

YES to Adventure

Photos and text by Naoki Mukoda



Japanese are now immersed in a whole life of adventures—both adventures for the senses and adventures for the physical self—taking place in the environs of exciting new architectural structures. One of these new structures—the Tokyo Dome—was depicted in the May/June issue of the *Journal*. There the adventures, both physical and sensual, take the form of concerts, sports events, futuristic exhibitions, trade shows and more.

A new structure such as the Tokyo Dome has a strong aura of permanency about it, and there are similar architectural “adventure sites” outside of Tokyo in the new trade and civic centers that are springing up throughout Japan.

In contrast to these permanent facilities are structures that were built to last only a specific length of time. These are temporary enclosures that can hold large numbers of people and

that attempt to offer a hefty serving of physical and sensual adventure within a set time frame. Expositions are a good example.

The exposition concept has a long and distinguished history, and expositions have been held in almost every corner of the globe to highlight or reinvigorate the host regions.

Japan is on an exposition binge in 1989. Expositions have been planned in 15 different cities. Some have already opened, and some will not open until sometime in the summer or fall, but they all have one thing in common: all are built around some variation on the “our community in the 21st century” theme.

One of the many local expositions being held throughout Japan this year is the Yokohama Exotic Showcase '89 (YES '89). Its theme is “Space and Children,” and this has lent itself to a host of displays and events over the 191-day

period that are designed to appeal to children and to prepare them for life in the next century. In effect, it is today's children who will be tomorrow's leaders, and the exposition, which runs until October, is intended to give them a glimpse of the space-age adventures that await them.

Yokohama is celebrating the 130th anniversary of its opening as an international port and the centennial of its incorporation as a city. For well over a century, Yokohama has been in the forefront—a portal through which Japan opened to the adventure of modern civilization. And now, with the YES '89 exposition as a springboard, Yokohama is readying to vault into the 21st century.

Naoki Mukoda is a photographer and adventurer.

