

*Relationships between interiors and landscape: critical reflections on sukiya and farmhouse architecture in the work of Kazuo Shinohara*

Abstract:

In his book International Architecture in Interwar Japan, Ken Tadashi Oshima's discusses the country houses of Antonin Raymond and Stemu Horiguchi in terms of their relationships to two kinds of traditional Japanese residential architecture: minka and sukiya (Oshima, 2009, p. 127). Taking this as a starting point, this paper looks at relationships between interior and landscape represented by minka and sukiya and speculates on how these models may be reflected in the residential work of Kazuo Shinohara.

The paper looks at Shinohara's trajectory from work grounded in a careful study of traditional architecture to architecture that appears to radically break from tradition, by focussing on two houses: the Tanikawa Residence (1974) and the House Under High Voltage Lines (1981). These houses reject the romanticised relationship between room and landscape typically associated with the Japanese house and can be read as a critique of how elements of traditional architecture are brought into contemporary residences without consideration of how the landscape of Japan has changed.



House Under High Voltage Lines (photo by T Oshima)



Tanikawa house interior (photo by K Taki)



Tanikawa house (photo by K Taki)