Landscape of Kyoto
Kyoto City
Landscape of Kyoto
Preface

Introduction

“Sanshi-Suimei” or “Purple Mountains and Clear Water” is a phrase portraying the natural beauty of Japan. This phrase which was born in Kyoto is believed to have been tailored by Sanyo RAI, a historian of Edo Period who loved the view of Kamo River near his house and named his study Sanshi-Suimei-sho”. The scene of Higashiyama Mountain illuminated by the purple hue of the twilight, and the river water glittering by the soft sunlight viewed in the evening from the banks of Kamo River is spectacular. This is a part of everlasting landscape of Kyoto that deeply touches our hearts and makes us sigh sub-consciously.

The profound landscape of Kyoto is composed of a blend of natural beauty, great number of historical temples, shrines and traditional town houses called Kyo-machiya.

This beautiful landscape is loved not only by Japanese, but also by other people throughout the world. This is something I would like to, or rather should protect. I would like to share the glory, responsibility and action with the citizens and enterprises so as to certainly pass down the precious landscape of Kyoto to the future.

This booklet introduces the policies and systems on the landscape of Kyoto. The history of landscape and city development plans which the city of Kyoto has implemented in the past are also added to serve as useful references. I hope this booklet will deepen the affection of people toward the landscape of Kyoto and encourage them to make their communities more attractive.
Chapter 1 Understanding the Landscape of Kyoto

1 – 1 Components of Kyoto’s Landscape ................................................. 3

1 – 2 Components of Regional Landscape of Kyoto .................................. 7

1 Mountains on the three sides of the city and their foothills .......... 9
2 The residential areas bordering mountainous area ................. 13
3 Historical urban area ................................................................. 15
4 Southern region ............................................................................ 17
5 Western region ............................................................................ 18
6 Eastern region ............................................................................ 18

Chapter 2 The History of Landscape formation and Town Development in Kyoto

2 – 1 The History of Landscape and Town Development in Kyoto before Early Meiji Era ................................................................. 21

1 Heian Period .............................................................................. 21
2 Kamakura to Muromachi Periods ................................................... 22
3 Azuchi-Momoyama Period to Edo Period ....................................... 23
4 Meiji Era ................................................................................... 25

2 – 2 Footsteps of Kyoto Landscape Policies ....................................... 27

1 Measures for landscape conservation from Meiji to Showa Eras ................................. 27
2 Period between the post war era and the time when the Ancient Capitals Preservation Law was established .............................. 29
3 Enactment of the Ordinance on Urban Landscape ......................... 31
4 Conservation, revitalization and creation of city development .......... 33
5 Measure for creating harmoniously revitalized urban centers ........... 35
6 Period from the establishment of “Fundamental Policy for the Development of a Beautiful Country” to the enactment of “Landscape Act” ......................... 37
7 Progress toward New Landscape Policy .......................................... 39

Chapter 3 Conservation, Revitalization and Creation of Kyoto Landscape

3 – 1 Building Height Controls

~ Designing Urban Space Taking Advantage of Basin Structure ~ .......... 43

1 Basic policy for building height controls ....................................... 43
2 Methods of controlling height of buildings ................................... 45
3 Exceptional permission in the Height Control District .................... 45
4 Maintaining rooftop landscape .................................................... 46

3 – 2 Conservation of Natural and Historical Landscapes

~ Landscape development utilizing local characteristics by zoning method(1) ~ 47

1 Basic policy for the conservation of natural and historical landscapes 47
2 Preservation of historical climate .................................................. 49
3 Conservation of scenic landscapes ................................................. 51
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kyoto’s Landscape From Now On</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Landscape and Community Development through Cooperation</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>Landscape and Community Development in Collaboration with Citizens</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conclusion ~Kyoto Looking 50 Years and 100 Years into the Future</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>Conservation, Revitalization and Creation of Urban Landscape</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Conservation and Revitalization of Historical Landscape</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Conservation and Creation of Perspective and Borrowed Landscapes</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Maintenance of Urban Landscape by Regulating Outdoor Advertisements</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>City’s Policies Regarding Urban Landscape</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The table entries are placeholders and not indicative of the content within the provided document.*