

# Architecture in Time

## Survival of Buildings through History and Social Change

In this book Koichi Kato explores the new aspect of architectural history. Traditionally, architectural history has emphasized “historical moment” and has focused on the date of construction. But Kato opens up the possibility of arguing “historical duration” and focuses on the long time span after buildings were built. From the late antiquity to present, there were so many interesting examples of re-use and Kato argues that the re-use of existing building had been essential action in the history of architecture.

From such viewpoint, Kato sets a trichotomy between (1) re-use (partially preserve and renovate), (2) re-development (scrap and build), and (3) cultural heritage (restore and preserve). Historically, re-use was the oldest way of building, which often happened in the late antiquity. Re-development remarkably began in 16th century in Europe, while the institution of cultural heritage began in the 19th century. People always argue about the historic existing buildings in the dichotomy between preservation and development, and it makes strong conflict between the two opinions. But if we reevaluate the possibility of this third way — re-use and renovation of old buildings — we will cultivate the rich architectural creation.

Kato’s study is highly significant in two aspects. Firstly, this study completely reconstructs the new framework of architectural history. Secondly, it connects history of Western architecture to the argument of architecture today.