

Practice of Architectural Design Education Program through Step-by-Step Method and Publication of the Textbook

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In architectural design studios, students learn how to design through exercises. At the beginning, a design problem is given, then the students elaborate models and drawings to present their ideas, and teachers give advises evaluating their works. However, when a beginner doesn't know how to start designing, or how to transform vague images into concrete architectural forms, more specific instructions are required although individual response to many students often becomes practically impossible.

Step-by-step method has been developed to give a solution to this problem. This method comprises a framework of architectural design process which consists of six steps: 1) analysis of the site, 2) volumetric study, 3) functional organization, 4) envelop and structure, 5) study of the details, 6) presentation. A complex design problem is decomposed into simple design tasks at every step, so that even a beginner can create original answers.

Through application of this method in architectural design studios at Kobe Design University since 1994, the framework of this teaching method has been continuously improved. The textbook published in 2010 introduces essential ideas of this method clearly with a plenty of visual materials and plain texts, which surely contributes to make progress in the education of architectural design.