

2016 JAPANESE STUDIES INSTITUTE PROGRAM

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Project Summary:

My project for the 2016 JSI Fellowship Program includes the development of an undergraduate architecture course (Special Topics in Architecture) titled – *Genius Loci: Archetypal Principles in Japanese Sacred Place-making*. This course will be an introduction to and an exploration of the sources, principles, theories, and physical expressions of the phenomenon of place-making within the context of sacred architecture of Kyoto and Nara in Japan. It will explore the qualitative nature of embodiment of inextricable design principles that contribute to emplacement and the sense of place – ‘genius loci’ experienced in the sacred architecture and landscape of Kyoto and Nara. Place and principles, within the context of sacred architecture and landscape in Japan, share common objectives, which this course will investigate. These include the articulation of three primary ‘Qualifying Principles’ – *Center (Naka)*, *Boundary (Kyoukai)* and *Domain (Kuiki)*, including fifteen ‘Informing Principles’ – *Orientation (Shihou)*, *Ascent (Ue)*, *Symmetry (Kinsei)*, *Proportion (Hiritsu)*, *Hierarchy (Joretsu)*, *Path (Michi)*, *Passage (Tobira)*, *Number (Kazu)*, *Materiality (Bushitsu)*, *Void (Ku)*, *Light (Hikari)*, *Landscape (Fukey)*, *View (Keshiki)*, *Deity (Kami)*, and *Ceremony (Gishiki)*.

The course will be designed to accommodate three major class projects in addition to assigned readings and class discussions, including a research project (case study analysis of temple and shrine precincts in Kyoto and Nara), a field study visit/report (Fort Worth Japanese Garden and Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth in Texas), and a Japanese tea house and Zen garden design in Houston, Texas (conceptualized on the phenomenology of Japanese sacred place-making). The course will be designed to cover several topics, including: 1) Japanese Creation Myth; 2) Geography of Japan; 3) Japanese Religion; 4) Arts of Japan; 5) Japanese Aesthetics; 6) Japanese Tea House; 7) Japanese Zen Gardens; 8) Renowned Japanese Architects and their Works; and 9) Renowned American Architects Influenced by Japanese Place-making. Throughout the semester, there will be various handouts prepared by the instructor. In addition, there will be a reading list from which students will be required to investigate specific topics ranging from *The Architecture of Japan* (by Arthur Drexler) to *Japanese Zen Gardens* (by Yoko Kawaguchi, Alex Ramsay).