Thesis reflection
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Looking back at my booklet I realize that many things have changed during these hundred days. The project started out as a small scale diverse housing intervention, but during my research I found great interest in the immense demographical change and graying population of Japan. As my research went on I realized just how large a problem care taking of children and elderly presents. As the cultural view on women is becoming more modernized and westernized, but the idea of family care stays the same, a problem of who is to take care of the children and elderly when no one is at home arises.

During the middle critique, I had yet to visit Tokyo and my suggestion was to create a new kind of block of housing with attached elderly and child care solutions, that could avoid the stigma of public homes and group living, and allowing mothers to enter the workforce.

Experiencing the vast chaotic, exciting and small of scale residential areas of Tokyo I realized this was too large of an intervention, and that it would not work out as a prototype solution. Coming home I drafted a new suggestion of a locally based intergenerational day care center, which can be done in a variety of scales and provide the same basis of solution as my previous idea.

I’ve found great interest in how architecture can change the atmospheric issues that different areas are facing through projects by architects such as Sanaa, Sou Fujimoto and Bow Wow, who are all striving to create a better living environment by examples of small scale, bottom-up interventions of architecture.

Through my research I’ve realized how everything is connected. Architecture, demography, culture, environment, economics and city structure all result from their inherent relationship.

To let my project idea to stay loose was of great importance when dealing with a different culture and city-structure. Allowing myself to change my ideas and perceptions when finding new experiences, information and solutions is a lesson I’ll keep.

It’s been interesting to delve in to a culture so exciting and different from ours.