Lecture

The Turkish House
Date: Tuesday, October 25th, 2011, 13:05～15:00

Mimar Sinan & His Architecture
Date: Thursday, October 27th, 2011, 13:05～14:35

Place: K-222, the Koshien Hall
Lecturer: Dr. Sezin Tanriover (Assistant Professor of Bahcesehir University, Istanbul)

Dr. Sezin Tanriover, Assistant Professor of Bahcesehir University, gave two lectures entitled “The Turkish House” and “Mimar Sinan & His Architecture”, as part of the faculty exchange program. She discoursed on Turkish traditional timber houses, and Mimar Sinan, the greatest architect in Turkish architectural history, and his works.

The first lecture was focused on three major points: Characteristic Properties of Space and Structure of Turkish Houses, Reviewing Turkish Houses Applying Universal Architectural Concept, Comparison of Traditional Turkish House with Traditional Japanese House. We realized differences and similarities between Turkish traditional houses, which originate from nomads in central Asia, and their Japanese counterpart.

The second lecture was focused on the following three major points: Ottoman Empire in the 16th and the 17th Centuries, General Information about Mimar Sinan, Sinan’s Designs. We deepend our understanding of Sinan’s distinguished works, such as Suleymaniye Mosque, Selimiye Mosque, Mustafa Pasha Bridge, and Maglova Aqueduct, through the lecture with a lot of beautiful photographs.

After each lecture, we had active question-and-answer sessions. We are grateful to Dr. Sezin for her really comprehensible lecture. It was a valuable opportunity for us.
Lecture

Islamic tiles from the 12th to the 14th centuries

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2011, 16:00～16:40
Place: West Hall, the Koshien Hall
Lecturer: Dr. Tomoko Masuya (Professor at Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo)

We held a lecture entitled “Islamic tiles from the 12th to the 14th centuries” inviting Dr. Tomoko Masuya, Professor at Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo. The lecture was held in commemoration of the opening of the Architecture and Culture through the Silk Road Galleries. She had written descriptions of the collection of Islamic tiles in the galleries.

The lecture began with a commentary on the history of tiles in Islamic architectures up to the 12th century, including Glazed bricks, which were used in ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Iran (Persia) since BC, stucco used for architectural decoration in the Sassanid Persian Empire, Mosaic, which were mainly used for architectural decoration before the 7th or mid-8th century, luster-painted tiles in Iraq in the 9th century, luster-painted tiles in Egypt in the 11th century.

Then, tiles in the Islamic dynasty in the 12th to 14th centuries were introduced. Tile decoration developed during this period. Tile mosaic of Alhambra in the Nasrid dynasty (current Spain), glazed bricks and tiles used on the outer walls, mīnā’ī tiles and underglaze-painted tiles used on the inner walls in the Sultanate of Rum (current Turkey and Syria), tiles in Ghaznavids (current Afghanistan) in the 12th century were also explained.

Lastly, tiles of the 12th to the 14th century Iran, which comprise the core of the collection, were introduced. Professor Masuya’s commentary was made from various perspectives such as decorative techniques of tiles, types of tiles used for interior wall (e.g. Dado tiles, Frieze tiles, Border tiles, Mihrāb tiles and Floor tiles), and inscriptions and pictures drawn on the tiles.

We appreciate the comprehensible lecture on Islamic tiles by the researcher actively at work. It was a valuable opportunity for us.
Lecture

Introduction of Tile to Japan

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2011, 13:00〜15:00
Place: Presentation Room, the Architecture Studio
Lecturer: Mr. Masahiko Shibatsuji (President of the Institute for Arts & Crafts)

We invited Dr. Masahiko Shibatsuji, President of the Institute for Arts & Crafts, to hold a lecture entitled “Introduction of Tile to Japan” as part of the seminars sponsored by the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies. He commentated how tiles as pottery like “glazed bricks” and Chinese “Sen (bricks used in oriental architecture)” were introduced to Japan.

The lecture began with bricks and tiles in the ancient architecture built before the Christian era. Blue glazed tiles in ancient Egypt, Glazed bricks in Mesopotamia, fired bricks in ancient Greece, bricks and mosaic in ancient Rome etc. were also explained.

Then, the history of the tiles in Islamic architecture was taken up. Bricks and colored tiles of the Royal Mosque in the Safavid dynasty, tiles of the Topkapi Palace in the Ottoman Empire, tiles of the Alhambra Palace in the Nasrid dynasty etc. were also referred to.

And then, the history of distribution of tiles to Europe and U.S.A. was introduced. Azulejo (a form of painted, tin-glazed, ceramic tile work) of Portugal and Spain, maiolica tile of Italy, Delft tile of Netherlands or France, stove tile of Switzerland or Germany, bricks of England after the Industrial Revolution, brick ornament and Terra Cotta of U.S.A. in and after the end of the 19th century etc. were also explained.

Lastly, tiles in Japan after the 19th century were explained citing examples of major ceramics manufacturers or the buildings built with bricks and tiles.

We appreciate the comprehensive lecture by the commentator of tiles. It was a valuable opportunity for us.
Lecture

Through the excavation and research at Anatolian highland, Turkey, where relics of ten thousand years’ culture lie in layers

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2012, 13:00～16:30
Place: West Hall, the Koshien Hall
Lecturer: Dr. Sachihiro Omura (Director of Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology, Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan)

A lecture entitled “Through the excavation and research at Anatolian highland, Turkey, where relics of ten thousand years’ culture lie in layers” was held inviting Dr. Sachihiro Omura, director, Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology, Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan as lecturer. Dr. Omura has been leading the excavation and research at the site of Kamen-Kalehoyuk over 27 years. Dr. Omura introduced ancient civilization in the Anatolian region from the viewpoint of an archaeology reflecting his experiences of years of excavation.

In the first section it was explained using pictures or cross sectional drawings of the layers from the relics that the Kamen-Kalehoyuk site is located on Anatolian highland, crossroads of cultures, where remainders of various cultures of over 10 thousand years lie in layers, e.g. artifacts from Ottoman Turk, Alexandrian silver coins, Polish coins from 17th century, or ceramic ware from Min dynasty, and that the purpose of excavation and research is to arrange ‘cultural chronology’, or ‘chronological table’.

In the second section, various articles excavated were shown with the comment on the differences between ‘excavation and research’ and ‘archaeology’. An effort of preserving cultural assets was also explained introducing the background of the establishment of the museum in 2010 including the steps of creating a Japanese garden and organizing the research institute. In the final part, he concluded, “By studying the relations of Ancient Japan and Anatolia, we can read many aspects of modern Japan. In that sense, archaeology is indeed a tool to know the modern world.”

It was a meaningful occasion for us to have listened to the lecture of Dr. Omura, an active scholar on the front line, about the culture as well as the way of life from the archaeological point of view.