Community Information Paper

No.55 September 2021

Translated/Issued by Azabu Regional City Office Edited by **the Azabu** Editing Office 5-16-45 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8515 Tel: 03-5114-8812 Fax: 03-3583-3782

Please contact "Minato Call" for inquiries regarding Residents' Life Support. Tel: 03-5472-3710

A community information paper created and edited by people who live in Azabu.

Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 26 MAXPLAN AZABU10 Building, A New Landmark on the Corner

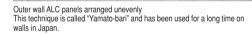
of Ichinohashi Crossing

Along Azabu-Dori Avenue, at the corner of Ichinohashi Crossing, a remarkable building comes into view, with walls that seem to reach right up to the sky. This building is opposite the Azabu-juban Subway Station No. 4 Exit. The irregular arrangement of the walls will be instantly recognizable to architecture fans as a design by Mr. Kengo Kuma, a leading figure in the world of architecture.

I spoke to Ms. Suzuko Nakamura, an architect and the owner of the MAXPLAN AZABU10 Building, which was completed in October 2020.









The ALC panels of the outer wall stretch further

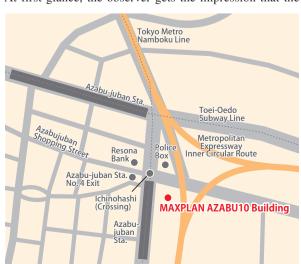
"Azabujuban Project" with "Fluctuation" Begins!

Ms. Nakamura inherited the aging 60-year-old building from its previous owner. She first named the construction project the "Azabujuban Development Project," and the plan was to construct a unique and iconic piece of architecture that would be a good match for the sophistication of the Azabujuban area.

She asked Kengo Kuma and Associates to design and supervise the project. Needless to say, Mr. Kuma is a representative architect of Japan, who has designed the New National Stadium, the Kabuki-za Theatre, and many other well-known buildings including Takanawa Gateway Station, the Suntory Museum of Art in Tokyo Midtown, and the Nezu Museum in Minato City. Mr. Kuma has a hands-on policy and told her that he would create a building symbolic of the vibrancy of Azabujuban Crossing with "Fluctuation."

The area around this building is a rather congested area in the center of Tokyo. A busy highway with the Furukawa River below, a major subway and a crossing all converge here with people and cars going back and forth. This is a very lively place, where goods and people are in continuous motion (fluctuating). The building design reflects this, with its three-dimensionally combined panels of different thicknesses and heights. This is Mr. Kuma's true genius.

At first glance, the observer gets the impression that the



outside of the building consists of wooden panels. However, ALC ("Autoclaved Lightweight Aerated Concrete") panels were used. These special concrete panels are about 1/4 of the weight of normal concrete, so they are not anywhere near as heavy as you might expect. When these concrete panels are used for the outer walls of a building, the load carried by the building is lightened. Transportation and attachment work is also smoother and easier. In addition, these panels offer excellent fire resistance and safety, so the building is much safer than any building made of wood.

As suggested by Mr. Kuma, ALC plates with different thicknesses (100 mm and 150 mm) were alternately arranged and combined, which creates a totally different impression compared to how they are usually used. "By combining panels of various sizes, with different heights and thicknesses, I believe the diversity and dynamism of the town is expressed," commented Ms. Nakamura.

Working Pleasantly in a Space Filled with Greenery

On the first floor of the nine-story building, a restaurant specializing in salads has opened. On the second floor, there are co-working spaces where individuals can work independently. On the third floor, there are rental conference rooms available. There is of course high-speed Wi-Fi provided throughout the building. Recent circumstances have created a need for a lot more spaces to work remotely, so that's the reason why these conveniently located, easy-touse rental spaces are provided here. Partitions between these spaces are made by arranging tree planters in a spiral pattern to create the impression of an open space. The ceiling is intentionally undressed with exposed air conditioners, which emphasizes the height of the room. Mr. Kuma was also in charge of the interior design. This concept of intentionally exposed ductwork is a popular architectural notion that has influenced many leading construction companies in

"In the past, the orderly arrangement of cramped office layouts was thought to be the most efficient. However, that era is now over. "If you look at the recent impact of COVID-19, it is quite obvious that remote work is going to become mainstream. The time when we can work anytime and anywhere is here. "In order to increase efficiency, factors such as layouts with beautiful, curved lines and the creation of a pleasant atmosphere are important." Ms. Nakamura nodded vigorously in agreement with Mr. Kuma's opinion. A space

arranged with round planters filled with greenery invigorates working people.

A restaurant will open on the top(ninth) floor, and at night the illumination from Tokyo Tower, Roppongi Hills and all the highways that weave their way through Tokyo will be seen from the terrace seats. I can't wait to see it!



ntentionally exposed ducts on the ceiling increase the impression of height and open



Co-working space with well-utilized round wood planters and greenery https://maxplanazabu10.com

MAXPLAN AZABU10 Building

4-1-1, Azabujuban, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0045 Tel: 03-6435-4297 https://www.maxplan.jp Japanese only

MAXPLAN CO LTD





It was aiming for a job through which I create something concrete, something tangible to leave behind. I want to pass on the notion of how important it is to be helpful to people in the future.

Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office

Mr. Shinji Tomita (56 years old)

In the Hundred Views on Work section, we have asked people who are playing an important and active role in the Azabu areas about their attitude to work.

This spring, in April 2021, Mr. Shinji Tomita was formally inaugurated as the Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office.

He is the operations leader for projects conducted in the Azabu area, from dynamic projects to create a better town where people can live easily, safely, and securely, for closely connected to individual citizens' lives.

Achieving a Community Development Project

Mr. Tomita went to civil engineering at university. He learned a civil engineering project aimed at building roads and bridges and sewers that support people's lives. He's been a Minato City local government engineer for more than 30 years, and has worked in a wide range of fields, including hands-on maintenance and construction work, planning and designing projects, and even the creation of structures in Minato City. He chose to work as a public servant in the Minato City local government because he thought than private enterprise that he could serve the local people with his own ideas.

"For example, when I see the beauty of a formerly worn-outbridge that has been rebuilt so it is safer for people to use, I feel really happy," he told me excitedly.

To commemorate "Italy in Japan 2001", a park—"Italy Park" (*1)—was gifted by Italy.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government asked the Minato City local government to carry out the project because there was a town in the Shiodome area in Minato City that was believed to be a perfect fit for the Italian concept. He told me that this big project was still close to his heart.

"The language barrier was a big obstacle. At the Italian Embassy, we had to communicate with the Ambassador through an interpreter, so we felt a bit frustrated. We both had firm convictions, and we negotiated stubbornly but politely, without giving up. As a result, the project slowly began to take shape. The Italian Government sent flowers and trees representative of Tuscany in Italy and a monument for the park. Now the park is beautifully decorated."

The most important part of the civil engineering work was the



detailed checks. This was difficult work, and he worked so hard with foreigners from different cultures that he achieved results even if he couldn't understand the language.

Park © Marika (

The Work of a Regional City Office Director General

Only few weeks have passed since he was inaugurated as the Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office, but he could explain it to me in detail.

"There is internal work and external work. For the work we do outside, there are various events held by local communities.



"Neighborhood associations and residents' associations invite me to make speeches and encourage them. The Azabu area (3.79 square kilometers) is somewhat smaller than the other five administrative regions. However, the number of elementary schools is higher, so there are actually more events. "Internal work includes operations related to the lives of the residents (about 60,000 people). In the Azabu Regional City Office, when it comes to welfare and nursing care, counter services for city residents, family registers, local projects, community development, etc., the head of each section manages their operations and I am the person with the final authority. The deputation of the Minato City Mayor is also one of my roles."

When it comes to work carried out by the City, first, plans are drawn up, led by the Mayor. Regulations or budget plans are then presented to the City Assembly. Based on the decision of the Assembly, the actual work is then carried out, and Mr. Tomita makes great efforts to do so in cooperation with the City Assembly to enhance the lives of city residents.

A Future Vision of Azabu

"There are many kinds of projects—from small scale construction to construction on a large scale that will take several years to complete. "The Toranomon-Azabudai Project (*2), to be completed at the end of March 2023, is a large-scale construction project with an area of about 8.1 hectare from Toranomon 5-Chome up to Azabudai 1-Chome and Roppongi 3-Chome."

The construction of all facilities, small and large, is made in harmony with the natural terrain. Construction conditions are always unique to each location. For example, conditions such as the hardness of the ground and differences in height are interrelated in a complex manner. The facilities are ultimately constructed safely after coming to terms with the terrain and environmental conditions.

"I make a considerable effort to solve these problems, which are very specific to the Azabu area, and to create a foundation that supports the lives of the city residents. "To achieve this, cooperating with all those involved is necessary because I cannot do anything alone."



Mr. Tomita, Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office, shows me around the Regional City Office

After being developed, it can different challenges, such as deteriorating conditions or the need to take measures to prevent disasters. To maintain a comfortable, safe, and peaceful living space, the maintenance and management work is endless. The techniques cultivated up to now will be passed down and carried out ceaselessly, and are an effective way to support human society. The 202-person Team of Azabu brought together by Mr. Tomita, the Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office, is just getting started. The beginning is from here.



From the left: Mr. Mitsumasa Ohkubo (Director of the Community Development Section), Mr. Shinji Tomita, (Director General of the Azabu Regional City Office), Mr. Shinichi Takizawa (Director of the Collaboration Project Section), Mr. Makoto Hashimoto (Director of the Residents Support Section), Mr. Yasuyuki Sakuraba (Deputy Director General and Director of the General Administration Section).

- *1 Italy Park: An Italian-style garden adjacent to the Italian Town in the Shiodome area (1-10-20, Higashi-shimbashi) https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/shisetsu/koen/shiba/03.html
- *2 Toranomon-Azabudai Project: The height of the main tower will be 330 meter, making it the tallest building in Japan.

What are "Tansu" (Wardrobe), "Zaimoku" (Timber), "Sangenya" (Three Houses), "Gazenbo" and "Kita-shin-monzen," all located in Azabu?

"Is that so?" in Our Town, Old and New



Minato City Neighborhood Association and Residents' Association Guidebook The guidebook can be obtained at the counters of the Collaboration Project Subsection Collaboration Project Section and Community Promotion Section in the Regional City Offices

Has anyone come to Azabu and had the following experiences?

"The address is Moto-azabu, but the town name on the notice board is Miyamura-cho ... ?" "When I ask what's close to Take-no-Yu public bath, and someone replies, 'Takeya-cho.' Isn't it Minami-azabu?" etc. Then, while walking around, you find that the town name is not displayed on your cell phone map. What's going on here!?

In the past, addresses used to use a combination of the town name and the lot number (land area number). As time passed, the lot number became obsolete, or was lost due to land transactions, etc. So, addresses became a bit of a jumble and difficult to understand. As this situation developed, mail would sometimes not arrive, and even emergency vehicles were late to their destinations. To deal with this problem, in 1962 the "Act on Indication of Residential Address " was passed, and about 50 town names just in the Azabu area were combined into the current nine town names (excluding Azabu-mamiana-cho and Azabu-nagasaka-cho). People who have lived in Azabu for a long time will already know this, but for everyone else, Azabu-tansu-machi (present-day Roppongi), Azabu-zaimoku-cho (present-day Nishi-azabu and Roppongi 7-Chome), Azabu-sangenya-cho (present-day Moto-azabu), Azabu-gazenbo-cho (present-day Azabudai), and Azabu-kita-shin-monzen-cho (present day Higashi-azabu) were the old town names in the Azabu area.

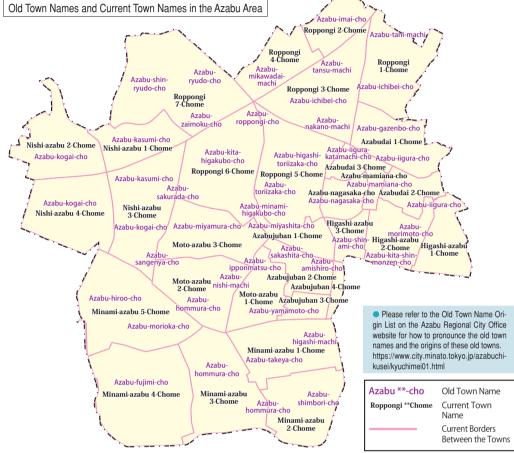
The old town names that date back to the Edo or Meiji Periods appear frequently in works of literature and Rakugo (traditional comic storytelling). We still miss the addresses with the old town names a little, but many remain as park and street crossing names. These names help to preserve the atmosphere of the old towns. If you try researching the origin of the town names you're interested in or walk around these towns, you might feel a greater connection between the past and present here in Azabu.

There are still many neighborhood and residents' associations that use the old town names. In the Azabu area, there are presently 41 neighborhood and residents' associations (as of the end of May 2021). These engage in a wide variety of activities, ranging from crime prevention, disaster prevention, traffic safety, and cleaning for the peace of mind of the city residents. Other events that people of all ages can enjoy, such as festivals, cherry blossom-viewing parties, fireworks, mochi-pounding (rice cake-pounding)

events, etc, are also part of their purview. The Azabu Federation of Neighborhood Associations and Residents' Associations shares information about these activities with each neighborhood association and the Azabu Regional City Office, and holds disaster prevention workshops that take into account the infection countermeasures in COVID-19 pandemic conditions. This mutual cooperation between the administration and the neighborhood associations is great for the community at large

Recently, because of frequent disasters and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, communication between the parties has become more challenging. However, all the neighborhood associations continue to provide a strong support network for the community. There may be some people who feel that "I have no time, and moreover, their activities are too hard for me," or "I'm interested in their activities, but I don't know anyone involved." Some neighborhood associations share information through social media and websites as well as through paper notices and bulletin boards. Some associations even use Zoom. So, how about coming to see us? We would love to hear from you, and feel free to join us!

(Researched and written by Akiko Horiuchi)



Map Source: Minato City Master Plan and Azabu Regional Master Plan (FY2015 to FY2020)

Inquiries about joining the neighborhood association or residents' association: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802 Fax: 03-3583-3782

Minato City Website Neighborhood Association and Residents' Association List: Guidance for Participation URL: https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/azabukyoudou/azabu/kurashi/chokai.html

Cheerful News from Neighborhood Associations and Residents' Associations 🚺 The Azabujuban Amishiro-Kai (Neighborhood Association)

To the local people:

Mr. Hisashi Watanabe, Chief of the Azabujuban Amishiro-Kai

Hello, everybody. My name is Hisashi Watanabe, Chief of the Azabujuban Amishiro-Kai. So far, I have been promoting the following two neighborhood association activities.



- 1. Passing on the neighborhood association traditional culture to the next generation so they can carry it forward.
- 2. Enhancing communication between residents through events held by the association and promoting their good health.

Under the present COVID-19 pandemic conditions, the activities of the Association are guided by specific instructions from the government. Under normal conditions, one-day bus tours are very popular with many of our residents. Unfortunately, we had to cancel them this year. Operationally, we are making a great effort to share and link information for members without them having to meet in person. For example, the team leaders and executive directors have formed a LINE group. Some of them almost gave up on this because they were unsure of how to use a smart phone. However, we worked together to overcome the difficulties. When the COVID-19 pandemic finally ends, we want to hold a "Fall Festival" and a "Bon Festival Dance," etc. We want lots of children and association members to look forward to taking part.

Community:

Mr. Yoshitaka Makino, General Manager of the Culture Department.

When I think about all the people who look forward to participating in the neighborhood association events, I feel sorry about having to cancel them again and again. I take care of community development watched over by third parties, and I always consider everyone that this impacts. We are making an effort to prevent the elderly from becoming isolated and ask them to wear facemasks when we meet them in town.

Mr. Kotaro Kayaki, a.k.a. "Jubei Azabu," MC for the Bon Festival Dance

"You're Welcome to join with us for Bon-dancing!"

The Bon Festival Dance is held in Amishiro Park in September every year. Japanese English bilingual guides will be available because we

would like foreigners living in our neighborhood to enjoy this together with us. I hope that the international exchanges in Azabujuban will continue to





Neighborhood Association Data

(second grade student in

know this? Part 1

The Origin of

Amishiro-cho In 1707, the people living in part of Shiba-shin-ami-cho were moved to a new spot in Azabu-hommura Bummei-chi in Horidome. The new town was named "Azabu-shin-ami-cho. In 1723, the east side of the town was designated as Shogunate government land, and the people living there were moved to Omote Dori in Azabu-sakashita-cho. The area given in 1707 was called Azabu-shin-ami-cho 1-Chome, and in 1723 the spot they were moved to was called Azabu-shin-ami-cho 2-Chome. However, the new Azabu-shin-ami-cho 2-Chome area was not particularly good. Tokugawa Shogunate government housing lots were mixed in with local owners and most of the area was marshland. In 1732, they applied to the magistrate's office and again were given a different spot on Kashi Dori. As a result, there were two places named Azabu-shin-ami-cho 2-Chome. This was of course confusing, so residents applied to the magistrate's office again in 1738, for permission to combine the Chinese letters of "Ami" and "Shiro/Dai" from Shin-amicho Daichi ("substitute land") for the land given to them in 1723, and the town name became Azabu-amishiro-cho.

junior high school)

Minato City Neighborhood Association and Residents' Association Guidebook

Crime Prevention and Disaster Prevention



This year, disaster prevention drills specific to the Association will be carried out on August 20, 2021. (*Depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the schedule might change).

Ms. Takako Takatori, General Manager of the Women's Department

Led by our Chief, we made requests of Minato City; two years ago, security cameras were placed in Amishiro Park, and a kamado bench was installed last year. In the disaster prevention dills, a demonstration of how to prepare tonjiru (miso soup with pork and vegetables) was carried out by the members of the Women's Department using the kamado bench.

Ms. Kimiyo Ishiguro, Deputy General Manager of the Women's Department

I often walk around the Park before or after shopping. I have a grandchild, so I'm always concerned about children's safety. Recently, my disaster prevention awareness has improved, and I am now a disaster prevention expert.

Environmental Beautification

Mr. Eiji Yoshinari, Executive Office member

I started cleaning activities for Patio Square about 10 years ago when I moved here from Oita Prefecture. I took over from one of the senior members of the Association, who had inherited the work from the generation before him. Recently, the number of people who are having drinking parties in the Square has in-



stove

creased due to COVID-19. The members of the Association have been cleaning Amishiro Park. I wish for everyone, even the people coming from outside of the town, to feel that our town is very clean.



Information from Azabu Regional City Office





Toward a Roppongi with ZERO Violations! Our Slogan is "ZEROOPPONGI" — Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind —

Town rules shared from Roppongi

In Roppongi, we have established our rules in the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind." This incorporates five concepts: "Crime Prevention," "Environmental Beautification," "Smoking Rules," "Street Usage" and "Business Operation" in coordination with the district at large.

Inquiries: Community Collaboration Subsection, Community Collaboration Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802

We are recruiting shops and businesses that want to support the Charter

Shops and businesses (hereinafter referred to as "businesses, etc.") that support the Charter are constantly being recruited, and the names of participating businesses will be posted on the Minato City website along with any other relevant information.

Please access the website through the following QR code or recruitment leaflets, etc. issued by the Azabu Regional City Office if you would like to learn more.

Access here for Letter of Agreement Form

Minato City Website: http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind Search



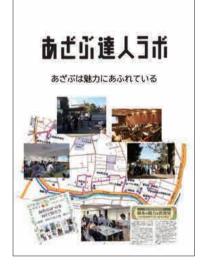




Our stogan is XXXXXXXXXXX



あざぶ達人うボ Our activity report has been prepared!



Azabu Experts LABO Azabu Town is full of charms

The activities of three sections of the Azabu Experts LABO, along with a few others, have been compiled in this booklet issued by the Azabu Experts LABO (originally called the "Azabu Experts Club"). This is a local project started in 2008 to publicize the charms of Azabu.

The booklet can be obtained at the counter of the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office.

*Japanese Only

The Three Sections of AZABU Experts LABO

The Research Section

The architecture, geography, history, and culture of Azabu are researched from a unique point of view.



The Section for Collaboration with Local People:

The section members visit local projects such as the "Local area salon" and the "Chokotto Tachiyori Café," and hold mini events. "Azabu Karuta Playing Cards" were created so players could learn about the charms and history of Azabu while playing the game.

The Town Walks Section:

A map to follow while walking around Azabu was created to highlight the charms of Azabu. Guided tours are available.

Inquiries: Community Policy Subsection, Community Collaboration Subsection, **Azabu Regional City Office**

Tel: 03-5114-8812

Information from the Metropolitan Taxation Office

Houses that have been rebuilt or renovated for earthquake resistance (according to certain requirements) are exempt from real estate tax /city planning tax (within the 23 Wards).

The tax exemption period and amount are as follows:

Houses that have been rebuilt to be earthquake resistant are exempt from tax for three (3) fiscal years (limited to residential parts) from the next taxed year after the construction is Rebuilding completed. However, the number of households that are exempt will depend on the status of the residence before rebuilding took place. Full exemption after earthquake protection will be applied to a floor area equivalent to 120 m2 of the residential part of a household for a fixed period of time, starting from the next Renovation fiscal year after the renovation completion date.

Tax exemptions must be applied for. Please refer to the website or use the following con-

tact information. Inquiries: For properties located in Minato City: Minato Metropolitan Taxation Office A smartphone payment application has been added for the payment of metropolitan taxes

The number of payment applications made by smartphone has increased since May 6, 2021, so a much more convenient service is now available. Just use the barcode on the payment slip within the payment application, and pay the tax anytime, anywhere. For details, refer to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation website.

https://www.tax.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/common/tozei_nouzei.html#L16

Please use the remote procedures instead of coming to the office to reduce the COVID-19 infection risk.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Taxation provides this service so that taxpayers can pay the tax through postal transfer or the Internet, etc.; there is no need to come to the taxation office.

Please use postal transfer, electronic, or cashless payment procedures.

Going shopping? Visit our local shopping streets.

Tel: 03-5549-3800 (rep.)

Please send us your comments or requests regarding

The Azabu



Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters have not limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following: Community Policy Subsection Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).

We are looking for **Editorial** Staff

You can also access this newsletter from the Minato City

AZABU

●Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabane bashi subway stations, The Chii Bus. Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, ligura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional

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Kyoko Ideishi Marika Oba Kumiko Omura

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Aki Tanaka

Yasuhiro Tanaka

Editor's Note

I'm not sure how many years ago it was.

I happened to pass by Amishiro Park when the Bon Festival Dance was being held. The road was crowded with many people. I heard a witty announcement for a lost article. In the center circle, there was even a woman with a neck brace enjoying the dancing. During my research this time with the members of Azabujuban Amishiro-Kai, this scene came up in my memory. I really hope that the COVID-19 pandemic ends soon and the Bon Festival Dance event can come back. Thank you very much to everybody who co operated with my research.

(Kana Buto) The original article is written in Japanese

"Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a city information service about services provided by City Hall, facility guide, event information, etc., available from 8:00am to 8:00pm everyday. * English speakers are also available.

Minato Call:

Tel: 03-5472-3710 Fax: 03-5777-8752 E-mail: info@minato.call-center.jp Inquiry submission form: https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/kouchou kuse/kocho/iken/form-inquiry.html