

LEGACY:

馬が合う

umaga au (*japanese idiom*)

project description

I will be redesigning the venue for equestrian sports, Baji Koen Park located in Tokyo's Setagaya Ward, to serve the post-Olympic city of 2020 and beyond. The Olympic Committee has proposed legacy plans for the sites, but mainly they involve re-using the venues for their intended sports. I hope to take this a step further by making the sport and horses more accessible.

“To meet a horse”. This Japanese idiom means “to get along”, and thus I hope to strengthen the relationship between Baji Koen Park, its equine residents, and the residents of Setagaya.

My main intervention is to make the park boundaries more porous and increase the possibilities of passing through and viewing the park using a system of paths and bridges. This will increase movement through the park, and allow visitors visual and aural contact with horses.

My second intervention is to implement programmes that allow the users to take ownership of the park, through community gardens that can serve the Setagaya residents, students of the adjacent Agricultural University, and visitors. These agricultural areas will overlap with the equestrian facilities.

I also propose to implement programmes where people (in particular children, students and the handicapped) can care for and ride horses in a therapeutic and educational context.



Annabel Lee



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umaga au (*japanese idiom*)

direct translation: to meet a horse
meaning: to get along

diploma programme
BAS 2019
Annabel Lee

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introduction

The Tokyo Olympics in 2020 is coming up, and as of February 2019 most of the venues are near completion. Plans for reuse post-Games exist, but the main intention is to continue using the venues to host the sports for which they were intended.

I will be using the venue for equestrian sports, Baji Koen Park located in Setagaya Ward, to serve the “post-event city”. The site will be repurposed and accommodate various recreational, educational and agricultural needs for the community around the site after the Games. Most importantly, the open spaces and parks will be reopened for the public. The existing boundaries between humans and horses will be reduced. I hope to implement changes that will positively affect the use of and movement through Baji Koen.

social anthropology

As I was writing the Social Anthropology essay in the early stages of the Diploma, I intended to design the actual equestrian facilities for the Olympics in Tokyo 2020 or the Asian Games in Guangzhou 2022. After research into both of these Games and a site visit to Tokyo in February I decided to focus purely on the legacy, post-event use of the site.

Through readings done for Social Anthropology, I was able to learn more about the importance of human-animal relationships, in particular human-horse. In recent years, horses are viewed as partners in a luxury lifestyle and exclusive sports. My original project title was “The Sport of Kings?”, that proposed to question the exclusivity associated with equestrianism, and to indicate my intent on reducing this barrier of exclusivity in my site.

Historically, horses have been partners in battle, travel and pastoral life for many people throughout the world. East Asian cultures in particular have a strong horse connection, and groups such as Mongolian nomads still are dependent on their equine partners in work and home life today.

While horses are not mainly needed as battle partners in today’s world, there is nonetheless mutual benefit in creating and maintaining human-horse relationships. I was able to find an empirical study that concluded that interacting with and taking care of horses had a positive impact on students’ empathy, self-confidence and communication skills in all aspects of life. I hope that access to horses both visually, aurally and through physical touch and interaction can provide the same benefits to the Baji Koen Park users and Setagaya residents.



proposed method framework

1/2019

- Social Anthropology essay

2/2019

- Case studies and research
- Site visit
- Site selection: Tokyo

3/2019

- Concept exploration
- Site analysis

4/2019

- Concept development

5/2019

- Concept finalisation
- Final reviews

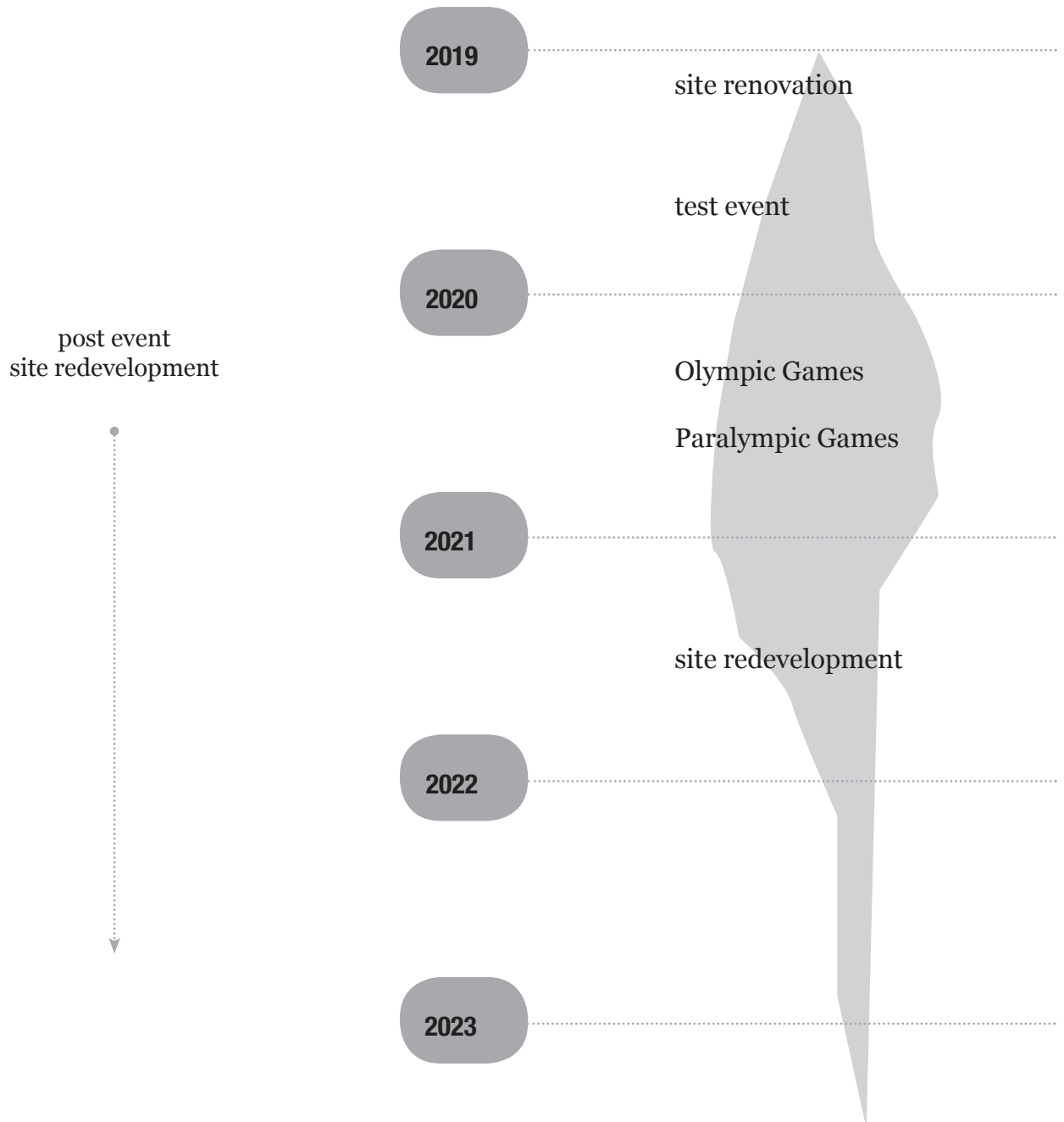
6/2019

- Final production
- Exhibition
- Examination

timeline

diploma project
time frame

actual timeline for
Tokyo Olympics 2020



Tokyo Olympics, 2020



Tokyo Metropolis is Japan's capital and has a population of nearly 14 million people. It was the first Asian country to host the Olympic Games in 1964, and will be hosting the Olympiad once again in 2020. There are 33 venues for the 2020 Games, of which 11 will be constructed. The equestrian games will be held at the existing Baji Koen Equestrian Park with upgrades.

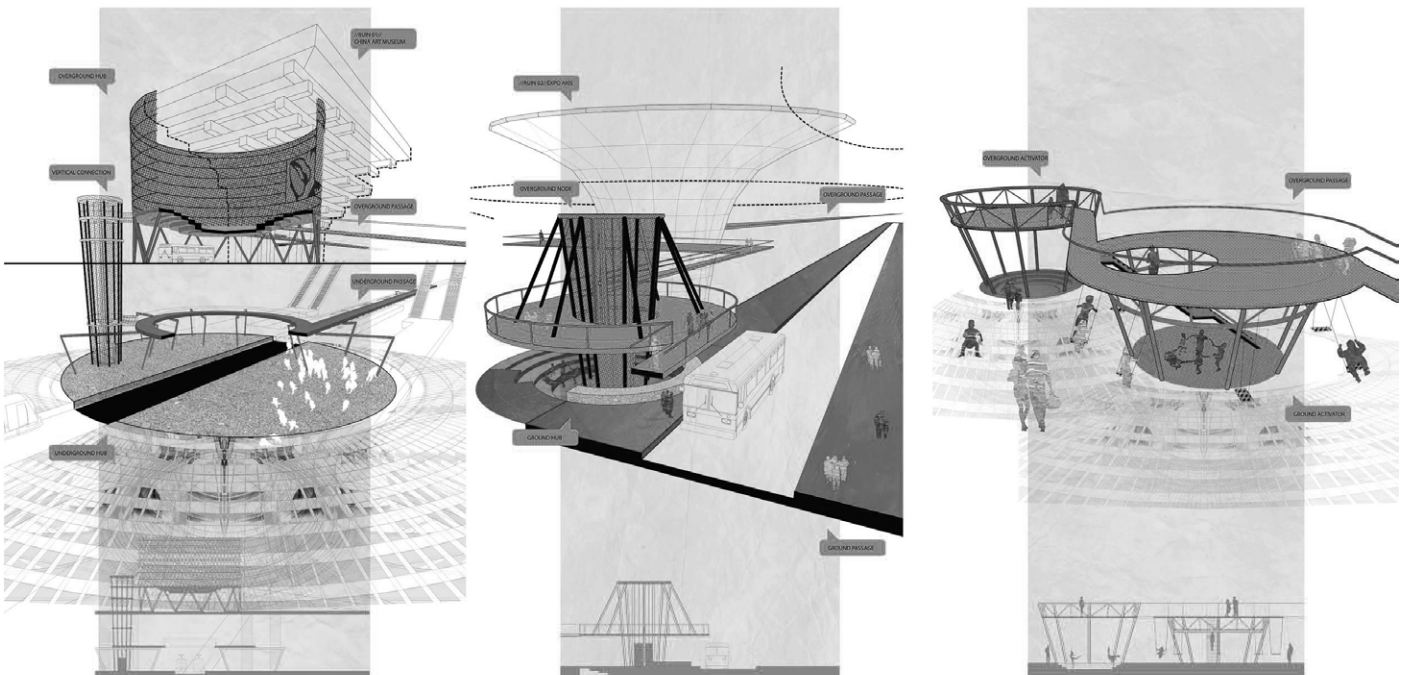


baji koen
equestrian park

programme: post-games

I will be using the Games facilities to serve the “post-event city”. Many of the buildings will be repurposed to accommodate recreational needs for the community around the site after the Games. Most importantly, the open spaces and parks will be reopened for the public. I hope to implement changes that will positively affect the use of and movement through Baiji Koen.

There is a lot of housing necessary for the Games, both for humans and horses. These can be reused and reconstructed to suit the needs of future residents and users. There are existing plans for improving the infrastructure supporting the Games, and this may also increase the flow of people to the areas where venues are planned or built.



Knitting Shanghai: A manifesto on post-event cities.
Knitknot Architecture, 2014.

programme: post-games

I intend to keep the core equestrian facilities in order to provide the community an opportunity to experience equine contact. These facilities can be used for therapeutic riding or horse care. In a hyper-urban city where citizens rarely have contact with animals (apart from in a cat, owl or even goat cafes where customers pay for the company of animals), the opportunity to see, smell and touch these large and gentle animals is sure to be a unique and popular feature.

Some of the larger open areas, such as the arenas, can be used for other public use, such as sports, parks or agriculture. The latter is particularly important to the connection with Tokyo Agricultural University located just north of the site, as well as with other users from the neighbourhood. I hope this will also contribute to a reciprocal relationship where horse waste can be reused in crop fertilisation.

Horses are interwoven deeply into the history of Japan, with influence from China and Mongolian nomadic horsemen. However, today, horses are rarely a part of everyday life for most people. I hope creating a unique opportunity for equine contact will have a positive effect especially on groups such as students and handicapped people.



*Man and horse in front of
Mount Fuji.*

Seibei Kajima, ca 1880s.

context: games programme

There are many facilities required for the equestrian sports. I plan to reuse these facilities and the spaces surrounding them to create a space usable by more of the community members.

Within the equestrian sport, athletes compete in one of three disciplines: show jumping, dressage or eventing. These facilities have specific dimensions and qualities depending on their function and which branch of the sport they are used for. In addition to the competition arenas, there are many facilities needed by both the athletes and supporting team members, and facilities for the public.

Competition stadium

- Multi purpose arena for show jumping and dressage events
- Cross country course on grass terrain
- Grandstand for public

Training facilities

- Warm-up arenas
- Training arenas
- Horse fitness machines
- Veterinary clinic
- Storage for horse feed and equipment
- Green park areas for relaxation and exercise

Living areas

- Horse stables
- Athletes' village
- Residences for staff; athlete support team, stadium employees and volunteers, international adjudicators and juries

Public facilities

- Grandstand
- Parking and transport links

Stables by Seth Stein Architects and Watson Architecture + Design.
Lisbeth Grossman, 2014

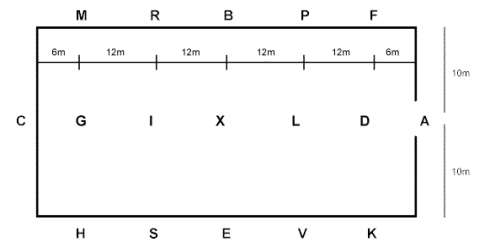


context: games programme



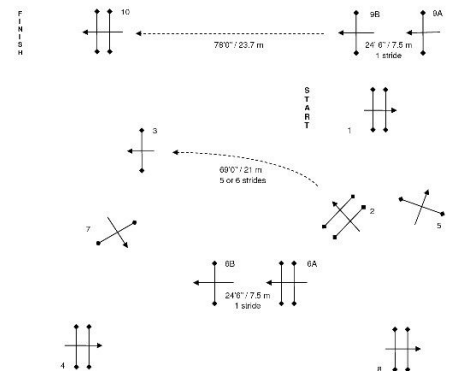
dressage

Athletes memorise a series of movements and patterns performed with or without music. They are evaluated upon the precision and quality of the execution of these movements.



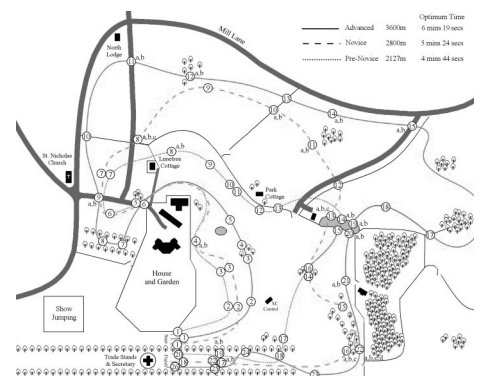
show-jumping

Athletes must complete a series of jumps within a maximum time frame without knocking any obstacles. The order of the course is memorised just prior to competing.



eventing

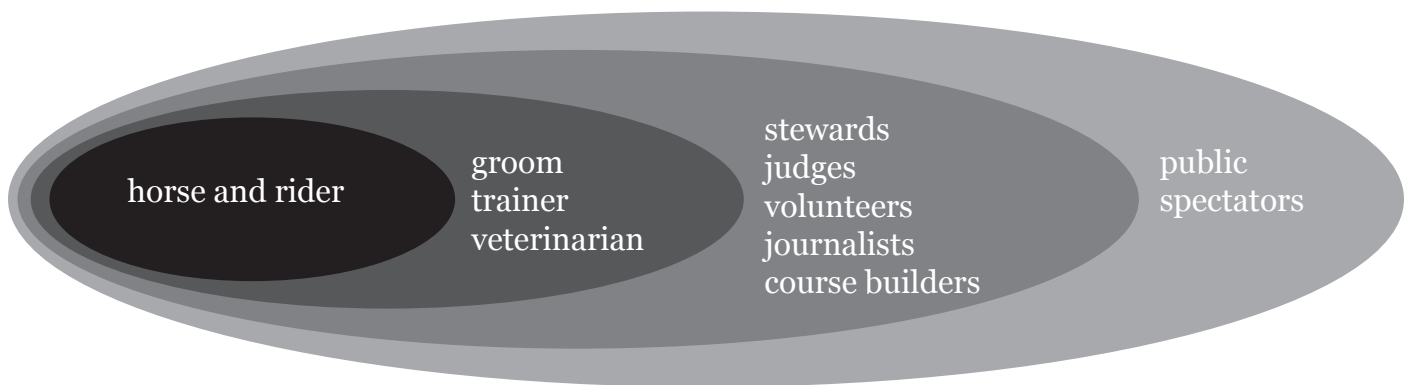
Three phased discipline that includes show-jumping and dressage at a lower level and a cross country phase where a course of solid, outdoor jumps is completed at high speed.



context: private vs. public

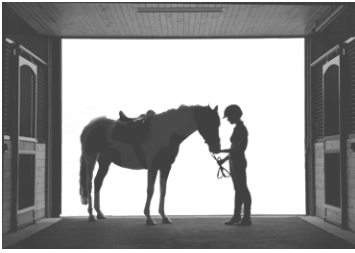
To compete at the highest levels, the horse and rider must form a close bond of mutual trust that takes many years to establish and maintain. This is the most important relationship in equestrian sports.

Equestrian tournaments require a large number of individuals to adjudicate and ensure that the event runs smoothly. They have more access than the public, but no private relationship to athletes.

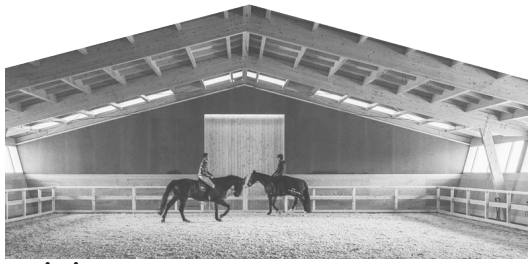


The groom (horse carer), trainer, and veterinarian provide support functions that are imperative for success and health in the equestrian sports, though they are secondary to the rider.

Members of the public create an atmosphere and generate an income for show organisers. Many shows also have vendors and concession stands to entertain spectators between events. They only have visual, not physical, contact with athletes.



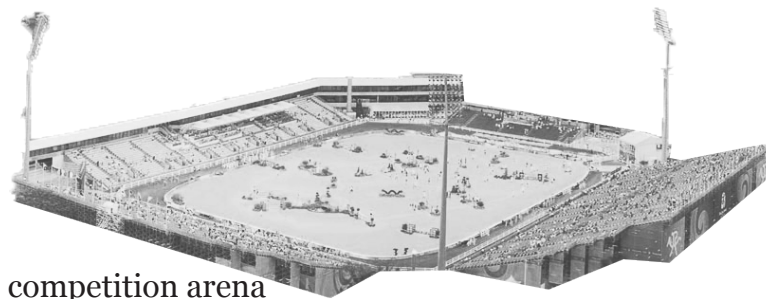
stables



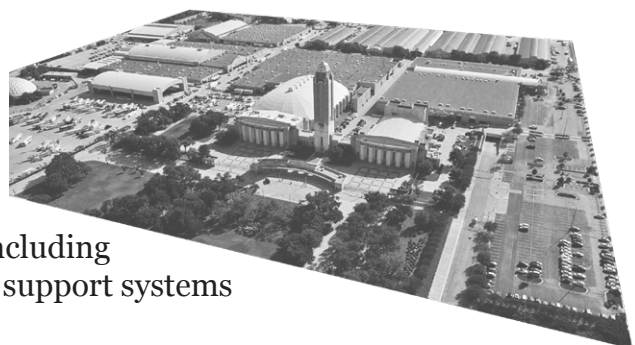
training arena



stable and training complex



competition arena



showground area including transport links and support systems

micro

mezzo

macro

case studies

	<i>venue</i>	<i>games</i>	<i>post-games use</i>
2008	Shatin Racecourse, Hong Kong <i>renovation of existing facility</i>	Beijing Olympics	Racecourse and public park
2010	Guangzhou Equestrian Venue, Guangzhou <i>new build</i>	Guangzhou Asian Games	Conghua Racecourse, owned by HKJC
2012	Greenwich Park, London <i>temporary venue constructed</i>	London Olympics	Public park and observatory
2016	National Equestrian Centre, Rio de Janeiro <i>renovation of existing facility</i>	Rio Olympics	Training facility and future venue for Military Games
2018	Jakarta International Equestrian Park, Jakarta <i>renovation of existing facility</i>	Jakarta Asian Games	Venue for conferences, meetings and exhibitions