Executive report
of
The International Presidents Forum (IPF)
at the JIA National Convention 2017
In Tokushima

10:00-12:00
29 September 2017

@ Hotel Clement Tokushima 18F, Sky-banquet GINGA
Tokushima, Shikoku

Edited by Prof. Kazuo IWAMURA, FJIA

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Agenda

10:00 Welcome Remarks by the JIA President
10:05 Introduction of the Attendants
10:10 Remarks and Q&A (15 min. each) by
1) AIA, 2) ASA, 3) KIRA, 4) KIA, 5) ARCASIA
11:25 Wrap-up Remarks by the Moderator
11:40 Discussion by All
11:55 Group Photo Session
12:00 Adjournment
Remarks by CHO Chung Kee
President, Korea Institute of Registered Architects

Vernacular Architecture in Korea

Presentation by SHIN Eul Shik

Vertue
Korean Vernacular Characters

- Natural
- Contextual
- Organic
- Eco
- Healthy
- Human
- Sustainable
- Cohousing
- Territory
- Layers
- Hierarchy
- Void
- Geometric Geography
- Flexibility
- Variable
- Diversity
- Hangeul

Juhablu in Changdeokgung (Korean Palace)
Presentation by SHIN Eul Shik, KIRA

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Hangeul
Goryeo Chungja... etc

KOREA INSTITUTE OF REGISTERED ARCHITECTS

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Jongmyo, a place of worship
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Case
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Goryeo Chungja... etc.

Competition for the Hangeul Museum
Case
Korean Vernacular Characters

Natural
Contextual
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Eco
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Layers
Hierarchy
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Diversity
Hangeul
Goryeo Chungja... etc
Presentation by SHIN Eul Shik, KIRA

Case 04
Korean Vernacular Characters

Natural
Contextual
Organic
Eco
Healthy
Human
Sustainable
Cohousing
Territory
Layers
Hierarchy
Void
Geometric Geography
Flexibility
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Diversity
Hangeul
Goryeo Chungja... etc.

KOREA INSTITUTE OF REGISTERED ARCHITECTS

Case 05
Korean Vernacular Characters

Natural
Contextual
Organic
Eco
Healthy
Human
Sustainable
Cohousing
Territory
Layers
Hierarchy
Void
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Thank you for your attention!!
Welcome Remarks
by Masaharu ROKUSHIKA, JIA President
Remarks by BAE, Byung Kil  
President, Korean Institute of Architects

Vernacular Architecture in Korea

The theme of Vernacular architecture which the world is interested in again is also one of the issues of Korean architects. There are many difficulties for the current address of ‘Vernacular architecture’ of Korea to be defined in the background of complicated history. As the Korean peninsula underwent the history of several wars, it had much of residential environment formed with hygiene and survival as the main purpose. Despite the fact that pieces of traditional architecture called “Hanok (Korean housing)” remained, the slums made of wood panels due to the concentration phenomenon of population was the top priority task for solution facing that era.

High-density apartment houses were formed in full force through economic growth and housing supply policies, which was realized using international materials and forms consisting of cement and steel reinforcement. Although our contemporary residential space configuration follows space hierarchy of the traditional architecture in history, it is still difficult to find advantages of regionalism architecture in the aspects of material, environment and culture.

So-called architectural style made of the architectural language of a region may be considered in our country now as the attempts to reconstruct the context of traditional architecture called ‘Hanok’ that has been interrupted for a century. Korean peninsula has four distinct seasons including a hot and humid climate. ‘Hanok’ that has evolved in the past history of 5,000 years amidst such environment contains all of our country’s nature, geographical characteristics and life styles. In addition, Hanok does not have historical figures having patents for architectural styles, and has no popularization of even special styles used for public architecture from certain architectural schools.

While traditional architecture cannot represent the regional architecture, Hanok style is appearing again for the recent few years as a new challenge of our country’sPP regional architecture. The regions of Seoul called Buk-chon, Seo-chon and Ikseon-dong are preserved and activated as the region having genetic properties of Hanok to coexist with contemporary facilities. In addition, to find and establish our identity, we are also renovating the spaces of Hanok through urban regeneration, and developing them by combination with the contemporary spaces. Hanok of column-beam type has a potential capable of newly configuring inside spaces for dressing up while leaving the framework of the old architectural style.
Considering the appearance of traditional Hanok, it had a great unity nationwide in the aspects of space, equipment and materials of the architecture, while the types of space configuration varied only slightly from region to region depending on the climate. Foundation is prepared by using stone and column-beam type of structure is formed by mortise jointing to form the walls with soil and straw bundles and finish them as a plastered wall. For the openings, subtle illumination is composed by attaching Hanji (traditional Korean paper) onto the wood bar of the lattice. In addition, the most scientific advantage of Hanok style is found in the heating system of ‘Ondol’ which warms the entire interior through floor heating. Although the characteristics of carrying out the floor living are the same as that in Japan, the method of heating is different due to a difference in climate and living. Ondol is also an efficient floor heating equipment system that is already being expanded worldwide, and is still being maintained in our living.

The architectural style made in a region by accumulation of time is the most rational space configuration method for the region. However, when you visit Korea, you can see numerous apartment complexes first rather than the architectural style of Hanok. Due to the housing supply policies mentioned earlier, the large-scale apartment complexes have already become another culture of ours and the look of our cities for the par 70 years. Although the inside space contains an evolved space of Hanok, the apartment that has become a means of economical investment also becomes the space producing fiercer competitions and chilly relationships.

We think that the regionality of architecture is closely related to history and reflects the appearance of our life. In the past, Korea has failed to recognize importance of the features and the small living culture accumulated in the region focusing only on economic growth by redevelopment and new town formation after demolition. It seems that several developing countries in the world are now in the similar situation. Although the new vernacular architecture may not be caused only with region-friendly material configurations, I think that the recognition of the value of vernacular architecture is a measure capable of maintaining continuity of the culture.

Architecture of Korea in the past century has grown together with numerous trials and errors. Still, for the approach to urban regeneration and development as well as architecture of advanced IT technology, we may be in the situation difficult to find obvious answers from our society as well. I hope that many possibilities for vernacular architecture are found in accordance with the era of accepting the region’s identity and diversities.

A Hanok traditional house, preserved in Rakkung (라궁, 羅宮), Gyeongiu
01

LOST OUR VALUE OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN KOREA

- There are many difficulties for the current address of "Vernacular architecture" of Korea to be defined in the background of complicated history.

- As the Korean peninsula underwent the history of several wars, it had much of residential environment formed with hygienes and survival as the main purpose.
High-density apartment houses were formed in full force through economic growth and housing supply policies of Korean government, which was realized using boring box form architecture consisting of concrete and steel.

Until the 1990s, we used rationalism and economic priorities. There was neither time nor mind to look back on what we were doing in terms of our architectural identity.
- The awareness on Hanok as an old day's antiquated and inefficient architecture demolished a lot of Hanoks with historical value.

- In big cities of Korea, only small clusters of Hanoks remain.

- However, the value of Hanok has been highlighted from the 2000s the efficient of Hanok's ecofriendly function and healing effectiveness have been emphasized.

- Today, the number of people who tries to move in Hanok is growing rapidly to cure the diseases such as atopy, asthma which are mainly caused by urban environment.

- Hanoks are traditional Korean Houses. Korean architecture lends consideration to the positioning of the house in relation to its surroundings, with thought given to the land and seasons.

- Korea has blazing summers and freezing winters. These Hanok were made from the natural resources of earth soil, stone, and wood in the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). Clay tiles were used for the roof, (afforded by nobility) and thatch was used for roof by common folk.
Geopolitical position of Hanok is called *Baesanimsu*, meaning that the ideal house is built with a mountain in the back and a river in the front.

The roof and eaves of our Hanok are formed to make harmony with natural environment and topography of Korea.
The materials used in Hanok, such as soil, timber, and rock, are all natural and recyclable and do not cause environmental pollution.

The environment-friendly aspects of Hanok range from the structure’s layout, space composition to the building materials which were used.
Hanok's have their own tiled roofs (Giwa), wooden beams and stone-block construction. Hanji (Korean traditional paper) is lubricated with bean oil, making it waterproof and polished. Windows and doors made with Hanji are beautiful and breathable.

Cheoma is the edge of Hanok's curvy roof which is one of the aesthetic part.

The lengths of the Cheoma can be adjusted to control the amount of sunlight that enters the house.
Components of Hanok looks complicated, but in fact, Hanok has a simple column-beam and assembling system, which combines the module unit components without using steel nail.

Hanok is characterized by harmony with nature rather than attempting to conquer nature. Another uniqueness of Hanok is their passive design system for cooling in summer and heating in winter which is called “Ondol”.
NEW ATTEMPTS OF HANOK AS VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

While traditional architecture cannot represent the regional architecture, Hanok is appearing again for the recent few years as a new challenge of our country’s regional architecture.

To find and establish our identity, we are also renovating the Hanok through urban regeneration, and developing them by combination with the contemporary architecture.

From location to orientation, the architects deliberately planned this project based on the view of the mountains and Feng Shui.
The architects designed space to make a scene and borrow natural scenery into inside of living space.

Whether you're on the porch or inside in the living space, each large window or sliding door frames a beautiful view of the surrounding nature.
The wood gable roof clad with dark-gray roof tiles resonate with Hanok architecture.

A deck on the ground floor as well as on the upper floor right below the roof provides a cool space to relax in the hot summers.
The smaller space in the observatory frame the mountains in the distance.
A modern house take on Hanok architecture, this project took the traditional Hanok roof and abstracted it into a more dynamic element.

It uses traditional Hanok courtyards by bringing the nature into inside of courtyard rather than framing artificial landscape what exists outside the walls.
- Hanok focuses on the spatial and spiritual relationship to its various surrounding contexts and environment.

- Many villages in Korea show mixed urban development of both traditional Hanok and modern homes that take into consideration with the characters of traditional architecture in a unique way.

- To find and establish architectural identity, we have tried to adapt principles of Hanok architecture through urban regeneration and develop them by combination with the contemporary spaces.

I feel endless glory and gratitude for being with you representing the association on this subject. I hope that many possibilities for vernacular architecture are found in accordance with the era of accepting the region’s identity and diversity in species.

THANK YOU!!
Presentation by Dr. KIM Yong Seong, KIA Vice-President

Presentation by Sathirut Nui TANDANAND, ASA, ARCASIA Past President
Remarks by Sathirut Nui TANDANAND  
Past President, Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)

The finest Restaurants in any country will have 3 types of kitchen:

1. **Traditional Restaurant**, using traditional ingredients, spices and herbs to achieve the best of the original flavor.

   In architecture, we have the same type called historic "conservation and preservation" where all traditional forms, proportion, materials, are used to have continuity with our past.


   In architecture, we have this combination also. If you look at our recent history, we went through a period called "Post Modernism" or a combination there of.
3. **The Avant-garde Restaurant**: This type of restaurant is the most interesting because for example, they may call themselves Spanish or Italian or French or Japanese, but taking only the essence of that culinary ingredients then transforming the dishes by using science, technology, chemistry, and art to present a totally new look, shape, and flavor.

I believe that we as architects from Thailand, Japan, or anywhere for that matter, keep the essence of what is our cultural heritage but transform our architecture into something creative and new.

This will be the most exciting and unique architecture for our region. I hope that we should promote this creativity in architecture but still retain the essence of our heritage.

Video show as an appendix

“Cooking in Progress”
Wrap-up Remarks by Kazuo IWAMURA  
Past Vice-President, UIA & JIA

A. What do you as a professional organization, or your architects in general see in your Vernacular as something that is valid in other cultures?

B. Do you as a professional organization offer any program to promote awareness of the virtue of your Vernacular in your country?

These are the questions raised for the IPF 2017 conforming to the main theme of JIA Convention 2017 in Tokushima, which is “Architects and Dochaku (土着: A Japanese term that refers to “native,” “vernacular,” or “indigenous.”).”

The given convention’s sub-theme is “Live Glocally” that represents the integral concept of the Global view and the Local activities, namely GLOCAL concept and attitude (The original related slogan is; “Think Globally, Act Locally.”).

It should be noted that one of the most important aspects of “Vernacular” is “Diversity” stemming from the locality including its climate, geography, ecology, history, local materials, building methods, way of life, etc. On-site measurement is one of the best methods for understanding, and making dialogs with past craftsmen who created such vernacular diversity. (cf. P62-64)
It should be noted that one of the most important aspects of “Vernacular” is “Diversity” stemming from the locality including its climate, geography, ecology, history, local materials, building methods, way of life, etc.
The Vernacular

Corsica, France

San Gimignano, Italy

Goslar, Germany

Venice, Italy

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Learning from the Vernacular through on-site measurement

HAUS DAERR, Muro, Haute-Corse, Calvi, Corsica, FRANCE

Measured, drawn on site & compiled by Kazuo IWAMURA, August 2017

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On-site measurement stimulates creative dialogs with the past craftsmen.
Assessing vernacular houses by means of CASBEE

Since a decade, such vernacular factors became possible of being comprehensively assessed by the Japanese rating system “CASBEE (Comprehensive Assessment System for Built-Environment Efficiency)” through the unique index BEE (Building Environmental Efficiency), which is

\[
\text{BEE} = \frac{Q}{L},
\]

the ratio of the total score of the environmental Quality (Q) to that of the environmental Load (L). The former “Q” represents the health and comfort for instance, and the latter “L” includes the emission of CO₂ and other pollutants to the neighbors (cf. P66-67). IWAMURA has been one of core members, who developed this system since 2000.

BEE Chart of CASBEE
Assessment results of the Vernacular Housing around the world through CASBEE*-Home (DH)

*Comprehensive Assessment System for Built-Environment Efficiency

Prof. Kazuo IWAMURA

Courtesy of Prof. S. MURAKAMI & Prof. T. IKAGA

1. Stilt house on water in Malaysia

Result of CASBEE labeling:
BEE=36/15=2.4 → A Class

L: Environmental Load

(Courtesy of Prof. Murakami & Prof. Ikaga)
Presentation by Kazuo IWAMURA, FJIA

2. House with wind catchers in Iran

Result of CASBEE labeling:
BEE=36/17=2.1 → A Class

Positioning the Vernacular and Sustainable Housing
in terms of BEE of CASBEE

BEE=Q/L
Building Environmental Efficiency

CASBEE Ranking:
S = ★★★★★★
A = ★★★★★
B' = ★★★
B'' = ★★
C = ★

Vernacular Housing are ranked higher than Modern BaU that should be improved towards Eco- and Sustainable Housing.
Thanks to our five honorable guest speakers, the IPF 2017’s theme has been developed extremely deeper and wider from their own and regional viewpoints, which provided all of us with explicit and tasteful images, as well as aesthetic and scientific aspects.

The JIA must sincerely appreciate their tremendous contributions.

Lastly, I would like to mention my favorite Chinese poem that is very much meaningful and relevant to the theme.

内気萌生
Internal energy brings life.

外気成形
External energy creates form.

内外相乗
Both internal and external energy complement each other.

風水自生
Feng Shui will then be born naturally.
20 topics addressed during the discussion

Noted and compiled by the moderator.

1-1. Balloon-frame house with wood cladding, a universal building method in US, has been developed according to the local circumstances (availability of materials, workforce, and the skill for example).

1-2. Such a “modern” building method of the 19th century can be also considered “Vernacular” in North America.

1-3. It is easy, forgiving, flexible, affordable and resilient in nature.

1-4. In Japan this building method, known as “2x4 building system,” has been adapted to the locality, which became quite popular nation-wide since the mid-20th century.

2-1. ASA has been involving in very diverse initiatives respecting the Vernacular for the community design as well as applying to resilient solution in the aftermath of natural disasters.

2-2. Documentation of the vernacular buildings is essential for the demonstration and dissemination of its value in the local context.

2-3. ASA’s above initiatives show explicitly how to practice the social responsibility of our profession. This is very much informative for every architects association world-wide.

3-1. Hanok, a Korean vernacular building style, has been recently reevaluated as Korean identity of built-environment including landscaping. It is becoming more popular than the postwar mass production of high-rise boxes.

3-2. Hanok shows the aesthetically high quality of the Vernacular and its adaptability to the comprehensive locality.

3-3. Many of state-of-the-art architectural practices in Korea include interpretation of Hanok for the contemporary society.

4-1. Progress of cooking corresponds to that of architectural design; Traditional, Fusion and Avant-garde.

4-2. We as architects from US, Korea, Japan, Thailand, or anywhere for that matter, keep the essence of what is our cultural heritage but transform our architecture into something creative and new.
5-1. Vernacular solutions can be assessed scientifically wherever it is located, through CASBEE (cf. P66) for instance.

5-2. BEE, the ratio of environmental Quality to environmental Load, allows to assess the vernacular possibly higher than contemporary BaU (business as usual).

5-3. On-site measurement of the vernacular buildings provides us with stimulating dialogs with past local craftsmen. This gives us tremendous hints for our practices today.

6-1. A question was raised about the meaning of “Wabi (侘) & Sabi (寂)” and the interpretation into contemporary architectural practices in Japan. This is the sophisticated principle philosophy of the Japanese Tea Ceremony arising from Zen Buddhism.

6-2. It is deeply related to an extreme simplicity through getting rid of added ornaments or decorative elements as much as possible. Therefore, it reminds us of “Minimalism” or “Less is more.” Appreciation of the aging process of building materials is also associated with this kind of simplicity.

6-3. Additionally, it refers to a sort of mind-set or lifestyle of knowing the feeling of “Sufficiency” within “Un-sufficient physical circumstances.” This is closely related to the Vernacular solutions and efficiency on the basis of its locality.

7-1. Given the above and other observations, the IPF 2017 revealed that the Vernacular has extremely broad and deep meanings that stimulate our daily practices of designing the sustainable built-environment and the relevant social systems.

7-2. All attendants expressed at the end that the IPF 2017 went off very well, and that such an occasion be repeated for further development (The next IPF will be held in Tokyo in conjunction with ARCASIA Congress in September 2018.). See you all then!!
Architects and Vernacular
Live Glocally