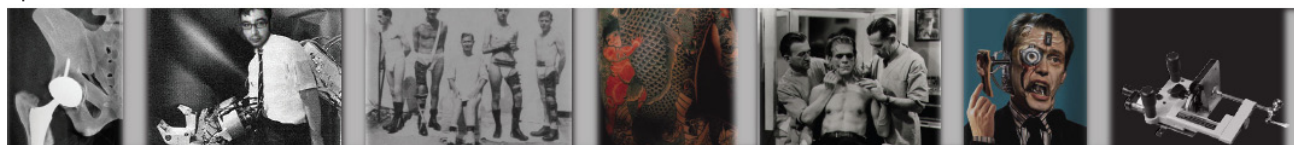


Re-imagining the Local: Shimokitazawa

SUMA PANDHI

_prosthesis



From Frankenstein, to the bionic man, and to the typical knee replacement, the idea of the prosthetic is not only part of medical jargon, but also a part of our daily dose of pop culture. Prosthetic operates at different scales-tattoo to hip to ear-ring to smell. However, there are different applications for this word. Architect and theorist, Mark Wigley, describes the prosthesis as a concept as

“always already architectural. Grafted onto repair some kind of structural flaw, it is a foreign element that reconstructs that which cannot stand up on its own, at once propping up and extending its host. The prosthesis is always structural, establishing the place it appears to be added to.” However, the project works to move beyond prosthesis as a structural ally, and as a working method.

_urban condition + prosthesis



deteriorated knee and knee replacement
growth of shimokitazawa over fifty years

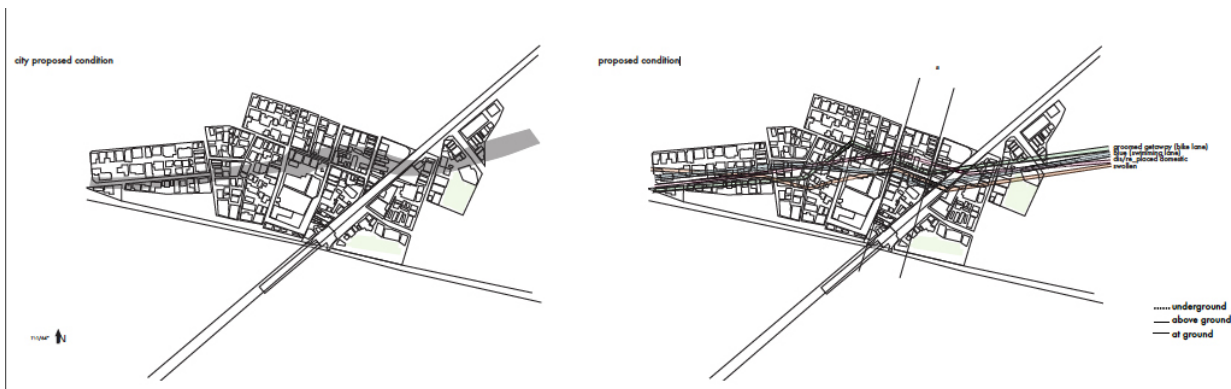
The project begins with the analogy of surgery and the insertion of the prosthetic, its approach to treat a “diseased” or underperforming condition, its marking of the site, decision to cut and create both void and non void spaces, coupled with the awareness that up until this point, every other treatment has been given, and no other option exists but sur-

gery. Without it, the diseased urban condition will continue, leading to a general deterioration. With the prosthesis, the diseased condition is alleviated and the human body, performs better than it could have ever without it. So what are its possibilities in architecture beyond the structural ally?



Shimokitazawa, Shimokita, or kita, known by its residents is located in Tokyo, Japan is a densely populated urban neighborhood. Known for its tight arterial streets ripe with young designers, fashion, and music, it is the place to go in Tokyo if you want to know the next big thing. Since the 1800s this area has quadrupled in size.

The current government solution is to introduce a 6-lane highway that effectively destroys the neighborhood itself, and has consequently met heavy resistance by the residents. However, the acceptance of the freeway as similar to the body's acceptance as a prosthetic, suggests alternative possibilities.



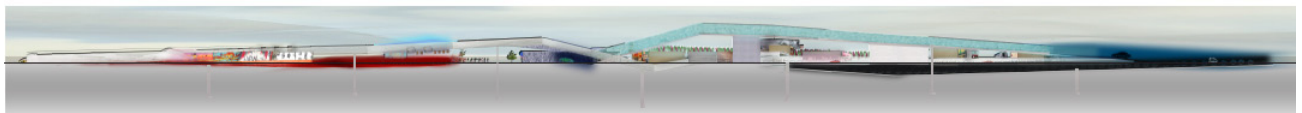
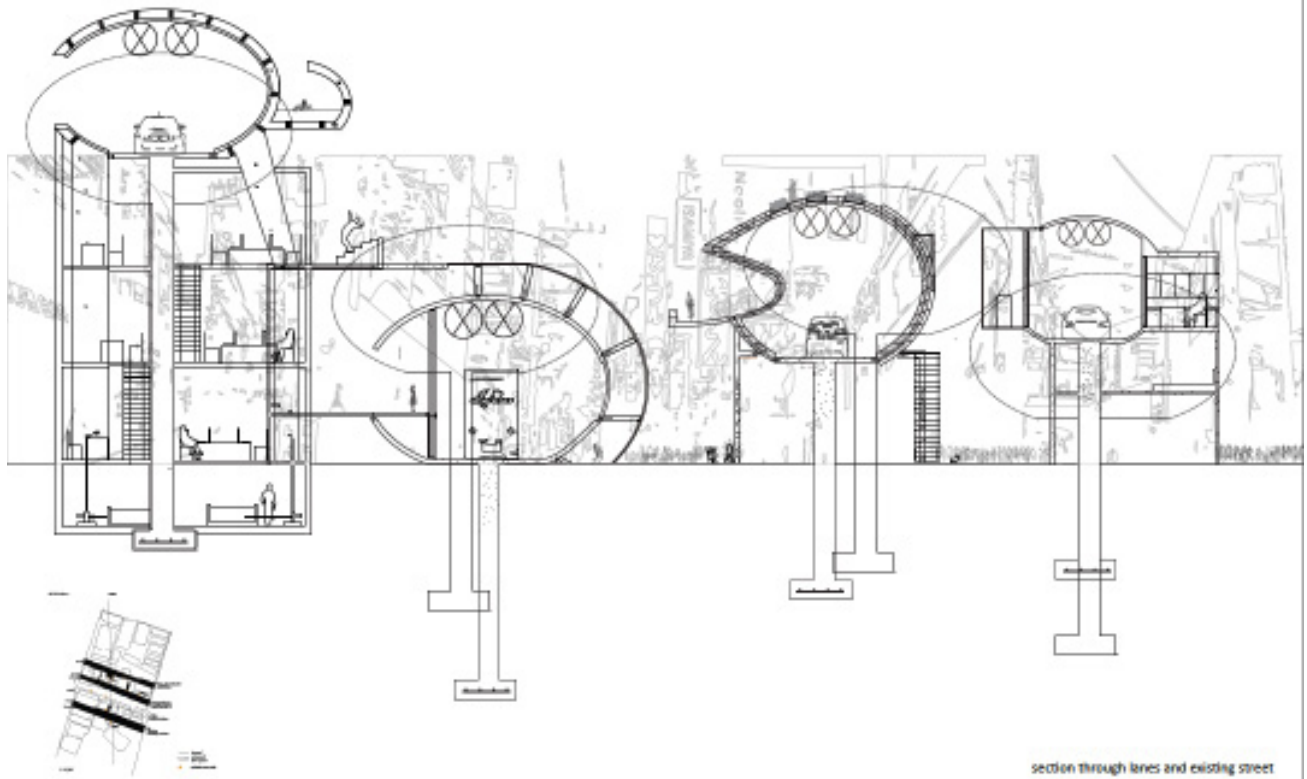
The project accepts the government proposed freeway, but then attempts to subvert its role as a megastructure within the development of two systems: 1. the existing built space 2. the freeway that relentlessly preserves and enhances the original, local street life of shimo.

The freeway is broken up into four lanes that run through the existing buildings with the unending desire to maintain the existing street section.

They are curated under four themes: blue (as an attached mood or color to the body post surgery), dis_replaced domestic (displacing something original when a new object is introduced to an environment), groomed getaway (scents or tattoos as enhanced attachments), and swollen (the physical

affect of cutting and moving). These themes are not a direct one to one translation of prosthesis and architecture, but rather a suggestion for the experiences that result upon the introduction of an entirely separate system that seeks to be part of a local condition, only to make it better.

Per these themes, specific design drivers became part of the freeway/neighborhood juxtaposition: fast/slow, above ground, underground, at ground, inside/outside, private/public, additive/subtractive, move/rest, work/play, and vehicle/pedestrian to allow for nuanced, localized experiences of two separate systems at play that enable the prosthesis to operate at different scales.



longitudinal elevation

Time: 1 pm
Speed: 32 kph
location: driving in groomed
getaway lane



Time: 5 pm
Speed: 10 kph
location: pedestrian street outside of
swollen lane



Time: 6 am
Speed: 40 kph
location: swimmer in the
blue lane

