How to Read Yoshida Hatsusaburo's Bird's-Eye Views
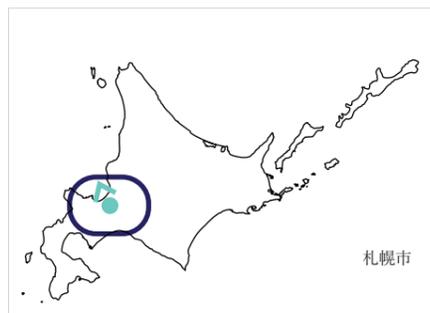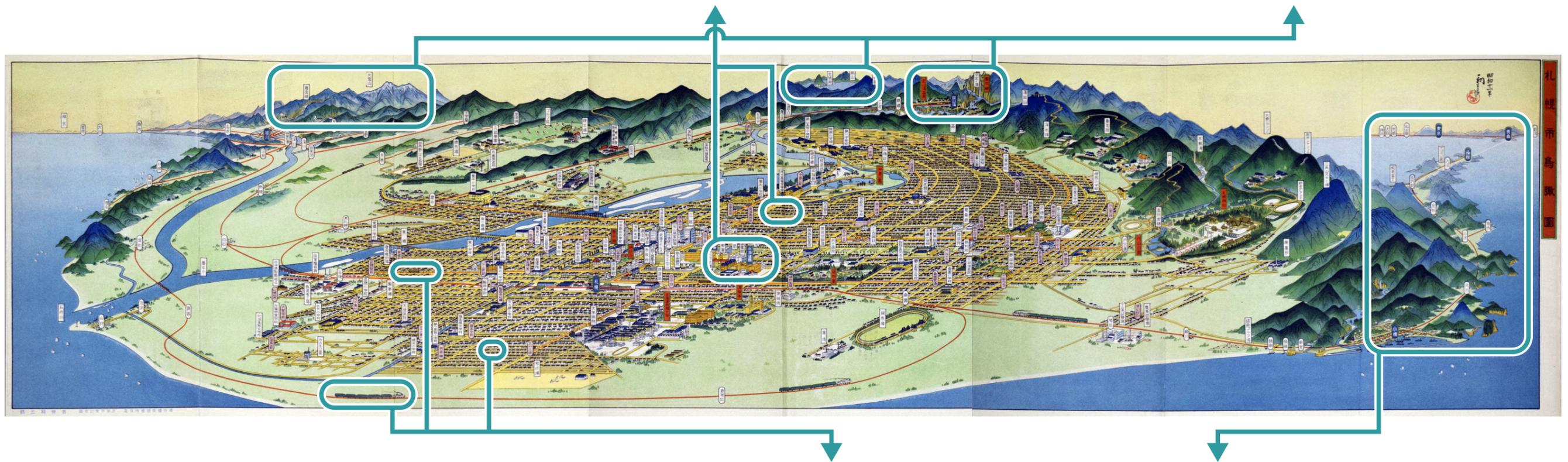
City Structure

Yoshida Hatsusaburo created bird's-eye views by intentionally distorting geography and orientation to highlight the main subject area. This technique makes it easier to understand the characteristics of a city, including natural features like mountains and rivers, as well as the layout of roads and buildings. This map depicts Sapporo clearly showing its grid-pattern streets.

Building Sizes

Important facilities such as city halls, schools, and temples are drawn larger than their actual size. By making them stand out compared to smaller residential buildings, viewers can immediately identify what facilities exist in the city.

Distinctive Mountains

Mountains surrounding the city may appear similar at first glance, but some are drawn with distinctive details. These represent famous scenic spots, encouraging visitors to explore tourist destinations in the surrounding areas.

Viewing Direction

Next to each bird's-eye view, you will find a small reference map showing the location and viewing direction (❮).

Example:

❮ → indicates the view is toward the right.

札幌市

Transportation Networks

Railway lines are depicted in red, clearly showing their extensive connections. By observing the vehicles, you can distinguish between inter-city railways and urban streetcars. Roads also feature automobiles.

Geographic Exaggeration

Yoshida Hatsusaburo distorted geography and orientation to emphasize the main subject area. Distant mountains and coastlines may be depicted in different positions or sizes than reality. This technique allows viewers to understand the geographical relationships across a wide area in a single image.