



Siteplan

Osakitto - Oh Circuit

The downtown area of Osaka - the 'City of Merchants' - has to follow a distinctive strategy in order to match the recent development of global economics. Two aspects are important to attract worldwide enterprises to Kita-Umeda:

- 1.) How to establish an image of openness and optimism?
- 2.) How to spread that particular image all over the globe?

It is important that an image or corporate identity is not disconnected from the cultural and organisational complexity of the city. The aim is to reflect a spirit that extends itself within the city in order to create an identity, which is specific just for Osaka.

We suggest to implant a Formula-1-circuit into the vacant site of the former cargo station. Sports events are extremely popular. A downtown car race in a bursting Asian city would surpass any imagination. The popularity and worldwide recognition of such an event would immediately provide both, the image and its distribution.

Simultaneously, the beautiful shaped circuit would provide a convenient infrastructure that improves the traffic flow within the center of Osaka. The advantage of the one-way circular system compared to the conventional street planning guarantees a smooth flow of traffic. Furthermore, 10% of the total fuel and time consumption could be saved with this proposal.

This proposal employs the rules of a game to the site. By following its strict but simple rules Kita-Umeda could achieve an individuality that is neither ideological nor symbolic or utopian.

Kita Umeda / Osaka

2003, international competition

architects: Schmidt & Kunzemann Architects

Object: urban design proposal for the Northern Osaka
Station Area

gross area: 24 ha

