

**Pubic Blank**  
2007, Gimhongsok

**Solitude Tower**

Solitude begins at the discovery of a path leading to the encountering of others.

Solitude begins during times of unspeakable pain or moments of hesitation, for instance, when we lose a loved one, witness scenes of violence, or become suddenly aware of the tediousness of time.

In general, people consider solitude as something that lies with an individual's pain, which arises after estrangement from another person. But the truth is that extreme loneliness is related to understanding the suffering of others and comes only when one remains open to others and willing to accept suffering for the sake of others.

Therefore, a tower where one can meet others and truly contemplate solitude is proposed.

Although this tower should be built deep in the isolated mountains, it can be installed within a city to allow for greater human access.

Single capacity elevators are to be constructed in a building with five floors underground and 15 stories above ground.

The stories above ground are to be built of glass to allow for a full view, while the underground levels are to be made of concrete. The elevators will be reasonably spacious, but not large enough to accommodate seating, such as sofas or chairs.

This is because it is a space that aims to change the mentality rather than being a place for physical rest.

This tower is not intended for tourism, nor is it moreover a space for religious contemplation, but there are certain stipulations that may apply to individuals using it.

Although it is most suited for those who have a fear of confronting others or those who become bored with unfamiliar situations, it is not likely that these kinds of people will seek out this place. Operating the elevator without any occupants could also work as a symbol of solitude as well.

**The Park of Atonement**

There are certain people in the world who long for rainstorms because none exist.

This is not because of particular geographical circumstances, but rather because conditions created by social and capital systems in some regions have led to the gradual disappearance of rainstorms.

Although the disappearance of rainstorms is a natural phenomenon, it tends to happen more quickly in places marked by severe and artificially wrought histories. This notion of an artificial history refers to the conflict between the means of subsistence and class that spread as a result of capitalism, a history that operates as a natural, unconscious flow of energy in the minds of the members of society.

Thus the places that have been affected by this mindset have such a plenitude of material objects and institutions so as to have negatively affected peoples' emotional states, and it is at that moment that people begin to long for their difficult pasts.

This type of cyclical structure, in which innovation is followed by collapse and collapse followed by innovation, is only made possible based on a myth. Here, myth refers to the cyclical structure in which present-day capitalism and the archetypal order are transposed, so that rainstorms must reappear, one way or another.

Here, there is a need for a space for people who once more long for rainstorms.

Anyone can create this space, since it is intended for one person and does not require much room, and since it only needs enough energy to make the pump work properly.

Even though the rainstorm created in the space is not real, it is possible that one might start to cry while standing alone under the rain or, depending on the water pressure, might even start to believe that one's sins can be washed away.

It is highly likely that people that live in a country with a per capita income of at least \$25,000 will have the greatest need for this park. For example, this means that with the figure \$25,000 income per capita, at least two-thirds of the community will be made up of people with a strict, law-abiding mentality, while at least two-thirds will be made up of those who help the poor.

It is believed that the installation of the space in countries where the GDI is less than \$1,000 can also be helpful in other ways.

### **Triumph Plaza**

This plaza can only be constructed in a place where two-thirds of the community feel satisfied with themselves, because triumph depends upon personal triumphs.

It is dangerous to think that such personal triumph is the same thing as narcissism or egotism.

This is because what personal satisfaction really means is that one is willing to sacrifice his or herself because he or she steadfastly believes in collective progress, or that collective faith can transform society as a whole. One could say that triumph begins when the nation has succeeded in programming people to believe that personal satisfaction is just a natural outcome of the history of progress.

A vacant lot of roughly 30,000 pyeong(99173 m<sup>2</sup>) is needed to construct this space.

After demarcating five points in the middle of the plaza, the person chooses a starting point and moves to the other demarcated points, forming a star shape with their movements.

One's path will be marked out on the ground by trailing behind a prepared liquid solution.

The best liquid to use is an epoxy-based paint for its durability, and although any colors can be used, red and blue are recommended.

The pace of walking does not matter. However, it is best to walk rapidly to foster a state of resolute determination.

After walking around the five points, one should stop for the necessary amount of time needed to let the paint to dry. Because an extremely embarrassing situation could occur if someone

stepped over the paint path before it has dried, no one should be allowed to mill about needlessly. After the paint has dried, repeat the actions.

Although a single person can do it, it would be better if more people undertook this action so that a diversity of star shapes could be made.

The plaza will be completed after this action has been repeated roughly 10,800 times.

When the plaza is finished, our past will have been glorified and we will sing of the bright future and gain in self-confidence.

## **Peace Plaza**

If peace refers to the absence of conflict or antagonism, then an easiness that will blunt the edges of the ideal known as progress will first have to be proffered.

Although ever more specialized, perfect systems are created because of the commonly accepted idea that communities cannot be managed through the emotions alone, there is always a compulsion toward feeling disappointment or anger, even if the system is a certified one. The place can be considered a pretty democratic and progressive society if it is at least willing to make gestures toward not completely ignoring such things.

One cannot simply say that getting rid of the sources of conflict, such as religion, ideology, race, territory and other problems that are as major as the history of mankind, will automatically result in peacefulness. This is because just when the elimination has been declared total and absolute, someone in some corner will start to cry.

Sometimes, concern and consideration over a trivial matter may be at least as noble a gesture as any grand compromise over a larger issue in bringing to someone a sense of peace.

It must be clearly shown that the visual or spatial elements of the Peace Plaza were not created with the aim of gaining political profit from the visitors to the park. To offset this (or to put it more precisely, to disturb this traditional notion), benches and about one sculptural work of art should be placed in a large, unoccupied lot.

Although it is important to emphasize that there is not much there, the sculpture has to be there because in the case of public works, the city has to have some kind of visible proof that its money was spent for the benefit of the local citizens.

However, it is possible that just having an empty space to connote a sense of peacefulness may be too difficult to grasp for ordinary people.

In order to ameliorate this potential situation, the surface of the benches and sculpture should change temperature according to the season, with the help of an exacting and precise science. In other words, a device that will cool or heat the bottom of the plaza depending on the season should be installed. So in the summer as the floor of the plaza as well as the benches and sculptures are cooled, people will come to relax and lie down on the ground, while in the winter waiting for friends in the cold will no longer be so bothersome because the benches and sculpture are very warm.

Additionally, it can serve as a perfect sleeping spot for homeless people, since they are hard to come by in the city.

If, despite the fact that this plaza is built, a fight breaks out over finding space, people will begin to think that that peace is no longer viable, and a social agreement will be reached, that the only way people can find peace is through living with their own ideals.

### **Liberation Square**

Although it is somewhat difficult to use this word to designate a plaza because of its abstract nature, many countries around the world oddly enough already use this name to describe certain symbolic spaces.

It would be best to use caution and make sure that the square does not reflect on history in any way, or if it does, to use the viewpoint of a foreigner as its basis; to make sure that the square does not establish any clear political intentions; and to build such a spot in a location (country) where two-thirds of the population feel that they are sufficiently liberated.

First, a flat space of good quality surrounded by high buildings is needed.

People who feel that their past is always coming back to haunt them; those who mix up the future and the present by pushing present problems into the future; those who are anxious that the future will not be as glorious as the past; such people are to climb to the top of the building. When they reach the top of the building, they are to grab a hold of paint-filled balloons.

The paint color is to be unified by red. It is best to stick to one color from the beginning, since a ridiculous effect might be achieved instead if the colors are not uniform.

When the top has been reached, look down and throw the balloons down while aiming at a particular spot.

As the balloons burst and color the ground below, those who felt anxious will feel calm, while those who are mischievous will fall silent, and those who are skeptical will burst into laughter, and as those who were filled with happiness instead permeate the air with their worries, everything will become equalized.

If others who do not feel the emotions listed above linger about the space, a dispute will then ensue.

### **The Tower of Ethics**

In order to build the Tower of Ethics, a poignant agreement with all of society must first be reached.

If this is a place where a successful social agreement has been reached, there will, at least, be progressive ideas about human rights, so it is likely to be a place overflowing with social fables. It is highly unlikely that this tower will be built in a place (country) where religion has a strong influence, where beliefs operate much more strongly than ethical conduct, or in a place (country) where charity is well developed and half the population is made up of the sorts of people who donate money to needy children in poor countries.

Instead of just taking the form of a sculpture, people can enter the tower and climb to the top. However, not just anyone can enter, for exacting conditions must first be met.

The kinds of people to whom these criteria might apply include: Bums living on the outskirts who have only seen poverty since the day they were born and live a day-to-day existence looking for food; those ruined by bankruptcy, living in despair as vagrants; the city poor who envy the fulfilling lives of pigeons in comparison to their own; artists who are numbed by the overwhelming amount of time on their hands; the stigmatized elders who make up the daily lines to the soup kitchens; teenagers who live apart from their families in order to make a living; foreigners who came to this place with hopes and instead have nothing to cling to but that hope and a desire to return home; drug addicts who have become so antisocial that it has been a year since they have conversed with anyone.

Thus, people who have been financially ruined or rejected from society and who figure that there is nothing else to do but climb to the top of the tower can inquire at the front desk located at the entrance, and submit information regarding their social status and financial matters.

Those who successfully pass through the procedure will receive 30,000 won (\$30) as an initial payment, on the strictly enforced condition that they stand for one hour when they reach the top of the tower.

While the image of a person showing his or her body to others in a public place because of impoverished circumstances might strike those living in the area as being too cruel and frightening, there is the strong likelihood that tourists and strangers will rush in to snap pictures, with the thought that it is a kind of living sculpture or there is at least something worth shooting. As the tower is subject to a changing influx of people, from those who come because they have no money to those who come in order to make money, the tower will be subject to different personalities and rights, as it becomes the site of tears and frustration, anger and bitter struggles.

If this tower is built, people who have goodwill toward mankind will work toward making social institutions that help the poor; those who are smart and of good social standing will try to solve the problems through economic policy; the kind-hearted will feel troubled and pray; and idiots will be obviously grateful for their happy lives, but most people will be compelled to contemplate the human condition.

Even if this tower could never exist, the kinds of people who would be willing to climb it always will.

### **The Path of Glory**

There will always be those who wait impatiently for their moment of glory or who thrill in the light of past achievements.

Attitude becomes important in the case of glory, and the way this usually happens is that it turns into a purity through abstract thoughts, or in the case of reaching a goal for collective profit, it shows up as a myth that contains one's self-destructive energy. This can present an extremely frightening picture to those looking on from the outside, or depending on the circumstances, can also come off as looking ridiculous.

This is because there are many cases where glory is nothing but the dazzling illusions of past and present, or because people believe that the only path to glory is making a commitment to progress and striving for endless improvement.

Nevertheless, presented here is—to jumble metaphors somewhat—a path to glory.

After selecting a straight street in an abandoned part of the city, the pathway and the buildings surrounding it are painted white to create the fascinating effect of a floating space.

Bright lights, such as those found in stadiums, are mounted on the buildings' exterior about six meters above ground. The lights use 10,000 watts to illuminate 10 square meters, which means ten 1,000-watt lights must be installed at one-meter intervals on the exterior of each building.

Although this expends a considerable amount of electricity, no great difficulty is foreseen in obtaining the consent of those living in the place (country), since it is for the attainment of great glory. Even in the wealthiest of regions (countries), it is advisable to turn on the lights only once a day about one hour after sunset.

Not only will this help save energy, but it will also be the correct way to achieve a more dramatic effect.

When this street is complete, the cityscape filled with life will be discarded and the thought that everyday life is no longer accessible will itself become an everyday notion, thus refracting into a dialectic point of view.

And, creating the same effect as a dazzling illusion like a strange and never-ending street parade and grand monument, or exhibitions and museums, hope for an encounter with glory is provided along with the unreal and dream-like setting where pedestrians meet face-to-face on a glittering street.

### **Meeting Plaza**

This Meeting Plaza is intended as a social space for those who have a fear of meeting other people or have a pessimistic view when it comes to meeting others.

Since a small budget is required for this plaza, the project first requires receiving the consent of the local community.

First, an old building that is on the verge of collapse is bought, following an agreement with local residents. A company should be called into demolish the building, as is the norm for the other old buildings that have expired in the city.

The rubble from the building is to be left behind following the demolition, save such dangerous parts as exposed pipes, broken glass and sharp pieces of concrete, which are to be removed or crushed up.

After the sharp pieces have been discarded, all of the holes and openings that are large enough to catch peoples' legs are to be patched up with concrete.

The plaza is complete once all of the holes have been plugged in and only the rubble and concrete-covered parts of the building remain.

Although the building might resemble a large-scale sculpture, it can also have the feeling of a hill for those pedestrians who have climbed up to the highest parts. One can naturally strike up a

conversation as others adjust their postures to regain their balance, by saying that the reason one has to strike this awkward posture is because of the way the park is shaped, thus using it as an excuse to start up a dialogue.

A sense of release can be attained from the sheer force of having to encounter another person face-to-face, while a genuine meeting can finally take place through the other person's speech, gestures, and concerns.

As something that is not often seen in daily life, this awkward posture adopted by people in the plaza can also create a new kind of scenery for those overlooking the space.

This kind of park is not recommended for locations that have been deeply affected by hurtful memories of war, acts of terrorism, earthquakes or other disasters. It would be best not to build the park in such affected locals in the first place, especially since the name would have to be changed. This is because these kinds of wounds do not disappear but remain trapped within the memory in different ways.

Text: gimhongsok

Translation: Iris Moon

Proofreading: Suki Kim