

## Report on the Minka Summit 2024

XIE YangMei

During this event focused on the restoration of traditional buildings, I gained a deep understanding of the close connection between the preservation of traditional architecture and modern societal development. We discussed how to strike a balance between commercialization and restorative preservation, ensuring that local communities accept and participate in the process. Through case comparisons, we learned the importance of telling the story behind the restoration and linking it with similar projects to gain local support, thereby enhancing public engagement and emotional resonance.

We also visited the "Japan Kominka Rescue" project, which revitalizes old farmhouses and machiya, transforming them into new community centers. This project is not only about preserving the buildings themselves but also about passing down local lifestyles and cultural heritage. The plan aims to save ten kominka over five years, turning them into spaces such as cafes, guest houses, and craft studios, making them vital centers for community activities and promoting local economic development.

The event also highlighted the key role of "Sentō" (traditional Japanese public bathhouses) in the local ecosystem and how the collaboration among various local businesses helps maintain this unique cultural heritage. Additionally, the concept of "green school & green village" was discussed, emphasizing the integration of traditional and modern elements through sustainable architecture and community development.

This event made me realize that the restoration of traditional buildings goes beyond mere physical repairs; it involves the reconstruction of social, cultural, and emotional connections. How to respect traditions while meeting modern needs, and how to reintegrate these buildings into contemporary life, are crucial challenges that we need to continuously explore and address.