

April 20, 2010



National University Corporation
The University of Tokyo

Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

University of Tokyo and Asahi Glass Establish Donated Course

The University of Tokyo, a national university (Main Campus: Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo; President: Junichi Hamada), and AGC (Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.; Head Office: Tokyo; President & CEO: Kazuhiko Ishimura) established the donated course Architectural Material & Component Design Laboratory in the Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo on April 1, 2010.

In this donated course, The University of Tokyo and AGC will collaborate in finding and assessing ways to use building materials such as glass and the fields they are applied to, finding and assessing the possibility of new applications of materials whose use has been limited to certain parts in the construction field, clarifying the effects of combining different materials in architectural spaces, and establishing the methodology of unified designs.

Furthermore, by broadening the range of building materials that can be chosen from, the two parties will aim to create new architectural expressions and improve the quality of architectural spaces, help Japanese architecture play a leading role in the world, create a market that can contribute to the construction-related materials industry, and train young personnel to master new design methods.

* Attached materials 1: Outline of the donated course

* Attached materials 2: Brief personal history of the faculties

For further information, please contact:



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Attached materials 1

Outline of the donated course

1. Course name: Architectural Material & Component Design Laboratory
2. Venue: Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
3. Period: 3 years (between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2013)
4. Donator: Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Tokyo; President & CEO: Kazuhiko Ishimura)
5. Faculties in charge:
 - Designated Professor: Kazuhiko Nishide (also serves as Professor, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering)
 - Designated Associate Professor: Atsushi Sato
 - Designated Assistant Professor: Slated to be appointed in May
 - Designated Researcher: Slated to be appointed in May
6. Details of the donated course
 - Objectives of activities
 - (i) To find and assess the possibility of new applications of building materials that have not been used so much or whose use has been limited to certain parts, through research and education, and clarify the effects of combining different materials in architectural spaces; and
 - (ii) To establish a methodology for architectural material and component design based on the results of the above activities, and make the best use of that methodology in architectural education.
 - Promising effects of the course
 - (i) To broaden the range of building materials available, resulting in new architectural expressions and a better quality of architectural spaces;
 - (ii) To help Japanese architecture play a leading role in the world, and to create a market that can contribute to the construction-related materials industry; and
 - (iii) To help young personnel to more quickly master new design methods.

- Activities
 - (2) Research
 - Research on the possibility of using building materials for new applications
 - Research on clarifying the effects of combining different materials in architectural spaces
 - Research on establishing a unified structural design method by arranging various forms of designs with varied materials
 - Research on structures that have better energy absorption capabilities by using multiple materials together
 - Demonstrating the possibility of realistic applications in association with implemented projects
 - (2) Education
 - Providing further practical education on construction plans and structure plans
 - (3) Open lectures and workshops
 - Holding lectures and workshops several times a year, in which students of other universities and experts in the field of architecture can participate
 - (4) Provision of information
 - Providing information by holding events and study meetings, that are intended to deepen mutual exchange between faculties and research students of universities and architectural design engineers, and establishing websites.

Attached materials 2

Brief history of the faculties

Designated Professor Kazuhiko Nishide

1953: Born in Saitama Prefecture

1976: Graduated from the Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

1981: Assistant, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

1992: Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Design, Chiba Institute of Technology

2007: Professor, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

Designated Associate Professor Atsushi Sato

1970: Born in Aichi Prefecture

1993: Graduated from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

1995: Master's course in the Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

1995-1999: Worked for Kimura Structural Engineers Co., Ltd

2007-2009: Part-time Instructor at the Shibaura Institute of Technology, Keio University and The University of Tokyo

Designated Assistant Professor: Slated to be appointed in May

Designated Researcher: Slated to be appointed in May