

Seminar Summary

Two Perspectives on the Future of Public Spaces



Date	Friday, February 20, 2015, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Venue	Meeting Room, 10th floor, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower
Speakers	Ryuji Fujimura (Architect, ryuji fujimura architects) Masato Momiyama (CEO, REWRITE Co., Ltd.)

The Institute for Urban Strategies hosted a seminar on February 20, 2015, with two of the active figures in the fields of urban planning, development, and management.

In his presentation entitled, “An approach to the ‘New Public’ through developing solutions for commercial facilities,” Mr. Masato Momiyama discussed the issue of “town management,” elaborating on his collaborations with various commercial facilities. “I would like to build bridges between commercial facilities and local communities,” he said. “My hypothesis is that the future of public space is in the hand of commercial facilities.”

Under the title of “Social design in the public sector: scaling down cities in a forward-looking

manner,” Mr. Ryuji Fujimura shared his first-hand experiences with the consensus-building processes in the context of urban planning. In many of his projects, public infrastructures were to be gradually scaled down. “It is my hope that the people will come to see making cities compact and useful in a positive light,” Mr. Fujimura said.

A lively discussion followed. Some of the topics raised were “2020 Tokyo Olympics,” “the impacts of e-commerce on traditional, small-scale businesses,” “the role of academics today,” “financing town management activities in provincial cities,” and so on.