

On the Surface

Honor Award

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In Tokyo, buildings of diverse-sized volumes form a dense urban environment within the city. Among pencil-shaped buildings — groups of thin, tall buildings constructed on small sites — there suddenly stands small, two-story buildings with large projecting volumes. These conditions, apparent all over Tokyo, are a microcosm of Shibuya, the site selected for this project.

Many young people gather in the city everyday to see and enjoy the latest fashions and visit music shops in Shibuya. Starting from Shibuya station, where there are busy quarters extending in all directions, many young cultures are created. However, because the center of the city is filled predominantly with diverse commercial institutions, there leaves little chance to create habitable space. In essence, the city is conquered by its commercial purpose.

By focusing on these concentrated commercial areas, the potential of the city can be maximized. In this project, "dead surface" is addressed for its potential for urban housing design.

Pump the city up!

