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Proposal for Reunification Center

Thesis Proposal Submitted By: Joseph Lee



Yet, if the only form of tradition, of handing down, consisted in following the way of the immediate generation before us in a blind or timid adherence to its successes; tradition; should be positively discouraged... - T. S. Elliot.

Committee: Deborah Adams
J. Francois Gabriel
Randall Korman

Syracuse University
School of Architecture
ARC 505 Fall 2000

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Thesis Statement

Providing a single space that is shared by two communities is a crucial part of a reunification process. I believe such a shared space will solve the problem between two communities by providing a threshold between two sides. Designing a reunification center for future Korea will test this thesis by solving both intangible and tangible problems raised by the division of two communities.

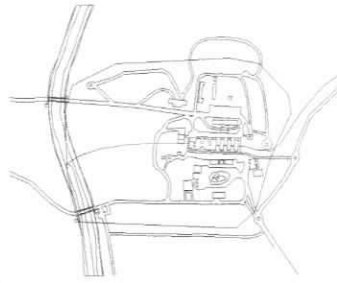
During a process of two divided nations become one homogeneous society, providing a single community space where they can gather on boundary to form a community is a crucial part of the process. The thesis will be tested by designing a reunification center that solves both intangible and tangible problems caused by division of two Koreas.

Providing a single space that is shared by two communities is crucial part for a process of its reunification. Designing a reunification center can solve both intangible and tangible problems caused by two Koreas' division will test this thesis.

Providing a single space that is shared by two communities is a crucial part of a reunification process. Such a shared space will provide a threshold between two communities for smooth transition for their reunification. Designing a reunification center for future Korea that solves both intangible and tangible problems raised by engagement of two communities will test this thesis.

Providing a single space that is shared by two communities is a crucial part of a reunification process. Such a shared space will solve the problem between two communities by providing a threshold between two communities. Ultimately, it will contribute to a smooth reunification. Designing a reunification center for future Korea will test this thesis by solving both intangible and tangible problems raised by engagement of two communities.

N. Korea



Supporting Discussion for thesis statement

Reunification Center
A threshold solving:
-Tangible Problem
-Intangible Problem

S. Korea

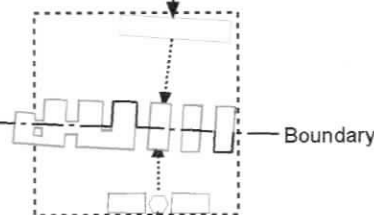
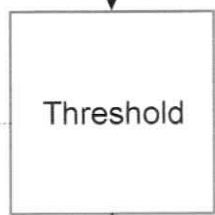
a)

The thesis is Reunification center. A role of the reunification center is helping divided communities to have a smooth transition into a unified society. Such a reunification center should be a threshold between two sides. One aspect of the threshold is a community space providing an intangible threshold between two communities' cultures, economies, politics and etc. Another aspect threshold is a tangible threshold that aids physical transition between two sides, such as a custom, road systems. I propose that a construction of a building, as a medium of the threshold for two societies help ease the process of their reunification.

N. Korea

Thesis
Reunification Center

Anti thesis
Historical Artifact
extremely passive as a threshold



S. Korea

b)

Despite a public perception of Panmunjom as the threshold between two countries, Panmunjom acts in opposite way of the threshold: it has a tendency of denying and repelling another side. For example, Panmunjom has a boundary line dividing the space into two. On top of that, there are buildings in each other side that are constantly competing in its scales and heights. Only one of small military delegation facilities placed on middle of the boundary line acts as a verbal bridge between two sides as a place of military delegations only. However, The bitter animosities seems to melt. The first summit ever by Two leader from North and South Korea in 2000 followed by extensive cultural and social exchange suggest a peace. As the unification is near, such an animosite in Panmunjum should be changed into the threshold.

Panmunjum is the last place on a face of the earth where a war between Democracy and Communism is still taking place. Knowing that this war is inevitable to end, a new building that functions as a threshold between two communities is necessary for their smooth transition into a society called Korea. Designing a future reunification center will test this thesis by solving both intangible and tangible problems raised in Panmunjum in 50 years division in Korea.

a) Thesis as a Threshold

b) Thesis and existing artifacts

Problem

In order to make the Reunification center in Panmunjom, I encounter with following problems:

Problem preexisted in site:

Tangible

Existing boundary line – make it as a historical artifact
and stop further extension of the line. Unify

Impossible condition of travels – Easier Access

Pre-existing trees and other Natural conditions
is used for a visual barricade between each other
-Open each other with new landscape work

State of competition in scale between buildings & flags
– Unify its scale

Intangible

Political aspect of boundary – Destroy /

Military in war – Peace, Non-violent Act,
minimal
military gesture

Problem raised as a reunification takes place:

Tangible

Need of custom (program) for travel to other side

Increase of traffic -
Need of Road and actual threshold for
Transportation & trade

Need to support dispersed Families' reconciliation

Intangible

Increasing cultural exchange – Provide a
Community space for cultural exchanges.

Increase in economic trade – Provide a
conference hall for meeting, etc.

Need of a new type of politic system

The design Method:

It will be conducted in order to solve previously listed problems. Main area of design is plan study as a threshold. Social Value between programs will be also main interest, as it will constitute the base for the future Korean Government.

I believe it is need to compare it with previous condition as an Anti-Thesis in order to enforce the idea about a new reunification center as a threshold

Intangible problem



A. Intangible problem preexisted in site:

1. Political Problem: 2 Political groups: Democracy vs. Communism

Two countries are constantly in conflict with each other's ideologies.

Political intangible problem: boundary

One of visually and emotionally powerful political representation would probably a boundary. The boundary such as a national border is fundamental governing tool to set a limit of its territory. Usually, there is a threshold in order to cross this boundary to an other side such as a custom. However, boundary of Joint Security Area psychologically repels other side from approaching or entering. This form of boundary could also be seen at Charley Point, Berlin. Charley point was where territories of United States and USSR sectors collided. Psychological impact of the panel located at the entrance of USSR Sector as if it is saying that you are throwing out your liberty and freedom as you are crossing this line. Even though there is no visible wall in the Charley Point, the panel and military personnel becomes invisible barricade. Joint Security area is originally secured by North Korean and UN. Then, in 1976, it was divided into two territories.

Irony about the boundary in Joint Security Area

Panmunjom, or in the other words, Joint Security Area, is neutral place devoted to our freedom of peace and, it can not be a subject of ownership by any of us. It was fundamental idea behind Joint Security Area. Irony is that instead of it became a place of peace talk, it became a place for an another war between a table as if there is a war between demarcation line outside of the Joint Security Area. Ax murder Incident, 1976, is North Korean military's hostility showing hatred toward south. The outcome was a line drawn between the JSA dividing it by two sides and, making each of their control. The division in the Joint Security Area was initiated. As a vogue example, we, South Korea, wouldn't let other side to use our facilities without our permission, or vice versa. The neutral land is, once again, politically divided since Korean War divided Korea into two.



2. Military problem: State of war - Panmunjom is only part of the earth where democratic and communist faces each other in state of war. there are 1,500,000 solders guarding Demilitary Zone. Panmunjum limits specially trained 150 Solders in order to secure each sides. Because of the hostility from North Korean solders, constant tension make the boundary between them more strong.



B. Intangible Problem that will be raised by Event of Reunification

A solution for the intangible problem will be in a multifunction space. This is why I call the building Center.

1. Need of a New Political System

Panmunjom should act as a link between two previous government. A huge number of changes are expected in Korean Government system. After the reunification, there should be a New government that rules two different communities They have different ideologies, economic statues and education. A single government that controls this two community need many thought. Panmunjom need to provide a prototype of this government system in representation of Architectural symbolism in its building.

2. Cultural Exchange

During 1970s, there were many cultural exchanges between North and South Korea. Recently there is an explosion of cultural exchange in 2000. Even South Korea is allowed to send a musician and artist to North. This activity is usually represents a good relationship between two Korea. Cultural exchange means huge in forming a society as it promotes sympathies between two communities under the same Korean culture. There should be a community space and other cultural Space such as a theater in order for both side to meet and perform.

4. Economic Exchange

Trade makes everyone better off. Both side of Korea has a comparative advantage with economic trade. For example, South Korea can use North Korea's cheap labor and Touring spot for development. North side of the Korea will improve its economy by an extensive economic support of South Korea. By the way, there need to be a regulation between trade in order for fair economic practices for both sides. Northern part of Korean economy is so far behind, it needs a system of tariff and import quota in order for existing economy to survive. For this reason, a place that sets economic regulations is crucial for healthy economy of future Korea. Panmunjum has a duty to provide such a function.

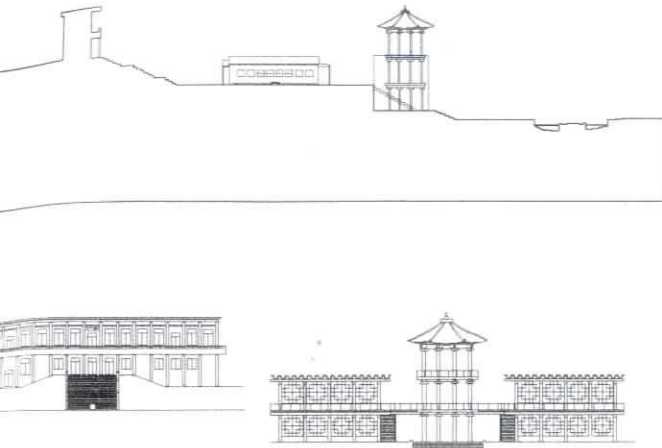
5. Social exchange

Dispersed families expect to meet in Panmunjom after the reunification. Therefore, Panmunjum should provide a way for these people to reconcile.

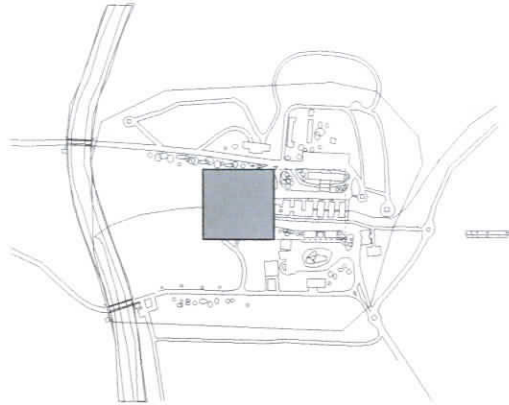
6. Need to contrast existing condition as an anti thesis

In order to make the effectiveness of the thesis, historical artifact should be represented to contrast with the new building.



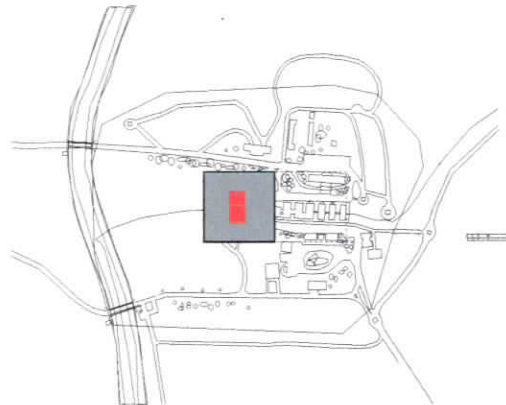
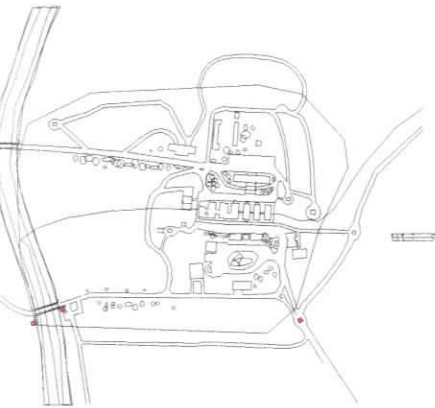


State of competition in scale between buildings & flags
 - Unify functions in a single space

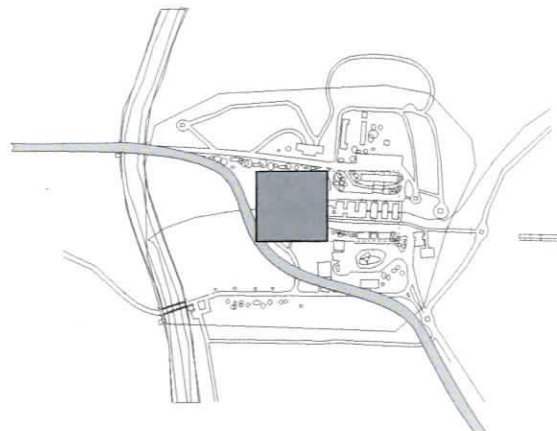


B. Tangible Problem that will be raised by Event of Reunification

Need of custom (program) for traveling to other side



Increase of traffic -
 Need of Road and Physical means of thresholds for Transportation & trades



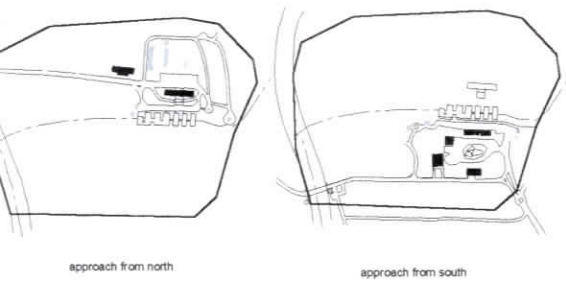
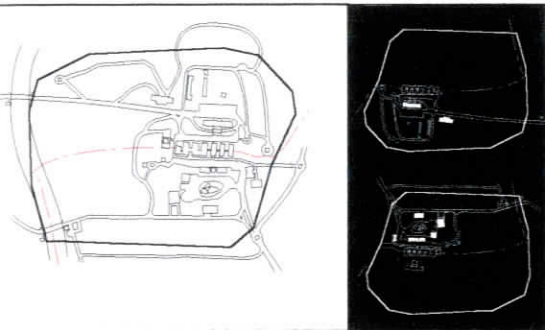
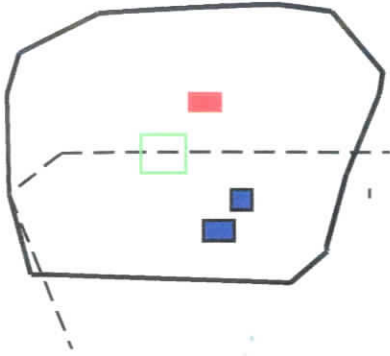
Tangible Problems

When there is tangible contrast and a barrier between it, the threshold should neutralize and link them together. My thesis is reunification center that will do that by solving following tangible problems in the Joint Security Area.

A. Tangible problem preexisted in site:

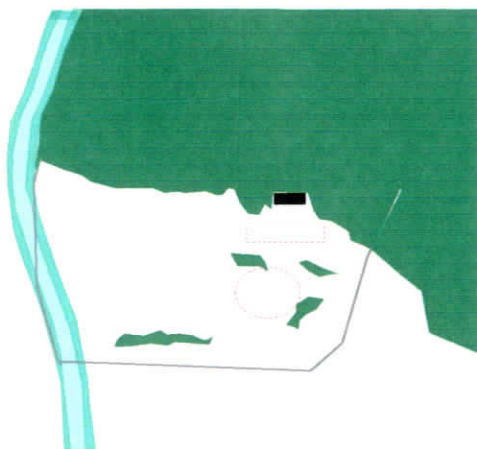
Existing boundary line

Solution – make it as a historical artifact and stop further extension of the line.



Impossible condition for travels

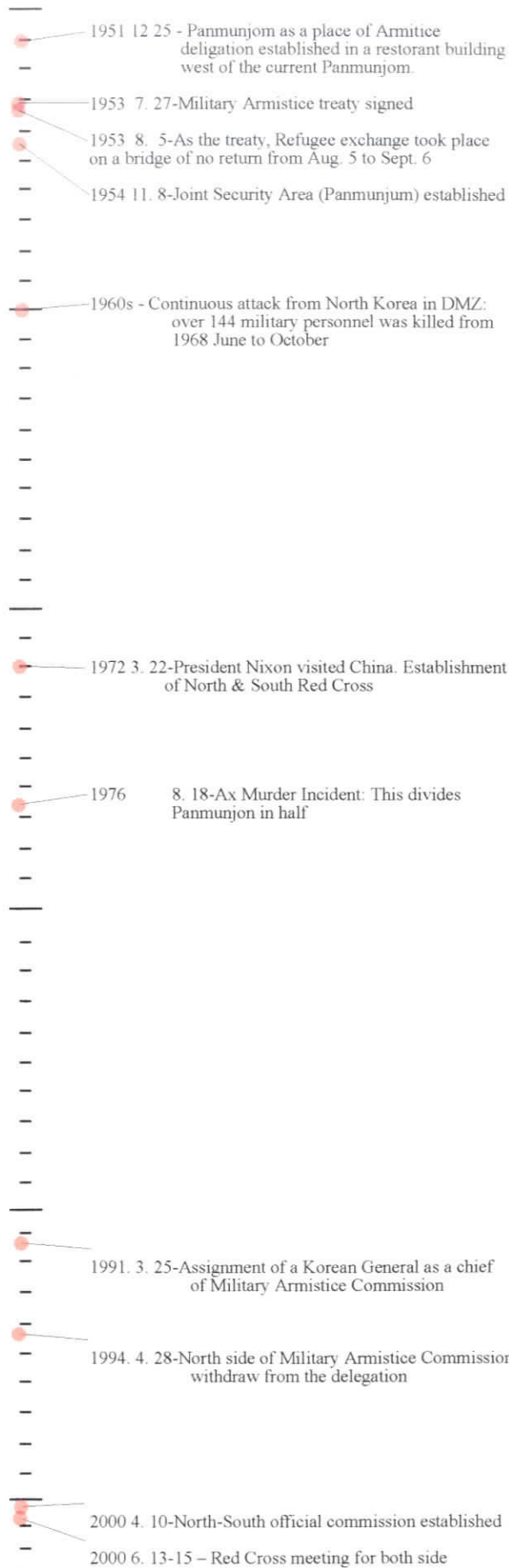
Solution– Easier Acces by providing a road system and threshold



Pre-existing trees and other Natural conditions:

It is used for blocking each other from the view

Solution: Garden(see the precedent)



Program

Panmunjom's functions have been evolved in many forms over a period of 50 years. If it was a military center for delegation right after the war, then it later became a threshold for Political, Economic, Social and cultural exchange. - *Cho Myung Chul, Professor at Pyong-Yang University*

The word Pan-Mun-Jum is addressing a house where a military delegation between Communist and Democratic sides who involved with the Korean War. It is sensible to building a single complex as a neutral resource serving the two sides as a threshold. It will not show a neutral facade to each side. Both sides will share an access of the building in same position. The program will be consisted of components for a reunification facility in which, it connects both intangible and tangible aspect of Korea.

Need program below:

Political: Council/Court room

Economic / Social: Conference Halls

Cultural: Stage, Lecture hall, dispersed family reunion hall

Antithesis: Historical preservation

Entrance Hall(on both sides)

Entrance and Lobby Waiting(for 200)	200*2=400 sq. m
Reception Area	45* 2= 90 sq. m
Media Service	30* 2= 60 sq. m
Public Restrooms	35x4=140 sq. m
Subtotal	690 sq.m

Conference Hall

Conference Room	250*2=500 sq. m
Broadcast Facility	100 sq. m
Meeting Hall	150 sq. m
Waiting Room	30x2= 60 sq. m
Restrooms	20x2= 40 sq. m
Subtotal	850 sq.m

Hall of celebration: For social exchange

Theater	800 sq. m
Research	100 sq. m
Meeting Hall	700 sq. m
Dispersed Family meeting Room	550 sq. m
Waiting Room	30x2= 60 sq. m
Restrooms	25x2= 50 sq. m

Subtotal 2260 sq.m

Korean War Memorial

Historical Photo Gallery 300 sq. m
Hall of remembrance (Excavation) 500 sq. m
Conservation (of the line in military delegation facility) 150 sq. m
Circulation x 25% 950*0.25=237 sq. m

Subtotal 1187 sq.m

Staff Offices & Maintenance

Offices 15*3= 30 sq. m
Lounge 25*2= 50 sq. m
Conference Room 30*2= 60 sq. m
Loading and Receiving 75sq. m

Subtotal 215 sq.m

Commercial Shops, etc

Shops 40*3=120 sq. m
Storage 50 sq. m
Restaurant 100 sq. m
Restrooms 30*2=60 sq. m

Subtotal 330 sq. m

Project Subtotal 5532sq. m

+ 10% circulation 553 sq. m

+ 15% mechanical 830 sq.m

Project Total 6915 sqm

Site dimensions- 70m x 70m = 4900 sm
maximum allowable area = 4900 sm

6915/ 4900 = 1.411 = 1.5 floor

1.5 floor is reasonable for the reunification center

Site fit

40m = 131.234feet



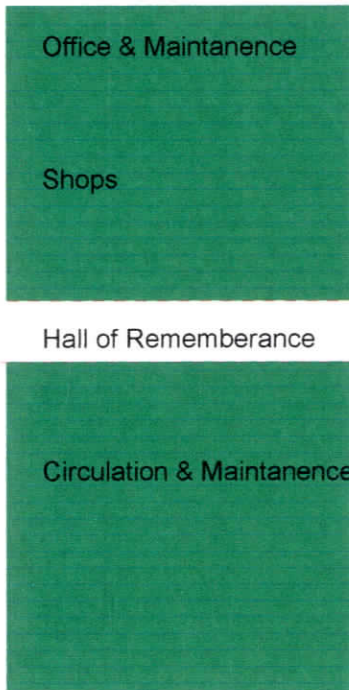
250m



320 m



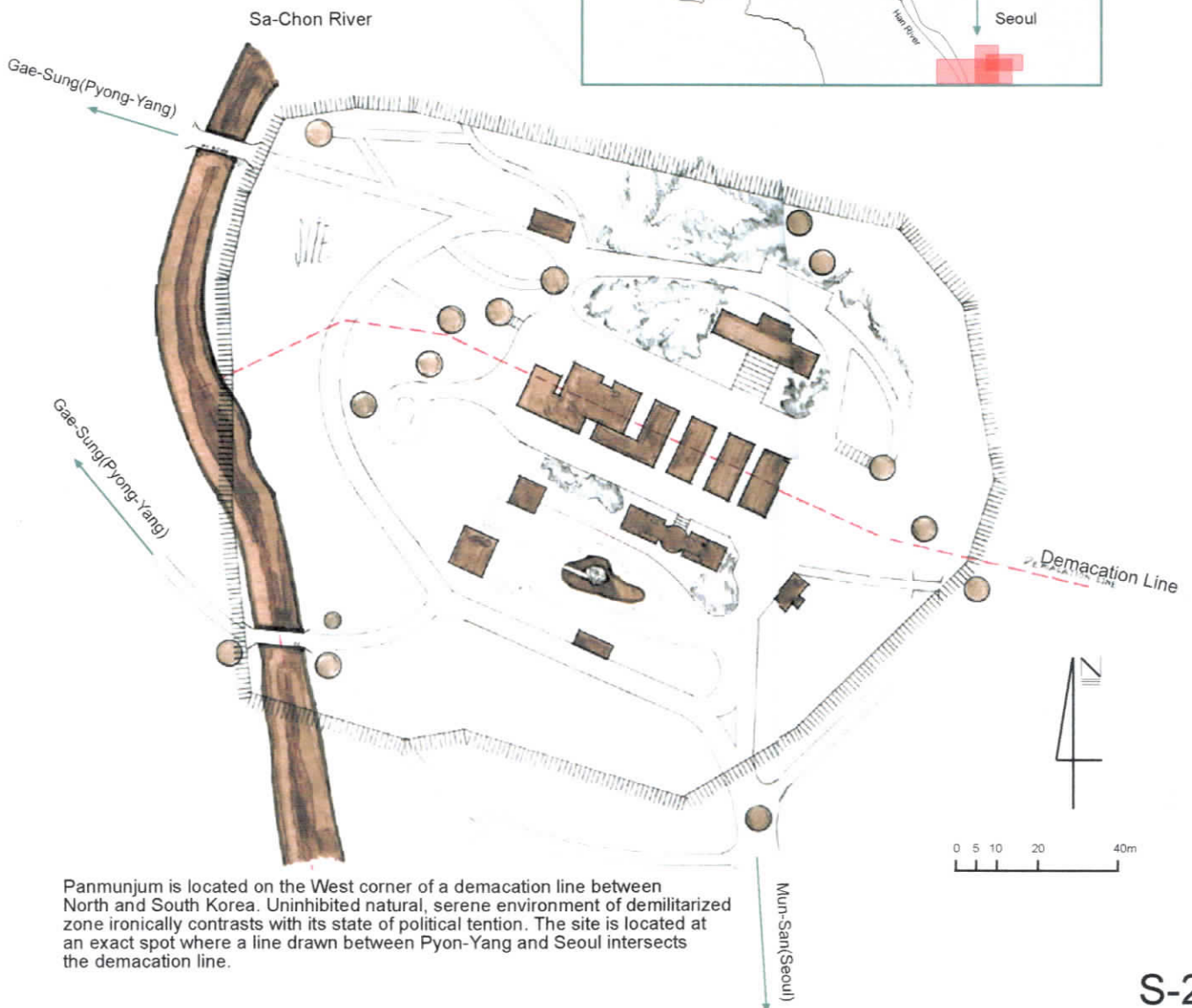
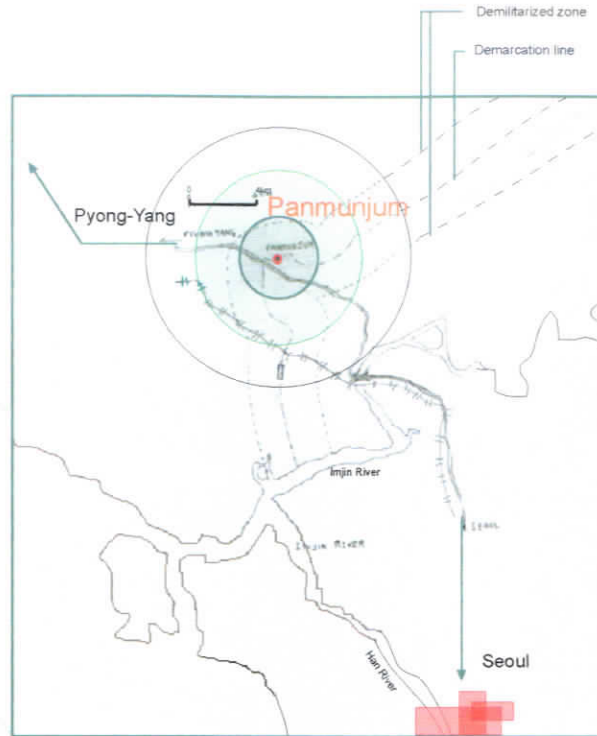
Basement



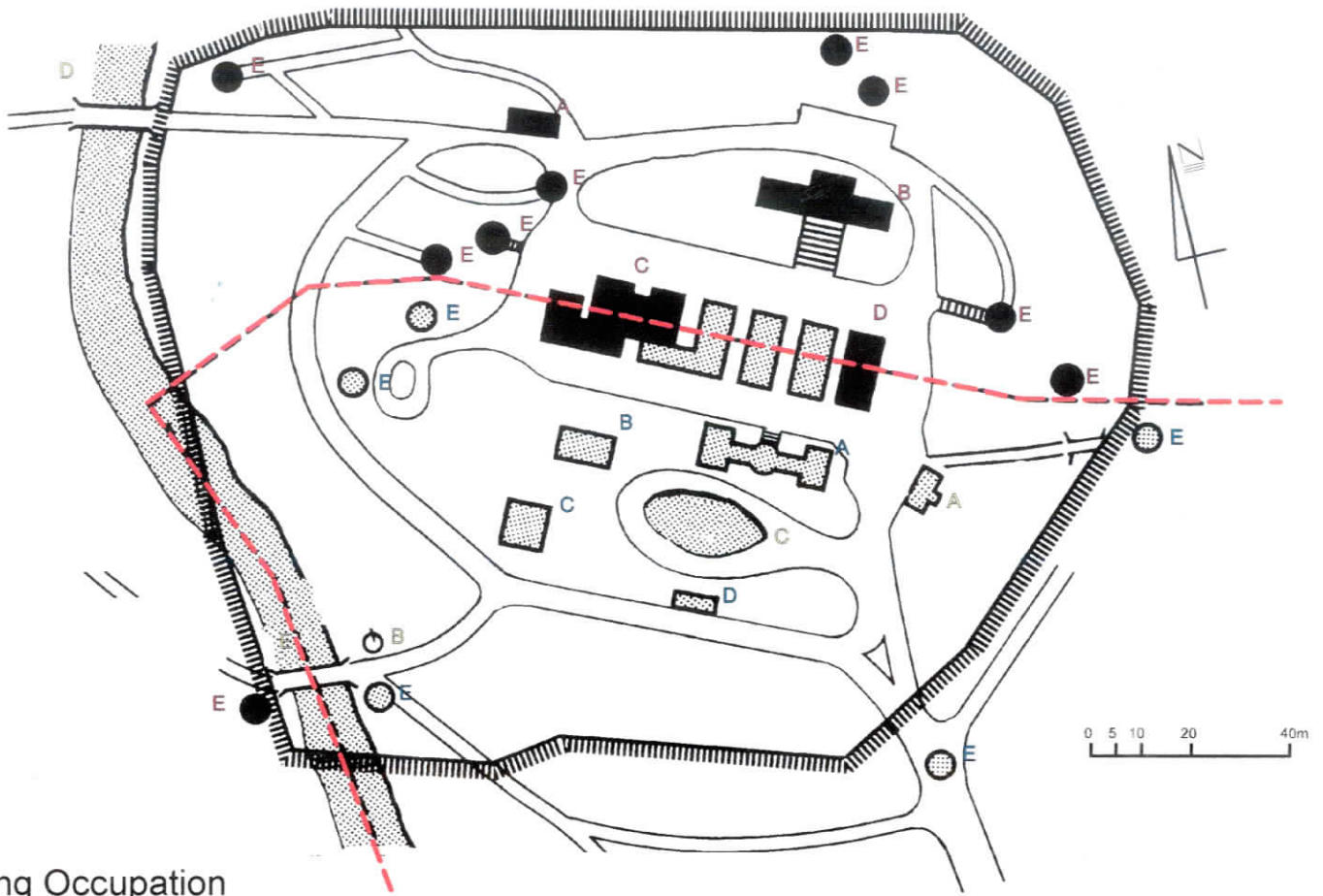
First Floor



Site Location

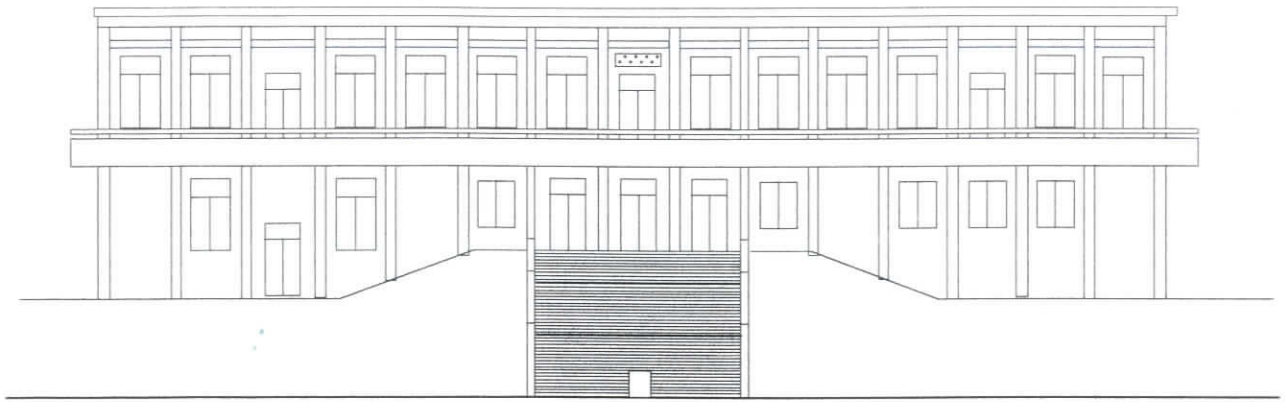


Panmunjom is located on the West corner of a demarcation line between North and South Korea. Uninhibited natural, serene environment of demilitarized zone ironically contrasts with its state of political tension. The site is located at an exact spot where a line drawn between Pyon-Yang and Seoul intersects the demarcation line.



Building Occupation

Neutral	North Korea	South Korea
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. United Nation Office B. Mi-Ryue Tree Incident Memorial C. Pond D. 72 Bridge E. Bridge of no return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Tong-Yil-Gak (Temple of Reunification) B. Pan-Mun-Gak (Temple of Panmun) C. Maintenance D. North Korean guarding facility E. Watch Tower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. House of Freedom B. House of Peace C. House of Peace (New Addition) D. South Korean guarding facility E. Watch Tower

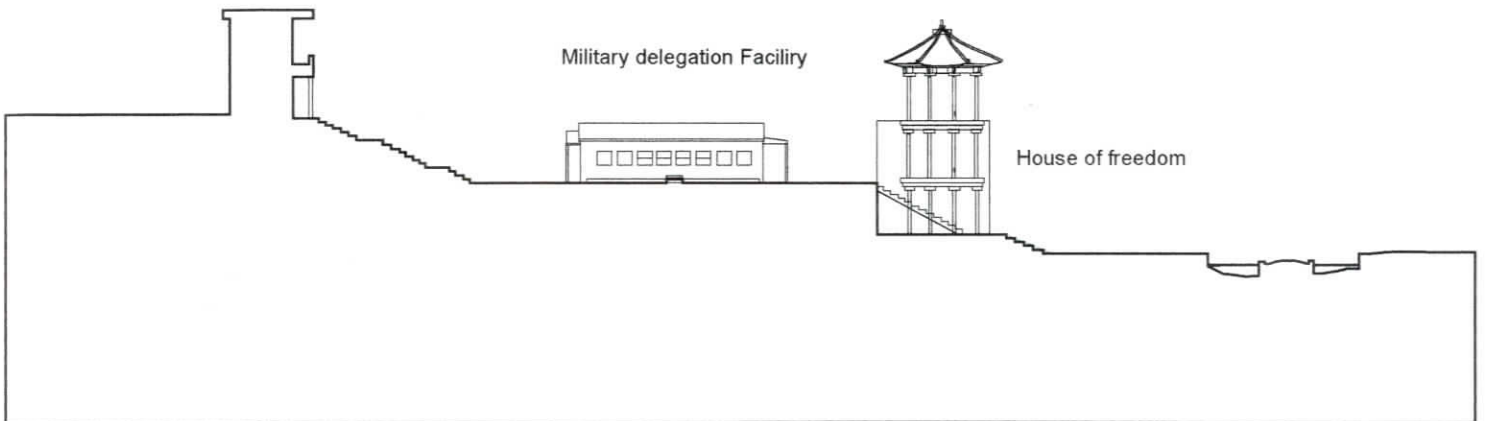


elevation of Panmungak

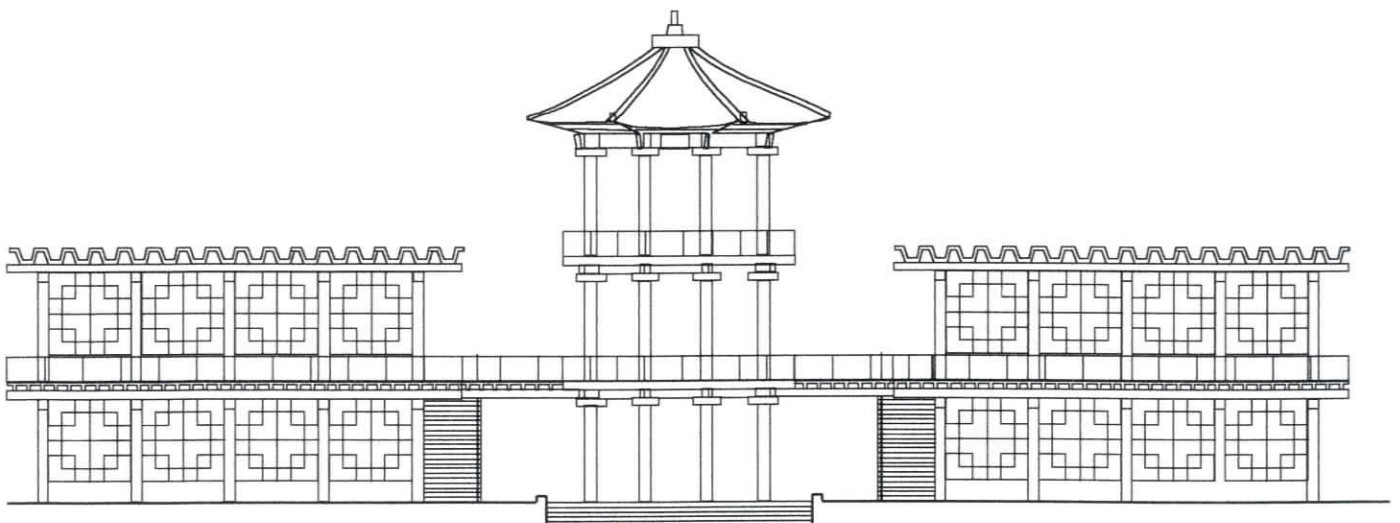
Panmungak

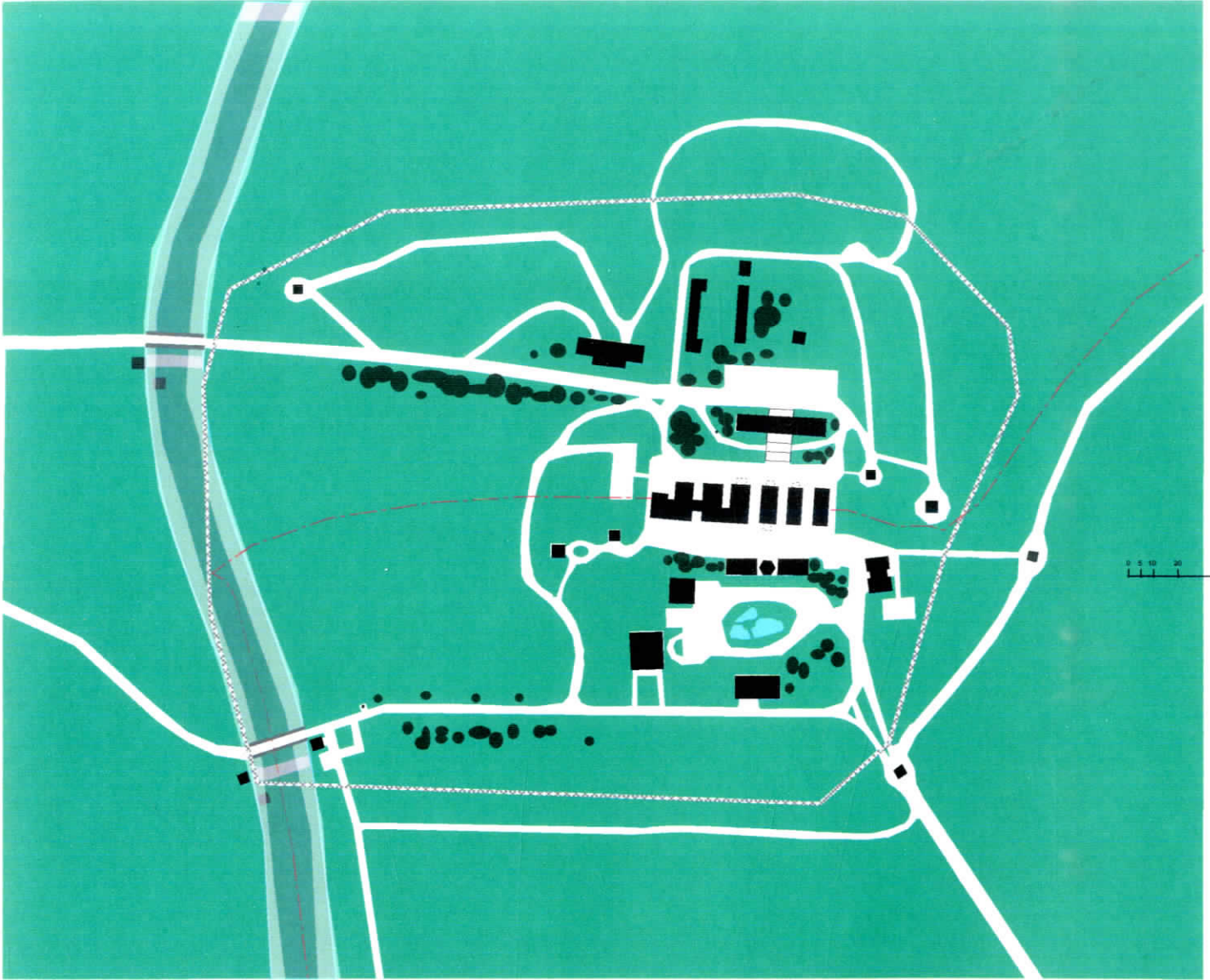
Military delegation Facility

House of freedom



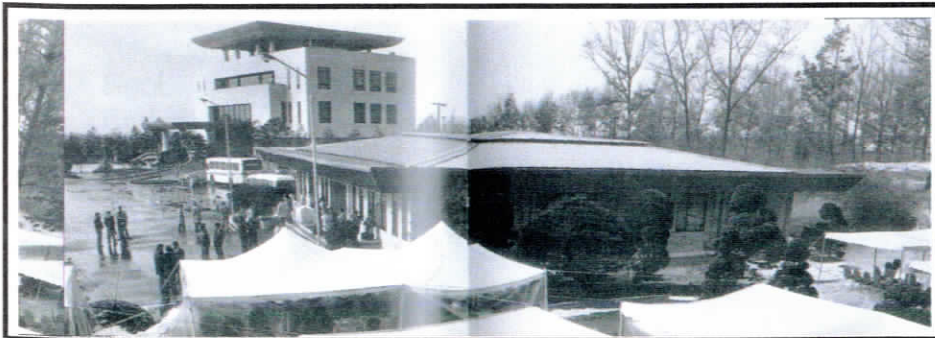
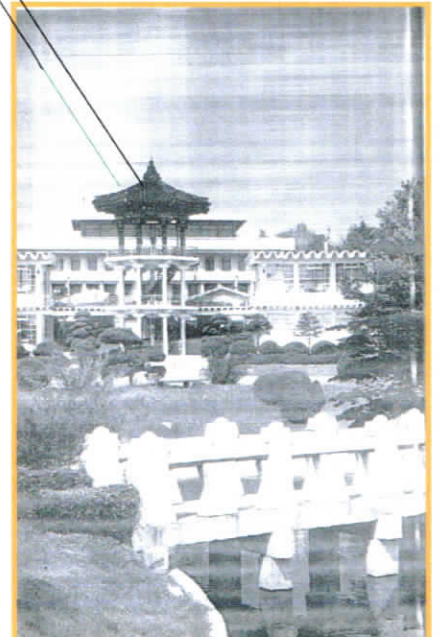
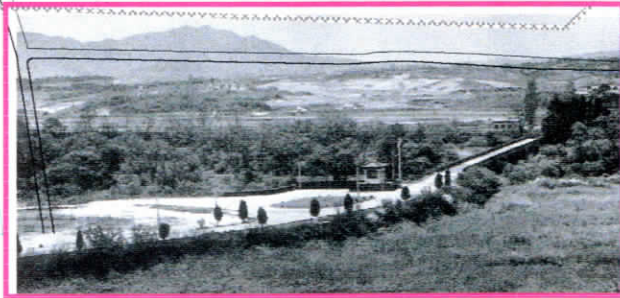
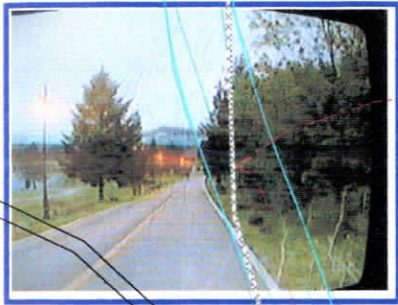
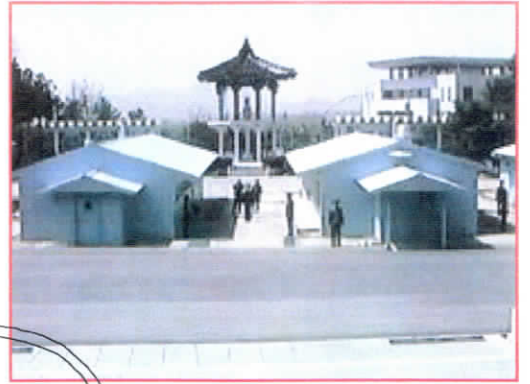
Section through main buildings

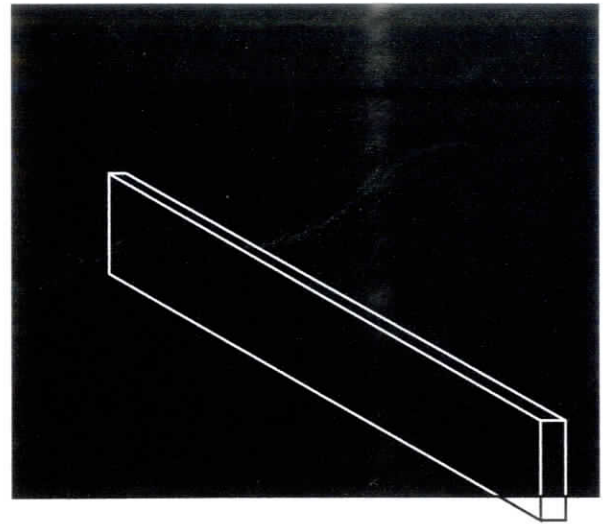
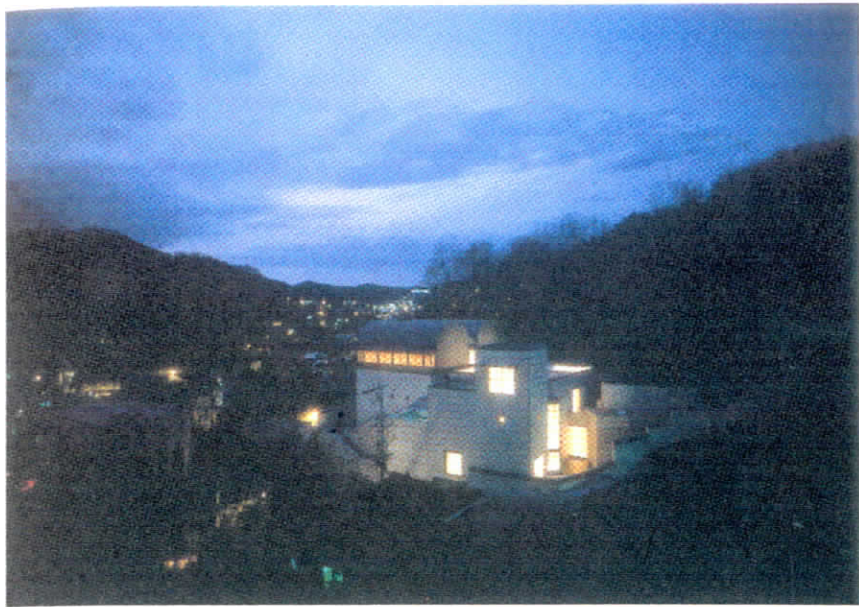




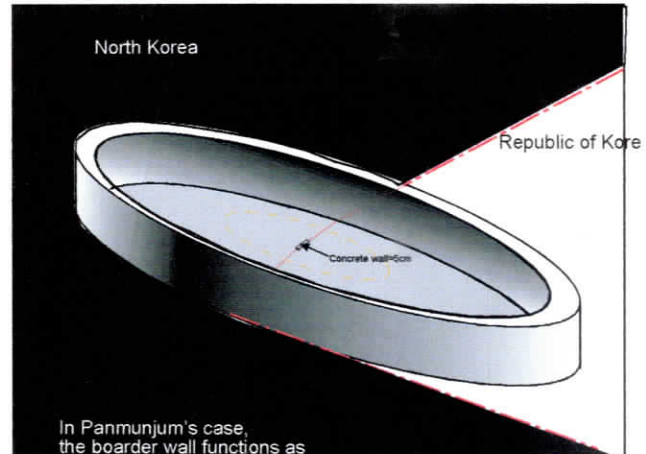
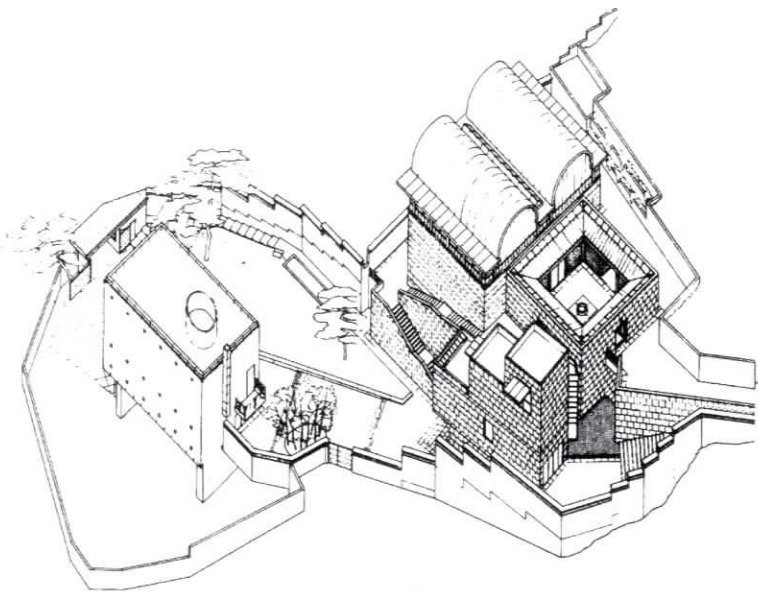
Site Plan as in the landscape

Photo Collage





Usual property of a wall is to define a territory



In Panmunjum's case, the boarder wall functions as an enclosure for a space that symbolizes a threshold between two divided territories, or nations

Whanki Museum
Seoul, South Korea
Kyu Sung Woo Architect

Study on courtrooms: for a new order of governmental facility in the reunification center.

“All architecture proposes an effect on the human mind, not merely a service to the human frame.”
– John Ruskin

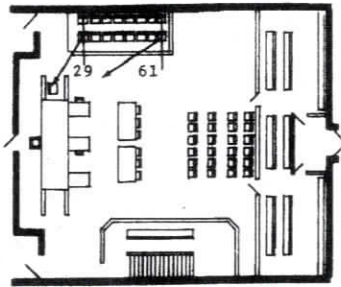
Symbolism plays an important role in planning the settings for a judicial system called a courtroom.

Symbolism is major element in the articulation of meaning in such a public realm. Courtroom is symbol of fair justice system in a democratic society. Our courtroom procedure is highly formalized in order to uphold and emblems the tradition and development of our democratic system of government.

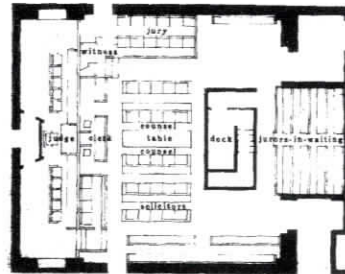
A layout of a courtroom reflects our unique system of justice. In a courtroom layout, symbolism is of greatest importance. Thus careful consideration of cultural and social values embodied in the courtroom system is most crucial. *The architectural form in the courtroom is seen as a sign system through which society tries to communicate its ideal model of a relationship between judges, prosecutors, jurors and others involved in judicial proceedings.* Robert Gutman, People and Buildings, (Basic Books), 1972 page 229

Social values (Culture being general)

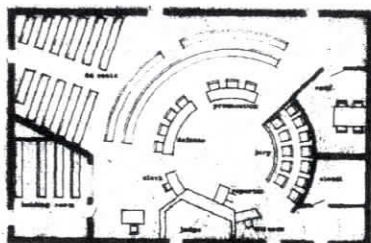
- **Judge:** As a definite arbiter (American case) and is therefore raised podium in the center of the front of the room.
- **Defense and prosecution:** As equal adversaries, facing the judge.
- **Jury:** Being divorced from the axial relationship of judge, counsel and public, a jury box is located the side of the room.
- **Public:** As silent observers, sitting at the rear of the courtroom, facing the judge. Their role is just as crucial as that of the other parties for, as silent arbiters. As they influence the law through the political processes of election and legislation.



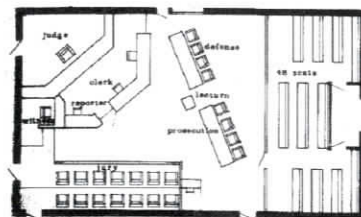
Typical American courtroom



Crown Court, Dorchester, England
Accused person is seating on the dock
judge's bench extends almost all he way
across the courtroom

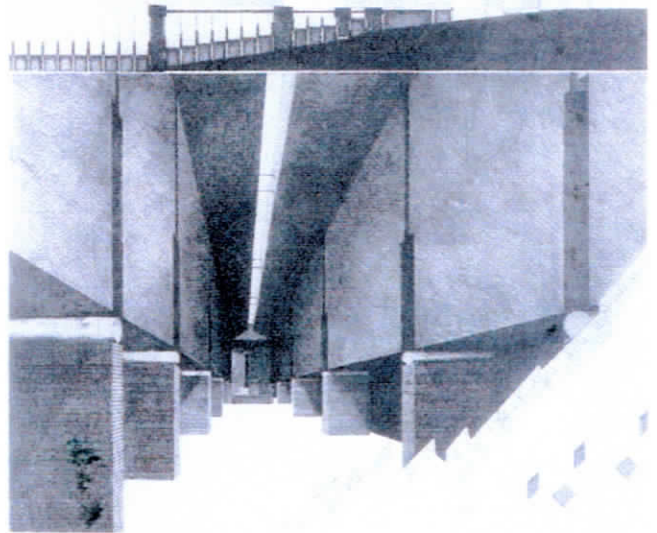
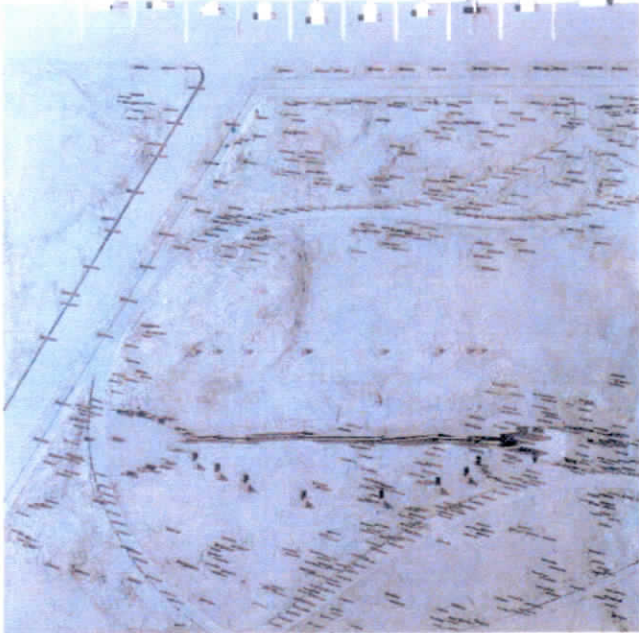


Circular layout is not as functional.
Symbolism of the circle is achieved



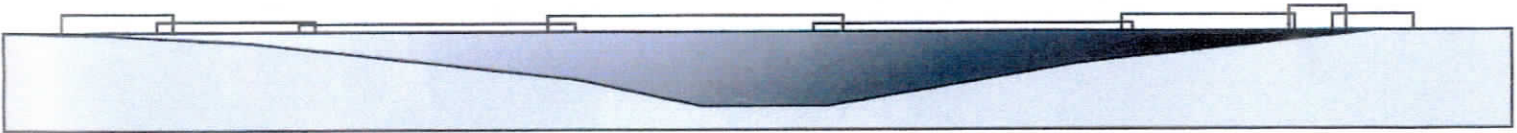
Remarkable type of plan developed by
Judge Gerge Boldt. Ignoring symbolic
criteria. Functional but weak in
symbolism

Precedents



Morphosis Vietnam War Memorial(Project)
Anti-monument excavate the earth to reveal
the statistic of the past.

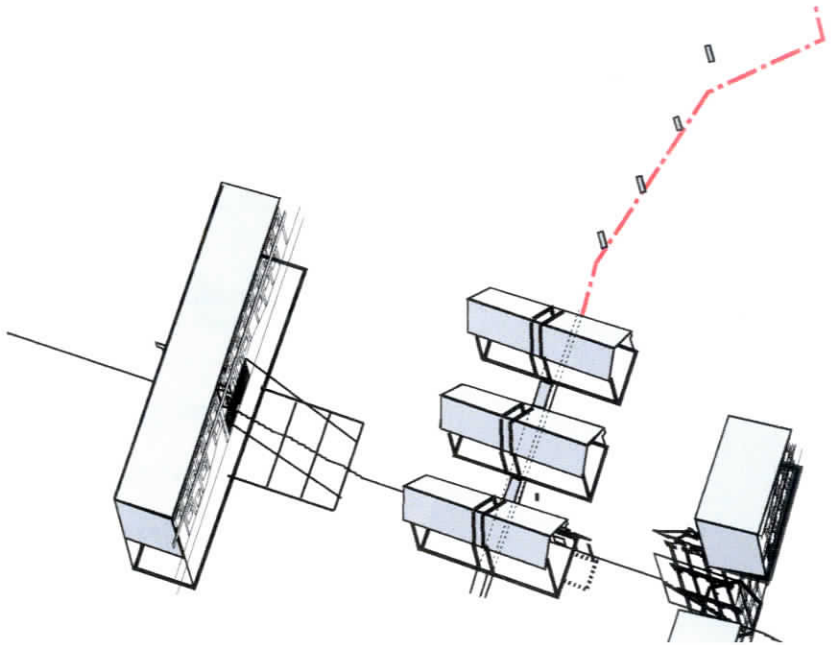
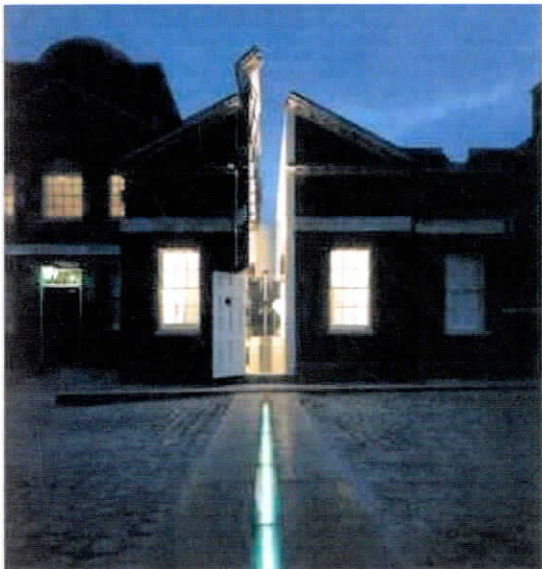
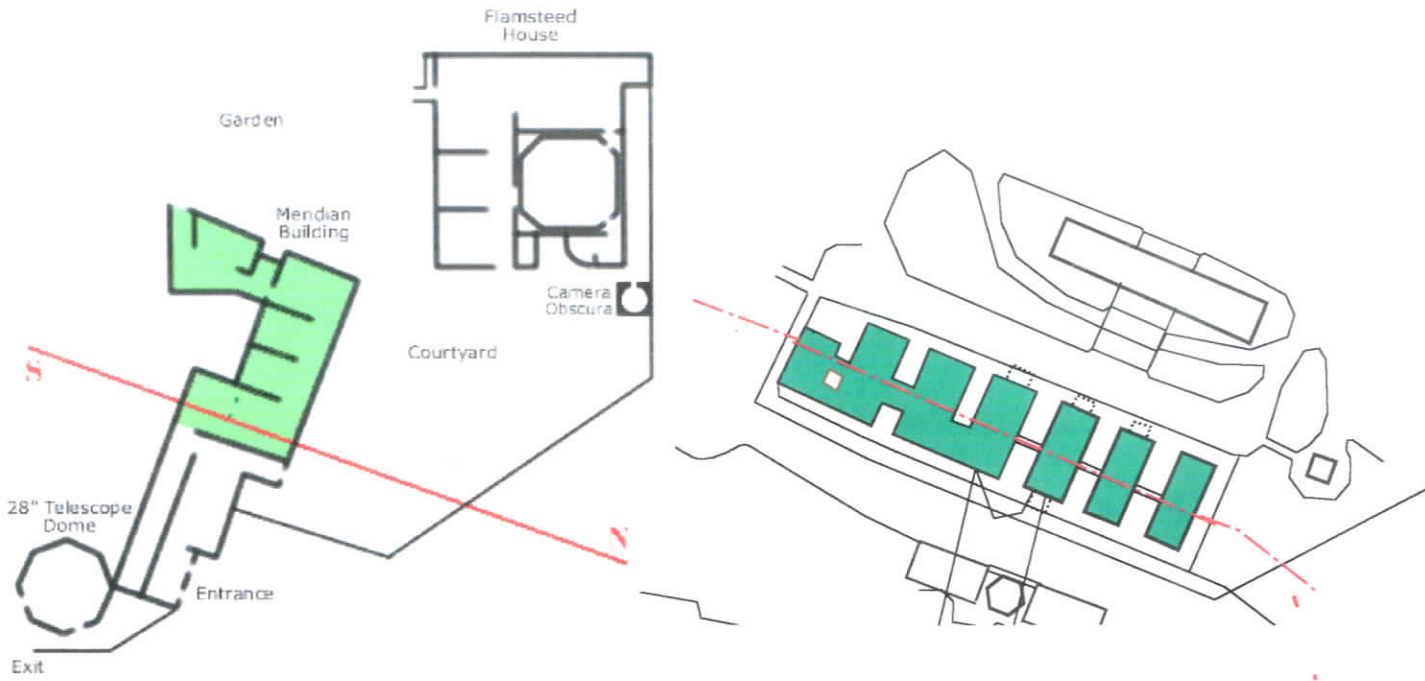
Text columns from a magazine or brochure, partially obscured and illegible.



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Maya Ying Lin, 1982
for site a gesture and a representation
A simple but powerful use of a L-shpae granite wall as a representaional tool satisfies the
every aspectation for a war memorial monument.

Icon memorial





Royal Observatory in Greenwich Koyal Park:

In through the glass door is a white block with a slot in it marking the MeridianLine. Above on the wall is an electronic clock counting down the hours

The powerful justure of a meridian building is adapted to the reunification project: the 5cm wall and splitted houses.



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