

The ambition for this project is to revitalize the area along the Kitajikengawa Canal making it a destination not only for the tourists, but also the local community. The narrative behind the Urban Belt is to create a connection between the parklands north of the canal and the vehicle green belt to the South-East. Furthermore, integrating a coherent connection with simultaneous projects along the North and South sides of the canal.

The Urban Belt consists of two axis running adjacent to each other. One approaching the Skytree from the East end of the canal, the other, traveling vertically along the existing green belt. By pushing the green belt over the canal, the two axis collide. At the collision point, situated just West of the Skytree, the two axis mold together to form a hub of activities. The program of this space accommodates temporal events for each season such as Hinam in Spring and Student sporting events in summer. The generous amount of open space allows for flexibility in its long term program as well as daily pop-ups.

Secondary to the main place space runs an underpass which links the West and East ends of the site. As a whole, the Urban Belt works to tie sites together in order to create a spatial continuity.

Location: Kitajikengawa Canal
Asakusa - Tokyo - Japan

Location Plan
Scale: 1:10000



SITE ANALYSIS
DIAGRAMS

Key Site Zone
Site bounded by canal, train line and Skytree.

Zoning
Mixed Use
Medium Residential
Low Residential

Demolition
Buildings to be demolished marked in red will create open space, frame views and connect the sites.

Site Access / Corner Impediment
Adequate access from East road and Northern streets. Limited access from the South and South East.

Joining Axis
Axis of movement collide and mold together forming a meeting hub.

Green Belt Connection
Connecting existing green belt to northern side of the canal to create a continuous urban movement. Underpass connects both ends of the canal.

Existing Trees
Site bounded by canal, train line and Skytree.

Open Space
Site bounded by canal, train line and Skytree.

PROGRAM
AXONOMETRIC

EXISTING URBAN ELEMENTS
The existing urban elements mainly consists of medium rise apartments leaving the remaining space as landscape fabric. Views of the Skytree are interrupted and there is no overall sense of place.

PROPOSED URBAN ELEMENTS
The proposed concept brings urban elements such as open green space, shelter and temporal stalls for activity enhancement. The open green space will allow people to connect with nature with pictorial views of the Skytree and surrounding context.

Demolition
Buildings to be demolished marked in red will create open space, frame views and connect the sites.

ASAKUSA

WEST-EAST CONNECTION

GREEN BELT CONNECTION

Axonometric
Scale: 1:2000

PRECEDENTS
TOKYO / MANHATTAN

PLANS
CONTEXT / DETAIL

Site Plan
Scale: 1:600

Plan Detail
Scale: 1:200

ITERATIONS
DIAGRAMS

Noise Barrier
The use of trees along the east road creates a noise and visual barrier to the site.

Underpass Link
An opening in the middle of the space creates a connection between above and below.

Blend Hard & Soft Scape
Creating a landscape language that blends the built and natural fabric.

Park Center
Organising the trees into a centre creates a meeting space.

Geometry
Using geometric shapes to organise the space.

Isle of Trees
The organisation of trees in isles encourages the user to move through the space.

Manipulation East
Shaping the landscape to direct users in certain directions.

Spine of Trees
Shaping the landscape to act as a back bone to the design.

Manipulation North/East
Incorporating seating into the design allows people to spend time on site.

Manipulation West/East
Shaping the landscape to direct users in certain directions.

Refined Iteration
Incorporating seating into the design allows people to spend time on site.

LANDSCAPING
SOFTSCAPE | HARDSCAPE

Cherry Blossom
The cherry blossom (sakura) is Japan's unofficial national flower. It has been celebrated for many centuries and holds a very prominent position in Japanese culture.

Azalea
Azaleas are flowering shrubs in the genus Rhododendron, particularly the former sections Tsutsu (evergreen) and Pentanthera (deciduous).

Camellia
Camellias are evergreen shrubs or small trees up to 20 m (66 ft) tall. Their leaves are alternately arranged, simple, thick, serrated, and usually glossy.

Sedges Grass
The Cyperaceae are a family of monocotyledonous grass-like flowering plants known as sedges, which superficially resemble grasses and bamboos.

Aged Timber
The use of timber will add warmth to the design and age overtime allowing atmosphere of the project to change.

Reinforced Concrete
A common material used in Japan is reinforced concrete. This ensures rigidity in the design allowing to withstand earthquakes. Concrete will be the main construction material for the project.

Paving
Paving will be used as the edge condition to the site to beautify the approach.

Steel
Steel will be used as the additional construction material in conjunction with concrete.

AXONOMETRIC
SEASONAL PROGRAM

Bon Odori (Summer)
Bon Odori, meaning simply Bon dance is a style of dancing performed during Obon. Originally a harvest festival dance to welcome the spirits of the dead, the style of celebration varies in many aspects from region to region. This project accommodates such events in its open courtyard.

Student Sporting Events (Autumn)
The Unokai is a huge event on the school calendar as students will prepare for the events during school and after school in their club activities. The site will be able to cater for several of the events including: Oodama, Samurai fighting, marching bands, dancing and Oedama.

Christmas (Winter)
During Christmas time the space is decorated with a large Christmas tree creating a magical winter setting. Food trucks and pop up stalls stay open late for the night.

Hanami (Spring)
Hanami ("flower viewing") is the Japanese traditional custom of enjoying the transient beauty of flowers. There are in this case almost always referring to those of the cherry tree. The site is ideal with trees which direct views down the canal. A clump of cherry trees near the center are an attraction point for this "transient beauty".

SECTIONS
SECTIONS + DETAILS

Section A
Scale: 1:500

Section B
Scale: 1:500

Section C
Scale: 1:500

Section D
Scale: 1:500

Section Detail A
Scale: 1:200

Section Detail B
Scale: 1:200

Section Detail C
Scale: 1:200

Section Detail D
Scale: 1:200

Section Detail E
Scale: 1:200

Section Detail F
Scale: 1:200

Section Detail G
Scale: 1:200

Plan Cut Below Ground (Underpass)
Scale: 1:1000

Context Section X
Scale: 1:4000

Context Section Y
Scale: 1:4000