

# **A Study about Collective Genius**

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## **Abstract**

This paper describes the meaning of collective genius. The modern civilization became complicated and high-tech, and it depended on only an expert or a leader. However, it produces a specialized fool, and a society without horizontal cooperation is born in many places just in vertical system. The time was over. It is the era to share culture and find value generally. The signs appear somewhere slowly. As the reason, the suggestion of Collective Genius in 1993 should be remarked and Mandala of Asian traditional thought should be noticed. 13 years later after Collective Genius suggested, one German architect firm established the new group system of different professionals. It shows the unique design method that any object needs to be environmentally inspected more generally and liberally by diverse persons who are collective genius. Architecture is an occupation for creation, but it needs to keep in touch with human situations.

## **Keywords**

Individual Genius, Collective Genius, Mandala, Symbiosis, Sustainability

## **1. Introduction**

Thinking of the history of the world civilization, it was developed by an individual genius who is not only an expert but also a hero and a dictator. The leader ruled the community by the power and religion. Democracy changed them. It depended on the intelligence and the generals. But even presidents in the democratic country were sometimes mistaken by self-righteous judgment. And even in totalitarianism, the collective guidance system is sometimes available. However, it was still guidance by a

few groups, and it was still limited experts or guidance. The information became diversified and complicated more and more now. The times when an architect office depended on one talent were over. Multiplied knowledge is necessary, and the technology to be engaged in a building design is just one part. The knowledge such as science, chemistry, biology, geography, anthropology and many is necessary.

## **2. Collective Genius**

Professor of Kentucky University R. S. Levine preached the necessity of 'Collective Genius' in his paper 'Sustainability and Three Realms of Discourse' in 1993, which analyzed a change after science led human progress preparing for the future. It said; The prosperity of the time of Renaissance was depended upon individual geniuses after all. Human beings had developed its culture by its personal power using science/technology and opened the essence of the art, but now human beings had the situation coming to a deadlock not to be able to the next civilization. Sustainable society can open it.

And the concept of collective genius has gained sympathizers/assenters and inspired ideas after it.

He established the Center for Sustainable Cities of a research institute of the university in the beginning of 1980. And the paper was unique as an article of the debater.

Afterwards the design firms that embodied the thought faithfully in the present age have appeared, and some were considered new groups of architects with environmental consideration.

However there is not yet it in Japan, and no shadow in Taiwan, too. On the other hand, there are many businesses sounding sustainability commercially in Europe and USA and the same to architectural situations. Then the meaning will be needed to mention more clearly and the possibility should be inspected.

## **3. Design Institute, Transsolar Climate Engineering**

Trans Solar Climate Engineering, Architectural Design Company in Stuttgart, German, is a technocrat group established in this century different from the regular ones. It is the Architecture and Consultant Institute for energy conscious architectural design, the production of the energy saving building materials, the cooperation for competitions, study and suggestion. It published 'Ecology.Design.Synergy' which emphasize the meaning of climatic design and energy conscious design. It consists of three sections,

each of which has the experts of the heat, physicist, scientist, economist, lawyer, and architect. They include not only physicist and the chemical but also cultural anthropologists and scholars. It was realized for the 1<sup>st</sup> time for diverse professions to work together when the environmental natural and climatic design was announced by the architect office. And the projects which are designed in joint with the architects are just the innovative designs based on the use of heat.

## **4. Mandala**

While sustainability was evaluated in the west, Mandala of the classical idea's in the East has been remarked in Japan. It is also the starting point from the idea which overlaps symbiosis.

According to Mandara in WIKIPEDIA, it says that in common use, mandala has become a generic term for any plan, chart or geometric pattern that represents the cosmos metaphysically or symbolically, a microcosm of the Universe from the human perspective. For instance, it says that one well-known type of mandala is the mandala of the many Buddhas, archetypal Buddha forms embodying various aspects of enlightenment, the Buddhas are depicted depending on the school of Buddhism and even the specific purpose of the mandala. It means that just one image of Buda is not called Mandala and Mandala is anytime plural and that individual image doesn't exist.

### **4.1 Symbiosis and Mandala**

Symbiosis is the word of biology in 1890 and was not considered to link with the cooperative living of the human beings on 1980s. In the process of the change of the attitude for environmental situations, symbiosis became used as the new word meaning the human relations, although even now it may be a question. However thinking of Mandala, it is considered meaningful to appreciate the similar concept to it, which was born in the traditional religion.

## **5. Western Civilization**

Anyhow sustainability sounded by the West going to the matured society seems similar to the situations the east has had through Mandala and symbiosis. Although modern times acquired just by the West changed the previous civilization by

discovery/innovation of technology, but Asian world, for example, was using lunar calendar for a long time and the undeveloped country was delayed more.

On the other hand, thinking of the science and technology the west acquired, I heard it is the payment born from the experiment in various insatiable obsession with gold. It was the outburst of a personal desire, not for the welfare of society. But gold is not by man-made technology work for the society while many other weapons of war were born. However most of them must have been made by Thermal Laws of just the truth in the universe that human beings found and our time needs collective genius.

The natural history says that the philosopher Aristotle in Greece recognized diversity and many truths in many worlds and continued to bear the ancestors of the various multilateral of botany and ecology.

## 6. Conclusion

Albert Einstein said “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.” It means that an idea is born by the person of the outsider, and the idea is not to do it by the expert who became stiff.

## Acknowledgement

The following lists will show the supplement of the paper. It may be necessary to develop itself, but it shows this now. Regarding not so enough, it was made first of all

Table – Individual Genius and Collective Genius

	Individual Genius	Collective Genius
Society	Leader, Collective guidance system	Negotiation & Sustainable
Politics	Power and Imperial Hero, Dictator	Discussion & Sustainable
Economy	Owner Company	Balance & Sustainable
Culture	Art	Generator
Science	Technology	Synergy & Sustainable
Architect	Boss	Engineer, Psychologist, Socialist, Scientist, Chemicalist, Anthropologist, Person of Letters, Economist, Lawyer, Designer and many
Design	Art	Details, Culture, Synergy & Sustainable
Living Features	Endangered species	Flexible, Environmental

## 7. References

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## 8. Presentation of Author



Yoshio Kato: Inviting Professor of Tamkang University, Japanese licensed Architect, has continued Eco and Passive Solar Designs from 1970 to now, awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> Environmental Architecture Awards of Japanese Institute of Architect, 2000, The last work; School of Asian Music and Architecture, National Tainan Art University