Finding Harmony in the City where the Contemporary and Classic Live Together

Green Map Kamakura | to-kgm@excite.co.jp Author: Shinsuke Shimao, Kamakura Green Map

Background: Through the Lens of Four Distinct Eras

What is the most suitable and best way to promote the environment in the unique and historical city of Kamakura? With this question in mind, the Green Mapmaking team set the direction of the map as a resource suggesting a future model of Kamakura.

The mapmaking took place in large workshops with field research and discussions, while small groups and individuals collected missing information. A shared draft

On-street sidewalk with local icon



Classic style mailbox (bottom)



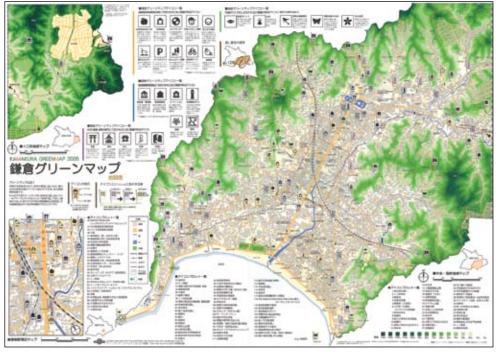
map was filled gradually as the team collected more information.

As the research progressed, the team realized each site belonged to one of the four different eras: The Original Natural Landscape, Medieval Era, Modern Weekend Resort Era and Postmodern Tourism and Residence Era. Each site's icon was placed on a colorcoded flag indicating its era. Several local icons were created to highlight Kamakura's unique features.

Green Map Kamakura and color coding (right)



図1 鎌倉の代表的な時代区分



Original local and Green Map Icons









Impacts: Kamakura's Hidden Charm Emerges

Through field research and categorization, the mapmakers began to define Kamakura's charm. It was universally agreed that the sites that the team had found were important to preserve and highlight.

More challenging than merely recognizing historical architecture such as temples and shrines, they worked to identify other important sites that represent the unique image of Kamakura. For instance, "Roji", narrow back streets, represent an era when wealthy Tokyo residents sought weekend houses in the area. Their narrow design was intentional, allowing pedestrians to walk without the interference of cars. Retain-

ing profound tranquility, the roji is exactly how Kamakurans remember those days. Also, the team paid attention to the decreasing number of classic cylindrical mailboxes, which were common during the Meiji era.

The map gave life to previously invisible sites and subsequently suggested guidelines for an improvement plan. Fresh concepts of ways to better harmonize the old and the new arose as a focus for the community. This idea was generated by the environmental analysis that took place during the mapmaking process. As a result, the map became the strategic tool to create the future of Kamakura.

History and site details on the back of the map date back to 1180 (below)

横須賀線開通

