

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Naha (那覇市 : Naha-shi, Okinawan: Naafa) is the capital city of Okinawa, the most southern prefecture of Japan. As of December 2012, the city has an estimated population of 321,467 and a population density of 8,244.46 persons per km². The total area is 38.99 km². Naha is a city on the East China Sea coast of the southern part of Okinawa Island, the largest of Okinawa Prefecture. The modern city was officially founded on May 20, 1921. Before that Naha had been for centuries one of the most important and populous sites in Okinawa. Naha is the political, economic and education center of Okinawa Prefecture. In the medieval and early modern periods, it was the commercial center of the Ryūkyū Kingdom.

Central Naha consists of the Palette Kumoji shopping mall, the Okinawa Prefecture Office, Naha City Hall, and many banks and corporations, located at the west end of Kokusai-dōri, the city's main street. Kokusai-dōri (国際通り, "International Avenue") boasts a 1.6 kilometer long stretch of stores, restaurants and bars. Kokusai-dōri ends at the main bus terminal in Okinawa and is served by several stations along the Okinawa Monorail, the only train system in the prefecture. Spurring off from Kokusai-dōri is the covered Heiwa-dōri Shopping Arcade and Makishi Public Market, a massive shōtengai filled with fresh fish, meat, and produce stands, restaurants, tourist goods shops, and liquor shops. Just outside the market area is the neighborhood of Tsuboya (壺屋, "pot/jar shop"), which was once a major center of ceramic production.

Over the centuries, Okinawa has become quite well-known for its cultural heritage and art. One of Okinawa's most distinct and well-known art forms is pottery, and the center for the pottery movement is Tsuboya. For more than 300 years, Naha's Tsuboya district has been the symbol for Okinawa pottery. It has produced many famous craftsmen who have gained fame and reputation far outside of Okinawa. The pottery made in Tsuboya is known as tsuboya-yaki. Yachimun Dori (Pottery Street) is lined with a number of tsuboya-yaki shops where the finest craftsmen still work and live to this day.

The Noborigama kiln is an evolution from the single-chambered Anagama design as a multi-chamber kiln, usually built on a slope. The word "Noborigama" approximately translates from Japanese to mean "step-climbing kiln." With the initial firebox chamber at the bottom, each succeeding chamber is higher than the one before it. Wood is stoked in the front firebox at first, then through the side-stoking holes of the individual chambers. As the kiln is fired, each chamber preheats the next. After World War II, the kiln firings of Tsuboya became the beacon of recovery for Naha City, which was left in ruins from the battles fought there. However, as the area became residential the air pollution from the Noborigama climbing kilns became an issue and the use of the kilns was restricted. After the reconstruction was finished and the city began to grow again, Tsuboya became urbanized and crowded. The Tsuboya kilns became an annoyance for some, and the town's change forced some craftsmen to move out of Naha to other spacious areas where they could fire their kilns without being in the way. Modernization became a threat to the traditional art of Naha. Due to this, the kilns were moved out of Naha to various places around the prefecture. At present, there are about 20 studios in Tsuboya and over a hundred throughout the prefecture.

Through the years, in spite of the importation of cheaper goods, the total destruction caused by World War II, and modernization, Tsuboya has overcome many obstacles and still remains famous on Okinawa as the center of pottery and tsuboya-yaki is viewed as a quality art form throughout the world. Children are a symbol of the future and Naha aims to become a city of brilliant smiles of children, where they are affectionate, have zest for life, peace-loving minds, and dreams for the future. Naha also aims to become a city of culture where people celebrate diversity, pass on traditions to the next generation, and create its new forms through close interaction with communities and with all age groups.

As a city of rich cultural diversity, it is essential for The Naha municipal government to improve their social system so that they may secure a safe and sound environment for their children, encouraging them to play, study and learn from a variety of activities and experiences in order to prepare them for the real world. Working with families, communities, and schools, the city is improving the quality of care and education from children's perspectives. In addition, they are providing a range of learning opportunities, and relevant support to all members of the community, giving them real opportunities to take full advantage of what they learn.

1.2 Objectives and Goals of the study

This study deals with the Readjustment Tsuboya as the Pottery Center and the tourism destination with sustainable human settlement and good environment along the Tsuboya-Yachimun Promenade through the available research examples to formulate the design criteria as a theory of urban design guideline of Tsuboya-Yachimun Street.

The basic objectives are:

- What should be the 'Design Approach for readjustment in Tsuboya at present recreational context?
- What kind of 'Urban Design Guidelines' is essential for urban design development that will balance the commercial and community interest, public and private interest?
- To identify the key issues to be addressed in the design and development of rearrange Tsuboya-Yachimun promenade
- It also aims to identify the weaknesses of existing promenade neighborhood in terms of tourism and recreation as pottery center
- To improve the connection of the originality of Okinawan tradition in Tsuboya with the other tourism destination of central Naha

1.3 Hypothesis

With the direction of proper urban design principles and approach for pottery promenade a vibrant, attractive, and accessible area will be generated in west side of Naha City. Also, the same urban design principles and approach is hoped to be applicable to other townscape areas in the context of Tsuboya Promenade which share similar situations. Some hypotheses are proposed which need to be answered on the research that existing design natures of promenade recreation amenities are not fully satisfactory.

1.4 Study Approach and Methodology

Initially, an overview of readjustment in Tsuboya and analysis of the site will be applied to identify the problem of existing site in terms of tourism and recreation issues. Site analysis,

interview, short discussion of related neighborhoods of Tsuboya is used as tools to formulate the problems.

To address the design issues, first, literature review on urban design principles of high density areas will be applied to establish an urban design framework. Second, the case study of relevant examples will be analyze to test the application of the urban design frameworks and images the possible achievement. Third, the established urban design framework will be introduced to the chosen site through the vision of the study. Finally, the urban design principles and approach will be summarized and propose a design recommendation for the study site.

1.5 Procedure of Study

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Discuss about general view of Tsuboya Yachimun Street that consist of background, objectives and goals, hypothesis, study approach and methodology, sistematic of study, and flow chart of major tasks.

CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Discuss about theoritical framework, general concept of Urban Design, Land Readjustment, Tsuboya-Yachimun Pottery, Barrier Free Environment, and the comparison case studies.

CHAPTER III DATA

Discuss about the data collection of existing site, data analysis, observation, and the related regulation in Tsuboya, Naha.

CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS

Discuss about analysis of Tsuboya Yachimun Street based on the urban design theory, problems and potential analysis

CHAPTER V GUIDELINE DESIGN

Approach to the Architectural Planning and Design Program which refer to contextual aspect, functional, architectural, technique, and performance.

CHAPTER VI REFERENCES

Attachment of all sources of references.

1.6 Flow Chart of Major Task

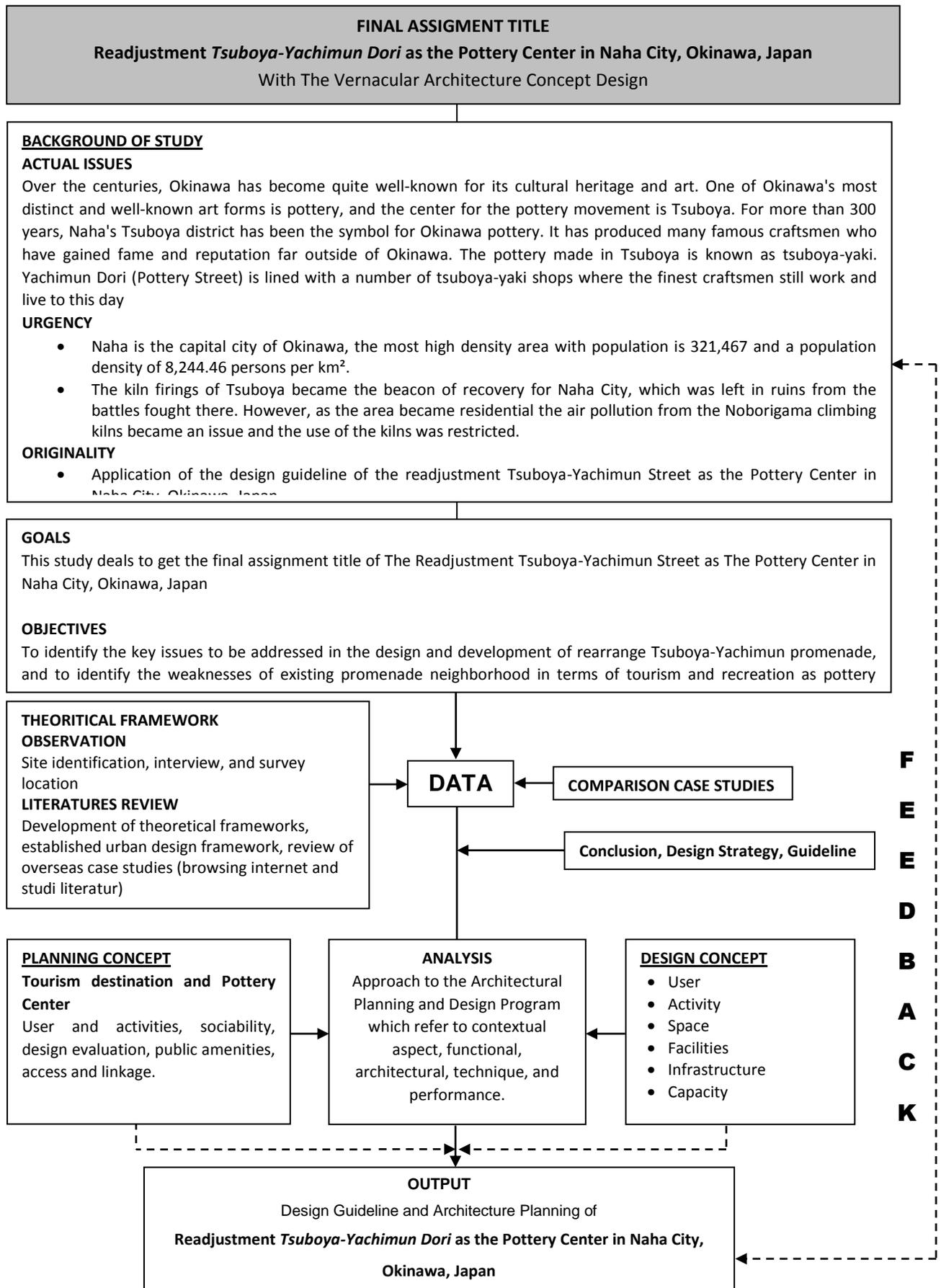


Figure 1.1: Flow Chart of Major Tasks
Source: Illustration by author