

lab.4 Space Syntax

2019.10.12 (Sat) -
2020.3.22 (Sun)

This fourth edition of the “lab.” series of exhibitions styled as open laboratories will employ the “Space Syntax” theory gaining currency as a new technique in urban and landscape design for exploring the relationship between spatial layout, and the way we behave.

Exhibition Title	lab.4 Space Syntax
Period	Saturday, October 12, 2019 - Sunday, March 22, 2020
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)
Venue	Design Gallery, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
Closed	Mondays (except October 14 and 28, November 4, February 24), October 15 (Tue), November 5 (Tue), December 20 (Fri)–February 3 (Mon), February 25 (Tue)
Admission	Free
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2800
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)

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About the Exhibition

“Spaces” are where we live. We perceive spaces, by various means, and if a space changes, so does our behavior. Thus it would seem spatial layout and human behavior are closely related. Where might we find the key to illuminating that relationship? This fourth exhibition in the “lab.” series will search for this key, via research and analysis from the perspectives of connections and relationships.

The important term here is “space syntax”: syntax referring to a system for deriving meaning based on the relationship between words. Space syntax is the name given to a thesis developed in the 1970s by Bill Hillier, a professor at The Bartlett (Faculty of the Built Environment) of University College London, and to the eponymous global firm engaged in its practice. The theory and practice of space syntax, which incorporates a scientific approach to analyzing spatial layout, and contemplates the relationship between human perceptions and behavior, has attracted growing attention in recent years as a new technique for the design of urban and architectural spaces.

While showcasing this space syntax theory and practice, for the duration of the exhibition we will also be undertaking two research/analysis projects at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. The first will be a study of indoor behavior. A video analysis technique employing new technologies such as machine learning will be introduced to observe the flow of people around pathways inside the museum, and when and where people stop, and sit, to analyze the relationship between spatial layout, and human perception and behavior. The second will target the museum’s Exhibition Zones, surveying the routes taken by visitors. The idea will be to identify new possibilities for the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, by analyzing features of the museum’s spatial layout, and exploring their potential.

These research activities will be undertaken by enlisting help from the research supporters who also took part in the “lab.1 OTON GLASS” and “lab.2 Sight” exhibitions, with outcomes being collated and updated in the Design Gallery, venue for “lab. 4.” Perhaps that key illuminating the relationship between spatial layout and human behavior will be found in our transparent glass laboratory.

About the “lab.” series

The “lab.” – in the sense of laboratory – series of exhibitions was launched in the Design Gallery in 2017. In these exhibitions, the Design Gallery serves not only as a location for the display of works, but an open setting for survey, study and experimentation, and presentation of the relevant processes.

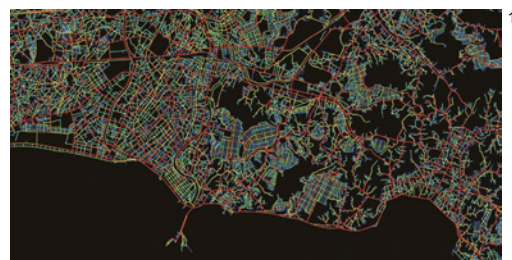
Exhibition content and structure

1. Introduction: Giving visual form to the connections between spaces

The space of the Design Gallery, venue for the exhibition, will be analyzed using space syntax techniques, and a heat map generated across the whole of the floor, giving visitors an intuitive insight into visual and flow changes in the environment as they change position in the room.

2. Space Syntax Ltd. theory and practice

This section will feature case studies of projects undertaken by Space Syntax, such as its revitalization plan for London’s Trafalgar Square, explaining the theories behind these projects and showing how Space Syntax experts have endeavored to measure the invisible force that is spatial layout.



Urban structure analysis based on a Space Syntax index

3. Observing the relationship between spatial layout and human perceptions/behavior

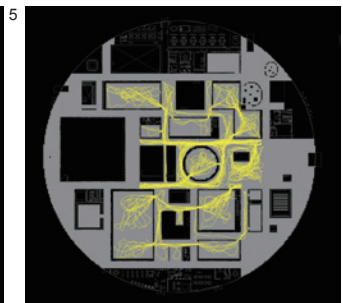
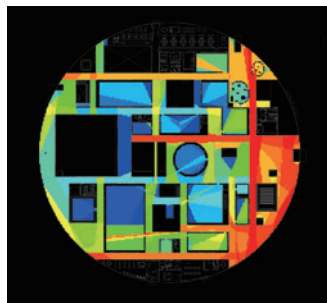
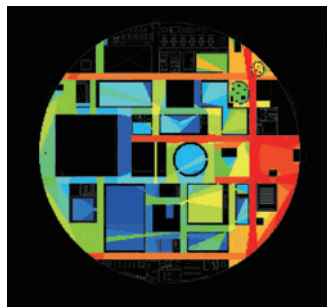
Stools will be positioned in some of the museum's pathways, and the flow lines of passing visitors monitored. Video analysis technology will be employed to analyze behaviors such as where people stop, where they sit, and whether they rest individually, or converse in groups, and the results of this analysis displayed in the exhibition venue as they become available.



Computer-graphic rendition of a pedestrian trajectory survey of a station plaza

4. Analyzing the spatial properties of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

Different conditions will be put in place, such as changes to entry and exit points, to analyze spatial perception and behavior in a space deliberately designed to facilitate spatial openness and diversity of behavior. In conjunction with our research supporters, a survey of flow lines in the Exhibition Zones will be undertaken while the museum is closed for renovations, and the results displayed in the venue after reopening of displays on February 4.



3~5. Layout analysis of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, based on Space Syntax spatial indices

6. Graphic rendition of layout and flow line analyses of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

**About
Space Syntax
Japan**

Space Syntax Limited was established in London in 1989, based on the theories advocated in the 1970s by Bill Hillier, professor at The Bartlett (Faculty of the Built Environment), University College London. Space Syntax Japan managing director Takamatsu Seiji earned his master's degree at UCL's Space Syntax Lab in 2001, and worked as a project consultant (later, an associate) from 2002 to 2006 at Space Syntax Limited. Prefaced by a commission to revitalize a large-scale commercial facility in Japan in 2004, he established Space Syntax Japan in 2006 in collaboration with other specialists in landscape planning, traffic engineering and architecture as Space Syntax Limited's first affiliate office in Asia. In addition to layout design of large-scale commercial facilities, they have engaged in research, analysis, evaluation and consulting on revitalization and maintenance projects for central city areas and railway station plazas ever since.
www.spacesyntax-japan.com

TAKAMATSU Seiji

Managing Director, Space Syntax Japan. Born in Tokushima, Japan. After graduating in civil engineering from Tokushima University, Takamatsu earned his MEng in traffic engineering at the University of Tokyo, and MSc in advanced architectural studies (Space Syntax Lab) at The Bartlett, University College London. He worked with Space Syntax Limited (London) from 2002 to 2006, in which year he established Space Syntax Japan. He also teaches at Tokyo Metropolitan University and the University of Tokyo as a visiting lecturer.

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