

# Traveling in the Dark



traveling in the dark /

HMC xref proposal /

two thousand thirteen

# Traveling

**Imagine  
it's a sunny  
day, you are  
traveling...**



# in the dark without sight.

Instead of looking with our eyes, let's begin to  
explore a trip through other senses: hearing,  
smell and touch.



# purpose



Living in a digital world, we are constantly bombarded with so much visual stimulus that it can get difficult to be in the moment and savor the wonderful gifts of nature. There is so much more to the wonder of the world that we tend to take for granted.

When traveling, we are often pre-occupied and distracted by devices such as cameras, phones, or social media, and can hardly enjoy things in all dimensions.

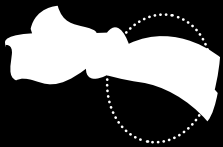
Traveling in the dark is an idea to raise my awareness to the environment through all of my senses except vision. This allows me to "See" the world in a different perspective and be appreciative to what we have.

# process

Part

## 1/

Travel  
blindfolded



+

Record  
with GoPro  
Camera



Write down  
experience  
from  
senses



Part

## 2/

Revisit  
with sight



Compare trip  
1 and 2  
experiences



The trip consists of 2 portions. In part 1, I will explore places blindfolded. A guardian will be traveling with me as my visual guide. I will follow the guardian's lead and words to explore the place. To capture the dark travel experience, I'll carry a GoPro camera to record the visuals and document my thoughts and feelings in writing.

To juxtapose the dark adventure, in part 2, I will revisit the places with sight and document the experience in a disparate angle.

This experience will be extremely valuable to my design senses. It will give me an alternate perspective and additional angle to look at a challenge. I will learn to adopt a newer appreciation for our surroundings.

The verbal descriptions from another traveler allows me to push my imaginative boundary throughout the trip, because it is necessary to be creative while listening to the narration, in order to compile components from other senses and create a complete picture in my mind.



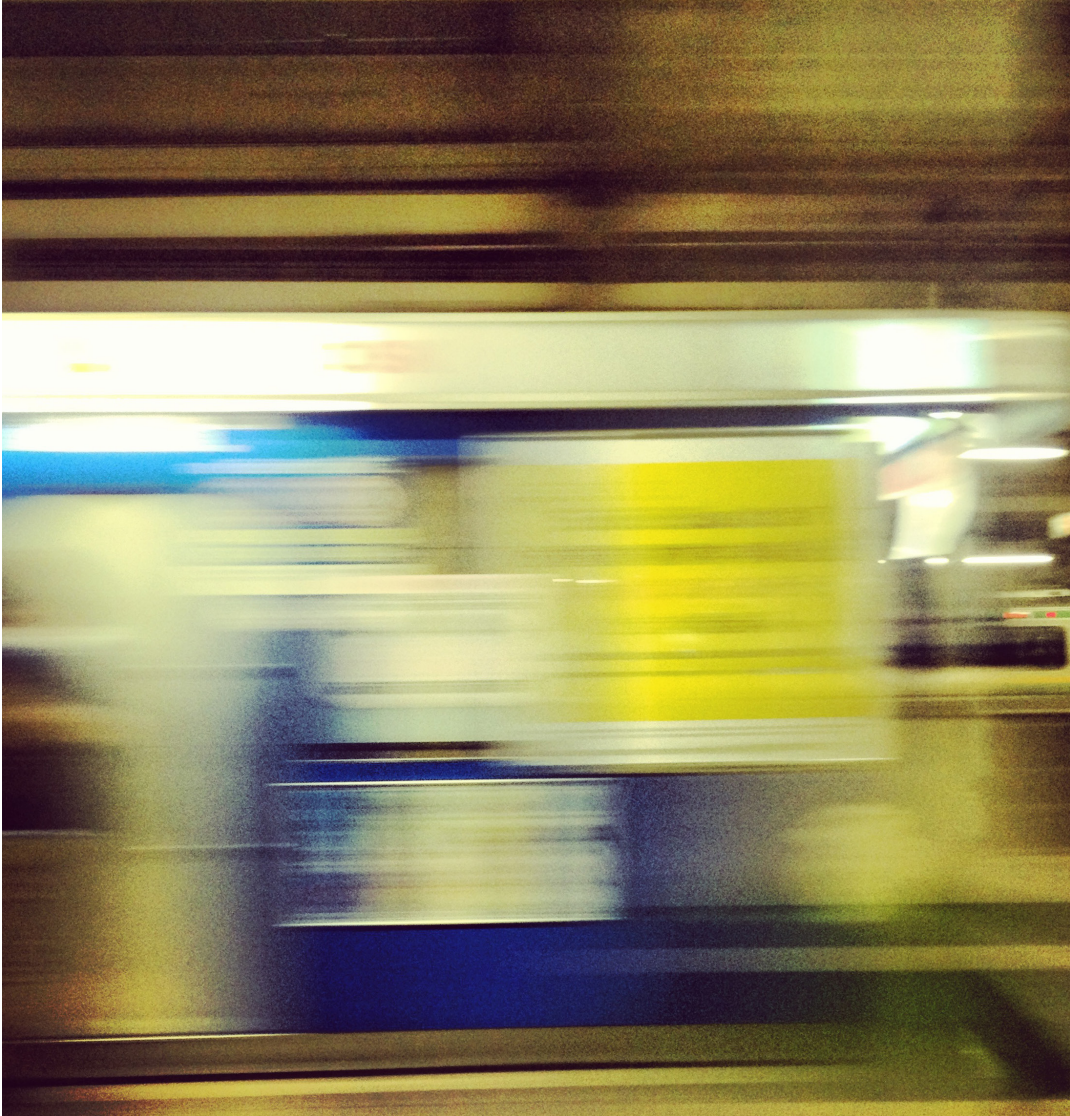
The dark travel journey begins in a highly populated urban area, Tokyo, Japan.

Tokyo, the capital of Japan with more than 35 million people, is the core of the most populated urban area in the world. Obsessed with the latest trends and fashions, the world's largest city is also fiercely proud of its heritage. It is considered as not a single city, but a constellation of cities that have grown together.

Tokyo's districts vary wildly by character, from the electronic blare of Akihabara to the imperial garden and shrines of Chiyoda, from the hyperactive youth culture mecca of Shibuya to the

pottery shops and temple markets of Asakusa. Lively neighborhood festivals are held virtually every day of the year.

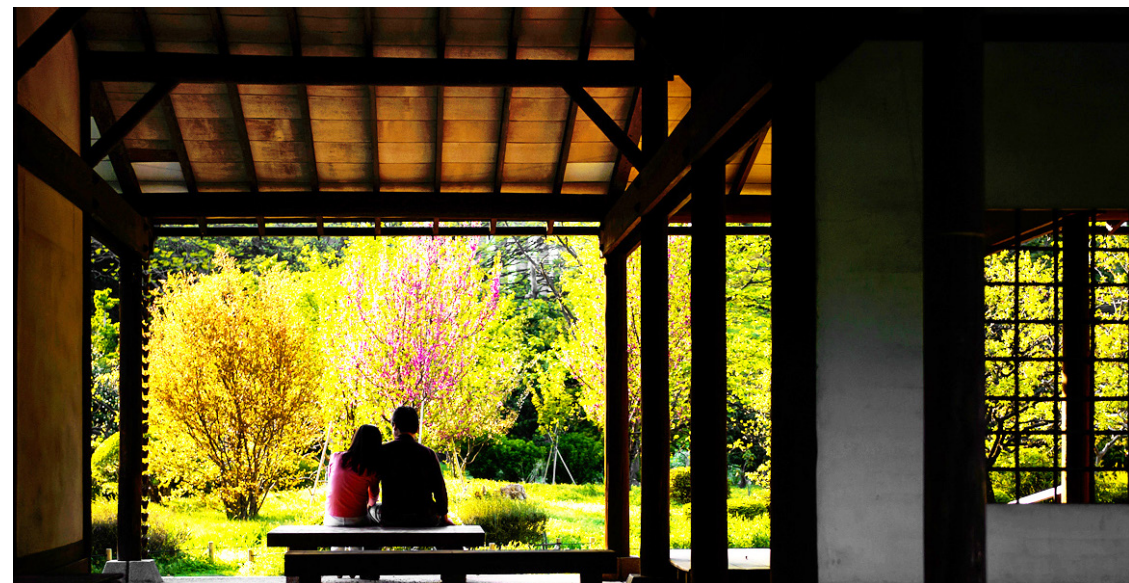
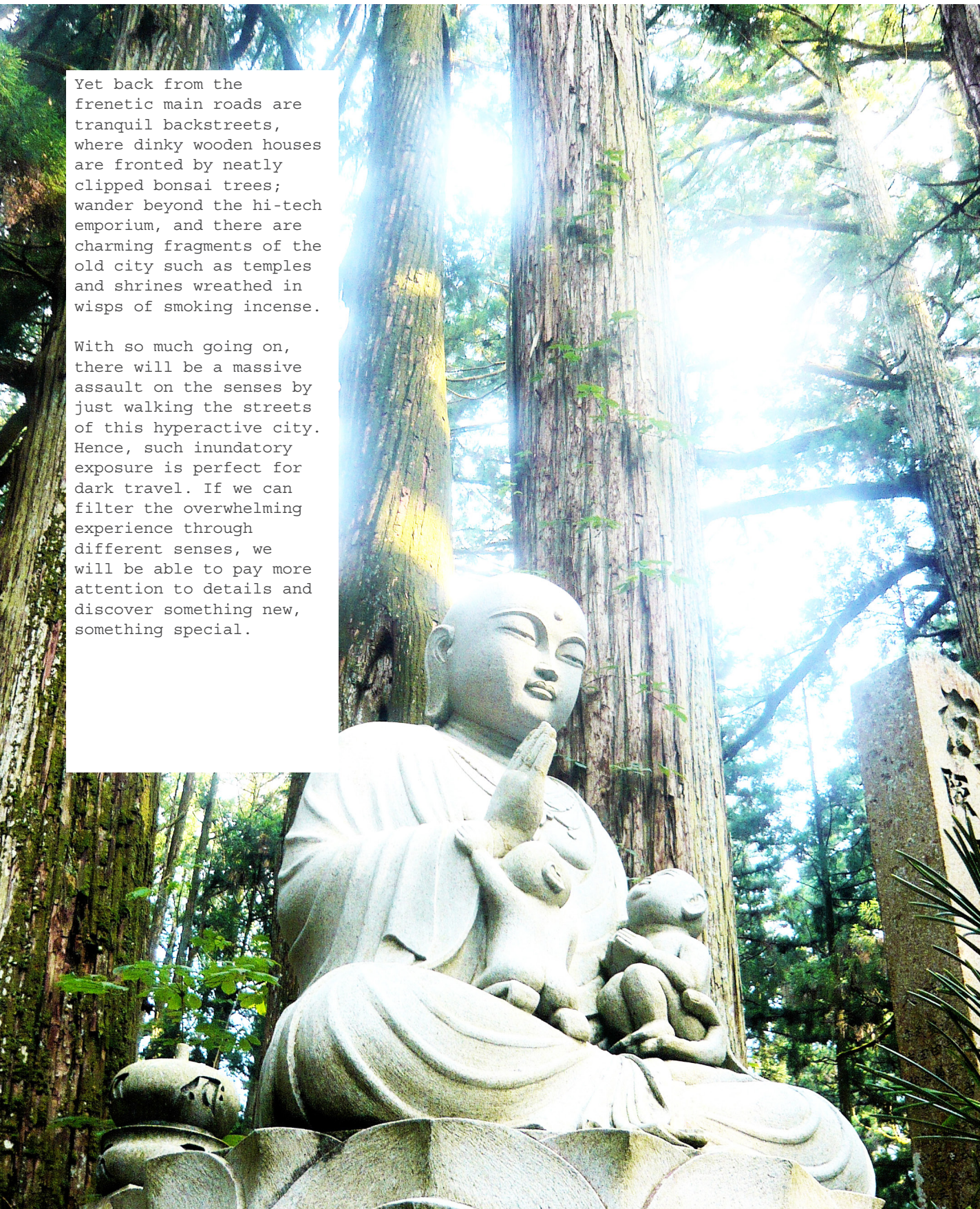
Tokyo is a city with a jungle of concrete and wires, with a mass of neon and blaring loudspeakers. At rush hour, crowds jostle in packed trains and masses of humanity sweep through enormous and bewilderingly complex stations.



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417/T	
51HD	
1072	
	+60
605/T	
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Yet back from the frenetic main roads are tranquil backstreets, where dinky wooden houses are fronted by neatly clipped bonsai trees; wander beyond the hi-tech emporium, and there are charming fragments of the old city such as temples and shrines wreathed in wisps of smoking incense.

With so much going on, there will be a massive assault on the senses by just walking the streets of this hyperactive city. Hence, such inundatory exposure is perfect for dark travel. If we can filter the overwhelming experience through different senses, we will be able to pay more attention to details and discover something new, something special.



# docu- menta- tion

Upon returning from the trip, I will share my experience through daily documentations taken from the trip on a blog, including video footage and journals. The documentation will juxtapose the visual experience and feelings generated by other senses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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