Common-Use Spaces and the Residents' Network in Akabanedai Danchi

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The Japan Housing Corporation started the construction of Akabanedai Danchi (location: Kita-ku, Tokyo; total number of houses: 3373) in 1959, and it can be said that it is a commemorative housing development in which various attempts towards housing development were realized. This article focuses on the common-use spaces and the residents' network introduced by this housing development project, and their relationship is considered.

An assembly hall is a common-use space that has been universally positioned in subsequent housing development plans. At the beginning, however, planners had no clear image of how it would be used. A comparison was made between the common-use space in Korean housing development and that in Japanese housing development. The result showed that the assembly hall or assembly room, which appeared in the Japanese housing development space, originally played the role of separating the social function of "get-together" or "assembly," which existed in private housing, and that the traditional Japanese continuity structure was adopted in its spatial facilities. The assembly hall was also used for children's classes, funeral wakes, etc. and played the role of complementing urban functions. It is also important to remember that the assembly hall was not only an alternative or a complement to the existing building, but that it also contributed to the formation of an intermediate group that is akin to an assembled community like "Keyaki-no-kai," which is a group of elderly people.

On the other hand, the milk center for the group buying of milk, which was established by the residents, became the base of the large-scale residents' organization, the Residents' Association, although the base is very small. The patio surrounded by the residential buildings was used for the summer festival every year, functioned as a special place to which the residents of Akabanedai Danchi became attached, and played the role of gradually forming a sense of community among the residents.

The "milk center" as a symbolic space was configured like a point but became the base of the large organization, the Residents' Association. The "assembly halls" as a universal space were arranged like a row of lines, with no specific function determined, were segmented for multiple purposes and contributed to the formation of various intermediate groups. The "patio" as an enclosed space became a basic area temporally and spatially connecting the halls. These common-use spaces were involved in the formation of the residents' network in a multifaceted manner and were used in
coordination. As a result, the abstract collective space of a housing development turned into a living space of Akabanedai Danchi.

Key words: housing development, common-use space, residents' network, assembly hall, community