Thoughts and Places on Urbanism: Notes on Japanese Planning History

This work is a collection of studies on the thoughts and places related to the history of modern and contemporary Japanese urban planning. Throughout the work, the development of “critical planning history,” which the author proposes as a part of “open planning history,” is fresh and original. In the introduction, the author collates the history of urban planning research and presents the ideal “open planning history.” Section 1, “Cities and Urban Planners,” asks the question “how should urban planning and cities relate to each other?,” as it traces the trajectory of ideas of urban planners such as Eiyo Ishikawa and Eika Takayama. Section 2, “Currents of Thought and Movements in Community Design and Urban Design,” asks “what should be the main constituents of urban planning?” Section 3, “Tokyo’s Character as a Place and Urban Planners,” asks “how does urban planning create places?”. Section 4, “Succession of Memories and Urban Planning Heritage,” asks “what is the significance and value of urban planning heritage?”. In the concluding chapter, the author provides a hypothetical sketch of “public planning history,” which implies urban planning history that is open to a wide range of people.