Kansai Re-Movement:
“.gif” as tool for investigating architectural space

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Saul Deane and Ian Perlman have extensive experience in Kansai; Ian for a decade with an MA (Research) from Kyoto University and experience in Japan-based media, publishing and tourism, in 2015-6 he was the convenor of the MArch course Architecture and Urbanism in Asia at UNSW. Saul is a PhD candidate at UNSW and convenor of Design Communications in Landscape Architecture at UNSW. Both are graduates in architecture and allied disciplines, conversant in Japanese language and have maintained connections in Japan.
Course: Architecture and Urbanism in Asia

The Course is designed to give students an understanding of the principles, formalities and cultural continuities of architecture and urban design in Asia.
Goals

A. Trial of immersive space examples within the lecture environment.
B. Creation of a **virtual lecture tour** experience
C. Possible inter-university tour and geo-located **social media space for students**
D. **Specialised actual tour of Kansai**
Gif an innovation?

The immersive image

GIFs already populate social media as memes, yet to be widely assessed for pedagogical purposes as another way of representing architectural space.

GIFs should be dead it's an obsolete format, came out in 1987 and died, it was/is low quality – it only supports 256 colours, compared to 16.7 million colours in JPEG, has no audio, and can't be stopped, why has it been revived?
GIF can acts fixation reflex, the flickering movement of an image draws the eye.

Mindless repetition has also been linked to laughter and to madness, disruption of the norm - Koestler.
GIF as digital image

Acts like an image (jpg, png, etc) can cut and paste, crop and scale, uploads quickly, uses little memory.
The abbreviated cultivates conversation emergence of twitter and instagram.
Gif as Visual Representation

Binocular Photography : Stereoscopic

Serial Photgraphy: Film

Sits somewhere between photography and cinema; **minimally kinetic.**
Gif as Representation of Space

Gif is still in the exploratory stage, that early photography went through in relation to analysing capturing and entering space.
The traditional woodblock print technique (mokuhanga 木版画) where imperfections in chromatic register evokes a slight and appealing sense of kinesis. The gif with its reduced stuttered images often slightly off register doesn’t mimic movement as evoke it.
minor - chord: movement to texture
minor - chord:  Aurific

The reflection of the quasi-Palladian symmetry of the pavilion structure in the pond frames – ‘aurifies – the architecture.
Grave of Oda Nobunaga (16th century warlord) at Mount Koya. While there is no movement being a still day. Subtle movement highlights depth draws the eye within the frame and heightens the silence.
Purpose

A stupa on Koyasan.

The revolving arms of a giant scale prayer wheel are only legible when the direction and use is illustrated with movement.
The seasonal distinction so studiously contemplated in traditional literary culture of Kyoto - photography hints at but a gif makes explicit.
Investigation: peer to peer inter-cultural learning

Possible inter-university tour and geo-located social media space for students

Specialised actual tour of Kansai
the subdominant tonic to the "symphonic" quality of architecture. Indeed, well-known terms in Japanese fine arts are reserved for humble attributes: wabi (rustic simplicity), sabi (patina), shibumi (subdued or astringent beauty), ma (negative space), mugen (boundlessness). Rusticated forms such as tea ceremony rooms are virtually grounded in such ephemeral qualities, and they serve to instill tonal energy into even imposing built works.

Why Kansai?

**Historical** - Crucible of Japanese Urbanism

**Mapped** - Deep orthographical and cartographical resources

**Reiterative** - spatial renewal process

**Experiential Knowledge** - Ian and Saul
Essentialized in Kansai are those well-known terms in Japanese fine arts reserved for humble attributes are: wabi (rustic simplicity 侘), sabi (patina 寂), shibumi (subdued or astringent beauty 浄み), ma (negative space 間), mugen (boundlessness 無限).
Kyoto Institute of Technology – Partnership
Kyotographie Curator – Tour

KYOTO

GRAPHIE

international
photography festival

京都 国際 写真 祭

2015.4.18 SAT–5.10 SUN
Ephemerality - permanence.
Investigation : Gif to Visual Representation & Pedagogy

A: Trial of immersive space examples within the lecture environment.

B: Creation of a virtual lecture tour experience
GIF - mixed media
GIF - mixed text & image
GIF – 3D assemblage
GIF – 2D layering
Gif to minor-chord: Tokyo, add density
Student Presentations: The Gif Pedagogical Experiment – Observing Asia
Animated section
Temporal Map
Change of Use
Comparative scale
Student Presentations: The Gif Pedagogical Experiment – Observing Sydney
Sydney - Ultimo
Sydney - CBD
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