Research for Setting environment and Types of Park Trash Cans Between Taiwan and Japan

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1. Introduction

The first garbage bins could date back to mid-14th century. At that time, there lacked a system of sanitation management and necessary installations; therefore the Black Death swept over Europe. Yet people did not know this rampage of death was caused from the waste on streets thrown from their windows. By the end of 19th century, experts held bacteria as the culprit for contagious diseases, and city inhabitants started to become aware of the harm done by garbage in public places. Afterward, garbage went to the refuse dump for disposal. It was not after World War II that the first recycle bins appeared. [1]

Waste recycling and reuse requires a concerted effort of a society. The success lies in effective management and the public’s awareness and habit formation. The placement of trash cans in outdoors vary from country to country. Therefore this study conducts field survey as a way to discover how trash cans are placed in Taiwan and Japan. With non-participant observation, we present the types of trash cans and the relationship between a trash can and the outer environment. Lastly we pinpoint the singularities and analyze the differences between the two countries.

2. An Introduction to Ueno Park and Taipei Expo Park

As capital in Taiwan and Japan respectively, Taipei and Tokyo are very similar in living styles and the conveniences they provide to city dwellers. Both major cities make best efforts for public construction and provide the best possible quality of life. Hence this study chose one of the major parks in both capitals and made the trash cans of the two parks as subjects for observation.

2.1 Taipei Expo Park

As the site for 2010 Taipei International Garden and Horticulture Exposition, Taipei Expo Park is now transformed into an urban park. With an area of 440,000 m², this park consists of Yuanshan Park, Arts Museum Park, and Xinsheng Park. Currently the pavilions are used as the venues for multiple activities. A wide variety of perennial plants and lawns are grown in these areas in the hopes of keeping the 2010 Expo image and its original richness. [2]

Figure 1: The map of trash cans in Taipei Expo Park (sketched by this study)

2.2 Ueno Park

Ueno Park was built in the Ueno district of Taitō, Tokyo. As the first park established in Japan, it has an area of 530,000
m² and is surrounded by Tokyo National Museum, the National museum of Western Art, National Museum of Nature and Science, and Ueno Zoo. This park is ranked as top 100 destinations for cherry blossoms, which attracts a good number of tourists each year. [3]

3. Types of Trash Cans
We went to Taipei Expo Park for a field survey, where we took pictures, made close observation, and marked their locations on a map. Figure 1 & 2 show the locations of trash cans in Taipei Expo Park and Ueno Park, respectively. We used differing colors for these trash cans, and made the following conclusion according to location and its relationship to the outer environment (Table 1).

4. Conclusions
From the above information regarding the two parks and the placement of trash cans, we reach conclusions as follows:
1) There are five types of trash cans in Taipei Expo Park, specifically designed for differing locations within the park. By contrast, there are only three types of trash cans in its Japanese counterpart. However, with the popularity of vending machines, trash cans can be further classified into eleven types.
2) In Taipei Expo Park, trash cans are featured with various languages, icons, bright colors, and are considered more recognizable for both Taiwanese people and foreign visitors. As to Ueno Park, information are insufficient as they do not have specific icons, language, and colors for various bins, posing greater difficulties for foreigners to dispose of the trash at hand.
3) Trash icons in Taipei Expo Park are obvious in brighter colors, whereas in Ueno Park, trash cans are not made in bright colors so as to blend well into the background of the park.
4) In the respect of blending into the background, T1 and T5 (in Taipei Expo Park) are made of natural materials such as timber and rattan, and therefore blend very well into the background. T3 is set at the road outside the park, and is moderately blended into the background. In Ueno Park, the colors of J2 and J3 are blended well into the park, yet its material and appearance do not fit well into the setting.
5) There is a dumpsite (shown as the purple triangle in Fig. 2) in Ueno Park, where waste and garbage are placed together for further recycling. Such planning is needed in Taiwan’s parks.

Reference
[1] 卡特琳・德・西爾吉, 劉躍進、魏紅榮譯, 人類與垃圾的歷史, 百花文藝出版社出版, 2005。