

「2024年度ウィーン大学スプリングスクール派遣報告書」

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I'll look back on this spring program in view of architecture of Vienna. One of my purposes to take part in this program is to experience the difference of architecture between Austria and Japan. I major in architecture at Kyoto university, and I learned about the history of western architecture in class. My teacher told us the importance of actually visiting the building and feeling the atmosphere. He also said that western architecture focuses on pillar, while Japanese architecture focuses on wall. I thought living in Vienna, which is the city of arts and has long history and historical architecture was the best to think about architecture.

During the first three days, I visited a lot of famous buildings like Schonbrunn Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, Vienna State Opera. I was surprised at there were so many historical buildings in and around the "ring" and the styles of these buildings differ from Gothic to Modern. It was very moving to actually visit the architecture I learned about in class and experience its spatiality. I was reminded of the importance of actually experiencing architecture, rather than just looking at it in a book or on the internet. What surprised me the best was the height. Every building was so high that I could hardly believe it was built a long time ago. The Gothic-style churches with high ceilings and stained-glass windows, the Baroque-style buildings decorated with frescoes, and the numerous carvings on the walls and columns gave me a sense of the great influence that Christianity had on the people of that time. I think that in Gothic-style churches, designs that emphasize verticality, such as very high ceilings, high positioned windows that let in sunlight, and slender columns may emphasize the sublimity of Christian God.

At the lecture of "Political History", I learned the reason why the style of architectures differs from Gothic to Modern. Each building was constructed in the style of other European countries according to the role the building was intended to play. The parliament is modeled the Greece style. In Greece, the temple is the place where new things were born, and this style was adopted for Parliament in the hope that new ideas would emerge. City Hall is modeled after the German style because German was the ideal city in those days. I gained a new perspective on the city after I learned that the building designs that make up the beautiful cityscape of Vienna were not only created with scenic beauty in mind, but also have meaning. Learning the history of Vienna helped me to understand this situation.

Through this program, I construe my teacher's word, "western architecture focuses on pillar, while Japanese architecture focuses on wall" as western people put more emphasis on vertical, while Japanese people put more emphasis on horizontal. I think this is because in Christianity, there is only one God, while in Japan, God is found in all things in nature, which means God exists in everywhere. I also learned the importance of learning one thing from several different perspectives. I believe that different cultures and historical backgrounds have different interpretations of the same thing, and by learning about them, I can acquire new ways of thinking. When I met Pro. Mazal's assistants who gave many explanations at the museum, I felt the importance of being interested in outside my field of expertise and acquiring knowledge about various things in the world. I believe that acquiring knowledge in a variety of fields, regardless of one's specialty, is a good opportunity to gain new perspectives.

I got interest in Jesuit Church which Professor Mazal introduced to us. It is build in the mixed style of Baroque and Islam. I've never heard the word of "Basilica Style". I want to study the Basilica style and learn about the history of the fusion of Islamic and Baroque cultures.

Last but far from least, I greatly appreciate the warm welcome of Professor Mazal and his assistants. Thanks to their kindness, I could have a wonderful experience which I will never forget.