

Elbow of building

Sash frame can be found in many buildings all around Seoul. There is sash frame in most of apartment balconies. On the contrary, a house having no sash frame in its balcony makes us to see it a second time. There are many other materials including sandwich panel, polycarbonate panel and tarpaulin, but sash frame is the most popular one. Sash frame is systematic, solid, openable and transparent thanks to its glass plane, so it sounds like a very versatile material.

In consideration of changing climates delivering yellow dust, rainy season and heavy snow, it's hard to deny sash frame is very useful in many ways. In fact, sash frame is not required only to deal with ever changing weathers. Something important and necessary yet not in use for now automatically goes to the 'sashed space'. After all of this, It's impossible to ignore its usefulness for our daily lives.

As this 'sashed space' doesn't belong to living space according to building codes, its use can be determined by personal preference, but it's hard to name it as private space. And as the sashed space is positioned close to the outside of a building, local landscapes take up large part of it. This temporal and flexible space shows different faces by residents of that building. it's the same not only in other residential housings but also in general buildings that can be seen in our neighborhood. A space defined by sash frame can be renovated into any forms regarding user, function, trend, relationship with commercial areas, rent and land value. You can get rid of its structure itself and build it again.

Most of this flexible space doesn't count toward a taxable area. Either it doesn't belong to a floor area ratio recorded in building account data, but it creates a physical volume. Depend on how we use this space, intervals between building masses can be changed.

To this space, I gave a nick name. Elbow. The 'Elbow of building' shall be the name of this space which enables to adjust intervals between surrounding buildings according to its use. Elbows can be stretched or bent by moving a joint connecting their upper bones and lower bones (can be open and closed). So I would say If this space allowed us to choose our own attitudes toward our surroundings on the border of inside and outside of the building, it's already 'elbow-ish' enough.

Let's give elbows to buildings so that they can wriggle. The elbow-ish space shouldn't always have to mean an extended balcony space. It can mean a space which can make a direct response to changes or defend itself with a poker face. It seems important for buildings to be used perseveringly by making themselves relevant to changes in city. Then, if they are lucky enough, they might be able to receive some compliments as a somehow useful space.