

CYCLING EMBASSY

JAPAN



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

FLANDERS EVENT /
CYKLOKOALICIA IN SLOVAK /
ADFC /
NPC PICNIC /
& MORE ...



STUDIO C - FREEWHEELING

THE ROAD AHEAD

We are entering into the summer season which promises to offer a very hot cycling experience.

Let's look back at the wonderful weather we had this spring and the many people we meet from Europe who helped shed some light on cycling advocacy, architecture, and urban design.



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CYCLINGEMBASSYJAPAN

WWW.TWITTER.COM/CYCLEEMBASSYJP

TOUR DE HOLLAND TO FLANDERS, BELGIUM IN TOKYO



The fourth annual “Tour de Holland to Flanders, Belgium in Tokyo” was held on April 10th. With over 300 participants this ride was a big one.

Surprising to me was that this event was on the same day as the annual Earth Day Ride which meant that there must have been a lot of cyclists on the road that Sunday.

The Cycling Embassy of Japan was granted an all access pass to cover the event and we even made a short video of the event that you can see here:



[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/162366740](https://vimeo.com/162366740)

While the main purpose of the event is to promote tourism in Belgium and Holland, it was also a great way to see the city in full bloom. This year we started at the Belgium Embassy and headed out towards the Imperial Palace to join the open streets at the Sunday Palace Cycling Course.

The route wove its way through Marunouchi going past the Tokyo Station twice before making a brief stop in Hibiya Park to get a KLM stamp. Then it was on its way to the Tokyo Tower and the final destination, the Dutch Embassy. Folks on this 11km ride were relaxed and had a good variety of bicycle types, including cargo bikes, recumbents, and a bunch of Brompton bros.

I would recommend this event to anyone who likes to feel like they are part of a big cycling event and want to meet other cyclists who are fans of European cycling.



CYCLING COALITION IN BRATISLAVA



A while back we got an email asking the Cycling Embassy of Japan to provide as much information about Critical Mass Tokyo as we could. Unfortunately we are not connected with that group and we weren't able to provide much information about their activities.

The person asking us was Igor Trenk a member of Cycling Coalition of Bratislava in the Slovak Republic. While we weren't able to get him to join any of our official rides, Brad from Freewheeling Japan was able to take him out on a journey around western Tokyo. I was there to tag along and answer some questions about the oddities of street design, political structures, and cultural norms.

Mr. Trenk introduced me to some issues I only roughly knew about like:

PARALLEL POLIS

WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/PARALLEL_POLIS

OPEN SOURCE BIKE SHARE

OPENSOURCEBIKESHARE.COM

PETER SAGAN

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=GJJRHIK7YG4



THE GERMAN BICYCLE FEDERATION

Philipp Poll from the ADFC visited Japan recently and stopped in at Studio C to have some pizza and chat about cycling efforts in Germany.

The main focus regarded urban design shifts in Berlin in the post-unification era and how the city is continuing to improve the cycling infrastructure.

The efforts of the ADFC go back to 1982 and are now fundamental to the planning of the city. I was impressed to hear the massive scale of their membership and equally impressed with the amazing cycling map made by their friends at the environmental group BUND.

As we discussed efforts in both Tokyo and Berlin it became very clear that Tokyo is far behind European cities when it comes to coordinating efforts to make cycling facilities safer and more coherent. Europe seems to have already hit a lot of the same bumps in the road as Japan seems to be struggling with but they did so in the 1950s and 60s. It only makes sense to review their efforts and replicate what works instead of going along the same failed path of discovery.

For instance, when we showed how Tokyo has the cycling paths running on the footpath he told us that it would be illegal to design such a potentially dangerous piece of infrastructure in Germany. "Think of the lawsuits" he told us.

Another thing to think about is the organization's principals. The ADFC aims to address the traffic transitions, climate change, health or lack of physical activity, noise and air pollution, land consumption, social participation, and the shrinking amount of public money. Their solution seems to be the bicycle and I would have to agree.



ARCHITECTURE RIDE

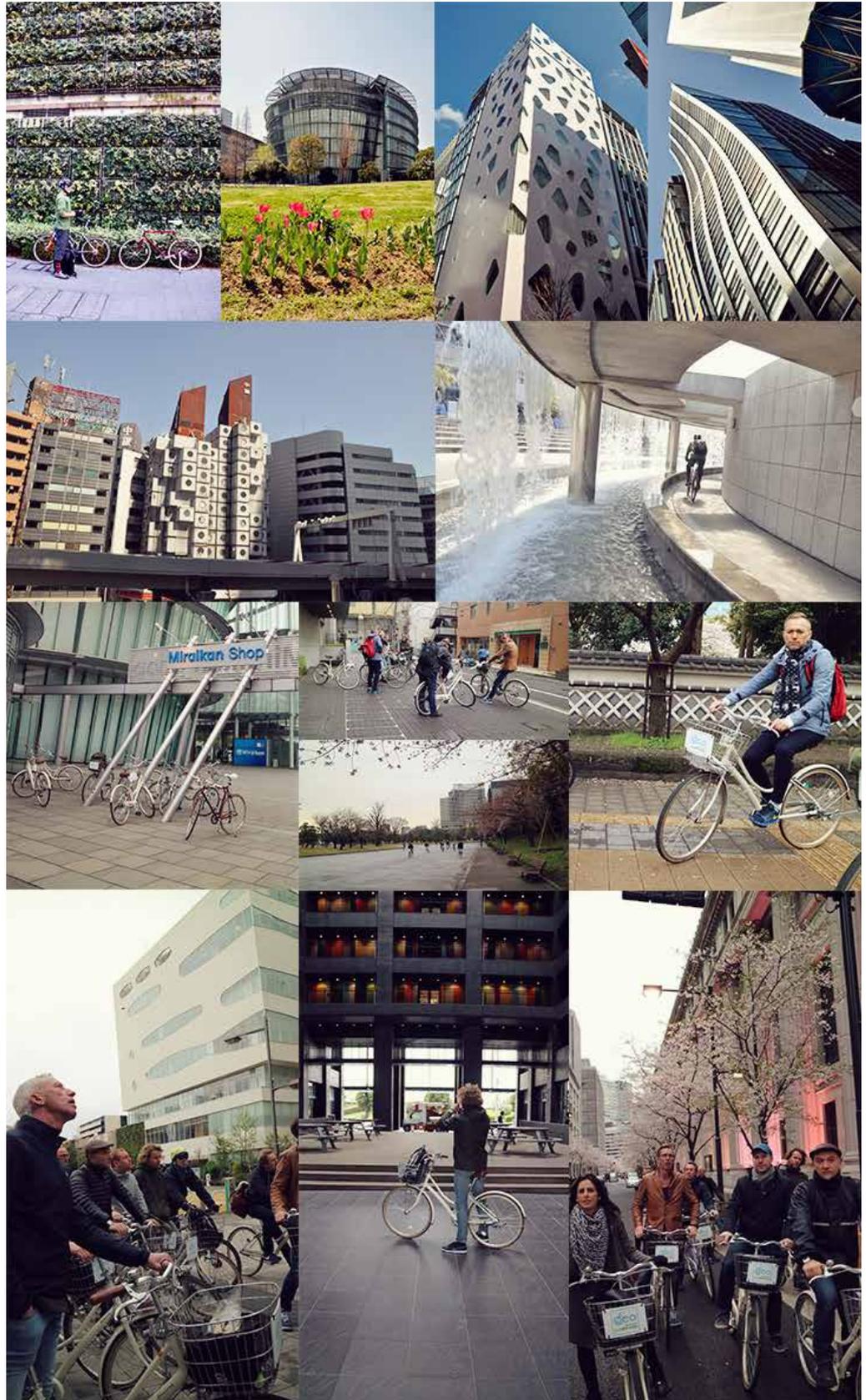
Back in April the Cycling Embassy of Japan in association with Freewheeling Japan went on an outing with a group of dutch architects.

The ride went through the old side of Tokyo which I'm not that familiar with but after a few test rides with Brad (who used to live over there) we had our route.

They had a list of buildings they wanted to see and all we did was show them how to view them from the saddle of a bike.

They were all pros at riding the single speeds and seemed to enjoy the ride.

I thought it was great to see what they had to say about the buildings, although most of what they said was in dutch, so I nodded until they said something in English.



FREEWHEELING
TOKYO BIKE ADVENTURES × URBAN HIKING

NIGHT PEDAL CRUISING SPRING PICNIC



The gang at the Night Pedal Cruising group ride had their annual picnic and we came along for the ride.

The route started at the United Nations University and made our way to the Tokyo Tower. Thanks for the nice time (and beer!)

You can see the video of the ride using the link below.



[VIMEO.COM/164824135](https://vimeo.com/164824135)



To all you outspoken foreign cyclists living in this crazy mixed up place, we want to pick your brain. The researchers at the Tokyo Institute of Technology are asking for our keen insight and horror stories of cycling in Tokyo (sorry rural folks).

In the process we would like to use their research to make a short documentary about how urban design touches our lives. To share your tales of the good, bad, and ugly, please sign-up at the link below:



TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT
WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE
 ON THEIR CITY STREETS
 BUT INSTEAD OF BUILDING SAFER BIKE LANES
 YOU GET A REFLECTIVE

SLAP BRACELET

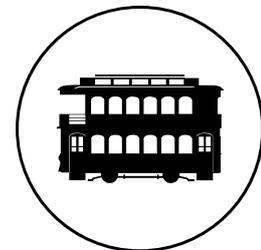
THANKS, I FEEL SAFER ALREADY!



SPECIAL THANKS TO
 THESE LOVELY FOLKS:



YOKOHAMA
 RIDES & RENTALS



FREEWHEELING
 TOKYO BIKE ADVENTURES × URBAN HIKING

WATCH OUR VIDEOS AT:

WWW.VIMEO.COM/USER41289781