

## MP-28 "Looking Up" May 14th, 2001



On the way home today I bought a can of orange juice at one of the rare machines that still sells it for 100 yen (same price as in 1984 - usually 120 now), which I drank as I walked towards Shinjuku Station... when it was about 80% empty, I passed a Lawson's convenience store and stopped in front of it to finish off the can so I could throw it away there. As I tilted my head back to finish off the drink, the view captured in the far left photo entered my field of vision.... Thinking "Old Buildings = Roof Access" I took the elevator up to the second to the top floor (the top floor being too obvious...) to get some pictures.

Nothing to comment on in particular in the second and fourth photos, but have a look at the tube sticking out of the wall in the walkway in the third picture. It's an exhaust tube for a water heater (I think...) - whatever it is, the interesting thing is the set of spikes on the top! As there are a lot of pigeons and crows in Tokyo, many buildings I've seen are bristling with spikes to stop the birds from making nests... It must be becoming more of a problem than it was, as I don't remember seeing so many anti-bird defensive measures on past excursions!



The left photo is the view coming off of the elevator (a very small one by the way - that would only hold four or five people at the most). Keeping bicycles on the floor you live on seems to be pretty standard - I've seen that all over the city. (I just wonder how they get them into that tiny elevator!)

The second photo is the view looking left just after going through the door to the roof, and the right one is looking down... with the green being Shinjuku Gyoen Park.



Hard to see... but there is a woman hanging out laundry on the roof of the building in the middle. To my friends with space - the next time you look off into the horizon... imagine the view from that roof! Only a few paces away to the next building... or a little more distance looking up at the surrounding taller buildings..... In the stairwell, there was an open window, so I put my arm out the window and was very easily able to touch the next building. Leaning out a little, I took the third picture looking straight down.



The round tank is a water tank (all apartment buildings over a certain height must have them). Then the hallway from the elevator to the entrance to the building that I took on my way out. Finally, the building from the opposite corner (the one you can see in the view through the chain-link fence) - notice the convenience store on the first floor.



...Resuming my walk to Shinjuku Station.... This last photo was taken in the morning with a cheap Casio camera.

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