



Ginza Brick Town
Source: Kjeld Duits Collection, MeijiShowa.com

Chapter 1

The Dawn of Modern City Construction

Spread of new technology and development of the capital (1860s-1910s)

With the goal of amending unequal treaties concluded with the Western powers, the new government worked to introduce Western technology and transform Tokyo into a city with a dignity befitting the capital of a first-class country. In addition, to address various urban issues, infrastructure was built based on Japan's first legal system for city planning, the Tokyo City Planning Ordinance, and apart from modification to some sections of the built-up area, the general framework of the city from the Edo period was maintained.

[Highlights of the Meiji era to early years of the Taisho era]

1868 ▶

- Declaration for the Restoration of Imperial Rule (establishment of the Meiji government)
- Name of Edo changed to Tokyo
- Establishment of Tokyo prefecture (*fu*)

1871 ▶

- Establishment of the Institute for Engineering Studies

1872 ▶

- Railway line opens (between Shimbashi and Yokohama)
- Planning and development of Ginza Brick Town
- Administrative order of *Dajokan* (Grand Council of State) (birth of public parks 1873)

1882 ▶

- Cholera epidemic

1883 ▶

- Construction of Rokumeikan guest house

1886 ▶

- Formulation of government office centralization plan

1887 ▶

- Construction of the Kanda Sewer

1888 ▶

- Promulgation of the Tokyo City Planning Ordinance

1889 ▶

- Tokyo municipal system goes into effect
- Announcement of the Tokyo City Plan (old plan)

1898 ▶

- Tokyo becomes a general city with the abolishment of special provision for three cities

1914 ▶

- Tokyo Station opens for service