

YUSUKE KAMATA

RESIDÊNCIA PAULO REIS

EXCHANGE BETWEEN  
ATELIÊ FIDALGA (BRAZIL) AND  
THE AOMORI CONTEMPORARY ART  
CENTRE (JAPAN)  
05.12.17-30.12.17

"I'm KAMATA Yusuke, for ACAC's project of overseas dispatching, staying in atelier Fidalga which is the residence space in Brazil, Sao Paulo. I'll report from here Brazil over the next few times."

"The other day, I talked about my activities in past and research in Brazil. It was a very peaceful atmosphere and various opinions were exchanged during the talk, it was a fulfilling party. Various artists such as painters and photographers are gathered, but everyone seems to be interested in architecture and provides me various information.

Although Sao Paulo is the largest city in Brazil, I was surprised that variety of races when I walk around the city. There are particularly many populations of Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Syrian, Lebanese, Jewish and Japanese, recently number of immigrants from Asian countries such as Korea is increasing (from wikipedia).

I often go to the city called Liberdade to research, this area is a Japanese-style area, there are Japanese restaurants, markets and souvenir shops, and also a Japanese immigration museum."





"First of all, I visited the Museum of Japanese immigration and I interviewed a staff and looked at various pictures. The pictures below are about the architecture which was built by Japanese in Registro, and seems the style of doors and windows are different from these of Japan.

The woods are from Brazil, and the wall seemed to be employed Japanese style soil walls. I will research to Registro this week, so I will report the details of them later."

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Jussara 椰子の壁

Sete Barras



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"Well, the other day, I have investigated Japanese style building. It is the former tea factory was built in 1942 in Mogi das Cruzes area, and it is called Kazalondsha, it is certified as important cultural property by the Brazilian government now. Mr. Kazuo Hanaoka designed and built it. An artist Renata CRUZ who was a resident at the ACAC together with me, and now staying in Atelier Fidalga, accompanied my research. Renata led me know about this building during the residency at ACAC last year, so I am thankful for many people who helped me to visit there so quickly.

Kazalondsha is a very unique building, the basic law is Japanese-style, but the material is local. To use eucalyptus material and Brazilian truss structure to create a large space inside.

The most surprising thing is that the part of construction which is used the natural form of the wood as it is.

I have seen the wood natural characteristics is remained some parts of Japanese tea room etc. But I have not ever seen something that has been boldly and complexly assembled such as this. I was wondering why Mr. Hanaoka designed such a complex structure for the factory. Mr. Hanaoka may have tried to fuse the technology learned in Japan with the natural environment of Brazil. I was able to feel Hanaka's ambition which was set free from the previous regulations explored the figuration possibility in architecture."



"I went to research for Registro on December 27th and 28th. There are many Japanese houses which were built before the World War. Renata who joined the residence program together in ACAC accompanied me.

It took about 3 hours from Sao Paulo by car. First of all, I met Mr. Fukuzawa who is president of the Japan Cultural Association.

Japanese people has begun to migrate since around 1916 and about 250 families have migrated in a few years in Registro. In Brazil, Japanese houses are called such as; "The first term houses" simple style houses which were builed by the first immigrants. "The second term houses" the houses for the settling down after the first term. Now, many of the Japanese houses are "The third term" and "The fourth term." They seems that most of the houses are.

There are many second term houses built in the 1920s and 1930s in Registro. (By the way, one of the "second term houses" in Registro has been moved to Meiji village in Nagoya, Japan.) Mr. Hijioka who researches on Japanese architecture in Brazil accompanied me. 4 members include he, me and Renata went the forest where Japanese houses remain by car.

Registro is called Amazon of Sao Paulo. a Japanese house suddenly appeared after we went along the rough road in the jungle. A desolate Japanese house built before nearly 100 years exists quietly in a jungle which is almost reverse of Japan on the earth. I took photos and movies and was moved by the fact that this Japanese house is still existent."



"I heard a very interesting episode while asking various histories about architecture. Those who came from Japan at that time had knowledge of the construction method of the building, but they had no knowledge about Brazilian timber at all. People liberated from the slavery which abolished in 1888, lived the forest in this area long before the Japanese people came to here . The indigenous people were familiar with the characteristics of Brazilian trees and plants well, and they taught the people who came from Japan the characteristics and usage of the material. I was surprised that the culture was mixed at this point and Japanese - Brazilian houses which were a little different from Japanese houses in Japan were born.

I imagined about the lives of people at the time, but I think that the severity was unimaginable. However, I could receive hundreds or thousands of times information than I researched on the books or the internet by not only visual information but also by the feeling the temperature, the humidity, and stepping over the muddy ground with many flying insects by visiting . It was just a little but I felt to contact with history directly. I visited 8 Japanese houses in two days."



“Mr. Fukuzawa and Mr. Hijioka who guided me are trying to conserve these Japanese houses, and they said that there are many problems of materials, technical aspects, management and so on. I think that I will produce the next project with the theme of Registro and Japan includes the difficulty of preservation.

I produced the work “The House” which the reversed image of the house reflected on the water in ACAC two years ago. The reflected image is similar to that Japanese house in Brazil which are located in a literally reversed position. My new work will be based on the relationship between the two houses. I strongly thought about that and left Registro.



## Special thanks:

Aomori Contemporary Arts Centre (ACAC), Aomori, Japan

Yukiko Kaneko

Satoko Ito

Yuki Kondo

Museu da Imigração Japonesa, São Paulo, SP

Associação Casarão do Chá, Mogi das Cruzes, SP

Associação Cultural Nipo Brasileira de Registro, Registro, SP

Leka Mendes

Renata Cruz

Ateliê Fidalga's staff



# projeto fidalga

A Sala Projeto Fidalga é um espaço sem fins lucrativos para exposições, site specifics e apresentação de produções experimentais e em processo, realizados durante a Residência Paulo Reis.

Projeto Fidalga room is a non profit space for temporary exhibitions, site specifics and presentation of experimental productions in process, made during the Paulo Reis Residency.