

MURAMATSU LAB.

["Naka-naka" Heritage : Idol of Cities and Villages]

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http://nakanakaisan.org/index_en.html

Architectural History, Urban History, Urban Heritage/Resource Development

Department of Architecture

1. Definition of "Naka-naka" Heritage

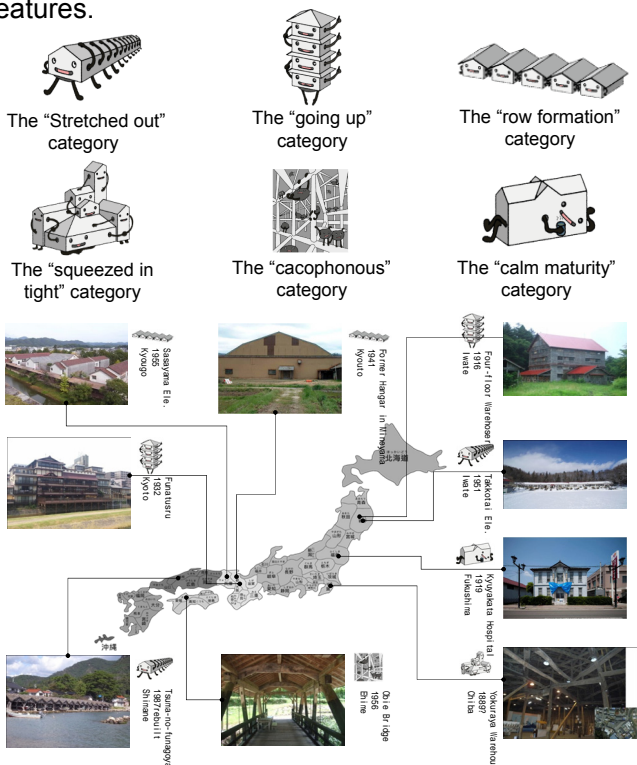
In comparison with World Heritage sites which are evaluated by "Outstanding Universal Value" since 1972, concept of "Naka-naka" Heritage is put forward by Muramatsu Lab. and Koshihara Lab., following with various related research activities.

A "naka-naka" heritage site refers to a community asset as following:

- with certain idiosyncratic features found nowhere else, but which would not achieve recognition as an important cultural property of the nation or a World Heritage site due to the fact a person will let out a small chuckle when they first see.
- upon more serious reflection, because they can see that it links the site's locality with cultural currents in the broader world along with people, communities and objects and artifacts, and that it generates a variety of benefits for people.
- causes that a person upon seeing it to utter the Japanese expression "naka-naka~! (pretty good)". A "naka-naka" heritage site spontaneously evokes a desire in people to save not just the built structure itself for future generations, but all those connections that it embodies in their undiminished form.

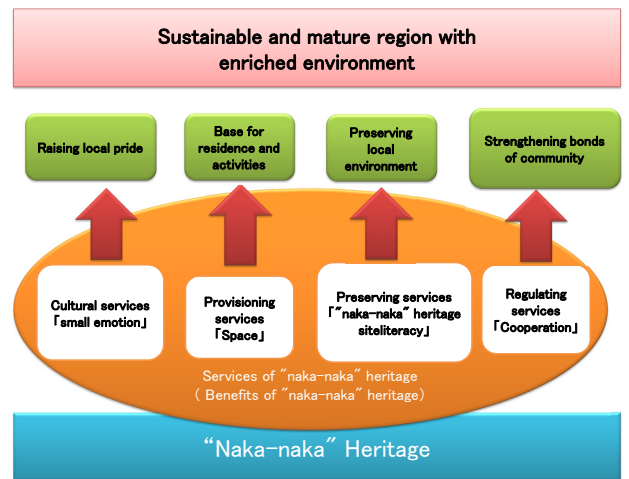
2. Categories of "Naka-naka" Heritage

Sites of "naka-naka" heritage are selected within Japan and categorized as following based on their features.



3. Benefits of "Naka-naka" Heritage

As mentioned in the definition, "Naka-naka" Heritage brings people a diversity of services. Its "Cultural services", "Provisioning services", "Regulating services", "Preserving services" of Nakanakaisan are listed here by borrowing the language of ecosystem services.



4. Practice of Preservation and Utilization

Now we have preservation and utilization activities of "naka-naka" heritage undertaking in Kyuyakata Hospital in Yabuki Town, Fukushima which suffered from damages in the Great East Japan Earthquake, and Takkotai Elementary School in Ichinoseki City, Iwate which is under discussion of abandoning due to the decreasing number of children.

