

Tainai-Meguri

胎内巡り Tainai-meguri

In everyday life we navigate digital space without question—checking our position on smartphone GPS maps and acting as if the screen itself were reality. Yet our perception of the world and even our sense of being are shaped by reliance on invisible, intangible data. In Tainai-meguri this hidden digital space is envisioned as a cave made tangible by a sweeping bamboo arbor concealed behind a border of trees and shrubs. A discrete bamboo portal framed by dense planting invites visitors inward through an undulating passage leading to a magatama-shaped pond at the centre. A bamboo grid divides the pond, forming the only threshold between the outer world and an inner sea. Water droplets fall from the bamboo dome, rippling across the pond's surface, while a skylight facing north reveals the Polar Star above. In this quiet convergence of nature, water, and light, one senses a return to origin — a meditative journey where inner and outer worlds dissolve. Passing once more through an undulating passage the visitor emerges renewed, as if reborn.

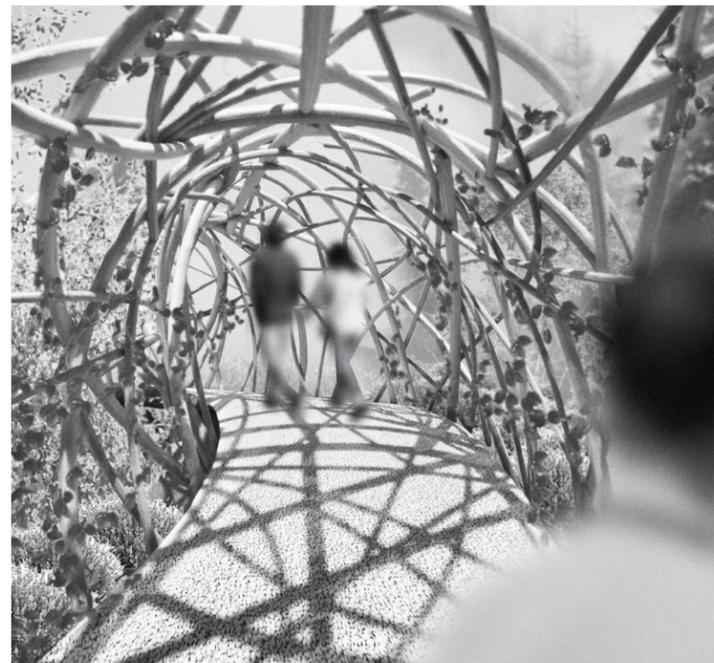
1. 勾玉 (Magatama) = Rebirth Symbol - The ancient comma shape, symbolizing life and rebirth.
2. 竹格子 (Take goshi) = Bamboo Grid - Visualization of the digital grid.
3. 水紋 (Suimon) = Water Ripple - Water droplets falling from the bamboo dome spread ripples across the water below.
4. 天窗 (Tenmado) = Skylight - Aligned with the Polar Star at 46 degrees North latitude from Les Jardin de Metis.
5. 躡口 (Nijiriguchi) = Small Gate - A small, low entrance to a traditional Japanese tea room, requiring guests to crawl or stoop to enter. It symbolizes humility and equality among participants, as everyone must bow before entering the sacred space.

Plant List

- Ground Covers:
-  Chinese Stonecrop (*Sedum tetractinum*)
 -  English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
- Medium Shrubs:
-  Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)
 -  Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Tall Trees:
-  Korean Pine (*Pinus koraiensis*)
 -  Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
 -  Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)
- Vines:
-  Common Hop (*Humulus lupulus*)
 -  Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)



Site Plan + Planting Diagram



Procession Views

Tainai-Meguri

Fujisan Tainai Meguri no Zu Woodblock printed triptych by Gountei

[Japan] Fascinating woodblock print by Gountei Sadahide (1807-79) of a pilgrimage to the 'womb' of Mount Fuji. Pilgrims would collect and drink water from stalactites in specific caves in the mountain. They thought of it as the 'milk' of the 'mother' mountain, hence Mount Fuji is depicted as though it is a human body with ribs etc. Sadahide also used the name Gyokuransai and his original family name was Hashimoto.

Publisher unidentified. Gountei Sadahide. 1858.

Each panel approx. 35 x 24cm.



Elevation - Day 1

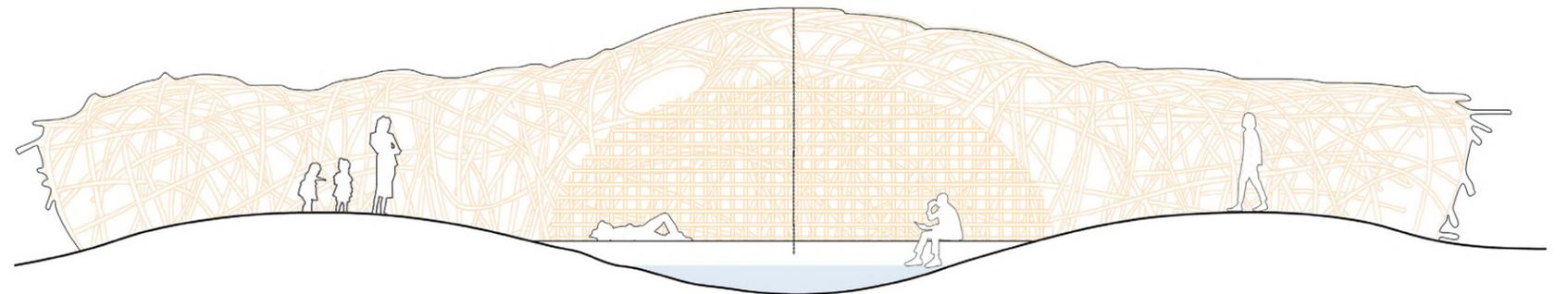
Elevation - Day 100



Bamboo Detail



Illustrated Axonometric View



Illustrated Section