On the evening of June 12, Japan Society hosted an Innovators Series panel discussion entitled *Small Spaces + Big Imagination = Life in the Modern City*. The panel featured Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, founder of the Tokyo architecture firm Atelier Bow-Wow, and Limbon, Professor of Urban Planning at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

Tsukamoto’s presentation centered around the challenges and joys of designing for very small spaces – tiny restaurants, narrow shops, modest homes. His love of ‘pet architecture’ amused and impressed the audience. Limbon focused primarily on machiya homes constructed in Edo period, which many people are now trying to preserve in the city of Kyoto. He also discussed Japan’s fukuroji, (cul de sac, in much smaller scale). Limbon spoke about ongoing projects seeking to house and empower the disenfranchised Korean and buraku communities in the city of Kyoto.

Tsukamoto’s light temperament meshed well with Limbon’s calm sincerity and gave the audience of 250 a stimulating look at two issues facing Japanese urban centers. The panel was moderated by Cliff Pearson, Deputy Editor-in-Chief at *Architectural Record* and was followed by a reception, at which Limbon spoke with audience members and Tsukamoto signed copies of his books (Pet Architecture Guidebook and Made in Tokyo).