Start of New Residential Experiments in Units 402 and 301 of Experimental Housing Complex “NEXT21”

—Osaka Gas, Osaka Gas Urban Development, and Osaka Gas Marketing to examine the future of housing and lifestyles—

June 5, 2025
Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.
Osaka Gas Urban Development Co., Ltd.
Osaka Gas Marketing Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and President: Masataka Fujiwara; hereinafter “Osaka Gas”) will commence residential experiments in two units of its experimental housing complex “NEXT21” in collaboration with two wholly owned subsidiaries: Osaka Gas Urban Development Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and President: Yasuhiro Tomoda; hereinafter “Osaka Gas Urban Development”), which operates rental and condominium businesses, and Osaka Gas Marketing Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and President: Takeshi Morisaki; hereinafter “Osaka Gas Marketing”), which specializes in condominium renovation projects. The experiments are aimed at developing and proposing products tailored to customers’ needs in an era of diversifying work styles and lifestyles, starting in June 2025. This is the first time that these three companies will conduct residential experiments on lifestyles at NEXT21.

大阪ガス実験集合住宅
NEXT21

NEXT21 is an experimental housing complex built by Osaka Gas in October 1993 with the aim of demonstrating and proposing the future of urban housing complexes from the perspectives of the environment, energy and lifestyle.

Since its completion, demonstration experiments have been carried out in phases every five to six years, with themes set in consideration of the historical context of each phase. Daigas Group employees and their families have actually lived in the residential complex, and over 200 projects have been implemented in five phases over the 31 years. Osaka Gas has made many proposals and presentations regarding overall energy conservation and CO_2 emissions reduction of buildings, restoration of green spaces and harmony with the environment in urban areas, and ideal models of housing for various lifestyles, and as a result, many products have been commercialized.

In April 2025, the sixth phase of the experiments began under the theme of “redefining the meaning of living together in a community.”

(History of NEXT21)

Period	Phase	No. of households living in the area	Theme
1994 -	1st phase	16	Seek to simultaneously realize “amenities” and “energy-saving, environmentally friendly living”
2000 -	2nd phase	16	Special consideration for the global environment and comfortable daily living
2007 -	3rd phase	16	Housing and energy systems to support sustainable urban living
2013 -	4th phase	15	Environmentally friendly, spiritually rich living
2020 -	5th phase	14	Comfortable dwelling space and housing for use in emergencies
2025 -	6th phase	16*1	Redefining the meaning of living together in a community

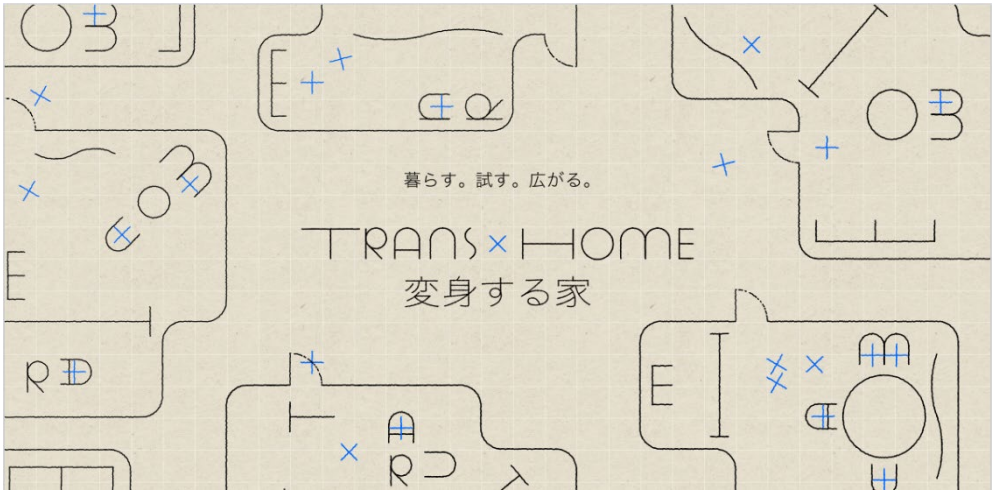
*1 Scheduled for June

1. Overview of these residential experiments

① Unit 402: TRANS×HOME - Living, Trying and Expanding at "Transforming Home" (Osaka Gas Urban Development)

Osaka Gas Urban Development has been providing new forms of housing through its rental apartment series "URBANEX" and condominium series "SCENES," listening to the voices of customers and utilizing their insight, based on its purpose of "creating places where people want to live."

To continue to be chosen by its customers while adapting to the changing times, Osaka Gas Urban Development believes that it is necessary to incorporate more in-depth, free thinking and trial and error into its product planning. Therefore, the company has decided to conduct a residential experiment at NEXT21. In this experiment, in order to respond to an era of changing family structures and diverse lifestyles and ways of working, **a unit divided into three zones (U, S, and C)[*2] was designed** based on the concept of **"Living, Trying and Expanding" to examine living in various lifestyles**.



(Features) *For details, please refer to the attached material.

U zone	A "**compact and comfortable room**" equipped with furniture that makes even a small space feel spacious, such as a multi-purpose bed and shower booth
S zone	A "**customizable home**" designed by removing partitions and minimizing fixed furniture, allowing the residents to spend time wherever they want, whenever they want, and in whatever space they want
C zone	A "**lifestyle with semi-private space**" featuring a multi-purpose room that can be used for various purposes, such as a workspace, hobby room, or guest room

*2 The zones are named after URBANEX, SCENES, and COMMON.

U zone
(Intended for a single-person household)

S zone
(Intended for a single-person or two-person household)

C zone
(Intended for being shared by the households living in U and S zones)

(Special site)

Today, Osaka Gas Urban Development launched a special website for the residential experiment on its website. Going forward, Osaka Gas Urban Development plans to periodically disclose specific details of the residential experiment,[*3] its approach to home building,[*3] and the results of the residential experiment and feedback on products. *3 Scheduled to be released in mid-July.

② Unit 301: A gently connected LDK space (Osaka Gas Marketing)

Osaka Gas Marketing, in collaboration with GlobalBase Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and President: Takashi Terada), launched the customized renovation service “MYRENO”*4 in the Kansai area in July 2022. It offers a wide range of services, from searching for a used condominium to renovating it, in accordance with customer requests.

Osaka Gas Marketing has decided to conduct a residential experiment at NEXT21 to explore new LDK spaces that can respond to the changing needs of our customers over time and to the individual lifestyles of our customers.

With the increase in dual-income households, recent homes have seen a rise in demand for features, such as easy housework, time-saving layouts, and indoor drying of laundry. In addition, since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in requests for individual workspaces in the living-dining-kitchen (LDK) area due to the diversification of work styles and changes in how people spend their time at home.

In response to these social backgrounds and the diverse needs of customers gained through our renovation projects, this residential experiment will **test an LDK layout that promotes greater interaction between family members and shortens the flow of household chores.**

*4 The name and logo of MYRENO are registered trademarks or trademarks of GlobalBase Co., Ltd. in Japan and other countries.

(Features)

- **An LDK where family time and my time are in harmony with an “adjustable table unit”**

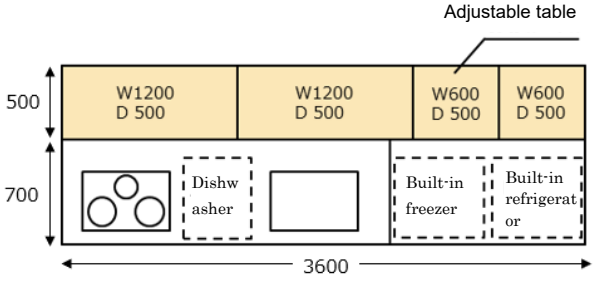
  We created an “adjustable table unit” designed as a set with a custom-made kitchen. This table unit consists of four independent tables, some of which are height-adjustable, allowing it to be used not only as a dining table but also as a workspace or household workbench, and can be moved to any location in the LDK area to suit the needs of the residents. We will conduct a residential experiment to verify the convenience and other aspects with the aim of creating a new LDK space that allows each family member to have their own time and naturally communicate with each other.

- **Laundry facilities (washing machine and KANTA-KUN Gas Clothes Dryer) installed in the dining room**

  With the growing demand for time-saving household chores, the demand for the KANTA-KUN Gas Clothes Dryer with quick drying capabilities has been increasing year by year. However, until now, it has been difficult to install it in used apartments due to the difficulty of installing exhaust piping, making installation almost impossible in most cases. As a new initiative, we will use an interior window to remove moisture from the KANTA-KUN Gas Clothes Dryer and explore its usability and installation possibilities. In addition, we designed an LDK space with consideration for the flow of housework by placing the laundry facilities (washing machine and KANTA-KUN Gas Clothes Dryer) side by side with the kitchen. We will examine the advantages and disadvantages of connecting the household space and relaxation space in daily life.

■ Layout plan of the custom kitchen and adjustable table

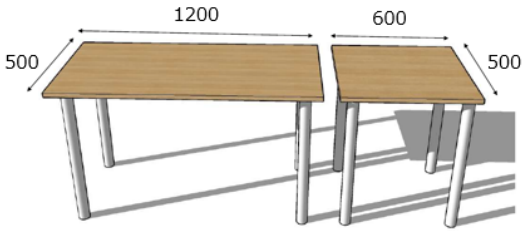
・To create a unified space, the tabletops of the adjustable table unit and the kitchen sides are made of the same material.



■Adjustable table

・ A set consisting of a total of four tables: two large tables and two small tables

・ Partially adjustable for ease of use depending on application



Unit: mm

Adjustable table unit
(Installed in front of the kitchen as a dining table)

Laundry facilities located next to the kitchen

2. 6th phase of NEXT21

In recent years, the spread of smartphones and social media, the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and global efforts for zero carbon have led to changes in the values associated with means of communication and individual behavior.

Furthermore, many people purchasing homes in central urban areas are dual-income households, and their needs and priorities in terms of housing and lifestyle have shifted toward efficiency, such as ensuring convenience for balancing work and household chores and moving to a new home in response to lifestyle changes.

In the 6th phase of NEXT21, by reexamining the relationship between people, nature, and communities in today's urban living, where efficiency is a top priority, Osaka Gas will undertake residential experiments to achieve the seemingly contradictory goals of carbon neutrality and a rich lifestyle and personalization and community building, thereby defining new meanings.

[Theme]

Redefining the meaning of living together in a community

—The challenge of regenerative design for living and energy created through the relationships between people, nature, and communities—

[Period]

April 2025 to March 2031 (planned)

[Description of main experiments (The following verification and evaluation are planned to be conducted.)]

- Energy equipment and management for expanding renewable energy use and improving energy efficiency, and behavioral changes among residents
- Energy-saving and comfort guidelines that take into consideration changes in thermal and ventilation conditions within dwellings and residents' adaptation to the environment
- Health and comfort of residents based on thermal environment within dwellings and housing and equipment performance, etc.
- Utility and acceptability of gas appliances in the conceptual and prototype stages
- Surveys and effects on improving the value of bathing and eating
- Functions and usage of IoT devices and systems, and their impact and effects on lifestyles
- Circular design that reuses waste materials from residential demolition for renovation and the resulting reduction in environmental impact (CO_2, waste)
- Housing plans and ways of living that respond to the diversifying lifestyles and issues of families
- A way of living that utilizes the intermediate space between the interior and exterior of a dwelling (a place for activities and thermal comfort buffering according to the season, lifestyle, etc.)
- Methods for forming and operating community activities among residents of apartment buildings

<Overview of experimental housing complex "NEXT21">
Address: 6-16 Shimizudani-cho, Tennoji-ku, Osaka City
Scale: Six stories above ground and one story underground
Building area: 896 m^2
Total floor area: 4,577 m^2
Number of units: 18
Completion: October 1993

The Daigas Group remains committed to research and proposals for the homes and lifestyles of the future in order to become a corporate group that contributes to the "further evolution" of customers' lives and businesses.

Attached material

■ Unit 402: TRANS×HOME - Living, Trying and Expanding at “Transforming Home” (Osaka Gas Urban Development)

Overview of implementation by zone

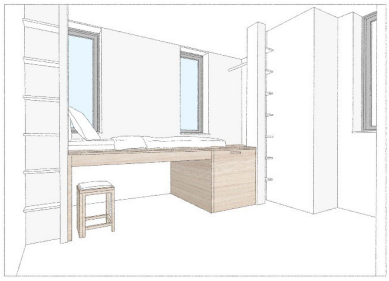
(1) U zone (approx. 27 m2)

・ **An experiment will be conducted with the aim of creating a “compact and comfortable room”** equipped with furniture that makes even a small space feel spacious, such as a multi-purpose bed and shower booth.

(Specific details)

To make efficient use of the compact space, the bathroom will feature **a shower booth** without a bathtub.

An experiment will also be conducted to confirm the feasibility of creating a living space that can be used as both a living room and a bedroom by adopting **a multi-purpose bed**.



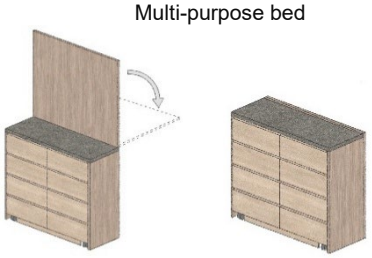
Multi-purpose bed

(2) S zone (approx. 55 m^2)

・ An experiment will be conducted with the aim of creating a **“customizable home” designed by removing partitions and minimizing fixed furniture, allowing the residents to spend time wherever they want, whenever they want, and in whatever space they want.**

(Specific details)

An experiment will be conducted to confirm the feasibility of creating a living space where the layout of the room can be freely changed by utilizing **movable furniture** (movable cabinet, kitchen workbench, etc.) and **a movable partition**. The movable cabinet that functions as a partition when necessary will be adopted (see right).



Partition is ON.

Partition is OFF.

(3) C zone (approx. 18 m^2)

・ **An experiment will be conducted with the aim of creating a “lifestyle with semi-private space”** featuring a multi-purpose room that can be used for various purposes, such as a workspace, hobby room, or guest room.

(Specific details)

When the door to the U zone or S zone is opened, the C zone can be integrated with each zone. When the doors are closed, the C zone can be used as a shared space. It can also be divided into two sections. An experiment will be conducted to confirm what kind of lifestyle can be achieved by having a variable semi-private space like this near the home.

More detailed information on the experiments will be posted on the special website below (scheduled to be released in mid-July).
[NEXT21 special site URL: https://ogud.co.jp/urbanex/next21/]