Planning a new type of cultural community space in Goyang City, Korea

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Abstract. Between March and June 2017, Seoul National University Graduate School of Environment Studies and Goyang City organized a course titled ‘Environment Design and Planning’. At the beginning stage of the project, even though the Unified Korean Silicon Valley Project was initiated, our team members in the class decide to reconsider whether a large redevelopment project aimed at attracting tourists is actually a desirable goal for the residents or not. What would be truly needed for space users living in the area? How should we preserve and maintain the existing meaningful space? Meanwhile, we come up with the Gyeongui Railroad, which passes through Goyang and Ilsan. It was a railway line that shared memories of the past, the daily lives of the residents, and the joys and sorrows of them. Among the railways, ‘Baek-Ma Station’ was the place which was filled with the memories of the people who spent their youth in the city in the 1980s. The station is currently not in use, because this place is abandoned and empty. We wished to make this space more accessible for the residents and also to create a place that would give an opportunity to the resident's social comeback. The space could be activated again with the revival of local cultural activities. And we hope the residents will be able to create new memories of 2017 in this space.

Keywords: Culture, Community, Community exchange, Social comeback, Railroad station

1. Introduction
‘Environment Design and Planning’ is the class that gather 4 different majored students in Graduate School of Environment Studies and find the problem of subject space, draw up a problem resolution. Here, four different majors - Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Environmental Management, and Transportation - have gathered. About 10 students formed a team to work and to study together in order to find new space content for the local region. Since every single member had different academic background, each had its own perspective. It was required to coordinate the transformation of the urban space in Goyang according to the needs from the local government and the residents.

The ‘Unified Korea Silicon Valley Project’ was a large-scale urban development project that developed the spaces which were not often used in Goyang City, based on four subjects: high-tech, education, housing, and culture. Here, our team focused on finding and fixing the problems of the current residents of Goyang City, rather than the original large-scale urban development project aimed at the project. This was a different approach than most of the groups that focused on other urban developments involving the city's Silicon Valley project. So we visited the housing area of Goyang, and listened to resident's stories, and focused on the ‘absence of emotional community’ with the
Goyang City and the almost of modern urban area. And we devised how to form a sustainable emotional community in the city and worry about how residents can achieve positive social and economic development through it.

Today's urban residents are losing their opportunities to share the sense of place ad to form an emotional bond. Such is the case for not only the residents of Seoul, the well known capital of Korea, but also for the residents of the city of Goyang, which is a study area for Environmental Design and Planning Course at Seoul National University.

Goyang has grown as a commuter town of Seoul. As a consequence, a number of citizens of Goyang commute to Seoul or other urban cores during daytime for their social economic activity, and they do not have sufficient time to spend on their interest or sentimental communication with other people.

Albeit difficult, human interactions and emotional communications between individuals can significantly improve the quality of life and mental health of people in urban environment. Especially, depression among retired workers in their 50s, or housewives who are willing to rejoin the workforce is considered to be one of the biggest social problem. Such social problems caused by lack of communication and attention between individuals could be at least partly prevented by sufficient interaction between the residents.

For such reason, this focused on city's long forgotten role of providing emotional and psychological community for its residents, rather than Goyang's 'Silicon Valley' project and other mass-developments. Furthermore, this research expands on the residents' biggest hope for their community: opportunity for social rehabilitation and virtuous cycle of social communities.

2. Methods

We focused on the historical values of Baek Ma station and memories of residents with it and simultaneously tried to create spaces to meet the needs of residents. So we interviewed the residents of Baek Ma Station and tried to identify the problems of the community programs that already existed, and sought to explore the characteristics of the railway station and tried to make the programs can utilize the features of the space.

Gyeongui-Line, a railway line bisecting Goyang the most patronized train in the past. For instance, Baek-Ma station was the most popular dating venue for young couples in the 80's. Today, it is the place of reminiscences for the past youths, the place where their daily memories, joys, and sorrows are left behind. Currently, the city of Seoul is designing multiple ways to utilize the old train stations, and some efforts are successfully implemented - cultural utilization efforts such as 'Book Street' and 'Forest Walk Park' are one of the successful cases. However, there are still numbers of core stations across Goyang, such as Baek-Ma, Gok-San, Pung-San, that little attention is paid to[1].
Our research group has decided to combine the Gyeongui-Line stations, where the past memories belong, with social cultural community space, which reflects the residents' wish. Unlike the traditional method of completely demolishing the past memories and seeking to create a new space, our proposal is to preserve the histories of the long-loved space of the residents. The 'revamped' space is not just a mere commercial or rest area, but it is a place where memories stay alive, residents connect themselves with others, and communities based on those connections develop the place itself.

The importance of contemporary cities does not depend on glorious materialization of physical space per se. Cities' importance now lie on the psychological role of embracing the residents' emotional capital the resident's emotional poverty. City-wide planning and projects must, therefore, be composed after listening the resident's opinions and developed for the residents, not for the bureaucracy.

This report mainly focuses on the Baek-Ma station, one of the mostly neglected stations of Gyeongui-Line. Also, the report identified the utilization of "Gal-Gal-Gal Book Store: Teenage Book Store" within the Baek-Ma station. The report also contains an interview with residents who registered for social community programs, and records their response on what they do for their spare time, what is their hope for social communities, and what is their goal for participating in such communities. Through the interview, we sought to formulate the social cultural community and program fully utilizing Baek-Ma station. The projected program aims to derive interaction between individual residents, creating a new experience and memory, not forcing knowledge to its attendees. After the experience, the residents shall propose a new opportunity of 'social rehabilitation,' which is the residents hope the most.
3. Discussion

3.1. Current usage of Baek-Ma station area and surrounding environment

These days, making use of the existing infrastructure without building an overly-large structure is a major planning issue in Korea. Therefore, the already existing Baek-Ma station may serve as a valuable space that holds people's longing memories.

Baek-Ma station is surrounded by wide residential area continuing from Go-San and Pung-San station. Baek-Ma station has two levels. The first level is composed of a large square and an outlet with a size of 130m². The second floor is composed of 'Gal-Gal-Gal Book Store,' waiting room, and 100m³ wide of empty space. Huge corridors vastly lie on each levels.

The Gal-Gal-Gal Book Store and the surrounding area is used by teenagers who are willing to read books. There is also a small non-profit coffee shop inside the bookstore, which donates any profits for teenage cultural programs. However, due to its original and sole purpose as a place for teenagers, it seems quite difficult for various generations to enjoy the provided space.

The outlet store on the first floor of Baek-Ma station is leased to the store owners at a low price. According to HR personnel of Gyeongui-Line, city-sponsored projects could be done utilizing the space. For empty spaces inside the station, we discovered that the place could be lent free of cost after consulting with Korail and the city of Goyang.

3.2. Survey on current community programs with residents near Baek-Ma station

We performed an interview with residents walking in a park near Baek-Ma station and heard their opinion on existing educational programs of the civil-cultural center.

According to the interviews with the residents, we discovered that residents prefer programs in which they can interact with other residents or learn a new skill for practical uses. They believe such skills could be a milestone for their social rehabilitation. Also, the residents required counseling program for people in their 50's, to help them resolving the post-retirement depression and other mental/emotional difficulties.
Elementary School Students
We don't have much choice other than the main commercial district after school or Hwakone. We would prefer spending time at nearby Baek-Ma station if there is a program that offers culinary or art education.

Housewives
Current civic center is too small. It would be nice if we can make a real use, such as running a coffee shop, out of what we have learned at the center.

Civic center users
The center's programs are mostly a lecture-type lessons such as musical instrument lessons, or sports lessons. We would definitely prefer to use what we learn after those lessons. Programs such as café business lessons or computer lessons could be notable ones. Also, we would appreciate if the center could be the area where residents can interact with one another.

Elderly residents
We usually spend time walking around the park. It is sad that Baek-Ma station seems empty.

3.3. Projected community program based on survey results
Based on the surveyed opinions, we projected 4 main programs to fully utilize the Baek-Ma station area. Also, we sought to circulate the program sequences for registered residents to interact with each other[2][3].

| Mon       | Tue                     | Wed                                      | Thu                                      | Fri                                      | Sat                                      | Sun                                      |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Retired, Housewives | 09:00-16:00 | 1. Floral design, Dry flower, Diffuser making | 2. Urban agriculture: Flower pot making, Organizing empty space near Baek-Ma station, urban crop-growing | 3. Cafe-running barrista lesson | Family, Baek-Ma station users | 1. Baek-Ma square market / Open-Kitchen event | 2. Self-cooking lesson for youth | 3. Job-experience lectures & seminars |
| Students, Housewives | 16:00-22:00 | 1. Culinary lessons with family | 2. Art lessons with family | 3. Cafe-running barrista lesson | |

These programs were allocated based on the participants characteristics and available time. Regarding the morning program during the weekdays, the programs focus on elderly, retired, and housewives. For afternoon block, the programs focus more on students after school or hawkone. The weekend block is dedicated to families and Baek-Ma station users, focusing on the square-market and free-market.

We also sought to create a system where both people and space curculate for example, products of the culinary and barrista program are sold at the square market, through event, and the products of urban agriculture program are both sold and the square market, while being used at the culinary program.

The registered residents of the programs advertise their products within the station corridors, and yet-registered people experience the products by visiting the square market. In such a manner, Baek-Ma station could be the heart of creative interaction between the residents, creating another memories as it did long time ago. This result could advertise the program itself, bringing more people to register for the program[4][6].
Table 3. Four main programs.

| Culinary lessons                                      | Barrista lessons                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| First floor, kitchen available space or outlet space  |                                                       |
| - Recipe sharing between the residents                | - Cafe business and barrista lecture                   |
| - XX mom's recipe (interaction between people)         | - Coffee for sale while the lessons are not in session |
|                                                        |                                                       |
| **Main office shared area**                           | **Square market**                                      |
|                                                        |                                                       |
| Second floor empty space                              | First floor square & Second floor waiting room         |
| - Space free for residents' use                        | - Market for urban agriculture product / floral design product |
| - Office/Multipurpose room for lesson preparation      | - Space for advertisement, interaction between residents through events |
| - Appointment-based meeting room / seminar room        |                                                       |

3.4. How Baek-Ma station could lead residents to virtuous cycle of social rehabilitation opportunity

The Baek-Ma station users' first most goal was to find an opportunity to rehabilitate themselves through cultural-educational program. They also hoped that their children could dream of future, through experiencing the job-experience programs. For such reasons, we decided to let the users to sell their products while the lessons are not in session, after the cafe business lessons and culinary lessons are over. With such experience, when an individual starts a business, he/she can get significant assistance for the business. Furthermore, in long term view, the program will also include computer lectures for certifications.

4. Conclusion

The aim of our project is to reinforce city's forgotten mental/emotional role by promoting cultural community activities and utilizing valuable historical space where residents can interact with each other. Also, such community activities should be more than temporary entertainment or one-way lecture style pressured learning, but should end with social rehabilitation of the residents and promotion on local economics. The community programs and utilization of Baek-Ma station are planned based on residents' surveyed opinion and we were able to keep close communication with the workers of Goyang city for composing a tangible program. The new method is not a traditional top-down development project, but is a project that listens to the residents' idea and connects the need and requirements of the bottom and the top; consequently, the new development is closely related to the possibility of individuals' pursuit of happiness, formation of a psychologically-linked community, and space creation before novel development and transformation of the shape of the city.

We illustrated the values of Baek-Ma station, the residents' hope regarding to current situation, and proposal of programs during the Goyang final presentation. When the proposal was presented to the government officials, we received a promising support that the proposed program will substantialize at Baek-Ma station in near future. Today, we must look for emotional communication rather than one-sided development, and listen to the residents' need and work with them before we create any modification to the city. In order for this to happen, people's stance on city should change, as the residents must also be active.

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