

Architects and “Kenchikushi” –One Hundred Years of Architect Law and Housing in Japan

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This book deals with the history of the enactment process, pre and post enactment movement of the Kenchikushi Law for Architects and Building Engineers in Japan, frequently argued when we talk about “what is an architect?”

Architects had hoped to enact as Architect Law since early Taisho period, but they have been deeply disappointed after its enactment in 1950.

People say this law is unique because Kenchikushi is defined quite ambiguous. For example, Kenchikushi applies not only to architects but also to building engineers; Kenchikushi has a classification system, and so on. As a result of these facts, Architects have blamed the law for about 60 years, but no one has ever explored foundation of the idea of this law. Architects have thought the problem stems from the object of application: whether the law shall include architectural designers who belong to the contractor or not.

In this book, through the survey of the enactment process, the author clarified that the view of housing problem exists in foundation of the idea, and architects didn't think private housings as their object to design in that time.

Through his clarification, the author also suggests the new horizon of the argument upon this law.

