

Saving Manseibashi Viaduct as Meiji Railway Remains and Community Activities

MANSEIBASHI is part of a larger redevelopment project that includes an office tower, shops and the design of a public space. The part on the project on which our team worked on deals with the renovation of Manseibashi, one of the oldest train station of Tōkyō. Originally built in 1912 this station was successively rebuilt in 1925 and 1936 but later abandoned before its renewal in 2013 as a commercial facility. However as a part of the Chuo line, which is the major railway line that crosses the whole city from east to west, the tracks are still in use. In relation with this configuration the building appeared like a long base, carved with arched galleries and alcoves, showing a potential for supporting various activities like shops, restaurants and cafés. A particular feature that the building has to take in account is its situation next to the Kanda river. Eventually another aspect to consider is the station's location between the popular Akihabara and historical Kanda areas. Eventually the old abandoned industrial building, once considered as a useless remain of the past, creates a new paradigm of popular urban spot, mixing attractive commercial activities with the public realm.