

A collaborative planning and building educational program with students and inhabitants in Tochio

This is educational program for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students of Department of Architecture, faculty of engineering, Niigata University. In this project, students are able to develop their creative abilities as professional architects engaging in actual town plan in collaborating with local inhabitants in Tochio where is small and snowy district of Niigata Japan.

The program includes an actual part of various town planning schemes. Students, inhabitants and local professionals research the characteristics of the environment and discuss design for traditional wooden arcade named "Gangi" covering the pedestrian spaces against the falling snow and rain.

Most typical point of this program is that students are able to built actual Gangi, about 5m wide and 4m high, in collaborate with local builder. In this practical program, students get experience as architectural professionals through actual building process. Moreover inhabitants are able to maintain their residential environment by constructing new Gangi. This project has continued since 1997 and we have 10 Gangi for Omotemachi area in Tochio.