

Dear Richard,

I have not compared regulations of Korea with those of others rigorously. (Although I heard that UK does not have predetermined rules, whereas Netherland has meticulously prescribed rules). So I cannot talk about Korea's regulations from cross-cultural perspectives for this exhibition.

OK, no problem. We won't delve into this perspective. > We may withhold this until we finish all the background analysis, and transform them into infographics. We may quote from other materials later. But for the moment, let's not decide.

I can only say that there are paradoxes in rules in Korea; on the one hand it is very strict in the sense public officials do not have much discretion for negotiation; but on the other hand there are gray areas that rules are changed by interest group. Yes, people bend or get around the rules.

My question here is: Are we trying to show that an architect's ability to bend/get around the rules is a function of their CREATIVITY?

If the English words, bend/get around the rules, do not have negative connotations like violating, breaking, or cheating, my answer is yes. I would like to emphasize the cleverness and logics behind the seemingly strange, random, bold, and idiosyncratic forms. They are not the results of superficial formal games. They are the outcome of carefully designed logics. That's what I want to say.

You may be right 'han' is at the bottom of our hearts. And han was collectively formed and turned into something different throughout war, colonization, rapid growth, and so forth...But these arguments are also for sociologist and anthropologists. I think we can imply socio-cultural roots. But it is right to talk about them through architecture and cities here at this exhibition. Does it make sense?

OK. Perhaps when we get started on the "opposing forces" section we can see what makes sense in conjunction with the material you are providing. I can appreciate and respect that you do not want to go outside of your area of expertise. It's just that in order to provide a 'context' for an architecture exhibit, then by definition one must, to a certain extent, go outside of the domain of architecture.

We do not decide to drop this either. The idea of Korean 'psyche' is still stimulating to me, although going into its cultural roots seem beyond our capacities. I would like to touch it in somewhat architectural ways...In fact I will talk at the round table in Spanish Embassy in Tokyo in March 4. The topic is the private/public. I told them I will present VB from the perspective of theme. I need to send a 300-word summary by this Saturday, and I need your help. The plot-based rules and Korean psyche are perfect theme for the roundtable, I thought. So we may continue to develop until the end of March for the catalog.

The main question to deal with right now is how we want to characterize the regulations in this opening statement. Answering the question above about creativity will help with this.

I will start looking at the text of the first section.

Thanks so much your tremendous efforts. Sung.