

TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE

VOID METABOLISM

港区

DAME ARCHITECTURE

JOKAMACHI

TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE

ICHIBAMACHI

SENBKI SYSTEM

江戸

MONZENMACHI

東北地方太平洋沖地震

EDO

TOKAIDO MEGALOPOLIS

THE SHINOHARA SCHOOL

TOKYO TABULA RASA

METABOLIST MOVEMENT

間

MACHIZUKURI

CITY PLANNING LAW

東京  
辞書  
TOKYO  
dictionary

LAND READJUSTMENT LAW

だめ 建築



## TOKYO DICTIONARY

This booklet explains essential terms and expressions concerning Japanese history, culture and planning. It is a means of giving the reader deeper insight in Japanese context around the various topics that are discussed in the HIKE-ABILITY project.



kairan-ban files

## *Architectural Behaviorology*

A research done by Atelier Bow-wow that considers the behavior of human beings, natural elements and buildings on various time cycles.

## *City Planning Law*

Japans first planning law from 1919. Supports efficient urban activities, achieves pleasant urban environments, and creates townscapes by establishing urban land use planning system and infrastructure development system. The Land Readjustment Law is on of the most important acts in this law, and the first major project of this law was the restoration of Tokyo after the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923.

## *Chonaikai Jichikai*

Neighbourhood organisations, contribute to the live-abilities of the local communities. They consist of people living in the same neighborhood, also open to foreign residents,



Small scale commercial neighbourhoods in Omotesando's "Cat Street".

but it is your choice whether or not to join. If you join you receive a variety of information by "Kairanban", a special file that contains official announcements, community news, festivals and more.

### *Commersidence*

An urban pattern in small streets where commercial activities interact with the structure of a residential area, combining shopping with working and living. The buildings are small and maintained by a small capital, and the customers know the owner personally. This typology was never planned, it emerged during a transformation of a residential neighbourhood by means of commerce. The trendy and youth-oriented "Cat Street" in Omotesando is a typical example of "commersidence".



Daimyo mansions on Kasumigaeki hill

## *Daimyo*

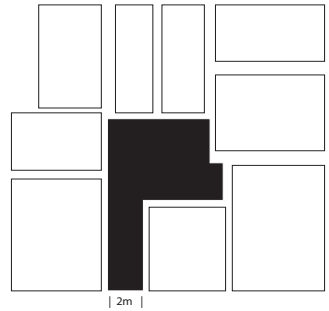
Refers to the powerful territorial lords in pre-modern Japan who ruled most of the country from their vast, hereditary land holdings. In the term, “dai” literally means “large”, and “myo” stands for myoden, meaning private land. The Daimyo had mansions on the high ground around Yamanote in West-Tokyo.

## *‘Dame Architecture’*

‘No-good architecture’, professor Yoshiharu Tsukamoto’s term for the anonymous, not beautiful buildings not accepted in architectural culture to date, described in his book “Made in Tokyo”.

## *Edo*

Former name of Tokyo when it was ruled by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Changed to Tokyo in 1868, and marks the beginning of the modernization of Japan.



"flag building"

## *Fire Service Law*

To protect people, people's life, and property from fire and minimize damage caused by fire and other disasters, by providing codes concerning extinguishment facilities, alarm facilities etc. The law affects land zoning and building requirements.

As a fire prevention method, the city is divided into different zones; the fire protection district and the quasi-fire protection district. The buildings in the fire-resistant district have to be fire resistant in order to prevent fire from spreading from within the neighbourhood. The main roads are also made wider to enhance the protection and accessibility. The Land Readjustment Law is the main tool to initiate such projects.

## *'Flag' typology*

In order to build inside a cluster of buildings, the Building Law requires that minimum two meters



The Great Kanto Earthquake 1923



The Great Hanshin Earthquake

of facade should face a street. This gives odd buildings that look like a flag in plan.

### ***Great Hanshin Earthquake***

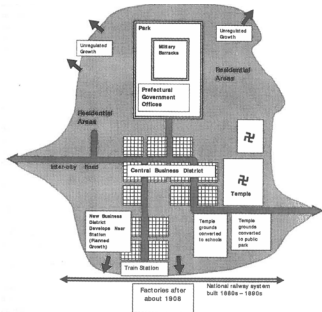
With a magnitude of 6,9 it devastated Kobe in 1995. It killed 6434 people and ruined 150 000 buildings, causing approximately ten trillion yen (\$100 billion) in damage, 2.5% of Japan's GDP at the time.

### ***Great Kanto Earthquake***

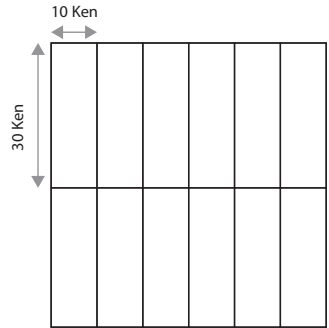
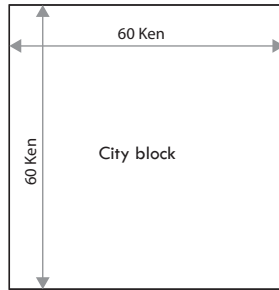
Struck the Kanto plain in 1923 with a magnitude of 7,9. Devastated Tokyo with a deadly firestorm. Killed 99 300 people and destroyed over 570 000 homes.

### ***Japan Building Standard Law (BSL)***

To safeguard the life, health, and property of people, by providing strict codes concerning site, structure, equipment, and use of buildings.



Castle Town



Dimensioning a city block

## Japanese Addressing System

Japan do not use the Western street address system, but are instead operating with units beginning with the largest unit; the prefecture. Followed by shi and ku for city and ward. Cho defines a more specified location within ku, and chome refers to the city district. Smaller units like "ban" accounts for a city block and finally "go" is the house number.

## Jokamachi

Castle town, built around a elevated castle ground, either a natural hilltop or artificial elevation. Early Tokyo settlements were former castle towns around the main castle.

## Ken

The basic linear unit of land measurement (1,818m). A city block was ideally 60 by 60 ken (109m x 109m).



Convenience store

### ***Kitaku Shien Stations***

In case of a disaster, the metropolitan government has made agreements with convenience stores, family restaurants and gas stations to designate them as support stations while providing water and the latest news while trying to make their way home.

### ***Land Readjustment Law***

An urban planning law from 1954. LR is a method of pooling ownership of all land within a project area, building urban facilities such as roads and parks and dividing the land into urban plots. Landowners must contribute with about 30 per cent of their land. LR Has been highly popular with local governments because it provides a low-cost means of achieving orderly urban growth. LR is the single most effective law in the Japanese urban planning system.



Instruction for emergency supplies in a park

## *Legal Durability*

As an incentive to new development, the depreciation of the value of a house is deductible from taxable income in Japan. Wooden houses, considered to have a lifespan of 20 years, can be completely written off in 20 years. A house built in concrete can be written off in 30 years. Once a house has depreciated in value to zero, its owners can choose to continue living in it or tear it down, then build a new one and get tax advantages.

## *Ma*

Ma is the Japanese word for void. Ma is not something that is created by compositional elements; it is the thing that takes place in the imagination of the human who experiences these elements.

## *Machi Aruki*

“Town walk”, refers either to an organized



Machiya community

activity where you stroll around a chosen path with a guide, for instance an historical walk, or just exploring the town on your own.

## *Machiya*

Traditional Japanese townhouse. Machiya communities can be compared to the hutongs of Beijing. Small neighborhoods made up of closely grouped homes organized on both sides of a narrow street, sometimes with small alleyways in between the homes, help to create a strong sense of community. In addition, many areas were traditionally defined by a single craft or product. The Nishijin neighborhood, for example, is famous for its textiles; sharing a craft contributed greatly to a sense of community among fellow textile merchants in this area.

## *Machizukuri*

Literally means community building, a new focus



'Meisho' in Kyoto

from the 70s civil rights campaigns.

### *Majime*

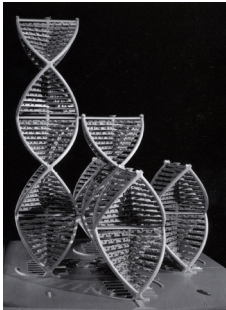
Refers to the serious earnestness in Japanese people that eschews cheating or cutting corners.

### *Meiji Restoration*

1868-1912. The restoration of imperial rule led to massive changes in Japan's political and social structure. The era when Japan became heavily industrialized and turned their heads towards western ideals and expertise.

### *Meisho*

Beloved public spaces with historical background, but not in the same way as the historical Western plaza/piazza. Has often associations with specific poetic or literary references. Most of the few remaining meisho are located in the old town of Kyoto.

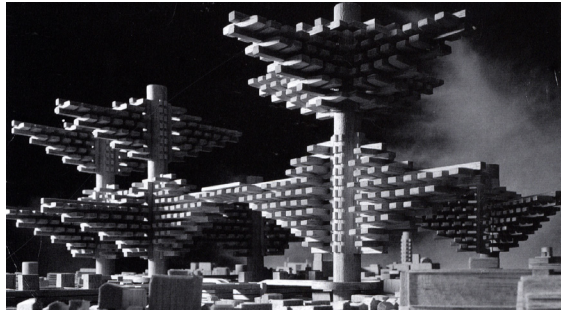


Metabolist concepts: units around a vertical core Clusters in the Air

## ***Metabolist Movement***

### ***Monzenmachi/ Teramachi***

### ***Musashi***



Joint Core System 2 1962, Arata Izosaki and Helix City Plan 1961, Kisho Kurokawa

A Japanese avant-garde movement (1950s-1970s), originating from the milieu in Kenzo Tange Laboratory, that envisioned the growth of cities at large scale, flexible and expandable structures that was inspired by the evolution of organic growth.

Religious center with a city built around a shrine or a temple. Sometimes the shrine or temple is elevated above the ground when the plot is developed for economical reasons. The Asakusa area is a typical teramachi, filled with temples.

Name of the area of villages around Tokyo Bay before Edo and Tokyo. Now the nickname of the new Tokyo Sky Tree, whose Japanese characters 'mu-sa-shi' also can be read as the numbers 634 which is the height of the tower.



'Pet architecture'

## *Oku*

## *Parkour*

## *Pencil building*

## *Pet architecture*



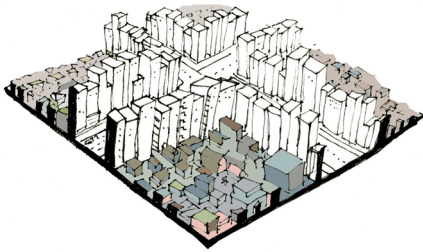
'Teramachi' Asakusa

A word to describe depth as a quality in urban corridors, often used by Kazuo Shinohara as an ideal space, although the meaning is non-measurable. 'Tori'-streets often have this quality.

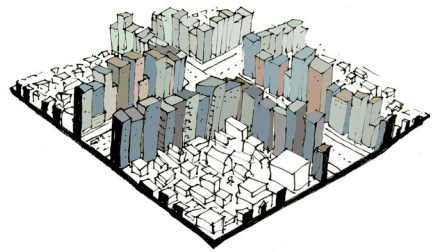
A physical discipline which focuses on efficient movement around obstacles, often in urban contexts.

A typical narrow and long building, with the narrow side facing the street. It is a result of the heavy subdivision of plots.

Atelier Bow-wow's definition of objects "larger than furniture but smaller than buildings" that makes a significant impact on the Tokyo interior.



Quasi-fire Protection District



Fire Protection District

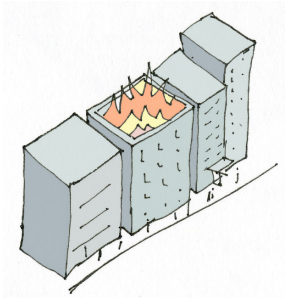
### ***Quasi-fire Protection Districts / Fire protection District***

Only buildings with four floors or higher or with total floor area exceeds 1500 sq m shall be fire-resistive buildings. Others shall be quasi-fire-resistive, which means that they should have a fire-preventive construction, but they are not required the withstand fire for the same time as fire resistant buildings. Today it is required to cover wooden buildings with mortar cladding, which can resist fire for about 20 minutes.

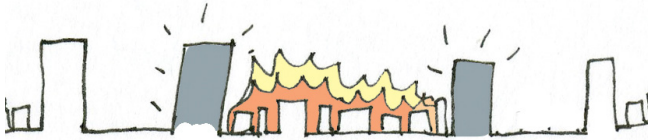
The fire protection district accounts for edge buildings facing a larger road. Here the regulations are very stright and they can only be built in fire resistant materials. The buildings works as a firewall preventing fire spreading to other neighbourhoods.

### ***Roji / Tori***

Two types of streets. Roji is the commercial



Fire will not spread from a fire resistant building



A fire is stopped by the edge buildings in the fire protection zone

lane, with hard edges (Asphalt, concrete, steel), while 'tori' is a small community street ('soft core'), often very narrow with stepping stones and soil instead of concrete.

## ***Routing***

From rock-climbing: a defined path to ascend a vertical movement.

## ***Senbiki System***

A planning tool from the 1968 planning law intending to halt the scatter of residential development by "drawing a line between town and country".

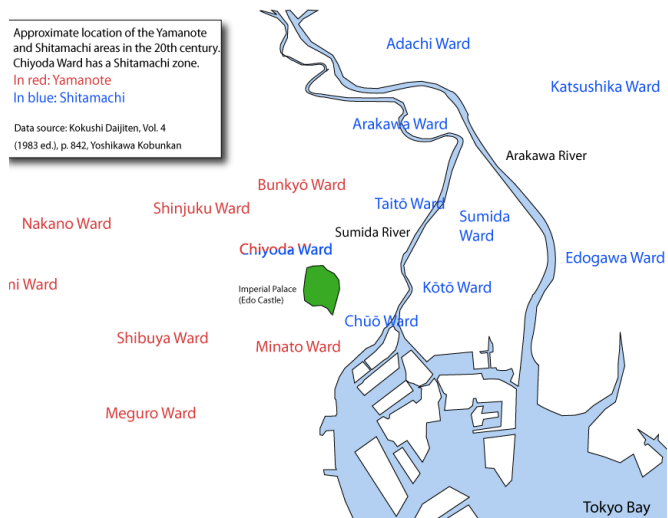
## ***Shinohara School***

Regarded as anti-metabolist, Kazuo Shinohara designed single-family houses in Tokyo as the very opposite of his contemporary metabolist colleagues.

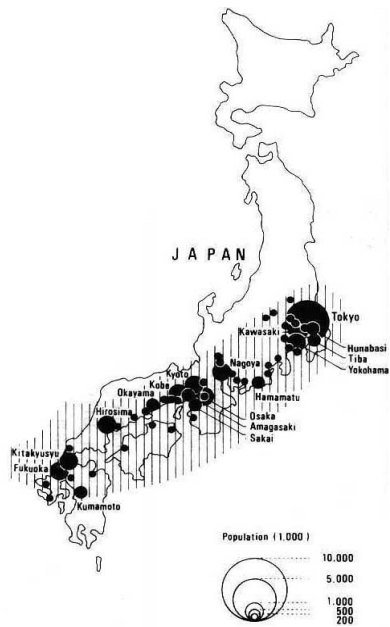
Approximate location of the Yamanote and Shitamachi areas in the 20th century.  
Chiyoda Ward has a Shitamachi zone.

In red: Yamanote  
In blue: Shitamachi

Data source: Kokushi Daijiten, Vol. 4  
(1983 ed.), p. 842, Yoshikawa Kobunkan



Yamanote and Shitamachi areas



Tokaido Megalopolis



tori - small community street



Roji - commercial street

***Shitamachi***

Downtown areas of Tokyo, usually business and market towns, opposed to the High ground in the Tokyo's Yamanote area.

***Subdivision***

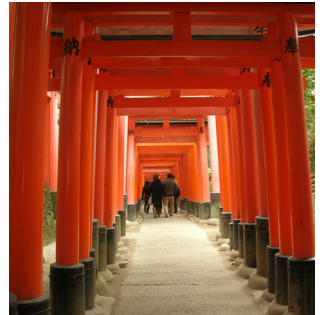
Because of high land inheritance taxes, many plot-owners choose to tear down the existing house in order to subdivide and sell part of the lot to pay the taxes and then build a smaller (narrow) house.

***Tohoku Earthquake***

The biggest earthquake in Japan's modern history. Struck in the ocean outside Sendai 11.03.2011, creating a deadly tsunami that devastated the eastern shore of Japan, triggering a nuclear disaster at the Fukushima power plant. 15854 casualties and still people missing.

***Tokugawa shogunate***

(1603-1868) The feudal regime of the Shoguns.



Torii's in Fushimi Inari Shrine

In this period Japan was strictly isolated from trade with other countries.

### *Tokaido megalopolis*

During the rapid growth period in the post-war years, the area between Tokyo and Nagasaki was considered to expand as a continuous metropolitan area, covering 1000 km in distance.

### *Tokyo Tabula rasa*

Tabula rasa in Tokyo has occurred many times as a result of earthquakes, fires or wartime bombings, but never as an urban planning strategy like the Hausmann renovation of Paris.

### *Torii*

A traditional Japanese gate most commonly found at the entrance of or within a Shinto shrine, where it symbolically marks the transition from the profane to the sacred.

### *Tsubo*

A unit of measure; the area of two tatami mats: 3,306m<sup>2</sup>. Traditional spaces are dimensioned after the number of tatami mats, and it is a spacial unit many Japanese can rely to.

### *Uchi*

Home, inside

### *Uchi & Soto*

The Japanese equivalent for 'private' and 'public', although it literally means 'inside' and 'outside' and is connected to a relative scale. The inside group can refer to yourself and your family, when the outside group is another family. This is reflected in the language used for each group. It can also refer to scale in terms of area. Your dwelling is uchi/private, while the neighbourhood is soto/"public", but if you consider your neighbourhood to another, it becomes uchi relative to the other neighbourhood



Urban village

which then is soto.

### *Urban Village*

Dense, low-rise neighbourhoods found inbetween high-rise blocks. The interior of an urban village has a street pattern that is probably several centuries old, while the wide avenues are results of LR-projects and fire-protection. The term "urban village" has no official administrative head, but there are many community organizations within the neighbourhoods.

### *Urban Refugees*

In case of a devastating earthquake, citizens can be unable to reach home because of an infrastructural collapse. On March 11, 2011, an estimated 3.52 million people were stuck in the city with nowhere to stay.

### *Void metabolism*

While the ideas of Metabolism in the '60s was

shaped around the elevated core, Aterlier Bow-wow describes Tokyo of today as a field of autonomous and self-regenerating grains, cells and particles. Metabolism happens constantly in the voids that occurs.

### ***Yamato-e***

A traditional woodblock print, often of an ancient city, partly hidden behind clouds.

### ***Yamanote***

'Towards the mountain', traditional name of the High Land, west in Tokyo, often occupied by daimyo mansions. Now it is the name of the main commuter circle JR Yamanote line that goes through hotspots such as Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ikebukuro, Ueno and Tokyo. The tracks are elevated over ground most of the time, and is therefore a good option for sightseeing in Tokyo.



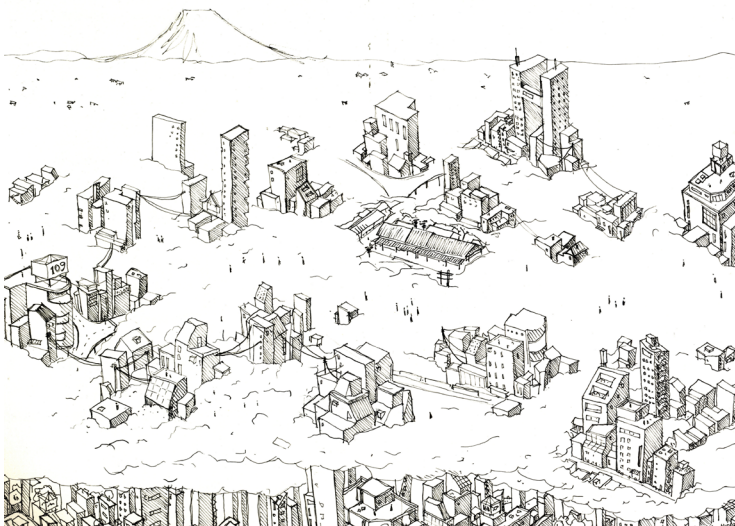
Yokocho

## *Yokocho*

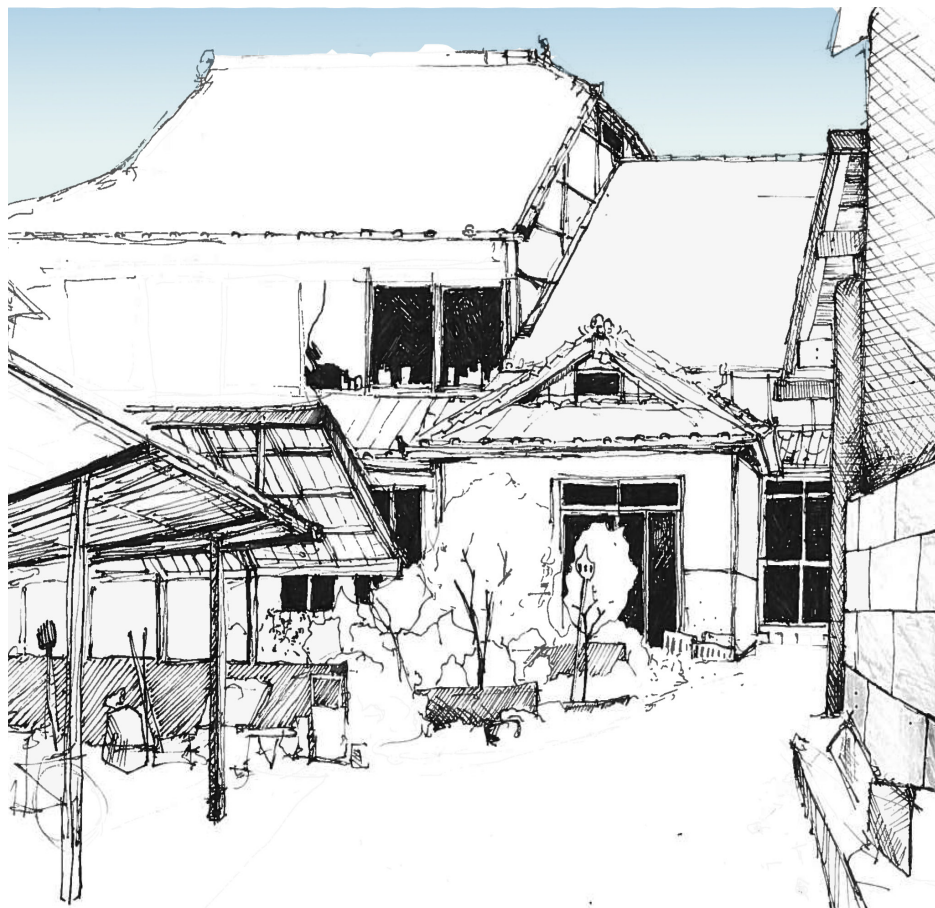
A term for an area with small bars and entertainment along narrow sidestreets of a main street. Each shop is usually very small, sometimes a maximum of 5 customers. Often packed with commercials and red lanterns. Salarymen prefer these areas.



Yamato-e



Yamato-e CLOUD CITY?



Jostein Fardal  
Tokyo | Hike-ability  
Fall 2012