

# Spring/Summer 2026

Course Number	ARCH 675 (L01)	Classroom	Tokyo		
Course Name	Urban Systems:				
	Encounters, Explorations + Experiences in Enigmatic Asia				
Pre/Co-Requisites					
Instructor	Dr. Brian R. Sinclair	Office Hours/Location	By appointment		
	brian.sinclair@ucalgary.ca				
Class Dates	Study Abroad in Japan – May 04 through July 24, 2026				
Instructor Email Policy	Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email – the instructor will endeavor to respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.				
Name and Email of Teaching Assistant(s)	Not applicable				

## **Course Description:**

Urban Systems. Provides a general overview of urban history, development and planning traditions. Lectures and field studies give a chronological overview of urban, architectural and design history and the inter-relation to political programs, economic and strategic planning as well as cultural nationalism. Extracts a number of more general issues about contemporary cities for debate. Corequisite(s): Architecture 688 or Planning 616. <u>ARCH675 Course | UCalgary Calendar</u>

#### **CACB Student Performance Criteria**

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria will be covered in this course.

Primary: A6. Urban Design, B3. Architectural Theory, B5. Ecological Systems

Secondary: A1. Design Theories – Precedents, A5. Site Context and Design, B1. Critical Thinking, B2. Architectural History, B4. Cultural Diversity

University of Calgary | School of Architecture, Planning + Landscape | Spring Summer 2026 ARCH 675 (L01) | Urban Systems | H (0-3) | Tokyo Japan

## **Encounters, Explorations + Experiences in Enigmatic Asia**







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#### **Preamble**

THEORY:

Analysis of a set of facts in their relation to one another.

Abstract thought. Speculation.

The general or abstract principles of a body of fact, a science or an art.

Belief, policy or procedure proposed or followed as the basis of action.

An ideal or hypothetical set of facts, principles or circumstances.

A plausible or scientifically acceptable general principle or body of principles offered to explain phenomena.

A hypothesis assumed for the sake of argument or investigation.

An unproven assumption.

A body of theorems presenting a precise systematic view of a subject.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10th Edition)

"Cities are made of scenes. Those scenes have a syntax."

<u>Urban Code</u>, Mikoleit & Purckhauer (2011)

Cities are complex phenomena that present remarkable opportunities, and daunting challenges, for an increasing percentage of our planet's population. Our world is now more urban than rural, a fact that warrants the attention of Environmental Designers and calls for sound and effective decision making in order to heighten our quality of life. Cities prove rich in amenity, diversity, composition and character. They concurrently pose unique obstacles concerning infrastructure, order, management and harmony.

The urban systems course is intended to present an overview to theories, principles and practices in both an historical and contemporary sense. Being closely connected to and interwoven with the Tokyo studio, the course aims to support and reinforce encounters, explorations and experiences in Tokyo. Structurally the course includes lectures, video-taped talks, office visits, project tours and field studies which will illustrate and reinforce the interplay of theories and practices. Several assignments, coordinated with studio, will examine, delineate and demonstrate urban design theory in play in the city.

The Asia study abroad initiative brings together Environmental Design students in a rich interdisciplinary-focused milieu. Urban Design, residing at the nexus of Architecture and Planning, affords an extraordinary vehicle through which to investigate and understand the city. Through its dynamic and three-dimensional quality, urban design approaches vital questions concerning how we inhabit and utilize the spaces and places of urban settlement. It addresses the significant realm between buildings and considers how landscapes, built and natural, operate and contribute to the mix. The course bridges between the specific and the general – accepting that Environmental Designers need to focus on the competent execution of the particular while respecting broader systems. Consideration of scale and scope is essential (e.g., the project), while simultaneously responding the larger ethos (e.g., the neighborhood, the district, etc.). Subscription to holism and the pursuit of synergies are paramount.

## Systems + Specifics

SYSTEM:

A regularly interacting or interdependent group of items forming a unified whole.

An organized set of doctrines, ideas or principles intended to explain the arrangement or working of a systematic whole.

Organized or established procedure.

Harmonious arrangement or pattern.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10th Edition)

"The Japanese society approaches much of life with a similar respect for space and a critical eye to efficiency. Take clothing, for example: kimonos are designed to be folded then stored flatly, tightly, and efficiently. The bento box for food is another example where the focus is on space: attention to delivery, designed presentation, concern for aesthetics, and no waste. Cemeteries are another example of high efficiency, effective use of room, and the appreciation for scale, mass, surface, and space. As regards design and space, Japanese culture so often places tremendous value on beautiful functionality, on quality, on keeping, on maintaining, on preserving, on innovating, and on appreciating."

Sinclair, 2015, Cybernetics + Systems

The Tokyo Urban Systems course in Spring Summer 2026 considers most notably the rich, complex and multifarious urban realm this remarkable city. Tokyo is an amazing city that needs to be understood on its own as well as in comparison to other urban centers. While on one hand there are common qualities that often shape, define and determine city form and function, on the other hand the unique dimensions of place, including geography, history, context and culture, serve to make indelible differences. We will be examining and exploring Tokyo while critically considering analyses and understanding other cities (including selected examples from North America, Europe and elsewhere). Our studies of the city will be manifold, looking into broader systems & assemblies while digging deeper into more tightly demarcated and nuanced precincts, projects & parameters. Aspects that will be covered include urban evolution, urban culture, urban space, urban politics, urban planning, urban innovation and, crucially, urban place-making.

## **Objectives**

"Nothing is harder, yet nothing is more necessary, than to speak of certain things whose existence is neither demonstrable nor probable. The very fact that serious and conscientious men treat them as existing things brings them a step closer to existence and to the possibility of being born."

Hermann Hesse, The Glass Bead Game (1972)

Urban Design Theory surveys a fundamental base through which to approach analysis and synthesis, from an Environmental Design perspective, in the city. Our understanding of the principles and practices of Urban Design afford us a potent lens through which we can approach both problem-seeking and problem-solving. In the instance of Tokyo, especially considering its complexity and density, it is essential that we operate with sound strategy as we plan, design, intervene, alter and insert. The objectives of the course include:

- Develop the means, methods and mindset to critically consider, compare and evaluate cities.
- Develop knowledge and skills concerning the planning, design and development of urban space and form.
- Develop understanding of the historical evolution of cities, their present circumstances and their emerging trends
- Develop the ability to be able to research, assess, interpret and advance dimensions of urban design of cities
- Develop more interdisciplinary, imaginative and team-based approaches to research, planning, design and communication.
- Develop world and self-views concerning urban design and its potential influence and impact upon planning, design, people and place.

#### Requirements

The urban systems course carefully considers pedagogical aims for Environmental Design students. As such the deliverables for the course find balance between disciplinary means, methods, processes and products. Beyond required attendance and participation in all components of the course, there are three assignments (one group

project and two individual components). Working in teams (same composition as studio teams) students will explore specific qualities/conditions/characteristics (to be confirmed by the instructor) of urban design using Tokyo as the living lab. The deliverables for this assignment will include both digital presentation and a written report. The second assignment (individual) will compare and contrast selected urban qualities within Tokyo to parallel urban qualities in Western cities. Student interest will inform this research. The deliverable for this assignment will be a written report. A third assignment, a semester long journal, provides opportunities for informed observation, critical assessment, inspired connections and creative explorations. Finally, attendance/participation is a final and vital component for evaluation. Specific objectives, details, requirements and deadlines will be given, at a later date, for each of these four course evaluative components.

## Grading

Grades will be cumulative through the semester. Students are expected to meet all requirements for each assignment to receive a passing grade. In general grades will be based on the following (depending on the topic and the assignment): development (process) 30%, conclusion (product) 30%, presentation 30%, and graphic design 10%. Attendance and active participation are expected for all components of the course.

## **Schedule Spring Summer 2026**

#### Weeks 1 - 6 Urban Tokyo: Critically Considering Qualities, Conditions, Factors & Fabric

Component 1: Group Assignment due Monday June 08th | 35%

## Weeks 6 – 12 Urban Content + Character: Comparing & Contrasting Tokyo with Western Precedents

Week of June 22-26 Travel Week

Component 2: Individual Assignment due Monday July 15th | 35%

#### Weeks 1 - 12 Term Wide Aspects

Component 3: Semester Journal | Digital | Individual Assignment due on Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> | 20%

Component 4: Attendance and Active Participation in course | 10%

Notes: The schedule is subject to change. All submission dates are tentative.

## **Recommended Textbooks:**

Almazan, Jorge + STUDIOLAB. Emergent Tokyo: Designing the Spontaneous City. ORO Editions. 2021.

Pallasmaa, Juhani. *The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses*. (Fourth Edition). Wiley: Hoboken NJ USA, 2024.

LeGates, Richard T. + Stout, Frederic (Editors). *The City Reader*. (7th Edition). Urban Reader Series. Routledge: London, UK. 2020.

## Bibliography:

Alexander, Christopher, Ishikawa, Sara and Silverstein, Murray. (1977) *A Pattern Language*. Oxford University Press. American Planning Association (2006) *Planning and Urban Design Standards*. Wiley: New York. American Institute of Architects. (2007). *Architectural Graphic Standards* (11th edition). Wiley: New York. Bacon, Edmund N. (1974) *Design of Cities*. Penguin Books:New York. Bentley, Ian et al (1985) *Responsive Environments: A Manual for Designers*. London: Architectural Press.

Biswas, Ramesh Kumar. (Editor) (2000) Metropolis Now! Urban Cultures in Global Cities. SpringerWein: New York.

Brenner, Neil and Keil, Roger. (Editors). (2006) The Global Cities Reader. Urban Reader Series. Routledge: London, UK.

Bridge, Gary and Watson, Sophie (Editors). (2010) *The Blackwell City Reader (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing: West Sussex, UK.

Brownell, Blaine. (2011) Matter in the Floating World: Conversations with Leading Japanese Architects and Designers. Princeton Architectural Press; New York.

Calthorpe, Peter (1993). The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream. Princeton Architectural Press: New York.

Carmona, Matthew and Steve Tiesdell (2007) Urban Design Reader, Architectural Press

Ching, Francis DK. (2009) Architectural Graphics (5th edition). John Wiley: New York.

Ching, Francis DK. (2007) Architecture: Form, Space & Order. (3rd edition). John Wiley: New York.

Clear, Nic (Editor). "Architectures of the Near Future". Architectural Design. September/October 2009. Profile No. 2010. John Wiley & Sons: West Sussex, UK.

Crewe, Katherine and Forsyth, Ann. LandSCAPES: A Typology of Approaches to Landscape Architecture. In: *Landscape Journal* 22:1-03. Pages 37-53. 2003.

Cullen, Gordon (1961, reprinted 1971). The ConciseTownscape. Architectural Press: London, UK.

Dan, Norihiko. (Editor). (2008). Architecture and Urbanism of Tokyo. Garden City Publishing: Taipei, Taiwan.

Duany, Andres and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk (1991) Towns and Town-Making Principles. Rizzoli: New York.

Gehl, Jan (1987) Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space. Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York.

Hamnett, Stephen & Forbes, Dean (Editors) (2013). Planning Asian Cites: Risks + Resilience. Routledge: London, UK.

Hein, Carola, Diefendorf, Jeffry M, and Ishida, Yorifusa (Ed). (2003) *Rebuilding Urban Japan After 1945*. Palgrave Macmillan: Hampshire UK.

Hough, Michael (1994) Cities and Natural Process. Routledge: London, UK.

Howard, Ebenezer (1902, reprinted 1965 and others) Garden Cities of Tomorrow. Faber: London.

Isozaki, Arata. (2011). Japan-ness in Architecture. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

Jacobs, Alan B. (1993) Great Streets. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

Jacobs, Jane (1961) The Death and Life of Great American Cities. Random House: New York.

Jencks, Charles and Karl Kropf (eds.) (1997) Theories/Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture Academy Editions

Jonas, Marieluise and Rahmann, Heike. (2014). Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence. Jovis: Berlin, DE.

Knox, Paul L. (2011) Cities and Design: Critical Introductions to Urbanism and the City. Routledge: New York.

Koolhaas, Rem and Obrist, Hans Ulrich. (2001) Project Japan: Metabolism Talks. Taschen: Koln.

Lahoud, Adrian, Rice, Charles and Burke, Anthony (Editors). "Post-Traumatic Urbanism". Architectural Design.

September/October 2010. Profile No. 207. John Wiley & Sons: West Sussex, UK.

Larice, Michael and Elizabeth Macdonald (2007) The Urban Design Reader, Routledge: London, UK.

Larkham, Peter. (1998). Urban Morphology and Typology in the United Kingdom. In: *Typological Process and Design Theory*. Editor: Attilio Petrucciolo. MIT/AKPIA: Cambridge, MA.

Lynch, Kevin (1960) The Image of the City. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA..

Lynch, Kevin (1976) Managing the Sense of a Region. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA..

Lynch, Kevin (1971) Site Planning. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

McHarg, Ian (1969, reprinted 1994) Design With Nature. Doubleday: New York.

Mikoleit, Anne + Purckhauer, Moritz. (2011) *Urban Code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City*. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. Mostafavi, Moshen and Doherty, Gareth. Editors (2010). *Ecological Urbanism*. Lars Muller Publishing: Baden Switzerland.

Mostafavi, Moshen and Najle, Ciro. Editors (2003). <u>Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape</u>. Architectural Association: London, UK.

Otten, Reineke. Urban Daily Life. http://www.urbandailylife.com

Pallasmaa, Juhani. (2009) The Thinking Hand: Existential and Embodied Wisdom in Architecture. (AD Primers Series). Wiley & Sons: West Sussex, UK.

Rapoport, Amos (1977, reprinted 1980) Human Aspects of Form Pergamon Press: Toronto.

Reiser, Jesse and Umemoto, Nanako. (2006) Atlas of Novel Tectonics. Princeton Architectural Press: New York.

Relph, Edward (1976) Place and Placelessness. Pion: London, UK.

Relph, Edward (1981) Rational Landscapes & Humanistic Geography. Croom Helm: London, UK.

Relph, Edward (1987) The Modern Urban Landscape. Croom Helm: London, UK.

Rossi, Aldo (1982) The Architecture of the City. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

Sakamoto, Tomoko, Ferre, Albert and Kubo, Michael (Editors). (2003). The Yokohama Project. Acta: Barcelona.

Sandalack, Beverly A. and Ulribe, Francisco G. Alaniz. Open Space Typology as a Framework for Design of the Public Realm. http://www.ucalgary.ca/urbanlab/files/urbanlab/Typology%20of%20Public%20Space Sandalack-Uribe.pdf

Sinclair, Brian R. Culture, Context, and the Pursuit of Sustainability: Contemplating Problems, Parameters, and Possibilities in an Increasingly Complex World. In: *Planning for Higher Education*, Ann Arbor: Oct.-Dec. 2009. 38-1, pp. 6-22.

Sinclair, Brian R. Devising Design: Agility, Aptness, Equilibrium, Imperfection". Pp 41-58. In: *Building Dynamics: Exploring Architecture of Change* (Editors: B. Kolarevic + V. Parlac). Routledge: London, 2015.

Sinclair, Brian R. "Integration | Innovation | Inclusion: Values, Variables and the Design of Human Environments". *Cybernetics and Systems: An International Journal*, 46:6-7, pp 554-579, 2015.

Sitte, Camillo (1889, reprinted 1965) City Building According to Artistic Principles. Random House: New York.

Trancik, Roger (1986) Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design. Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York.

Tsukamoto, Yoshiharu, Fujimura, Ryuji, and Shiner, Eric. Typo-Morphology of Tokyo. In: *Perspecta*. Volume 40, Monster 2008. Pages 32-41. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

Turabian, Kate (1982) A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, Dissertations. Heinemann: London, UK.

Venturi, Robert, Brown, Denise Scott and Izenour, Steve (1977) Learning from Las Vegas. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA..

Waldheim, Charles (2006) The Landscape Urbanism Reader. Princeton Architectural Press: New York.

White, Edward T. (1983) Site Analysis. Architectural Media Ltd: Tucson, AZ.

Whyte, William H. (1980) The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces. Conservation Foundation: Washington DC.

Zeisel, John (1984) Inquiry by Design: Tools for Environment-Behaviour Research. Cambridge University Press.

#### Assessment and Evaluation Information

## **Attendance and Participation Expectations:**

- Students are expected to attend and come prepared to meaningfully engage in all class sessions. This
  includes producing or preparing content necessary for discussion and contributing to individual and classwide discussions and/or conversations/assessments with the Course Instructor.
- Excused Absences: In the event of an exceptional circumstance (e.g., illness, bereavement, etc.) or an
  exceptional opportunity (e.g., varsity athletic competition, national conference or awards ceremony, pow
  wow, etc.) up to one excused absence is allowable per semester before jeopardizing one's own course
  grade and ability to pass the course. However, any such accommodations must be approved by the
  Instructor with advance notice by the student.
- Unexcused Absences: Attendance at all class sessions and participation in all assessments is mandatory.
   Unexcused absences in excess of one per semester are grounds for a grade reduction or failure in the course at the discretion of the instructor. Excess absences will generally constitute a grade reduction of 5% in the overall course grade.

Additional University Policies are detailed here **G.2.3 Absence from In Course Assessments** 

## **Guidelines for Submitting Assignments**

Expectations for Writing (E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum | UCalgary Calendar):

#### Late Assignments:

All assignments (e.g., projects, papers, presentations, etc.) must be turned in on time. Late assignments will lose a letter grade every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late, without instructor approval, will constitute a failure.

## Criteria that must be met to pass:

A passing grade on all components of the urban systems course is essential if the student is to pass the course as a whole.

## Grading Scale:

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance

B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
В	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
С	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School.

https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/991cecbda70f42dc9ce24929c1219e38

#### **University of Calgary Policies and Supports**

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <a href="Accommodation Policy | Student Accessibility Services">Accessibility Services</a> | University of Calgary

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Accommodation for Students with Disabilities, Procedure for

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <a href="Student Accessibility Services">Student Accessibility Services</a> | University of Calgary

#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <u>Student Academic Misconduct Policy | University Legal Services | University of Calgary</u>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <u>Academic Integrity | Chancellor Cuthbertson Student Success Centre | University of Calgary</u>

#### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright Policy | University Legal Services | University of Calgary) and requirements of the copyright act (Copyright Act) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The University of Calgary (University) respects your privacy and is committed to ensuring the privacy of all students, staff, and community members. UCalgary's collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information is authorized under section 4(c) of the Alberta Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). It will be collected, used and disclosed as permitted under POPA and in accordance with the University's Privacy Policy and Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information. All student assignments and personal information provided to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. It will not be disclosed to anyone else without your permission unless permitted under POPA.

## **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy | University Legal Services | University of Calgary

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE**

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the University of Calgary Calendar (<u>I.1 General Principles | UCalgary Calendar</u>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised. For further information Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, student can find information outlined in section <u>I.2 Reappraisal of Graded Term Work</u>. For reappraisal of Final Grades, students can find information outlined in section <u>I.3 Reappraisal of Final Grades (Final Academic Assessments)</u>.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <u>Course Outlines | Office of the Registrar | University of Calgary</u> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

## **Contact & Office Information**

Dr. Brian R. Sinclair | brian.sinclair@ucalgary.ca Please contact instructor with questions/concerns. Meetings by appointment.

"Our bodily experience of the city develops following various undulations. For example, if you were to walk down a bustling street, your attention would be concentrated on continuous, unmediated, fascinating spaces. Walking through Tokyo, the storefronts buried in gaudy accessories piled one on top of the other, left, right and center, we are completely surrounded by a thin veil of color and excitement. In a European city, you would not find the same extreme experience: there is no other place where the glittering veil covers space so completely that it becomes part of our attire. This experience envelops our bodies completely."

Toyo Ito, 2012 (Forces of Nature)





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