Bridge: Fantasy of the demilitarized zone

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BRIDGE
FANTASY OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE
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Architecture can do many things and solve many problems of the local condition. For example, skyscrapers meet high demands of housing and offices; sustainable green buildings are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient. When it comes to bigger topics like dealing with social and cultural conflicts which influenced by national and political decisions, the usual architecture types may not resolve or help as much as expected. So, for dealing with these topics, we find that architecture has limitations.

However, when we look through other fields like art, we can find an opportunities to address them. For example, Ben Shahn was American artist, He is best known for his works of social realism. His works are often critical of American life, but by exposing social problems. One of his works, “The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti“ (1967, mosaics) is established on the wall of H.B Crouse Hall in Syracuse University. His works were generated based on the real story that Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were framed by murdering in Massachusetts and executed in 1927. But even there was no enough evidences and government still insisted to arrest them because they were anarchist and Italian immigrants and placed them on the federal government’s watch list of dangerous subversives. This sensational case captured the attention of people around the world, many of them protested against the convictions. The author translated the whole processes of arrest, trial and execution into ironic and sarcastic way to express on the paintings. He encourages people to understand the reality of the condition.

Though architecture cannot solve large social and national conflicts, but it can review and expose the realities to public using symbolic forms and use theoretical approaches to draw people's attention for realizing the significant of some conflicts and realities. We choose the DMZ as out site because it is one of the most dangerous and high-militarised borders between two neighboring counties, North Korea and South Korea. They had been one county around 100 years ago, while they have many conflicts and differences now. There are many stories and secret beyond the DMZ and the two Koreas. We would like to use architecture as a media to make people realize and understand what kinds of conflicts they have by exposing them theoretically through architecture.

Bridge is the name of our thesis. Our “Bridge” does not focus on deconstruction or emphasizing the DMZ, rather it frames the conflicts between the DMZ and two Koreas. There are three bridges for addressing three realities; first is lack of freedom to cross border between the North Korea and South Korea, second is that different social structure systems control and affect the two Koreas differently and last one is a large group of divided families will pass away without seeing their relatives once.
38th Parallel Line was proposed to limit Japanese and Russian Empires' influence in Korea after the Sino-Japanese War.
Japanese Empire surrendered to Allies of WWII, and Korea gained independence from Japan
1945

However under the U.N trusteeship, Korea is divided again.
1948

Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) established on 1948 September 09

Republic of Korea (ROK) established on 1948 July 17
Truce Talks began from 1951 July.

The Armistice Agreement was signed after two years of negotiation and battles on 1953 July 26.
DMZ Is An Isolated Barrier

DMZ is a border barrier that divides North Korea and South Korea. Anf the border beyond that strip is one of the most heavily militarized borders in the world.

Northern Limit Line (2km offset)
Southern Limit Line (2km offset)
MDL (The Military Demarcation Line)
There are estimated 2.2 million landmines scattered within and around the DMZ.
DMZ Is An Un-isolated Barrier
The DMZ is now 43% less than the original footprint because of military transgressions.
BRIDGE OF EQUALITY
North Korea - Songbun (Ascribed Status)

Possibility of Getting Resources
(Education, Food, Medicine, Housing ...)

Core Class

Well Family

Weaving Class

Herbicide Class

South Korea - Chaebol (Money Power, Family)

Lee Byung-chul
1910 - 1987
Samsung was founded in 1938

Chun Jong-hyon
1929 - 1997
SK Group was founded in 1953

Chung Ju-yung
1911 - 2001
Hyundai Group was founded in 1946

Koo In-Hwa
1907 - 1969
LG Group was founded in 1947

Shin Kyuk-ho
1922 - (92 years old)
Lotte Group was founded in 1948

Kim Family

Wrapping Class

Covet Class

Weaving Class

Core Class

Well Family

Weaving Class

Herbicide Class

Samsung Group

SK Group

Hyundai

LG Group

CJ Group

Shinsegae Group

Hanwha Group

Automotive
Apparel
Electronics
Chemicals

Telecom

Consumer Electronics

Electronic Components

Medical Equipment

Semiconductors

Solid State Drives

Telemcommunications Equipment

Home Appliances

Ships

Steel

Construction

Tourism

Paper Products

Logistics

Insurance

Institute

Engineering

Information Technology

Hotel

Entertainment

Fast food

Retail

Financial services
Form
- Ancient Greek Theatre
Form
- Traditional Korean House
(Hanok)
Form
- Traditional Korean House
  (Hanok)
Form
- Traditional Korean House
(Hanok)
Function
- Seating Area

North Seating Area

South Seating Area

MDL
The Military Demarcation Line
Function
- Seating Area
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hostile (30%)</th>
<th>Wavering (40%)</th>
<th>Core (30%)</th>
<th>Kim Family</th>
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</table>

| Depends on Songbun |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depends on Financial Power</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samsung Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>SK Group</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hyundai Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>LG Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotte Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Income Group</td>
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<td>Middle Income Group</td>
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<td>Low Income Group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Higher Financial Power in Society
Program

- Playground
Program

- Playground with out hierarchy

- Hostile (30%)
- Wavering (40%)
- Core (30%)

- Depends on Songbun

- Depends on Financial Capacity

- Higher Price Ticket
BRIDGE OF NO RETURN
Demanding of Exchanging Nationality

Number of North Korean Defectors Arriving in South Korea Annually

- Kim Jong-un, serving as Supreme Leader of North Korea

North Korean Defectors Settled in South Korea

- About 32147

North Korean Defectors Left from South Korea

- About 2000 (6%)
They have to take 8000km straight-line distance trip instead, which is 40 times as long as 200km distance for crossing these adjoining countries.
North Korean soldiers walk on a bund from the North Korean side of the Yalu River, as a Chinese boat sails by with tourists, near Sinuiju in North Korea and Dandong in China’s Liaoning Province. April 13, 2017.

A North Korean soldier stands next to a watchtower on the banks of the Yalu river near Sinuiju, opposite the Chinese border city of Dandong. April 14, 2017.

“The Most Popular Trip”

Our story starts here. Left of image shows South Koreans can directly take the train crossing DMZ to northside. On the contrary, this is also the beginning of the journey for North Koreans.
North Korean men ride a makeshift raft made of fastened logs down the Yalu river that divides North Korea from the Chinese border town of Linjiang in northeastern China’s Jilin province. December 25, 2017

A North Korean boat on the Yalu River, which marks much of the border between North Korea and China. April 1, 2016

The chessboard road is bound to be impassable that implies more than 10% of north defector died in the Yalu river when they are crossing China-north Korea border.
Up to 30,000 children born to North Korean mothers who have fled the regime are living in China without access to schooling, health care or citizenship, MPs have heard. February 5, 2016

North Korean women live desperate lives, even after escaping from North. November 9, 2016

Choice of Life
Ramp as a symbolic element which represents the longest journey to Tailland that dominate the whole image, two sides view represents north defectors temporary life in China.
A group of five North Korean who fled North Korea were arrested by Chinese police and detained in Shenyang. The family refused to be forced to repatriate to North Korea, so they were likely suicided themselves by taking poison. May 8, 2002.

Kim Han-mi, aged 2, watches her mother being dragged by Chinese policemen when her family attempted to enter into the Japanese Consulate in order to seek asylum in Shenyang, China. May 8, 2002.

Not until escaping the arresting and preventing from China armed policeman, North defectors can enter the South Korean embassy.
North Korean defectors were waiting for the flight. August 15, 2015

North Korean defectors arriving in South Korea Thursday. April 11, 2016

The Tunnel

Invasion tunnel used to be planned as a military invasion route by North Korea. It was also a first try to make connection between both sides. Now, North Korea defectors can directly cross DMZ use this fast path.
Thousands now make their way along the more than 5,000km, often-dangerous route, through China and Laos to the kingdom en route to South Korea. August 9, 2011

North Koreans crossing the Mekong into Thailand. February 20, 2013

Over thousands of miles long trip is tedious and unromantic, the only thing they should do is keep going.
A defector from North Korea hoping to reach South Korea via Thailand sits in her cell at the Chiang Saen police station in Thailand. May 9, 2007

The entire group was transferred to an immigration detention center to await repatriation, but police said the North Koreans were hoping to be declared refugees and to be relocated to South Korea instead. August 22, 2006

The Prison of Hope

After 6 hours stay here, North defectors are free to go. This mini prison represents when people arrive Thailand, they were treated as illegal travelers, waiting around 6 months in real life in order to delivering to South Korea.

North Korean defectors aim to be deported from Thailand to South Korea. August 8, 2017.

Exchanging Nationality

This is the last step of Bridge of no return. North Koreans will change their nationality here. Crossing the border, they no longer belong to north side anymore.
Han Seohee (right) and fellow North Korean defectors Lee Gwang-sung (left) and Hwang Soyeon (center) are regulars on Moranbong Club, a South Korean talk show featuring North Korean defectors. January 31, 2016

Hyeonseo Lee in Seoul, South Korea, where she now campaigns for human rights. June 28, 2015

The scenic of South Korea fills the window, which indicate people will start their new life in the south country.
BRIDGE OF REUNION
Because of different attitudes and policies of the North Korea and the South Korea, we think mountain as a metaphor of the reality of reunion of divided family, and I express their condition in our project. The North Korea cuts the whole piece of mountain, and the South Korea keeps the original topography of mountain and generates a natural pathway on it.
FANTASY IMAGES
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