

I Have a Dream

Yurie Sato

I have a dream. I want to be an international architect. Why do I want to be an international architect? When I was twelve years old, I watched a program on television about designing and constructing houses. I was fascinated by three architects, their ideas, techniques and the originality of their ideas.

One of the architect's techniques was the use of sunlight in the house. He decided to build a house on a site that was problematic. It was surrounded by other houses that limited the amount of sunlight the house could receive. So he designed a house with the south wall being raised up so that it would receive the maximum amount of sunlight possible. He also designed a large window in the south wall allowing the house to receive lots of sunlight, but the window's design was also unique as it allowed lots of sun to enter the room, but also gave the family privacy at the same time.

Another architect used pillars to design his house. The owner requested a house that had a large amount of open space for his children to play, as the land surrounding the house was bordered by large and busy streets that were not safe for the children to play near. So the architect designed a large one story square house with a large courtyard in the middle for the children to run and play in. To overcome the problem of support, the architect used four very thick pillars at the four corners of the house. His thinking allowed the family to enjoy and receive benefit from their house.

The third architect's task was to design a house where the whole family could interact in a small space, but still have privacy. He designed a window in the living room to be connected to a room, on the second floor. Family members were able to talk with one another due to the large window which connected the living room with another room upstairs. This unique way of thinking allowed the family to connect, while being in different parts of the house.

One other event impacted my decision to become an international architect, and that was the Sichuan earthquake that struck China in May 2008. The images I saw on TV had great impact on me. Collapsed buildings, ruined schools, families torn apart. It was so shocking and terrible. When I saw images of concrete pillars used for bridges that were broken in two I was shocked by this site. Even more so when I saw that the pillars contained garbage, and the iron used for the frames was so thin and weak, the pillars had no strength at all. I feel that consideration for earthquake safety and basic knowledge of earthquakes is very insufficient, and I hope to increase the information and knowledge through my work as an architect.

Houses are at the center of people's lives, and they are necessary and indispensable. Therefore they should be a place of safety and refuge, not a place that threatens our lives. I want to use advanced Japanese technology and innovation to help people construct safe and comfortable homes. I would like to be an architect not only active in Japan, but throughout the world, using my skill and expertise to better help many people. I have a dream. It is to be an international architect, and help people all over the world smile.