

Geographical Study on Elements Affecting Historical Landscape Preservation:
Case Studies of Ouchi-juku in Japan and Chenlu Ancient Town in China

July 2022

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A Dissertation Submitted to
the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences,
the University of Tsukuba
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Science
(Doctoral Program in Geoenvironmental Sciences)

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to clarify the main elements that promote historical landscape preservation and the combination between the elements in chronological order through the analysis of the decision-making process of local residents regarding historical landscape preservation. The findings of this study are as follows.

Ouchi-juku has been involved in a government-led landscape preservation movement since it was discovered by an outsider. Residents made decisions on whether or not to preserve their own historical buildings based on various factors such as ① the landscape preservation movement, ② the financial surplus, ③ increases in tourists, and ④ inheritance. The behaviors selected according to decision-making were roughly divided into three types: maintenance, restoration, and ignoring. Residents' behavior may be influenced by only one factor, or by several simultaneously. Regardless of their differences in behavior, the majority of the residents decided to utilize and preserve the historical buildings. In particular, the residents who took the step of restoring their tin roofs to thatched roofs based on their current situation and with the help of the Preservation Society greatly promoted the landscape preservation of Ouchi-juku.

Various elements surrounding the area have played an important role in promoting the decision-making and behavior of the residents involved in the landscape preservation. Focusing on long-term changes, there were three elements: economic, public, and social. Among these, the landscape preservation was promoted only when the economic and public elements acted on the landscape preservation in the study area at the same time. Under such a framework, as the landscape improvement and the conversion to tourist destinations proceeded at the same time, the residents with tin roofs, which marred the unity of the landscape of Ouchi-juku, began to act for restoration. In addition, the "Yui no Kai" was established at the suggestion of the residents themselves to transmit the roofing techniques that are important for maintaining the landscape. It should be noted that the preservation of the landscape of Ouchi-juku was further promoted by adding this social element to the other two and involving almost all the residents of the district.

On the other hand, in Chenlu Ancient Town, China, the behavior of the residents related to the preservation of the landscape changed with the development of the local industry. When the ceramic industry of the local industry fell into decline, the residents decided to use their homes to reopen their family-owned workshops. Basically, they took behaviors to maintain the original state of the landscape. After the introduction of a tourism industry relying on the landscape, the local residents applied features of the traditional landscape to their homes or rented buildings, and opened shops for tourists. In addition, there were many cases of changes due to the influence of landscape improvement by the government.

In Chenlu Ancient Town, the social element of cooperation inside and outside the region preceded and promoted the cultural element of the revival of traditional production technology. It also promoted the economic element, becoming another cultural element. Public elements were born in an attempt

to stabilize the regional changes brought about by these economic and cultural elements. With the development of the public elements, economic and cultural elements have been revived.

On the other hand, in Chenlu Ancient Town, it can be confirmed that only the residents who can play a central role in the preservation of the landscape have promoted the preservation of the landscape in cooperation with the government. It should be noted that in Chenlu Ancient Town, not all but only some of the residents are involved in the preservation of the landscape, and this situation is an issue for the stable and sustainable promotion of the preservation of the landscape in the future.

The two study areas of this research were compared along the time axis, focusing on the elements that influenced the decision-making of residents and the combination of elements. The elements that affect preservation and the strengths of the combinations of elements differ. In Ouchi-juku, there are weak social elements, while in Chenlu Ancient Town, there are weakening economic elements and weak social and cultural elements. However, in both areas, the preservation of the landscape was promoted by the combination of economic and public elements. In addition, the stability of economic elements has created or strengthened social and cultural elements. From the above, the mechanism for promoting historical landscape preservation could be explained based on four elements: the economic, public, social, and cultural elements, and their combination.

In order to verify whether the mechanism that promotes historical landscape preservation clarified in this study can be applied to the other areas, in this research, the author selected four widely cited papers, Fukuda (1996), Mizoo and Sugahara (2000), Cao (2007), Lv (2017), dealing with similar research themes, and explained the landscape preservation of the four regions in terms of these elements and their combinations. As a result, as in the two study areas dealt with in this study, the landscape preservation in these four regions has been reexplained in terms of the strengths of the elements and their combination, showing that the analytical framework of this study has general applicability for the study of historical landscape preservation.