

# Hatching an Adventure

By Naoki Mukoda



Urban vitality finds expression in the constant creation of new venues, and these new urban spaces provide new areas of excitement and adventure for city dwellers. This is all part of the urban adventure of new sights, experiences and sensations.

The photographs on this page show one of Tokyo's new sites for seeing — yet this is not your usual “site-seeing” but concerts, baseball games, trade fairs, and myriad other special-interest events. And each of these events attracts tens of thousands of people to experience the unknown.

This is the Tokyo Dome, nicknamed the Big Egg. Although it was built as the home stadium for two of Tokyo's professional baseball teams, it converts to a concert hall and exhibition grounds during the off-season. There have even been off-road motorcycle races and automobile shows, as well as an orchid show.

It seems strange to see orchids and other flowers in this blatantly artificial space—and there was a sense of the alien that I suspect other flower-showgoers shared. This was surely different from the giant greenhouses where flower shows are traditionally held.

Yet as the new site is visited and revisited, it becomes more familiar. The exoticism wears off, and people forsake the pedestrian and commonplace in search of new adventure. There must be a constant supply of new experiences if the urban adventure is to retain its tang.

Yet the Tokyo Dome adventure has just begun, and there will be many more exciting days spent here. The excitement of urban life comes to fruition here where site and sights combine in the adventure of discovery.

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