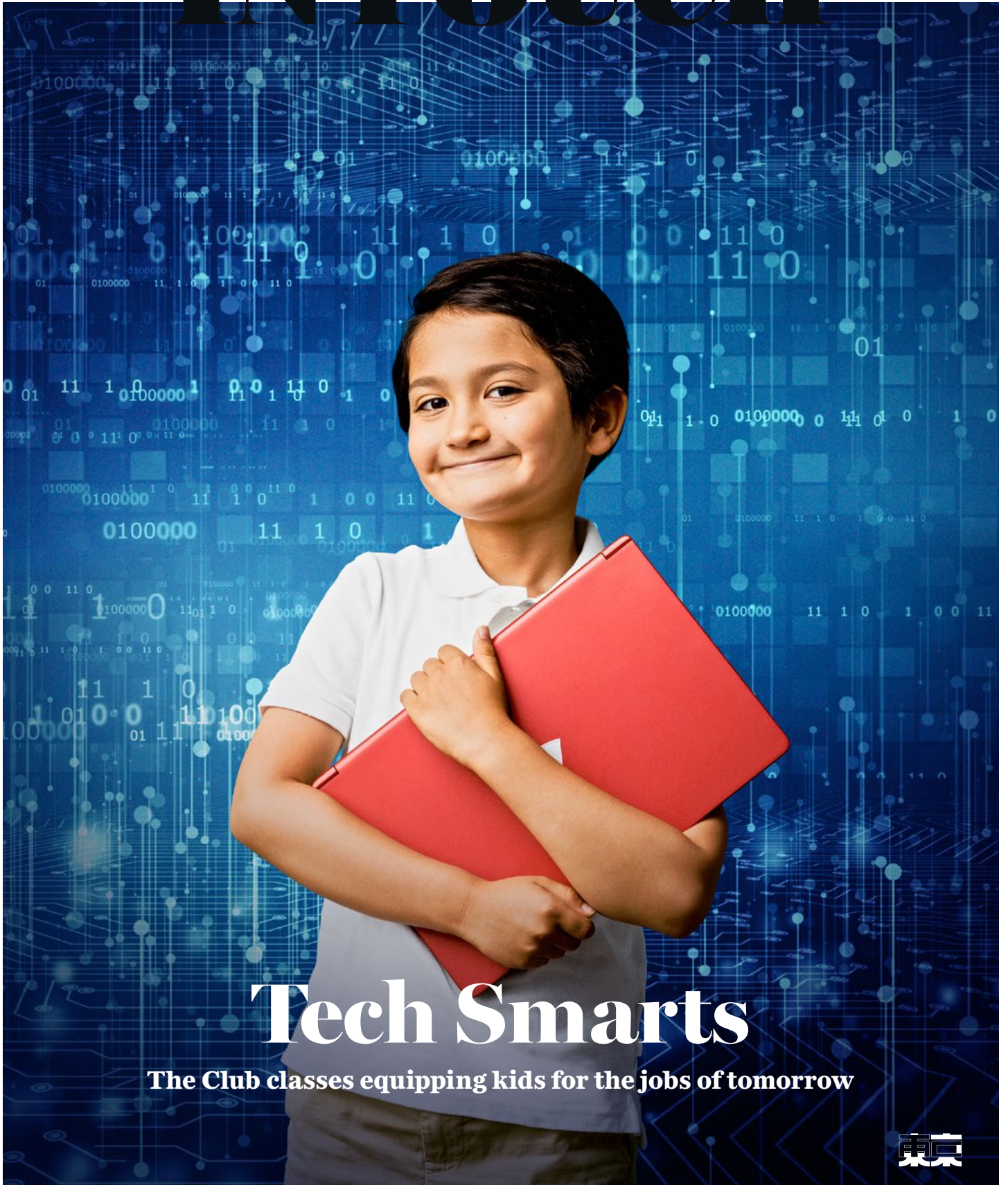


INTOUCH



Tech Smarts

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KAYO YAMAWAKI



KAYO YAMAWAKI

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YUUKI IDE

COVER IMAGE OF LUCA SILECCHIA BY KAYO YAMAWAKI



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INTOUCH

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Doing Our Part

WORDS JEFFREY BEHR

IMAGE KAYO YAMAWAKI

Have you ever been excited to visit the doctor? I didn't think so. Well, on July 5, the anticipation was palpable as folks eagerly lined up outside our Club to see a doctor.

On this particular Monday morning, the Club B2 event space launched as a public Covid-19 vaccination center, one of seven such sites in Minato Ward. After weeks of preparation by a team of Members and Club staff, the center began administering vaccines to some of the ward's nearly 185,000 residents.

We saw 950 people, including Members, Club staff and Minato citizens, vaccinated on that first day. Over the following weeks, those initial hundreds became thousands as more residents headed to our Azabudai home for their two vaccine shots.

There was a sense of goodwill and fellowship in the air that July day. Minato-resident Members smiled and patted one another on the back while jokingly avoiding sensitive jab spots. People were enjoying the company of friends they hadn't seen in a while. For myself, I hadn't felt such a sense of relief in many months. It was a wonderful feeling to see so many happy faces at our Club again.

The words of the great Jewish leader and scholar Hillel the Elder, who lived in Jerusalem more than 2,000 years ago, capture the essence of this community partnership: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Community support has been a core value of the Club since its founding in 1928, and this latest initiative represents a continuation of that tradition. Our Club has a proud history of charitable work and fundraising. Connections, which played a vital role in the vaccination program, donates funds to local charities each year and has been supporting the Fukushima area through various programs since the 2011 disaster.

Benefiting our staff, Members and the community at large, the vaccination effort—which winds down this month—is monumental. We are deeply thankful to Sam Rogan, the Club's first vice president, who led the project, and the dozens of Member volunteers, staff and medical professionals who stepped up to make this historic event happen.

As Japan continues with its nationwide vaccination drive, all Members can be proud that their Club did its part to bring an end to this period of uncertainty and upheaval.

Jeffrey Behr is the Club's secretary.

**"BENEFITING
OUR STAFF,
MEMBERS AND
THE COMMUNITY
AT LARGE, THE
VACCINATION
EFFORT IS
MONUMENTAL."**

Center Success



YUUKI IDE

After a summer of shots, the Club's Covid-19 vaccination center winds down later this month. Launched in early July, the B2 public center has seen more than 25,000 people, including many Members and staff, receive two doses of the Moderna vaccine.

One of seven sites in Minato Ward, the Club handled around 30 percent of total vaccinations in the ward, according to Sam Rogan, the Club's first vice president who led the project.

"We've really had a great partnership with the Minato Public Health Center, city hall and the mayor," he says. "I am thankful to the Board, the management team, the staff and the army of volunteers who made this exercise so successful." *NJ*

Staff Support



A longtime Member has bequeathed ¥10 million to the Club for a staff training program she supported for more than 30 years.

Shizuko Tani, who passed away last December at the age of 94, donated ¥1 million each Christmas to a fund for employees' overseas training. Named after Tani's business partner Jiro Matsumura, the fund has been used to finance an internship exchange program since 2017.

Under the scheme, selected Club staff spend one month working at a reciprocal club in North America.

Tani, who joined the Club in 1973, established Homat Homes with architect Matsumura in the 1950s to cater to expat housing needs. She was also chair of Sun Realty. *NJ*

Image: Shizuko Tani and Club General Manager Anthony Cala

Learning for Tomorrow

While parents around the world fret over how much screen time is appropriate for their children, one thing is absolutely clear: digital devices and screens are here to stay and will play an ever-increasing role in the lives of everyone.

Technology is already shaping the way we communicate, work and relax. And as automation and artificial intelligence render obsolete more and more jobs traditionally done by humans, what does this mean for the future of work?

According to the World Economic Forum, millions of young people lack the necessary skills to forge careers in the industries of tomorrow.

"Education systems have grown increasingly disconnected from the realities and needs of global economies and societies. Education models must adapt to equip children with the skills to create a more inclusive, cohesive and productive world," the organization stated in a 2020 report.

The past 18 months have magnified the need for technology skills, as more businesses and people have turned to digital tools and platforms.

"Young people know that digital skills will be important for their future careers, and the appetite for learning is there," said Sean Farrington of US-based tech training company Pluralsight earlier this year.

That's certainly the case with the kids featured in this month's cover story, "Engineering the Future," who explain why they can't get enough of the Club's lineup of tech-focused classes.

Mom and dad might not see it now, but with technology developing at such a rapid rate, that extra hour of after-school screen time could prove the difference when it comes to landing a job.

Nick Jones

From the Shelves



KAYO YAMAWAKI

Hana Aram

to read and always told me that there should be no budget for books, which enabled me to spend countless hours in Maruzen with a basket full of books.

What genre do you most enjoy?

I read all sorts of genres, but lately I've been fascinated with bildungsroman—or coming-of-age—novels like *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott and *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë.

What are you reading now?

I'm hoping to break my streak of reading realistic fiction novels by reading science fiction. I'm trying to finish Frank Herbert's *Dune* before the movie comes out in the fall. The story is about political clashes between noble families in a feudal interstellar society.

While college students reacquire themselves with libraries this month, Member Hana Aram won't face any such hurdles when she returns to her history studies at New York's Cornell University. Always at home among the shelves, she shares the titles that have left their mark.

What was your favorite childhood book?

I'd have to say I'm torn between *Savvy* by Ingrid Law, which I read six times

the same year I first read it, and *The Trumpet of the Swan* by EB White, which I remember struggling to read. It was the first book I read by myself. I was also really immersed in Erin Hunter's Warriors series of novels about clans of feral cats.

What inspired your love of books?

My parents really encouraged me to read from an early age. My mother loved reading books as a child and passed on that love. My father taught me how

When were you last unable to put down a book?

Two very different but powerfully written books spring to mind. The first is Ruth Ozeki's debut hit, *My Year of Meats*, which follows two young women and their experiences with a TV show promoting meat. The other is Won-Pyung Sohn's *Almond*, a novel about a boy with alexithymia, a brain condition that makes it hard to process emotions. It was hard to find a place to pause with both.

Fall Refresher

The changing of the seasons asks a lot of your skin. All summer, it's been soaking up rays as you slather on sunscreen and wipe away sweat, but just around the corner lies in wait the dry air of a Japanese winter.

This month, give your skin the respite it deserves with a refreshing autumn reset at The Spa.

With 20 percent off 60-minute Proskin facials, 10 percent off a trio of 30-minute exfoliating body polishes, 15 percent off three 45-minute teen facial sessions and 10 percent off The Spa's full selection of cleansing Dermologica scrubs and gels, your skin will thank you for the much-needed pampering. **OZ**



KAYO YAMAWAKI



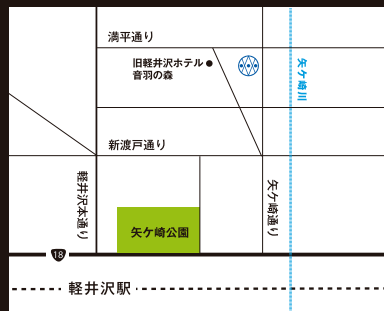
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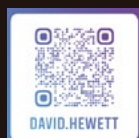
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David Stanley Hewett is one of the most well known foreign artists in Japan.

Hewett first came to Japan in 1988 and has made Japan his home.

In November 2017, Hewett's painting entitled 'Majime' was selected as the gift from Mrs. Akie Abe, the wife of the Prime Minister of Japan, to the First Lady of the United States. In 2019 the painting was inducted into the National Archives Collection of the United States of America.

Hewett's works can be seen in the permanent collections of the Imperial Hotel, Oakwood Premier Tokyo, The Okura Hotel, The Peninsula Hotel, as well as numerous public and private collections around the world.



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VOTING

Election Season



YUUKI IDE

Since the Club has served as a comforting retreat for so many Members over the last 18 months, what better time than now to have a say in its future?

“Currently, less than 25 percent of eligible Members are registered to vote,” says Club treasurer Kenji Ota. “Voting is perhaps the easiest way to participate in Club governance, from selecting Club governors to approving budgets and other important resolutions. I would encourage all Members to register and to get involved by voting.”

With the Club’s Annual General Meeting set for November 16, Members can download a Voting Member registration form from the Club Articles of Association & Rules page of the Club website and submit the completed document to Member Services. *OZ*

DINING

Say (Real) Cheese



If all “American cheese” conjures up in your mind is neon orange, plastic-wrapped slices, prepare to have your misconceptions deliciously shattered.

From this month at American Bar & Grill, three stateside cheeses from award-winning farms are on the menu as delectable burger, sandwich and salad toppings and macaroni enhancers.

From the three-month-aged Reading raclette-style cheese from Vermont’s Spring Brook Farm Cheese and Face Rock Creamery’s sweet and savory, cloth-bound Oregon cheddar to Uplands Cheese’s alpine-style Pleasant Ridge Reserve, made from free-grazing cows in Wisconsin, the complex flavors of these premium cheeses showcase the cream of America’s curdled crop.

Meaning you won’t look at American cheese the same way ever again. *OZ*

WINE

Uncommon California

WORDS KEITH TRUELOVE

IMAGE KAYO YAMAWAKI



Is there more to California wine than Cabernet and Chardonnay, Napa and Sonoma? There absolutely is, and The Cellar has options to explore.

Birichino (Italian for “mischievous”) is a Santa Cruz-based winery that certainly likes to have fun with indigenous Old World grapes. Its 2018 Malvasia Bianca (¥3,080)—made from an Italian varietal brought from Calabria in the 1900s—hits you with strongly perfumed floral aromas, followed by thirst-quenching citrus flavors and acidity.

Broc Cellars’ 2018 Love White (¥3,300) is a blend of white grapes native to France’s Rhône Valley but farmed in the middle of California’s Central Valley. The result is a richer, fuller-bodied wine that pairs equally well with white meats as fish.

The 2019 Odd Lot Red Blend (¥2,560) from Monterey is primarily Petite Sirah (a New World crossing from Syrah) and packs a luscious mouthful of soft, jammy fruit. A generous dollop of Petit Verdot, which often is added conservatively to Bordeaux reds, provides tannic structure and spicy hints of star anise.

In California’s spirit of innovation, why not sample something out of the ordinary this month?

Keith Truelove is a member of the Club’s Wine & Beverage Committee.

For the month of September, receive a 10 percent discount on purchases of at least three bottles of any of these recommended Cellar wines.

Events in September

Since some events may be postponed or cancelled due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, please check the Club website for the most up-to-date information.

1 Summer Spreads

The Club's selection of four summer catering packages is sure to satisfy picky eaters and voracious diners alike. Available for pickup and delivery.

- › Through September 26
- › Details online

1 Fall Enrichment Program Registration

Plan your next semester of learning by browsing the selection of Connections enrichment classes on the Club website. Learn more about one Member's *sumi-e* class journey on page 19.

- › 10am › Details online

1 Connections Welcome Desk

Unleash your potential this fall. Drop by the all-day Connections desk to explore the myriad social events, tours, classes and volunteering opportunities on offer this autumn.

- › 10am–7pm › Family Lobby (1F)
- › Details online

1 Wednesday Storytime

Youngsters pick up a lifelong love of reading at this weekly session of children's tales from the shelves of the Children's Library.

- › 4–4:30pm › Children's Library › Free
- › Ages 2–6 › Details online

1 Toastmasters Luncheon

Pick up public speaking tips while building podium confidence at these regular, peer-supported meetups of the Club's cohort of Toastmasters.

- › 12–1:30pm › ¥2,420 (online: ¥550)
- › Sign up online



1 Gallery Exhibition: Manami Numata

“Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt,” Leonardo da Vinci once wrote. The Italian painter and inventor could easily have been taking in one of Manami Numata’s canvases at the time.

The 28-year-old Yamaguchi Prefecture native’s style exudes both abstract and figurative qualities. In the final installment of the Frederick Harris Gallery’s series of exhibitions by local, emerging artists, Numata’s works of reimagined maps and curious still lifes impel the viewer to make sense of the seeming incongruity. **OZ**

Moment I realized I wanted to become an artist.

When I finished my first large-scale painting at 20 years old. I painted straight through the night until the sun came up. At that moment, with my heart trembling and a true feeling of being alive, I knew I wanted to make a living with my art. I would never be able to get that feeling by any other means.

What I would tell my 20-year-old self.

It’s difficult to believe in yourself, but failing at something is not without meaning, so don’t be afraid to keep moving forward. Also, hang out with your friends more.

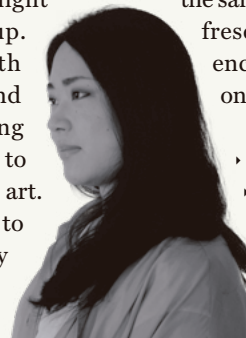
My perfect creative environment.

Somewhere in nature. I recently relocated to a place with a clear view of the night sky, which suits me quite well.

Artist, living or dead, I’d most like to share a meal with.

Fra Angelico [early Renaissance painter]. I imagine he was a quiet man, but I’m not a talkative person, either. I’d like to spend some time in the same monastery where he painted frescoes while listening to Florence’s church bells and nibbling on bread.

- › Through September 27
- › Frederick Harris Gallery
- › Artworks available for purchase through The Cellar › Details online



3

Friday Night Live

Classical guitar maestro Isana Akita wows the Winter Garden crowd at this evening of live music, good food and great mocktails.

› 6–7:30pm › Winter Garden › ¥2,200 (walk-ins: ¥3,300) › Adult Members only › Details online

4

Youth Toastmasters Club: Talk Like a Pirate

At this special, buccaneer-themed afternoon, youngsters pick up tips on public speaking, debating and how to hold an audience’s attention from members of the Club’s own Toastmasters group.

› 2–3pm › Washington & Lincoln rooms › ¥1,100 › Ages 10–18 › Details online

5

Social Squash Partner

Up your squash game with 20-minute practice sessions alongside Club pro Rice Cheung. Perfect for beginners and intermediate-level players.

› 4:30–6:30pm › Squash Court III › Free › Ages 16 & above › Members only › Sign up online

5 & 19

Boy Scout Meeting

Youngsters discover adventure, friendships and lifelong skills through the Club-sponsored Troop 51.

› 5–7pm › Activity Room › Details online

6

Preschool Prep

Featuring vocabulary-building games and other early-development activities, this program introduces youngsters to learning before their first school bell rings.

› Daily & weekly sessions through November 19 › Childcare Center › Details online

6

Club Study Hall: After School

Students of all ages make new friends while exploring after-school programs designed to maximize their academic and problem-solving potential.

› Daily sessions through November 19 › Childcare Center › Details online



1

Cuts Above

Just as oenophiles stress the importance of *terroir*, or environment, in wine flavor, the same idea applies to beef, according to Scott Kihara, the Club’s chef de cuisine.

“Geography, climate and feed all play a part in the final product,” he says.

From this month, diners at American Bar & Grill, Traders’ Bar and Vista will be able to taste the difference in the upgraded selection of steaks on the menu.

All cuts, from rib eye (pictured) and tenderloin to strip loin and skirt steak, will be USDA Prime, the highest grade of American beef. With its abundant marbling, USDA Prime beef is noted for its exceptional tenderness, juiciness and flavor.

Kihara says all the beef is sourced from a network of Double R Ranch family farms in the Pacific Northwest.

“The region’s mild climate, open spaces and diverse range of sustainable feed ingredients, including wheat, corn and barley, result in a superior product time and again,” he says.

The succulent USDA Prime steaks will complement the American wagyu cuts from Idaho’s Snake River Farms already on the menu.

“In the best tradition of Tokyo American Club,” Kihara says, “Members and their guests will be able to enjoy some of the finest steaks in Tokyo every day of the week.” *NJ*

› American Bar & Grill, Traders’ Bar, Vista › Details online

10

Board Together

Test your wits at the Library’s (tech-free) tabletop game club while learning the finer points of old-school boardgames like Risk, Catan, D&D and chess. Continues every second Friday.

› 5–6:30pm › Teen Connection › ¥1,100 › Recommended for ages 12–18 › Sign up online

10

Cub Scout Meeting

Elementary school kids explore the world of Scouting through regular meetings of the Club-sponsored Pack 51.

› 6:30–8:30pm › Toko Shinoda & Yukiko Maki classrooms › Details online

10–12

Jewelry Sale

Make that special someone feel exceptional with a one-of-a-kind gift of flawless beauty from this three-day sale of diamond, pearl and gem jewelry.

› 10:30am–7pm › Beate Sirota Gorden & Haru Reischauer classrooms › Details online

10, 17 & 24

Winter Garden Melodies

See out the week with a favorite tittle and the music of a rotating ensemble of talented, local pianists and flautists.

› 6–9pm › Winter Garden › Details online

11

DIY Comic Book Club

Creative kids craft their own comic book with Library manager Drew Damron. The fun and stories continue every second Saturday of the month.

› 11:30am–1:30pm › Teen Connection › ¥2,200 › Ages 6–14 › Sign up online

14

Cocktail Connections

Mask up and mingle with friends over happy-hour drinks during this monthly mixer.

› 5–7pm › Connections members only › Details online

15

Nokogiriyama Hike

Lace up your hiking boots for a fascinating Connections-organized tour to a sprawling Buddhist temple site cut into sheer cliffs in southern Chiba Prefecture.

› 8:30am–6pm › Adults only › Sign up online

15

Toastmasters Luncheon: Death by Chocolate

In celebration of International Chocolate Day on September 13, Toastmasters enjoy a sweet surprise while perfecting their podium presence.

› 12–1:30pm › ¥2,420 (online: ¥550) › Sign up online



8

TAC Talk: Akiko Kubo

Tasked with tracking down a mannequin while working in the music industry, Akiko Kubo had little idea that the project would lead to a career change.

When Kubo (pictured) couldn't find an appropriate prop, she decided to make her own. As she immersed herself in books on carving, she encountered the world of Buddhist statues and a title by renowned *bushhi* sculptor and restorer Kocho Nishimura. Kubo had discovered her calling.

Since completing a one-year university course in classical sculpture restoration and becoming a professional conservator in 2000, Kubo has restored and repaired dozens of Buddhist artifacts, from temple statues to ancient manuscripts.

In this online TAC Talk (with interpretation by Member Reiko Saito), Kubo discusses her restoration career and the painstaking work required to preserve cultural antiquities.

“Through the restoration of cultural properties, it is possible to talk with people in the past and with people in the future,” she says of her job.

Kubo stresses that cultural restoration isn't restricted to the heritage sites of Kyoto and Nara. History, she says, is woven through every town and city and preserving it means safeguarding a community's charm and distinctness. *NJ*

› 7–8pm › Online › ¥550 (guests: ¥660) › Sign up online

16

Book Lovers' Group

The Club's bibliophiles let their lingering literary thoughts fly at this free-flowing exchange of reflections on recent summer reads.

› 11am–12:30pm › Washington & Lincoln rooms › Free › Details online

18

Show & Tell Jamboree: Talk Like a Pirate

Ages 6 to 9 learn how to share ideas while imitating their favorite swashbuckling heroes at an afternoon of games, music and confidence-boosting activities.

› 2–3:30pm › Toko Shinoda & Yukiko Maki classrooms › ¥1,100 › Sign up online

18-19 First Aid, CPR and AED Training

Equip yourself with vital first aid, CPR and defibrillator-use skills during this American Red Cross-certified course.

› 10am-3pm › Beate Sirota Gordon & Haru Reischauer classrooms (September 18); Toko Shinoda & Yukiko Maki classrooms (September 19) › ¥22,000 › Sign up online

22 TAC Talk: Daishi Yoshimoto

The architect behind the Nihonbashi Club breaks down blueprint principles and construction conundrums at this online discussion. Ahead of the event, Yoshimoto shares his favorite designs and projects on page 17.

› 7-8pm › Online › ¥550 (guests: ¥660) › Sign up online

23-25 Riedel Sale

Shop for superlative Riedel, Spiegelau and Nachtmann stemware, decanters, dishes, vases and more at up to 80 percent off regular prices.

› 10:30am-6pm › Beate Sirota Gordon & Haru Reischauer classrooms
› Details online

25 Saturday Storytime

Kids jump into the weekend with tales of magic and adventure from the shelves of the Children's Library.

› 11:30am-12pm › Children's Library
› Free › Details online

25 Show & Tell Jamboree: Movie Madness

Silver-screen thrills and games galore at this fun-packed afternoon of movies, trivia, confidence-boosting activities and more.

› 2-4pm › Toko Shinoda & Yukiko Maki classrooms › ¥1,100 (guests: ¥2,500)
› Ages 5-12 › Sign up online

27 Coffee Connections

Set yourself up for a fall of new friendships at this monthly get-together of Connections members.

› 10am › Connections members only
› Details online



12 Sky Pool Splash-A-Round

"It's not the heat," they say. "It's the humidity."

Even though summer's sweltering peak has passed, September in Tokyo still sees an average relative humidity of 75 percent. Anything over 50 percent sends most people running for the cool confines of an air-conditioned room. Or, possibly, the Sky Pool.

At this monthly, high-octane extravaganza for young Members, the fifth-floor pool transforms into a wet-and-wild playground, complete with a floating trampoline and inflatable obstacles perfect for honing

those climbing and sliding skills.

Recommended for water-confident youngsters looking to blow off some steam before the first days of autumn roll in, these sessions of aquatic thrills are perfect for water bugs who want to splash their way through a Sunday afternoon (or for parents who wouldn't mind tiring out their little ones for a quiet night at home).

Either way, it's a sure-fire way to beat the heat—and the humidity. **OZ**

› 3-4pm & 4:30-5:30pm › Sky Pool
› ¥1,980 › Ages 5-12 › Details online

28 Gallery Exhibition: Tomoo Hamada & Fujiya Sakuma

The epicenter of Japan's famed ceramics scene, Mashiko is known the world over as the hub of folk pottery and avant-garde artists. Read more about Mashiko's pioneering pottery history on page 15.

› Through October 18 › Frederick Harris Gallery › Artworks available for purchase through The Cellar
› Details online

28-29 Tokyo Here & Now

This comprehensive, two-day orientation features a series of seminars to help new (and not-so-new) arrivals transition smoothly to life in Tokyo and Japan.

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Enduring Craftsmanship

The Club reaffirms its ties with the pottery mecca of Mashiko in an exhibition at the Frederick Harris Gallery this month.

WORDS TIM HORNYAK

IMAGE KAZUMI OTSUKA



Fujiya Sakuma and Tomoo Hamada at the Shoji Hamada Memorial Mashiko Sankokan Museum

A two-hour drive north of Tokyo lies a small Tochigi town with a reputation that reaches far beyond the surrounding mountains. Mashiko is home to just 20,000 people and a style of pottery that draws collectors from around the world.

The town's *noborigama*, or “climbing kilns,” produce ceramics renowned for their soft, rustic aesthetic. But it doesn't mean that Mashiko *yaki* can't dazzle. The everyday pieces, from kitchenware to vases, sometimes incorporate copper, manganese, chromium oxide, cobalt and other pigments or feature eye-catching glazes of amber or persimmon.

While earthenware in Tochigi's Haga region has a history stretching back more than a millennium, it was Shoji Hamada, a master potter who was designated a living national treasure, who put Mashiko on the map.

Attracted by the qualities of the local clay, Hamada established himself there in 1930 and, inspired by ancient designs, built a *noborigama*—a series of linked kilns on a slope that produces temperatures of up to 1,300 degrees Celsius.

Local ceramicist Totaro Sakuma was emboldened by Hamada's pluck and decided to partner with him to elevate

the level of Mashiko ware. The pair attracted members of Japan's *mingei* folk art movement. Founded in the 1920s by art critic and philosopher Soetsu Yanagi, *mingei* celebrated the country's local craft traditions.

“Mashiko pottery was originally influenced by Shigaraki and Seto ware and potters made everyday items like *dobin* kettles and *tokkuri* jars,” says Hamada's 54-year-old grandson, Tomoo Hamada, who collaborates with Sakuma's grandson, Fujiya Sakuma, for a Club exhibition of their own works this month. “As Japan's economy grew, there was less need for these, and my grandfather sought to produce more artistic wares. These days, Mashiko pottery doesn't have any rules—there's lots of freedom.”

The Club's association with Mashiko goes back more than a decade. In the devastating earthquake of March 2011, most of Mashiko's more than 300 kilns, including one of Shoji Hamada's

original *noborigama*, were destroyed. The Club donated ¥4 million from funds raised at a gala concert that May. The rebuilt *Shiogama* kiln today stands in the grounds of Hamada's former residence, the Shoji Hamada Memorial Mashiko Sankokan Museum, which has welcomed groups of Members over the years.

“We are very grateful for Members who came and purchased many of our wares,” says Sakuma, 58. “I have high hopes that Mashiko pottery will continue to evolve with this kind of support.”

GALLERY EXHIBITION: TOMOO HAMADA & FUJIYA SAKUMA

› September 28–October 18 › Frederick Harris Gallery › Works available for purchase from The Cellar

MASHIKO MARKET

› October 2 › Beate Sirota Gordon & Haru Reischauer classrooms
› Details online



At its heart, education is not just the teaching of academic subjects, it's a matter of building character and values. And doing this amidst an invigorating natural setting makes for an experience that young learners will recall for the rest of their lives. That is exactly what Harrow International School Appi Japan offers.

The school, which is set to open in August 2022 as a full boarding school—initially for students aged 11 to 14, then growing year by year, up to 18—is located at the foot of the mountains in Appi Kogen, Iwate Prefecture. Harrow Appi will be making history on its first day. There are Harrow International Schools in Thailand, Hong Kong and China, but this will be the first of its kind in Japan.

STORIED REPUTATION

The Harrow name is a hallowed one when it comes to high-quality, holistic education. Since Harrow School was founded in the United Kingdom in 1572, it has educated public figures who have gone on to influence the world we live in. The international schools' motto is "educational excellence for life and leadership," and this idea is embodied in its "Giants of Old," as its alumni are known. They include Winston Churchill and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Harrow Appi has chosen a leading international school expert as its founding headmaster, Michael "Mick" Farley. Across 20

years, the native of Yorkshire, England, has been headmaster of four international schools around the world, including the British School in Tokyo (BST) and Harrow Bangkok. Farley has a profound love for Japan and is deeply familiar with the country. During his previous tenure here, he was a Tokyo American Club member, with his two daughters growing up in Tokyo.

However, his earliest professional steps into education were as an outdoor activities instructor, and Farley is looking forward to introducing Harrow Appi students to all that the natural location has to offer. As he explained, the "green season" in Appi Kogen—late April to October—is an ideal time for students to learn and grow. The cool summers in Iwate make it a joy to be outside and allow for a wide range of activities—both physical and intellectual—to be woven into the students' experiences. This includes mountain biking on the local trails or heading into the mountains to discover vistas to capture in paintings.

BUILDING FUTURES

Also key to the learning experience to be fostered at Harrow Appi is a close connection between students and teachers—known in the Harrow lingo as "Beaks"—which allows for an individualized educational experience using Harrow's famed "Close Personal Tutoring" methods. "What this very individualized approach results in



is us getting the best out of our students because we know them so well," Farley said.

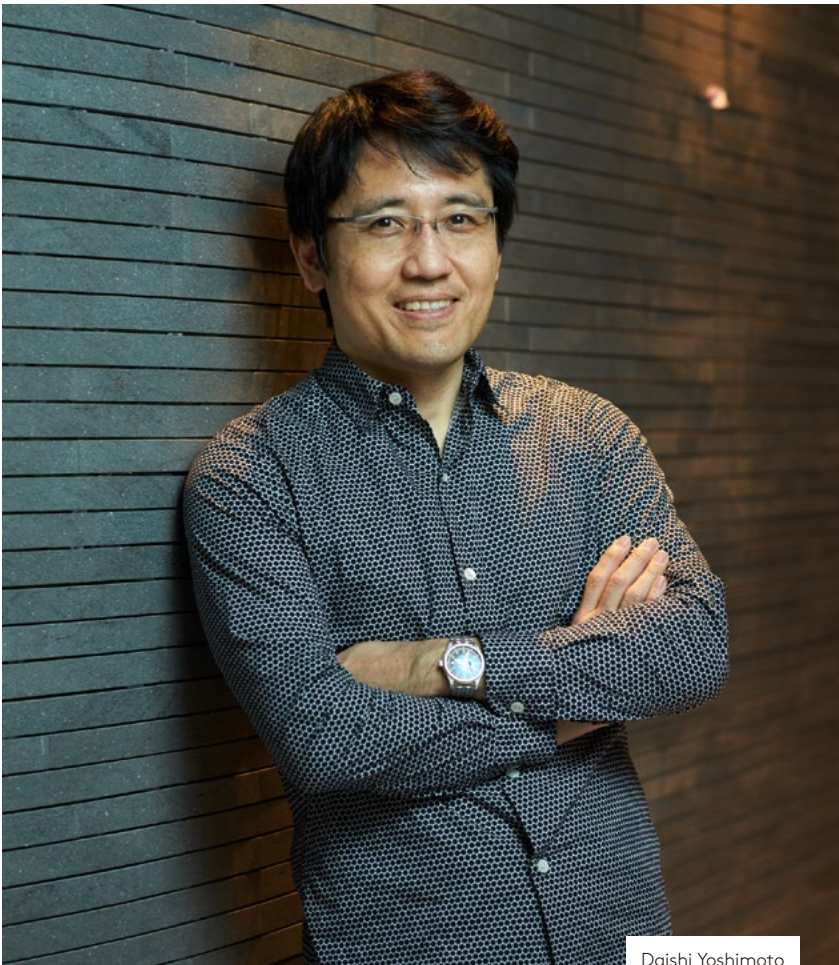
Thanks to this encouragement and support, Farley added, when students move on from a Harrow education, they go forward with élan. "Because education is based on the growth of character and values—and the development of behaviors, including leadership attributes—when they get to university they flourish. They then go on to have great opportunities in this ever-changing world, and are equipped to contribute and thrive in adult life."

It's a happy coincidence that Harrow Appi will be opening on the 450th anniversary of the founding of Harrow School in the UK. The entire Harrow community is thrilled about the opening of the Appi campus, Farley explained. "For us to be opening in Japan—a wonderful country with a fascinating culture, renowned both for strong values and high technology—is an excellent fit. Even though it's more than a year away, there's a very high level of anticipation in the Harrow family."



Join our Online Seminar in late September to preview the Harrow Appi campus.

www.harrowappi.jp



Daishi Yoshimoto

Design Details

TAC Talk speaker and Nihonbashi Club designer Daishi Yoshimoto talks form, function and favorite structures.

WORDS NICK JONES

IMAGE YUUKI IDE

The Club made history on March 31 this year when it unveiled its inaugural satellite clubhouse. Those first across the threshold were struck by the facility's blend of contemporary elegance and welcoming warmth.

The man behind the design of this unique "home" on the sixth floor of Nihonbashi Muromachi Mitsui Tower is Daishi Yoshimoto. The Japanese architect, who grew up in Panama and graduated from architecture schools in the United States, will discuss the project at an online TAC Talk this month.

Now a Member of the Nihonbashi Club himself, Yoshimoto shares his architectural influences with *INTOUCH*:

Who initially inspired your interest in architecture?

My grandfather was an architect before he went to war. Unfortunately, he never made it back, but my grandmother always used to tell me his stories when I was a child. That is how I first learned about the profession.

Which architect do you most admire?

Junzo Yoshimura is my hero. He is not very well known internationally, but he

is one of the great masters of modern architecture in Japan.

Which famous building do you wish you had designed?

Yoyogi National Gymnasium by Kenzo Tange. It got renewed attention at the recent Tokyo Olympic Games and is still the most iconic building in Japan.

What kind of project most appeals to you?

There is no single type of project that I particularly prefer to work on, but the most rewarding projects are those where the owner is really passionate about design. Tokyo American Club Nihonbashi was one such project.

How do you try to balance "form" and "function"?

"Form follows function" is a famous quote by the great Chicago architect Louis Sullivan, but I like thinking about both at the same time, not one after the other. They are equally essential.

What is the attraction of working in Japan?

In Japan, there is a unique tradition of craftsmanship. The contractors take great pride in getting the job right, and they pay a lot of attention to detail, almost as much as the designers do. There is a culture of teamwork between the designer and builder.

How would you describe the city of Tokyo architecturally?

A striking mix of tradition and innovation, old and new, order and chaos. I think these things make Tokyo the most exciting city in the world for architects.

What would you improve?

There is nothing regulating architectural aesthetics in Japan. Just about anything goes. While the freedom can be seen as a blessing, it gets out of control sometimes. There could be a bit more public control to prevent less-thought-through designs from degrading the scenery. Also, there should be more effort in saving old buildings of historic importance.

TAC TALK: DAISHI YOSHIMOTO

• September 22 • 7-8pm • Online

• ¥550 (guests: ¥660) • Sign up online



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Apprentice of the Brush

With a new crop of horizon-expanding enrichment classes launching this month, one Member explains her years-long journey in a traditional pursuit.

WORDS OWEN ZIEGLER

IMAGE KAYO YAMAWAKI

Emily Okada motions to a framed painting that seems plucked from the walls of a Ginza gallery. The crisp lines of the kimono-clad geisha reaching for the delicate petals of a cherry blossom could easily pass as the adept work of a professional.

“I started it when I was pregnant and then I had the baby and took a few months off,” Okada admits with a laugh. “And then the class shut for Covid. So, all in all, I think [this painting] took me almost two years.”

Okada doesn’t claim to be any manner of Picasso. But after years of attending Connections’ long-running *sumi-e* ink painting course, the traditional works she has created can’t help but undercut her humility.

“When you see the image that you want to recreate, of course it looks difficult,” Okada says. “But the teachers are so patient and when you finish, it’s, like, ‘I can’t believe I just painted this.’”

Just one of several dozen enrichment classes, tours and workshops on everything from modern architecture to European and East Asian cuisine (registration for the fall semester opens from September 1), the perennially popular *sumi-e* course has introduced countless Members like Okada to this art form that has its origins in ancient China.

Of course, the Club’s master *sumi-e* instructors don’t simply throw novice painters in at the deep end. Like her accomplished mother before her, current family scion Suiko Ohta starts *sumi-e* newcomers on monochrome pieces comprised of simple brushstrokes.

“The way you grind the charcoal to make ink and all the natural, organic colors, and how you paint on silk instead of canvas,” recalls Okada of those introductory sessions. “It’s such a traditional type of painting that’s really



Emily Okada

particular to Japan and a couple of other cultures around this area.”

Ohta then moves students onto more complicated renderings of plants and wildlife to develop their technical skills and creative sensibilities. When the time is right, Ohta might direct her students’ attention to a book of photographs of Eihei Temple in rural Yamagata Prefecture.

“There are hundreds of hand-painted ceiling panels in the temple, and the book has a picture of each one,” Okada explains. “We pick four, and that’s when we first start with color.”

All that groundwork to graduate to a full palette might seem like overkill

to some. But Okada and the hundreds of former *sumi-e* students wouldn’t have it any other way.

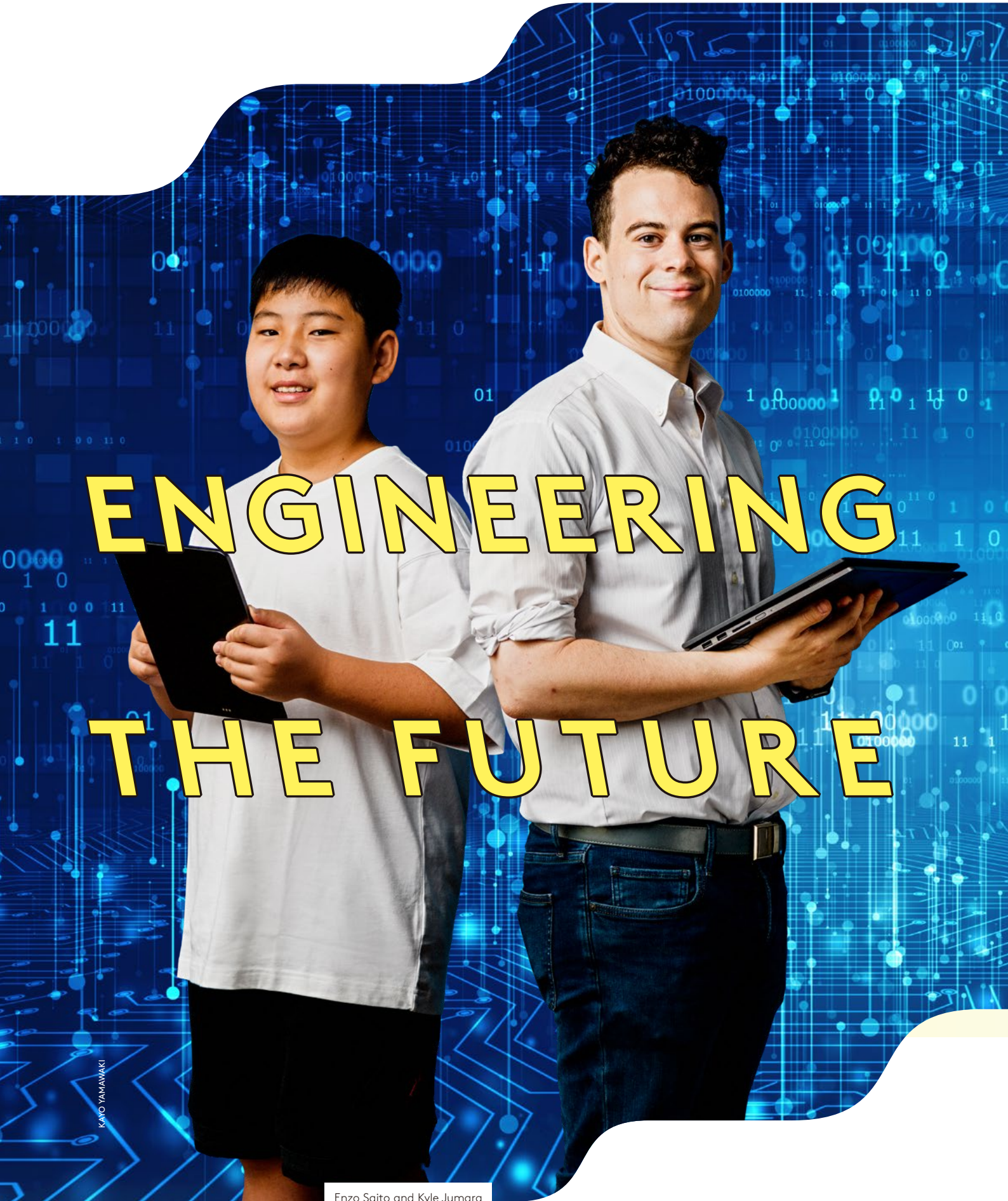
“Once you know exactly how you hold your brush and how much pressure you put onto the silk, it becomes your individual technique,” she says. “It makes each work and each artist really unique.”

FALL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM REGISTRATION

- › From September 1 › 10am
- › Details online

CONNECTIONS WELCOME DESK

- › September 1 › 10am–7pm
- › Family Lobby (1F)



ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

KATO YAMAWAKI

Enzo Saito and Kyle Jumara



As back-to-school season kicks into gear, the Club's own suite of tech-centric classes is helping to expand kids' academic horizons.

WORDS OWEN ZIEGLER

Schools were shut and meeting with friends was out of the question. At the height of last year's pandemic lockdowns and with little else to occupy himself, Enzo Saito turned to a familiar pastime: video games.

"I would play Minecraft eight hours a day if I could," says the 12-year-old Member with a furtive glance toward his mother, Katia Saito. "The game is basically limitless. People can create their own adventures instead of having it all premade."

"I don't even know how much he plays," says Enzo's mother. "To me, Minecraft looked just like any other video game."

First released in 2011, Minecraft remains today one of the most popular video games in the world. Instead of tasking players with defeating hordes of enemies, Minecraft encourages players to farm resources and construct items and structures for a decidedly nonconfrontational gaming experience.

"You can build whatever you want," Enzo says of the game's opportunities to create everything from landscapes to rudimentary computers. "It's also just, like, a good way to be creative and use your brain."

Whatever parents' thoughts on video games, YouTube and other digital diversions, it's incontrovertible that screen time of all sorts is on the rise. Studies have shown that of children and young adults aged between 8 and 17 years old, more than half absorb online content at least two hours per day.

Try as parents like Tom Silecchia might to limit their children's screen time, digital entertainment is here to stay. The challenge, Silec-

chia believes, is how he manages his son Luca's approach to it.

"Not all screen time is equal," says Silecchia. "And if there's stuff that Luca is really interested in, then exploring those interests is probably more constructive than anything else."

In January this year, Luca attended his first trial Coding Club class, one of a number of tech-focused programs offered at the Club. Rather than following a set curriculum, the lessons—devised by the Tokyo Coding Club team of educators—provide several outlets for young Members to explore the diverse ways in which their worlds and that of programming and computer engineering intersect.

Eight-year-old Luca was immediately drawn to a small, programmable robot.

"I could code [the robot] and [it] moved on its own," Luca says of that introductory session. "I didn't know it could do a lot of things like that."

That spark of curiosity inspired Luca to attend weekly Club lessons that touch on subjects as varied as computer programming and game design. Rather than drag inquisitive minds through a cut-and-dried curriculum or engineering basics, Club instructors put students' interests at the forefront of every lesson.

"My goal is basically to find something that my students want to do and want to create," says Alex Belinsky, a Tokyo Coding Club instructor who teaches both group and private sessions at the Club. "The programming knowledge and STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] learning naturally come as a means to an end."

For Enzo, that means making the leap from Minecraft player to developer.

**"IT'S ALSO JUST, LIKE, A GOOD WAY
TO BE CREATIVE AND USE YOUR BRAIN."**

—Enzo Saito



KAYO YAMAWAKI

Luca Silecchia

“WE NEED TO DO OUR BEST TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG MINDS TO PURSUE THE THINGS THAT INTEREST THEM THE MOST.”

—Dennis Jarvis

“I’m learning how the game and the programming actually works on the inside,” Enzo says. “It doesn’t seem like it, but if you look closer, it actually starts to make sense.”

Lessons aren’t limited to coding, circuit boards and computer science. For young Members wondering how their favorite content creators on YouTube progress from filming with smartphones to producing professionally animated and edited videos, instructors can set them on the path to generating their own slick productions.

“I try to show how easy it is to take footage [from a recording or a video game] and throw it into Adobe Premiere,” explains Kyle Jumara, an animation and video effects instructor with Tokyo Coding Club. “We’re not just teaching them how to goof around on a computer. They learn all about the aspects of the craft and hopefully fall in love with it the way we [instructors] did.”

Parents should take heart from the promise of a future in tech. Brush off video games all you like, but the character designers and software developers behind them generated a pandemic-proof \$173 billion globally in 2020 and the

industry is set to make a projected \$314 billion a year by 2026 (movies raked in just \$101 billion in pre-pandemic 2019).

Likewise, the once-dismissed world of cryptocurrencies—underpinned by legions of data scientists and engineers—has transformed seemingly overnight into a multitrillion-dollar industry that even Wall Street can no longer ignore.

And with the frontiers of technology ever evolving, it’s clear that the areas of robotics, artificial intelligence and other yet-undefined industries will require a steady stream of inquisitive minds to push those boundaries even further.

“For young engineers, intellectual curiosity is definitely essential,” says Member Dennis Jarvis, CEO of cryptocurrency hub Bitcoin.com. “It’s great to have the engineering or programming skills to be able to contribute to a project, but genuine interest in the application of your work is going to really be what gives you the motivation to be both professionally successful and fulfilled.”

Jarvis encourages parents to take a softer approach to their children’s electronic habits. After all, the groundbreaking tech wizards of the fu-

“WE’RE NOT JUST TEACHING THEM HOW TO GOOF AROUND ON A COMPUTER.”

—Kyle Jumara



Tokyo Coding Club

ture are almost undoubtedly the button-mashing gamers and digital devotees of the present.

“When I was a kid, I was fortunate to have a computer at home when most people did not,” Jarvis explains. “Today, there are so many ways for kids to get exposed to coding and technology: Minecraft, 3D printing, electronic music production. We need to do our best to encourage young minds to pursue the things that interest them the most.”

Of course, the jump from video game binger to key-crunching coder is a large one, but budding programmers need not cover that gap in one fell swoop. Instead, a steady advance, level by level, has the potential to open doors to a future only glimpsed on screen.

“I think it’d be cool to make a space exploration game,” Enzo says. “You can build your own spaceship or big fortress on a planet and just go anywhere.”

Even if that kind of coding is out of Enzo’s reach right now, it won’t be forever.

“I’m wondering now how all my games are coded differently,” he says. “If I keep on learning, I guess I’ll start to understand.”

Tech Tutoring

A fall semester of digital-oriented Club classes.

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Air Chen and Peter Cipriano

Finding Fitness

Member Peter Cipriano explains the life-changing benefits of embracing fitness in his 40s.

IMAGE YUUKI IDE

I told myself at the end of 2019 that by the time I turned 40 in 2020, I wanted to be in the best shape of my life. I started to look into trainers at the Fitness Center. I read the profiles, and they all looked amazing. But I wanted to choose somebody with a similar body type to mine.

Air Chen is incredibly well qualified. He is almost exactly the same height as me, and we have similar broad builds. I told him my grand idea of doing this in two phases. First,

I wanted to cut down on body fat and just lose weight. And when we got to a certain point, I wanted to switch it up to build muscle. We hit that point about a month or so ago.

In the first five minutes of the first session, I knew I had picked the right trainer. The first session was hard, but I really liked it. We were meeting twice a week then switched over to three times a week when we started on building muscle. I also do cardio for about 45 minutes twice a week.

The first couple of months, I didn't really see a lot of results. The problem wasn't the exercise. It was my eating habits. I didn't drink a lot to begin with, but now I try not to drink at all. The hard part is the carbs. I love Italian food, so that's a killer. I eat a lot of proteins and a lot of vegetables now. It's about balance and consistency and not going overboard with food.

It all creates a virtuous cycle. Because you're eating better and exercising, you start seeing results, which makes you more confident. Then you want to eat even better and push yourself a little harder when you exercise. Up to now, I have lost 15 or 16 kilos. The first 10 come off a lot faster than the second 10.

I can definitely see the difference. When I play with my kids outside, I'm not nearly as tired as I used to be. And I had to buy a whole new wardrobe the last time I was in New York.

When I started, I could barely do 10 push-ups. I can do well over 50 now. That's because I'm building muscle. When we started, we were doing non-stop circuits. If you don't do some cardio, you'll never survive it.

Like with everything in life, you need to know what you want. If you don't know what you want, you won't know which direction to go in. Then you'll get frustrated and give up. The second component is you need the desire to do it. You need to set milestones, which have to be realistic, and you have to believe that you can achieve them.

If somebody asked me what I'd learned through all this, I'd say that you can never out-train a bad diet. If you don't eat well, you will not see results.

With the pandemic, we didn't meet that initial deadline. But it didn't really matter. The point was I wanted to make a big lifestyle change in my 40s. It's about enjoying the journey and challenging myself.

As told to *INTOUCH's* Nick Jones.



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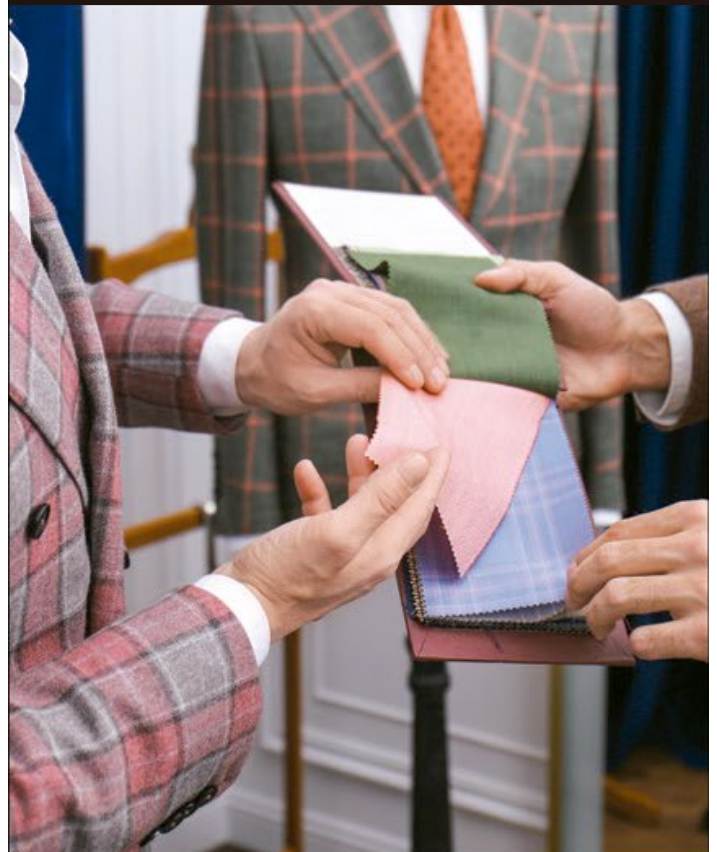
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AZABUDAI

INDIA | **Mukesh Hemrajani & Gurveen Khurana**
CBRE K.K.

“We have experienced many wonderful places over the last 10 years, having lived in India, the United States, Singapore and now Japan. Over the years, we have come to appreciate the value of a strong community and friendship to ground us to our home. The Club offers us this in abundance, with the Connections group and all the wonderful classes on offer. We have a safe and active space in which to make new friends and create bonds to last a lifetime.”



Shigeru Sekine

NIHONBASHI

JAPAN | **Shigeru Sekine**
Nikko Chemicals Co., Ltd.

“I grew up in Nihonbashi, which is also where my office is located. Nihonbashi is truly my hometown. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Nihonbashi, and I am involved in community development in the area, helping to organize festivals and other events to promote the neighborhood. I wanted to join Tokyo American Club Nihonbashi because I believe that the Club can make Nihonbashi a more international and attractive place.”

Departures

Willem Verhaagen

Raymond C & Krista M Shelton

David & Holly West

Carlos Servin & Claudia Alvarez

Michael & Katherine Bosley

Koichi & Yayoko Tsuji

Anthony & Patricia Castillo

Adam & Ilana Dashe

Lionel Desclee & Charlotte Meeus

Tatiana Eliseeva & Andrey Nikitin

William & Jane Farrell

Titoy & Maria Francisco

Matthew & Sarah Gold

Yasushi & Makiko Hatakeyama

Peter F Henrie & Maria Vasileva

Karina Kakhiani

Joseph Kledis & Yan-Zhen Lee

Christopher & Wendy Mack

Yuichiro Munakata

Aswin & Rajini Nagarajan

Mick O’Leary & Elaine Moroney

Bijal & Mona Patel

Joseph & Alexandra Philbrook

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Sheetal Sudigala & Hinal Shah

Scott & Terra Thomas

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Realizing My Olympic Dream

WORDS TORU ABE

ILLUSTRATION TANIA VICEDO



My first Olympic memory is of the 1984 Los Angeles Games and the incredible scene of the “rocket man” flying in the stadium during the opening ceremony. Of course, I also remember Carl Lewis, who won four gold medals. He was the star of those Summer Games.

Since I was young, I have loved playing and watching sports. Every four years, I eagerly devour the Olympics on TV. My parents are fans, too, and even traveled to London in 2012 to watch the Games. My mom was a high school student when Tokyo hosted Asia’s first Olympiad in 1964. She remembers it well.

I never imagined that Tokyo would win the 2020 Games, so I was ecstatic when it was announced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2013.

I had a dream to compete at the Tokyo Games, which is why I took up a new sport: clay pigeon shooting. It seemed a little far-fetched, but I wanted to be a part of the Games in some way. I decided to apply to be a volunteer.

The organizers wanted to recruit 80,000 volunteers. There were different categories of work, but I wanted a position that would put me close to the athletes. After interviews and seminars, I was ready. Then, in March 2020, the IOC announced the postponement of the Games. It was disappointing but entirely reasonable.

During this period, I also applied to be a part of the Olympic torch relay. There were going to be about 10,000 runners in Japan, with 6,000 selected by local governments and 4,000 global sponsor runners. After submitting an essay about contributing to society, I was accepted as a runner for Toyota.

Of course, the format of the relay changed for safety reasons. So, on July 9, I stepped onto a Machida park stage to pass the Olympic flame. Just thinking about the 9,000 people who had passed the flame before me made it an emotional experience.

It was a wonderful moment to watch Naomi Osaka light the Olympic cauldron at the opening ceremony and to think how the flame had started its

journey in Greece. It was a real honor to take part in the relay and I’m grateful to my sponsor for gifting me the torch I held at the event.

During the Olympics, I volunteered at Ariake Urban Sports Park, where the skateboarding and BMX events took place. My role was escorting the medalists to the podium for the victory ceremony.

There were so many highlights over those two weeks, but the visit of IOC President Thomas Bach to the Urban Sports Park was memorable. He wanted to congratulate the winners of the women’s park skateboarding, a new Olympic sport. I translated for him when he spoke to the winner, Sakura Yozozumi. He also expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers and gave me a special Olympic pin.

The Olympics were an unforgettable time, and if I have a chance to repeat it as a volunteer at the 2024 Paris Games, I will.

Member Toru Abe’s Olympic torch is on display at the Club through September 5.

Full Throttle

The newest supercar from legendary manufacturer McLaren packs more than a few surprises—and not all of them are under the hood.



IMAGES: McLAREN

Whoever coined the phrase “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” never met Rob Melville.

“We always need to be evolving,” says Melville, design director at McLaren Automotive. “We need to revolutionize, and it’s really about picking the right moment.”

Since 1985, the British supercar foundry has pushed boundaries in everything from Formula One finishes to ultralight composite fabrication. Now, Melville and his team of designers, engineers and test drivers have announced their next great breakthrough in McLaren’s storied lineup: the hybrid Artura.

“The Artura has allowed us to create the most agile, most lightweight, high-performance hybrid supercar in the segment,” says Melville. “There’s nothing that can come close.”

With a dual electric-V6 engine powertrain at its core, the Artura spares no expense while carrying no dead weight. The carbon fiber chassis slashes its road-ready weight to feathery minimums perfect for coasting silently through city streets on electric power alone. The shrink-wrapped exterior panels, fine-tuned over months of testing in wind tunnels and on open tracks, vanish drag while retaining the telltale McLaren style.

“But what good is a hybrid for speed demons like me?” a supercar snob might ask. On the open road, the 577-horsepower Artura still charges from zero to 60 in a three-second blink of an eye.

For Melville, it is the natural result of imbuing a bleeding-edge, hybrid-centric philosophy with a McLaren soul.

“Every material on the vehicle earns its place,” he says, referencing everything from the Artura’s Pirelli tires to the premium fixtures adorning the driver’s dashboard. “It’s about character that shows the vehicle’s intent. If it can do 200 miles per hour, it should look as though it’s moving that speed when it’s standing still.”

Currently in production for commercial release in 2022, the Artura represents not only a major step forward for McLaren but a high-



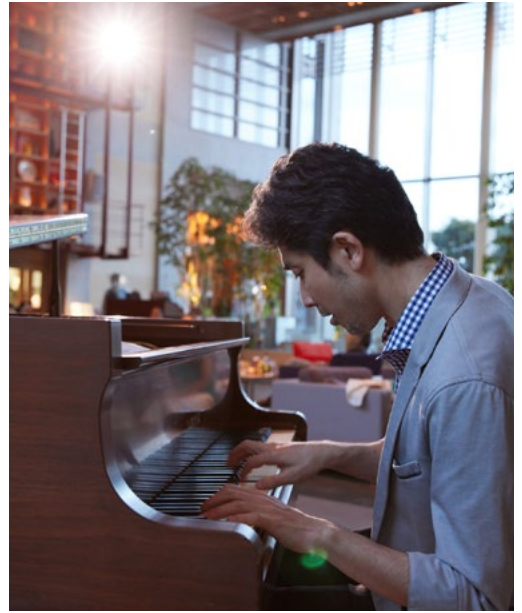
Rob Melville

water mark for hybrid supercars everywhere. Fortunately, Members need not wait for a glimpse of the future. This fall, early Artura models are available for Member-only test drives (reservations required).

After all, you can read about high-performance statistics and industry-leading tests until the end of time, but all that can only hint at what McLaren and the Artura truly offer: one-of-a-kind, behind-the-wheel thrills that you simply must feel to believe.

“That’s what these cars are all about,” says Melville. “Your eyes on the road, your hands on the steering wheel and submerging yourself in the experience.”

McLaren Tokyo › 03-6438-1963
 McLaren Azabu › 03-3446-0555
cars.mclaren.com



August 6 Shakuhachi Concert

Shakuhachi flute maestro Masaki Nakamura received a standing ovation from Members at the end of his stirring evening recital in the Winter Garden.

IMAGES YUUKI IDE





Shooting Stars

CLASS

Youth Soccer

Even soccer greats like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo had to master the basics. Designed to establish sound soccer fundamentals in young players, this class focuses on core skills like passing, shooting and dribbling. These fun sessions also foster teamwork and communication skills among tomorrow's stars.

INSTRUCTOR

Sho Shimoji (pictured right)

Born in Okinawa in 1985, Sho Shimoji's soccer career has taken him around the world. Since the midfielder first appeared for Tokyo Verdy's youth team in 2001, he has displayed his skills on the fields of Paraguay, Brazil, Thailand and Japan, where he played for J-League side Sagan Tosu for three seasons.

STUDENT

Mackenzie Crum

"Sho teaches us lots of new tricks to help us score. He's a very good player and we learn a lot from him. He's nice to all the kids. I like being the goalie because it's fun to block the ball and you can kick the ball out when it comes to you. Messi is my favorite player because he's really good at scoring."

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