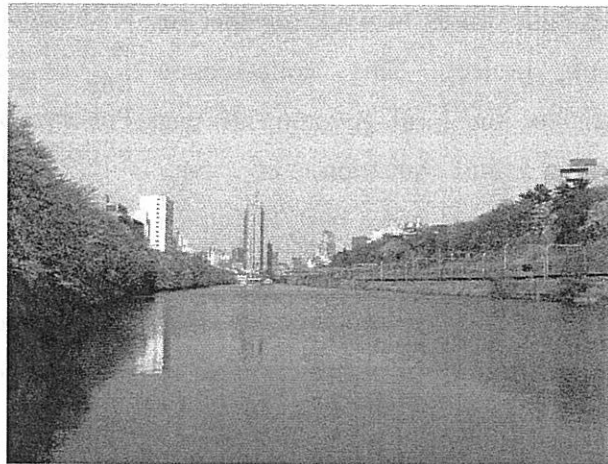


INTEGRATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND URBAN LANDSCAPE
AROUND THE OUTER MOAT OF EDO CASTLE

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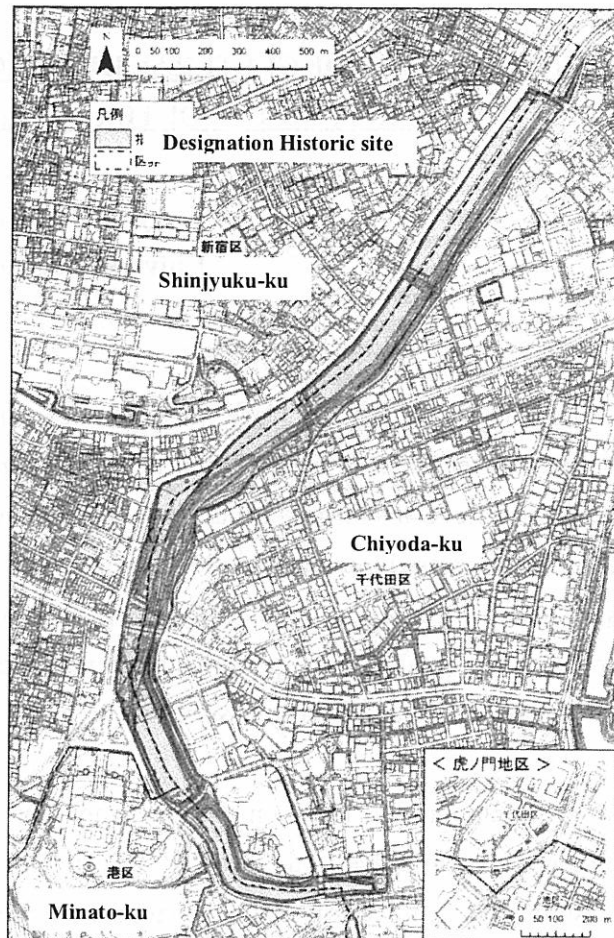
Ideally, a historical city is a place where people maintain a historical heritage and pass it on to future generations, while at the same time integrating contemporary culture into it. In order to achieve an ideal such as this, we have to design a city planning system that correctly assesses the multilayered history of a city and adequately reflects this historical assessment when renewing the city. In urban areas where development pressures are especially high and competing interests and values exist, city planning systems such as this must be established as soon as possible.

This presentation will focus on the outer moat that surrounds Edo castle, which provides some green open space in the heart of Tokyo. This moat has survived turbulent historical transitions. First, it was in a castle town of the Edo period, and was in Tokyo-Fu, the early modern capital city from the Meiji period, and is now in the world famous megalopolis of Tokyo. I will review what kinds of efforts have been made to preserve the outer moat and the reasons why some damages have been occurred. Finally, I will review the present situation and issues and offer some suggestions regarding preservation of the outer moat.



1 The outer moat of Edo castle with cherry blossoms, trains and high-rise towers

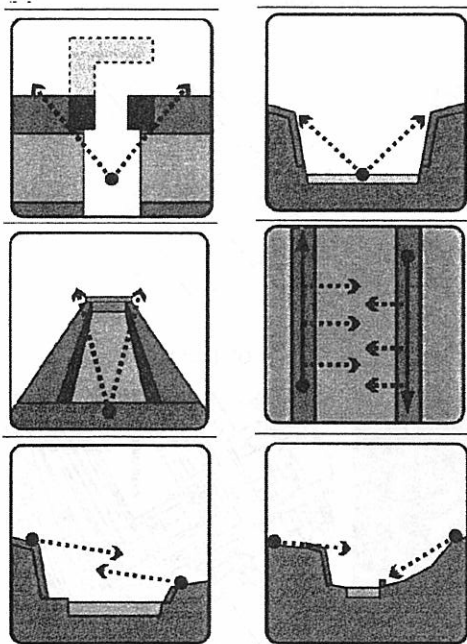
In terms of the present situation, the outer moat runs through three wards in Tokyo: Chiyoda-Ku, Shinjuku-Ku, and Minato-Ku. These three wards have drawn up “The Cultural Heritage Preservation Management Plan” in 2008, which includes a policy to utilize space around the outer moat. Generally speaking, in Japanese cultural administration, it is normally preferred to keep historical sites intact, so the fact that this plan written by the cultural administrations encourages utilization of the space around the historical site is quite unusual. The fact that these three wards collaborated to draw up the plan is also significant, because it is rare for multiple wards to work together on one project. This collaboration enables the local governments that know the situation of their administrative areas best to remain in charge. In addition, both the cultural heritage administrations and the landscape administrations of the three ward offices are involved in the outer moat preservation. In Japan, vertically segmented administrative systems are the norm, so it is also significant that collaboration across different administrative sections is taking place.



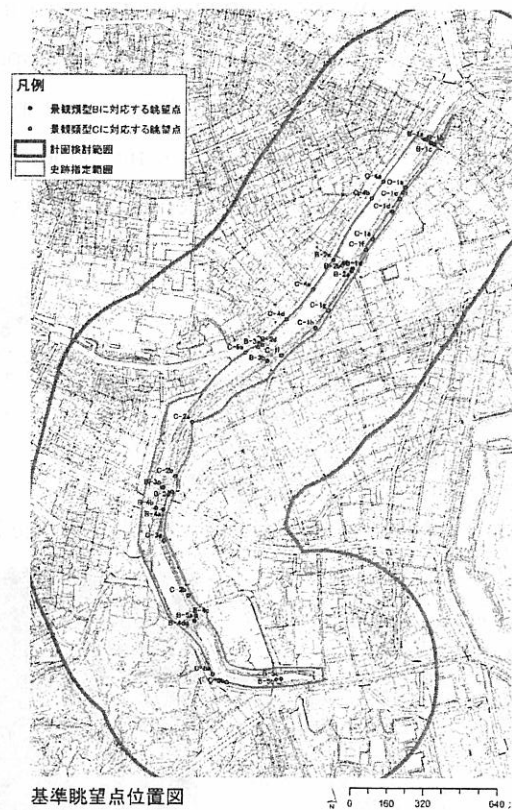
2 Remaining part of the outer through three wards in the middle of Tokyo, designated as a Historic Site. SOURCE: The Cultural Heritage Preservation Management Plan of the Outer Moat of Edo Castle, 2008

The three wards also established “The Outer Moat District Landscape Guidelines” in 2009.

In the Guidelines, the outer moat is designated as a core zone and the space around the outer moat (200 m on each side) is designated as a buffer zone. Also, it created six landscape categories that are unique to the outer moat and selected 20 scenic locations. If a developer plans to engage in construction near the 20 scenic locations, it is first required to simulate and submit a report on how the proposed construction would affect the view. Chiyoda-Ku is about to institute a legal system called “Scenic District” (under the Landscape Law that took effect in 2005), which will require developers to have prior consultation with the local government in order to obtain a building permit in the buffer zone, so that the new construction will remain harmonious with the historic environment. Shinjuku-Ku is also working on drawing up even more detailed landscape guidelines with a set of criteria for a balanced townscape, which will be created by a prior consultation system.



3 Six unique categories of views around the outer moat. SOURCE: The Outer Moat District Landscape Guidelines, 2009



4 Buffer zone within 200 m from the outer moat, namely, a core zone, and 20 scenic locations. SOURCE: The Outer Moat District Landscape Guidelines, 2009

In terms of current issues and prospects for the future, I will focus on three points.

First, there is a need to assess the value of the current state of the outer moat's surroundings that takes into consideration the changes made since the early modern age. There are divergent views on this matter. For instance, the cultural heritage administrations consider the outer moat built in the Edo period as an important historical asset, but does not find any historical value in the changes made in the buffer zone around the outer moat after the Meiji period, which include urban infrastructure, landfill, entertainment facilities, and other development projects. Even among the general public, some people consider some changes as damage to the landscape and other people consider them as attractive additions.



5 The outer moat in a Japanese woodblock print of the Edo era.



6 Gates at the outer moat were broken in the Meiji period as a symbol of the old regime.



7 Transformation including landfill projects and facilities for transportation during the Edo, Meiji and Showa periods.



8 Canal Café floating on the outer moat since the age of Taisho democracy.



9 The fishing hole at the outer moat after the World War II.

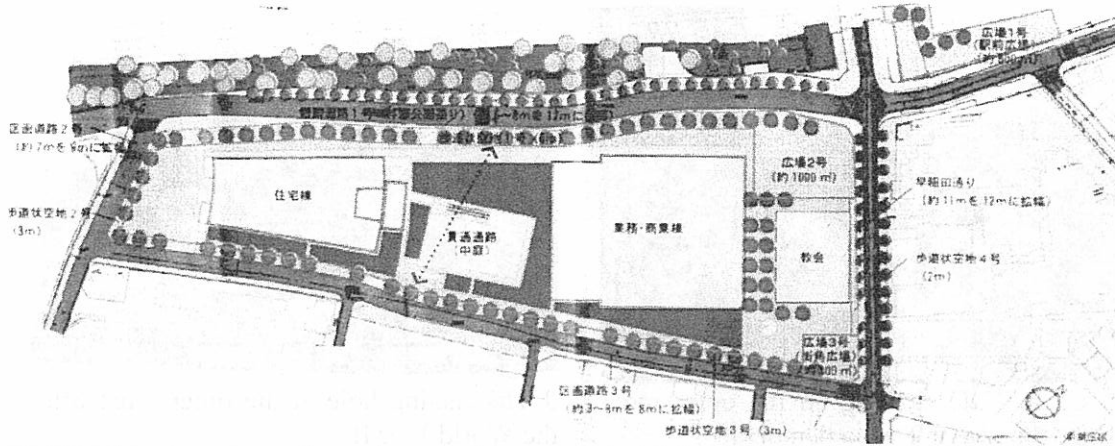


10 Expressways in the capital over the outer moat and Hotels for Tokyo Olympics of 1964.

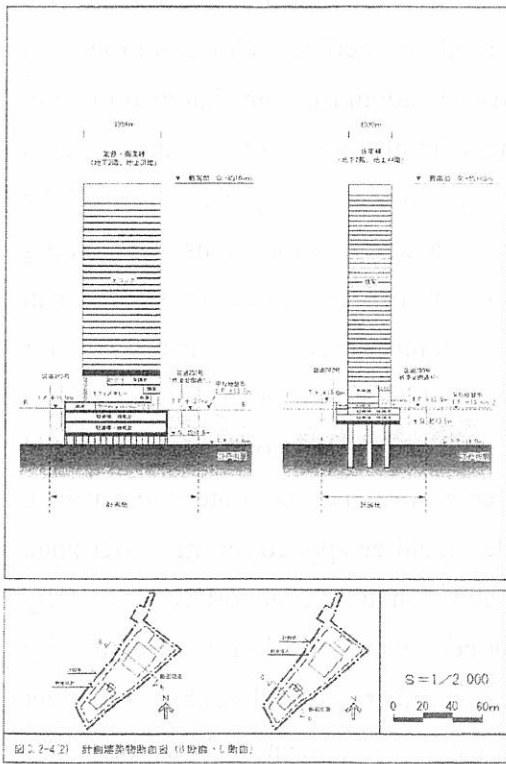


11 A fake pond in a redevelopment project in 1982, bringing up the problem of the authenticity

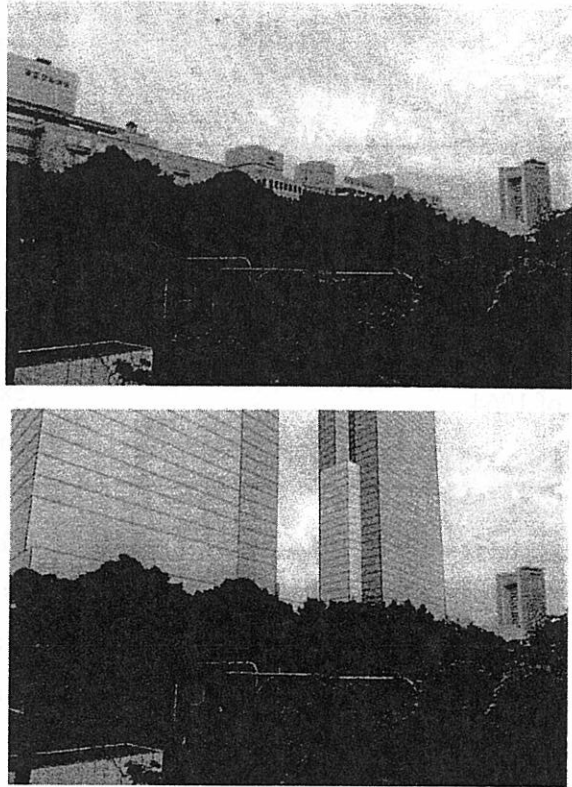
Second, there is a need for greater cooperation among different administrative sections. Not only the cultural heritage administrations and the landscape administrations but also the city planning administrations of the three wards should participate in the preservation of the outer moat and utilization of its surrounding area, so that the city planning system can become comprehensive. Currently, for example, applying for a permit to make changes to current conditions is only required for the core zone (i.e., the outer moat itself). This rule should be applied for the buffer zone as well and it should be authorized by the city planning administrations. In this way, the city planning administration will be able to conduct a landscape assessment of a proposed development project in the buffer zone and order changes to the plan based on this assessment.



12 District plan along the outer moat to promote high-rise office and residential towers.
SOURCE: FUJIMI 2cho-me District Plan, Chiyoda-ku

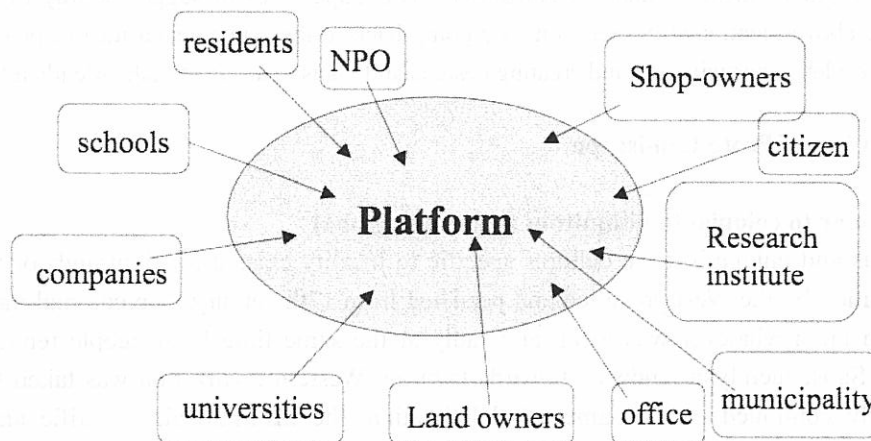


13 Section Plan of the redevelopment project along the outer moat, without any information about surroundings. SOURCE: FUJIMI 2cho-me District Plan, Chiyoda-ku



14 Comparison between the current situation and the montage images of proposed two towers. The report says a new dynamic symbol is created. SOURCE: Draft of Assessment report on FUJIMI 2cho-me Project, Tokyo-to

Finally there is a need for citizen participation in the city planning process, in order to raise citizens' awareness of the outer moat and its surrounding area as common social capital. Citizens near a river are usually well aware of its existence as common social capital because it has been inseparable from their daily lives historically, and therefore they have been actively involved in community development around the river. However, since the outer moat was originally built as a fort to protect Edo castle, citizens have not had the same degree of everyday attachment to it. In order to preserve the outer moat and make wise use of its surrounding area, though, it is necessary for citizens to be actively involved from the stage of drafting a utilization plan, so that they and the local governments will share a vision for the future. Otherwise, it would be difficult to build a social consensus and actualize the plan. For this to happen, the local governments will have to take the initiative and support citizen participation. In other words, they should create a platform where anyone can come together and discuss the vision of the outer moat and its buffer zone.



15 Concept of Platform to discuss, plan, share and create the future figure of the outer moat and its buffer zone.

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- Chiyoda, Shinjyuku and Minato wards, The Cultural Heritage Preservation Management Plan of the Outer Moat of Edo Castle, 2008
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