

## ABSTRACT

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This thesis explores the dialectical tensions, ironies, and myths of North Korea, with the hope of exposing fallacies and bringing awareness to the crisis of the oppressed citizens of this hermetic country. There are discrepancies between the North Korea that most people know, and one that is lesser known, which contains the everyday stories of real people. The goal is to design a cultural landscape containing the narratives of the persecuted in an effort to promote understanding about a country that is largely misinterpreted because of the images the Kim dictatorship and international media have planted in the minds of many people. The architecture provides a ground for commentary on the truth and what can be done to change the current state of apathy, ignorance, and helplessness. Acts of violation against humanity that continue in North Korea must be stopped. The fact that the North and South must reunite to save the citizens of North Korea is a pressing issue that the South Koreans must genuinely want in order to create change. Gathering information about Korea's history and attributes of the proposed site will reveal how time changes

space, the way our memories and ideas are both temporal and timeless as they are exchanged. When we become more aware of the issues at large, it will change our indifference and help us react to the stories that are told.

UNTOLD STORIES: THE OTHER KOREA

By

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## Chapter 1: Site: Namsan Park – Seoul, Korea

The site of this thesis project is Namsan Park, a public park located in central Seoul, the capital of South Korea. The park has developed from Namsan, literally “south mountain.” This site was primarily chosen due to its popularity as an attraction to people of all ages and nationalities. The purpose of this thesis project is to make more South Koreans aware of their vital role in bringing freedom to their brothers and sisters in North Korea. Namsan Park is frequented by a range of visitors: elderly walkers, young couples, and international tourists who take advantage of the scenic walkways, views of Seoul’s downtown skyline, and various attractions. According to park records, it receives 8.4 million visitors each year. This translates to around 30,000 people a day in the high season who come to enjoy the jogging paths, library, botanical garden, museums, a folk village, and its most visited iconic N Seoul Tower. In order to promote awareness of the human rights issues in North Korea, this location will be effective in receiving exposure to numerous and diverse visitors.

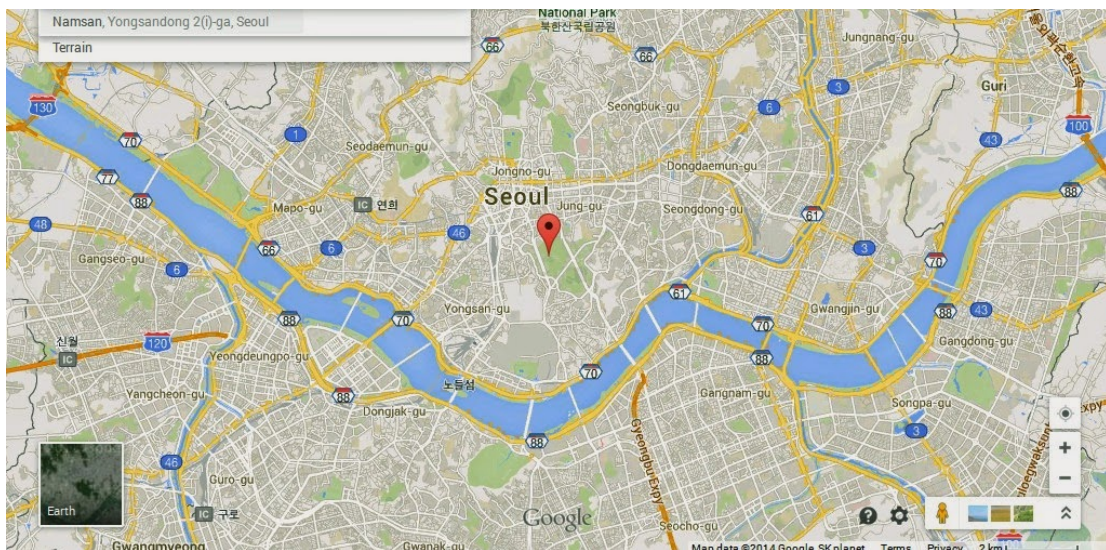


Fig. 1 Naman Park location within Seoul

Korea's capital was moved to present-day Seoul in 1394, when it was unified under the Joseon Kingdom. It was called Hanseong then. Namsan was used for defense and walls were built to connect its peak with four other mountaintops. Adjacent to N Seoul Tower is a reconstructed *bongsudae* station which in ancient times, was used as a communication system to notify the central government of urgent military matters from the borders. They were beacons that used smoke during the day and fire at night. There are remnants of fortress walls that were built during the Joseon Dynasty to protect the city against intruders. The walls at Namsan Park were the southernmost edge of the city, and connected to the other nearby mountains around Hanyang, or today's Seoul. What used to be the city's southern limit is now its heart and the N Seoul Tower can be seen rising above Namsan's peak.



Fig. 2 Namsan Tower

The tower has platforms allowing panoramic views of Seoul. The communication tower has transmission antennas of KBS, MBC, SBS TV, which are the largest television networks of South Korea. It also supports PBC, TBS, CBS, BBS FM. Forty-eight percent of the national audio population watches broadcasting through this transmission tower. At night, the tower uses the latest LED technology to emit different patterns and colors of light.

Adjacent to the site of interest, there are three existing buildings which expand the cultural and historical context. There is a science center on the northwest corner, a prominent fifteen story building which includes a planetarium and Global Village Folk Museum on the second and third floors. On the southwest corner stands Namsan Public Library, a five story ferroconcrete building. It was first established at a different location during the Japanese occupation in 1922. Today's collection contains an expansive collection of historic Japanese books and the latest digital material. There are exhibition rooms, literature, cultural and social science rooms which further encourage visitors to become an information-oriented society. The southeast corner contains the Ahn Jeung-geun Memorial Hall, designed by Yeonghwan Lim + Sunhyun Kim in 2010. It is a tribute to a widely known patriot who was an independence activist during Japanese colonialism. Ahn Jeung-geun (1879-2910) was the leader of twelve unsung heroes of Dongeui Danjihwe, a secret society of patriots who severed their ring fingers to symbolize their loyalty and determination to be an underground liberation movement. Next to the site of the memorial are remnants of an old war shrine where Japanese people worshipped their warlords and spirits during the occupation. The new building stands triumphantly

over the site. The square site where the memorial hall stands was emptied of its earth and replaced by the volume of the new building, underground and above ground. Twelve spirit tablets, towering over the old site of the war shrine represent their teachings, and at night, become burning lights. The path into and away from the site is a serene journey connecting the present with the past. It serves as a conduit between the times and a link to the hall's outdoor exhibition space.

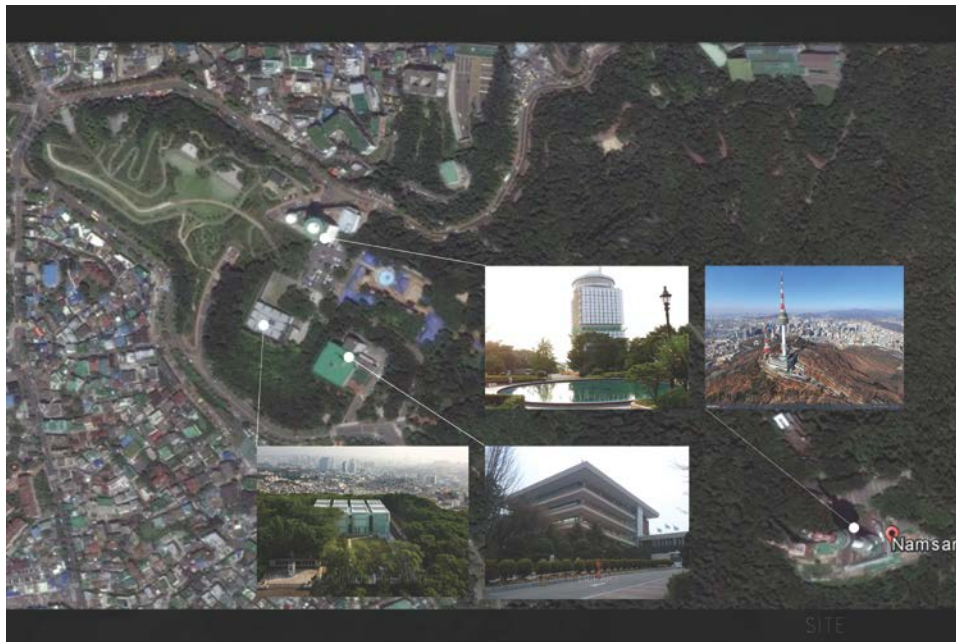


Fig.3 Landmarks on proposed site



Fig.4 Ahn Jeung-geun Memorial

Namsan Park is also accessible by several other metro stops: Hohyeon, Myeong-dong, and Hangangjin. On axis with a walkway that direct visitors to N Seoul Tower, lies the merging rail lines of Seoul Station, the gateway to South Korea's capital city. It has the highest number of passengers in Korea: a daily average of 100,000 people travel to and from this station. This station is the terminus for all of the Gyeongbu lines (Seoul to Busan), KTX (Korea Train Express) trains, as well as Saemaul, Mugunghwa and Nooriro (eco-friendly electric train) trains. It is also connected to Incheon International Airport by AREX (Airport Express). There are two special lines that take its passengers to the DMZ (demilitarized zone). Dorasan Station is in Paju, on the western side of the DMZ, and Baekmagoji is on the eastern side.

The original site that was chosen for this project was Dorasan Station, which is the northernmost station that is closest to the DMZ. The reason it was changed to

Namsan Park was because of its isolated location and lack of site information.

Dorasan Station is located in Nosang-ri, Jangdan-myeon, Paju, Gyeonggi Province, South Korea. The Gyeongui rail line that ran through the country was damaged during the Korean War. Amidst the conversations between the North and South, initiated by the late President Kim Dae Jung in the year 2000, both sides agreed to mend the broken railway line.

Dorasan Station opened on April 11, 2002, and the countries were connected at the Military Demarcation Line in 2003. It served as a border crossing mainly for Ulsan Kaesong Industrial Park with funds provided by South Korea. Freight trains were scheduled to travel once a day to this industrial park. However, it closed in 2008, along with the border, when the North Korean government accused the South Korean government of confrontational policy. It coincided with the presidency of Lee Myung Bak, who created more hardline strategies against the North, forming a less amicable relationship with Kim Jong Il's government. It also meant less financial and provisional aid was sent to the North. The chart below shows the assistance received by North Korea from outside sources.

(Unit: hundred million won)

Type		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Jan.- Jun. 2000	Total
Government Assistance and Grants	Grants	1,854	24	240	154	339	944	913	1,075	1,016	1,211	1,240	2,139	1,767	197	384	8	13,505
	Assistance from Private Funds						34	62	65	81	102	120	134	216	241	77	14	1,146
	Food Loans	-	-	-	-	-	1,057	-	1,510	1,510	1,359	1,787	-	1,505	-	-	-	8,728
	Total	1,854	24	240	154	339	2,035	975	2,650	2,607	2,672	3,147	2,273	3,488	438	461	22	23,379
Private Assistance and Grants		2	12	182	275	223	387	782	576	766	1,558	779	709	909	725	376	113	8,374
Total		1,856	36	422	429	562	2,422	1,757	3,226	3,373	4,230	3,926	2,982	4,397	1,163	837	135	31,753

Fig. 5 Assistance to North Korea. (Ministry of Unification Appendix)

Most recently, a separate train line was constructed and opened on May 4, 2014, to serve as a tourist site for visitors who come from Seoul.

This new train line is solely for the purpose of tourism and to provide civilian access to the Demilitarized Zone. When the train approaches the DMZ, an area prohibited to civilians, South Korean guards require travelers to get off at the Imjin River Station to take a head count and check the list of names that the train attendants maintain. The train cars are highly romanticized with bright colors and painted caricature characters. The interior is coated with neon colored hearts on the ceilings and the words “peace, love, and harmony” in different languages along the walls. It gives off the impression that reunification is an uncomplicated task within arm’s reach, when this is not the case.

Due to its geographic location and the purpose for which it was made, Dorasan Station serves as an appropriate representation of the current tensions between the North and South, but also the potential for eventual reunification. The

station is between and along the axis of the two capitals, Pyongyang and Seoul. It lies 205 km south of Pyongyang and 56 km north of Seoul. It is also in proximity to the Demilitarized Zone and lies in the Southern Limit Line. It is also in a city that has been selected by the South Korean government, with its Ministry of Unification, as one of the top choices as a site for a future peace park. Below is a map showing the site between Pyongyang, North Korea and Seoul, South Korea.



Fig.6 Map of Korea: Pyongyang, Dorasan Station, and Seoul marked.





Fig.7 Dorasan Station

It is certainly telling that progress is being made by the South Korean government to establish a relationship with the North Korean government. However, it is difficult to say whether these efforts are being made with a genuine interest in saving those suffering under the cruel regime or simply the miming of a political game.

## Chapter 2: History: Cause of Division

The division of Korea began with the Japanese Occupation from 1910-1945. Korea and Japan formed a business treaty prior to this, and this relationship developed into the annexation of Korea under Japan. It was a time of humiliation as the Japanese took over the government, school, and cultural institutions. Newspaper censorship, policies that controlled the use of the Korean language, name and identity changes, forced laborers, comfort women, and the removal of historical and cultural artifacts are examples of persecution during that time that still affect Korea today. To liberate its citizens of incarcerating memories, celebrate, and preserve its cultural identity, Korea's government created holidays such as Hangul Day (Korean Language Day). Tens of thousands of women were forcefully sent to Japanese military brothels to serve as comfort women during World War II. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe denies this fact. There were millions of forced laborers, and hundreds of thousands who died under cruel conditions. Many died alongside the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In a turn of events, man's desire to dominate and conquer changes to the very defeat and misfortune felt by his victims. However, once defeated, there is the chance to recover and restore.

Between the years 1943 and 1953, the ordeal of national division began. As World War II was coming to a close, and nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviets presumed Japan's loss of control of Korea and occupied the north. The Second World War ended with the surrender of Japan on August 15, 1945. The Korean Peninsula received liberation from Japanese imperialism but there was further confusion as there was interference from the Allied Forces. The

conference of the foreign ministers of the United States of America, U.S.S.R, and U.K. opened in Moscow to discuss the post war conditions of Japan, Germany and Korea. The conference decided Korea's trusteeship. Based on the agreement of the conference, U.S.S.R. took hold of the northern part of Korea above 38<sup>th</sup> latitude (which was an arbitrary line) and the U.S. the southern region. Since then, the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel line has become a military demarcation line separating the country into two. Under these circumstances, North and South Korea established two different governments based on the Soviet Union and the United States, respectively.

In 1950, Kim Il Sung, with the help of Joseph Stalin, declared war on the South after the North affirmed statehood. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 and it lasted about four years, causing over four million deaths. On July 27, 1953, a ceasefire agreement was signed by North Korea, China and UN forces formed by the alliance of the U.S. and 15 other countries. The ceasefire line was decided not along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel but along the military frontiers of the two sides. The 38<sup>th</sup> parallel military demarcation line was changed to the present Demilitarized Zone. The Military Demarcation Line (DML) runs 250 km east to west and has a width of 4 km.

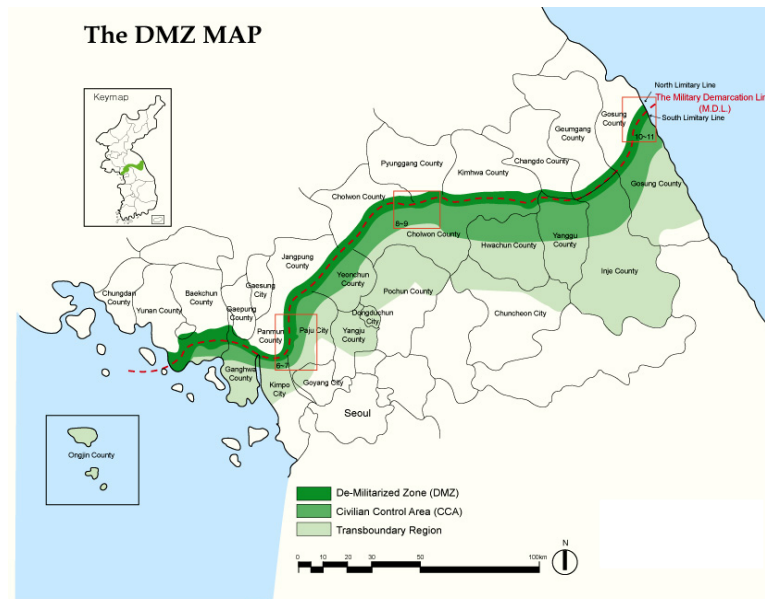


Fig. 8 Outside of the DMZ is the Civilian Controlled Area (CCA) where civilian access is restrained.

Essentially, the DMZ was formed around the three battlefields that carried the most bloodshed. Everything in that area was destroyed: buildings, roads, farmlands, forest, as well as people who lived in that area. The war was a tragedy and solved nothing: only an armistice prevents violence today. Although talks of peace exist, there are layers of tensions and problems that began with foreign occupation and intervention, which cannot be easily shaken or resolved.

Interestingly, ever since the DMZ has become a no man's land, because it has been undisturbed, many types of wildlife, including rare flora and fauna have made it a new habitat. What was once a gash between two ailing and separated families has become the only part of the land that shows potential signs of reconciliation.

## Chapter 3: North and South Korea Today (A Critical Perspective)

Due to the division and establishment of different governments, the paths Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee led their respective states were vastly different. However, the ways in which they ruled were similar in nationalism and strict policies. Today, North Korea remains the most hermetic and least communicative country to the outside world. There is no freedom of movement, information, or religion.

Totalitarian rule has exceeded the time of the Nazis and Stalin and developed a brainwashed, submissive society to an abusive leader. Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, and Kim Jong Un are the dear leaders to their subjects who, out of fear and peculiar love, profess loyalty to them. All blessings and protection come from the “Great Leader” and anyone who expresses otherwise is punished down to three generations. North Korean citizens are divided into neighborhoods with a head who keeps watch and reports any traitors. Any reported “traitor” is publicly killed or placed into a prison camp, where they are physically and sexually abused and starved. Today, there are an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 prisoners inside the five known prison camps.

Although the oppressive power of the government is reflected in the treatment of their citizens, the ways international and western media have portrayed North Korea is out of strategic or political thinking. If the powerful countries of the world were truly compassionate about the health and safety of the North Korean people, something would have already been done about this problem. Nuclear weapons in North Korea and the lack of profitable resources in this dearth country prevent the U.S. and others from risking invasion.



Fig.9 North Korean cityscape.

There are two faces to North Korea. One that Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un have shown the world, and the one many people inside North Korea see everyday. How much they struggle is not readily seen by the outside. Over two and a half million people have died after the famine of the early 1990s. The numbers reach more than three million if considering neglect and public executions ordered by Kim Jong Il. At the time, the population of the country was about twenty million. North Korea is now a desolate and isolated economy, millions starving and without proper nutrition. Food shortage has left a generation of North Koreans with stunted growth, broken families, and exponential health problems.



Fig.10&11 Starvation and malnutrition of North Koreans.

Only the most loyal among those born into privileged classes have homes near Pyongyang. They credit the great leader for their fortunate circumstances and their eyes well with tears as they express gratitude. The others who are destined to remain hungry do not think to complain as they will be reported and punished for their treachery.

Due to preposterous regulations, it is normal for hundreds of thousands of people to be imprisoned without a trial. Many of these people disappear without a trace. Prison camps are growing in numbers and human rights groups estimate that they house more than 200,000 political prisoners. The North Korean government continues to deny they exist. However, there are satellite images proving the existence of these facilities.



Fig. 12 Locations of known prison camps.



Fig. 13 Satellite image of prison camps.

Former guards who have defected to the South and eyewitnesses have told stories of rape, abuse, starvation, forced labor, and rancid prison conditions. The labor camps

have existed twice as long as the Soviet Gulag and twelve times longer than the Nazi concentration camps (Harden 4).

Shin Dong Hyuk, who is the only known prisoner to have escaped from a camp, was born into Camp 14 due to a law that Kim Il Sung established in 1972: “[E]nemies of class, whoever they are, their seed must be eliminated through three generations (Harden 13).” Shin’s crime was being the nephew of a man who defected to South Korea after the war. Those who are born into camps will never leave them. It is a prison within a prison.

Teachers at Shin’s school always carried pistols. One of them beat a classmate to death with a chalkboard pointer. Along with other children, Shin scavenged constantly for food, eating rats, insects, and undigested kernels of corn found in cow dung. His middle finger was cut off at the first knuckle for dropping a sewing machine. A survival game had to be played even amongst family members. Shin’s mother was not someone he trusted or loved. When he ate her portion of food while she was working in the field, she beat him for it. After he overheard them whispering in the night, Shin betrayed his mother and brother’s plan to escape from prison. He was forced to watch their executions, held for seven months in a secret underground prison with no light, and tortured to find out his role in the planned escape of his mother and brother.



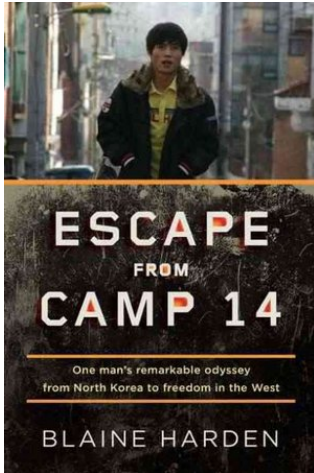


Fig. 14 Shin Dong Hyuk's biography.



Fig.15 Abuse in prisons, illustrated by a former guard

There are more tragic stories that have been told by those who escape from North Korea. Many more do not make it to tell their own experiences. Since the border between the Koreas is heavily guarded, many go through China, where the situation is risky. The North Korean and Chinese governments have agreed to have those caught to be sent back. Depending on the day, the Chinese government will not repatriate North Koreans. However, most of the time, if discovered, even children are sent back, to face punishment and imprisonment. Chinese traffickers wait at the Tumen River to seize women and sell them. Most defectors are women and eight out of ten become trafficked in China. There are accounts of women who were sold six different times. More than 50,000 North Koreans are hiding in China. They try to live as discreetly as possible. Those who reach Laos without getting killed can apply to obtain refugee status, but they must cross the Golden Triangle on foot through two hundred kilometers of jungle. Since the 1990s, when famine hit the country, nearly a hundred thousand have attempted to escape. Most go through Southeast Asia, and some to the South. There are facilities housing defectors and government programs

helping them adjust to a new life. However, the transition is not easy and sadly, they are not always welcomed by their brothers.

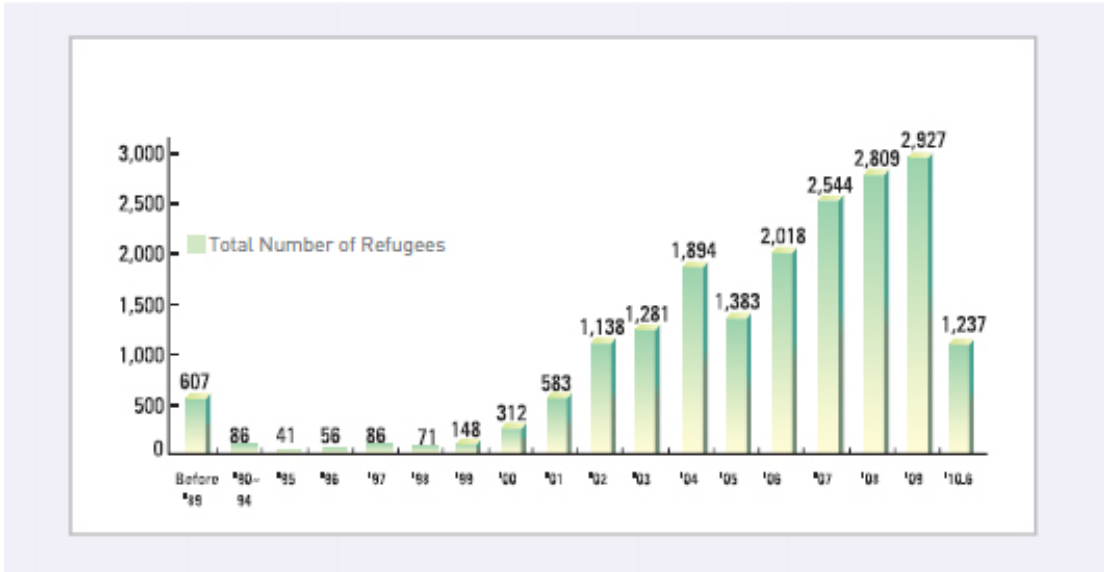


Fig.16 Number of refugees entering South Korea.

South Korea is vastly different from the North and has its own issues. Seoul is the epitome of capitalism and the growing wealth of the top two percent. In a list of countries ranked by GDP, South Korea is 15<sup>th</sup>. The people take pride in how far their country has come since the war when it one of the poorest nations in the world. They've endured hard work to become one of the richest economies in the world. But the ways in which they rebuilt the country were not always honest or fair, for it developed at a pace much too fast for its health. Now, there are symptoms revealing a body that is in desperate need of surgery but one that will die while under operation.

Upholding “face” of one’s family, pride, and ambition is sought after by too many people in a Confucian based society with not enough opportunities. Competition is intense, which promotes quick and excellent service. However it has its downsides. Everyone competes for employment in large companies and rather

placing the value on learning, students focus on building their qualifications with language skills and big names. Once in the office, they become workaholics and join the after-work celebrations or drown their sorrows by binge drinking. According to Business Insider, South Korea ranks highest on the list of countries who consume the most liquor.

Oftentimes, the majority, some reluctantly, conform to the dishonest, materialistic, and obsessively appearance-oriented views. Cosmetic surgery has become commonplace and undeniably ingrained into Korea's culture. According to a Bloomberg poll from last year, the cosmetic surgery rate in South Korea was 13.3 procedures for every 1,000 people, the highest in the world. South Korea has emerged as a technological echelon when it comes to plastic surgery. Many foreigners come here, especially from Southeast Asia where it also is a trend, as medical tourists.

South Korea is one of the most wired and connected countries in the world. It has developed wireless connections that are fifty times faster than the average broadband connection in the United States. According to CNN, the country has 82.7% Internet penetration and 78.5% (as of 2013) of the population owns a smartphone. The Korean Wave, known as *hallyu* has brought power and money to the entertainment industries. Korean pop music and dramas have become exceedingly popular in other Asian and Latin American countries, in addition to numerous European countries. Although it has brought awareness for the country and its culture, it also exposes sexual objectification of teenage girls and corruption of the entertainment industry as it is linked with politics. There are corporate-sponsored

celebrity “athletes” for StarCraft, a video game played in the digital world. A study in 2009 showed that about ninety percent of Korean children used the Internet in their everyday lives. Among those, 10-15 percent were in the high-risk group, meaning they have an addiction that requires psychiatric treatment. As the media gained cultural strength and the web became easily accessible, the minds and bodies of the South Korean youth and young adults grew increasingly unhealthy and isolated.



Figure 17. Satellite image- Night and electricity in N&S Korea



Figure 18. South Korea nightscape.

Unfortunately, the country has had the highest suicide rate for many years. An average of thirty-nine people a day committed suicide in 2012. It is the number one cause of death for people between the ages of ten and thirty. It is mostly seen as a viable escape from the pressures and stresses of modern life. The computer and media envelop the mind of its consumers and addiction harms real-life relationships. Education is extremely important in the Korean culture. However, the goal to excel in academics often come with wanting money and success, which belongs to the privileged two percent, along with the need to satisfy the expectations of parents. Confucianism is still deeply ingrained in the culture, and it is important to respect and

obey ones elders. Learning English as a second language is prevalent and fluency (and pronunciation) gives one an advantage when entering the workforce. College entrance examinations draw fierce competition and some begin preparing for it as early as they enter school. High school seniors typically spend more than ten hours a day studying. Ironically, the amount of time they spend memorizing for this exam disables them from thinking independently or creatively upon entering college. When people are pulled in too many directions with the same degree of intensity, it is difficult to grow as a whole individual who sincerely wants to contribute to society.

According to Euny Hong, the author of *The Birth of Korean Cool: How One Nation is Conquering the World Through Pop*, the success of *hallyu* is no accident. It was the result of two decades of strategic government planning and cooperation between private industries and the government. It began in the late 1990s when the late president Kim Dae Jung wanted to make more sources of revenue for the country. Informally, he deemed himself as the President of Culture and established the Basic Law for the Cultural Industry Promotion in 1999. \$148.5 million was allocated to this project (Sung, Korean Herald). He decided to make Korea the most wired nation on earth and replace the U.S. as the largest exporter of pop culture, if not a close second. The government deliberately targeted countries that were not wealthy, capitalizing on the fact that the U.S. neglects these economies. Some happened to be natural enemies of the U.S., taking market shares away from the U.S. industry. There is a Korean drama that captured 80% of the viewing audience in Iran. President Kim made a prediction that if North and South Korea ever reunite, it will be because of Korean pop culture.

My shallow knowledge and understanding of Korean politics makes me wary about adding this portion to the paper. However, it is relevant to the topic of reconciliation so it is necessary to think about. At first glance, it seems unexpected that former President Kim Dae Jung would use pop culture as means to gain power and endorse unification between the North and South. However, his friend in the North, former dictator Kim Jong Il was known to be an avid collector of Hollywood films, with his own private screening room. In order to understand President Kim's politics, we must understand South Korea's provincial rivalries. He was from Sinan, a city now known as Jeolla-namdo in the Jeolla province, in the southwestern part of South Korea. They are known to vote with the liberal party and to be untrustworthy for their alliance to North Korea. If the two countries ever become united under a mutual or co-existing government, which the North essentially wants, under majority rule, the government will become a Communism supporting state. The Jeolla region has been known to be rivals with Kyongsang provinces to the southeast, where the people are stereotypically known for their hot tempers. They traditionally side with the Conservative (Saenuri) Party. The rivalries are ancient, and the bitterness grew deeper after Japanese colonial rule and the Korean War, when it came under the control of a succession of Kyongsang men. There were difficult conflicts between the pro-Japanese cooperatives and those who fought them that evolved into unresolved issues between the rival political parties. The rift grew even farther apart when President Park Jung Hee, who served from 1961 to 1979, poured money into the infrastructure and industrial growth of the Kyongsang province, leaving Cholla a relatively backward agricultural district.

Former President Kim Dae Jung was an advocate of a conciliatory approach towards North Korea, even at the cost of losing good relations with the United States. He even went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his Sunshine Policy which was speculated to have been tainted with money transfers and private deals. The (South) Koreans have had anti-American sentiments not only because of deeper historical resentments following Japanese occupation, but also issues related to the presence and behavior of military personnel, crimes and accidents by U.S. service members. In North Korea, children are taught to hate Americans and regard the South Koreans as weak, submissive dogs. But the fact of the matter is that South Korea does not have the military arms nor the manpower to fend itself from the North if the U.S. Army pulls its troops out. Forty percent of the North Korean population belong to the Korean People's Army. In 2013 it held more than 9.5 million soldiers, making it the largest military organization in the world. The South cannot afford to lose relations with the U.S. nor have reconciliation occur under current circumstances. A state in which 48 percent of 1000 people interviewed think reconciliation is needed under the circumstances that it is not a financial or social burden to the South. Most South Koreans do not know what is really going on in the North apart from the images shown in the media that life seems close to normal.

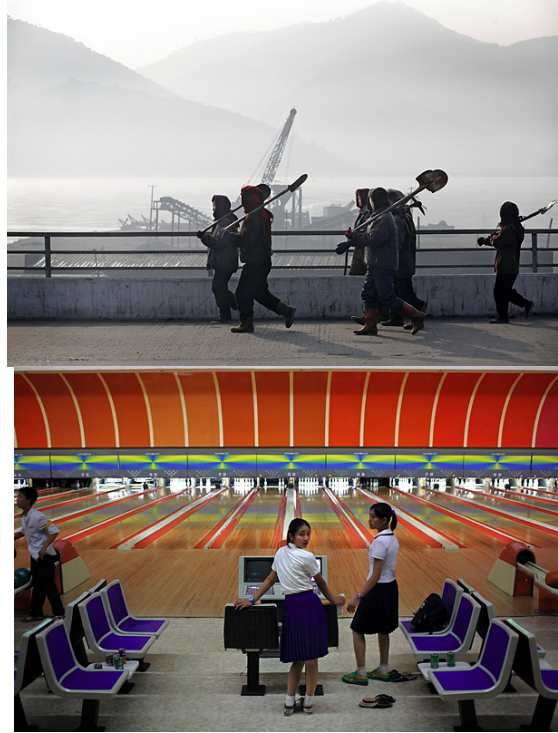


Fig.19 Images exposed by North Korean government.

And most Americans think of it as a reclusive and dangerous country with a weird family that has run it for years. There are advocacy groups, such as Liberty in North Korea, which are slowly changing the way people think about North Korea and educating the general public about the true stories of people behind the façade the Kim family has created. This has to develop further in South Korea enough so that it willingly and genuinely as a whole desires to save brothers and sisters who continue to suffer under the cruel and unfortunate circumstances.



## Chapter 4: Precedents

There are a variety of precedents to research for this particular project because the number aspects from which it can be seen and conceptualized. The concept of preserving ideas to remain timeless, capturing memories through active or passive participation, and the embodiment of progress through architecture are ideas I am beginning to think about.

The first one titled [Counter] Monument to Fascism, is located in Harburg, Germany (1986). It is a simple, unadorned tower in the middle of an unattractive public square adjacent to a shopping center. It is a “self-denying and self-effacing monument” that diminishes with time. It allows people to write their names on the surface, so even as it physically disappears, the commitment of the people against fascism remains. This is helpful in letting us know that the dimension of time allows changes to happen and the physical presence of what used to be one thing becomes something different. This provides the opportunity to think about how the monument to North Koreans and the relationship between the North and South changes with time and reconciliation in the future.



Fig. 20 [counter]monument



*Harburg's disappearing monument.*

Fig. 21 [counter]monument

Mauerpark Berlin (1993) by Gustav Lange is a linear park that replaced the zone between the two walls that once separated East and West Germany. A portion of the wall remains and there is a swing along the opposite wall which activates the memory of it in a playful way. New juxtapositions of what used to be and the ever-changing daily exchanges of innocent children or adult visitors commemorate it with the future. Because the relationship of North and South Korea has a similarly broken history yet ongoing, the ways in which visitors innocuously react within the landscape and spaces could provide commentary on the ways division is affecting lives in North Korea, and perhaps the South as well.



Fig. 22 Mauerpark in Berlin



Fig. 23 Mauerpark in Berlin

Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum (2005) by Safdie Architects is located in Jerusalem, Israel. There are many museums which help us remember and understand the atrocities endured during the Holocaust. This one in particular is located in a setting that is historically and culturally the root of the Jewish people. It is not where the crimes were committed but a place that those who suffered and those who continue to learn and remember both value and share. The walls contain the stories of

the victims and the visitors who go in and around these exhibits begin to knit history with the present and at the end of the path, look towards a landscape that helps them reflect on how to go on.



Fig. 24 Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum: exhibits      Fig. 25 Yad Vashem: final view

## Chapter 5: Program

Although the programmatic elements of this project will change as the perspectives and memories of people evolve, there are specific uses that will remain to preserve awareness of history. The most important element of the design consists of the symbolic graves that remember the innocent lives that were lost under the North Korean regime. Traditional Korean burial mounds are above ground.



Fig. 25 Korean burial mounds

It will be a way to give them a proper send off, using azaleas borrowed in meaning from Kim Sowol's poem, and recognize those who silently suffered and died unnoticed by anyone. The walls will be informal galleries and exhibition spaces that tell the stories of foreign occupation, atrocities suffered by North Koreans under cruel dictatorship, the misuse of power, and complexity behind a developed South Korean country. There will be stations where the statistics, interviews, and testimonies of real victims reveal what goes on behind the closed curtains. Illustrations by those who suffered under the regime will be displayed.

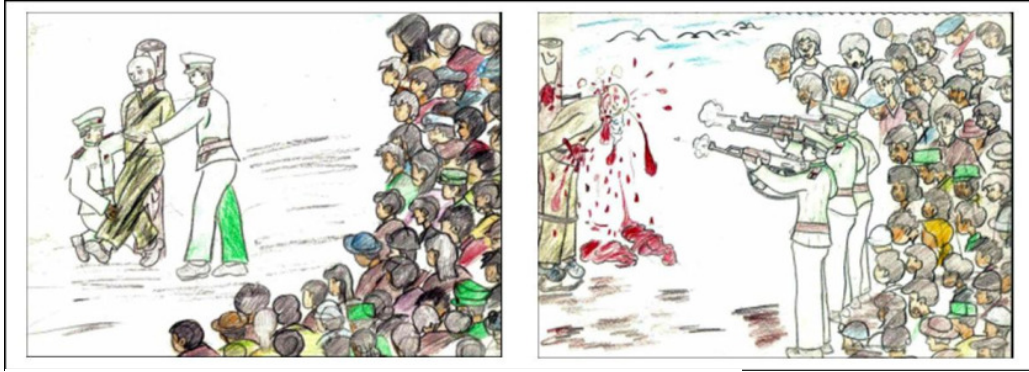


Fig. 25 Illustrations by children who have escaped from North Korea

Artwork by those who have been telling the stories of defectors and the vast number of lost lives will be exhibited.



Fig. 26 Artwork by Gongsan Kim: “Petals Among Ashes 2” & “Concentration Camp #16”

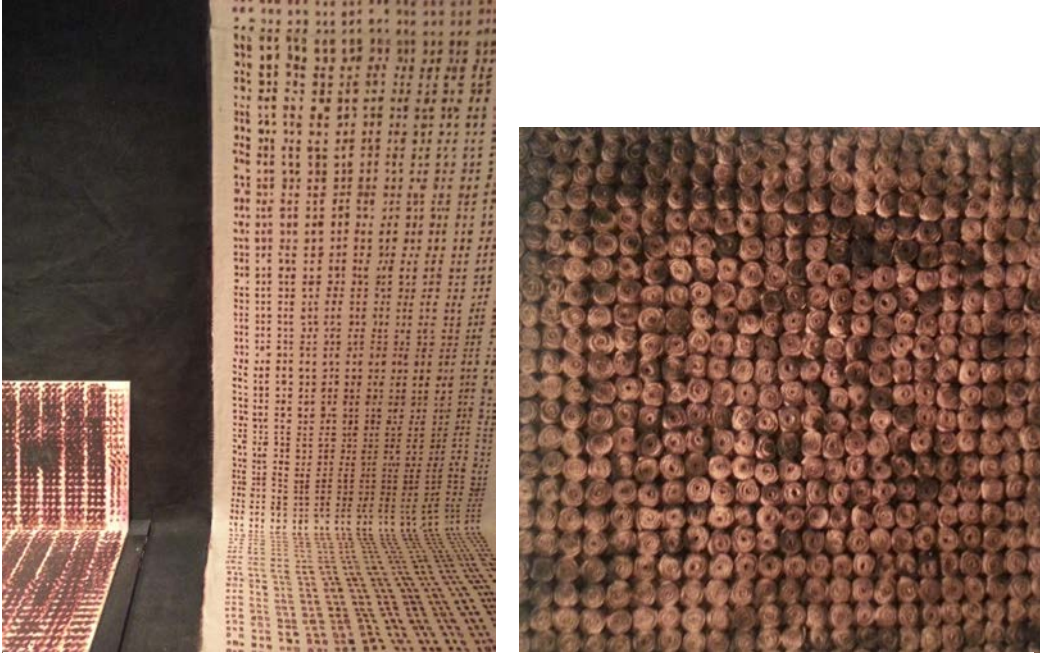


Fig. 27 Artwork by Gongsan Kim: “Names of Nameless Deaths” & “Ashen Souls in N.Korea I”  
Defectors can come and tell their stories in private rooms, where they can feel safe

about exposing the truth. Less formal meeting and collaborative spaces will also be provided for discussions and educating the general public about these matters. These spaces will extend out into the landscape, areas designated for quiet contemplation where healing and the building of awareness can develop into empathy and reaction.

This interpretive center will also provide clarity to its visitors on the importance of reconciliation. It will reflect the progression made by both governments in efforts for reunification. It will imagine what the united Korea will look like.

## Chapter 6: Design Approach

Thinking about the relationship between the North and the South prompted the experiment of diagramming positive and negative shapes. The DMZ, with time and perhaps even reconciliation, has changed and will take the form of something different from what it is today. The erasure and elimination of existing lines, the introduction and intrusion of new lines and shapes are conceptual ways to think about how the North and South will change with time and interaction.

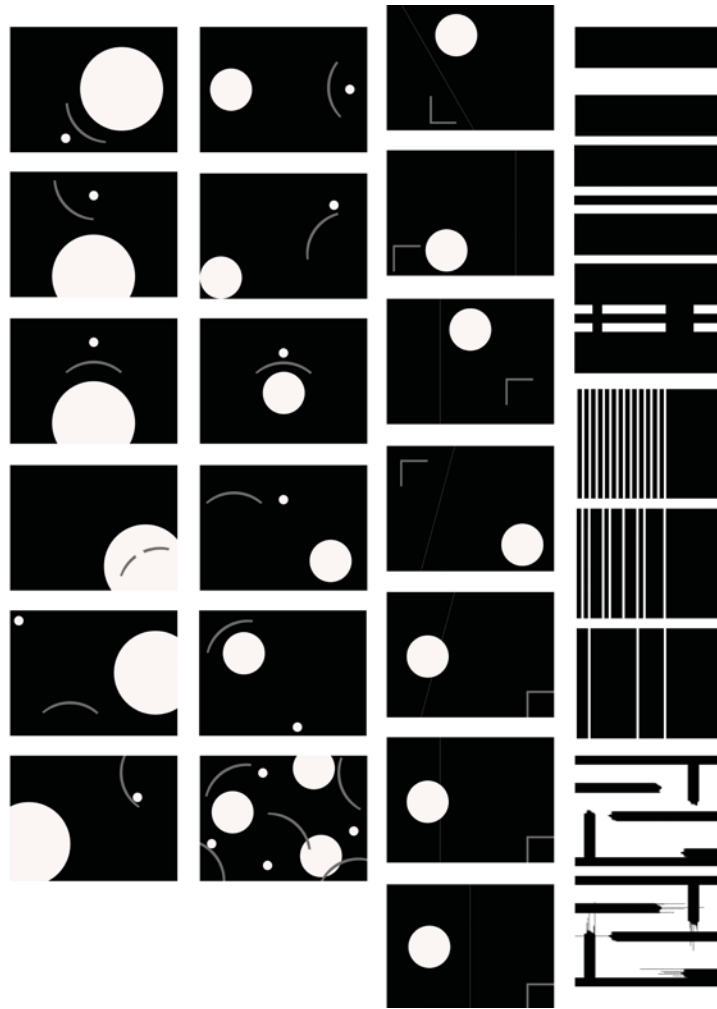


Fig.28: Diagrams of negative and positive relationships

Other forms were studied to demonstrate the dichotomy and tension between the two countries and the forces required to pull them together. The two states share a traditional culture, one with which they both identify regardless of the separation. There is a traditional game that involves the activity illustrated below. The see-saw is a mechanism that needs an equal amount of force to activate motion, which can be used as a metaphor and spatial balance of the architecture.



Fig. 29: Traditional Korean see-saw

When Dorasan Train Station was still an option for the site, I thought about how spaces could be organized around the existing building. The first was to add extensions to the train station that followed the main axial line on either side. The second was to puncture the existing building with additional components so that the collection of new or additional information and its dissemination can occur. The last was to achieve equilibrium on both sides using different amounts or shapes of physical volumes or program.



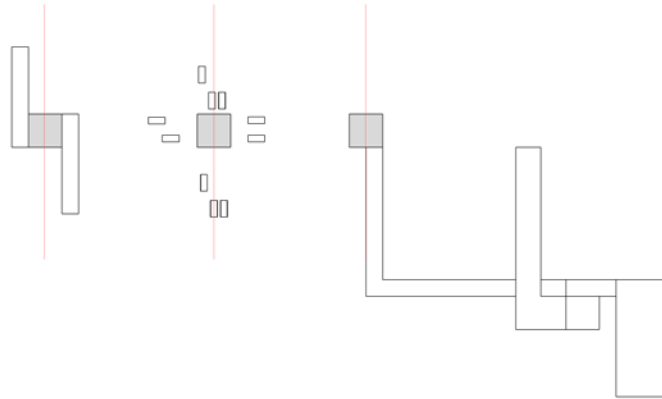


Fig. 30: Spatial Diagrams 1

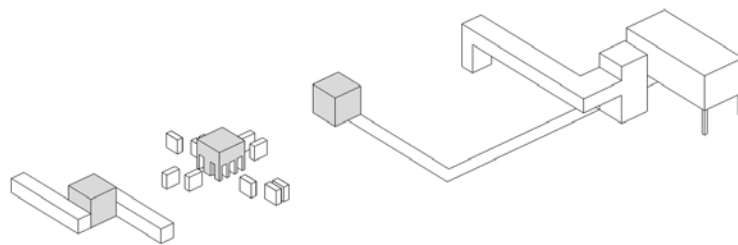


Fig. 31 Conceptual diagrams

After changing the site, there was the contemplation of representing the emotional, psychological, and physical struggles of the North Korean people through three dimensional space. Through a series of physical models, the figure below was one that best demonstrated the visual and physical barriers that frustrated the journey from one end of the path to the other.



Fig. 32: 3D model

The fortress walls on the Namsan site were used as a motif to create the landscape design. The idiosyncratic geometries of the old town adjacent to the park were used as a base to derive a nonhierarchical path with multiple entries into the exhibition spaces. The reason for the use of the old town geometry was that it was built during the Joseon Dynasty, a period in which Korea was unified. Rather than using autocratic geometries that resemble stark North Korean architecture, or styles from traditional aristocratic homes, forms derived from the everyday lives of people who lived in what was one Korea seemed most appropriate and symbolic of what may come. The geometries were extracted and scaled onto the grid formulated from the Ahn Jeung-geun Memorial.

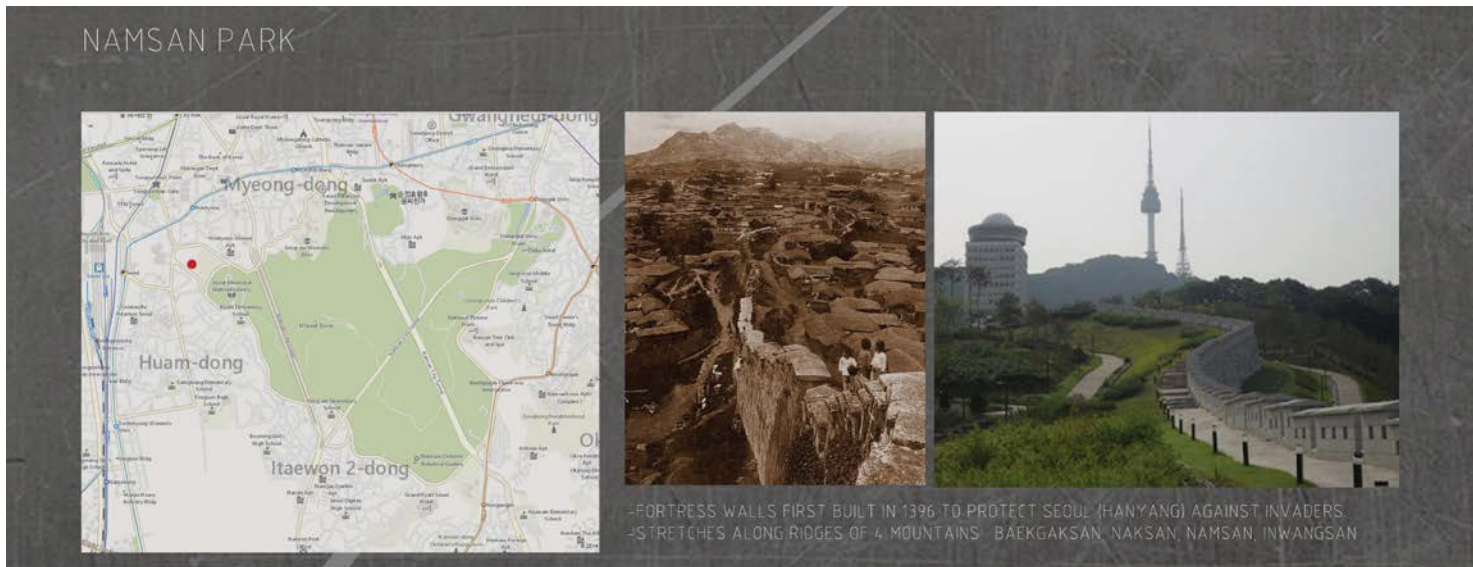


Fig. 33: Wall location on map; original walls; and restored walls

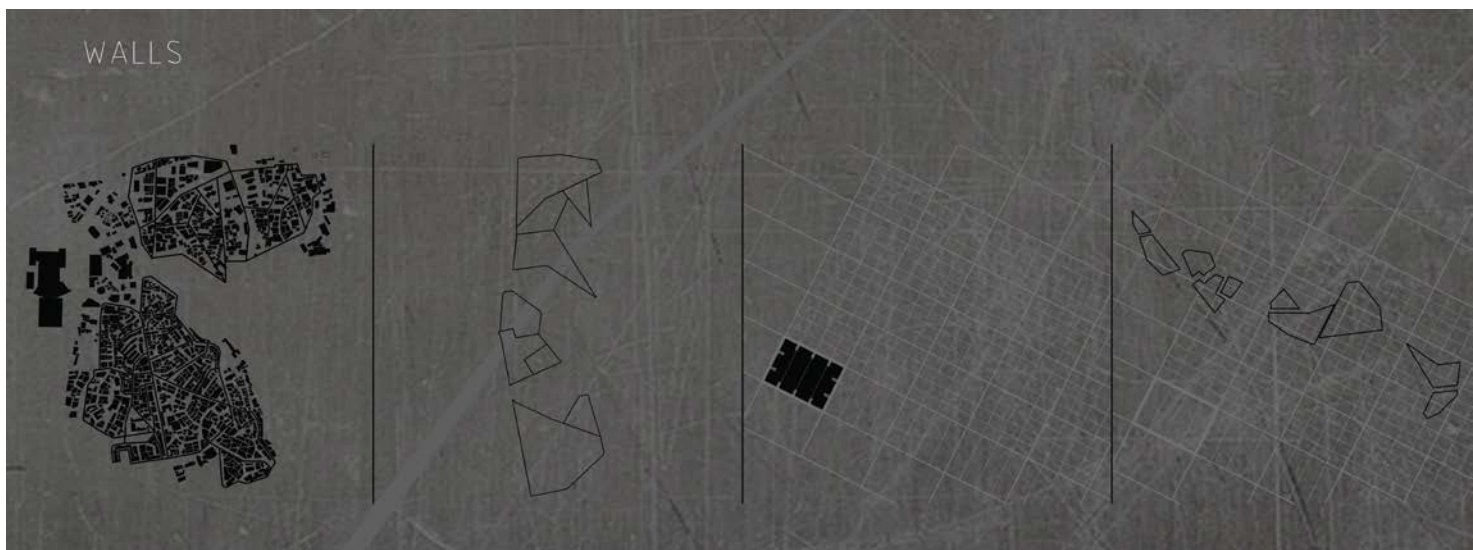


Fig. 34: Old Joseon town geometries; extracted shapes; Ahn Jeung-geun Memorial grid; scaled geometries

The diagrams below show the iterations of paths and topographical studies through which different exhibition and program spaces were intelaced. Learning and reflection becomes part of the journey through the landscape.



Fig. 35: Landscape Diagram 1



Fig. 36: Landscape Diagram 2

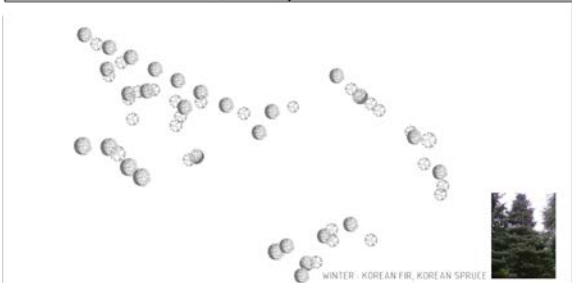
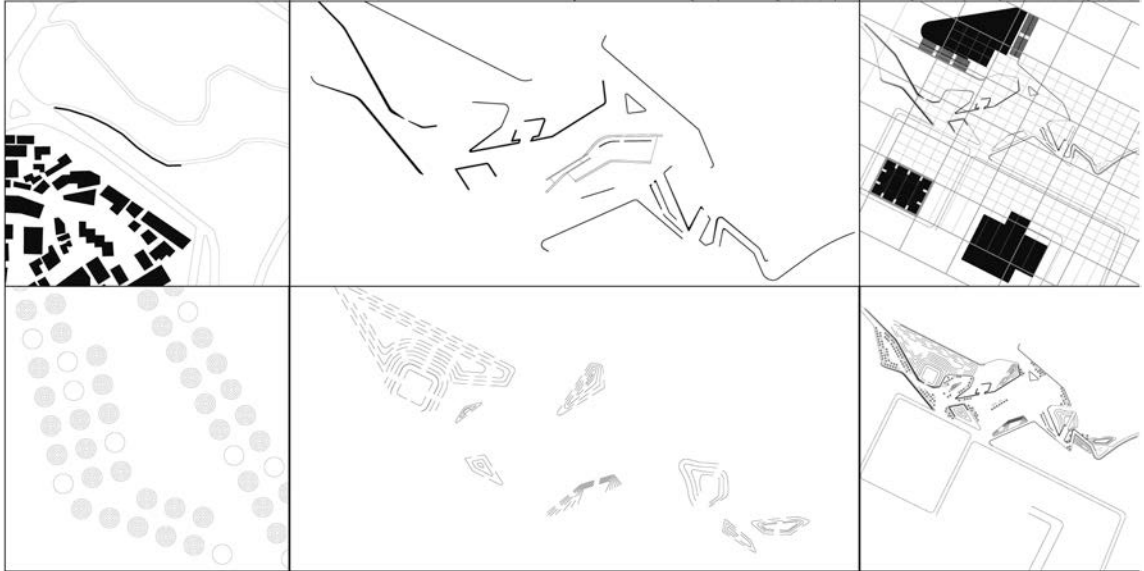


Fig. 37: Landscape Diagram 3



Fig. 38: Landscape Diagram 4

Below is the version prior to the final design. The first image in the series shows the wall, burial mounds, and topographical elements of the design. Because the element of time represents progress and change within the relationships of the two states, a layer of trees and elements of nature are used to show the lapse in seasons.



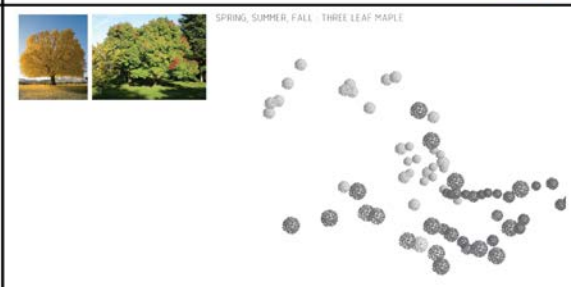
WINTER: KOREAN FIR, KOREAN SPRUCE



YEAR ROUND: DAHURIAN BIRCH



SPRING: AZALEAS, MAGNOLIA



SPRING, SUMMER, FALL: THREE LEAF MAPLE



Fig. 39-40: Elements of design; types of trees used to tell passage of time; walls with exhibition spaces

Different types of vegetation that best represent each season add to the variation of experiences within the landscape exhibitions. Native trees, such as the Three-flowered Maple, Dahurian Birch, and Korean pine and spruce will be used to mark the change in seasons. The ephemeral flowers, brilliant fall leaves, and the peeling bark of these trees will provide different settings to make new memories while reflecting on the past. The dainty flowers of the magnolia and azaleas will be used to symbolize the passage of forgotten souls who left the earth without proper burials or sendoffs. Kim Sowol's poem, "Azalea" uses the blossoms to represent the path towards sending a loved one on his way. The azaleas petals will cover the representational burial mounds on the site. The journey through the landscape allows the roots of unspoken sorrow and wounded spirits of refugees and victims to come forth. Many have quietly disappeared, and through this journey, anger and grief will channeled through these walls. The tears and blood that have been shed will move the process of healing and strengthen the hope of a unified Korea.



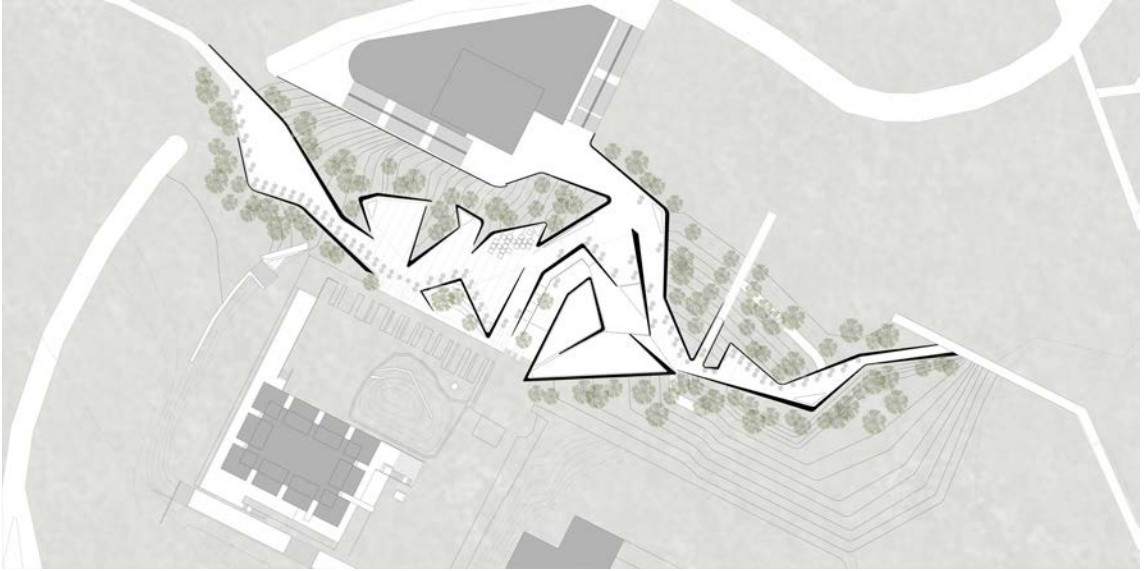


Fig. 41&42: Site plan within context of surrounding city; Site plan within context of immediate buildings

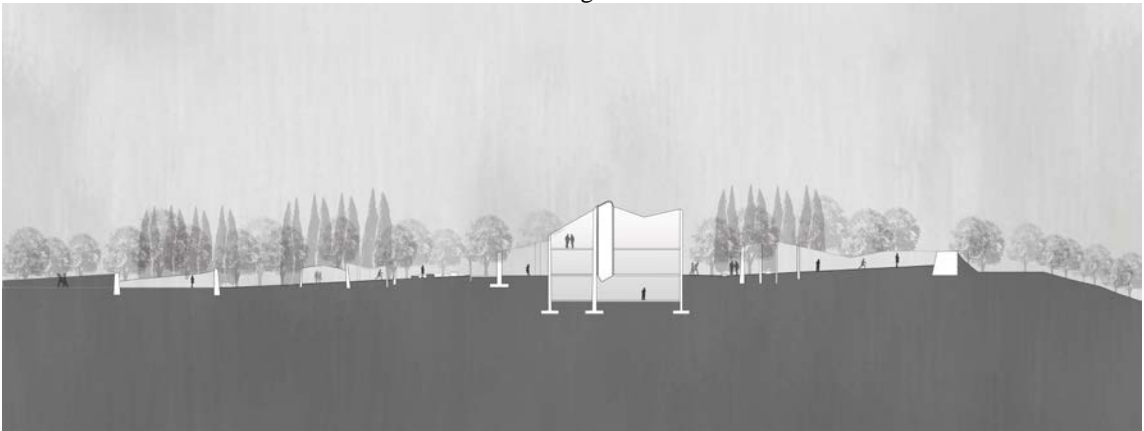


Fig. 43: Section through site explaining height changes in walls



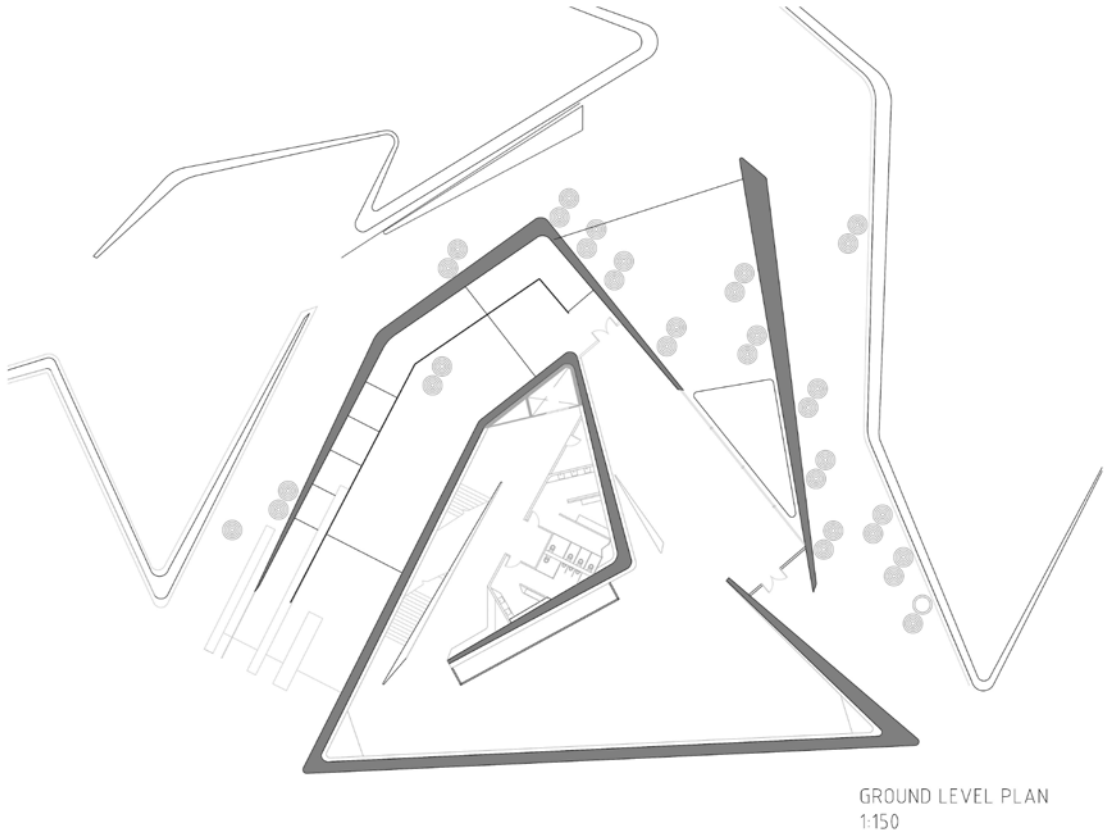


Fig. 44: Main exhibition space floor plan (ground level)

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