

Compact Site Design, Like a Tiered *Osechi* Serving Box

THIS is probably the easiest way to describe the characteristics of the site design for the 2005 World Exposition, being held in the Nagoya Eastern Hills district of Aichi, Japan. While the elevations in the site vary by 40 meters (the height of a 10-story building) and the main Nagakute site is just 158 hectares (compared to the Shanghai EXPO site of 580 hectares), about half the site is covered in lush green space and ponds, which we decided to preserve.

Since ecologically important flora and fauna inhabit the site, there were various planning requirements to protect this valuable habitat. Using the site planning restrictions to our advantage, our concept for the Global Commons and Global Loop was born from the desire to create a type of site that had never been conceived before.

Based on the notion that the EXPO is just borrowing the site for six months, we wanted to avoid any grandiose development. We



decided to locate the official pavilions of the participating countries on the existing facilities such as athletics track field, baseball ground, soccer pitch and tennis court. The exhibitions of the 120 participating countries and international organizations will be grouped here into six separate Global Common areas.

We also designed an aerial walkway, called the Global Loop, requiring only minimal development to create a barrier-free line of flow circumnavigating the Commons. In this way we designed a site that not only overcame various restrictions, but also resembles a multi-dimensional Japanese walking garden. You could even say that this site is like the traditional stacking boxes used for serving *Osechi Ryori* (Japanese New Year's dishes packed with several layers of enjoyment).

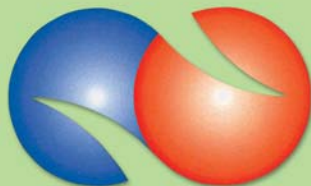
The design for this site strongly reflects the traditional culture of Japan. Unlike the Western urban design of the 20th century that sits in opposition to nature, this site design is a prototype for a city in harmony with nature, based upon the traditions and landscapes of Asia. We hope that this concept can also be adopted for the Shanghai EXPO in 2010. **JS**

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