



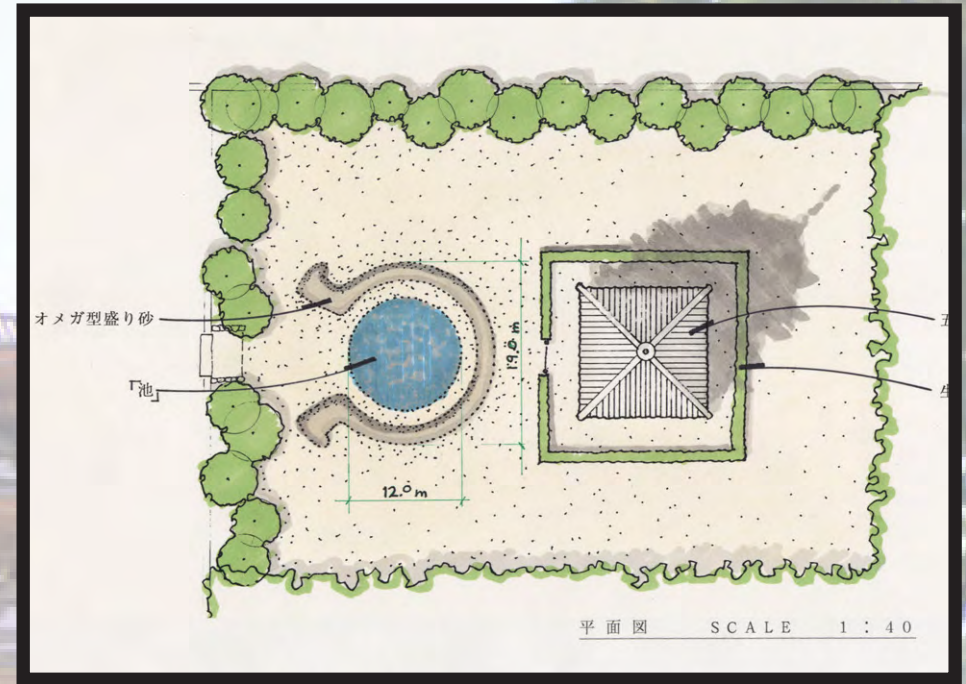
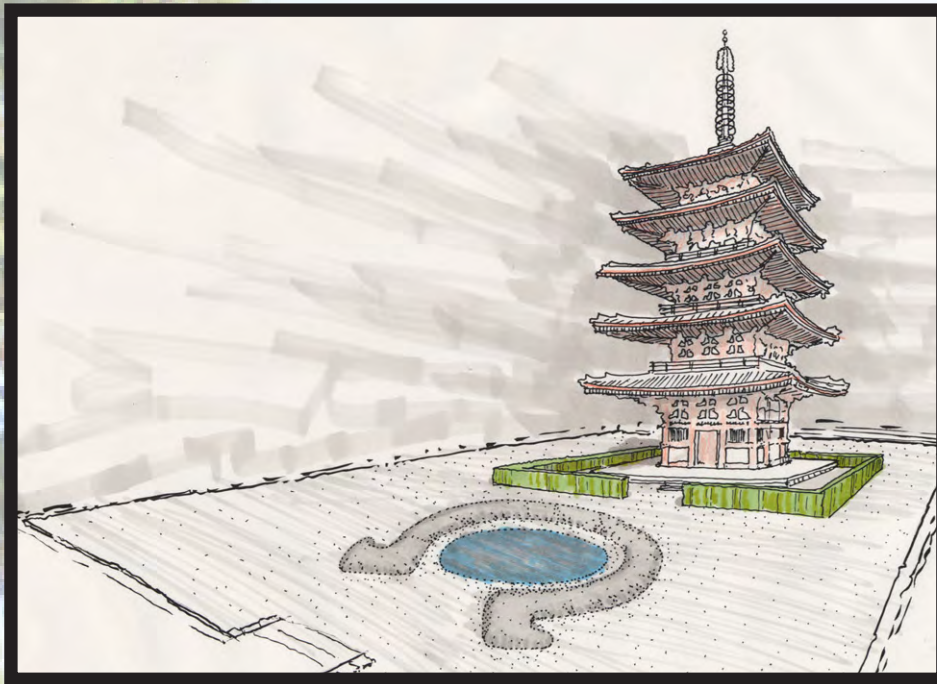
OMEGA POINT IN DAIGOJI

KYOTO ARTS FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH ~ SUNDAY, MAY 21ST, 2000

DAIGOJI TEMPLE • KYOTO, JAPAN

OMEGA POINT • KYOTO ARTS FESTIVAL 2000
MARC PETER KEANE • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT • KYOTO, JAPAN



PERSPECTIVE

Omega-shaped sand mound constructed in front of the ancient pagoda at Daigoji temple, Kyoto.

PLAN VIEW

The "pond" inside the Omega mound will be expressed by raking wave patterns in the sand.

OMEGA

Omega (Ω) is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. When Omega is combined with Alpha (A), the first letter of the alphabet (as with the Sanskrit "A" and "Un") they represent much more than just letters or sounds. They symbolize the beginning and ending of all manner of things, and as such, the cycle of creation that connects all things.



PHILOSOPHY

Omega Point as a philosophy was proposed by the French priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955). His philosophy states that life begins with the biosphere (the layer of living things that covers the earth) and then develops toward a "noosphere" (a layer of consciousness that covers the earth). According to Teilhard de Chardin, the noosphere, epitomized by human consciousness, will develop through increasingly complex social organizations, culminating in a super consciousness which will transcend materials or thought. He termed that super consciousness the Omega Point. Though Teilhard de Chardin's philosophy was based on Christian philosophy, as well as the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin, the Omega Point also aptly symbolizes the ultimate goal of Buddhism; spiritual enlightenment.

GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY

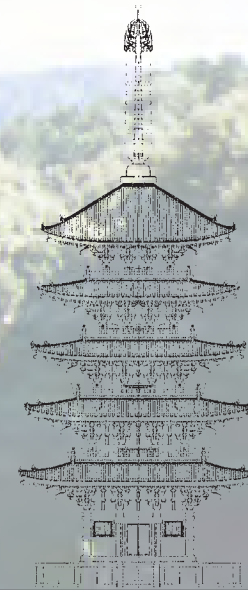
Putting the Greek Omega in front of a Japanese pagoda expresses global connectivity in a number of unusual ways -- some ancient and modern -- an apt image for the year 2000 and the increasing focus on globalization. As an example from antiquity, the first sculptural images of Buddha were created in Gandhara (present-day Pakistan) during the reign of Kanishka I (Kushan period; 1st-3rd century AD). There was no tradition of Buddhist sculpture in India at that time so Greek sculptors were brought in to do the work. As a result, the first sculptures of Buddha are Grecian in their form. In this see that even in ancient times, there were important cultural links throughout the world. A more modern example is found in global navigation systems. Presently, ships and airplanes use GPS (Global Positioning System) a satellite-based navigational aid. However, from 1971 to 1997, the first such global navigational system was based on eight land-based radio beacons and it was called, of course, Omega. The Omega by the pagoda becomes a symbol recalling links, ancient and modern, as well as cultural and technological, that bind the world together.



SPATIAL DESIGN

The ancient geomantic science of China proposes dual energies, called Yin and Yang, which form the basic components of all manner of things. Yin represents a negative energy while Yang represent one that is positive, symbolizing opposite yet complimentary aspects of all things: darkness and light, female and male, cold and hot, winter and summer. In the landscape, the image of Yang was traditionally the mountain while water represented the Yin element. In the course of human social development, the image of the mountain has been supplanted by the image of the tower, which represents both the ancient vertical image of the mountain as well as the newer technological prowess of mankind. Among these towers were the ziggurats of Mesopotamia, the stupas of India, and the pagodas of China and Japan. The Omega Point design proposes to compliment the existing vertical pagoda (a Yang monument) with a horizontal plane created by the sand-mound Omega which contains a pool of "water," represented by sand (Yin elements).

Horizontal sand Omega and "water" represent the Yin element



Vertical "mountain-like" pagoda represents the Yang element