

## The FAR Game

The Korean Pavilion questions, / 'what is the front of Korean architecture?'

Our premise is / The FAR Game, / which is Floor Area Ratio Game, / is played / on the front lines of Korean architecture.

Maximizing a building's FAR is a battle / that 99% of Korean architects / must wage / in order to survive.

Why the FAR Game, / particularly in Korea?

Because the FAR Game has been a driving force / behind the growth of Korea / and its architecture / for the last 50 years.

The capital of South Korea is Seoul, / but you could say it is South Korea itself. It is the city of the Triple Crown of density: / the most populated, / densest, / and most concentrated in the world.

Half of the population of South Korea resides / in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan Area, / with half of that, / over 10 million people, / living in the capital city proper.

It took only 45 years / for Seoul's population / to reach 10 million from 1 million. Seoul's land price has grown / more than 1,000 times over this period, / and a new commercial and business center / has risen / in value / 300,000 times.

But, the average FAR in Seoul is / only 124%. The great discrepancy / between population and building density / creates tremendous pressure / on development. But the urban fabric, / coupled with building ordinances, / provides very limited opportunity / to increase the city's overall FAR.

This is the background of the FAR game / underpinning / all Korean architecture.

So we will explore the FAR Game / as a lens / to better understand the current frontiers of Korean society / as expressed in the architecture / at the scale of elements, / buildings, / urban areas, / and cities.

We will illuminate nameless local builders, / developers, / even home owners / as well as young architects / who tried to see / the constraints of the game / as a creative force / and not only physically responded to high density, but also turned it / into a cultural strength and identity.

While we develop this theme, we are open to share / and exchange our ideas / with all of you / to fight and expand the battlefield of the FAR Game.