

Olbia Workshop Experience

2025/09/01 ~ 2025/09/06

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Introduction



The six of us stayed in Italy for 14 days from August 25th, 2025 to September 7th, 2025, and participated in architectural inspections and workshops. It was such a fruitful and stimulating two weeks that I don't think I'll ever have such a precious experience again in my life. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Nakamitsu-san, Aiya-sensei, and Hori-sensei, who accompanied us on the trip.

The first week was dedicated to architectural inspections. In cities such as Rome, the Vatican, Florence and Siena, students came into contact with a wide variety of buildings, both old and new, and deepened their learning. What was most striking was the stimulation they received from historical, religious and urban perspectives through the architecture.

During the second half of the week, we worked on a joint workshop with seven universities. We had a variety of interactions with people from Japan and abroad, and teachers and students alike, and the workshop ended successfully with each group making a presentation. On the final day, we went on a tour of Sardinia, where we congratulated each other and deepened our friendships.

This report covers the second half of the week. We hope you will read to the end.

Day0 Day1 Day2 Day3 Day4 Day5 Day6 Day7



The setting for the week-long workshop was Sardinia, known as the second largest isolated island in the Mediterranean Sea. Located about 200km west of mainland Italy, the terrain is dominated by mountains and hills. The island has a history of being ruled by various powers, from ancient Phoenicia to Rome, Genoa, and Aragon, and is a beautiful island where a culture, architecture, and language different from those of mainland Italy remain.

The day before the workshop began, six of us arrived on the island of Sardinia. It was early in the morning and not many people were around, but we were surprised at the amount of furniture and fixtures scattered around the streets. Afterwards, two of the students went to inspect the ruins, while the remaining four went for a walk around the city of Olbia. We spent our time leisurely, just like local residents, fishing in the sea, shopping for miscellaneous goods, and having a drink at a cafe.



A terrace on a road in Sardinia

Olbia Walking Team: Kiori, Yuusaku, Takumi, Misa



Fishing in Olbia



Street in Olbia



Alley in Olbia

History Walking Team: Hinako, Gaku and 3 teachers



Ruins of the Nuragic civilization

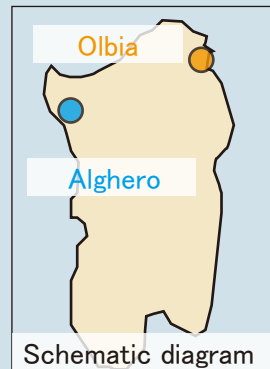


Saccardia Church



Inside of the church

Day0 Day1 Day2 Day3 Day4 Day5 Day6 Day7



Schematic diagram

The first day of the workshop. However, since it didn't start until 4:30pm, we only had time for a little sightseeing. Three of us walked around the city and went to the beach, while the remaining three headed to Alghero, an ancient city in the northwest of Sardinia. Alghero's streets, sea and churches were all beautiful. After dinner, we met a boy on the street and had a heartwarming moment where we kicked a ball around together, even getting the waiter involved. I envied this everyday life.

Alghero Walking Team: Kiori, Misa, Yuusaku and 2 teachers



Soccer in the street



The church down the street



Alghero coastline



Basilica of San Cavino



Inside the basilica



Cathedral basement

City Walking and Swimming Team: Gaku, Hinako, Takumi,...



Beach recommended by local



Professors from several Universities

After the tour, we arrived at our lodgings. The workshop was organized by PNU (Pusan National University) and the University of Sassari, and began as a kick-off event for a new educational institution to be established in Olbia. This was the first time both the workshop and the lodging had been run, and the hectic start to the event was very Italian and fascinating.



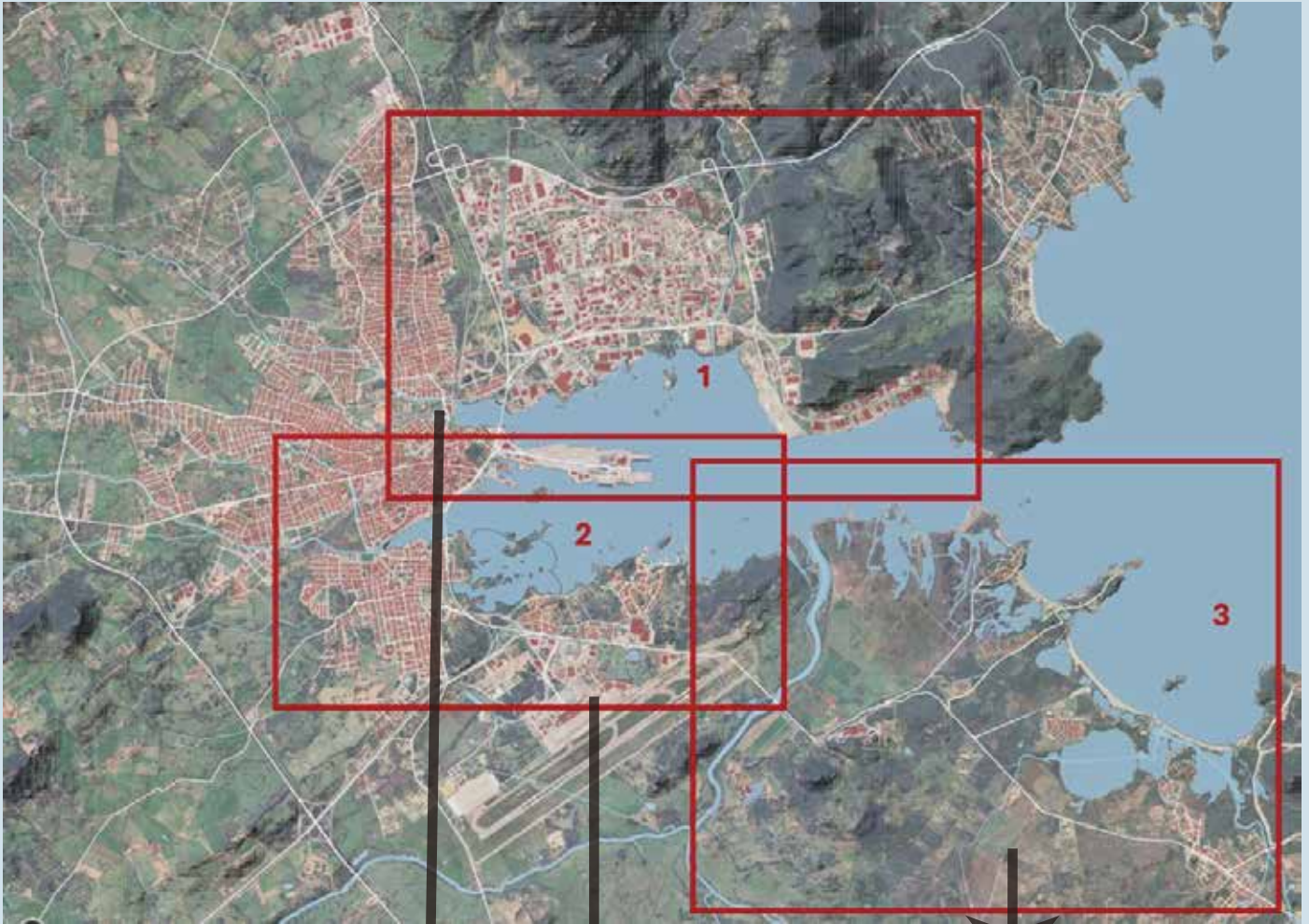
Dinner in Geovillege



Sardinian toasts

WORKSHOP CONTENT

Here we will briefly introduce the details of this workshop. The setting for the proposal is the island of Sardinia in the Mediterranean Sea. Within that island, three locations near Olbia, as shown in the diagram below, were selected as the sites.



Area 1.
North Side of Inner Gulf
: Industrial and urban integration



Eliminating the division between the industrial and the city.

Area 3.
Urban and Environmental, River and Delta Areas of
the Padronjanos River



Dominated by the natural environment of wetlands

Area 2.
South Side of Inner Gulf:
Connections in urban public spaces



Proposing urban connections

The three areas were divided among the seven university teams based on their areas of interest. For us, Ito Kin, Saito, and Nakao were in charge of Area 1, and Ito Isamu, Oike, and Nakasuji were in charge of Area 3. The Kyushu University members were assigned to teams based on their desire to work in each area, so they were very interested in the site. As all three areas have very different characteristics, I think they were able to have fairly casual conversations with the teams working in different areas.

The second day of the workshop. As the kickoff event began, various explanations began, and it felt like a gong had been rung in earnest. When we gathered in the hall, we listened to speeches from representatives of seven universities, including the University of Olbia, as well as from Sipnes Gallura, an industrial development company on the island of Sardinia, and the mayor of Olbia. Although I couldn't understand the occasional Italian that was spoken, I got the sense that this was made possible by the support of many different people, and I thought to myself, this is the largest workshop of my life.



Participants from seven universities



Boudour (right) explaining urban planning



Student Hub (work space)



A work desk with maps etc.

After that, we immediately began working in groups. We drew on the maps and tracing paper we were given, drawing on both existing and new information, and then incorporating the proposals we had thought of in Japan and further proposals into the site. Having spent the last week in Italy inspecting architecture, this was our first design exercise in a while. We worked to regain our senses, and then enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch. We also had the chance to try some of Sardinia's famous dishes, all of which were delicious.



Hinako, Kiori and Takumi at work



Gaku, Yuusaku and Misa at work



Lunch at the Student Hub



Lunch on the workbench

After lunch, our group of three decided that "we won't understand anything unless we see the site." So, before the official site tour, we left the Student Hub and headed to Area 1. We learned about the difficulty of walking in the industrial area and its volume, and we came to truly want to do something to turn this into a town for people. It was an important time.



Map in area 1



Walking street in area 1



Unused land in Area 1



Factories and offices in Area 1

After completing our site inspection, we returned to the Student Hub and embarked on a site tour. We moved through the sites in the order of 3, 2, and 1, and deepened our understanding of each site with expert commentary.



Swamp in area 3



Aqueducts, historical remains



Area 2 coast (Area 1 is opposite side)



Rural area in area 2



Inner Gulf in area 1



The port next to the factory in Area 1

Day0 Day1 Day2 **Day3** Day4 Day5 Day6 Day7

The workshop was now in full swing. Looking around, we could see groups from each country working on their own proposals. This motivated us to do our best as well.



The Korean and Italian teams at work



The Korean team working

As the day was esquisse, both Area 1 and Area 3 teams received sketches in both Italian and English.



Esquisse for Area 3 teams



Esquisse for Area 1 teams

Our (Area 1 Team) study focused on what methods could be used to transform an industrial area, a space isolated from the local residents, into a city for people.

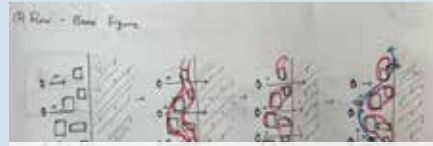


Diagram practice with plan



Diagram practice with perspective



Working note

After the esquisse was completed, we confirmed our direction. Since they were interested in the airflow analysis, we decided to strengthen that while also finalizing the hardware proposal. Saito will work with the flow designer to decide on the layout, etc.



Discussion after the esquisse



Date by Flow Designer

Day0 Day1 Day2 Day3 **Day4** Day5 Day6 Day7

Continuing from yesterday, we continued working on presenting our proposals. From this point on, going to the workshops became a part of daily life, and it felt like a normal part of life. Everyone seemed to be feeling the same way, and we could see that some people were able to relax and enjoy their food. The photo shows the lunch we bought at Super Pan, a supermarket that we had already become a regular customer of.



Work scene in the Hub



We six of us eating lunch



Us work at the inn at night too.

Everyone's motivation gradually increased, and each group began working at the lodgings at night. We also worked at the lodgings, trying to move our proposals forward even a little. The architecture students from other countries were also working in their pajamas, with no makeup and glasses, and it was reassuring to see that it was the same in every country. When I asked them if they were done, they replied, "No, not at all," which I thought was just like in Japan.



Paella bought at Super Pan



Delicious meat, bread and apples



Italian student making pasta



Dinner with Japanese, Chinese and Korean

Day0 Day1 Day2 Day3 Day4 Day5 Day6 Day7

The day before the presentation, I felt the air of my everyday life coming to an end, and as usual, I worked hard at the Student Hub. It had become a familiar scene.



The familiar scene of commuting to school

We had finished drawing the cross-sections and floor plans and it was time to think about how to express it. No amount of time is ever enough.



Creating a cross section in the Student Hub

This workshop required proposals based on urban planning. Each team showed their own unique style, with Koo's team from Busan University presenting a proposal that looked at the whole picture, while ours focused on two axes.



Our two-axis proposal



Considering the volume layout

The night before the final day. All the teams seemed determined to finish the race to the end, and were working in the empty space of the Geovillage (accommodation).

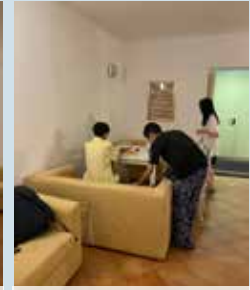
The photo below was probably taken around 2am. The team in Area 3 had made an impromptu restaurant space.



Area 1 Kyushu Uni Team



Area 2 Oita Uni Team



Area 3 Kyushu Uni Team

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On the day of the presentation, the presentation was changed from oral to video, so I edited the video right up until the last minute to submit it. I learned a lot from the presentations of the overseas students, such as presentation attitude and expression techniques.



Students from Kyushu Uni and Oita Uni



Team: Takumi, Hinako and Kiori



Team: Misa, Gaku and Yuusaku



Wang and Cathy from Tongji Uni



Hyunju and others from Busan Uni



Official social gathering



Informal social gathering



Names on the bar

After the announcements, everyone chatted and praised each other. There were winners from each area, with two teams from South Korea and one from China selected as the best. We weren't aiming to win first place, but it was still disappointing and I realized how disappointing I was.

Day0 Day1 Day2 Day3 Day4 Day5 Day6 Day7

On the final day, a full-day bus tour of Sardinia was held.

First, we visited the tombstones of the Nuragic civilization and received an explanation from Sebastiano, a student researching the ruins. Afterwards, we enjoyed tasting traditional Sardinian sweets, alcohol, and cuisine in good weather.



This photo was taken at a gas station. Everyone stayed longer. So free-spirited.



Nuragic circular buildings



A gravestone in the shape of a bow and arrow



Design that express the world of the dead



Traditional roast suckling pig dish



Delicious traditional sweets and alcohol



Lunch with people from several countries

The second half of the tour was spent in Orgosolo. Orgosolo is a small town with a population of around 4,200, but it is known as the "town of murals" because every wall is covered in colorful art. The reason for this is interesting, and it is thought that there may have been a culture of expressing feelings of anxiety and distrust through murals. There was also a lot of graffiti art depicting political opposition, which I felt was a thought-provoking aspect of the town's culture.



Guernica mural and souvenir shop



A relatively pop mural



Possibly a political mural



A mural possibly depicting war

After the Sardinia tour ended, we all went to a restaurant together with the members who had become good friends. Aurora took us to a pizza place where we all chatted and complimented each other.

We wished this moment could last forever. At the end, we all took a photo together, waved goodbye, and said, "Take care!"



Aurora's favorite potato pizza



A toast to the last gelato



A photo of the members after dinner. Hope everyone is doing well.

Summary



This has gotten quite long, but thank you for reading this far.

One thing I have often felt while traveling is the concept of "exclusiveness." When elements that are unique to a place and time, such as building materials, climate, customs, and history, are combined with architecture, a building is born that is the result of countless academic disciplines, including architecture, urban studies, political science, and religious studies. In the workshop, we experienced different approaches to design in each country and realized that each region has different limitations in its focus. As a result, we realized that what we had learned at undergraduate level was still insufficient.

All of our students will continue to work hard, not wanting to waste the ambition we were honored to bring home with us. This experience was only possible thanks to the support of the Kyushu University Foundation, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the faculty and students at the seven universities. Thank you very much.

Kiori Ito