

INSIDE OUT: 7 ARCHITECTURAL THOUGHTS

JUNE 8TH - 28TH, 2012

**INSIDE OUT:
7 ARCHITECTURAL
THOUGHTS**



KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER, LOS ANGELES 5505 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90036

Director's message

I believe that inviting these 7 Korean Architectural Designers who will be leading the Korean & Korean-American architectural world is a momentous opportunity. This exhibition is something to be very excited for because we will have the chance to see their challenging and novelty works.

Architecture is an absolute necessity in our lives and is a great part of our history. These 7 wonderful architectural designers are still developing and it is very meaningful to us that we have the chance to showcase their talents.

One of our missions at the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles is to promote the artistic endeavors and talents of Koreans who live in the United States and their homeland. Therefore we are grateful to everyone who supported to this exhibition and for helping us reveal these designers to the public. I would like to ask all of you to follow the development of these wonderful and talented architectural designers with intense interest.

Please applaud these talented designers here with us today.

Kim, Jaewon
Director & Consul
Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles

Curator's Statement

Architecture is often times believed to be too complex to understand. Albeit designing a building takes special skills, talent, vision and perseverance. However, I believe architecture is the foundation of our lives and understanding it is an intimate and innate process.

The seven architects here with us today were raised and educated in Korea. Although they are deeply rooted to the cultures and traditions of their motherland, their designs have a very unique and modern take because they were able to fuse the cultures and experiences they've been influenced by while living in the United States. Their architectural designs are not particular to the traditions of Korea, but instead, they've been able to masterfully blend the fruitful history of Korea, the cultures of other ethnicities and the modern world we live in today. These architects use everything surrounding and affecting their lives to enhance, accent and unify their designs. The seven here with us today present a fresh challenge and this is the reasons why we are holding this exhibition today. They will undoubtedly be a great addition to the architectural society because their designs can be related not only to a single individual, but to all of us as well.

Choi, Heeseon

Coordinator’s Statement

The group exhibition, ‘INSIDE OUT: 7 ARCHITECTURAL THOUGHTS’ was conceived when seven Korean born architects working in metropolitan Los Angeles got together to discuss Koreanness in October 2010. For these architects working in Nasung (LA’s Korean name due to its large Korean Population and its immigrant history), Koreanness is a daily routine rather than a discourse to criticize. The culmination of a process of regular meetings, reviews and critiques was the invitation to present a special exhibition at the Korean Culture Center located on the edge of Koreatown. The show will take place in the second floor exhibition hall from June 8th through 28th 2012.

The seven exhibitors – Changsuk Lim, Dong Woo Kim, Jooho Ahn, Kyoung Soon Kim, Sang Dae Lee, SongHee You, Woonghee Lee – all received their early architectural training and professional experience in Korea. Subsequently they all came to the US for their Master of Architecture degrees, and all now practice as architects or designers in LA.

‘INSIDE OUT’ metaphorically means shifting to face the challenge of asserting their cultural identity at the boundary of place. The group proposes 7 Architectural Thoughts: 2 Architectural works, 1 work of Landscape Architecture, and 4 Installations.

We hope INSIDE OUT: 7 ARCHITECTURAL THOUGHTS will illuminate the vision of seven young Korean architects whose works offer new possibilities for the world.

Lee, Sang Dae

Featuring Designers

AHN, Jooho

KIM, Dong Woo

KIM, Kyoung Soon

LEE, Sang Dae

LEE, Woong Hee

LIM, Changsuk

YOU, Song-Hee

The cultural discourse has begun.

Seven progressive Korean architectural designers are bringing up a challenging topic about 'Koreaness' to the Korean American community. It is obvious that we are confronting the matter that our cultural usages are incongruent at times in multi-cultural communities of the United States. For this reason, personally or communally driven, we are trying to make the cultural usages more suitable for current circumstances and create an indigenous cultural entity that is in harmony with diverse ethnic and cultural circumstances. Naturally, such an effort has been performed not only by the Korean American community but also other ethnic groups.

Due to the unconscious inclination towards raising an economic or political status in the mainstream of American society, the Korean American community might have disregarded its cultural identity which should be defined by our traditional thoughts and cultural values. We, the Korean American community, obviously adapt our cultural mannerisms and customs in our own everyday lives. Nevertheless, we may not know whether or not such accustomed cultural behaviors, which are already formed as a daily life habit, have a future-oriented value and how worthy it is for the Korean American community in order to create its own cultural identity.

'Phronēsis' of an architectural culture begins now.

It is time to reexamine our traditional thoughts and values beyond the economic and political foundation we have achieved. Through this exhibition, we, seven architectural designers, are trying to shift our values with hope of converting the stereotype that architecture is not being regarded as an industry but as a part of culture. We assert that such a shift will not result in a zero-sum game against other values we have looked forward to. Rather, we are looking for synergy that will be a positive influence on the community we belong to.

It is not our intent to present a perfect solution on how to anchor our traditional thoughts and values into the Korean American community and merge them into the current layers of diverse ethnic and cultural circumstances. Rather, it may be an architectural response to the Korean American community's cultural awakening. With certainty, we are eager for a new indigenous cultural identity which will carry on our traditional values and cultural self-esteem to the Korean American community.

We desire that our little efforts can expand to a 'Phronēsis' of contemporary culture not just for Korean American Community but to any ethnic communities which long for their own unique cultural identity.

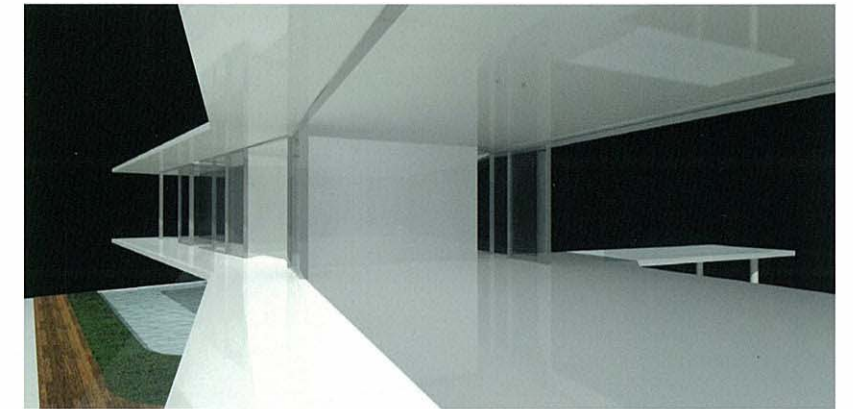
Kim, Kyoung Soon



Gapyung Ahn's House : Flexibility of Spaces in Hanok

There are many features in Hanok such as the curved roof line, roofing tiles, paper doors but the most impressive things are how it touches the nature and how the spaces interact to each other. And those two features share one common idea: Flexibility of Spaces. How it touches the nature is about the external flexibility and how the spaces relate to each other is about the internal flexibility.

This hanok project explores these 2 flexibilities with modern material and technology.



AHN, Jooho

AIA

Project Designer, RTKL Associates Inc.

Master of Architecture, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

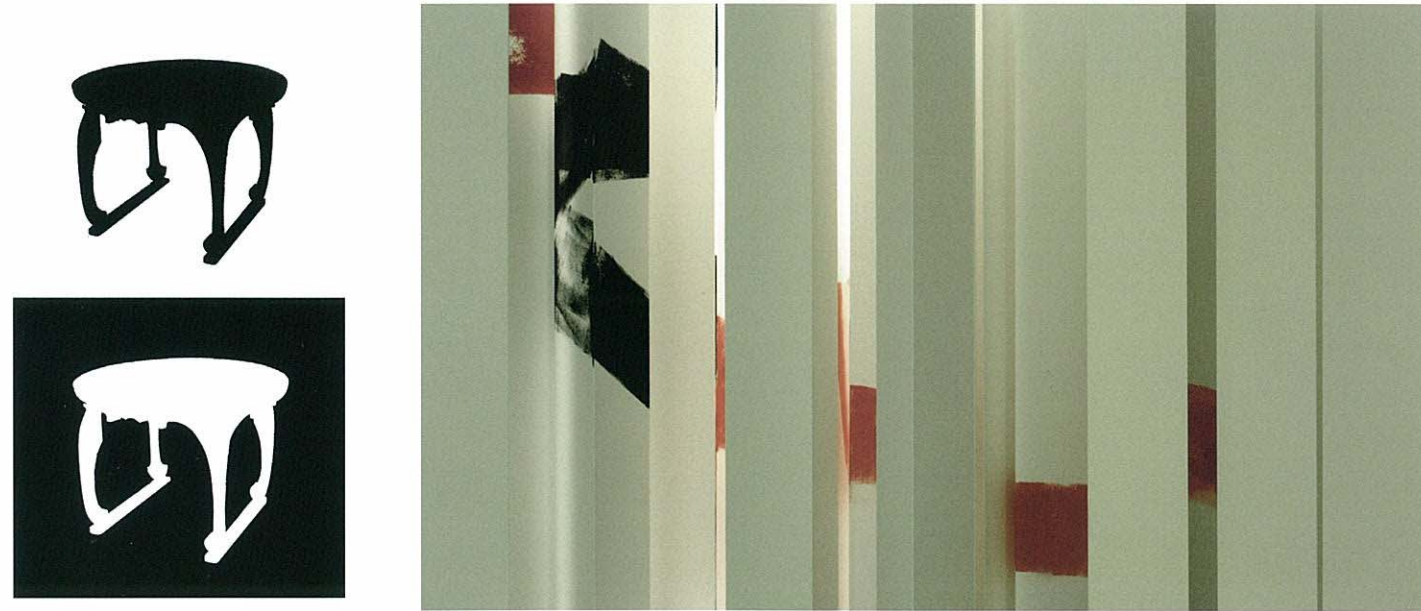
Jooho Ahn got the bachelor of engineering(2002) in architecture from Yonsei University in Korea and master of architecture(2006) from UCLA in US. He joined world famous architectural firm RTKL at 2006 and has been working as project lead designer from 2008. He is currently working on several large-scale residential, hotel and mixed use projects located in the US and China. He became the licensed architect in US since 2011 and qualified for full membership of AIA(the American Institute of Architects)

His noticeable projects are Kingold project(5 luxury residential towers of 40 story), Guanzhou in China(2008-2010), Dalian project(17 luxury residential towers of 40 story), Dalian in China(2009-2010), Wetherly project(12 luxury residential tower), Beverly hills in US(2009-present), Ningbo Zhenhai hotel and club(5 star), Ningbo in China(2010-current).

KIM, Dong Woo

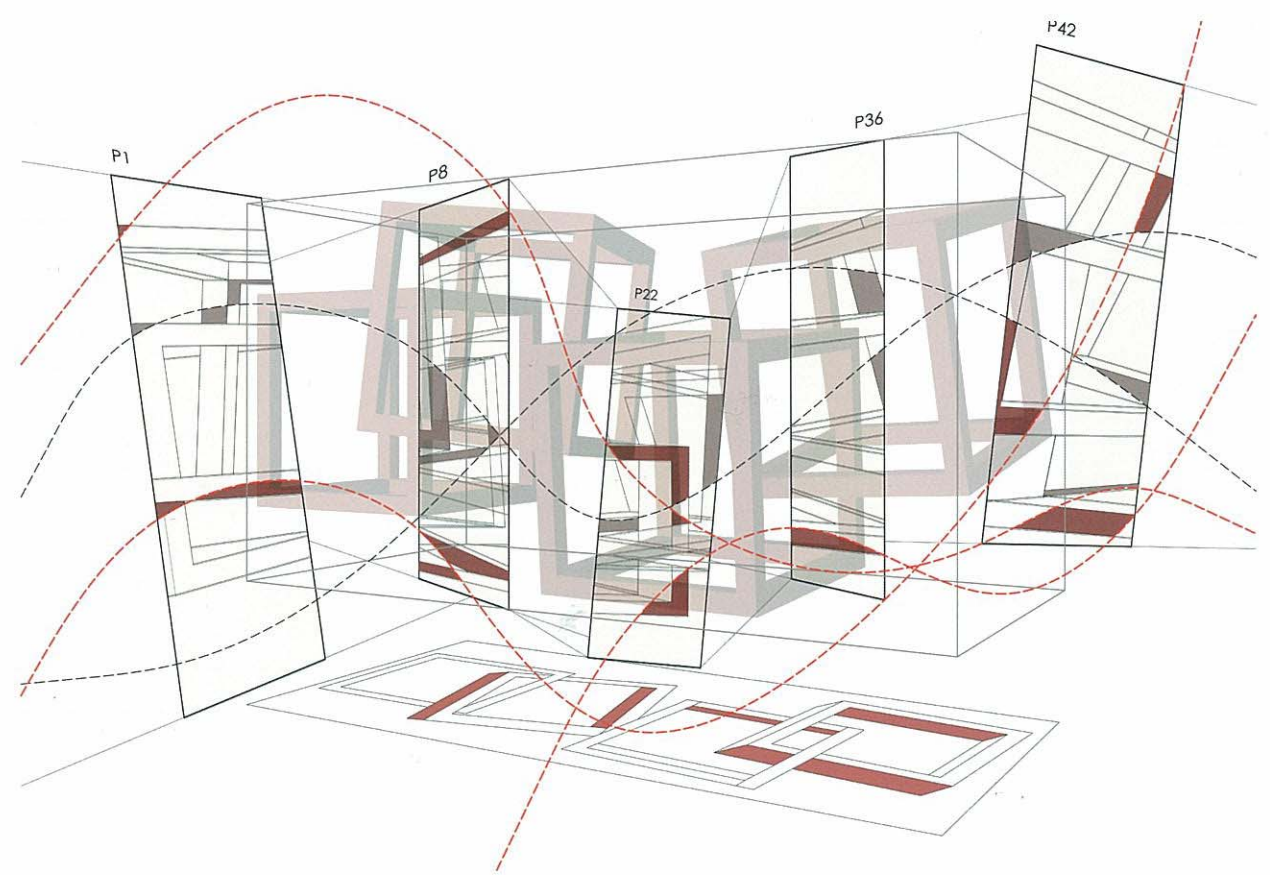
NBBJ, associate/designer
Master of Architecture, Southern California Institute of Architecture(SCI-Arc)

Dong Woo Kim was born in Korea, and has worked for architectural offices in Seoul and Los Angeles since 1996. Through dozens of experiences with built work focusing on contextual dimension and materiality, he has built up his design foundation on the grounds of tectonics and tangibility. His works are characterized by the coexistence of sensuousness and logicity. The three steps, finding small clues of a thing, filtering them through his values, and weaving the pieces into a newly interpreted fabric, has become his design interest in recent years.



SANG (상, Korean low table)
cast space between 'sang' and architecture

Two generations, one lived in Korea for over three decades and one born in US, have a life together in the space between the envelope of typical US apartment house and 'sang', small Korean low table. Here, 'sang' is a connector or binder for the culturalization between old and new generation. The cast space, which is materialized ground against figure, visualizes distance, depth, and relativity between viewers and small traditional furniture, and lets the viewer think about how the culture has lasted, changed or disconnected in the society of cultural pluralism.



KIM, Kyoung Soon

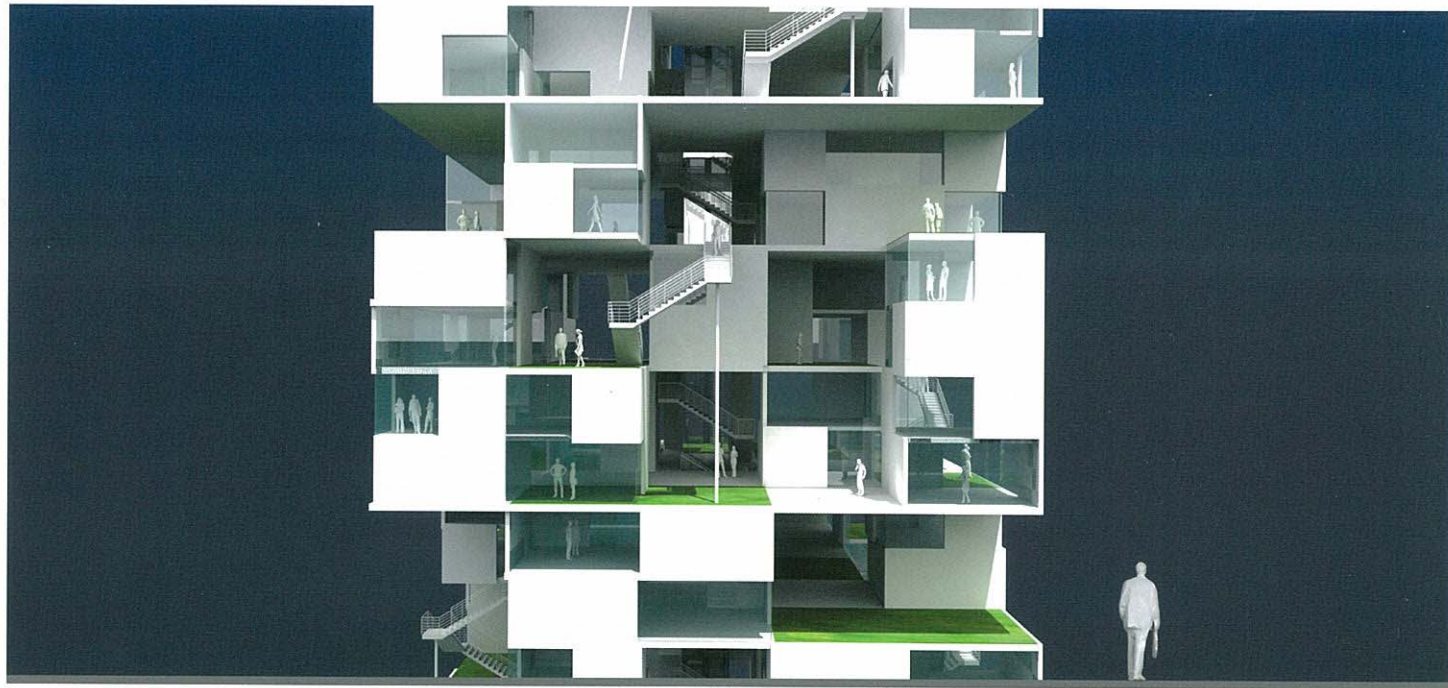
Eric Owen Moss Architects, Project Designer
Master of Architecture, University of California Los Angeles(UCLA)

Kyoung Soon Kim received his BE in Architecture from Hongik University in Seoul, Korea and his Master of Architecture from UCLA in Los Angeles. He has been working at Eric Owen Moss Architects as a Project Designer since 2002 and participated in many award-winning projects. He believes that architecture can be understood by translating the interrelationship between phenomena in human life and architecture itself under a bound system. He is interested in a reciprocal relationship between architecture and multiple disciplines in the humanities. Through his work, he has been presenting intangible substance of phenomena in architecture rather than representing a superficial image of an object. Under the title 'Corrective Transformation' he is still materializing his architectural thoughts over interdisciplinary works.

Collective Transformation: Cognitive Space in Architecture

The cognitive space of a certain group of people represents not only its life pattern and culture but also a natural circumstance and social systems such as politics, economy and religion in a society which it belongs to at that time. A cognitive space also is changing and being developed organically in harmony with such various social and environmental elements which are derived from the historic events as time goes on. It is certain that a traditional space of a group can be embodied clearly when it transfers such variables which have been accumulated over time and then formed a particular space in a certain group of people or circumstances. In the way, a contemporary space for a certain group will characterize its own distinctive entity in space which hands over a cultural identity.

A collective transformation is the way of carrying the accumulation of variables in terms of environment, time, experience and perception of space. The segmented objects which contain our memory, experience and etc. on each layer will function as a medium which will characterize a new experiential and perceptual space. By overlapping them, the segments will be unified and clarify a new certain identity. It will provide a temporal transformation through experiential space and a spatial transformation through perceptual space.



Los Angeles Affordable Apartments

This is an urban collective housing typology derived from Korean traditional villages and adapted to a site in downtown LA as a case study for rehabilitation for low income Angelenos. Porous Housing is a compact mass when assembled. By disassembling its basic components, the units have an openness between them which helps overcome the closure typical of modern multiunit housing. Eventually there will be a means for social communication as this dwelling forms a culture of its own. The communal space is the medium between the private boundary and the public periphery.



LEE, Sang Dae

Assoc.AIA, LEED AP+
UNITEDLAB, founder + HNTB, Project Designer
Master of Architecture, Southern California Institute of Architecture(SCI-Arc)

Sang Dae Lee is interested in architecture that combines with human culture to fit strongly in the natural landscape. He believes in searching for relationships in architecture between human behavior, social phenomenon, landscape and urban patterns and his design work is based on this social research and analysis.

He founded UNITEDLAB, a cross-disciplinary laboratory for architecture, landscape, and urban design in 2006. UNITEDLAB pushes experimentation between theory and practice through these disciplines. Through it, he has garnered notable awards including AIA New York & Los Angeles Design Awards, ASLA Professional Awards. Currently, he serves as the overseas correspondent for the Seoul City and has been invited as a guest critic at the USC and a tutor and lecturer from Universities in Korea. He has worked at HNTB, Gensler, Moore Ruble Yudell and earned a MArch degree from SCI-Arc and BE in architecture from Kookmin Univ.



LEE, Woonghee

SWAgroup, designer
Master of Architecture, University of California Los Angeles(UCLA)

Woonghee Lee was born in Korea. He studied architecture in Korea and finished the Master's degree at University of California, Los Angeles in 2009. He has worked at DMJM and Mack Architect(s) as an intern. He joined the landscape firm, SWA group, in 2010. UCLA and Architecture firms have provided him with many opportunities to hone his design production and development skills as well as his architectural philosophy.

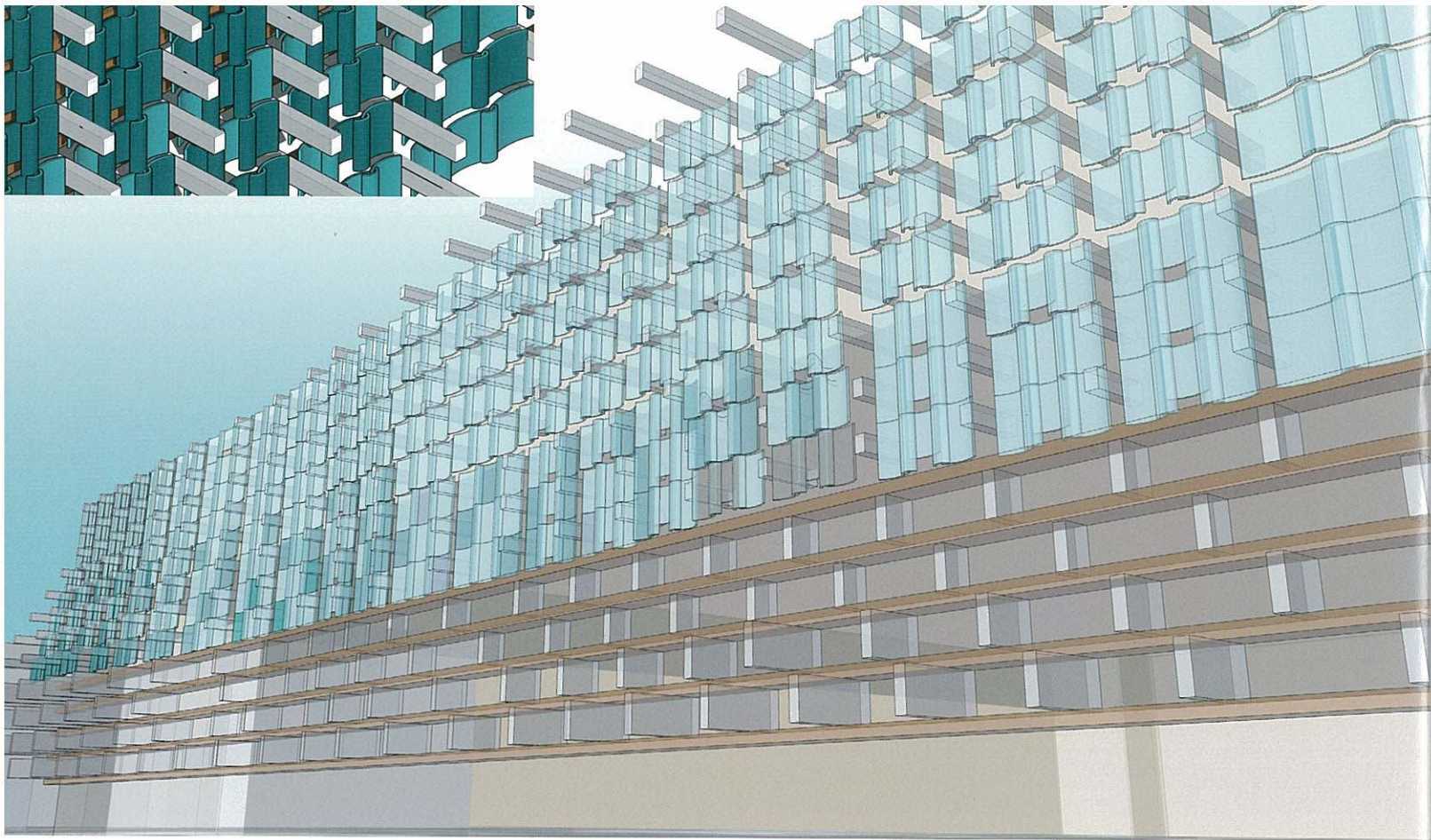
He believes the process of design is to imitate the principle of God's creation. This makes him have an open view to various areas such as nature, landscape, technology, and philosophy. He focuses his design efforts to find integration and interconnection between these areas since he believes this will be the driving force for the future of design.

"Beyond the Wall..."

The research presents reestablishing relationships between architecture and landscape, reconciling the ambiguity between inside and outside space. Taking inspiration from the Korean view towards nature, the landscape becomes a significant element which communicates with the architecture. The dialogue creates a functional shift in the transition between building, yard, and wall. Thus the architecture becomes part of an extension of the land, which in turn generates spatial experiences.



Image of Concept



LIM, Changsuk

Senior Designer at 5+Design Los Angeles
Master of Architecture, University of California
Los Angeles(UCLA)

A Native Korean born, Changsuk Lim received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Ajou University in Korea and a master's degree in architecture from the University of California at Los Angeles. He has worked and lived in Seoul, Los Angeles and Shanghai as an architectural designer. His experiences in U.S. and Asia enabled him to develop a multicultural and holistic approach to architecture. He is interested in adapting and reinterpreting localities such as cultural tradition, landscape, infrastructure and materials to architectural forms with advanced technologies. His research on urban design with Thom Mayne, Madrid Now, has been published internationally and invited to Shenzhen Biennale in 2007. He has been a visiting critic of China Studio at UCLA.

Koreatown Urban Intervention

Design envisions adding a new façade on the existing parking structure on Olympic boulevard that is trying to create new awareness for the Korean community. The project starts with re-thinking of the traditional Korean architecture and attempts to reinterpret traditional tectonics and materials with a current technology. A blue tile (Chung-ki-wa) roof was chosen to intimately relate itself to the existing context of Olympic boulevard in Koreatown where the blue tile roof has been used as a way of representing the Korean identity in many buildings. It is also intended to make the parking structure act visually more as a landmark building that is part of the Koreatown fabric than merely a place to park your car.



YOU, Song-Hee

Architectural Designer at ZW Architects.,
Culver City, CA
M.Arch., Landscape Architecture Certificate,
Graduate School of Architecture, University of
Southern California(USC)

Song-Hee You, with two M. ARCH degrees, one with the highest honor in Professional Graduate School of Arch, Kyonggi Univ., Seoul, Korea and the other in USC and Landscape Certificate, has been pursuing architectural walk to become an architect not just socially useful but serviceable to improving human condition ranging from physicality all the way up to spirituality, putting her firm belief in the power of architecture. She is dead set against fleeting stylistic trends, keeping her eye, instead, on basic architectural aspects such as spatial quality, materiality, tectonics, tactility, and environmental responsibility with a hope that she could touch the deep strata of human soul by weaving those into an artwork. She highly values corporeality in thinking of, designing, and experiencing architecture.

Konglish Space: Frank Gehry Koreanized

English, a language which dominates the planet Earth now, is not univocal. It consists of multiple hybrid voices with various accents, different semantics and incongruent syntactics. Glob(al-Engl)ish must, with all grammatical legitimacy, appear to be heterogeneous, broken, and therefore deformed language to American and Great British, its two most powerful master peoples. Yet, to people outside them, it is the language proper, both convenient and efficient enough, formed almost spontaneously out of pure pragmatic purpose. Ko(rea-E)nglish is just one of many Globish. In order for this fact to get to high level of public awareness, this work appropriated Gehry's architecture, by topologically reversing(relation of structure and surface), transforming(curvilinearity into rectilinearity), and contaminating (with Korean spiritual elements such as sot-dae; bird pole sign, hongsal-moon; red gate wit spiked top, five colors of orientation) his language. It is expected that my experimental work of Frank Gehry 'Koreanized' could unfold a new possibility of third space in architecture.

About Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles

Operated by the Korean Government's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korean Cultural Center (KCCLA) works to broaden understanding of Korea and Korea-U.S. relations through cultural and academic activities. KCCLA sponsors and hosts many different types of activities, including art exhibits, stage performances, film screenings, traditional Korean music and dance events, Korean food festivals, lectures, and sporting events. KCCLA also provides information on Korea - U.S. relations and assists exchange programs between the two countries.

The KCCLA Art Gallery is a venue for local and internationally renowned artists. The spacious gallery holds various types of exhibitions all throughout the year. The Gallery is also the locale for the Annual Juried Art Exhibition for aspiring artists around the nation.

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Curator & Design
Heeseon Choi (KCCLA)

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