


# REIMAGINING SPACES

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# THE TOKYO BAY PROJECT

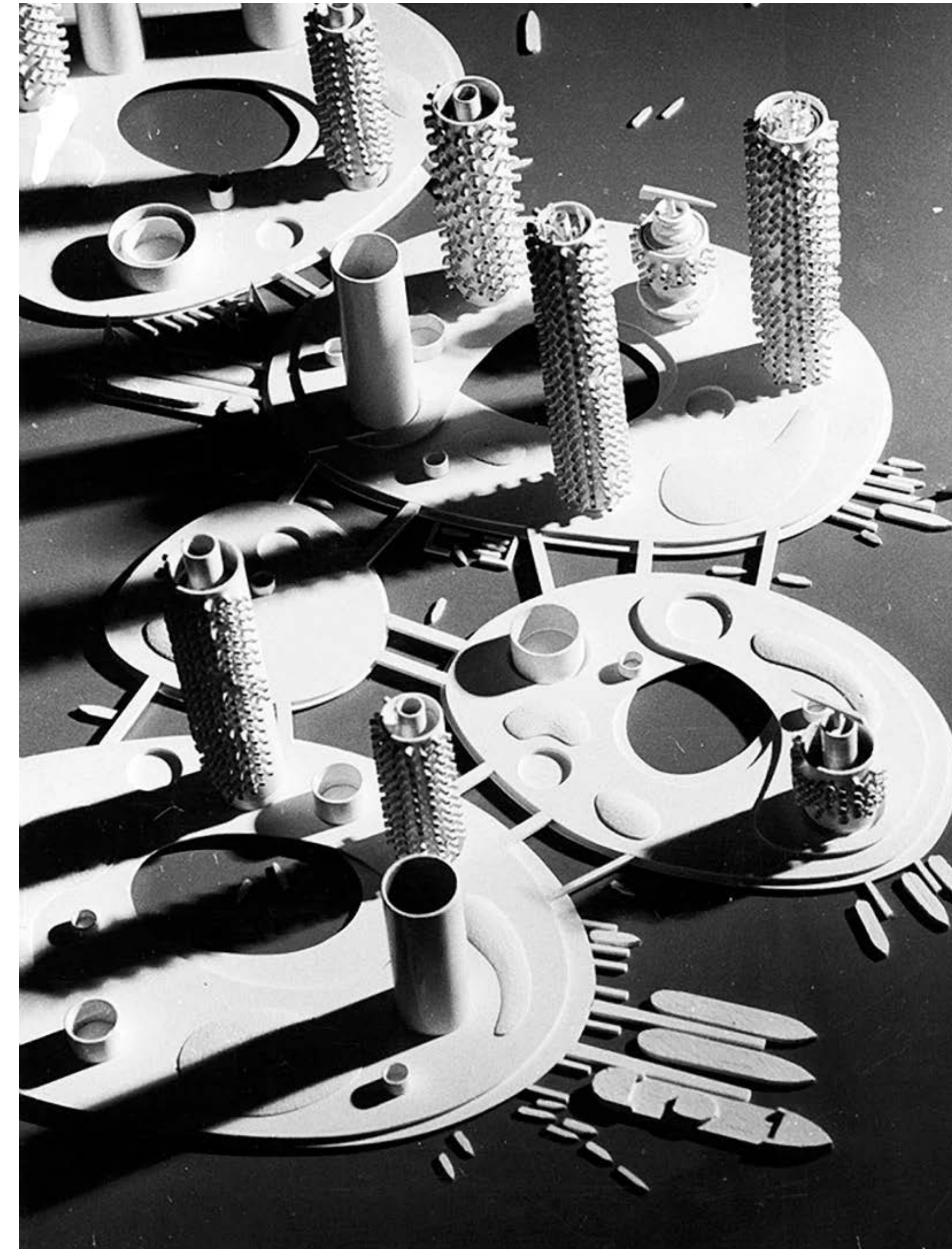
The Tokyo Bay Project, envisioned by Kenzo Tange in 1960, was an ambitious urban planning proposal aimed at addressing Tokyo's growing congestion. It featured large, modular megastructures extending into the bay, integrating transportation, housing, and green spaces in a linear city design. Although never realized, the project was a radical departure from traditional urban planning, inspiring future generations and playing a pivotal role in the Metabolist movement, which focused on flexible, adaptable cityscapes. The Tokyo Bay Project remains a symbol of visionary urban innovation, blending modern technology with futuristic design concepts.



# OCEAN URBANISM 1956–1975

Kiyonori Kikutake

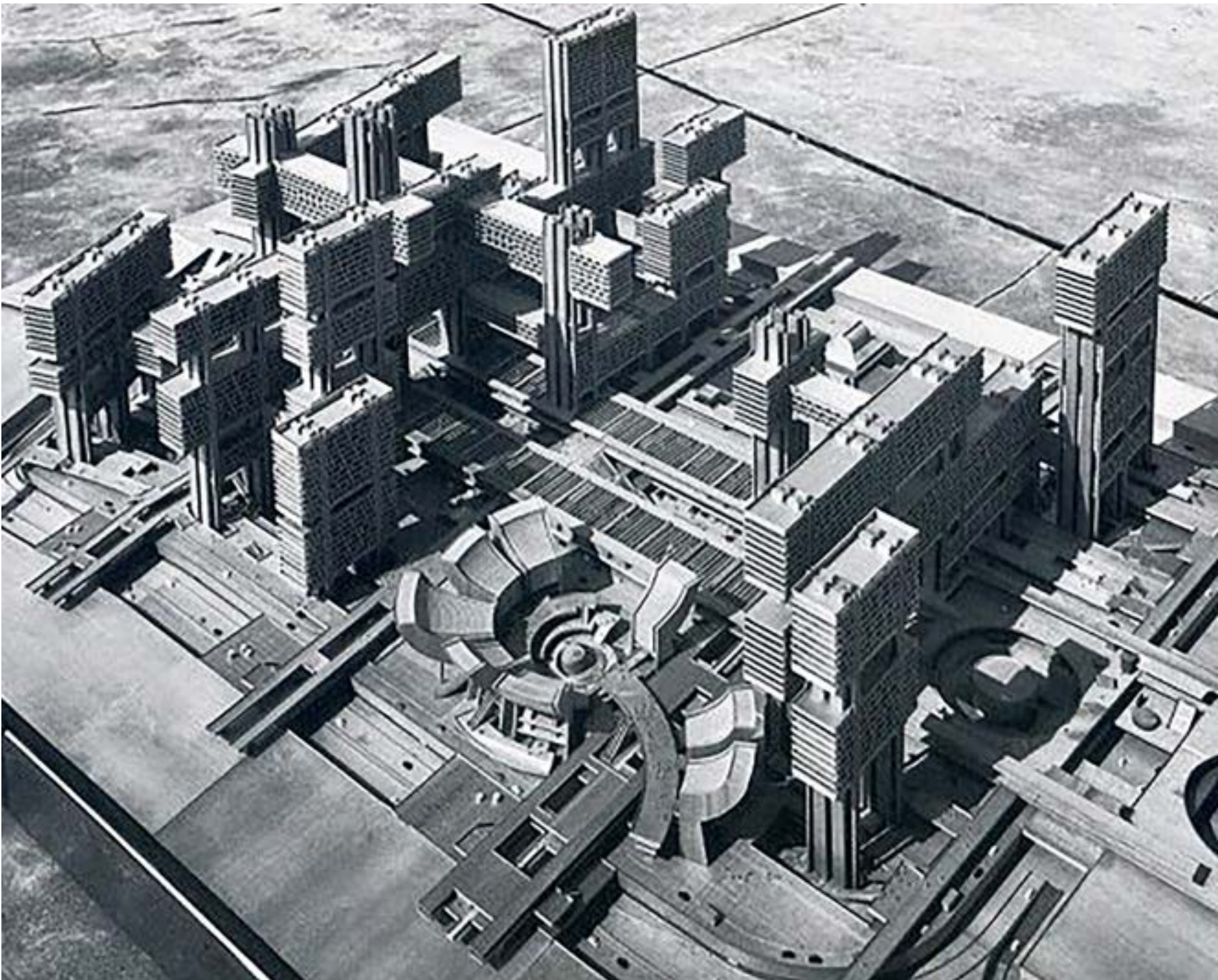
His vision was built around the idea of creating floating, self-sustaining cities on artificial islands, rather than expanding Tokyo's footprint outward on land. This futuristic approach to urban development reimagined cities not as static entities but as adaptable, sustainable systems capable of thriving in changing environmental and urban conditions. Kikutake's Marine City design was revolutionary, focusing on floating platforms that could house residential areas, public spaces, commercial facilities, and essential services—all while being completely situated on the water. These artificial islands would create new urban spaces while preserving land resources, and their design made it possible to replicate the concept in other coastal regions worldwide. Kikutake's vision emphasized not only practicality but also a sustainable and harmonious relationship between human habitats and their surrounding environment.



都市の模型







築地再開発計画

# Kenzo Tange's Vision

## The Modular Plan for Tokyo 1960

His design aimed to address Tokyo’s growing population and urban congestion by introducing “linear cities”—long, organized corridors of development that integrated housing, offices, and recreational spaces atop large platforms, surrounded by green areas.

The plan emphasized the seamless integration of modern transportation systems, urban density, and cutting-edge technology. Tange’s vision wasn’t just about expanding the city horizontally or vertically; it sought to reshape the city through a new urban structure that allowed flexibility and modularity while embracing modern architectural concepts. The megastructures would stretch into the bay, creating a futuristic metropolis that expanded onto the water, with each component carefully designed to handle the growing population and economic activity while maintaining open, green spaces to enhance urban livability.

The significance of Tange’s plan cannot be overstated. It marked a radical departure from conventional urban design, moving away from rigid, traditional city layouts toward a fluid, adaptable urban form that could evolve over time. Although it was never realized, Tange’s plan remains one of the most influential unbuilt urban planning proposals of the 20th century.

1. Large, flexible platforms extending into Tokyo Bay designed to support housing, offices, and recreational spaces.
2. A futuristic concept that aimed to alleviate congestion in central Tokyo by creating urban zones.
3. The use of modern technology created a highly interconnected urban environment.
4. Tange’s vision aimed to balance high-density living with the preservation of green spaces.
5. The Tokyo Bay Project had a radical departure from tradition to reimagine the future of cities.







# Musashino Art University Museum & Library

Sou Fujimoto

This library/university is a transparent and open structure that integrates a museum, library, and exhibition space. Its defining feature is the use of bookshelves as structural elements, creating a fluid and immersive environment. With a minimalist glass exterior that merges with the natural surroundings, Fujimoto's design reimagines the conventional library, fostering creativity and discovery through innovative architecture.





"2"

Study Area

Entryway

Lounge

Staircase



図書館学習エリア

The Musashino Art University Museum & Library, designed by renowned architect Sou Fujimoto, is a striking example of contemporary architectural innovation. Completed in 2010, the building is a harmonious blend of form and function, reflecting the creativity and thoughtfulness of its architect. The design's most distinctive feature is its lattice-like, transparent facade made entirely of glass, which allows natural light to flood the interior. This transparency creates a visual connection between the interior and exterior, fostering a sense of openness and community. The building is not just a space for storing books and artworks, but a dynamic environment that encourages interaction and creativity among students, staff, and visitors.

Inside, the library is designed to offer both functional spaces and an inspiring atmosphere. The tall, floor-to-ceiling bookshelves resemble a "forest of books," inviting exploration and discovery. Sou Fujimoto envisioned the library as a place where students could feel a sense of freedom, moving through an open layout with minimal barriers. There are areas for quiet study, collaborative work, and spaces for exhibitions and displays, all thoughtfully integrated into the overall design. The emphasis on natural light, transparency, and spaciousness creates an inspiring setting for learning and artistic growth.

This architectural masterpiece aligns perfectly with the philosophy of Musashino Art University, which promotes creativity, interaction, and innovation. Fujimoto's design transforms the traditional library into a social and cultural hub. By incorporating modern materials, open spaces, and a design that stimulates exploration, the Musashino Art University Museum & Library goes beyond serving a functional purpose—it reimagines what a library can be, offering a unique and inspiring environment for academic and artistic endeavors. Fujimoto's approach creates a dynamic environment that reflects the creative spirit of the university.







# CAVE-LIKE HOUSE

Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan | Year Completed: 2013

232 square meters | Single-story | Private Residence

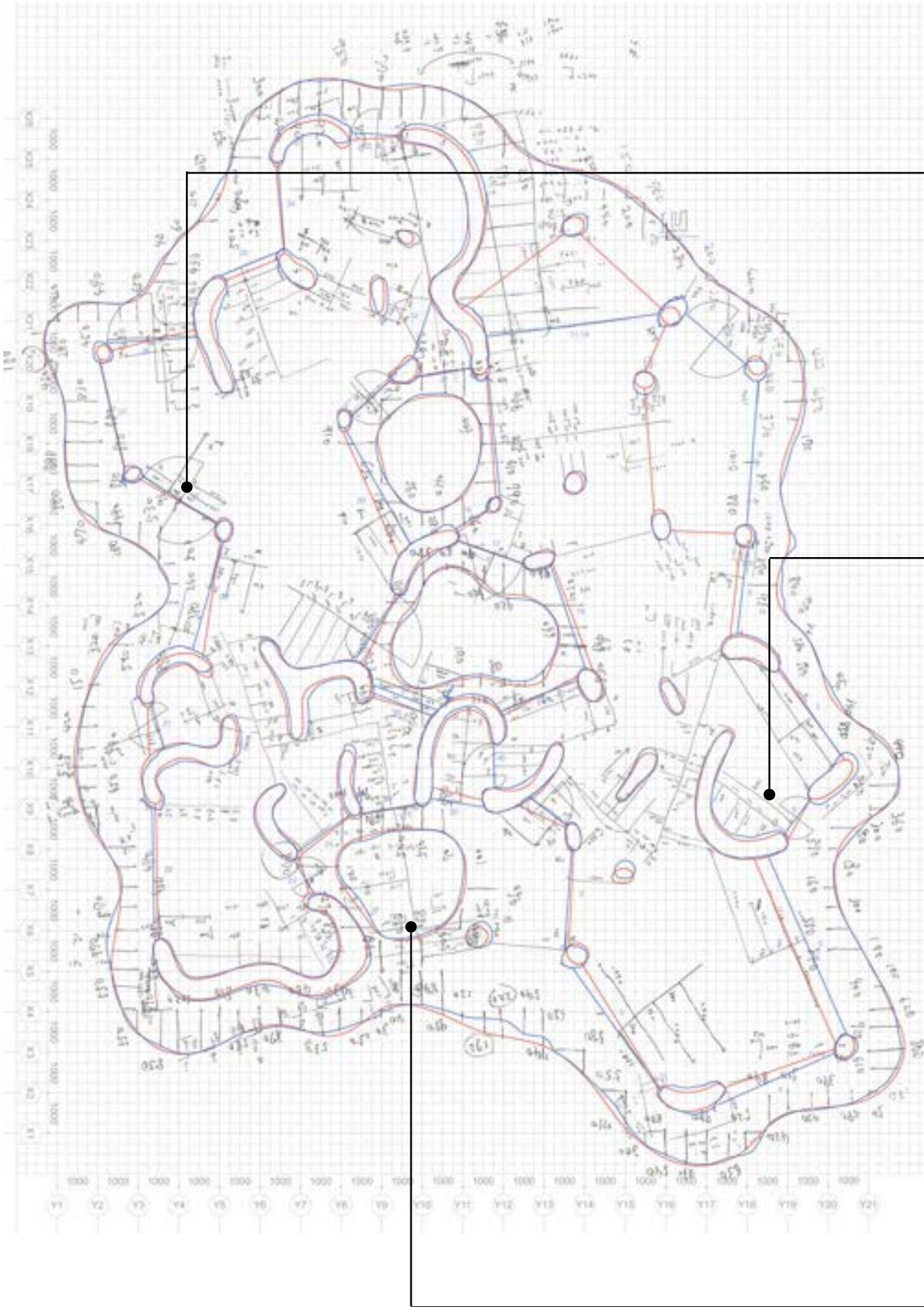
Reinforced concrete, natural stone, and wood

*Junya Ishigami*

Junya Ishigami's "Cave-like House" blurs the line between architecture and nature, creating a space that feels carved from the earth rather than built upon it. The organic, uneven interior mimics the contours of a cave, fostering a sense of shelter and tranquility while blending seamlessly with its natural surroundings.



青写真



## The Kitchen

The kitchen in Junya Ishigami's Cave-like House is a minimalist, open space that emphasizes functionality while blending into the organic contours of the home. Its design is intentionally simple, with clean lines and natural materials that echo the cave-like atmosphere. The fluid transition between the kitchen and

surrounding living areas creates a sense of seamlessness, allowing the cooking space to feel like an integral part of the home's overall design. The use of muted colors and natural textures in the kitchen further enhances the organic feel, creating a calming atmosphere that complements the rest of the home.



## The Bar

Though small, the bar feels like an extension of the natural environment, tucked into a nook that mimics the uneven curves of a rock formation. Crafted with natural stone, the bar's design maintains a raw, earthy aesthetic. It serves as both a functional space for social gatherings and a sculptural element, enhancing the organic flow of the interior.

## The Lounge Area

The lounge area is the heart of the Cave-like House, offering a cozy yet expansive space for relaxation. The uneven stone surfaces and open, airy layout give it a feeling of being both sheltered and connected to the outdoors. With large windows that allow natural light to pour in, the lounge serves as a peaceful retreat, where the

boundaries between architecture and nature blur seamlessly. The furniture in the lounge is carefully chosen to match the home's natural aesthetic, featuring simple, earthy tones and low, comfortable seating that encourages relaxation and connection to the surrounding environment.







## Interaction with Light and Landscape

### Natural Light as a Design Element

One of the most striking features of the exterior is its interaction with natural light and the surrounding landscape. The house's roofline is irregular, with varying heights and slopes that allow natural light to enter through strategically placed openings, creating a dynamic interplay of light and shadow. These apertures provide glimpses of the surrounding greenery, blurring the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces. Large, organically shaped windows punctuate the concrete facade, offering expansive views of the environment while maintaining the home's cave-like privacy. The house sits nestled into the landscape, making use of natural materials and forms to foster a deep connection with the earth, enhancing the overall theme of a dwelling that feels as though it belongs to the land itself.

## Organic Form and Integration with Nature

### Earth-Inspired Exterior Design | Blurring Architecture and Landscape

The exterior of Junya Ishigami's "Cave-like House" is a testament to his signature style, which blurs the lines between architecture and nature. The house appears almost as if it has emerged naturally from the ground, with a fluid, irregular shape reminiscent of natural rock formations. The facade is largely composed of undulating, exposed concrete, carefully molded to resemble the organic contours of a cave, blending seamlessly with its surrounding landscape. This approach to design rejects traditional architectural norms, opting instead for a more primal, earthy aesthetic that invites nature to dictate the structure's form. The building's irregular, low-slung silhouette provides a sense of harmony with the natural terrain, as if the house is an extension of the environment rather than an imposition upon it.





# THE TOKYO TOILET

The Tokyo Toilet Project is a groundbreaking reimagining of public restrooms in Shibuya. By enlisting world-renowned architects to design aesthetically pleasing and functional public toilets, the project challenges societal stigmas associated with public restrooms, traditionally considered unsightly and unsanitary.



*"Perfect Days"*

A Film By Wim Wenders



# What is The Tokyo Toilet?

## Redefining Public Spaces

**The Tokyo Toilet** is a unique initiative launched by The Nippon Foundation in collaboration with renowned architects to reimagine and redesign public restrooms in Shibuya, Tokyo. The project aims to challenge preconceived notions of public toilets, which are often associated with poor maintenance and lack of safety. Sixteen world-class architects, including Shigeru Ban and Tadao Ando, were invited to create aesthetically pleasing, functional, and accessible restrooms in various parks and public spaces throughout the district. Each of the 17 toilets, designed by 16 different architects features a distinct design, reflecting the creativity and vision of its architect, while addressing practical concerns such as safety, cleanliness, and inclusivity.

## “Perfect Days” and Its Connection to The Tokyo Toilet

Wim Wenders

“Perfect Days” is a film that subtly intertwines with the essence of The Tokyo Toilet initiative. The film follows the life of a humble public toilet cleaner in Tokyo, showcasing the quiet dignity and pride he takes in his work. Through poetic visuals and contemplative storytelling, the film reflects on themes of simplicity, human connection, and the unnoticed beauty of everyday routines. The cleaner’s routine involves taking care of one of the redesigned toilets from The Tokyo Toilet project, emphasizing the significance of these public restrooms as spaces of care and reflection. The film underscores the importance of well-maintained public facilities, highlighting the role of individuals who ensure these spaces remain clean and welcoming. By featuring one of The Tokyo Toilet’s iconic designs, “Perfect Days” brings attention to the larger message of the initiative—that even the most ordinary spaces can be imbued with meaning, transforming public restrooms into symbols of community pride and architectural innovation.





## 01

### Yoyogi Fukamachi Mini Park

Shigeru Ban

With its transparent walls, this restroom plays with light and privacy, offering an open feel when unoccupied. When in use, the walls turn opaque, blending functionality with a sense of modernity and security.



## 02

### Sasazuka Greenway

Junko Kobayashi

This design features a harmonious blend of greenery and minimalism, with its exterior integrating seamlessly into the surrounding park. The natural materials and soft colors create a tranquil, inviting space that feels more like a peaceful retreat than a typical public restroom.



## 05

### Ebisu Park

Masamichi Katayama / Wonderwall®

This park design showcases a harmonious blend of natural elements and modern architecture, featuring lush greenery and inviting pathways that encourage exploration. Its open layout fosters a sense of community, while the thoughtful integration of seating areas provides spaces for relaxation and connection.



## 06

### Ebisu Station, West Exit

Kashiwa Sato

This station entrance design combines sleek lines and modern materials, creating a welcoming and functional space for commuters. The use of light and open areas enhances accessibility while fostering a vibrant atmosphere that reflects the energy of urban life.



## 03

### Nishisando

Sou Fujimoto

A simple, rectangular structure with a focus on clean lines and functionality, this toilet emphasizes practicality while maintaining a sleek, understated aesthetic. Its modern, unadorned design allows it to blend effortlessly into its surroundings.



## 04

### Hatagaya

Miles Pennington / UTokyo DLX Design Lab

This toilet design features a sleek, white façade with large glass panels that invite natural light, showcasing a modern minimalist aesthetic. Its sculptural form harmonizes with the surrounding environment, emphasizing comfort and accessibility.



## 07

### Jingu-Dori Park

Tadao Ando

This park design features a serene interplay of water and stone, highlighting Tadao Ando's signature minimalist aesthetic. Its tranquil pathways and thoughtfully placed seating invite contemplation and relaxation amidst a lush natural landscape.



## 08

### Nabeshima Shoto Park

Kengo Kuma

This park design emphasizes organic forms and natural materials, seamlessly integrating Kengo Kuma's vision with the surrounding landscape. Its flowing pathways and carefully arranged greenery create a serene environment that encourages exploration and connection with nature.





09

### Nishihara Itchome Park

Takenosuke Sakakura

This park design features a blend of natural elements and contemporary architecture, creating inviting spaces for community interaction. Its thoughtful layout incorporates greenery and seating areas, fostering a sense of relaxation and connection to nature.



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### Nanago Dori Park

Kazoo Sato / Disruption Lab Team

The spherical bathroom design features a seamless all-white aesthetic, emphasizing simplicity and purity. Its smooth curves create a cocoon-like atmosphere, enhancing a sense of tranquility and modern elegance.



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### Yoyogi-Hachiman

Toyo Ito

This design features a striking combination of fluid lines and open spaces, embodying Toyo Ito's innovative architectural style. The use of natural light and thoughtful materials creates a welcoming environment that seamlessly blends with its surroundings.



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### Higashi Sanchome

Nao Tamura

This design stands out with its vibrant red hue, embodying Nao Tamura's innovative approach to color and form. The bold use of red not only creates a striking visual impact but also fosters a dynamic atmosphere, inviting interaction and engagement within the space.



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### Ebisu East Park

Fumihiko Maki

This park design features a contemporary blend of open spaces and geometric forms, reflecting Fumihiko Maki's modernist approach. Thoughtfully arranged seating areas and pathways encourage community interaction while integrating natural elements for a harmonious atmosphere.



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### Jingumae

NIGO®

This design showcases a playful mix of vibrant colors and unique shapes, embodying NIGO®'s signature streetwear aesthetic. Its dynamic layout creates an engaging environment that fosters creativity and social interaction within the urban landscape.



15

### Urasando

Marc Newson

This design features a sleek, futuristic aesthetic characterized by smooth lines and a striking color palette. Marc Newson's innovative approach creates a visually captivating space that emphasizes both functionality and artistic expression.



16

### Hiroo Higashi Park

Tomohito Ushiro

This park is special for its unique blend of natural elements and contemporary features, reflecting Tomohito Ushiro's vision of community connection. Its varied terrains and artistic installations invite exploration and engagement, creating a serene yet dynamic environment.



REIMAGINING  
SPACES *DOE* .  
*ZOU*