The Design Process of the Memorial Facilities for the Great East Japan Earthquake Corresponding and Collaborating with the Local Communities.

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Despite our ancestors leaving records in efforts to pass down their experiences of tsunamis 400 and 1,000 years ago, to date the majority of us have failed to heed their warnings and were caught unprepared.

Memorial facilities are planned to build for the purpose of inheriting the memory of the disaster so to minimize the damage of coming disaster, in many of the affected areas.

Preservation of disaster remains might be a basic method. However, it has a risk to evoke the grief directly to the affected parties, and the preservation of the remains becomes a burden to those feelings of the victims. For this reason, despite the strong symbolism disaster remains have, they had been already dismantled and removed. Between “do not forget” and “want to forget”, there is a contradiction. Design ideas to solve this contradiction has been demanded.

The key to the design process of the memorial facilities such as the Sendai 3.11 Memorial Community Center and the Yamashita Community Exchange Center was collaboration and cooperation with the local community.

Figure 1. Sendai 3.11 Memorial Community Center, Sendai, 2015.

Figure 2. Remain of Nakahama elementary school, Yamamoto, Miyagi

Figure 3. Interior of Nakahama elementary school.