

## SUSTAINABILITY WEEKS 2014

### Workshop Description

Theme 6 – *Architecture and Home Healthcare in Northern Regions*

Theme Conveners: Associate Professor Masaya Saito, Sapporo City University University, Professor Kazuyo K. Sooudi, Sapporo City University

Service Design Facilitator: PhD Student Merja Briñon, University of Lapland

Keywords: home healthcare, architecture

Category: Service Design Workshop

### Summary

Close collaboration between architecture and homehealth care is essential to life in northern regions such as Hokkaido and Lapland.

In the late nineteenth century, many immigrants moved to Hokkaido from the temperate mainland, and they were familiar only with traditional Japanese construction techniques unsuitable for the North's severe cold weather. Now, advanced construction for building well-insulated houses suited to the environment have been developed over the decades, enabling Hokkaido residents to live comfortably even in the coldest winters. This transition has been reflected in healthcare, as well.

For all of Japan, including Hokkaido, hospital-centered services have been the primary source of healthcare until now. However, a demand for home healthcare services has increased for two reasons: most Japanese people (over 80%) prefer to receive care at home instead of at a hospital and Japanese national strategy is adapting to save on medical costs. In the Sapporo City University (SCU) seminar, we will engage in in-depth discussion on the theme of collaboration between these two closely-connected topics: "Architecture" and "Home Healthcare" in northern regions.