

Division of Geosciences and Civil Engineering	Research field	Urban and Regional Planning	Lab. ID GC24
Laboratory web site	https://urban-regional-planning-lab-kanazawa-u.studio.site/english		
Research subjects			
The Urban and Regional Planning Laboratory conducts research related to urban planning, urban design, and community development. Our goal is to create better urban and regional environments and preserve them for future generations. To achieve this, we adopt a fundamental approach of accurately interpreting and profoundly analyzing the relationships between people, society, and urban spaces, as well as between people, culture, and nature. Based on these insights, we strive to unravel the mechanisms of urban spaces and explore design methodologies to develop sustainable planning techniques for a low-growth era. Crucially, our research philosophy is Planning-Led, Field-Driven, and Policy-Oriented. We view urban planning as a dynamic practice connecting physical space with human society. Moving beyond purely “data-driven” paradigms, we prioritize understanding the lived experiences of citizens through on-site observations. To advance planning systems, we actively conduct qualitative interviews with policymakers. While we utilize spatial analysis and GIS, we do not focus on research relying solely on processing existing open data. Instead, data serves as a vital tool to validate and solve real-world issues identified through fieldwork and policy dialogue.			
Master/Doctor course: Education policy, curriculum, typical activity in the laboratory			
Our laboratory warmly accepts international students for master’s and doctoral programs, and we encourage anyone interested to contact us. Regarding education policy, our students’ research themes reflect the deeply interdisciplinary nature of urban planning. We intentionally avoid over-specifying the academic field. Instead, themes are determined collaboratively based on the student’s awareness of issues, personal interests, the societal importance of the research topic, and practical feasibility. However, to ensure students receive the highest quality of mentorship, it is essential to note our faculty’s specific areas of expertise. Our strong areas include urban planning systems, land-use planning, suburban residential redevelopment, park and green space planning, landscape planning, public space design, and rural planning. We offer moderate guidance in areas such as urban development projects, urban regeneration, and disaster prevention and recovery. Conversely, our weaker areas include specialized transportation planning, decarbonized cities, and purely quantitative urban analysis. We encourage applicants to align their proposed research with our strong or moderate areas to maximize their academic success.			
Daily life in the laboratory, etc.			
Activities include regular seminars where members present their progress (approximately once a month), intensive discussions and work on surveys and analysis during “working days” (several times a month), fieldwork (surveys and on-site talks), and individual research activities. Additionally, to enhance practical skills, students are encouraged to participate in projects in collaboration with the government and private sectors, as well as in urban planning competitions. This hands-on experience will equip students with the necessary skills and confidence to tackle real-world urban planning challenges.			
Message or comments by the laboratory faculty			
In this lab, we value sharing and discussing the diverse themes and insights of our lab members. Our goal is for students to acquire the ability to implement technologies in urban spaces and design the connection points between technology and the society that accepts it (systems, communities, lifestyles), thus cultivating their abilities as planners. In addition to research supervision, I aim to develop students with strong practical skills through my experience as a certified urban planner (landscape and urban design sectors), my role as a former private urban planning consultant, and my participation in various governmental committees.			
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