

Reflection P4 - spring 2013
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Competition Vertical Cities Asia

The competition of Vertical Cities Asia is organized around themes that will be of relevance within architecture in the future. Already the name contains a hint for architects: in the future architects will have to deal more and more with more people on less ground. Especially asian cities are growing fast.



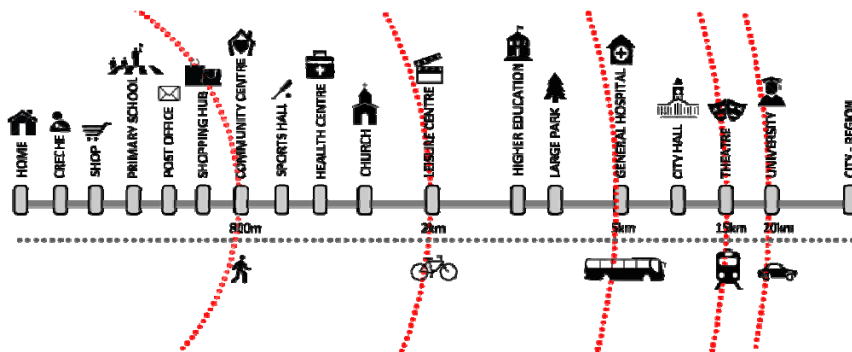
Old neighbourhoods make place for large structures in Seoul, South Korea.

Every year a secondary theme is chosen. The goal is to find solutions and directions for the tackled problems. This year the topic of aging was chosen. Worldwide countries will face the challenges that aging entails. Many countries that have grown economically fast see the elderly population growing, such as western european countries, but also the chosen country Korea. Furthermore Korea had like China regulations for birth control. After years the effects of these regulations are noticeable. But it is not just this theme that should be explored:

'The objective of the competition is to seek a holistic solution or a new urban paradigm for a rapidly growing Asian city.' www.verticalcitiesasia.com

It seeks for solutions that consider sustainability, quality of life, technical innovation, relation ship to context and feasibility. The competition wants students to do intensive research and investigation that will lead to urban and architectural invention.

The first half a year of the graduation we made a masterplan for the competition. And so the first weeks we spent on doing research. This research formed the framework for our designs. This is in line with the strategy of both the competition and the strategy of our tutor. First collecting data and analyse the situation before you make decisions as a designer.



As a design group we explored the functions that should be accesible, also in an aged society.

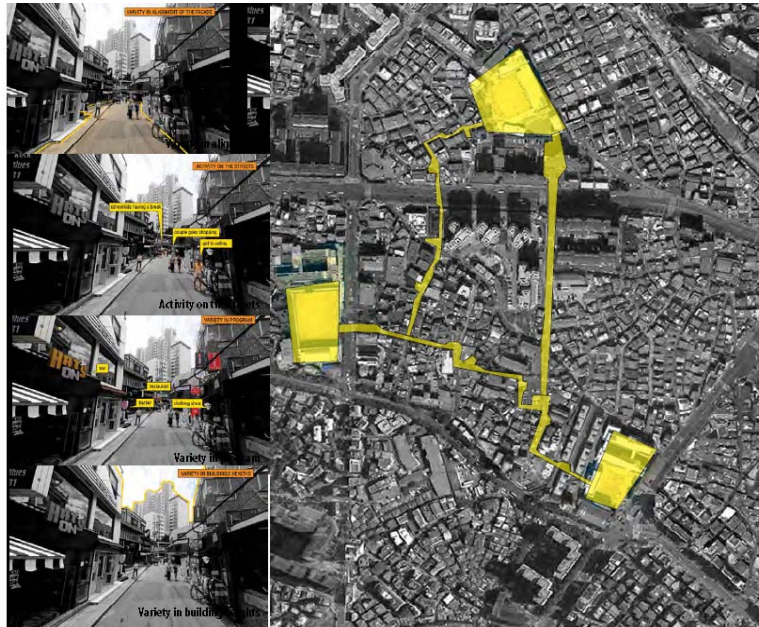


Also in the masterplan we considered the flooding problems and came up with a solution to deal with excess water..

Architectural design

Also the second part of the graduation started with research. This time we had to focus on the chosen masterplan to be able to choose a location and an assignment for the architectural design. Research didn't stop there. Before choosing a program, the program had to be researched. Before choosing a façade, the façade had to be researched. Everytime there was interaction between research and design decisions. This approach worked well as I could do step by step research and zoom in step by step on the design. This period we worked on an individual level, as we all made completely different designs.

The chosen location and subject relate to the overall theme of the vertical cities asia competition. The chosen site that is close to the train station deals with large flows of (aging) people, within a context of highrise. The actual design addresses the hanok villages that are so often just wiped away in the current construction trend. The context therefore also influenced the architectural design.



The small city fabric is typical for Seoul. The hanok villages show a lot of diversity and walkable area.

The actual program, a dance school and theater, relates to aging. Dancing is not just a hobby or profession. It can be used to diminish falls by the elderly and therefore prevent a lot of broken bones while improving locomotion and sense of movement. Movement even activates the brains. General it can improve quality of life. The program suits every age group. Everyone can dance, but also the shops, classes and entertainment program are made for every age group.



For elderly it is recommended to do physical exercises, such as dancing movements to develop motor skills.

Also sustainability topics are adressed. This can be found in material choices, but also in providing solutions for the flooding problem in the area. The solutions fit the area, as I make use of roof storage, water squares, helophytes and underground tanks. The rain cannot just be flowing into the ground as the soil is already filled up.