

# UC Berkeley

## Places

### Title

Technology for People [International Concept Design Competition for an Advanced Information City -- Five Proposals for Kawasaki, Japan]

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Peter Droege and his team base their “Campus City Guide” on the notion that a “purposeful transparency” of city networks and facilities should be introduced, to prepare for a new city identity. They argue that the future would best be pursued through a strong commitment to a flexible process of physical and social community building, pursuing viable traces of the past and opportunities posed by current trends. The citizens of Kawasaki, rather than merely accepting technological innovations, are to collaborate in planning their evolution and introduction. The four competition themes are responded to in discrete concepts.

The first, Kawasaki Institute of Technology (KIT), is seen as a twenty-first-century version of Thoreau’s cosmopolitan village vision and the open university tutorial system. An Intelligent City Map (InfoMap) of today’s individual and institutional resources is to be the first KIT catalogue and serves as the early sketch of an evolving city-wide learning network, exploring new directions in intellectual, spiritual, and sensory realms. For the second theme, entitled “Intelligent Places,” the author proposes an urban “information vernacular.” It aims at programming the growth of information networks to

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rebuild the physical fabric of the city. “Castles,” “gardens,” and “fountains” become metaphors for centrally prominent, neighborhood-based and streetside places. Four major train stations, exchange nodes with supraregional lines, are presented as new communication nodes above the tracks, multiuse city gates, and invigorated district centers. Ideas for mobile, wearable, and domestic elements are presented to raise questions and stimulate discussion. Thirty kilometers of river edge are to be rebuilt as the city’s lungs and “green antenna,” a world of smart victory gardens, leisure lands, and advanced agricultural research stations. The third theme describes a “City of Festivals,” based on the community-affirming nature of celebrations. A festive network is presented as means of community organization and a communication medium with the world. Several initial themes are suggested: language and sky events, or a world exposition where the city itself and its learning network would be on display. Finally, a strategy for the management of network access and participation is outlined, and prototype test environments are proposed as vehicles for evolutionary change, to generate ideas and check against civic values.



