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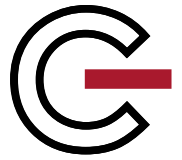
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[JAPAN - AUSTRALIA 2007]



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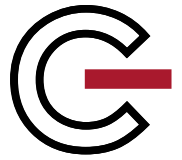
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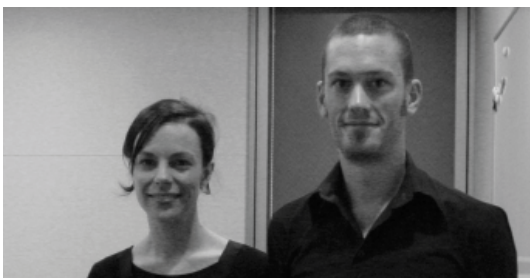
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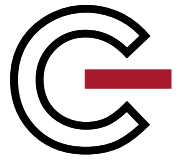


1.0 CITYSWITCH

CITYSWITCH is an initiative established under the Australia-Japan Foundation - Young Professionals Exchange Project. It is the aim of CITYSWITCH to promote professional activity and mobility between Australia and Japan by providing a springboard for future design collaboration. In its inaugural year, CITYSWITCH looks to cross-expose Australian and Japanese designers to the wealth of design talent and expertise in both countries through an urban design competition.



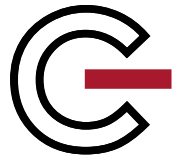
CITYSWITCH DIRECTORS JOANNE JAKOVICH & MICHAEL ROPER



2.0 AUSTRALIA & JAPAN

Japanese and Australian cities have much to learn from one another. Having grown out of very different cultural ideologies (east and west), they are quite different organisms. These cultural ideologies permeate our cities, affecting the ways in which they operate at every scale, from the management of resources through to the ways in which we gather and socialize. Our cities in turn affect how we operate, sustainably or otherwise.

The western tradition of city planning, as witnessed in Australia, could be described as being characterized by “the twin fantasies of order and omnipotence” (Rem Koolhaas, SMLXL 1995). The archetypal western city has a clear structure and is often based around a single organizing system, center, ideology or truth. In the twentieth century, this western notion has been consolidated into the idea of the “machine city”, where every component of the city’s structure has a carefully designed role to play. Nothing is redundant, everything integrated. While such cities can be very effective in meeting today’s requirements, these machines can struggle adapting to the changing needs of tomorrow.



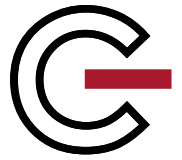
Conversely, it is characteristic of the Japanese urban landscape that it develops multiple centres which provide a loose and adaptable organizing structure to a city of seemingly fragmented parts. (Jennifer Taylor, 'Fumihiko Maki: Space, City, Order and Making', 2003)

These decentralized and multi-layered cities, while perhaps more difficult to provide for by the way of centralized services, afford themselves the ability to follow more organic patterns of growth and decay to meet continually changing needs.

The differences between Australian and Japanese cities in their past and present conditions, is fascinating in itself. Compounding this, we see the future posing very different challenges for the two countries. While Australia continues to deal with issues of urban growth and suburban sprawl, Japan is facing a period of urban shrinkage, posing unfamiliar challenges for the decades ahead.

As such close neighbours it would be both interesting and valuable for Australia and Japan to explore the extensive differences which exist between the past, present and future of their cities.

Through the CITYSWITCH competition, it is envisaged that Australian and Japanese designers will engage with the urban challenges faced by their counterparts in an exchange of ideas which will shed new light on culturally embedded urban design issues.



3.0 THE COMPETITION

The CITYSWITCH competition has been structured so as to engage with a broad cross-section of the architectural communities in Australia and Japan: from professionals, to academics, journalists and students. It has been structured so as to maximize exposure of Australian and Japanese designers one another. It is envisaged that the ideas generated by CITYSWITCH will evolve into an ongoing urban design discourse, carrying the ideas generated to be further explored through publications, exhibitions, symposiums and the media.

The following is an outline of the CITYSWITCH timeline. In its current form, dates and details will change as CITYSWITCH 2007 continues to take shape.

Nov 2006

AJF Study Tour to Japan – (2005 Year of Exchange Initiative). Initial meetings in Tokyo to establish a suitable urban design challenge for a Japanese city.

Dec 2006 – Jan 2007

Establish a comparable urban design challenge for an Australian city.

Feb 2007 – April 2007

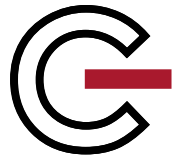
Research and develop a competition brief for each of the two cities.

May 2007

Competition announced and registration opens. Australian designers respond to Japanese brief. Japanese designers to respond to Australian brief.

Nov 2007

Deadline for entries.



Nov – Dec 2007

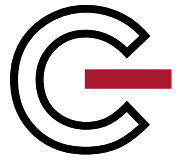
Online judging. Australian entrants judge 5-10 Japanese entries each. Japanese entrants judge 5-10 Australian entries each. The best from each pool goes on to the next round of online judging. These entrants continue to participate in the online judging until there is a shortlist of 5 entries from each country.

Jan 2008

Shortlisted Australian entrants are flown to Japan to partake in a symposium focussed on the Japanese urban design challenge. Australian and Japanese judges publicly debate the merits of the schemes. Winning scheme announced and a cash prize is awarded to the Australian entrant. An exhibition of the shortlisted entries from both countries coincides with the symposium.

Feb 2008

Shortlisted Japanese entrants are flown to Australia to partake in a symposium focussed on the Australian urban design challenge. Australian and Japanese judges publicly debate the merits of the schemes. Winning scheme announced and a cash prize is awarded to the Japanese entrant. An exhibition of the shortlisted entries from both countries coincides with the symposium.



4.0 THE COLLABORATORS

Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects was formed in 1930 when state architectural Institutes combined to form a unified national association with the following aims:

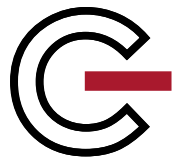
- To advance architecture
- To maintain the integrity and standing of the profession
- To promote the profession's views nationally and internationally, and
- To encourage the study of architecture

Since then, the Institute has evolved into a dynamic and progressive national organisation with active programs in many areas relating to the architectural profession.

By promoting better, responsible and environmental design, the Institute actively lobbies to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment. Raising design standards in our cities, urban areas, commercial and residential buildings, architects and the RAIA have a major role in shaping Australia's future.

The RAIA is represented on dozens of national and state industry and government bodies, and is affiliated with the International Union of Architects (UIA).





Professions Australia

Professions Australia is a national organisation of professional associations. It advances and promotes professionalism for the benefit of the community. It does this by:

- complementing and supporting its member associations;
- communicating the benefits of professionalism and ethical practices;
- providing the means for sharing information, ideas and experience among the professions;
- developing and promoting policies on issues of interest to the professions;
- providing government with reliable and objective advice on relevant issues; and
- supporting member associations in the promotion of professionalism.



Australia-Japan Foundation

The Australia-Japan Foundation, established by the Australian Government in 1976, is the government's pre-eminent body for promoting exchange and collaboration. The Foundation contributes to the bilateral relationship by playing a strategic role expanding relations and understanding between people and organisations from both countries.

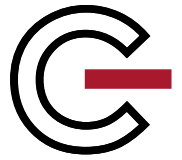


5.0 JAPAN EXCHANGE OUTCOMES

In November 2006, Joanne Jakovich of the University of Sydney and Michael Roper of BKK Architects in Melbourne travelled to Tokyo as a part of the Young Professionals Exchange Project for the Australia-Japan Foundation. The primary objective was to meet with a broad range of practitioners, academics and young designers to gauge interest in the CITYSWITCH competition, gather ideas on the kind of structure which would attract young Japanese designers and to establish contacts to assist in the realisation of CITYSWITCH. The following is a brief summary of the discussions and outcomes of these meetings.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EXCHANGE GROUP WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR MURRAY MCLEAN (CENTRE), MINISTER-COUNCILLOR BRUCE MILLER (TOP RIGHT) AND AUSTRALIA-JAPAN FOUNDATION LUCY KING



TOKYO UNIVERSITY : PROFESSOR OHNO + SATORU YAMASHIRO

Professor Ohno and his faculty staff at Tokyo University have recently published “Fibercity Tokyo 2050”. This publication draws together many years of research into the problem of shrinking cities in Japan. Professor Ohno and Satoro have committed to supporting the CITYSWITCH Initiative. They will assist in establishing an appropriate brief and structure for the competition. Professor Ohno is also interested in participating as a Jury member. Professor Ohno gave a speech at the Ambassador's Reception Dinner launching the CITYSWITCH initiative and pledging his support.



MICHAEL ROPER, SATORU YAMASHIRO, JOANNE JAKOVICH & HIDETOSHI OHNO



CITYSWITCH BRIEF

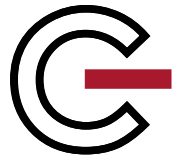
- Yokohama as potential site – access to data and maps
- Small cities – problems with shrinking populations and diminishing workforce
- Mobility in suburbia
- Aging populations – elderly living alone
- New typologies addressing mobility
- Precedence - Villa Savoye heralded introduction of motorcar to common household
- Urban Scale > Mechanism Scale (representing urban ideologies at many scales)

CITYSWITCH STRUCTURE

- Open Competition to Urban Designers, Architects, Industrial Designers etc.
- Australian & Japanese briefs should follow same format
- Provide a booklet of information on each site to participants
- 10-12 participants shortlisted from each country to participate in intensive workshop abroad
- Workshop to investigate the site
- Symposium with local expertise providing context and feedback
- Exhibition

CITYSWITCH JURY

- Fumihiko Maki
- Hidetoshi Ohno
- People from different disciplines – Practitioners, Academics, Urban, Architecture, Industrial etc.



TELE-DESIGN : NORIYUKI TAJIMA + NOBUYUKI NOMURA

Tajima-san and Nomura-san have established a well-regarded young design practice and have ongoing involvement in international competitions, exhibitions, symposia and publications of the kind to which CITYSWITCH aspires. They enthusiastically offered advice on the running of the competition and have expressed interest in providing ongoing advice in the development of an appropriate design brief and competition structure. They are also interested in entering the competition and must therefore ensure the level of organisational involvement is not inappropriate.



MICHAEL ROPER, JOANNE JAKOVICH, NORIYUKI TAJIMA & NOBUYUKI NOMURA



UIA - UNION DES ARCHITECTES

- Tele-Design are involved with the UIA committee to create, support and promote events which accelerate cultural exchange between now and 2011.
- The CITYSWITCH initiative could tie into this.

CITYSWITCH BRIEF

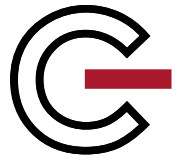
- Competition should address regional characteristics
- Competition could look at the edge conditions of cities
- Competition should address large cities
- Competition should provide prototypes to each country.

CITYSWITCH STRUCTURE

- Engage an editor in the publishing process from the outset to ensure a good quality publication.
- Less interested in prizes and more interested in cultural exchange from a young practice's perspective.

CITYSWITCH FINANCING

- Allow for a budget of \$1000 per entry when funding the exhibition
- Allow for advertising costs, postage etc.
- Allow for an interpreter at the symposia
- Success will depend on a well funded reception, launch party and tour costs

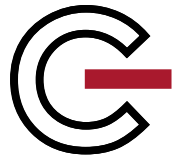


TOKYO UNIVERSITY / UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE : DR DARKO RADOVIC

Dr Darko Radovic is the Head of Urban Design and Associate Professor in Architecture at the University of Melbourne. Dr Radovic is currently conducting research at Tokyo University over a period of 18 months with a Professorial position at Tokyo University's Centre for Sustainable Urban Regeneration. He is co-author of the recently published "Green City: Sustainable Homes, Sustainable Suburbs" which is a publication of particular relevance to the CITYSWITCH Initiative. Dr Radovic is interested in integrating the CITYSWITCH competition into the Tokyo University and University of Melbourne curricula as a means of tying together his work in both countries.



JOANNE JAKOVICH & DR DARKO RADOVIC



CITYSWITCH BRIEF

- Encourage participants to address issues of mobility across many scales
- Take a “Zoom-In, Zoom-Out” approach with freeze-frames at key moments in the design
- Ensure all participants contextualise their ideas in a broader context
- Make it a Typological competition
- Allow for the inclusion of both utopic and realistic entries
- Speak with Ian Woodcock from University of Melbourne to assist in developing the Australian brief. Ian is investigating urbanism along transport lines and would have some interesting ideas on a possible brief dealing with Australian urbanism and mobility.

CITYSWITCH STRUCTURE

- Competition would be appropriate as an exercise of Master of Urban Design at the University of Melbourne, through Steve Whitford, Kim Dovey or Catherine Bull.

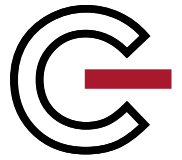


TAIRA NISHIZAWA ARCHITECTS : TAIRA NISHIZAWA

Taira Nishizawa is a broadly published young Japanese architect who is highly regarded internationally, having won the JIA (Japanese Institute of Architects) Young Architect of the Year Award 2005 and the Emerging Architecture Award of the UK Architectural Review. Nishizawa-san brought a broad range of experience and advice to our discussions for the CITYSWITCH initiative and has expressed interest in participating as a Juror.



JOANNE JAKOVICH, TAIRA NISHIZAWA & MICHAEL ROPER



CITYSWITCH STRUCTURE

- Cultural exchange a critical component of the CITYSWITCH initiative
- 3 months for the initial submission of a single panel with very broad idea. This stage would be a little bit like an expression of interest. 10 shortlisted entries from each country invited to continue to submit a more developed proposal with one month to complete. Of these 10, 5 would be selected by the jury to participate in the Symposia in each country. This reduced number is then more realistic for intensive presentations and discussions of the various proposals.
- Perhaps participants need to see the site before submitting the more developed proposal. In this scenario, the symposia would happen when the shortlisted entrants visit each other's countries. The final winners would be announced and the awards ceremonies would occur on home ground at the Japan and Australian embassies.
- The opportunity to present work in a lecture format is a great incentive to young architects trying to make a name for themselves.
- Perhaps present the winners at the RAIA & AIJ Awards ceremonies for prestige

CITYSWITCH JURY

- Getting the right jury is critical
- Considers using just on-line voting to arrive at the shortlisted entries is dangerous.
- Suggested using the on-line voting format as a means of providing direction for the jury with a starting point. Jury would be free to add and remove entries from the shortlist once on-line voting was complete.
- Hidetoshi Ohno as moderator as well as Juror
- From experience, for a competition with A1 boards, the Chairman should be paid ¥500,000-1,000,000 while the normal jury should be paid ¥300,000-600,000.
- 3 Jury Members from each country – an architect, academic and urbanist
- Japan : Toyo Ito, Hidetoshi Ohno, Taira Nishizawa
- Australia : A.R.M., Tom Henneghan, Mark Newson

[MEETING NOTES]



MAKI & ASSOCIATES : FUMIHIKO MAKI

Fumihiko Maki is a highly regarded Japanese architect of international standing having designed significant works of architecture all around the world for several decades. Maki-san is somebody with close ties to Hidetoshi Ohno and is somebody we considered inviting to participate as a Juror for the CITYSWITCH competition. Maki-san suggested speaking with George Kunihiro who is involved in an Asian architecture network called AECASIA. He suggested getting in contact with him through Tele-Design.



FUMIHIKO MAKI, JOANNE JAKOVICH & MICHAEL ROPER



TOKYO UNIVERSITY- URBAN DESIGN CENTER KASHIWA :
PROFESSOR TAKERU KITAZAWA + JIN HIDAKA

Professor Kitazawa is a key urban design figure in Japan. For the past years, he has assisted the Mayor of Yokohama in the urban design of the port city area. He has welcomed the idea of the CITYSWITCH project and suggested that Yokohama may be a precinct for which we can gain special access to maps and information through his work for the mayor. Lecturer and architect, Jin Hidaka has expressed interest in collaborating on the CITYSWITCH competition. Kitazawa and Hidaka launched the new Urban Design Centre Kashiwa – a temporary centre for the community design of the newtown Kashiwa - and have offered the use of the centre for exhibiting works of the CITYSWITCH competition.

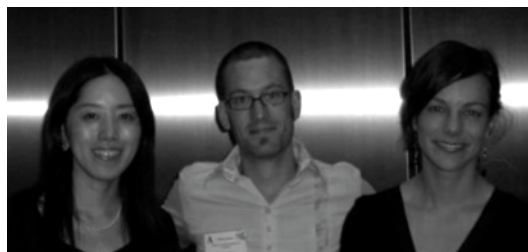


JIN HIDAKA & MICHAEL ROPER

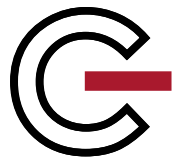


YURI NARUSE – NARUSE YURI ARCHITECTS

Yuri Naruse is a young architect who has newly established her practice, and recently awarded several national competition prizes. She has shown much interest in establishing a brief that enables young architects not yet self-established to participate and travel to Australia, even within the strict employment structures of most top level firms in Japan.

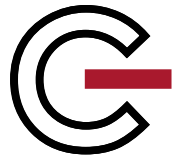


YURI NARUSE, MICHAEL ROPER & JOANNE JAKOVICH



CAt [COELACANTH AND ASSOCIATES]
KAZUHIRO KOJIMA + KAZUKO AKAMATSU

CAt is a young, award-winning firm with new projects in central Asia, Vietnam, and a strong reputation for its 'space block' theory internationally. In addition to Kojima-san and Akamastu-san, recent graduate staff Tomohiko Amemiya and Che Wang, encourage the competition idea.



AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTS IN TOKYO : RICARDO TOSSINI, JULIAN WORRALL, SAMUEL TAN, PETER CHARLES

We also met with several young architects whom are based in Japan: Ricardo Tossini who has run his own practice from Tokyo for over 10 years, Julian Worrall who obtained his PhD from the University of Tokyo and now works in a local firm, Samuel Tan who is a PhD student at Tokyo University, and Peter Charles who has been working for Kisho Kurokawa for a number of years.

Clearly, the excitement and motivation shown by each of these people for the CITYSWITCH Competition indicates that operation of the competition trans-nationally will be smooth thanks to their linking capacity locally.

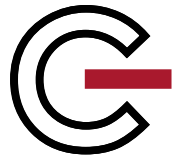


RICARDO TOSSINI, JULIAN WORRALL & PETER CHARLES

6.0 NEXT STEPS

Having met with a broad cross-section of the Tokyo architecture community, Joanne Jakovich and Michael Roper arrived at the following guidelines for the future development of the CITYSWITCH competition. These guidelines will be used to develop a more detailed structure with the view to present the CITYSWITCH proposal to the Australia-Japan Foundation in January 2007 to discuss funding.

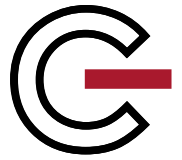




GUIDELINES : CITYSWITCH BRIEF

Sites need to be selected in Australia and Japan with specific problems identified for development into a competition brief. Building on the ideas and suggestions from the Japanese, the following issues need to be addressed in developing the briefs:

- Scale : Any scale can be adopted for the proposal as long as urban scale ideologies are addressed.
- Site: Sites to be selected in collaboration with interested parties
- Themes : Mobility, Aging populations, Sustainability, Distributed Mobility, Borrowed Space (Business Hotels, Love Hotels, Manga-Kusa, Capsule Hotels etc.)
- Participants : young architects, planners, industrial & graphic designers etc. not limited.
- Submission Format : Any format acceptable, however a single A2 Sheet must be submitted for the exhibition and publication material.



GUIDELINES : CITYSWITCH STRUCTURE

Building on the ideas and suggestions from the Japanese, the following points were identified as starting points in the development of the CITYSWITCH structure:

- 3 months for the initial submission of a single panel communicating broad idea of scheme.
- On-line judging between Australia and Japan to assist jury in identifying the strongest proposals. Jury empowered to over-ride online process.
- 10 shortlisted entries from each country invited to continue to submit a more developed proposal with one month to complete.
- 5 entries selected by the jury to participate in the Symposia in each country.
- Workshop abroad to contextualise ideas
- Limit exchange events to a Friday-Monday long-weekend to ensure participation is possible for as many of the successful entrants as possible.
- Friday night exhibition opening with presentations from visiting shortlisted entrants
- Saturday symposium with Jury and guest local speakers discussing the submissions and related design issues
- Sunday & Monday intensive workshop to work-up more developed design idea with assistance from a local designer. Assistance would be supportive only.
- Monday night presentation, party and announcement of winner.