



Underground SPACE Journey

Tokyo Metro opened its newest subway line on June 14 this year. Running 20.2 kilometers from Wako City to the Tokyo district of Shibuya, the much-anticipated Fukutoshin Line links three of Tokyo's busiest commercial centers: Ikebukuro, Shinjuku and Shibuya. One of the line's most talked-about features is its Shibuya station, designed by world-renowned architect Tadao Ando to resemble an "underground spaceship suspended beneath the city."



circulates cold water through tubes running under platforms and along ceilings. Teamed with natural ventilation, this saves 1,000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually to create one of the world's most eco-friendly stations.

The buried capsule allows surface breezes to blow through the station and sunlight to pour into it. "When people see natural lighting to a depth of 30 meters, I think they will understand that this station has brought together Japan's most advanced technical capabilities, says Ando. "I hope visitors from around the world will sense the wonderful ways in which Tokyo is making effective use of natural energy. With its unity of technology, design and environmental responsibility, Shibuya station has become one of Tokyo's hot new sights. If you have a chance to visit Japan, don't miss this underground space journey.

FACING: The open space connects three underground levels.

BELOW: Passengers are making their way to the platforms which are on the fifth underground level, at the base of the giant cocoon.

Connecting three of the station's levels, the "underground spaceship" takes the form of an oval capsule 80 meters long and 24 meters wide. This open space calls to mind a gigantic buried cocoon. In its center is a huge opening to the surface, up to 22 meters across, enabling the natural circulation of air without relying on machinery. The use of a natural ventilation system in such a large subway station is a world first. The station also features a radiant cooling system that



PHOTOS: SHINICHI SATO