MEMORY AND ARCHITECTURE

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This book contains all my memories of the thinking, reading, process, and final product of nearly two semesters of thesis.

Memory......

This thesis explores the role of memory as a critical element to think about the production of space in contemporary culture and the role of architects in the redefinition of the meaning of design as a projection in space and time.
MEMORY AND ARCHITECTURE

INTRODUCTION

Too much sea, too much sky, for such a small island, and for such a restless soul. The horizon is too broad. I drown in it. I am a photography, a painting too small for such a big frame. The fault lies in the closeness of the island, the lack of a harmonious relationship between the immense space that surrounds the island and the small machinery of human organism. (Talamona)

Often, I found out my compass of life stopped somewhere. I don’t even know where I came from and where I head for. I look at a hard cover diary...and I opened up.... On each page, many meaningful my thoughts are there. The more pages I read, I realize that the true north of my life on my compass has never changed. On my diary, there are all my memories that I have constructed myself in each moment. When I put my thoughts on a white paper, then I read what I have wrote in my diary, I find myself as a captain of my life who know where the destiny are............

My interest in “MEMORY” comes from finding my existence on my diary. Diary has been my personal space, and I could see everything in our universe work with the same ways and those existence.

Where does it come from? Human beings, animals, and all objects.

Too much TRADING

“MEMORY AND ARCHITECTURE”

For my thesis, I extended the subject that the existence are question mark to an “X” the future of railroad system and Seoul station in Korea. For this searching, I will open my personal diary and also the public dairy called “CULTURE AND HISTORY.”
Everything that occurs in every minute is remained as a certain meaning in our mind either consciously or unconsciously. To be given certain meaning on everything around is because of “MEMORIZING PHENOMENA” in our perception.

Because of this action of memory, what human beings have experienced and felt in even a same space can have curious meanings. What we feel and think is a result of what we have had in our memory.

We express what we experience and fell with the languages that we have had memory, even though we think it is totally new experience. We are adding and modifying our memory everyday as we make a new experience. Because of the continuous memory process in our mind, the actions for making new experience can be motivated.

Therefore, to TRACE what we already have in our memory will be the key for figuring out what we will have and should have in future.

How the memories are related to Architecture?

The architecture is distinguished from a sculpture because of the existence of Human Beings in it. The notion of the memory is the evidence of “Active Human Beings.”

The continuous notion of memory, which formed as the response to the change of time and space, will weave the “Architecture.”

Viewing from architectural design actions that deal with space, image, and time, I believe that the goal of designer is to be a mediator who brings up several trace that exist in our memory, and recalls those as new words of present.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since the period of the Chosun Dynasty, the last name of Korea until 1945, there was a modern civilization introduced to Korea. Seoul Station was built as the evidence of the modernization of the old conservative manner and the new avant-garde influence of Western civilization during the time.

As the evidence of one of the "open-door policy" in Chosun, the western building style was built in the center of Seoul. That represents the new meaning of a crossing point of past, present, and future.

From the Japanese colonial period (1910–1945) started, Korea faced a dark age. Because of the obliteration of Korean identity by Japanese people, not only political but also cultural identity was sunken down during this time. The station was also used as a point for transporting of military equipment rather than a station for public transportation.

After the independence from Japan, Korea was faced with the time of resettlement and confusion around all the country. The establishment of two separate independent governments—one by the democratic party on the south part of Korea and another by the communist party on the north part of Korea—became an allusion of the tragic separation of Korea. The railroad that used to go from north part to south part of Korea was disconnected and the Seoul station became the point for the main foothold of transportation in only south part of Korea.

In 1950, the Korean War occurred. During the three years war, the Seoul Station was crowded by refugees who wanted to go far down to south part of Korea to avoid the war. Many dispersed families were during this time.

After the separation to North Korea and South Korea, because of Korean war, people who were in South Korea tried to rejuvenate the pain of parting and recover political and economic damage from the Korean War. For their new life, many people moved to the capital city to take the Seoul Station as the only gateway to their hometown.

After the Korean War, South Korea maintained political, economic, and cultural development. As the transportation system, which included railroad and highway, had been developed to link all country into one-day transportation network, the Seoul station became the center of traffic route in South Korea. In addition to that, the Seoul Olympic that was held in 1988 was a huge motivation to Korea politically, culturally, and economically.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

KOREAN RAILROAD HISTORY...
To address relationship between old and new, Private and public, and memory and architecture..... The new design of Railroad museum requires sensitivity to the existing Seoul station structures and the consideration of larger issues of architectural culture. Since the Railroad museum envisions its role within the community as a bridge between cultural / historical trace of Railroad and Korean history and daily movement, the new design will bring the Seoul Station users' interest and invite public participation in museum events and encourage gathering in communal courtyards. The Railroad museum will also offer an opportunity to escape from the public, into another world. The participant, once inside, will be guided in the discovery of the Korean railroad history, which has been together with Korean historical lives, by the museum itself, reinforcing the relationship between memory and architecture.

Functions of Project

At the Railroad Museum, visitors will be able to appreciate various the historical items of every room such as Railroad History room, Railroad model, telecommunication room, Transportation room, and Future Railroad room. The railroad exhibition hall of Seoul Station is composed of Transportation electric car room, History room, Civil Engineering room, and learning stock room. A future-oriented high-speed railroad publicity room as well as a café will be also included. The Railroad will be not only one of the most important transportation modes, but also means for the citizens living in South Korea. Visitors will be able to see the history and vigorous future of the Korean railroad at the museum.
MEMORY AND ARCHITECTURE...

To celebrate and remember both the history of railroad and symbolic meaning of Seoul station, the railroad Museum will be located on Seoul station. Visitors/passengers will be able to see these changes of the railroad history and bring up their own memory of Seoul station in the Railroad Museum.

Program

The program will include the following spaces:

- Open Spaces (Exhibition)
- Entrance Hall
- Transportation & Electricity room
- Railroad History
- Rolling Stock
- Civil Engineering
- Publicity Room
- Station History room
- Contemporary exhibition room
- Conference Hall
- Educational Area
- Experimental Area
- Library
- Gallery guards' changing room
- Administration offices
- Giftshop
- Ticket Office
- Depots
The Railroad Museum is placed in Seoul, South Korea. The site is in old downtown (Kang Buk) of Seoul and next to the old Seoul Station. Seoul city has been developed from the north part to South west Part. Therefore, in this old downtown the surrounding buildings are of a mid-size scale retails and residential buildings. To the south of the site there is a two story Subu station that is a secondary station of Seoul station. Also, there is an open plaza in front of the seoul station, which connects to the Subu Station. The dense pedestrian movement are always in the plaza as well as inside Seoul Station.
The Railroad Museum is located on the south part of Seoul station and to east side there are linear railroads. The site is rectangular (linear) shape along the railroad.
Process-------

These sketches show the beginnings of the schematic design. At this stage, I tried to find a way that I could approach to this project. Thoughts about peeling orange skin, especially, allowed me to explore several ways of tracing historical, cultural aspects in our memory.
Memory model...........

As a mnemonic construction design idea..... I started out by making a memory model...
The purpose of this process was to recall all my personal memory about the history, culture, school station and the railroad system of South Korea. After several brief sketches were done, 2-Dimensional assembly, making a physical model allowed me to experience all my senses in my memory... Senses by touching model material...........
PAPER (roughness), GLASS (reflection, and transparency), SOIL (softness)...., and PIPE WIRE (continuity, extension)
STUDY MODELS

CONTINUITY
REPETITION
FOUNDATION

OVERLAP
**Memory and Architecture**

**Foundation**
- The richness of Korean culture has been the foundation of long Korean history.

- The Seoul station: Historical background of the building.

  - For Korean transportation

- Memory: Past and present are foundations for the future.

**Repetition / Reflection**
- History: Bright & darkness

- Memory: Repetition of memory in a moment.

**Overlap**
- History: Continuous Time

- Memory: Overlapping memories: Past, Present, Future

**Skin**
- History: Protection

- Memory: Tracing

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**Memory**

As the mental faculty of retaining and recalling the past, constitutes an indispensable element of our history and cultural heritage. Yet, memories are transitory and uncertain without material proofs of the past, whatever the means of continuity, revivals and future development.
OVERLAP.............

Each exhibition space is placed on different level. Movement, View, and Senses are overlapped within logic...........
No Starting or Ending Points...........
Ramps are elements to combine all those levels together...........
While the four steel structure systems tighten up building skin envelops and roof systems.

LEVELS

0:: -7'
1:: +0'
2:: +7'
3:: +24'
4:: +24'
5:: +19'
6:: +29'
7,8:: +16'
9:: +32'
10,11:: +45'
12:: +48'
13:: +40'
"With memory set smarting like a reopened wound, a man's past is not simply a dead history, an outworn preparation of the present: it is not a repented error shaken loose from the life; it is a still quivering part of himself, bringing shudders and bitter flavours and the tinglings of a merited shame." —George Eliot
“No memory is ever alone; it’s at the end of a trail of memories, a dozen trails that each have their own associations.” – Louis L’Amour
I began this thesis by asking some important questions to myself. What are past, present, and future? Are they all separated? Without making my own definition for those answers, I couldn't go any step forward to design this project.

And, now I think I have found my own definition. I believe that there are not any boundaries in time. Time is the sum of each moment when we exist. History is a reflection of the moment. Even though there are some moments that affect on other moments as a foundation on time line, moments are repeated and continued. Present are constructed by memories in past. In other words, without the proof of past, present cannot be constructed as well as future. We are living at this moment called present but at the same time we are recalling our past and making our future. Memories weave all those moments and all actions in those moments together.

By exploring the topic, "Memory and Architecture," I was able to extend my understanding of memory and its relationship with architecture. In architecture, nothing can be static, but at base of the memory of past and can be studied at certain point as a past because there will be always continuity and existence of memory. Therefore, this project will never be finished and its ideas and discoveries will always be in my mind as I continue to design.
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