

JAPAN:

Between Nature and Machine



Water is positioned perfectly at the intersection between our machines for living and the natural environment. We design skins on our buildings that repel water and roof shapes and drains that shed it. We built structures next to, under, and on top of water, and we also create pools to contain water. This mastery of water in all its states can be found in rich building histories in Japan, a country of relatively small landmass ringed by an outsized proportion of coastline (18,486 linear miles divided over 6,852 islands.) This spring travel course will look at the many ways in which water acts as a protagonist in the interplay between our built machines and the environments they are situated within.

Through an itinerary encompassing many of Japan's cultural, historic, and environmental landmarks, the class will investigate water's role in the built environment at a multitude of scales. We'll navigate Tokyo's dense streets to study how water moves through detail and enclosure in the house designs of Sou Fujimoto, Atelier Bow Wow, and others. We'll travel by ferry to the islands of Naoshima, Inujima, and Teshima to experience how water merges with site in museums designed by Tadao Ando and Hiroshi Sambuichi. We'll make a leap in scale to study works that engage water as infrastructure, including the Yokohama Port Terminal by FOA and the legacy of Metabolist proposals in Tokyo Bay. Last but not least, we'll seek out first-hand encounters with water through food, art, recreation, and other facets of culture.



The course will balance contemplative travel with outward-looking engagement. Toward that goal, the class will act as a sort of think-tank through the duration of the trip, visiting design studios, universities, and institutions to discuss ideas around water and its relevance to current cross-cultural debates. We will gather our research through photography, directing the requisite digital documentation of travel into a catalogue of building parts that mitigate water, to be displayed as part of an exhibition in fall 2020.



Spring 2020 3-Credit Travel Course
Instructor: De Peter Yi, Taubman College
Contact/Questions: peteryi@umich.edu

Course and Travel Dates:

5/11/2020 - 6/3/2020 (24 Days Total)
5/05: Ann Arbor Photo Workshop
5/11 - 5/17: Tokyo (7 days)
5/18 - 5/19: Yokohama (2 days)
5/20 - 5/26: Kyoto/Nara (7 days)
5/27 - 5/29: Osaka (3 days)
5/30 - 5/31: Kobe (2 days)
6/01 - 6/02: Naoshima/Teshima (2 days)
6/03: Tokyo / Return to Detroit

Estimated Costs:

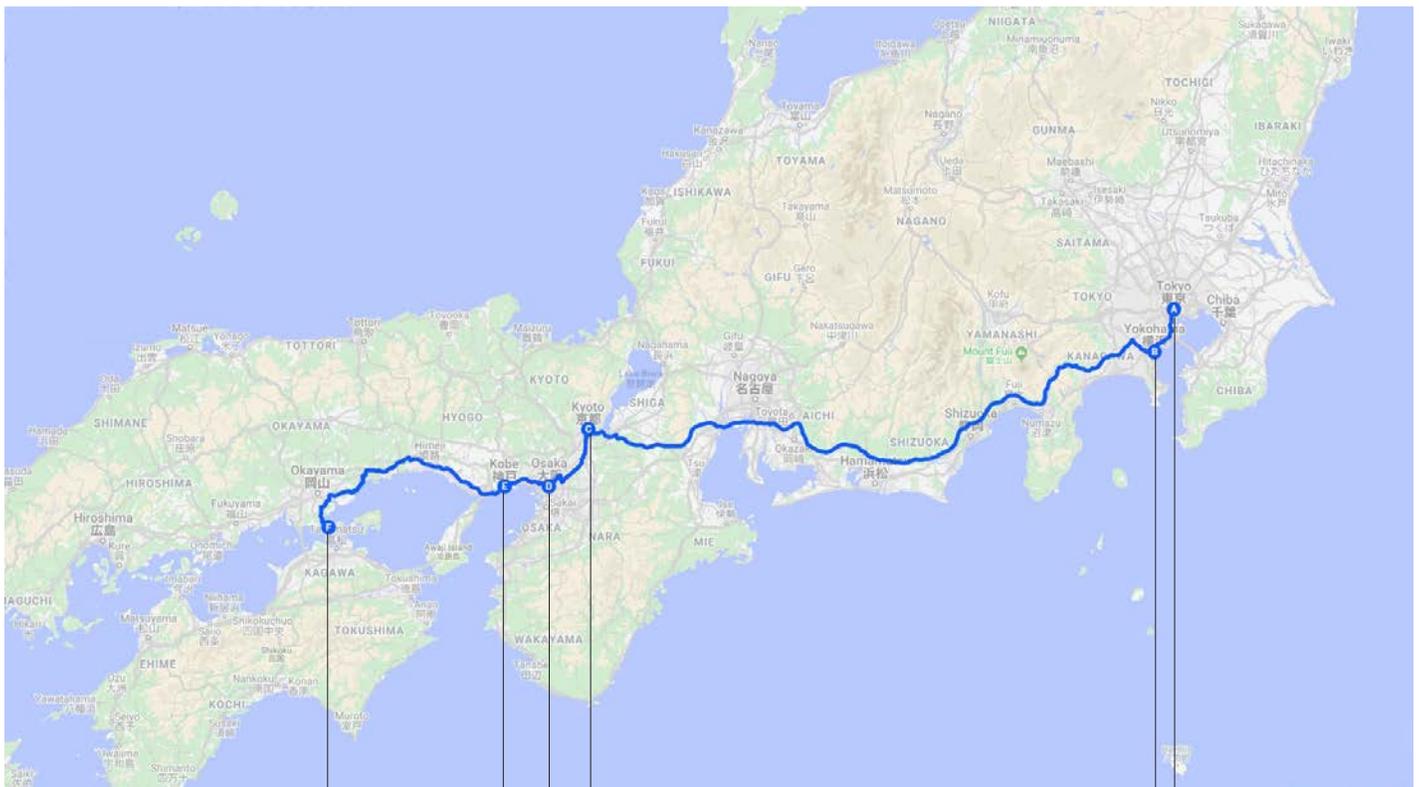
\$3,604 for Travel

(Taubman College students receive a \$1,000 scholarship that brings the travel cost to around \$2,604. Check with your department on scholarships/financial aid.)
Tuition for 3 Credit Course Additional



Japan: Between Nature and Machine

Map of Course Destinations



Segment 3: Island Worlds
Naoshima (1-2 days)
Teshima (1 day)

Segment 2: Cultural Icons
Kyoto (7 days)
Osaka (3 days)
Kobe (2 days)

Segment 1: Endless City
Tokyo (7 days)
Yokohama (2 days)

Japan: Between Nature and Machine

Travel Itinerary and Course Overview

Japan: Between Nature and Machine encompasses six distinct destinations over a range of 500 miles across Japan's main island. **Departing from Detroit** and arriving in Japan (flights range from 13 hours nonstop to 20 hours long with connections), we'll start with a full week exploring **Tokyo's** endless cityscape, cultural offerings, and iconic architectural works. On our way by high speed rail out of Tokyo we will stop by the port city of **Yokohama**, before arriving in the former capital of the country, **Kyoto**, which served as the seat of Japan's imperial court for eleven centuries and is full of temples and palaces. Next we will visit the cities of **Osaka** and **Kobe**, two dynamic cities offering their own take on the meeting point of modernity and tradition. To round out the trip, we will recharge on the art islands of **Naoshima** and **Teshima**. This itinerary provides an idea of the overall schedule, as well as a sampling of the buildings/sites we will see.

*Students have the option of returning to the U.S. via Tokyo at the conclusion of the course on 6/3, or staying on to travel within Japan or elsewhere in Asia on their own. The opening ceremony for

Prior to Departure (5/5)

This course will foreground the use of photography as a documentation and design tool. We will kick off the course with a photography and trip-planning workshop in Ann Arbor, while continuing to practice and test out techniques throughout the duration of the trip. We will also discuss methodologies for documenting what we see in anticipation for the final output for the course - a visual catalogue of building parts that use water as the medium to negotiate between nature and machine.



Printed booklet from 2019 travel course to Europe.

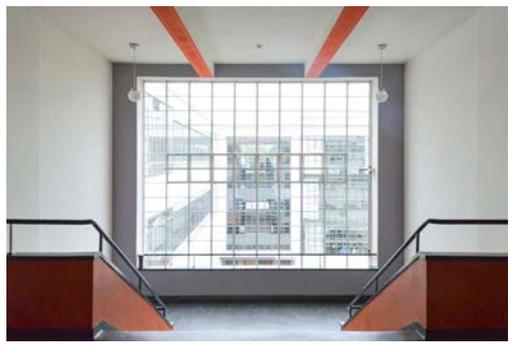
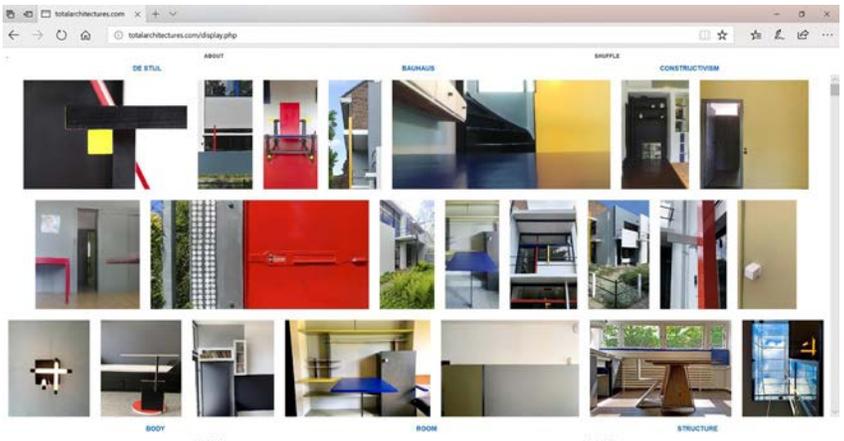


Photo by Natalie Fox from 2019 travel course



Photography workshop in Ann Arbor



Class photography website from 2019 travel course to Europe. (visit www.totalarchitectures.com)

Segment One: Endless City

In the first segment of the course, we will immerse ourselves in the megacity of Tokyo and the nearby port city of Yokohama. Here, we will explore how water looms as a driver of design and innovation even in a seemingly endless artificial cityscape. We'll study how Tokyo's early development was driven by its relation to the Tokyo bay, and how it became the setting for utopian thinking in the Metabolist movement of the 1960's, that continues to have ripple effects for the new generation of architects working in Japan today.

Travel to Japan is visa-free for U.S. citizens for 90 days. You will need a valid (not expired) passport

Tokyo (5/11 - 5/17)

As the most populous city in Japan and a global center for entertainment, cultural production, and cuisine, Tokyo serves as the ideal starting point to get us started in our travels and research. We will spend a full week sampling historic sites alongside modern hubs, and the city's unique urban fabric of interlinked streets, which has given rise to architecture both grand and miniature in scale, but never short of design ambition.



Shinjuku



Imperial Palace

Tokyo is home to the **2020 Summer Olympics**, with the opening ceremony scheduled for July 24. We'll take advantage of the major preparations that the city has made to accommodate travelers from around the world. We'll tour new sports venues that have been constructed for the Olympics, including Kengo Kuma's wood-clad National Stadium.



Tokyo cityscape with the Tokyo Tower in foreground



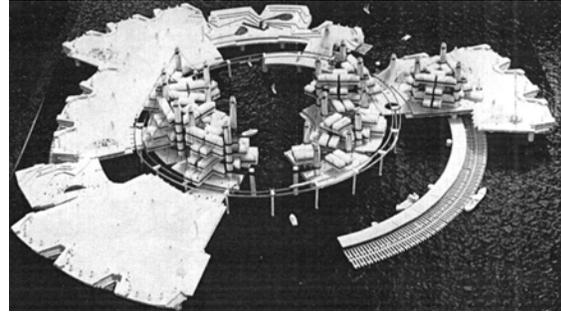
National Stadium, Kengo Kuma



Tokyo has a highly celebrated and diverse food culture

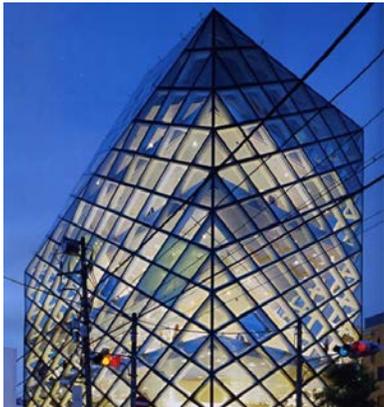


Plan for Tokyo, Kenzo Tange



Marine City, Kiyonori Kikutake

Much of Tokyo's forward-thinking architecture finds its roots in the **Metabolist** group's bold utopian visions for the future. We'll take a particularly close look at the idea of flexible structures that accommodate a range of uses.



Prada Tokyo, Herzog de Meuron



Nakagin Capsule Tower, Kisho Kurokawa



Tokyo Skytree, Nikken Sekkei



Fuji TV Headquarters, Kenzo Tange



House NA, Sou Fujimoto



On the Cherry Blossom, ALX

Tokyo is also known for its many **unique houses** catering to individualistic sensibilities. We will explore these more intimately scaled neighborhoods to understand Japanese culture and design through the lens of residential architecture, and visit some of the offices that built them.



Junya Ishigami office



Tokyo Apartments, Sou Fujimoto



Tama University Library, Toyo Ito



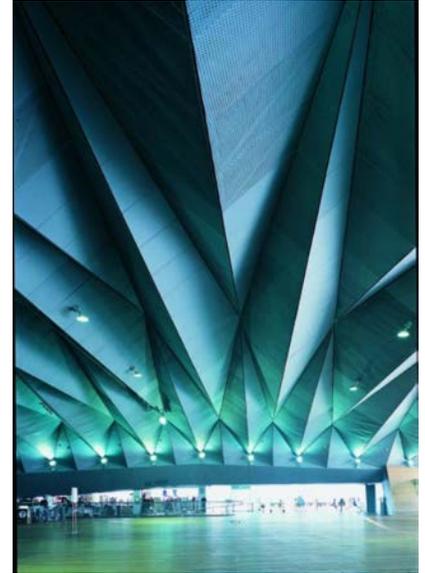
House and Atelier, Atelier Bow Wow

Yokohama (5/18 - 5/19)

A one-hour train ride from Tokyo, Yokohama developed as Japan's leading port city following the country's embrace of modernity in the 19th century. We will visit some of the incredible infrastructural works at its waterfront, including the iconic Yokohama Port Terminal, which effortlessly weaves together large-scale transportation with topographical surfaces encouraging human inhabitation.



Yokohama seafront with port terminal in foreground



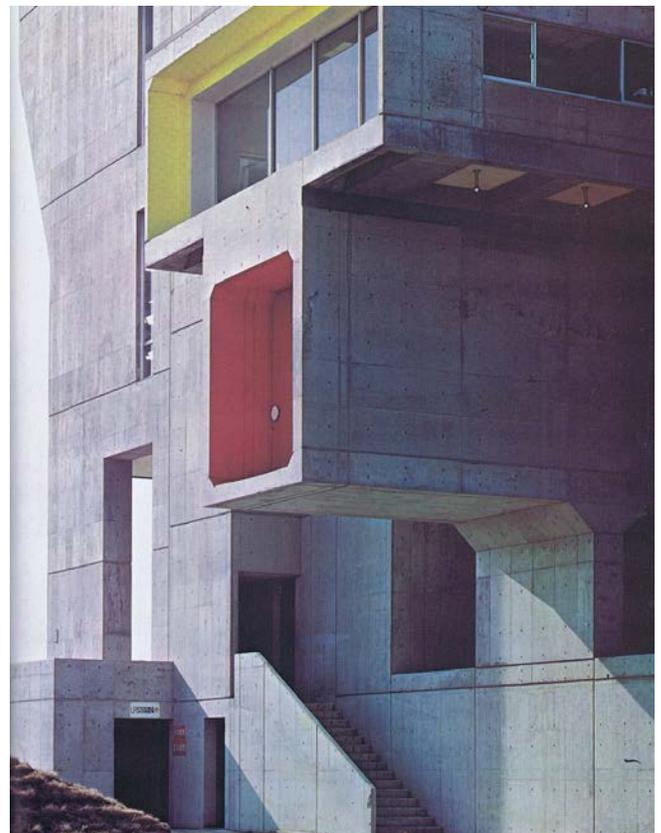
Yokohama Port Terminal, FOA



Minato Mirai in Yokohama



Yokohama Port Terminal, FOA



Olivetti Technical Centre and Warehouse, Kenzo Tange

Segment Two: Cultural Icons

The second segment of the course will be anchored by Japan's cultural capital, Kyoto. A perfect counterpoint to Tokyo's dynamic embrace of the future, Kyoto will allow us to understand many aspects of Japan's traditional culture at a slower pace, as well as continuing to research how water played significant symbolic and functional roles in religion, leisure, and livelihoods. Following a seven day stay in Kyoto, we will stop in the cities of Osaka and Kobe, each with their own unique mix of modernism and tradition, city and nature.

Kyoto (5/20 - 5/26)

As the seat of Japan's imperial court from 794 to 1869, Kyoto represents the epitome of many aspects of Japan's traditional culture. We will settle into the city's beautiful cityscape, and explore the many palaces, gardens, Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, many of which are built around or next to water. Kyoto has **17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, one of the world's largest in one city. We will take full advantage of our seven days there to see as much as we can while taking time to enjoy our travels at a more leisurely pace, including indulging in a tea ceremony to experience water at a more personal scale.



Kyoto with Yasaka Pagoda in center



Philosopher's path



Byodo-in Buddhist temple



Traditional tea ceremony



Kinkakuji Temple



Oyamazaki Villa Museum, Tadao Ando



Fushimi Inari Shrine



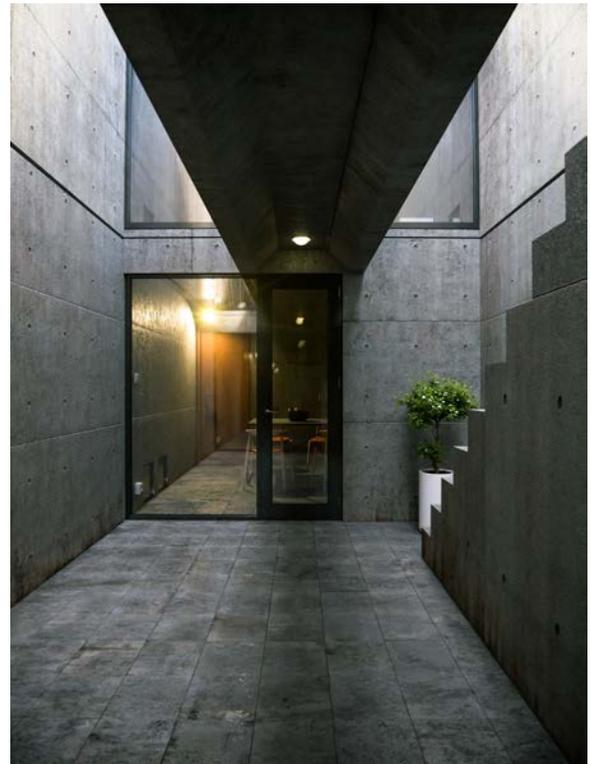
Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

Osaka (5/27 - 5/29)

A one-hour train ride from Kyoto, Osaka is known for its astounding diversity of architectures, being home to Tadao Ando's office and several of his iconic works, the magnificent Osaka castle, as well as the Umeda Sky Building with its floating escalators at 500 feet in the air.



Church of Light, Tadao Ando



Azuma House, Tadao Ando



Dotonbori district, Osaka



Osaka Castle



Umeda Sky Building

Kobe (5/30 - 5/31)

Another dynamic port city, Kobe is also home to the **Arima Onsen**, a famous hot spring town at the foot of Mount Rokko, uniquely positioned between the man-made cityscape and nature. We'll have the opportunity to experience Japan's hot spring tradition firsthand with a visit to one of the many public bath houses.



Kobe Port Tower



Arima Onsen (Hot Springs)



Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum

Segment Three: Island Worlds

The last segment of the course will find us island-hopping in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. The islands of Naoshima and Teshima - a completely different world from our point of departure in Tokyo three weeks earlier - will provide the ideal setting for us to unwind while marveling at some of the most poetic built works and sculptures we will see on our travels - all of which will be framed by the sea looming nearby.

Naoshima (6/1-6/2)

Known as Japan's art island, Naoshima is home to museums, galleries, installations, and sculptures, all nestled amongst traditional fishing villages and beaches. One of the highlights is Chichu Art Museum, built directly into the island landscape and using only natural light to illuminate many of the galleries, changing their perception as the sun moves through the course of a day.



The artist Yayoi Kusama created a number of works on Naoshima Island



Benesse House Museum, Tadao Ando



Above, one of Naoshima's beaches

Below, Chichu Art Museum by Tadao Ando, integrated within the natural landscape





Naoshima Ferry Terminal, SANAA



Cloud Pavilion, SANAA

Teshima (6/2 - 6/3)

A 20-minute ferry ride away from Naoshima, Teshima is home to the ethereal Teshima Art Museum, home to a single work of art by Rei Naito that incorporates moving water droplets.



Teshima Art Museum, Ryue Nishizawa



Traditional Japanese home for rent on Teshima



Teshima rice fields



Teshima Art Museum, Ryue Nishizawa and Sei Naito

Take your travels further...

After our travels conclude on the islands of Naoshima and Teshima, you may return to Detroit via Tokyo, or take advantage of being in Japan to travel further. Hiroshima, with its famous floating Itsukushima shrine and the sobering Hiroshima peace memorial marking the site of the atomic bomb blast, is just a 2-hour train ride further south.



Itsukushima shrine



Hiroshima peace memorial

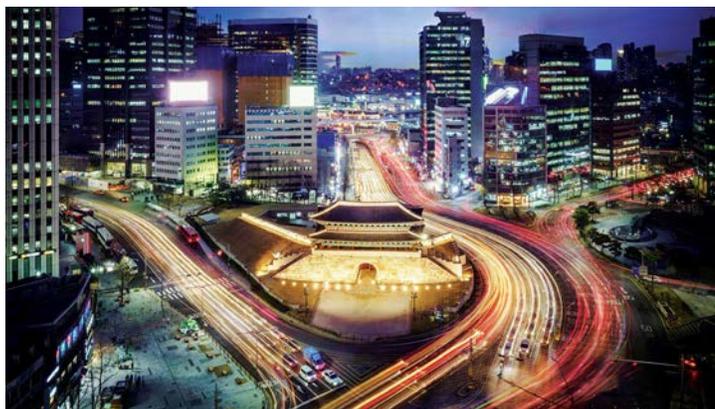


Chubusangaku National Park, a 3-hour train ride from Tokyo



Mount Fuji can be viewed while traveling between Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kyoto. Various tour companies offer guided visits to the mountain.

Feeling adventurous? Seoul is a two and half hour flight away...



Namdaemun, one of Seoul's eight historical gates



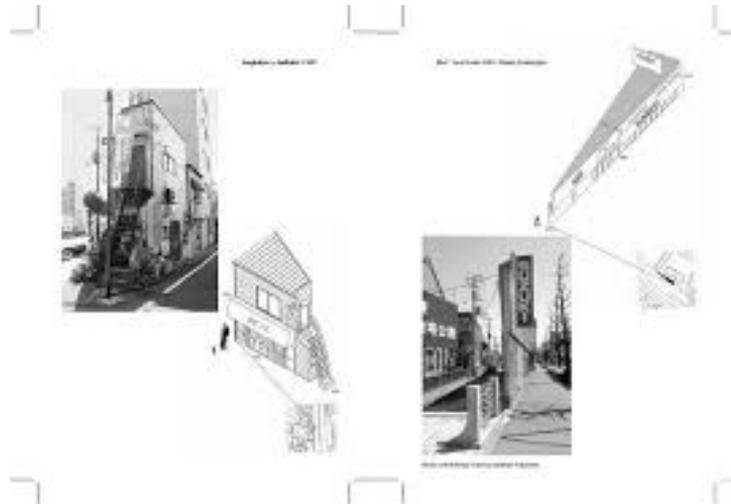
Gwangjang Market, a feast for all senses

...and the rest of Asia is within reach. Some flight times from Tokyo listed below:

Shanghai (3.5 hours) ; Beijing (4 hours) ; Taipei (4 hours) ; Hanoi (6.5 hours) ; Bangkok (7 hours)

A Note on Research Output

One of the best aspects of traveling is being able to experience firsthand what you're learning as a group. We'll take advantage of this experience to discuss and share as a think tank over the course of our 24 days together. The final output of the course, to be completed upon return, will take the form of a printed catalogue guidebook featuring photographs from the trip, simple drawings, and descriptive text.



Pet Architecture Guide Book from Atelier Bow Wow documents the small-scaled structures of Tokyo



Building Subjects authored by De Peter Yi with Normal, Some All None, imagines new possibilities out of vernacular housing



Atlas of Forms by Eric Tabuchi is a visual feast - the only words in the entire book is the title