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Abstract

**Tokyo Waterfront. An Urban Intervention in the Kita-Shinagawa Water's
Edge**

Tutor

LORENA ALESSIO
HIDENOBU JINNAI

by

LUIS SERENO

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ABSTRACT

Through an evolutionary analysis and site evaluation, this thesis proposes a new redevelopment to the Kita-Shinagawa Waterfront. Since always, waterways have meant a fact that drives the development of cities. In a contemporary post-industrial economy, Tokyo Waterfront plays an important role in the configuration of the metropolis. Waterfront districts get a large advantage over the non-aquatic ones. Commercial and recreational activities have a strong link with rivers and canals.

Nowadays, cities from all over the world make efforts to increase the access to the water and to promote the insertion of recreational uses in the vicinity. Places owned by the private industry and inaccessible to the public should be rethought and transformed into open areas that potentiate their value by the introduction of new functions, accesses, aesthetics, and pleasant activities.

The collective purpose of urban Waterfront redevelopment pursuits the achievement of open green areas, comfortable sidewalks, places to meet and sit, visual connections, landscape design and lit spaces. Waterways might also be a gathering place for different uses such as residential, cultural, commercial, industrial and recreational.

As an outcome of the accomplished analysis of the Kita-Shinagawa Waterfront, a Master Plan is proposed to revitalize and redevelop the site with the insertion of a linear public space connecting new public uses and linking the water with the context.

INTRODUCTION

Tokyo Waterfront has been in the recent decades a field in which important issues have been raised. Since the beginning of its development, many changes have gone through the district in terms of urban planning and architecture. The first interventions were basically concerned in transportation and distributions of goods carried into the city through the waterways. This activity was also accompanied with the recreational and pleasure ones. Over time, with the development of trains and locomotives, these places became a priority in which to allocate merchandise distributing terminals, factories, warehouses and train tracks.

Being reclaimed land from the river, the waterfront has grown steadily. Places that were once the periphery of the city facing the open sea have become today into the inner parts of the metropolis where reduced channels maintain the connection with water yet. With the reduction in terms of size of the waterways, many other recreational and public activities got reduced and the industrial one got the priority. This process carried many environmental and planning problems like pollution of the water and lacking basic urban infrastructure. In the contemporary time there are many organizations and foundations whose goal is to recuperate and to revive the Waterfront's conditions.

Kita-Shinagawa is one of the districts belonging to Tokyo Waterfront which I found with a particular atmosphere. The mixture of architecture's typologies, activities and the presence of water make it a very particular place. A place that beside its interesting variety is lacking

of public and cultural spaces and connection with water, a constant factor happening in the major part of the Waterfront.

As a response to this issue, this thesis aims to develop an Urban Intervention to the Kita-Shinagawa water's edge by the regeneration of public areas, increase the bond with water, introduction of new public uses and giving the priority to pedestrians. In general, the intervention wants to give back the lively and active dynamism that has faded with the passage of time.

In order to describe the analysis and design process, the Thesis is structured as follows:

A first chapter establishes an introduction in which explains the reasons that made me go there to develop this project, the first approach to the site and the facts that I found interesting to choose it.

The second Chapter "Waterfront Through Time" deals with the historical periods that the district have gone through, remarkable events and their influence in its development. Starting in the ancient times with the first urbanization of the Waterfront in the Edo Era (1603-1868), then with the renovation inspired in the western cities during the Meiji Era (1868-1912), the beginning of the industrialization and reconstruction after the great earthquake (1912-1945) and finally the Modern Time influenced by the rapid economic growth and development of High-rise structures beside the canals.

The Third Chapter "Kita-Shinagawa Nowadays" focuses on reading the current conditions of the water edge by analyzing uses, heights, mobility, greenery, public places and architectural typologies present in the area. A first step into the proposal of a new Masterplan.

The final Chapter "Kita-Shinagawa Tomorrow" presents the conclusion of the study with the new urban intervention carried by a Masterplan as response to the analysis done. With the introduction of a New Linear park connecting cultural and residential uses the main goal is to recuperate the link city-water. The proposal is supported by schemes, sketches, technical plans and renders.

All data collection, analysis and design process is developed within the Jinnai's Lab at Hosei University and visits to the site, under the Supervision of Professors Hidenobu Jinnai and Lorena Alessio.

Master Plan



