

A study on contemporary Japanese architectural design : ephemeral space and fragmented urbanity

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PREFACE

I came to Japan on a scholarship offered by *Monbusho*, the Japanese Ministry of Education, to do my Doctor course. I had done my Master research concerning the Japanese traditional concepts of space. This put me in a pre-set curious and admiring state of mind.

Upon my arrival to Japan, I was surprised by the fast changing and chaotic architectural and urban landscape. This was a face I had not seen in books and magazines. It triggered my first curious point, and I decided to search for the answer.

When I was living in Fukuoka, I participated in the *Hakata Gion Yamakasa* festival. The experience was so intense and I saw the community in a situation that was strange to me. This triggered my second curious point to investigate.

After a while, I realized that everything in Japan is related. And from the eye of an architect, I tried to find answers to both curiosities. My idea is that rituals, architecture and the urban environment are interrelated through the concept of temporality.

I relied mainly on researches done by western scholars concerning the subject, which was also a source of academic curiosity to many of them.