fig. 1 Remains of Okura in Tottori.



Fig. 2 CG for the reconstruction of a cityscape.

## Related Technology

- Research on historic buildings and evaluation
- Deciphering of ancient documents
- Making diagrams of a restoration using computer graphics