

Arch 574 Grad Studio  
2025 Spring Semester  
Location: TBH tba

Instructor: Prof. Emeritus B. Bognar  
e-mail: [bbognar@illinois.edu](mailto:bbognar@illinois.edu)  
Office hrs: by appointment

## THE JAPAN STUDIO

### Boutique Hotel and Wellness Center in Kyoto



Kyoto's Kiyomizu-zaka district with the Kiyomizu-dera temple in the background (photo by B. Bognar)

Kyoto, Japan's previous capital for over a thousand years (794-1868), is the cradle of Japanese culture and an exceptionally rich repository of architectural and artistic masterpieces, Shinto Shrines, Buddhist Temples, historic residential buildings, and countless exceptional gardens. It is also the site of many contemporary architectural examples including the works of Tadao Ando, Kengo Kuma, Arata Isozaki, Nikken Sekkei Ltd., Shin Takamatsu, and several others. While there are various types of hotel complexes in Kyoto, there is still a need for high-end, multi-service hotel complexes which work also as wellness centers or spas. Such hotels typically include various recreational, therapeutical, and cultural facilities with green architecture and gardens, all in tranquil setting.

The studio project calls for a medium-size, 60/65-room hotel complex which promotes contemporary healthy life-styles with the provision of the latest in both the physical / mental or psychological well-being of the guests. This means not only the increased convenience during their usually extended stay but also the opportunity for them to engage in various individual or joint therapeutic activities, while being exposed to nature and natural phenomena in the spirit of Japan's most enduring (timeless) cultural, architectural, and artistic / aesthetic traditions. Students work in teams of two.





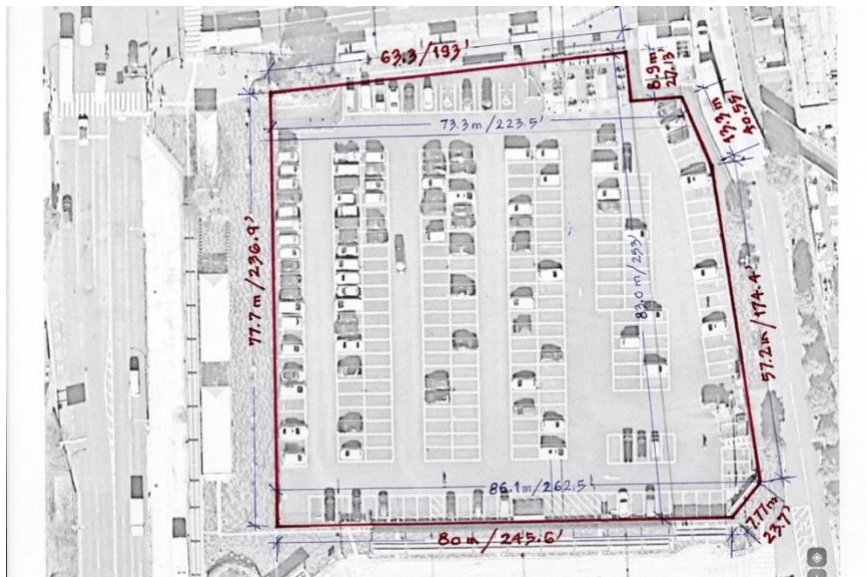
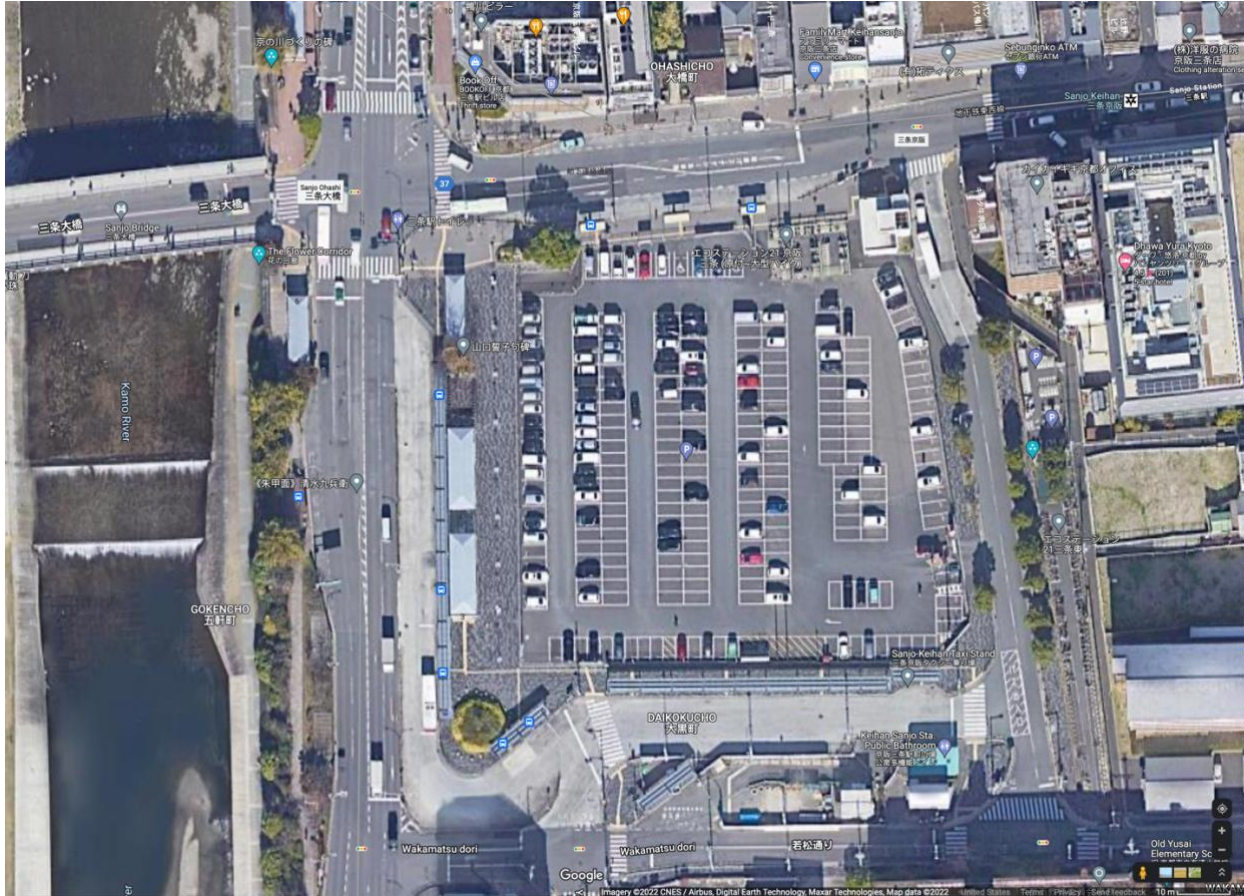
Kyoto's Gion-Shirakawa district with traditional urban residences (*machiya*) (photo by B. Bognar)



Shisendo, the residence of Ishikawa Jōzan, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century poet in Kyoto, 1636 (photo by B. Bognar)



Your SITE is along the east side of Kamo river next to the important Sanjo Ohashi Bridge.



The class will visit **Japan, Tokyo and Kyoto February 8 Sa to 16 Su. You need PASSPORT !!**

I look forward to working with you all.

**Botond Bogнар**  
Professor and Edgar A. Tafel Chair in Architecture, Emeritus





Nikken Sekkei Ltd. – Ritz Carleton Hotel, Kyoto, 2013 (photo by B. Bognar)



Kengo Kuma – Hotel KAI, Yufuin, Oita Prefecture, 2022 (photo by B. Bognar)