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“Mapped Futures, Vanishing Places: On Inheritance at the Water’s Edge”

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Tower buildings with the moat and the sign indicating the location where the wooden segments are buried on Tsukudajima.

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I began thinking about the inheritance of memory not in a classroom or a library, but at the edge of a half-closed moat on Tsukudajima, an artificial island in Tokyo. Some might imagine a concrete island with few signs of life, but, in fact, it is rich in colors, activities, and species. I walk by the moat every day. Before dawn, it remains plunged in a muted Maastricht blue, sharpening a shrine's silhouette under a slowly waking sky. In rush hour, a couple of boats sail out through a water gate almost as narrow as their width. During the day, people gather along its edge, fishing, waiting for a friend, talking, playing Pokémon Go, or dozing on a bench. In the evening light before dusk, the water mirrors a scarlet-mackerel sky as crows, starlings, cormorants, and egrets hasten away for the night, sensing the rain the next day. (From the article)

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