

Designing a house that contain elements of Japanese traditional architecture, and renovating a house based on that design.

Global context: Globalization and Sustainability

Name:

Grade: 10

Due Date: 7/25

Supervisor:

School Name: |

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Criteria A: Investigating

Goal

The goal of this project is to redesign my entire house and to give that design to a company so they will renovate the house based on that design. The whole project is highly challenging because, I am including Japanese cultural architecture, which is not popular anymore, in the design so I can think how to sustain Japanese traditional architecture. Additionally, this project is very challenging because, renovating our house is a serious decision that will effect our daily life, since we have to move to another place and wait until the renovation is finished. Another difficulty of this project is that the design has to be very accurate and realistic, due to the fact that the design will actually be used for the renovation, and because the cost is limited and there are countless amount of regulations that have to be considered.

This project is very personal to me because, I have personal interests towards Japanese traditional architecture and how to keep that tradition. I love the beauty of Japanese architecture, the efficiency, and how it is constructed carefully by professional architects and their passion. From when I started to like Japanese architecture, I also got very sad, since the culture of Japanese traditional architecture was fading as the time passes. Therefore, I want to redesign and renovate my house to sustain the Japanese culture by combining elements of both the Japanese traditional architecture and the modern architecture. Another factor that makes this project personal to myself is the place where I am renovating. Throughout this project, I am redesigning and renovating my house, which is where I lived for nearly my entire life, thus, the space makes this PP very personal to me.

Global Context

The global context of my project is “Globalization and sustainability”. I selected this context for the reason that I am going to combine traditional Japanese architecture and the modern architecture when I redesign my house, to sustain the culture of Japanese traditional architecture in the current society. Combining modern architecture with the Japanese architecture will demonstrate how Japanese traditional architecture can be used in this time period and also that it could be applied in other countries, since modern architecture is widely recognized around the world. The context that I will focus on how my local experience (prior knowledge) could be applied and expanded through an unfamiliar situation, and how it can connect with the world, by combining it with the modern culture.

Prior Knowledge

My prior knowledge of Japanese traditional architecture was mostly gained through the tea ceremony sessions with my grandfather, which I started from about the age of 4. Japanese tea ceremony room is a type of traditional Japanese architecture known as the Japanese tea house. I learnt many general features of Japanese traditional architecture during the tea ceremony. For example, the basic element and features like Tatami mats, which is made by woven rush, Shoji, which is the wooden sliding doors with translucent Japanese paper screens, and the connection between nature and the architecture. Also I learnt how people count the size of the room by the number of Tatami mats, and the two different ways of lining the Tatami mats. One of the way, is when Tatami mats are all lined up and looks like a straight line, and another way is to place the mats so the four corners of the Tatami mats won't gather in one place. The first way is usually applied in bad luck events like funerals and the second way is the most common one, which can be seen in most Japanese houses. This prior knowledge connects to the global context as it is my local experience, and is the tradition that I want to protect. By combining these elements with modern architecture will demonstrate a new way of sustaining the Japanese architecture, and will help to share the idea of it to the world. Additionally, a famous Japanese architect called Kuma Kengo's architecture inspired me a lot. His construction is mostly done by wood and are based on Japanese architecture. His work can be seen around the world, for example at Japan, China, and France. I was introduced to his work, as the redesigned train station at my town was done by him. The aspect of his work which is 'particulate the nature' gave me an idea for my house as it is connected to the aspect of traditional Japanese architecture.

Research skills

During my PP, I used all three sources, which are printed, digital and human. As you can see in appendix A, I mainly read Japanese books that informs the readers about elements of Japanese architecture. I also read a book about Kuma Kengo, who introduced me to the mixed culture architecture and I was able to see some of his examples of how to combine Japanese architecture and modern architecture. The digital sources were also very helpful during the research, since it allowed me to access to English websites that discusses about elements of Japanese traditional architecture and its meanings. Lastly, the human source, which were the architects and the builders from the company, provided me lots of ideas and information when I was designing the house.

I decided to use printed sources, since they are reliable as they are published by big companies and the context is likely to be well researched and edited before it is published. The detailed information was very helpful when I had to choose the Japanese element to install in the house. Also, the books from 20 years ago provided different kinds of observation of Japanese architecture compared to the recent texts, as Japanese traditional architecture were still popular back then. This

comparison showed the change of Japanese traditional architectures' position in the society. The problem with printed sources were that I couldn't find any English sources about Japanese architecture, and this problem was solved by the use of digital sources. The internet allowed me to have access to English websites, which helped me to write this report. I was also provided with sources from around Japan, therefore I was able to know how foreigners viewed Japanese traditional architecture. Lastly, I chose to use human sources because the actual experience of the builders made it easier for me to design an applicable renovation design. They also showed me the reality that texts do not reveal, such as the cost issues. This was very helpful during the PP, since I couldn't get these information via printed and digital texts.

I evaluated these sources by comparing the information in one another, and by asking the architects and builders if the source is valuable or not. When some of the important information, such as the meaning or function of an element of Japanese traditional feature is not found in one of the source, I went through the other sources that were available, including the human sources. This use of multiple sources improved my research skills as it was challenging though at the same time it made my research much more accurate and deep.

Criteria B: Planning

Design Criteria

1: The redesigned house must include more than five Japanese traditional features

I will test this criteria by simply looking at the renovated house when it is completed. If there are more than five Japanese traditional features, such as Tatami mats, the criteria is achieved, and if not, the criteria would not be achieved.

2: The redesigned house must be a composition of modern architecture and traditional Japanese architecture (culture)

This criteria will be tested by asking 30 people if the house has both Modern and traditional Japanese architectures' feature. If more than 20 people says that the house is a composition of those two architecture, the criteria is achieved, and if the number of people agreeing to the question won't reach 20 the criteria is not achieved.

3: The redesigned house must have connections with the nature, which demonstrates the aspect of the Japanese architecture

For testing this criteria, I will be asking 30 people if the house has connections between nature. Examples for the connection can be, using wood, using natural color, and considering the scenery as a part of the design. If more than 20 people said 'Yes' the criteria is achieved.

4: There must be a room that is based on the traditional tea ceremony room in the house

This criteria will be tested by myself looking at the product. A tea ceremony room is always a room of 4 and half Tatami mat size with 2 Fusuma (slide door) on one side and 3 on the other side. If there is a room like this in the house, the criteria is achieved.

5: The basic features of the modern architecture mustn't change (The structure of the entrance, shape of the rooms, the bathroom, air conditioning, etc)

I will be testing this criteria by looking at the design plan, and finding some main features of modern houses in our house. If there are more than 5 main elements of modern architecture, then the criteria is achieved.

6: The product must show the changes before and after the renovation with more than 10 photos

I will be testing this criteria by asking 30 people if the final product, which will be photos of the renovated house, clearly shows the changes in the house compared to the house before the renovation. If more than 20 people said the difference is clearly demonstrated and well organized, the criteria is achieved.

Research Plan

Due to the fact that PP is a long term task, which would take about 3 months to work on, setting a timeline for the works and careful planning out of the dates were required. If the project was not well planned, it would be hard to create a high quality product and reports. The specific planning of my PP can be seen in appendix B. The chart allows me to stay on track without being lazy, and by completing the plans every week will make it easier to finish PP on time.

Self-management skills

As it is shown in appendix B, during the PP I never set a specific due date for my plans, except the final due date of my reports to the school. I only made plans for what I had to do each week or in two weeks. This made it easier for me to work on PP with other tasks from school and the SA's that I had to do. Also, because I was writing down the plans of my PP in my schedule note, I was able to finish the to do list for each weeks. Visiting the house and meeting with the architectures, which was done mostly every week, was also very helpful during my PP, since if there was a

trouble I could always discuss about it with the architects and I could record all of the specific events that happened. The challenges during the PP was mostly the problems during the renovation, such as the miss measured Senbon-Goushi, which is a wooden sliding door and the unexpected pipe through the wall were I wanted to get rid of. These problems were hard to overcome, although, because my PP was planned flexibly, I could change my plans easily to have more conversations with the architects. Also, because I was working on the project from an early stage, I could spend more time on it to overcome the problems and create a higher quality product.

Criteria C: Taking Action

Product documents

The final products are the design plan of the house, and the renovated house. This can be seen in Journal 10. For the exhibition, I will present the photos of the house and the actual design plan that I designed. The house will contain both elements from Japanese traditional architecture and modern architecture. The final product is connected to the global context 'Globalization and Sustainability' because I am presenting a way to sustain the Japanese traditional architecture that could be applied in foreign countries as well as Japan. Also, because Japanese architecture is closely attached to nature as it finds beauty in the scenery of the nature that could be seen from the windows and there are houses with Japanese gardens, it could be a way to protect the natural environment. Sustaining the natural environment is an important task in the current society, and it is one of the global issues, therefore, it could be said that the product is connected to the global context 'globalization and sustainability'. The house includes all of the criteria as it is shown in appendix C.

Thinking Skills

During the PP I was able to use and expand my thinking skills by overcoming several problems and challenges that came up. One of the most challenging part of this project was to actually renovate the house based on my design. Lots of discussions were needed with the architects and the builders to make sure that the design could be applied to the house and to make sure it was accurate enough for the renovation. Although it was very hard to design a house that is a combined of Japanese traditional architecture and modern architecture, the support from my mother and the advices from the company allowed me to think up good ideas that could be applied to the house. I had to think carefully about the design because there were many regulations and limitations when renovating a house, therefore, I was able to think critically. Another problem happened while the renovation was going on, and that problem was an unexpected pipe in the wall. Because of this pipe, I had to change the design where I wanted to get rid of that part of the wall. Before, I was planning to make a door that connects the bathroom and the living room, although I decided to not create a door on that side and just leave the wall as

it is. Visiting the house once in a while made it easier to make changes, because it allowed me to talk to the builders and get more advice from them.

While I was designing the house, I applied many of my prior knowledge about Japanese traditional architecture, to generate new ideas. Firstly, I came up with the main idea to combined Japanese traditional architecture and modern architecture, then I started to output other detailed knowledges. For example, I decided to install Tatami mats and Shoji doors in the house, and buy new lights that is based on the old style lights in Japan. To make the idea new and original, I added some modern features like the island kitchen, air-conditioner, doubled windows, and the shape of the house. This combination of the Japanese culture and modern efficiency creates a good balance in the house and also the unusualness of the design represents the originality of my ideas.

Communication and Social Skills

Communication was the most important factor during my PP. I have seen my supervisor, Mr. Crofward at least once a month to tell how the project was going on, and to ask some questions about the reports. Not only with my supervisor, but I also had to communicate more with my mother, the company, and the builders who renovated my house. Because my mother was in charge of the financial part of the renovation, I could not do this project by myself, and also the builders were the ones that constructed the design, therefore, to create the product that I expect, required a lot of communication. I visited the house to communicate with the builders once a week and we always checked if the renovation was going alright. When we had some troubles, which can be seen in appendix D, I had to think more and have a successful discussions with the company and the builders to overcome those problems together. Also by sharing the ideas with the architects/builders demonstrates my social skills by showing how I am open-minded. When I think back, communication was always the key factor that solved the problems and without communicating with others, I think it was impossible to finish my PP.

Criteria D: Reflecting

Evaluating the product against the criteria

All of the six criterias/specifications that were created in criteria B report were achieved, as it is shown in appendix C, therefore the product is fully completed and is high quality. The achievement of the first criteria, which is to apply more than 5 elements of Japanese traditional architecture in the design and the actual house can also be supported by Journal 2 and appendix D. The achievement of the second criteria can be easily demonstrated by the final product, and also the first and fifth criteria achievement. The third criteria was achieved as the survey reached the pass line, and also by looking at the final product, it is clear that the house uses wood, Tatami mats, and Shoji, which are all made by nature, and furthermore, the color of

the house is all planned out with the mountain scenery (see journal 5). The fourth criteria was achieved as it is shown in appendix B and D, and the fifth criteria's achievement can be seen in the final product as well. Lastly, the sixth criteria was achieved as it is shown in appendix B and the final product. Although, for the last criteria, there are possible improvements as the people in the survey told me that a video might be a better option to show around the house. The photos are good to compare the difference in detail so it is necessary, however, it is hard for people to see the whole image of the house, therefore taking a video can be an improvement to show the difference before and after the renovation clearly, and easily.

My knowledge and understanding of the topic and global context

Throughout my PP, the knowledge of traditional Japanese architecture was gained in the research before creating the design. At the stage of researching, I was able to know some of the unfamiliar elements of Japanese architecture, such as Senbon-Goushi and Kin-Byobu, see appendix A and D. The designing part of the project also extended my knowledge and understanding of the concept, since I had to think, research, and ask the builders where to place the Japanese elements that I have chosen, which means I could understand about the concept of 'architecture' furthermore. Additionally, because of the renovation, I could understand how all elements were installed in the house, and I could also know the cost of the elements. If the renovation was not a part of the PP, I would not be able to actually see these elements and know about the cost and the way of installing them. Therefore, the renovation was a very good opportunity, as I could see how construction was processed and actually see the Japanese traditional architecture.

During the PP, I was able to understand the global context 'Globalization and Sustainability' more than I did before. This was because, by renovating the house, I could support sustaining the Japanese traditional architecture. This made me understand and think more about the future of Japanese traditional architecture, and the fact that I supported to sustain the tradition was a great experience, which connects to the global context. Also, because I combined modern architecture, which is the most common architecture around the world, with Japanese traditional architecture, I was able to expand my ideas and knowledge of how to sustain traditions by globalizing it.

My development as an IB learner

As I worked on my PP for 3 months, I was able to develop few characteristics of the learner profile. The first characteristic 'Communicator'. Even though from before my PP started I was already confident about my communicating skills, during the PP communicating was very challenging, as the builders/architects were people who I've never met before and much more older than me. Sometimes it was hard to explain my own ideas, because the project was very unique, however those difficulties helped me strengthen my communication skills in a high degree. The second characteristic that was developed during the PP is 'Thinkers'. This was mainly

developed during the process of designing the new house. The reason for this is because, when I was designing the house, I had to apply my knowledge about Japanese traditional architecture and my limited knowledges about construction. The project was unfamiliar, and I had to make sure that the design was realistic enough so it could be used for the renovation, thus I could be a better thinker than before. Lastly, I was able to develop the characteristic to be 'Reflective'. This was a helpful improvement, since I felt like I lacked the skills of being reflective enough before my PP started. I always got tired and relieved after finishing assessments which made lazy about reflecting it. Although, during the PP I had to reflect on what I have done every week and details about them. Also when I was writing the report, reflecting the project was necessary, therefore throughout the PP I was able to get into a habit to always reflect my work. This is clearly a big improvement, and I believe that this development of my reflectiveness will support me as I enter the DP program.

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- 1: Sawako Noma. *Shinkankaku no "wa" no innteria*. First edition. Tokyo: Koudansha, 20 Jan. 1996. Printed.
- 2: Kuma kengo, Miyasawa You. *NA Kennchikuka series 02 Kuma Kengo*. First edition. Tokyo: Nikkei BP, 28 Jul. 2010. Printed.
- 3: Kawasaki Yoshimitsu. *Sagashitemiyou nihonn no katachi Minnka* First edition. Tokyo: Yamato Keiyousha, 25 Feb. 2003. Printed.
- 4: Sawako Noma. *Denntou Wahu Jyutaku* First edition. Tokyo: Koudansha, 20 May. 2001. Print.
- 5: John Spacey. "17 classic Features of Japanese Houses" Japan Talk. N/A Japan Talk. 24 April. 2015. Web. 14 April.
- 6: Hiroko Mitsushima. "Japanese Tea House: Architecture of Ultimate Spiritual World" Patternz. N/A. Patternz. 25 Jul. 2017. Web. 14 May.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: (researching about Japanese architecture)



- 1: Sawako Noma. *Shinkankaku no "wa" no innteria*. First edition. Tokyo: Koudannsha, 20 Jan. 1996. Printed.
- 2: Kuma kengo, Miyasawa You. *NA Kennchikuka series 02 Kuma Kengo*. First edition. Tokyo: Nikkei BP, 28 Jul. 2010. Printed.
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- 4: Sawako Noma. *Denntou Wahu Jyuutaku* First edition. Tokyo: Koudannsha, 20 May. 2001. Print.
- 5: John Spacey. "17 classic Features of Japanese Houses" Japan Talk. N/A Japan Talk. 24 April. 2015. Web. 14 April.
- 6: Hiroko Mitsushima. "Japanese Tea House: Architecture of Ultimate Spiritual World" Patternz. N/A. Patternz. 25 Jul. 2017. Web. 14 May.

Appendix B (Planning)

Date	What to do (Plans)
4/8 ~ 4/20	Research about Japanese traditional Japanese architecture, and choose the elements that will be installed in my house. Choose the company that will do the renovation with my mother. Start writing criteria A report.
4/20 ~ 5/4	Have a meeting with the company and talk about the design I'm thinking of. Complete the brief design of the house and had it into the company. Start writing criteria B report.
5/4 ~ 5/11	Renovation starts. Move into another place to live. Visit the house and discus about the design of the kitchen. Design the kitchen.
5/11 ~ 5/18	Visit the house to check how the renovation is going on. Take photos. Start deciding the wall papers, lightings, and other small things.
5/18 ~ 6/1	Visit the house to check on the work and take photos.
6/1 ~ 6/8	Visit the house, take records and have a meeting with the architects about how the renovation is going so far.
6/8 ~ 6/15	Visit the house and take photos.
6/15 ~ 6/22	Visit the house and take photos.
6/22 ~ 6/29	Start working on criteria C report.
7/1	Renovation finishes. Final meeting with the company to have the last check of the house with them
7/1 ~ 7/13	Start working on criteria D report.
7/13 ~ 7/24	Edit all the reports and Journals, and start choosing the photos of the final product.
7/25	Final due date of the reports and the prooduct

Appendix C (Criteria)

Criteria	Requirements	Results and Achievement
The redesigned house must include more than five Japanese traditional features	I will test by looking at the renovated house when it is completed. If there are more than five Japanese traditional features the criteria is achieved	1: Tatami mats 2: Shoji 3: Senbon Goushi 4: Ranma 5: Kin Byobu Achieved
The redesigned house must be a composition of modern architecture and traditional Japanese architecture	Tested by asking 30 people if the house has both Modern and traditional Japanese architectures' feature. If more than 20 people agrees that the house is a composition of those two architecture, the criteria is achieved.	Agree: 29 Disagree: 1 (Reason: There could be more elements of modern architecture) Achieved
The redesigned house must have connections with the nature, which demonstrates the aspect of the Japanese architecture	It will be tested by asking 30 people if the house have connection between nature. If more than 20 people said 'Yes' the criteria is achieved.	Yes: 30 No: 0 Achieved
There must be a room that is based on the traditional tea ceremony room in the house, so the idea	This criteria will be tested by looking at the product. If there is a room of 4 and a half Tatami mat size with 2 Fusuma (slide door) on one side and 3 on the other side, the criteria is achieved.	There is a 4 and half Tatami size room with 2 x 3 Fusumas at the side, therefore it could be said there is a tea ceremony room in my house. Achieved
The basic features of the modern architecture mustn't change	Looking at the design plan, and finding some main features of modern houses in our house. If there are more than 5 main elements of modern architecture, then the criteria is achieved.	1: Modern kitchen 2: Shower 3: Floor plan (modern apartment style) 4: The closet 5: Double window Achieved
The product must show the changes before and after the renovation with more than 10 photos	I will be testing this criteria by asking 30 people if the final product clearly shows the changes in the house compared to the house before the renovation. If more than 20 people agreed that the difference is clearly demonstrated and well organized, the criteria is achieved.	Agree: 27 Disagree: 2 (Reason: Presenting the photos were good, although a video that compares the house before and after the renovation might be better) No answer: 1 Achieved

Appendix D

Tatami mats



Shoji



Senbon-Goushi



Ranma



Sand wall



Tea ceremony room



Kin-Byobu



Journal Entries

Journal 1 4/14 Sun

The day before yesterday, I had the first meeting with my supervisor Mr. Crawford and we had a conversation about my PP plans. I mentioned that I wanted to design a house that consists both features from Japanese traditional architecture and modern architecture, and that my mother is using this opportunity to renovate the house based on my design. Mr. Crawford seemed to be very surprised, although he gave me a “Yes” to my project, so from yesterday I started to research about Japanese traditional architecture and its elements. This work can be seen in appendix A. Today, I continued working on the research and at the end of the day I was able to decide on which elements I want to install in my house. The elements that I have chosen to install are, Tatami mats, Shoji, Senbon-Goushi, Ranma, Sand wall, tea ceremony room and a wall inspired by Kin-Byobu. These elements can be seen in appendix D. This showed a very big progress in my work, as it lets me to start the next step to think about the actual design of the house and the way to combine these elements with the modern architecture.

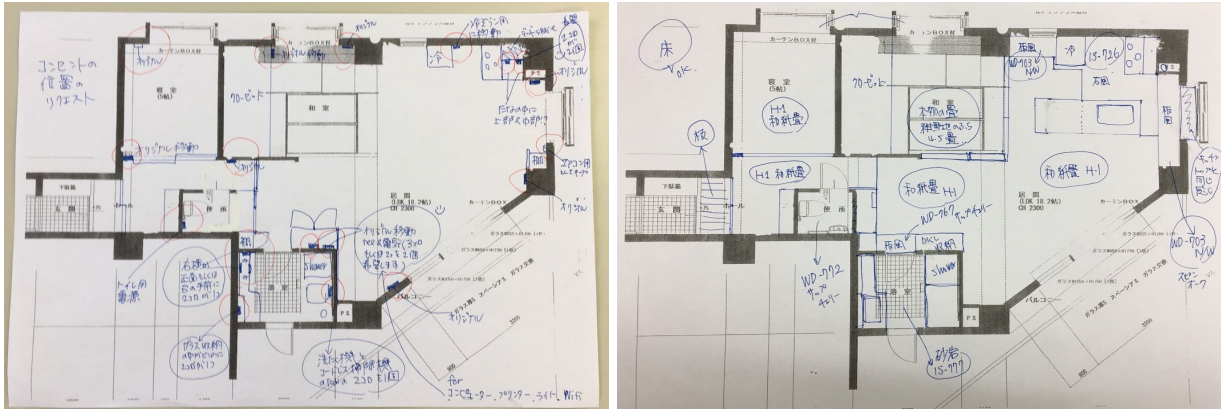
Journal 2 4/23 Tue

Today, I made the whole plan for my PP, which is appendix B. This demonstrates my self-management skills as it shows detailed planning of what I have to do and the weeks to work on it. I did not set any specific due dates for the works, because if I had set the due date, I wouldn't be able to balance the work for PP with other works from school. Another reason why I planned like this is because, specific due dates for long term assessments could be difficult to follow. For example, when troubles occur and messes up a single plan, then the whole planning will be ruined as well, since the plan is too accurate and not flexible enough. Therefore, from the above reasons I decided to plan by the weeks not the day, so I could work more flexibly.

Additionally, today me and my mother have finally chosen the renovation company that will be renovating our house. The company is called 'Shounan System Art' and we are planning to have a meeting on the 27th to talk about the design.

Journal 3 4/27 Sat

As I planned with the company on the 23rd, which is Journal 2, today we had a meeting about the design of the house. There were two architects from the company who came to the meeting. One of the architect was the owner of the company, called Mr. Horiguchi, and the other lady was his daughter who works as his assistant. I already had the brief design of the new house, including the places to install the Japanese traditional elements, so the meeting only took about 2 hours. As the architects went through the design, my mother and I were shown the catalogs of the shower booth, lights, and the Tatami mats. After the when the architects finished checking the design, they started to look around the house to make sure the design could be applied to the house. For example, in the design I got rid of two walls around the bathroom to make the bathroom smaller, therefore the architects checked the material and thickness of the walls, to decide if the design was applicable. They checked the house for about an hour, then said the design was good enough to be used, so they would take it back to the office to calculate the accurate scale and be prepared for the renovation.



Journal 4 5/7

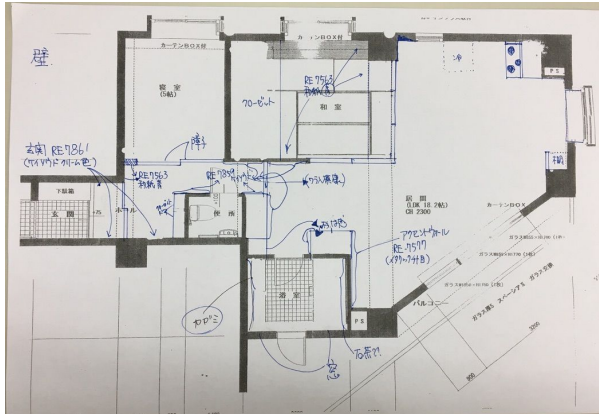
Today the renovation of the house started, as it was planned in appendix B. We were able to move out all of our baggages before today, which is also how it was meant to be. Although, there was a trouble when we were moving out are stuff from the house. The trouble was the luck of place to store all of the things from the house. Before, we (me and my mother) were planning to move our baggages to my grandparent's house, which is across our house, although, there were too much things than we expected, and also my grandmother got panicked from that, thus we were not able to store any of the rest luggages in their place. This was a serious problem, since it happened only about three days before today (renovation starts). I overcame this issue by calling the people who owned the room above us as their holiday house (we live in an apartment) and asking them if they could allow us to keep our luggages at their place until the project was finished. Luckily enough, they were very kind and because they were almost apart of our family, they did not hesitate to keep our luggages and they were even glad to help us out. Other than this, there wasn't a single trouble, and in the end the journals up to today demonstrates my great skills of taking action and being organized, as all of the works were done during the week that it was assigned.

Journal 5 5/14

Today I visited my house to see the progress, as it is mentioned in appendix B. There was a meeting with the builders, and at that meeting I was told that there was a problem with the walls that I was planning to get rid off. The wall was at the left corner of the big windows that connects to the bathroom. The problem was that there was a pipe in the wall, which could not be moved. There were no other solutions except changing the design. Therefore, I talked with builders how I could change the design, and we ended up with a new design without getting rid of the wall to add an extra door to the bathroom. This helped me to be a better communicator and a thinker, as I had to discuss about the problem with the builders. Other than this problem everything was going well, and I could watch the process of installing the Ranma into the wall. After seeing around the house, I moved on to choosing the wall papers. This was done with my mother, and we were able to choose most of the wall papers for the house. To choose the wall papers, we went around each places in the house and thought carefully about the balance and the atmosphere of the rooms. Also, to add a modern taste to the



design, we have chosen the gray wall paper for the living room, and also a pattern wallpaper, which is gold and silver.



Journal 6 5/21

Today I had the meeting with Mr. Horiguchi and the builders about the shower, lights, and the kitchen. Deciding the shower was a simple process, since we already had an idea of it and there was a perfect shower in the catalog that was the ideal shower that my mother and I wanted. The shower had glass walls and it was very compact, which was exactly what we wished for. For the lighting, I chose to use the light that were used before, because it would be a good item to remind me about the old house and the all of the memories built there. This made me a carer, as I thought about the memories of my childhood, and how my mother liked the old house. As the lights from the house were used, my mother and myself could always think back of the old house. For the kitchen, I was not satisfied with the design of the kitchens on the catalog and also about the price of them. Therefore, I had a conversation with the builders what could be another option, and they suggested me and my mother to design the kitchen as well as the house. This could cut down the cost, compared to the system kitchens on the catalog, thus I decided to design the kitchen, mainly based on the requests from my mother.

Journal 7 6/1

Yesterday I finished designing the kitchen, so today I visited my house to give the design to the builders. The builders told me that the design was good to go, so I handed in the design today. The renovation was also on track and I was very happy of the Shoji installed, however there was a new conflict arising. The problem was about the Senbon-Goushi shown right. There was a misunderstanding of the unit of numbers (the builders thought the unit was Sunn, which is the Japanese unit used for length), therefore the width of each wooden lines were much thicker than I expected. This problem was solved by communicating with the builders, and they said they would bring the new Senbon-Goushi before next week. This issue taught me the importance of the small details, and how it could be very effective in some situations.



Journal 8 6/13

Today I visited the house and the new Senbon-Goushi was installed, as the builders said in Journal 7. The measurements of the Senbon-Goushi was now fixed and the Senbon-Goushi looked just like how I expected. At this point, there were only about 2 more weeks until the deadline of the renovation, and other places such as the bathroom and the living room was getting close to the finish. I had the last meeting with the builders to make sure the renovation had no problems and if there were no other changes. This meeting only took about 30 minutes, since the renovation was going well and I was satisfied with the results at this point. This demonstrates my planning skills and the skills to take actions based on the plans. The designing and renovation followed my plans every week and although there were few serious problems, I could handle all of them without getting stressed by using my time wisely, therefore it could be said that my planning skills and skills of taking action were shown during the PP.



Journal 9 6/20

Today, I visited my house to see how the renovation was going on. The renovation was nearly at the end and all of the Japanese elements were getting installed. The Tatami mats, Shoji, Ranma, Senbon-Goushi, Sand wall, tea ceremony room and a wall inspired by Kin-Byobu were all in the house. Also the shower room and the bathroom was completed, the wallpapers were all done beautifully, and the kitchen that me and my mother designed was installed. The only process left was the small adjustments. After the adjustments are finished, then the builders would bring in the luggages to complete the whole project.





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Today, the renovation finished, and Mr. Horiguchi came to the house with the builders to do the final check of the house. They were checking every single places, even the draws of the kitchen table, and how the air-conditioner was working. The checking started from early in the morning and it finished around lunch time. After the checking, they said the renovation was now completed and the work for this house were all done. It was amazing when I heard that and I couldn't believe that the product was finally finished. It was sad when I thought that I won't meet the builders team anymore, although I was also delightful to hear that the work was all finished and I could start living in this house. The clothes, boxes, books and all other things that were kept at my grandparent's place and my neighbor's place were moved into the house, and I started to unpack them. Finally, the project was finished. Throughout this PP, I improved many of my skills. Communicating, being open-minded, thinking critically, and to be reflective. Although the renovation is finished, it doesn't mean that I finished my whole project. I still have to edit my reports, take photos of the house for the exhibition, and think how I can apply the knowledges and experience during the process of PP in my future. I am glad that I had such a great opportunity to develop my skills and to think about my future at the end of the MYP program.

