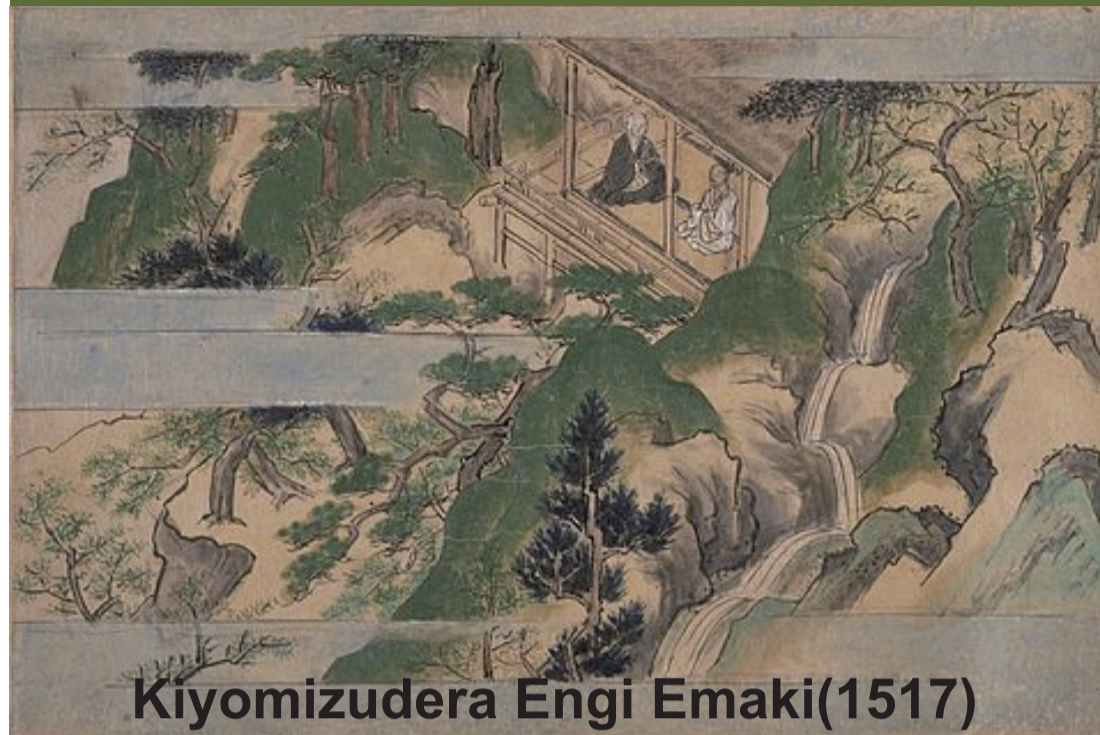


Kyoto Higashiyama

Ryo TANAKA
Sakura KAWAKITA

Until the Middle Age (-1570)



Kiyomizudera Engi Emaki(1517)

Heian-kyo (ancient Kyoto), which formed the basic frame of the urban structure in Kyoto, was constructed east-west symmetrically between Kamogawa River and Katsuragawa River. However, the west side declined because it was wetland, and the east side developed to be the center of the city. In addition, temples or shrines as a guardian were formed to surround the city, and many of them were constructed in Higashiyama, which is the mountain located near the city area.

Early Modern Ages (1570-1870)



Kiyomizudera Yurakuzu screen(17th)

Among the common people, journeys which aimed not only pilgrimage but also to see "sights" had developed. Higashiyama also became a place of recreation and tourism because of the peripheral development by temples or shrines and publication of tourist information guides. Some paintings and folding screens shows scenes in Higashiyama crowded with thousands of guests.

Modern Ages(1870-1950)



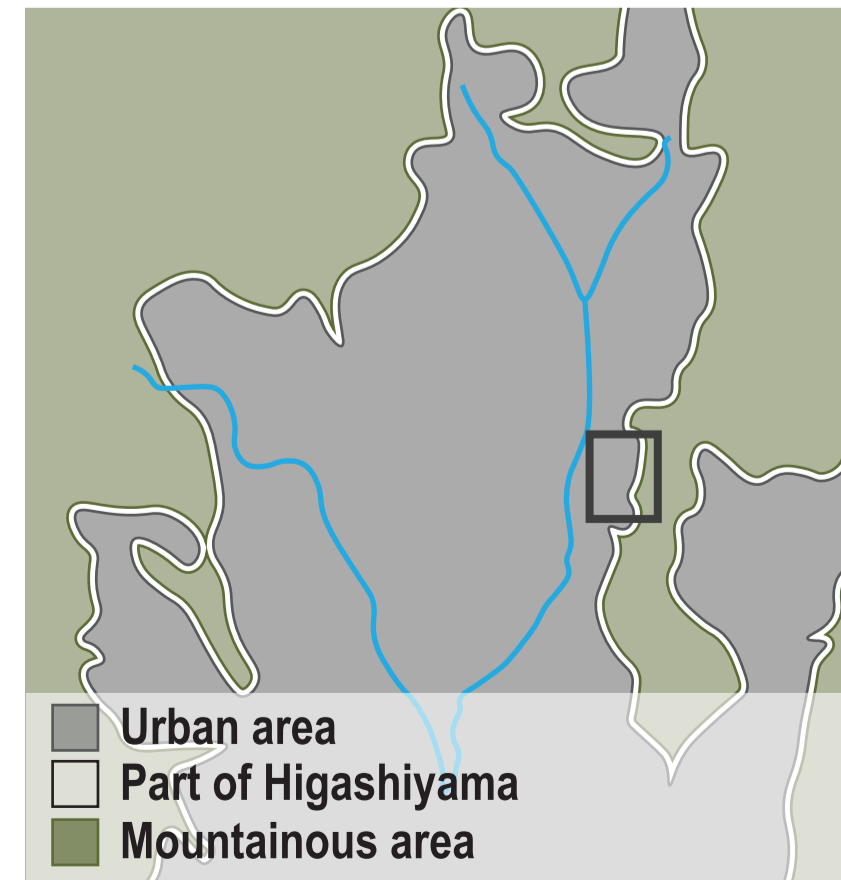
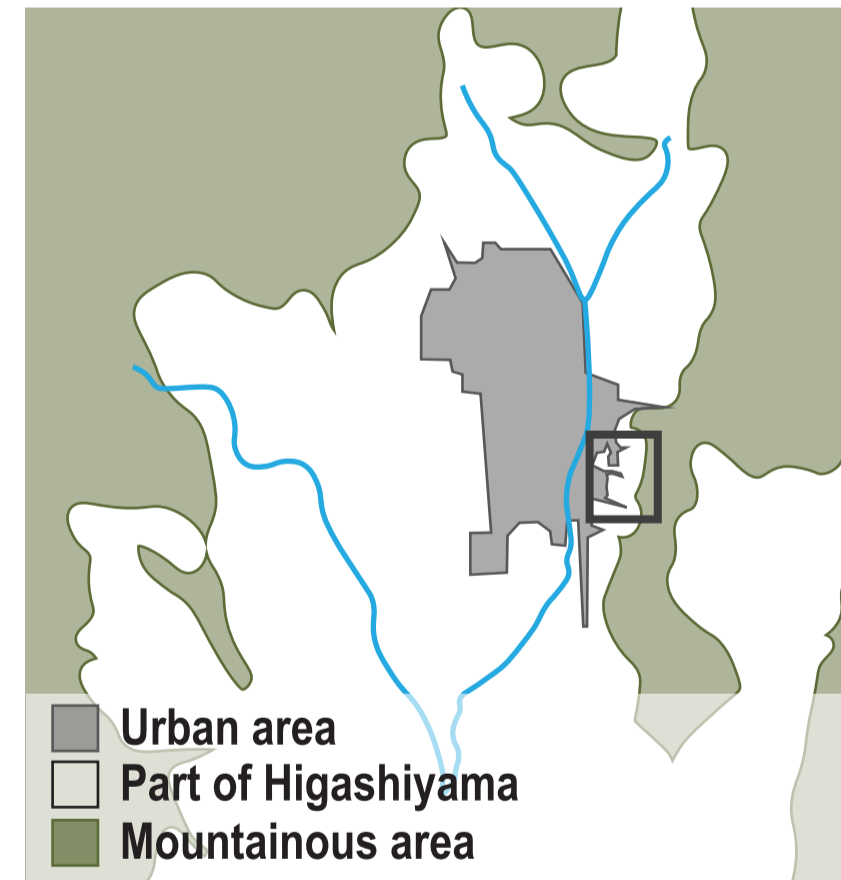
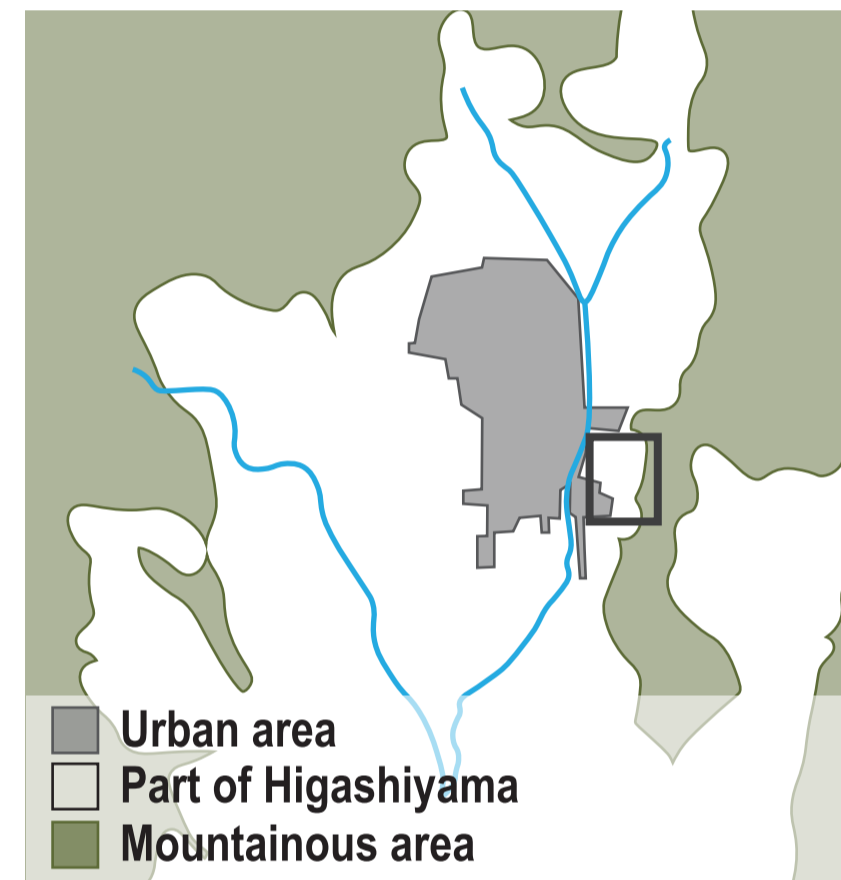
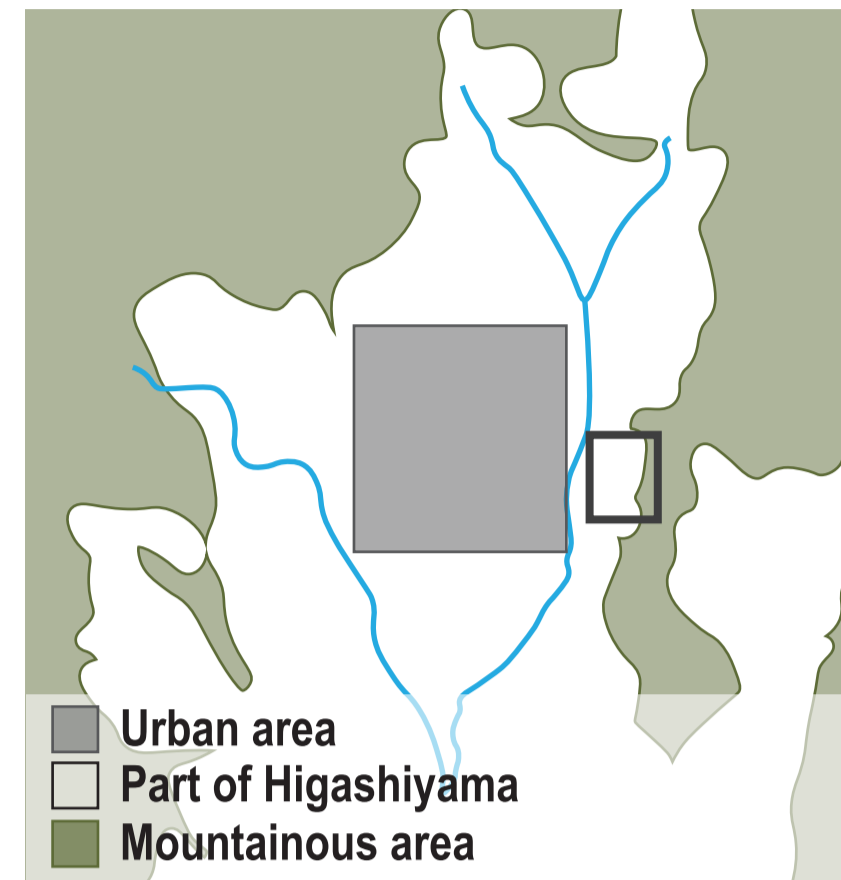
Perspective from Higashiyama(1907)

As urbanization progresses due to modernization, mansions or gardens of individuals were built in Higashiyama. People expected special moments (for example a large tea ceremony) for the area, which was very close to the mountain and had calm atmosphere. On the other hand, urbanization gradually progresses to Higashiyama due to the rapid development of urban areas, and the atmosphere of the city became stronger.

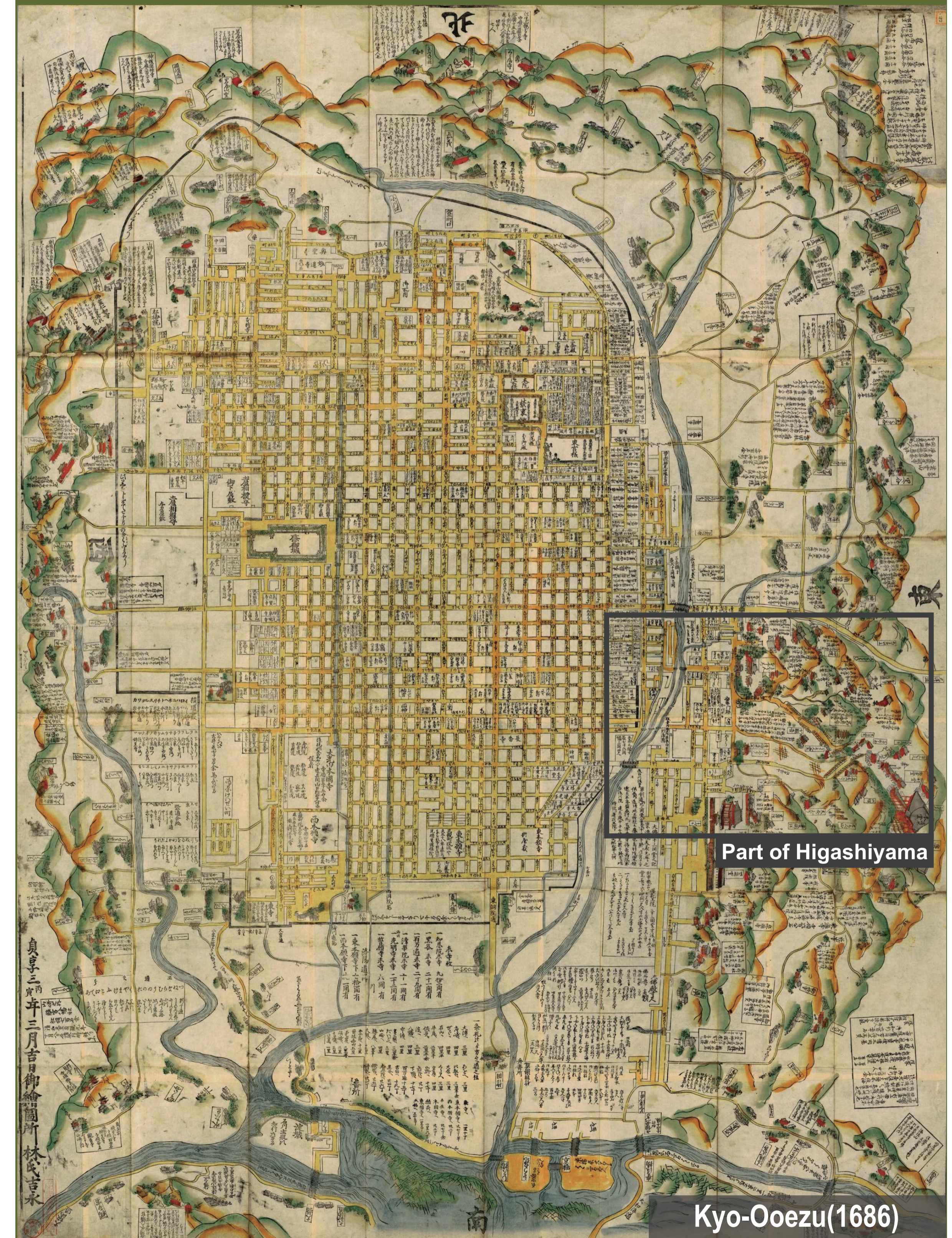
Contemporary Ages(1950-)



Higashiyama, with a lot of famous temples (including Kiyomizudera), is one of the most famous area in Kyoto. Many commercial facilities such as restaurants, souvenir shops or hotels have opened, and there are full of tourists from all over the world. Residential areas and sightseeing spots are mixed in the same area, which refer to have become a part of the city.

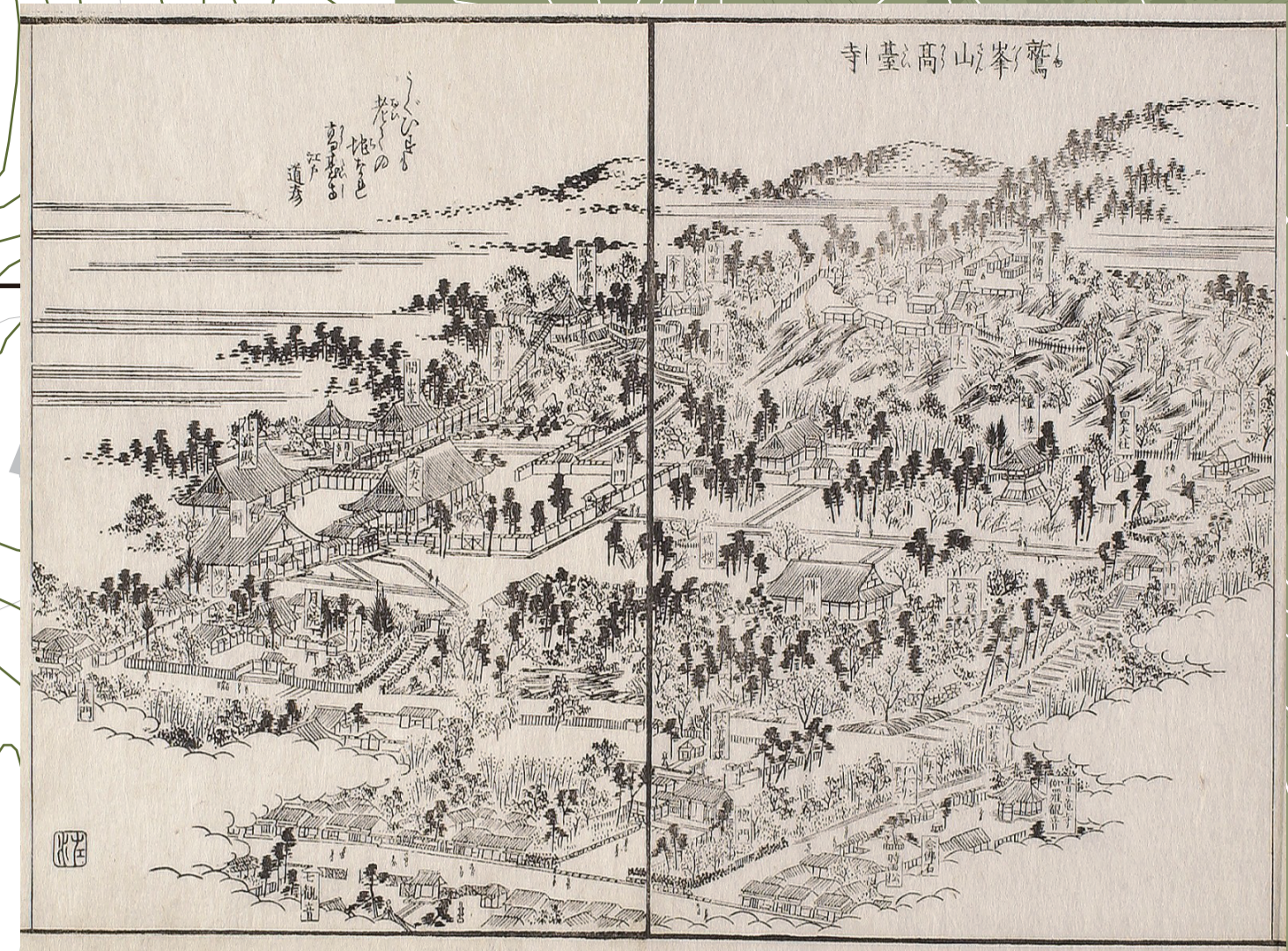
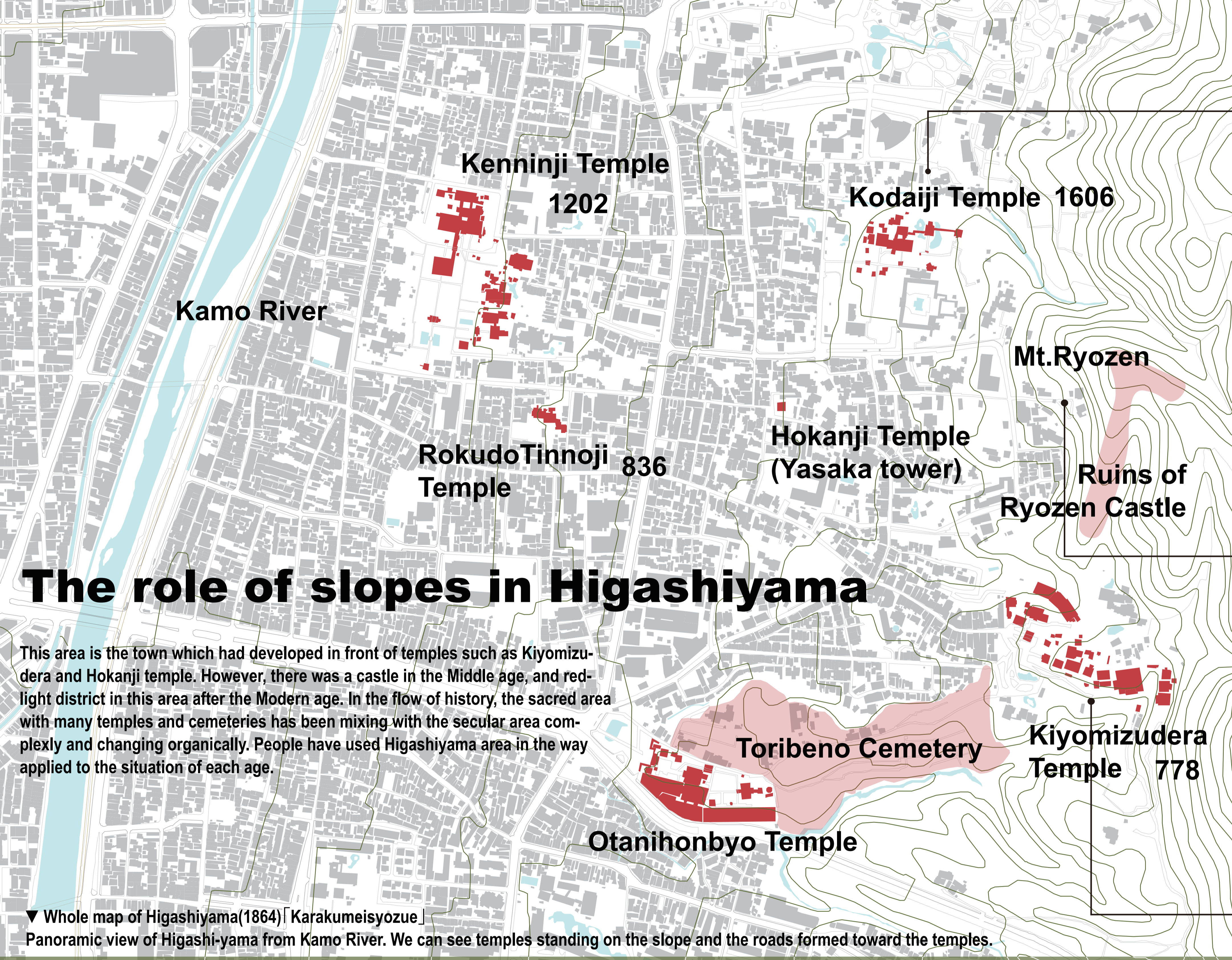


Higashiyama for the City

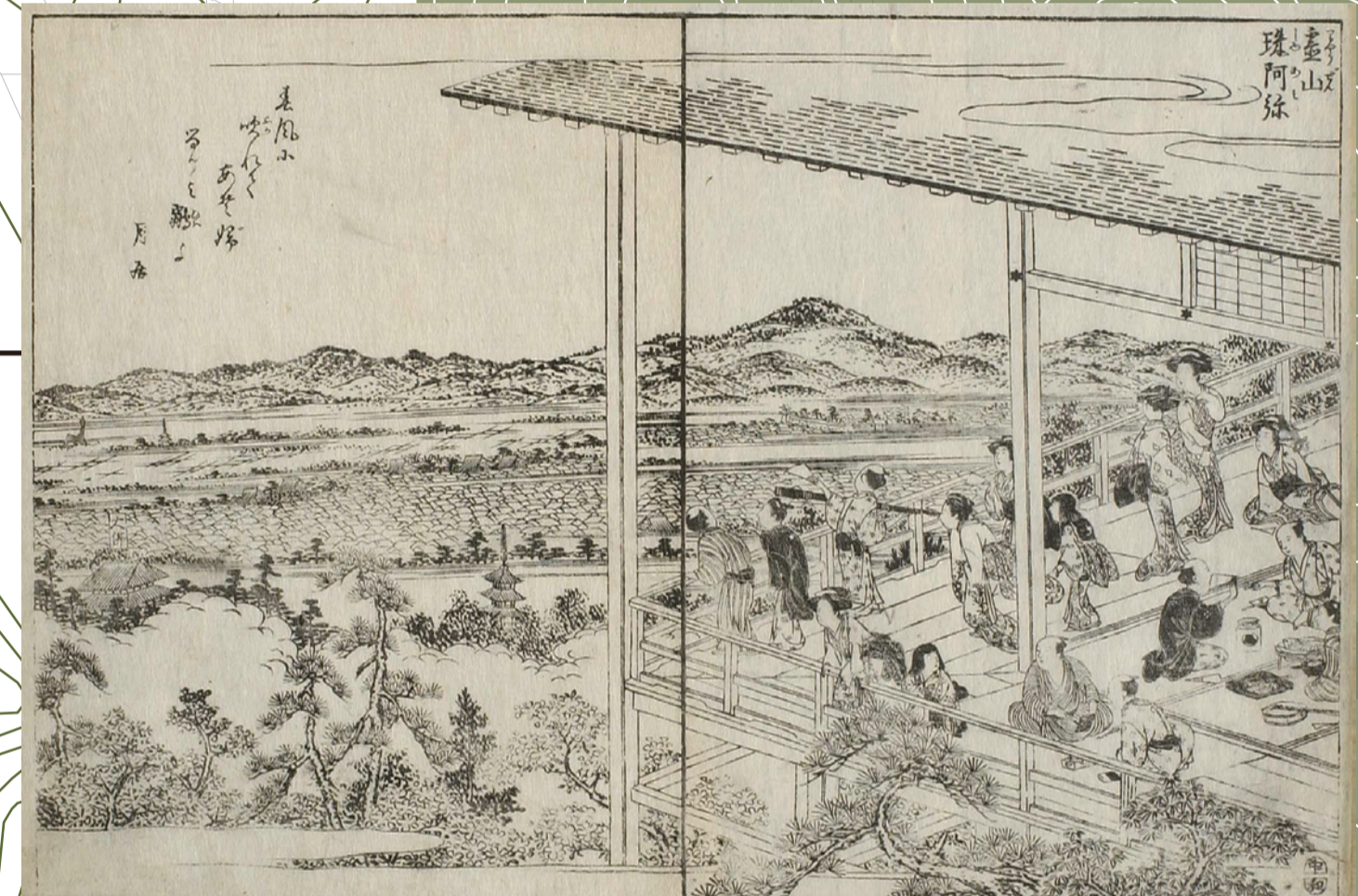


Part of Higashiyama

Kyo-Ooezu(1686)



▲ Jubuzan-Kodaiji-Temple(1864)「Karakumeisyoze」
Kodaiji built in modern times creates various landscapes by placing gardens on the mountain side using slopes. On the slope there is a quiet tea room preferred by the master of tea ceremony, and under the slope banquets were held at the time of cherry blossoms and Hagi.



▲ Ryozen-Syuami (1799)「Miyako-Rinsenmeisyoze」
Ryozen, the mountain which forms a part of Higashiyama, was seen as a sanctuary since Ryozenji Temple was founded in the ancient times. Because we can overlook the city of Kyoto, in the early modern times, zashiki-rooms with the panoramic view were mainly enjoyed.

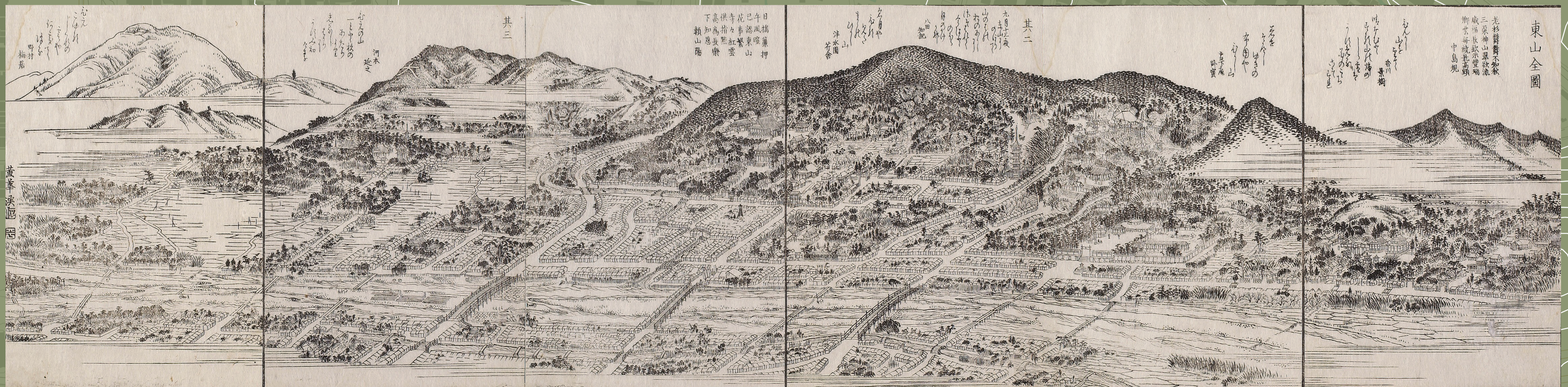


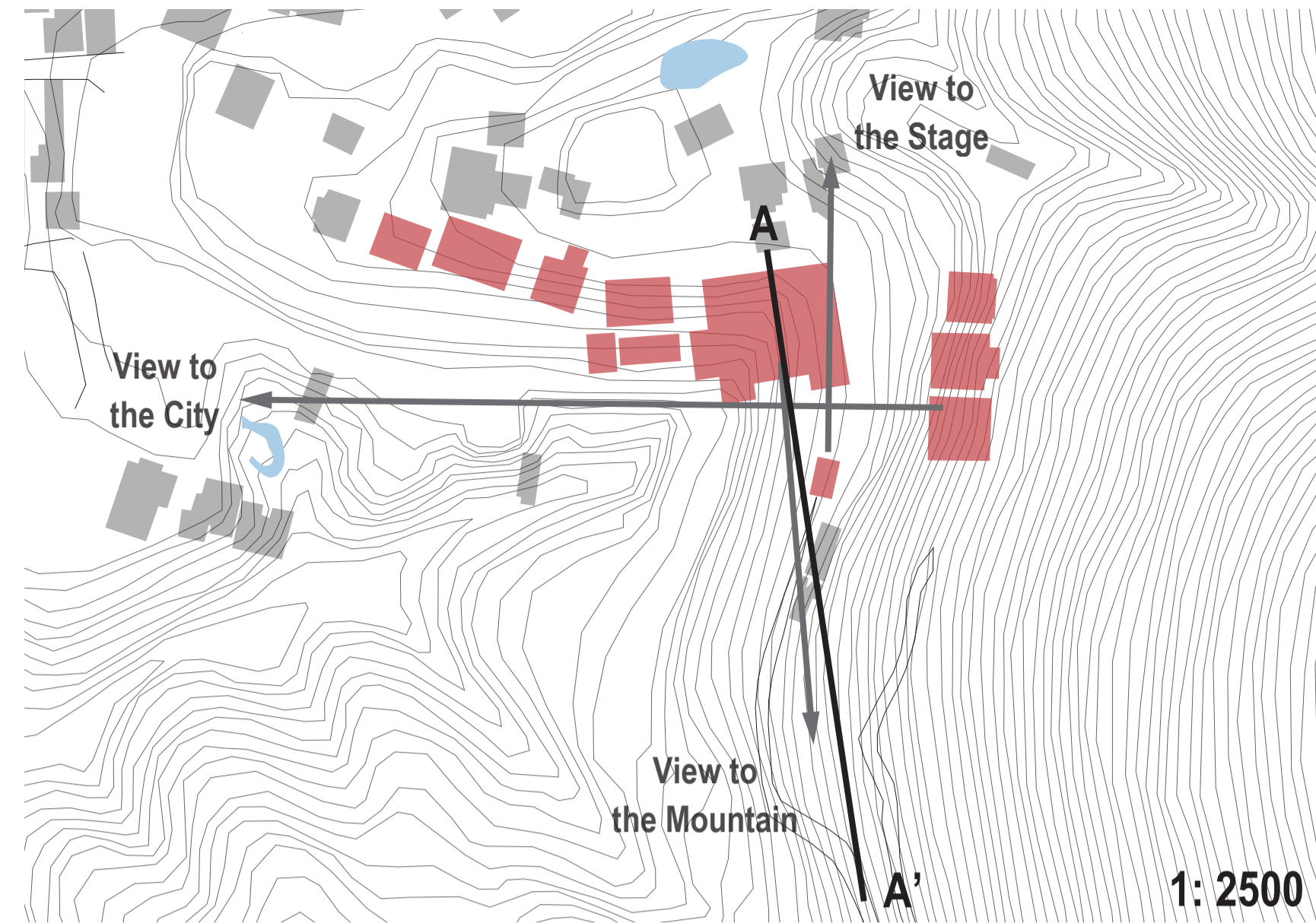
▲ Kiyomizu(1834)「Kyoto-meisyo」
It has been a place of faith in Shimizu Kannon since ancient times, and also a sight of cherry blossoms and autumn leaves. It was crowded with guests who enjoy singing and drinking while watching the stage floating among cherry blossoms.

The role of slopes in Higashiyama

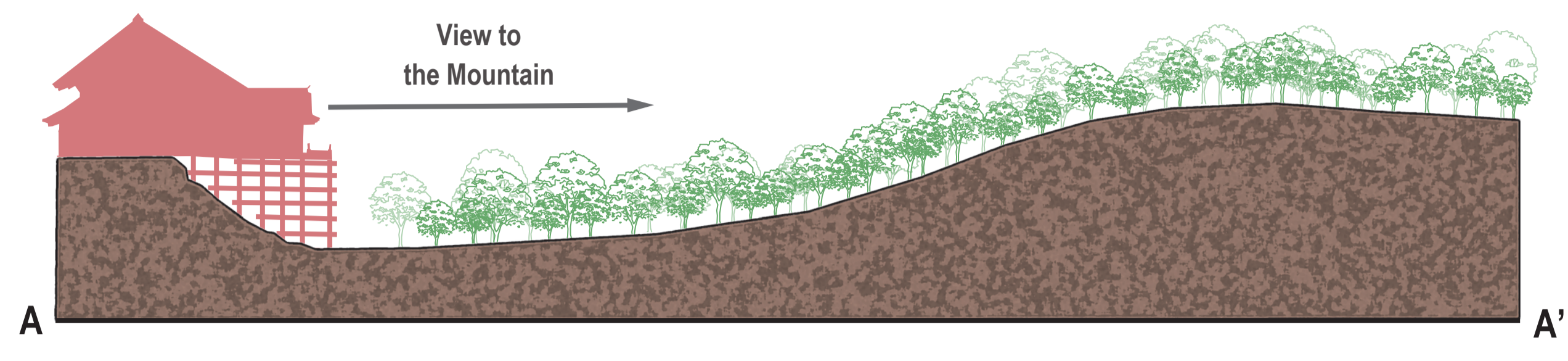
This area is the town which had developed in front of temples such as Kiyomizudera and Hokanji temple. However, there was a castle in the Middle age, and red-light district in this area after the Modern age. In the flow of history, the sacred area with many temples and cemeteries has been mixing with the secular area complexly and changing organically. People have used Higashiyama area in the way applied to the situation of each age.

▼ Whole map of Higashiyama(1864)「Karakumeisyoze」
Panoramic view of Higashi-yama from Kamo River. We can see temples standing on the slope and the roads formed toward the temples.



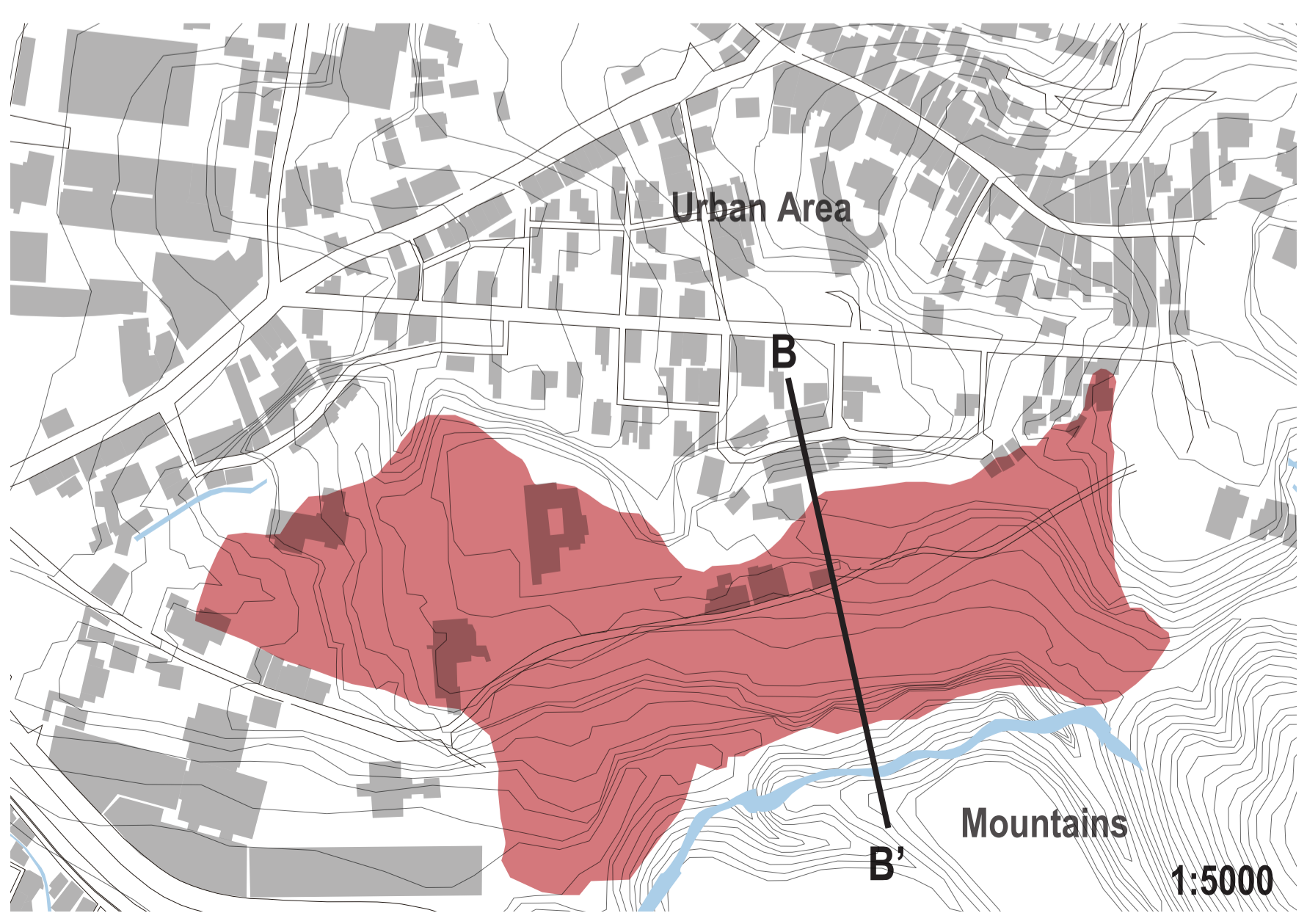
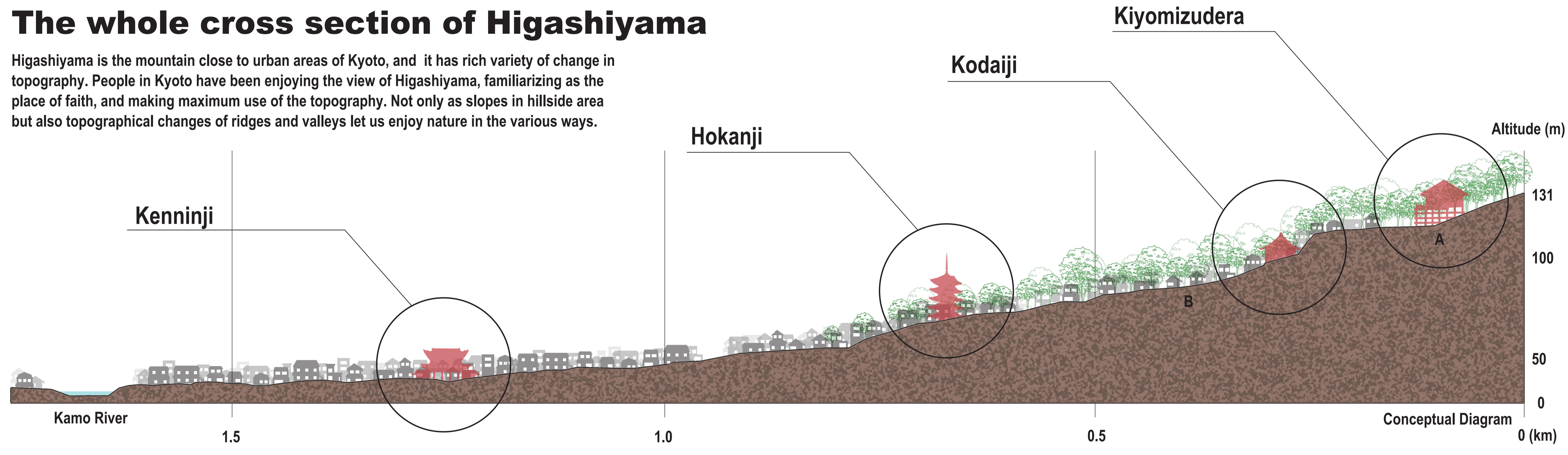


In Kiyomizudera, main halls, Okumiya and tea houses are located nearby surrounding the valley. Since the main hall is open to the valley side, the view let us feel surrounded by nature of the nearby ridge. Okumiya, on the other hand, is open to the mountain foot and is in a place where we can get a view of the city of Kyoto. The tea house located in the valley can look up the front of the stage.

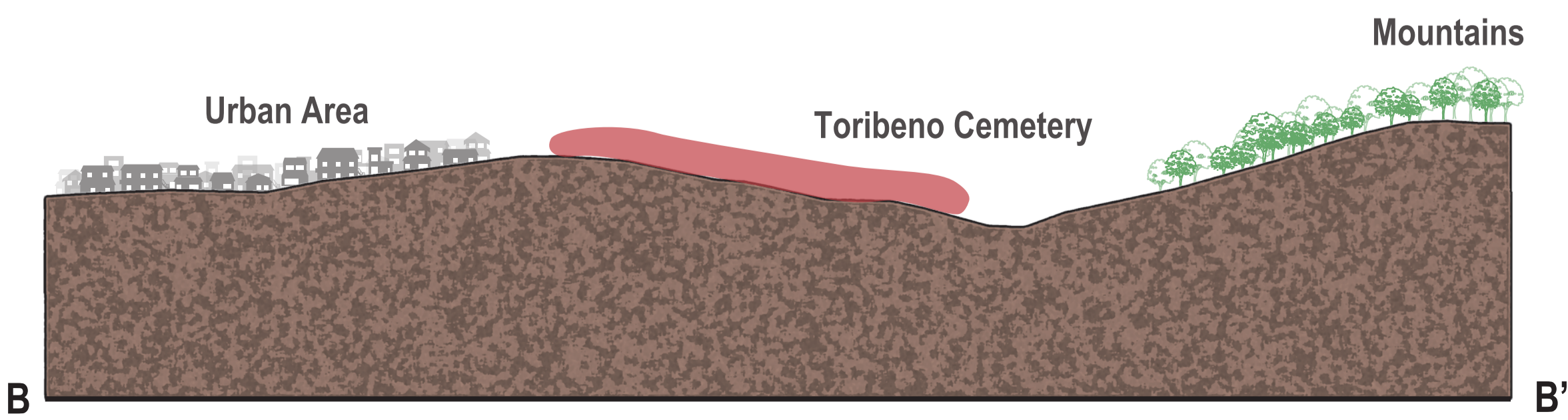


The whole cross section of Higashiyama

Higashiyama is the mountain close to urban areas of Kyoto, and it has rich variety of change in topography. People in Kyoto have been enjoying the view of Higashiyama, familiarizing as the place of faith, and making maximum use of the topography. Not only as slopes in hillside area but also topographical changes of ridges and valleys let us enjoy nature in the various ways.



Toribeno cemetery spreads the southern slope of the ridge and the slope opposite the valley is the mountainous region. Moreover, it is in the place which cannot be seen from the city area on the mountain foot due to the temple. Although it is a cemetery near the city, the ridges and valleys make it possible to separate spatially from urban areas.





Seiryuen



Daidokoro Slope



Jojuin

In the Seiryuen, where the tea house was originally built, the garden made toward the mountain created a quiet atmosphere naturally surrounded. Nowadays, restaurants or souvenir shops are gathered, and anyone can freely come and go to the garden.

Covered with the trees continuing from Kodaiji area, we can feel surrounded with the green. Overlapping trees and inclination limit the perspectives from the inside, which create the quiet atmosphere.

The garden of Joju-in Temple is a chisen-kaiyushiki garden (Japanese style garden with a path around a central pond and spring) and uses the landscape of Kodaiji Mountain. The garden is facing north so we can not see the moon, but it is said that people have loved the moon reflected in the pond. So it was known as "Garden of the moon".



St Yasaka

St Yasaka, the approach of Hokanji, is curved in front of the tower of Yasaka and we can see it from head-on side. Moreover, the perspectives to the mountains let us feel connected with Higashiyama.



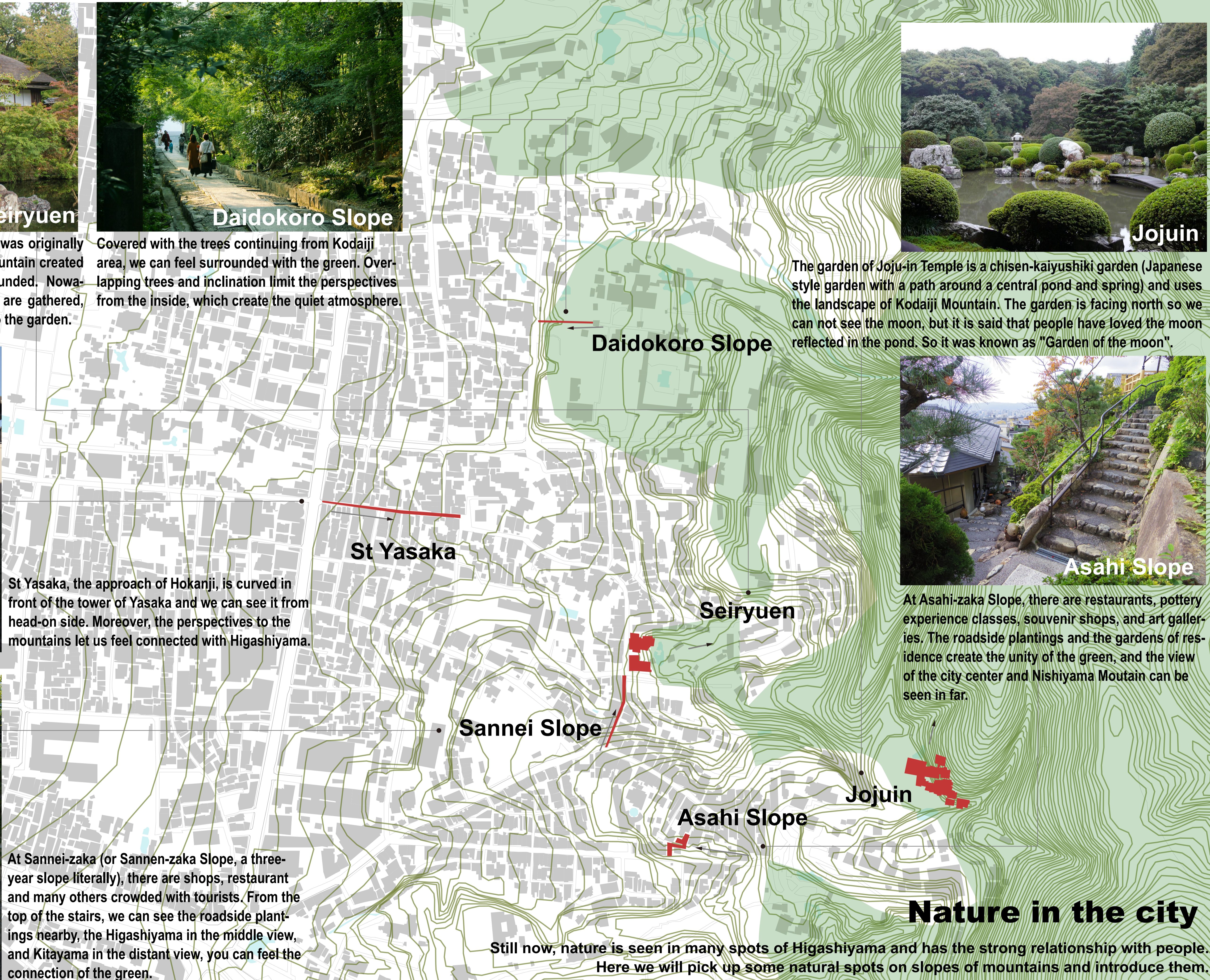
Asahi Slope

At Asahi-zaka Slope, there are restaurants, pottery experience classes, souvenir shops, and art galleries. The roadside plantings and the gardens of residence create the unity of the green, and the view of the city center and Nishiyama Mountain can be seen in far.



Sannei Slope

At Sannei-zaka (or Sannen-zaka Slope, a three-year slope literally), there are shops, restaurant and many others crowded with tourists. From the top of the stairs, we can see the roadside plantings nearby, the Higashiyama in the middle view, and Kitayama in the distant view, you can feel the connection of the green.



Still now, nature is seen in many spots of Higashiyama and has the strong relationship with people. Here we will pick up some natural spots on slopes of mountains and introduce them.

Nature in the city