

A View Preservation Proposal for the Tokyo Tower Based on its Image Drawn in Comics

Yuka Otake¹

¹ Faculty of Art and design, University of Tsukuba

ABSTRACT

This study aims to propose landscape measures for the conservation and utilization of the Tokyo Tower landscape and its surroundings based on the scenario drawn in the Japanese comics.

The main results are follows. First, currently efforts on landscape view preservation have adopted maintenance policies which make people to raise awareness about landscape conservation. Second, investigations on comic illustrations of the Tokyo tower show that its charms are based on the abundance of both symbolism and landscape views. Therefore it is important to establish multiple main vantage points and to preserve these landscapes in order to highlight these charms. Third, in comics, landscapes which include the Tokyo Tower are divided into eight types: base-view, park-view, temple-view, road-view, highway-view, train-view, seaside-view and aerial-view. Forth, in this study, 10 vantage points of the Tokyo Tower were selected for the analysis. Last, the study offers proposals for using the eight types of landscapes including “access routes,” “views from vehicles and ships” and “views from new facilities.”

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tokyo Tower is a structure which has become a landmark of the Tokyo modern city due to rapid changes of its surroundings. Considering the Tokyo Tower landscape and its surroundings, it also is an important media expression scenario with actual views that shares the landmark image between the reader and the viewer. In Japan, comics or “Manga” is one root of the popular culture and represents one-third published sales a year. This movement has influenced many countries and has enhanced the development of local cultural policies attracting many scholars and academics. This study aims to propose landscape measures for the conservation and utilization of the Tokyo Tower landscape and its surroundings based on its illustrations drawn in the Japanese comics.

2. METHOD

Data collection gathered 333 frames of the Tokyo Tower drawn in 23 comics and a visual survey of vantage points. A total of 8 types of landscape's view and important vantage points of the Tokyo Tower were selected for the analysis. These vantage points were useful to establish view preservation zones. The methodology is divided as follows: a) to organize methods of preservation for the existing view landscape, b) to investigate the illustrations of the Tokyo tower drawn in comics. c) to investigate the actual views of the Tokyo Tower, d) to select landscape's images and important vantage points of the Tokyo

Tower establishing view preservation zones of the Tokyo Tower and, e) to propose methods utilizing the the Tokyo Tower view.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 To organize methods of preservation for the existing view landscape

This study is an investigation on existing efforts in landscape view preservation related to the Diet Building, the State Guest House, the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, the Marunouchi Station Building (Tokyo Landscape Plan), the Yamagata Prefectural Local Museum “Bunshokan” (Yamagata City Landscape Ordinance), the Ono Castle Ruins (Ono City Landscape Plan), Hikone Castle (Hikone City Landscape Plan), Amanohashidate (Miyazu-Amanohashidate Landscape Plan), Himeji Castle (Himeji City Landscape Plan) and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial “Genbaku Dome” (Hiroshima City Landscape Plan).

This study showed how landscape policy maintenance is relevant to raise awareness for the landscape conservation. Thus landscape views are preserved by first targeting an attractive feature that symbolizes the area and stipulating a specific target view that it is desirable to preserve. Then, determining a main vantage point from which the scene is visible and determining the landscape view guiding ranges. In addition, this study revealed that it is necessary in landscape view preservation to clarify a landmark’s charm as the main object of view and to stipulate a specific image of the target landscape.

3.2 To investigate the illustrations of the the Tokyo Tower drawn in comics

This study considers illustrations of the Tokyo Tower drawn in comics. A search was made of comics starting from 1958, when the Tokyo Tower was completed, and 333 panels were collected from 23 works published between 1982 and 2010. In all cases, the Tokyo Tower was expressed as a symbol of Japan, high economic growth, love, social status, hope and loneliness. In addition, these images were characterized by viewpoint changes from looking up at the tower, to looking it directly and finally to looking at it from above. In particular, the study points out that works from the year 2000 included more scenes looking at the Tokyo Tower from above, which is a reflection in comics of the increase in high-rise buildings surrounding the tower. In this way, it was found that vantage points for observation the Tokyo Tower includes : the base of the tower, roads, parks, temples, the seaside, restaurants, aboard ships (ground level), inside trains, highways (elevated), as well as from the sky, rooftops, apartment buildings, hotels, offices, hospitals and restaurants (high-rise), and most of these included drawings of the tower’s main observatory. Furthermore, Tokyo Tower landscapes were divided into eight types: base-view, park-view, temple-view, road-view, highway-view, train-view, seaside-view and aerial-view.

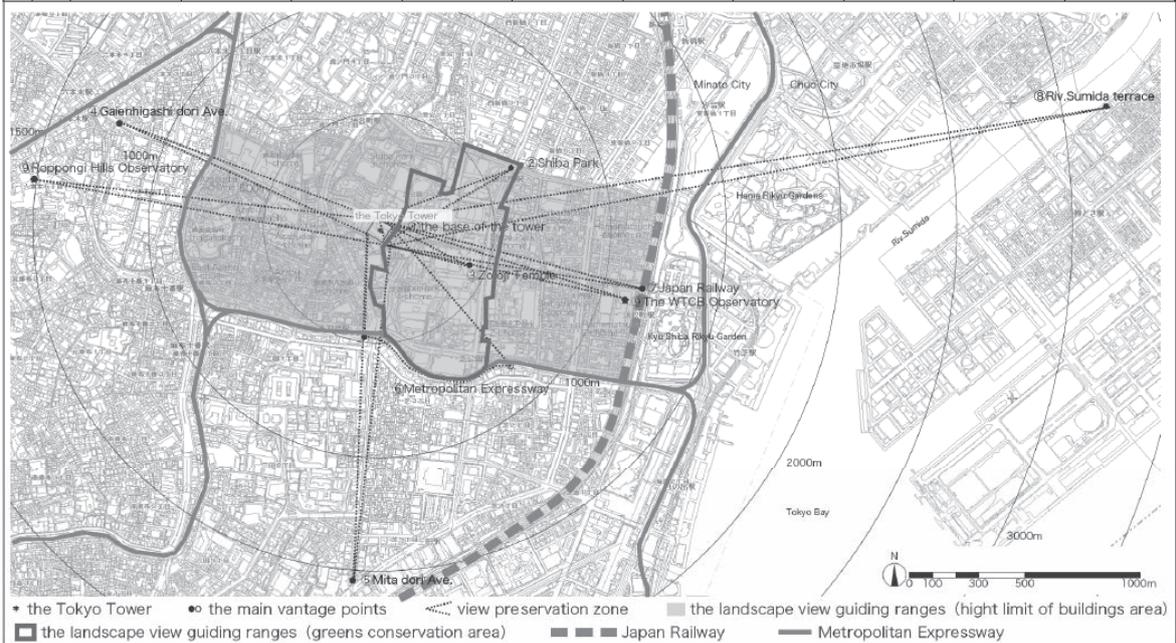
This study hypothesizes these eight types of landscape views are the target landscape images featuring the Tokyo Tower that should be preserved and proposes the formation of specific scenes.

3.3 To investigate the actual views of the Tokyo Tower and to select landscape's images and important vantage points of the Tokyo Tower establishing view preservation zones of the Tokyo Tower

This study established these eight types of landscapes as the target landscape images, and similarly selected the main vantage points from which the scenes are visible based on the results of field studies. The study determined the landscape view guiding ranges for the purpose of preservation and determined the formation of the landscape views. Main vantage points ① ~ ⑩ as well as their target landscapes are indicate in Table 1. View preservation zones were established based on a triangle connecting the main vantage points and both edges of the Tokyo Tower, and a height limitation was established so that landscape views could be obtained as target landscapes. The landscape view guiding ranges were set at approximately 1000m north to south and approximately 500m east to west centered on the Tokyo Tower. These were determined by taking into consideration

Table1 the map of the Tokyo Tower landscapes

types of landscapes	base-view	park-view	temple-view	road-view	highway-view	train-view	seaside-view	aerial-view		
types of landscapes										
the main vantage points	① the base of the tower site Northeast of the Tokyo Tower	② Shiba Park	③ Zojoji Temple	④ Gaerhigashi dori Ave.	⑤ Mita dori Ave.	⑥ Metropolitan Expressway	⑦ Japan Railway	⑧ Riv.Sumida terrace	⑨ Roppongi Hills Observatory	
name of places	site Northeast of the Tokyo Tower	Shiba Park 4 nearby Sta.Onarimon	in front of palace	Roppongi 5-chome intersection	Fudanotsuji intersection	Shiba Park exit and entrance	nearby Sta.Hamamatsucho North exit	nearby Watashi Children's amusement park	Sea Side Top 40 F. 148m high	Tokyo City View 52 F. 218m high
L/L	●lat. 35° 39' 31" N lat. 139° 44' 46" E	●lat. 35° 39' 39" N lat. 139° 45' 3" E	●lat. 35° 39' 26" N lat. 139° 44' 59" E	●lat. 35° 39' 44" N lat. 139° 44' 2" E	●lat. 35° 38' 43" N lat. 139° 44' 39" E	●lat. 35° 39' 17" N lat. 139° 44' 41" E ●lat. 35° 39' 13" N lat. 139° 45' 4" E	●lat. 35° 29' 23" N lat. 139° 45' 26" E	●lat. 35° 39' 48" N lat. 139° 46' 42" E	●lat. 35° 39' 22" N lat. 139° 45' 23" E	●lat. 35° 39' 38" N lat. 139° 43' 45" E
photos										
the target landscape images										
illustrations drawn in comics										
	わたしは真悟 'My name is Shingo' UMEZU Kazuo Vol.1 p.340	美少女戦士セーラームーン 'Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon' TAKEUCHI Naoko Vol.11 pp.230-231	取締役島耕作 'Director Shima Kosaku' HIROKANE Kenshi Vol.4 p.44	東京 BABYLON 'Tokyo BABYLON' CLAMP Vol.1 p.9	名探偵コナン 'Case Closed' AOYAMA Goshō Vol.36 p.186	こ55 難攻堅城の運命を断つ Kochira Katsushika-ku Kam Kieiri Ken-mae Hashutsujo AKIMOTO Osamu Vol.136 p.167	東京探偵団 'Tokyo detective team' HOSONO Fujihiko Vol.3 p.150	はみつとクローバー 'Honey and Clover' UMINO Chica Vol.3 p.86	海月姫 'Princess Jellyfish' HIGASHIMURA Akiko Vol.4 p.170	社長島耕作 'President Shima Kosaku' HIROKANE Kenshi Vol.1 p.174



areas with overlapping view preservation zones and the geographical conditions of the Metropolitan Expressway and JR lines. Height limitations as well as green zone preservation in Shiba Park and Zojoji Temple were also established.

3.4 To propose methods utilizing the Tokyo Tower view

The study offers proposals for making use of the eight types of landscapes including “access routes,” “obvious from vehicle and ships” and “new obvious facilities.” “Access routes” refers to proposals making use of base-views, park-views, temple-views and road-views. This section clearly indicates sites with a good view of the Tokyo Tower, in particular access routes to the Tokyo Tower from nearby stations that pass through main vantage points ① ~ ⑤. “obvious from vehicles and ships” refers to proposals making use of road-views, highway-views, train-views and seaside-views. This section introduces the fixed-route buses that pass through main vantage points ④ and ⑤, the Metropolitan Expressway that passes through ⑥, the JR lines that pass through ⑦ and water transport that passes through ⑧. The result is a proposal for raising awareness of the Tokyo Tower by calling attention to the Tokyo Tower’s visibility from vehicles via on-board announcements, etc. “obvious from new facilities” refers to proposals making use of seaside-views and aerial-views. This section expresses the necessity of flexible policies such as the creation of new public viewing facilities in addition to the main vantage points ① ~ ⑩, as opposed to the creation of a strict policy of banning the construction of buildings that block views of the Tokyo Tower.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Findings showed that it was necessary to select the landscape images, to organize methods of preservation of the landscape planning and references. In addition, it became clear that the attractive points of the Tokyo Tower are due to the richness of the symbol with a lot of views.

Further, it was possible to identify the routes from the nearest stations and the fine vantage points of buses and cruise ships routes; and railroad lines. From the urban perspective, this study should consider a further discussion about flexible policies on providing more vantage points from new buildings to conserve and utilize correctly the Tokyo Tower landscape and its surroundings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Nippon Denpato Ltd. and Minato City, Hiroshima City Manga Library, Yoshihiro Yonezawa Memorial Library of Manga and Subculture. Prof. Igarashi and Prof. Jun Sasamoto, Prof., Toshihiro Hanazato, Assoc. prof. Sari Yamamoto from Tsukuba University and Naoyuki Oi from Kyushu University for their valuable comments and suggestions.

*Address: Dr. Yuka OTAKE, Faculty of Art and Design, University of Tsukuba
1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8574, JAPAN
E-mails: yucca_otake@hotmail.com*