A Short Comment

Hiroshi Yahagi (Prof. Osaka City University) It has been ages since the expression The Post Industrial Society was used first.

How have the urban structures in the developed countries changed since then? Urban manufactures have been deteriorating continuously, some of them have transplanted the production abroad, and the inner-city revitalization is urgent as one of urban regeneration projects.

What sort of urban industries have run the urban regeneration?

Undoubtedly it is a large-scale urban redevelopment, or market-driven/property-led urban regeneration [S. S. Feinstein The City Builder 2001]. NY of Times Square, London of Dockland, Tokyo of Odaiba + around Tokyo Station, around Osaka Station, Yokohama of the Port and Future project, LA of LA-live + Grand Ave. projects, Hamburg + Edinburgh + Liverpool + • • of the waterfront developments. Without exception, the above-mentioned urban revitalization has been heavily dependent on property-led urban projects.

1) a. The global cities like NY and Tokyo, Osaka, Yokohama and even smaller-scale cities have never succeeded in nurturing alternative industries to the old urban industries and leading industries sustaining the urban economy of the Post Industrial Days. The so-called new media industries were applauded in the late 1990 as new urban industries and creative city industries sustaining the urban economy of today, but Silicon Alley (NY), Gulch (SF), and Bit Valley (Tokyo) have been going poorly since the internet bubble burst.

b. NY establishes a presence as an international finance center, and the same time is soaked in the Wall Street Business. NY economy is entirely dependent on FIRE (Finance, Insurance and Real Estate), or market-driven industries. Fire means *ignite* or *shoot*, and symbolizes the structural instability of NY economy.

c. Property-led urban regeneration projects are accelerating urban gentrification and displacement. The result is a divided city. Conversion is very popular in the downtown of American big cities, for instance LA which worried about the high speed of gentrification and displacement recently established the ordinance for moratorium of conversion.

d. Deterioration of old urban industries and the miscarriage of nurturing alternative and new industries are the result of globalization of urban economy. For instance the film industries of America as a creative city industry come face to face with harsh reality of runaway production.

- 2) a. The quality of the space the capitalism of today produces is characteristic of the cookie-cutter space reproduced endlessly by large-scale property developments [H. Lefebve, The Production of Space 1991]. Glass tall buildings, convenience stores, suburban housing, and suburban shopping centers, or big box stores as the typical and extreme form of suburban commercial facilities.
  - b. [M. Castells, The City and the Grassroots 1983] discussed the lost of the meaning of place in a city, and argued the possibility of recovering *the meaning of place* through urban social movements. Also [D. Hayden, The Power of Place 1995] tried recovering the special space for each city hidden behind the homogenized space and analyzing deeply the meaning form the viewpoint of *the social memory of space* (= public history).

The above-written is the topics to study the sustainability of city of today, and the discussion points for the symposium of today.