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Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

Tsukuda, Tokyo 2060. Construction of a resilient community

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The guidelines of the twenty-first century have been marked by development and expansion, all with the same starting point, namely, have a clean slate. What if instead of expanding, the city of Tokyo, begins to shrink? The demographic decline expected in the next few years, in addition to the environmental problems and the risk of potentially dangerous earthquakes of historical importance, outline a scenario in which the number of empty houses / lots will increase and the expansion of the infrastructure, consequential to the enlargement of the city, could no longer be maintained. This context will have to be addressed by 2060, the time limit within which a major earthquake is expected to effect the capital of Tokyo. Therefore, the aim of this thesis is to think of a city that has the apparent contradictory charm of the metropolis, at the same time, the characteristics of the environment of a compact city. This intention, through public participation, urban reorganization and the inclusion of new activities that allow the community to respond in a resilient way to natural disasters, would reactivate the most neglected areas of the capital. This work is the result of a particular interest in Japan which, unlike any other country in the world, reflects its difficult relationship with Mother Nature through a unique cultural lens, from art to literature, until the “mangas” and “animes” of our times. This interest, together with the possibility of a three-month research experience at the University of Tokyo, allowed us to get in touch with the Tokyo 2060 workshop of the Urban Re-Design Studio Unit, whose objective includes themes such as natural and urban disasters based on rapid population growth, the reduction of the domestic population, food security, etc... The Object of Study focuses mainly on the area of the Tsukuda Island, located in the Chuo-ku district of the Tokyo Metropolitan area. The island is an example of a traditional settlement that, following the various transformations of the city from the Second World War to the present, has been incorporated by the various tower buildings that are now eliminating the various distinctive features of the area. The structure of this research is based on a careful analysis of the intervention through a more holistic approach, to prevent the repetition of unsuitable solutions that do not take into account the needs of society in a period of contraction, as already occurred in the past, after the earthquake of Tohoku on March 11, 2011. The proposed hypothesis would allow the controlling of the transformation process of the city, through the inclusion of new forms of work and of community gardening, with the help of an innovative architectural prototype through which we tried to capture the genius loci, “the spirit of the area”. The project, therefore, wants to be an input – as in its present form could raise perplexities as well as answers - through which it is possible to open up a broader discussion on how future Japanese cities can be redesigned to better balance the new needs of society, against an adverse natural context.



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