

Conquering Space

Photos and essay by Sonia Katchian



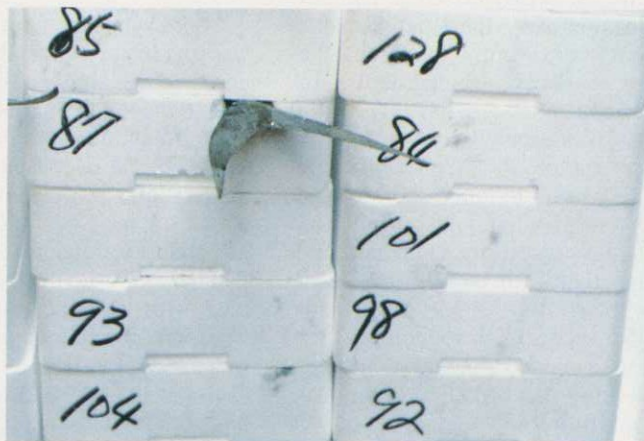
How many angels can stand on the head of a pin? That's how many teenagers seem to converge on the narrow Takeshita Street in Tokyo's fashionable Harajuku district on any given afternoon. Tokyo's space problem is aggravated by the attention the city receives from political, economic and fashion circles worldwide—much to the chagrin of other fine Japanese cities such as Osaka and Kobe, which would love to help relieve Tokyo of its space problem. In a Tokyo suburb, the fight for space rendered this amusing solution for a tree.



The Japanese are experts at minimizing. They minimize their space, their physical needs, even . . . their emotions. Out of a tiny space between two buildings, someone emerges.

Mr. K. Iwaki has conquered the space problem in his own way. He sells cards for use in public telephones out of a space only a little bit larger than a telephone booth itself. Like the hero in *Le Petit Prince* who lived on his own little planet and watered his one flower, Iwaki has his one little plant, his one mini-television, his one foot heater. What else does a person need? ("Some more customers," he answers.)

Sometimes in Tokyo push does come to shove. Some make it in, and others don't.



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