



# Project “Oda”

## Community Space Design for Turkey-Syria Earthquake 2023

Donation period: 11.08 - 12.22.2023

[https://readyfor.jp/projects/becat\\_turkey](https://readyfor.jp/projects/becat_turkey)

Turkey experienced two devastating earthquakes on February 6th, registering magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6 respectively. These calamities profoundly impacted 11 cities and over 14 million individuals, resulting in a tragic death toll of 50,050 according to official reports. Around 1.5 million people are left homeless. Millions of people still reside in tents or container housings.

As members of the Suehiro Laboratory, we conducted a visit to the earthquake-affected region to assess the communal needs. Based on our assessment and local requests, we developed a project aimed at enhancing the social conditions of the displaced population in a container city located in Kahramanmaras. Project aims to improve the social conditions for displaced by building a temporary community space inspired from Suehiro laboratories existing know-how and prior works under KASEI (Kyushu Architecture Students Supporters for Environmental Improvement Projects). This project aims to provide essential support and foster a sense of community among the displaced individuals.

### About us



KASEI project activities supporting disaster victims, Minna no ie design and various events hold within temporary cities

Here in Japan, we carry out activities and research studies under KASEI project to improve living conditions of disaster victims. KASEI is an initiative by architecture departments in Kyushu region to improve the environment of temporary housings. We actively contribute to the construction process of the community center “Minna no ie”, improve the environment and design urban and home furnitures for 2016 Kumamoto earthquake and 2017 and 2020 Kumamoto flood victims. Simultaneously, we conduct various research and events within temporary cities to enhance the overall environment.

KASEI’s project “Minna no ie” or “Home for all” serves as a community center established within container cities in the Kumamoto region. It features a versatile living room, kitchen, and recreational area, adaptable to needs of the citizens. It provides residents with a central gathering place, addressing their socialization needs and fostering a sense of community. We aspire to build a new community space inspired from “Minna no ie” considering local needs and culture of people of Kahramanmaras.



Kahramanmaras after the earthquake(July 2023) | googlemaps image after the rubbles are removed in city center(May 2023)

On February 6th, two major earthquakes struck southeastern Türkiye(Turkey) and Northern Syria. The impact was catastrophic, resulting in the collapse of thousands of buildings and claiming numerous lives. Ayse Dagoglu, a 2nd year Master’s student and member of the Suehiro Laboratory, is born and raised in the epicenter city Kahramanmaras, volunteered to work on the earthquake-affected region. On July 22nd and 23rd, 2023, accompanied by Professor Suehiro Kaoru, they visited Kahramanmaras and Hatay to assess the situation. Both cities were severely damaged. Thousands of buildings were demolished.

During our visits, we had chance to see the living conditions in container cities in both locations. In the container city, each container unit provided by government is 21 m<sup>2</sup> designated for a four-people family. Temporary houses bare the minimum area and functions for a house. Making it challenging for families to spend their entire day within them. In post disaster case, after housing problem is solved the upcoming focus should be providing public areas like community centers that helps the healing process of disaster victims.



Kahramanmaraş and Hatay container cities, assessed with the help of local architects and Kyushu University team

Moreover, typical mass-produced temporary cities often overlook local needs, climate and culture. In Turkish culture, it is common to meet at a friend or relative's house to share meals and spend time together. However, provided houses are quite small, making it difficult to accommodate such social practices. The "Oda" project is proposing a new communal space for container city residents, providing them an area to gather and organize events in their daily life.

## The Design

The inspiration for the design and concept comes from both Turkish and Japanese architectural elements. Both cultures share similarities such as entering houses without shoes and sitting on the floor. Horigotatsu, a type of low table which is very casual and common to have in Japanese houses, is used for table modules. The building is accessible by the front entrance without shoes. Inside is multifunctional recreational area with kitchenette, seating decks and horigotatsu. The closed area can turn into a semi-open place by opening the accordion doors on both facades. There are several deck modules attached to facades creating interesting protrudings, which provides a small open air seating area for people to enjoy. During our visit, we were told that televisions are not provided to many of the container cities; hence open-air cinema is very popular function and we were recommended to design such place. On the northeast facade of the building, the entire façade can be opened to create a three-level amphi-stairs for people to gather during an open-air cinema or any other event. The timber building hope to provide a multifunctional cozy area for container city users.





kitchenette/mini library

## Project Implementation

The implementation will be carried out in January in a container city with the guidance of professional carpenters and Professor Kaoru Suehiro from Kyushu University, along with the leadership of Ayse Dagoglu, Shohei Kariya and volunteer members of Suehiro Architecture Laboratory. We will be collaborating with a local university for the construction of the structure. Architecture students from the university, alongside volunteer students in Japan, will construct the structure in a workshop guided by Suehiro laboratory members and professional carpenters. This workshop aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, teaching Turkish students our 1:1 building practices. It will be a mutually beneficial exchange for both universities. The anticipated timeframe for the entire implementation process is one to two weeks.

## Target Amount

The donations will be collected from crowdfunding website, readyfor.jp under the name of Kyushu University. The design will propose 60-80 m<sup>2</sup> structural area according to the donations we will receive. If the target amount 2.5 million yen to be achieved, the first goal is to build minimum of 67 m<sup>2</sup> structural area with horigotatsu and kitchenette modules. The second goal amount 4 million yen to be achieved, the deck modules and furnitures will be added to the structure. The necessary tools and equipment deemed essential will be purchased. The third goal amount, 6 million yen to be achieved, a bigger structural area of 80 m<sup>2</sup> or a new gathering space in some other location will be built.

## Kyushu University Project Members



**Kaoru SUEHIRO**

Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyushu University / Professor of Suehiro Laboratory / Deputy Director of BeCAT / KASEI Executive Chairman / Co-Founder of NKS2 Architects / Architect



**Ayse DAGOGLU**

Master Student/ Member of Suehirolab / Architect



**Shohei KARIYA**

Master Student/ Member of Suehirolab/

This project will be build as a BeCAT Design Center project with the support of KASEI project.

### Contact adress

email: [dagoglu.ayse.491@s.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:dagoglu.ayse.491@s.kyushu-u.ac.jp)

<https://becat.kyushu-u.ac.jp/>