

1.Introduction

Station square has been developed as transportation hubs with the development of railways since the Meiji era in Japan. As a representative example a square was established at Tokyo Station. Station squares such as Ueno Station became important as part of urban planning in the reconstruction plans following the Great Kanto Earthquake in During the Taisho era. The station square was developed as part of the reconstruction efforts following the war damage. Shinjuku Station and Shibuya Station. The plan aimed to facilitate transportation and rebuild the city. The role of the current station square continues to change with the times. According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, station squares are expected to be attractive and easy-to-use spaces, especially in terms of factors such as convenience, comfort, safety, and locality. Color is a means of visually expressing the local character and individuality of the station. We focused on the color image and landscape planning of open spaces such as station squares. We conducted an impression evaluation of the scenery from the perspective of the station image. Our goal is to create a symbolic open space with strong local character.

2.Objectives and Methods

The purpose of this study is to clarify the relationship between the color image of the station and the landscape plan for the station square. We evaluated the impression of the landscape of the station square in this study. For this reason, we assumed it was important to pay attention to the color image of the station and its surrounding area as well as the regional characteristics.

In this study, we extracted color images through two types of questionnaire surveys and conducted a literature survey on landscape planning in Japanese local government by using the Internet. Based on the results, we analyzed them using psychological values.

3. Color image

3.1 First Survey

In this first survey we conducted a questionnaire survey for evaluating color image. We chose three stations in Japan. They are Omihachiman Station, Hikone Station, and Kusatsu Station. We created 48 different color charts. Their color charts were used to extract the color image of the station. This survey was conducted using Google Forms with a total of 44 people.

The most common color image of Hikone Station is red, followed by white and warm colors. The results indicate a similarity between the types of colors and the colors used for the local mascot character, Hikonyan. The color image of Omihachiman Station was mostly extracted as reddish-brown. The color matched the color of the tiles in the station square. The most common color image of Kusatsu Station was yellow green. We guessed that this station's color image may be influenced by colors associated with the place name.

3.2 Second Survey

We conducted second questionnaire survey to capture trends regarding color image formation. The survey covered 30 stations, including major stations across Japan, stations close to famous landmarks and tourist attractions, and stations with distinctive station names. Table 1 shows the information on the list of station names we chose. The survey used the same 48 color charts as in second survey to extract color images. This survey was conducted using Google Forms with a total of 23 people.

Table 1. List of station names surveyed

1	2	3	4	5
Umeda	Sakuranomiya	Tsuruhashi	Takarazuka	Sakurai
6	7	8	9	10
Momotani	Himeji	Banshu-Ako	Higashi-Yodogawa	Izumo-Taisha
11	12	13	14	15
Kanazawa	Tokyo	Kyoto	Nagoya	Fukui
16	17	18	19	20
Koshien-gutchi	Universal City	Tennoji	JR Namba	Kamakura
21	22	23	24	25
Kumamoto	Funabashi	Nara	Mito	Wakayama
26	27	28	29	30
Sapporo	Fushimi-Inari	Temma	Osakajokoen	Osaka

As stand below, we explain the main survey results for each color image formation trend.

3.3 Tokyo Station

The color image of Tokyo Station was extracted as brown and orange. One of the characteristics of Tokyo Station is the red brick exterior of the Marunouchi Station Building. This shows a high degree of agreement with the colors extracted in the questionnaire survey. We considered that the color image of Tokyo Station may be influenced by symbols such as the Marunouchi Station Building.

3.4 Universal City Station

Blue was the most frequently selected color image for Universal City Station. Universal City Station is the closest station to Universal Studios Japan (USJ). USJ is a popular theme park located in Osaka Prefecture. Blue is used as the brand image at USJ. The color image was consistent with the theme color of USJ. We considered that the color may have been influenced by the colors of tourist spots near the station.

3.5 Funabashi Station

Yellow was the most frequently extracted color image for Funabashi Station. This color matches the color used by the mascot character for the area. This mascot character is called Funassyi.

We assumed that the color image of this station is influenced by the mascot character.

3.6 Sakurai Station

Pink was the most frequently selected color image for Sakurai Station. This is likely due to the association with the word "sakura" in the place name. Japanese people called cherry blossoms “sakura” in Japan. Cherry blossoms are associated with pink in Japan. We assumed that the color image of this station was influenced by the colors associated with the place name.

4. Summary of main survey

This survey revealed four major trends in the formation of color images. The first is the tendency for color images to be formed under the influence of the symbol of the station square. The second is a tendency to be influenced by the colors used at tourist spots near stations. The third is a tendency to be influenced by mascot characters around stations. Finally, the fourth is a tendency to be influenced by colors associated with place names. Four trends were revealed in this study. However, there may be other trends that do not belong to these.

5. Landscape Planning

Based on the trends in color image formation revealed in this survey, We conducted impression evaluations and considerations regarding the relationship between the landscape planning of the station squares and the color image of the stations. The targets are Kanazawa Station, Himeji Station, Kumamoto Station, and Banshu-Ako Station.

5.1 Kanazawa Station

The main policy of the landscape plan was formulated in 2009 for Kanazawa Station. The main policy is to combine Kanazawa's Japanese atmosphere with the image of a creative craft city. The actual station square features a Tsuzumimon gate. This is a symbol of the region's traditional performing arts.

There is a bright and open space equipped with vegetation planning and a waterfront area. Furthermore, brown was the most frequently extracted color image formed under the influence of the symbol in the station square. We considered the relationship between the basic policy of Kanazawa Station's landscape plan and the formation of its color image. We guessed that it was a landscape plan that is easy to remember.

5.2 Himeji Station

Next, the landscape plan for Himeji Station was formulated in 2007. Its main goal is to create a welcoming square where people can view the castle, feel the passage of time, and interact with one

another.

The actual station square features a castle view that resembles the castle gate, overlooking Himeji Castle, and a garden that recreates the castle's outer moat. The design is centered around Himeji Castle, a popular tourist spot. The color image of Himeji Station was influenced by the nearest tourist spot. It was most frequently identified as white. We considered that the landscape plan for Himeji Station, centered on Himeji Castle, a local tourist spot, is a landscape plan that is suited to the formation of this color image.

5.3 Kumamoto Station

Black and red were extracted as the color image of Kumamoto Station. The landscape plan was formulated in 2010 for Kumamoto Station. They utilize historical resources such as Kumamoto Castle and are based on themes of "scenes of encounters," "scenes of small ridges," and "scenes of the waterfront." While it includes an open design for traffic flow, it lacks any plans for creating a new image for the station. The color image of this station is influenced by the local mascot character Kumamon. We guessed that there are some inconsistencies in the landscape plan for Kumamoto Station in terms of creating a memorable station square.

5.4 Banshu Ako Station

The landscape plan for Banshu Ako Station was formulated in 2004. The main policy is to create a landscape that represents the "hometown of Chushingura." The station square is decorated with a bronze statue of the Ako Gishi, as well as Japanese-style paving, lighting, and plantings. These elements create a space that conveys the story of Ako to visitors. The color image of this station is associated with the color names included in the station name. There was no connection to the landscape plan. Therefore, we guessed that when creating memorable station squares in the future. It will be necessary to take into consideration the image of stations like this.

6. Conclusion

This study revealed similarities and differences between the current landscape plan for the station square and the station's image. Based on these results, we assumed that creating a color image that suits each area and designing a landscape plan will be important in creating attractive station squares in the future. As a future outlook, we will conduct a more detailed analysis of the relationship between station image and landscape plans. We will continue to consider and propose ways to create a new image for stations.