



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](#)).

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