Tokyo as a City of Water seen from Spacial Anthropology

Hidenobu Jinnai (Hosei University)
武蔵野台地
Musashino Plateau
7 hilles ≡ Rome

東京低地
Tokyo lowland
water city ≡ Venice
Significance of Tokyo Sky Tree
Reevaluation of the city of water

Location of Tokyo Sky Tree
From the same angle as the Edo period overlooking Tokyo in the 21st Century

Kitajukken River can become to the base of revival of water traffic

Eastern Tokyo many interesting phenomena and movements
Edo = water city

Waterfront of Ryogoku, Sumida River middle of Edo per

歌川貞房「東都両国夕涼之図」江戸後期（江戸東京博物館蔵）

Draw people's activities rather than the exact urban form
Sketch of the houses (restaurants) along the Sumida river 1958

Until 1960 Tokyo was a water city

Traditional restaurants along the Sumida River, Yanagibashi c.1960

Ryogoku Fireworks 1960
Edo-Tokyo Flood Protection

A: Replacement of Kanda River (Edo period)

B: Construction of Y-shaped embankment (Edo period)

C: Construction of Arakawa Flood Bypass (1911-30)
Water in the city: various forms, multi-functions/activities, significance

Drinking water, agriculture, fishery, navigation/commercial activities, production, religion/rituals/festivals, recreation, theater, tourism, amenity, landscape, etc.
Great Kanto Earthquake 1923
Lost of water city in the ’60 s

Highway Construction on canals/ rivers
many canals/small rivers ⇒ lost or culvert
(canale sottorraneo)

Reclamation in Tokyo Bay
Rediscovery of the Value of the City of Water 1980-today
Port and transportation system in Edo

During the Edo period, cargo was transferred onto barges in the offshore of Tsuku. The barges created an endless traffic along the canals inside the city, mainly around Nihon-bashi, as they transported the cargo to the warehouses that lined the embankments. This kind of mechanism is referred to as the “inner port system.”
River bank
Nihon-bashi area

河岸地の空間構造
日本橋周辺 「江戸名所図会」

河岸地ー町屋敷の関係の変容と土蔵の存続

近代における河岸地の新たな建築の登場
（岡本哲志＋久保田雅代による）

From traditional warehouse to modern building
Nihonbashi River and Edobashi-hirokoji

Market & Plaza
Mechanism of moving (sift) of port/logistic function from the central area to the outer area in Tokyo

With the arrival of the Meiji era, the logistic center moved to the outside of the central port where there was more space. During the early Showa Era (1920’s), there were rows of splendid modern warehouses along Ookawabata.
Mitsubishi Warehouse  1930
Nihonbashi River
Edo

Process of urban development as a water city
1⇒2⇒3

One of the oldest maps of Edo  c.1643
宽永20年（1643）頃 「寛永江戸全図」（臼杵市教育委員会蔵）

Overlapping original terrain before Edo + early Edo infrastructure

寛永期までの江戸城内濠・外濠の整備
作成：岡本哲志氏

A map of the end of Edo era  1852
嘉永5年（1852）「大江戸図」（野田市立図書館蔵）

Sumida River
Nihonbashi River
canals

reclaimed area
Comparison with the Seine and Thames

Edo-Tokyo
Sumida

Paris
Seine

London
Thames
London

London 1588

London Bridge

Westminster

City

Theaters

c.1600  ジョン・ローデン画

c.1630 South side of Themes＝marginal area, theaters
Sumida River: peripheric and marginal but, mother river of Edo-Tokyo
Ancient and medieval folklore and stories
⇒ mythology, legend

Ancient religious facilities
dating back to the birth of the Edo city

dead anniversary of Umewaka
(around 1000) Mokubo -Temple

Matsuchi mountain

legend: A dragon appeared in 595 and guarded here

Senso-Temple(Asakusa)
A statue of Kannon was found in the
fisherman's net  (628)
Asakusa

1910's

●
Sacred area/Sanctuary
Logistics were limited to big rice warehouses and stock yard of construction materials of Shogunate.
Mukojima

Tamanoi Play zone c.1925-60
History of Fireworks  Ryogoku

1732 Bad harvest, plague
1733 Festival of water god with fireworks

Memorial prayer for the extinction of the plague  Sponsored by restaurants,
Ceremony of river opening of summer time

1961 stopped due to traffic conditions and disaster prevention reasons
1978 revived as fireworks of Sumida-River
Spiritual, religious, ritual functions and activities
Theatrical activities, amusements

Theaters, bath, restaurants/tee houses
Procession on water of Sumida River  c.1630 「江戸名所図屏風」出光美術館蔵

「隅田川図屏風」18世紀前半 大山詣前の水垢離（無事と悪病の退治を願う）
Purification for safety of travel and extinction of the plague
First half of the 18th century

歌川春信「浮世江戸深川新大橋中須之図」18世紀中頃 中洲成立前（江戸博特別展「隅田川」図録より）
Bustling atmosphere on the water
Amusement, Entertainment, Festivities

Amusement District
Bustling Place

Asakusa  Ryogoku  Fukagawa

盛り場  sakariba
Cultural salon /painting, poem
View of Sumida-River

Catering service to the boat
The enjoyment and play of Japanese culture deeply linked to water
Changes in the landscape along the Sumida River

Canal Sanya  ⇄  Sumida River  ⇄  Kanda River

吉原 日本堤  待乳山聖天 駒形堂  浅草御門前・浅草橋

Around 1700
Modern Tokyo
another water city

Reconstruction period
after the earthquake of 1923

The meaning and function of water changed from traditional to western-modern sense.

place for dynamic experiences with 5 senses, activities

→ object to see, visual effect

urban design
Boat transportation was active even in modern times

1921
Navigation

Network of water bus before the Second World War

Floating bus stop
Procession route of 3 bringing shrines
Procession route of 3 bringing shrines
Rivival of the procession of the bringing shrine of Asakusa on the Sumida River 2012

Ritual and Event on the water Sumida River

Festival of Tokyo firefly 2013 tradition (past) +innovation (future)
cultivation of laver (arghe)

ex-fisherman’s villages

Fishery
c.1960

貝巻き漁の帰り船　浦安市境川河口
昭和30年代
（『水の東京』岩波書店より）
Shinagawa
ex-fisherman’s community

Procession in the Water
Procession on the water from Shinagawa to Odaiba Marine Park

Festival of Ebara shrine

Ritual: bringing shrine in the water
The “water city” concept can be expanded to more of Tokyo’s territory.

Network of rivers in the territory of Edo-Tokyo

my new book  Water city Tokyo
Imperial Palace and Chidorigafuchi (Inner moat) viewed from the Italian Cultural Center
Water Network in the Center of Tokyo

Eco Historic Corridor

Outer moat & Inner moat
Double moat = historic defense system
Outer moat + Inner moat
Geomorphology of Musashino Plateau

There are many middle and small rivers derived from spring pond.
Meisho ("famous places") a key word for understanding the urban structure and landscape of Edo-Tokyo
Unique relationship between “city and nature/countryside”

Japanese meisho (coexistence with nature)  
European monuments (manmade)

Famous places of Edo-Tokyo

T.Higuchi’s theory 1981  
<mountain side> and <waterside>
Utagawa Hiroshige’s *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*
(80% of views feature a waterscape)

Centrifugal, countryside/nature, interest in rural elements,
*Edo*= urban culture without walls
(vs. European cities: center & boundary; clear total image)

“Towboats Along the Yotsugi-dori Canal” (1857)

“New. Fuji, Meguro” (1857)
Importance of **intangible elements** (vs. tangible monuments in Europe)

Events/incidents, activities, rituals, sacred places

⇒ Memories and stories of urban and rural areas

**Preservation of historical memory and identity**

Numerous publications of topographical description with colored illustrations of landscapes

Woodblock technology
Ueno

Water/lake

Green/mountain (hill)
Sacred site from ancient times

Yayoi period (5th century BCE to 3rd century CE)

Tumulus
Recreation area surrounded by greenery of mountain + water of pond

Tea houses

Tea houses along the Shinobazu Pond

Tea house (= love hotel)
Exposition on the mountain

First National Industrial Exhibition, 1877

Second National Industrial Exhibition, 1881
Exposition on the *waterside*

**Taisho Exposition, 1914**

**Pearce Memorial Exposition, 1922**
Still today, a public recreation space

Typical scene in recent years

People enjoying cherry blossoms in Ueno Park
Spring water is an important factor for understanding the unique urban and territorial structure of Tokyo.

Cliff line type

Tokyo Spring water by H. Takamura

Valley head type
Case study

Inogashira Pond and Kanda River source (josui = water supply)

Document relating to josui (water supply system) from 1791

Inogashira Pond as a water source
Inogashira Pond
Early Jomon period remains from about 15,000 years ago
Multi-layered history
Drawings of Inogashira Pond & Benten shrine

by Settan Hasegawa

by Hiroshige
Topography of Kanda River area

Inogashira Pond

Kanda River

Archeological remains
Mejiro

Garden
Slope
Shrine
Ridge road
Garden
Slope
Shrine
River
Higo Hosokawa Garden
Suburban residence of Hosokawa Family
⇒ Main Hosokawa family residence in Meiji period

Sekiguchi Water Shrine
High town: one part of water city

Mita
- Historical gardens
- Mitsui Club
- Embassy of Italy
- Springs, ponds
Depletion and extinction of spring waters in central Tokyo

- **Existing today**
- **Existed until the 1920s**
Yabo
Tenmangu
Shrine
Sanctuary developed around spring waters in the medieval period in Kunitachi (west of Tokyo)
Distribution map of remains of Paleolithic and Jomon period

(Jomon period: 13,000 to 2,300 years ago)
Otaka no Michi (Otaka Road)  Cliff line + spring waters
Kokubunji Honmura (around Otaka no Michi) **Cliff line + spring waters**
Kokubunji (Otaka no Michi)
Selected as one of 100 “remarkable” spring waters in 1985

Masugata Pond with Benten shrine,
associated with legend of a beautiful woman
Otaka no Michi (Otaka Road)

Until a water supply was installed, the flow of this spring water served the needs for drinking, cooking, bathing, and washing (vegetables, rice, laundry)

Water was used by residents for many purposes
Water network and Tamagawa-josui water supply system
42km

Edo-Tokyo

Water Circulation City
Tamagawa-josui
(water supply)
Network of irrigation canals and distribution of mills

● Mill
Kokubunji area 1774: First mill
Meiji period: 10 mills
Rice milling, milling, silk reeling
1910-1961: Mills were used
Tamagawa-josui water supply system 42km

Eco Historic Corridor

Recent Slogan ⇒ World heritage of UNESCO symposium
Good mews!

Mayer of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike

Rivaival/restoration of Tamagawa-josui for cleanup of Outer moat

Water Circulation City will be revived in Tokyo.
Odaiba Marine Park  sunset⇒night view / magic hour

Traditional aspect + Near future city