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## **Rurality Within the City: a study of the interrelationship between urban and rural areas**

Suho Lee  
*Syracuse University*

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**Rurality Within the City :**  
a study of the interrelationship between urban and  
rural areas  
**Suho Lee**

**Thesis project**  
**School of Architecture 2012-2013,**  
**Syracuse University**



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- age
- location
- baby boomers

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- new intervention of urban and rural

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- the changing urban/rural interface
- infrastructure and city growth
- urban/rural pattern and quality of life

### 5. precedent study |

- linked hybrid by *steven holl*

### 6. site | gangnam, seoul, koera

- general information about seoul and korea

Today, big cities offer a living environment enviable by people everywhere for its wealth, resources, and convenience. Indeed, in a big city, its citizens have the best chance to get a good job as well as easy access to practically anything else they could ask for, which is why it is so popular for people to want to move into these areas. However, in South Korea, there are a significant number of people doing just the opposite; moving from the big cities to the suburbs, and the number of these people have been rapidly increasing since 1997, when the IMF (International Monetary Fund) Korea bailout occurred. Some reasons for this big moving trend include the problems of living in big cities such as the current unemployment crisis, the high living costs, and availability of education for their children. However, a large number of people decide to return to the city where they came from due to the difficulties in the suburbs such as low income and poor living condition, which ends up hurting the vitality of the suburbs.

The project I am proposing will analyze the problems that cause people to move out of big cities as well as the reasons why they decide to return after having relocated to the suburbs. Also, I will examine the urban spatial patterns within the big cities as well as the suburbs in order to investigate how the big cities and suburbs are related or connected with each other. Next, I will study the present potentially harmful issues if this phenomenon keeps continuing; this will be one of the main components of my argument. I will then argue that designing a new type of architecture dedicated to fulfilling the real needs of the people who move out of big cities into the suburbs and move back to the cities is the key to prevent social and political problems such as elderly society within suburbs and urban sprawl.

For the precedent project, in 1898, Ebenezer Howard initiated a method of urban planning in the United Kingdom called The Garden City Movement. The design was to theoretically serve as an economically independent city with short commute times but still with a preserved countryside atmosphere. The project of Letchworth became the first project that succeeded for middle class workers to provide affordable spaces to live and work. Also, its influence has reached all over the world, and even in South Korea now, there is a special self-governing city called Sejong City that the South Korea government recently created as its own special administrative district. Still under construction, the site of this new city is located two hours away from Seoul, the capital of Korea, and the plan is for 36 government agencies to fully relocate to this specialized area by 2015.

The other precedent project is Linked Hybrid, Beijing, by Steven Holl. The concept of the project is “city within a city” showing the idea of an independent city that is located in the city. Steven Holl saw Beijing before 1980s as a horizontal city that objects in the city seemed to be all related and connected each other. However, after 1980s, Beijing has become fragmented and focused on the vertical movement. At this point, he tried to have a new type of contemporary architecture that links these two different historical conditions. Overall, this project offers an alternative model of residential developments with the idea of mixing the old urban patterns and the programs of shopping, dining, education, entertainment and residential areas.

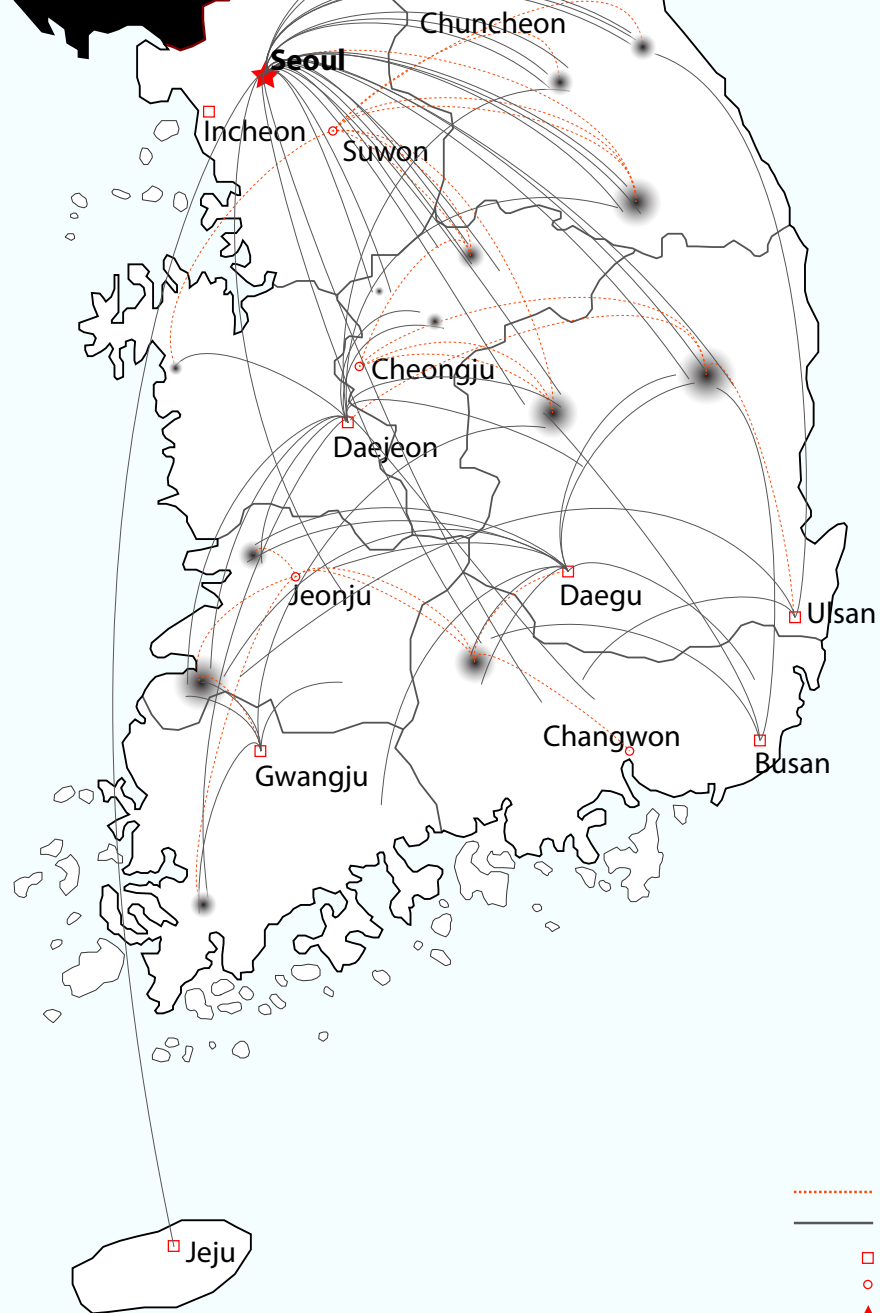
The new intervention that I will propose will take into account the importance of not only preserving the nature surrounding the suburbs for a peaceful relationship with the environment and a clean safe area for people to move but also bringing the benefits from the big cities. Because it is becoming clear that sustainability is one of the most important aspects of contemporary architecture, the project will take full advantage from the countryside atmosphere. On the other hand, within the intervention that I am proposing, it will also maximize the cultural and social benefits, which the suburbs do not have, from the big cities.

The second phase of the new intervention is about the programs. Architecture should respond to what is positive or negative within the existing architectural or non-architectural issue. One of the ways that architecture could answer is through the programs. For instance, being able to sustain higher education and job systems is equivalent to what a big city can provide are required within the suburb. It is becoming clear that one of the primary reasons people move back to the city is due to the unsatisfactory level of education available in the suburbs. Also, because so many people choose to return to the city upon finding their prospective future unsuccessful in the suburbs, as a result, the suburban population is quickly becoming an aged one. In this case, architecture could respond by providing new places for education and retail.

In the last phase of my proposal architectural idea, I will consider a self-sufficient system that is also one of the main reasons why city people keep moving into the suburbs nowadays. In fact, the self-sufficient life, in a suburban area, is a special aspect that cannot be found within a city life. By farming or gardening, it allows not only for people to be familiar with nature but also for new architecture to become more and more sustainable within a city.

My project proposal is to produce a new type of contemporary self-sufficient architectural place to deal not only with the economic and education issues that the rurals are lacking in but also with environmental and unemployment issues that the big cities are lacking in. While it is important to retain the countryside feel in the current suburbs, some issues to improve on for the new city area are to cater towards a younger generation's needs. As opposed to those who are retired and are looking for a quiet place to settle down for the rest of their life in the suburbs, those moving out of the cities are looking for jobs, education for their children, and an affordable but satisfying quality of life.

North Korea



- ..... returning people from suburbs
- people moving from big cities to suburbs
- metropolitan city
- potential site
- ★ capital of South Korea

0 25 50km



### Background information

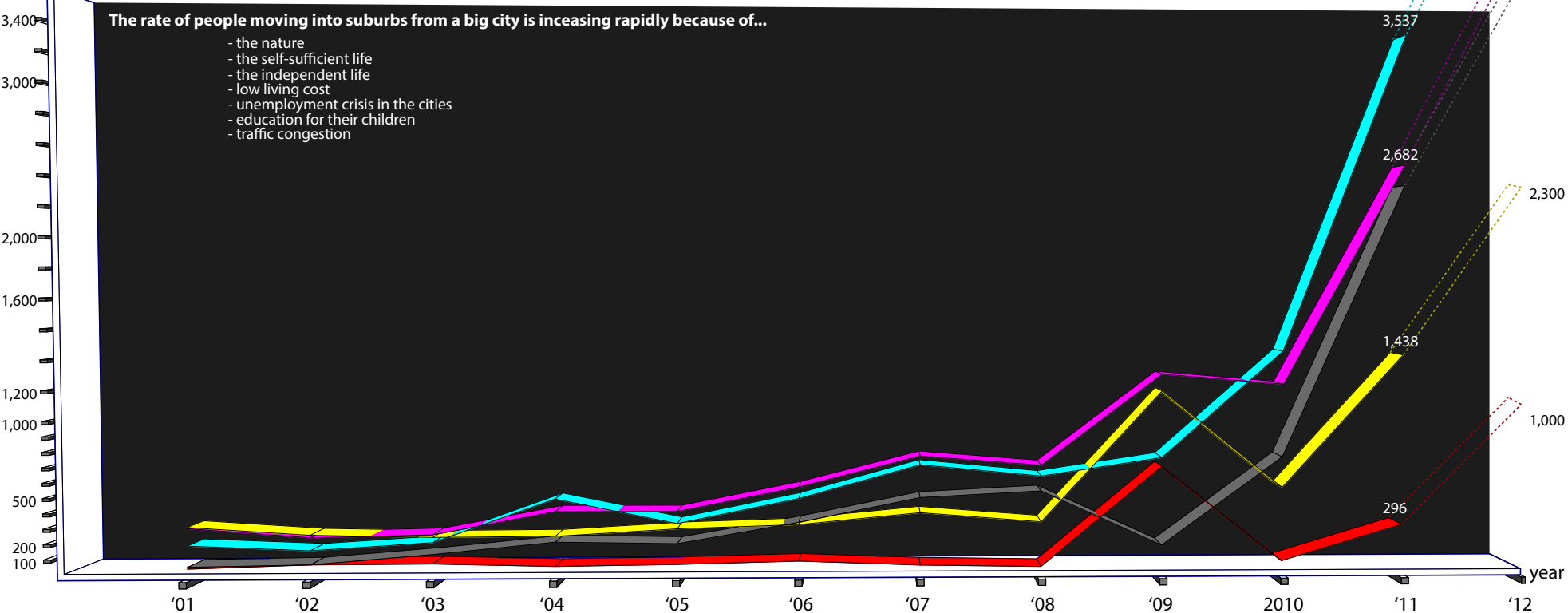
**movement of people** | general information  
the issue of finding a place to live

Today, big cities offer a living environment enviable by people everywhere for their wealth, resources, and convenience. Indeed, in a big city, its citizens have the best chance to get a good job as well as easy access to practically anything else they could ask for, which is why it is so popular for people to want to move into these areas. However, in South Korea, there are a significant number of people doing just the opposite; moving from the big cities to the rurals, and the number of these people have been rapidly increasing since 1997, when the IMF (International Monetary Fund) Korea bailout occurred. Some reasons for this big moving trend include the problems of living in big cities such as the current unemployment crisis, the high living costs, and availability of education for their children. However, a large number of people decide to return to the city where they came from due to the difficulties in the suburbs such as low income and poor living condition, which ends up hurting the vitality of the rurals.

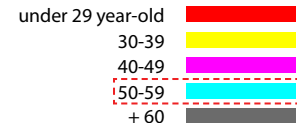
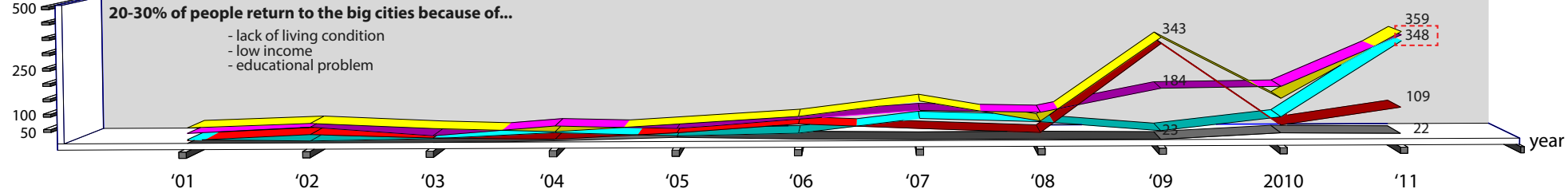


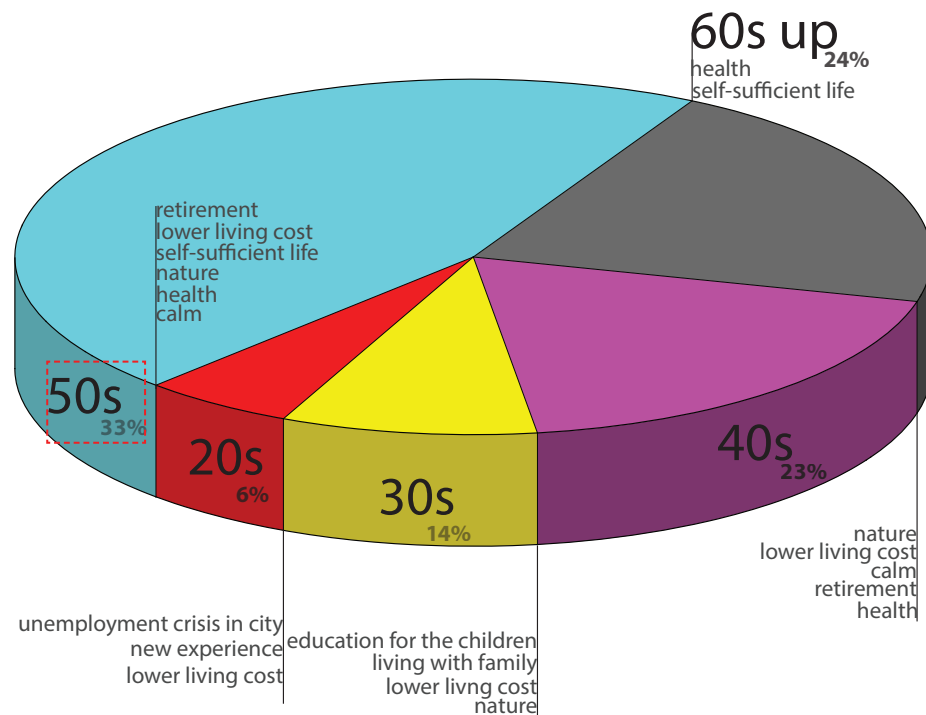
Korean baby boomers

family



family



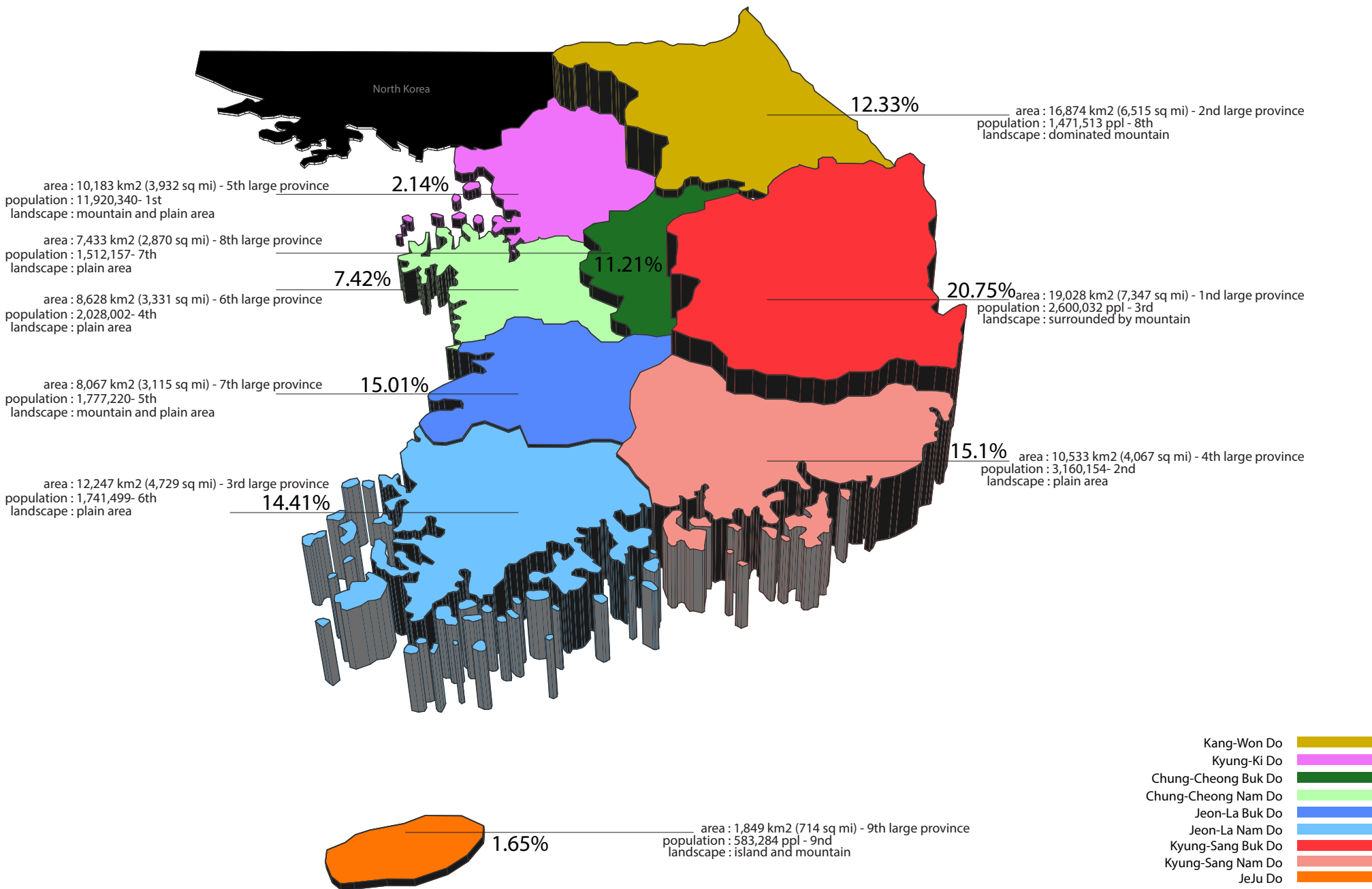


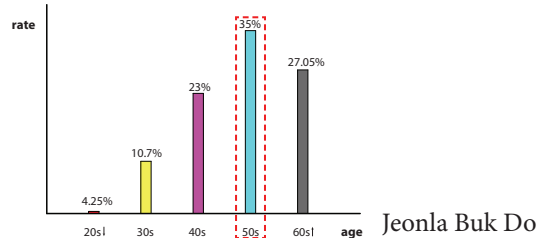
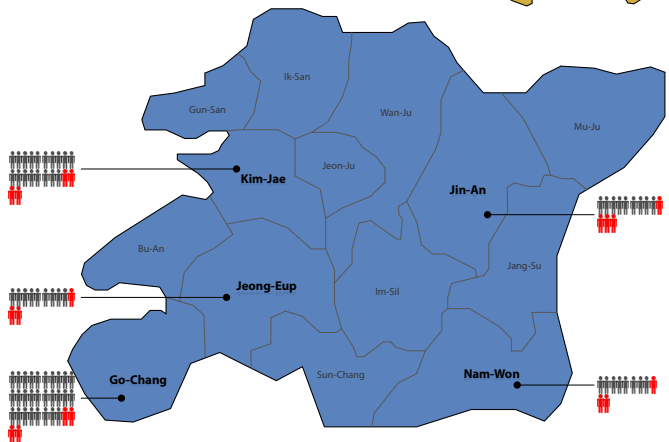
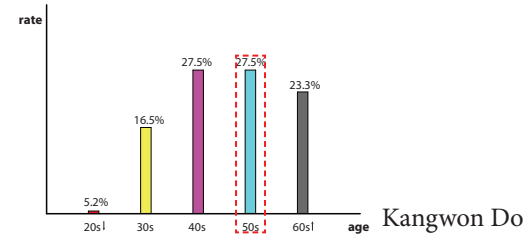
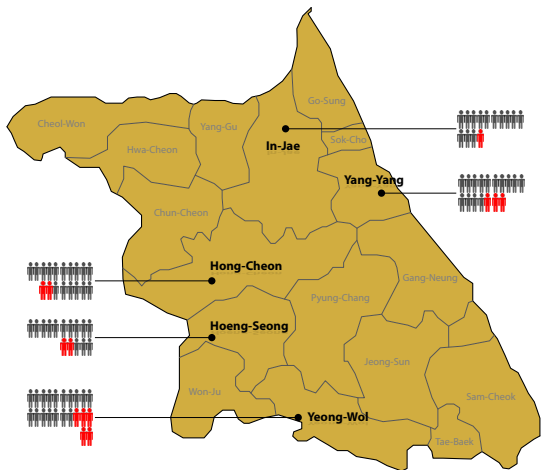
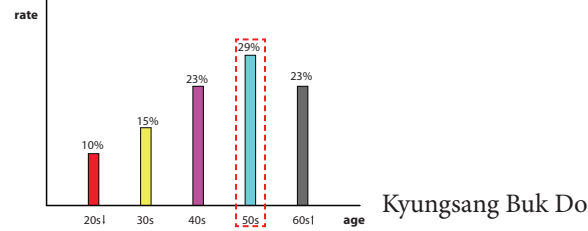
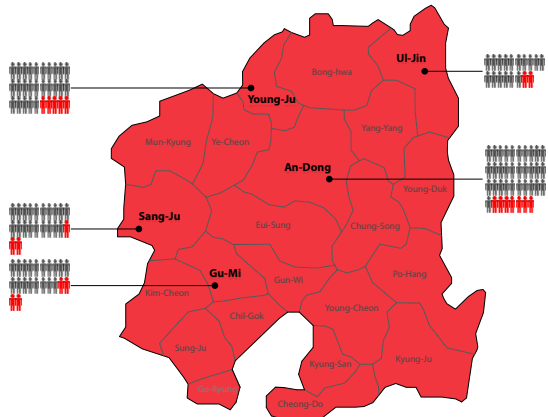
**Background information**  
**movement of people | age**

In order to find a better place to live, people move back and forth between the cities and rural areas for different reasons, including social, environmental, financial, political and educational issues.

different age - different reason

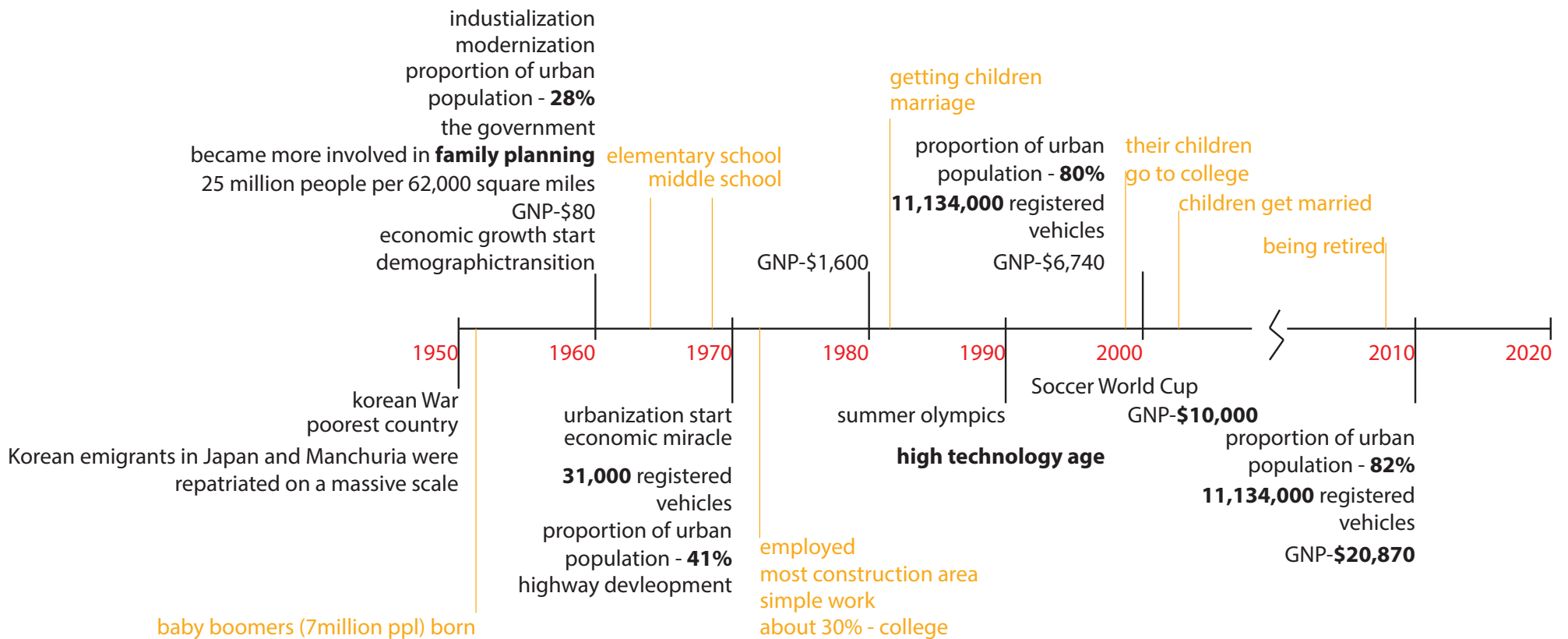
The group of people, age of 50-59, called Korean baby boomers have been in trouble the most to find where to live for their lives left.





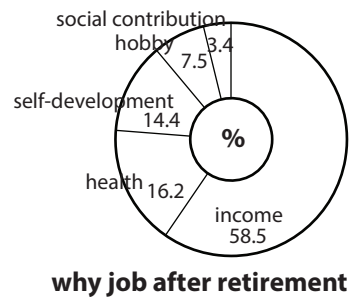
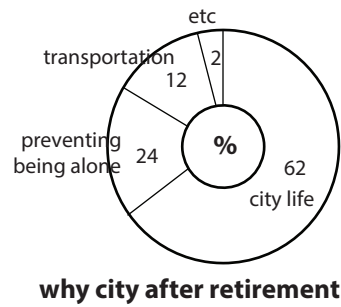
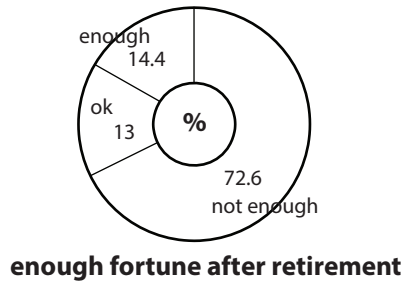
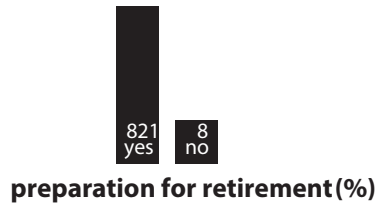
**Background information**  
 movement of people |  
 within provinces and cities

people choose to move to the rural areas because of some important aspects; distance from the cities, the level of education, nature around the site, variety of jobs, infrastructure(transportation) and living cost.



— historical issues in Korea

— Korean Baby Boomer's Life average

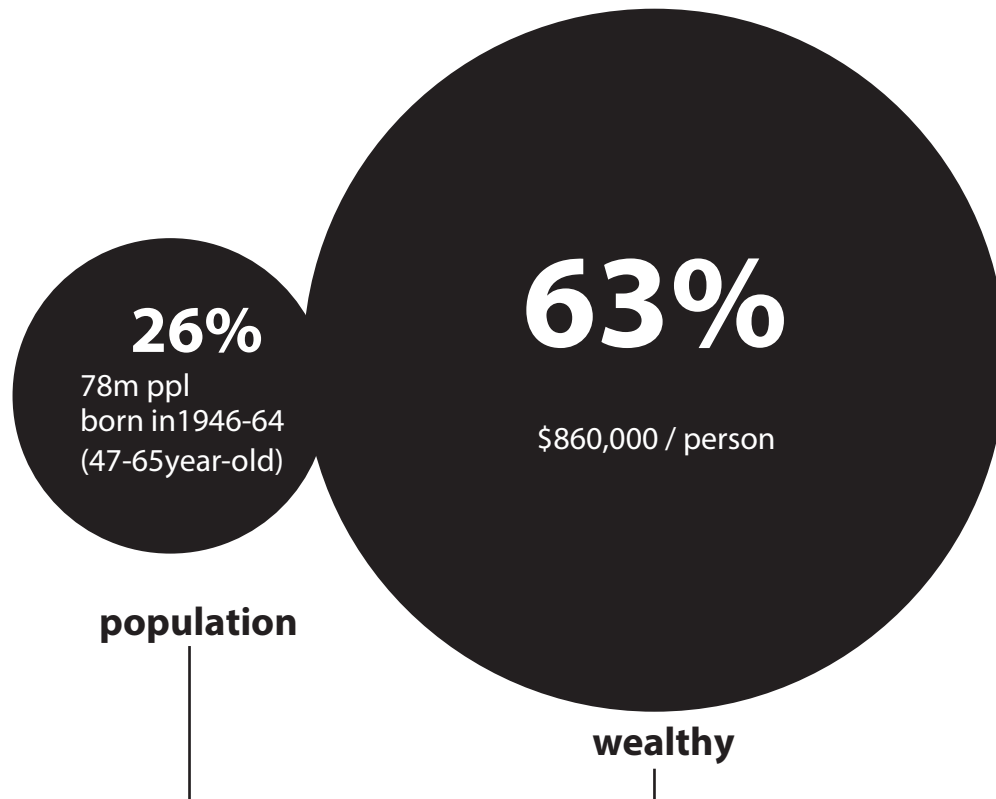


**Background information  
korean baby boomers**

Korean baby Boomers, over 7 million people born between 1955 and 1963, comprise about 15% of the total population. Boomers grew up while Korea was undergoing a rapid process of industrialization, modernization, and urbanization. More than half of Korean Baby Boomers who are currently living in cities have relocated from rural areas.

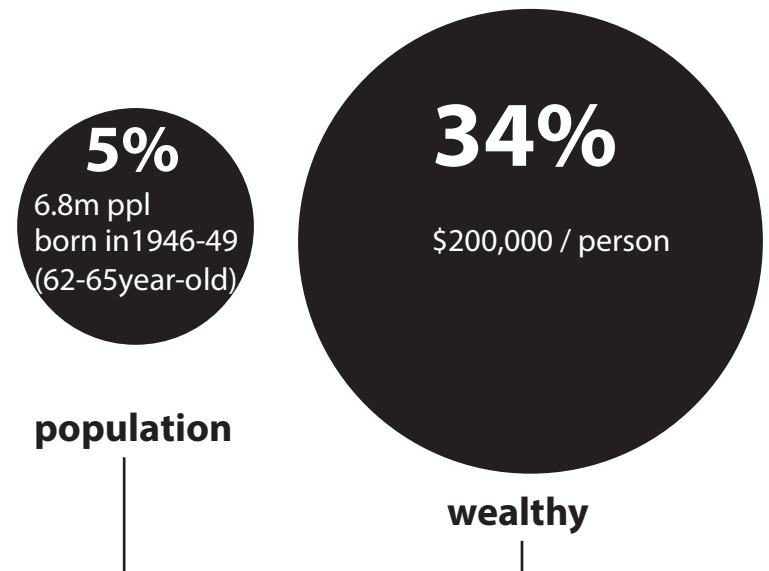
## American baby Boomer

born in 1946-64 during demographic boom after WWII (1945)  
about 78,000,000 people (26% of the population)  
own 63% of the whole stock in country  
major group of people who achieved economic development  
government economic support - strong  
average age of retirement - 67



## Japanese baby Boomer

born in 1929-38 during demographic boom after the Sino-Japanese War (1894-5)  
about 6,800,000 people (5% of the population)  
own 34% of the whole stock in country  
major group of people who achieved economic development  
government economic support - strong  
average age of retirement - 65



## Korean baby Boomer

born in 1955-63 during demographic boom after Korean War (1953)

about 7,120,000 people (15% of the population)

own 22% of the stock in Korea

major group of people who achieved economic miracle

government economic support - weak

average age of retirement - 55 years old

average monthly income - \$3,446

expenses - \$2,464

saving - \$480

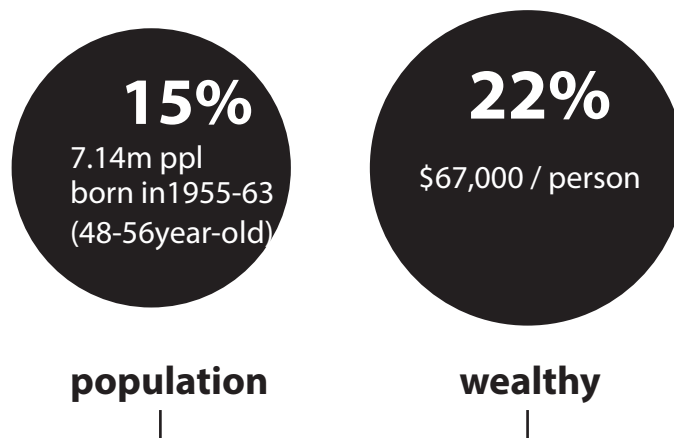
**wealth** - real estate - 82%

financial asset - 15%

etc - 3%

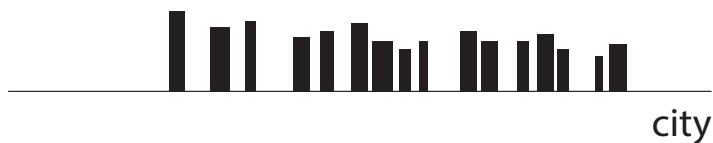
**“sandwich generation”** - a group of people who care for their elderly parents as well as having a duty to support dependent children

**lack of education**



**Background information**  
comparison Baby Boomers |  
Korea, U.S and Japan





**environmental issue**

**social issue**

**political issue**

**educational issue**

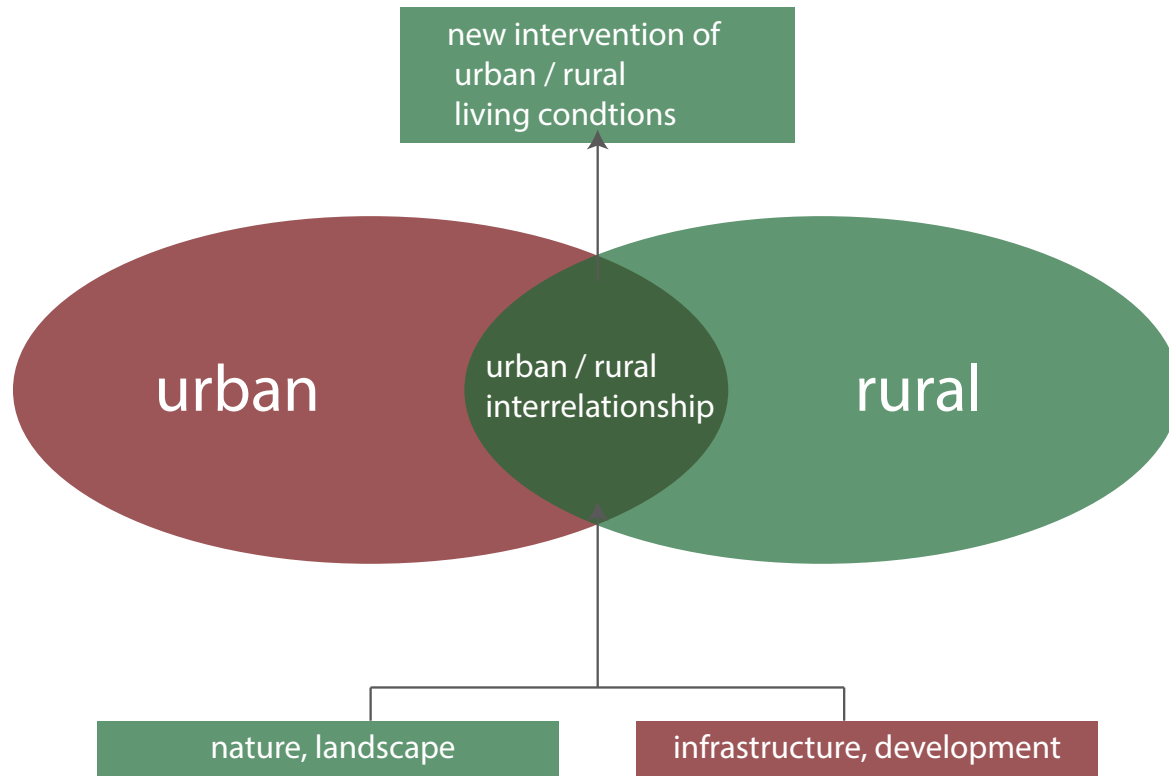
**financial issue**

**cultural or social life**  
 high living cost  
 gentrification  
**many job choices**  
 urban sprwal  
**living condition**  
**high level of education**  
 traffic congestion  
 busy  
**transportation system**  
 too competitive  
 polluted  
 unemployment crisis  
**exciting**  
 lack of affordable house  
 fragments  
**entertainment**

lack of living condition  
**nature**  
**low living cost**  
 low income  
**afforddable house**  
 low level of education  
**education**  
**low living cost**  
 lack of transportation  
**communal living**  
**self-sufficient life**  
 lack of cultural or social life  
**calm and peace**  
 limit of jobs  
**independent life**  
 boring

residential  
 farm  
 green space  
 school  
 retail  
 entertainment





## CONCEPT

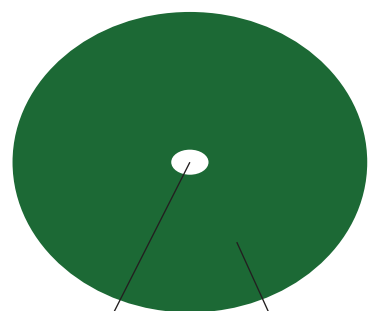
### **new intervention |**

liminal space between rural & urban

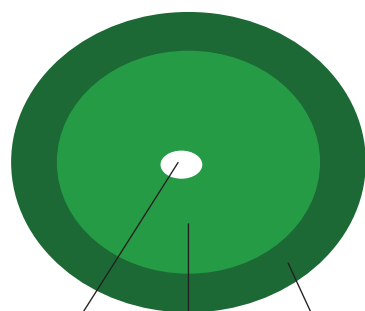
Producing a new type of contemporary intervention to deal not only with the economic and education issues that the rural areas are lacking in but also with environmental and unemployment issues that the big cities are lacking in. While it is important to retain the countryside feel in the current suburbs, an issue to improve on for the new city area are to cater towards a younger generation's needs. As opposed to those who are retired and are looking for a quiet place to settle down for the rest of their life in the suburbs, those moving out of the cities are looking for jobs, education for their children, and an affordable but satisfying quality of life.

# diagram | the changing urban - rural interface

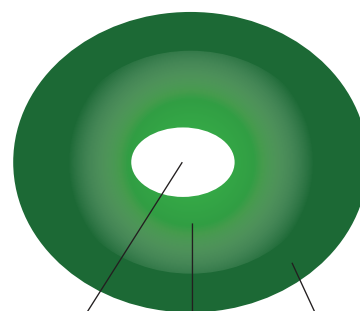
before 1960 → 1960s → now → future



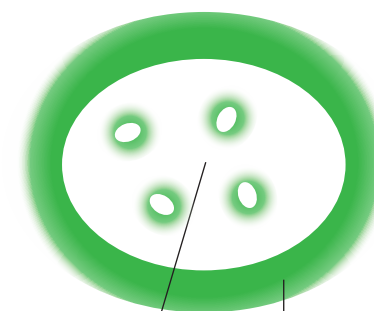
urban rural



urban suburban rural



urban pre-urban rural



urban pre-urban

→ korean war  
 baby boomer  
 population - 25m

→ GNP - \$80  
 car - 31,000  
 population - 39m  
 economic miracle  
 demographic transition  
 urbanization

→ GNP - \$1,600- 10,000  
 car - 11,134,000  
 population - 50m

diagram - city shape development

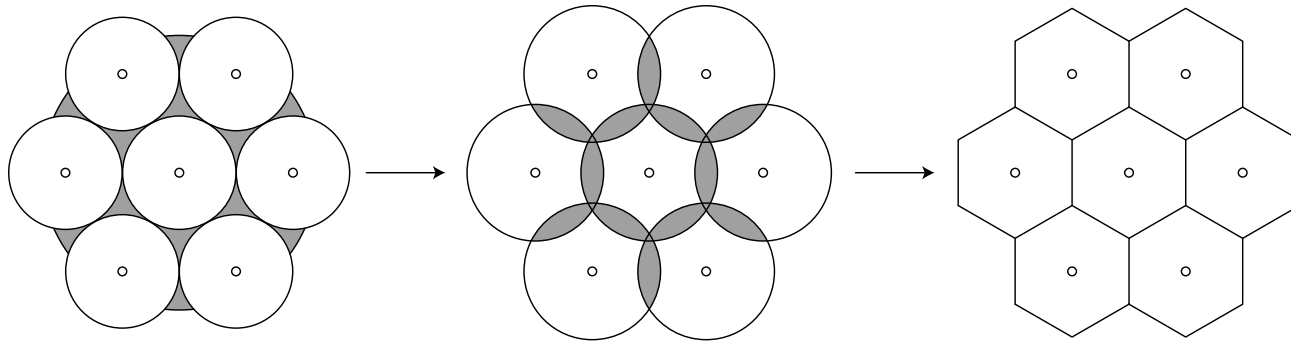
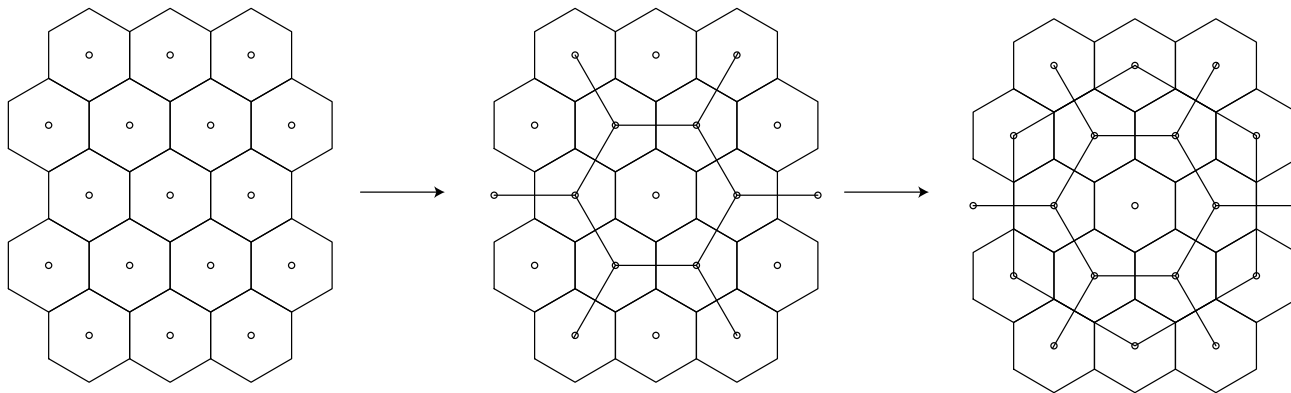


diagram - city size development



**RESEARCH**  
 the changing urban/rural interface |  
 shape and process of getting urbanized

index

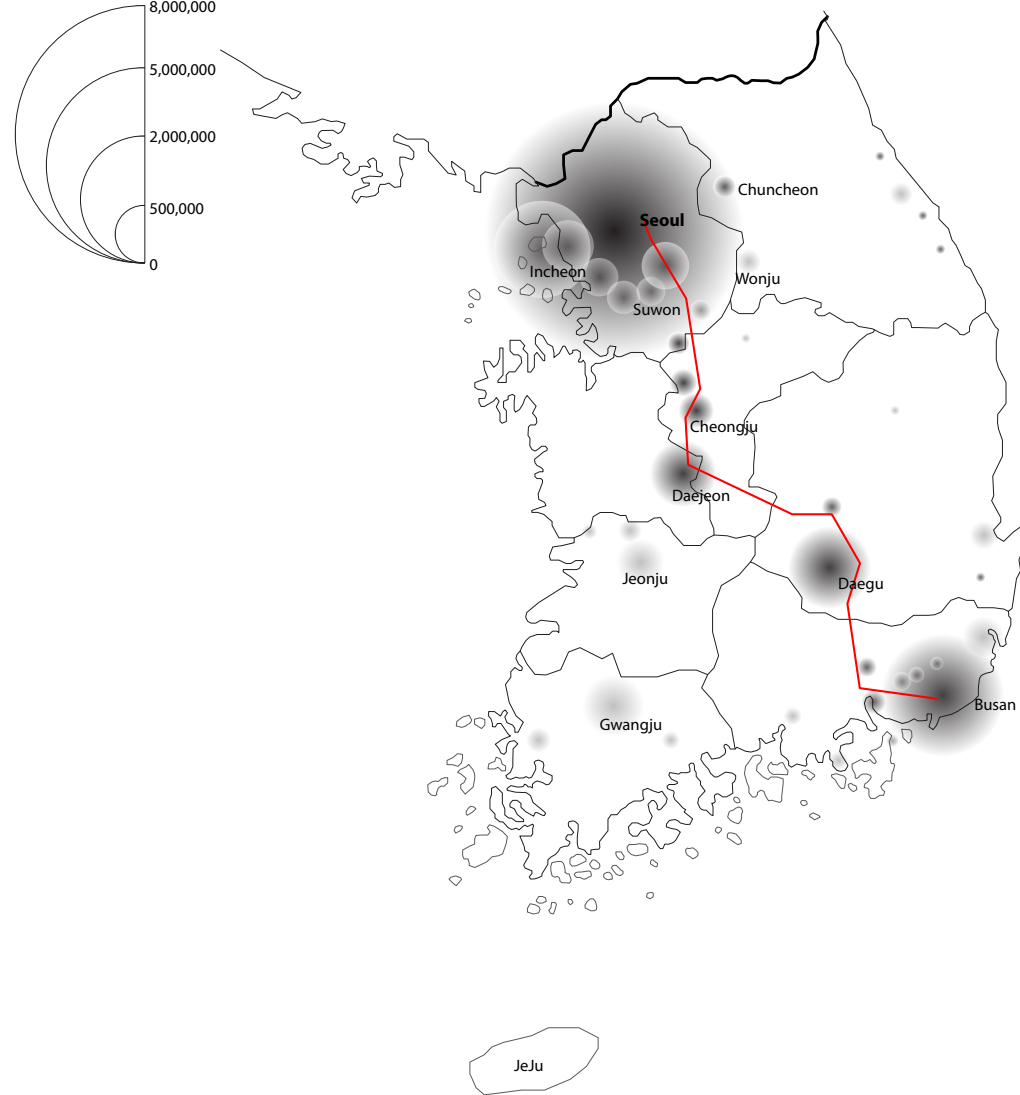
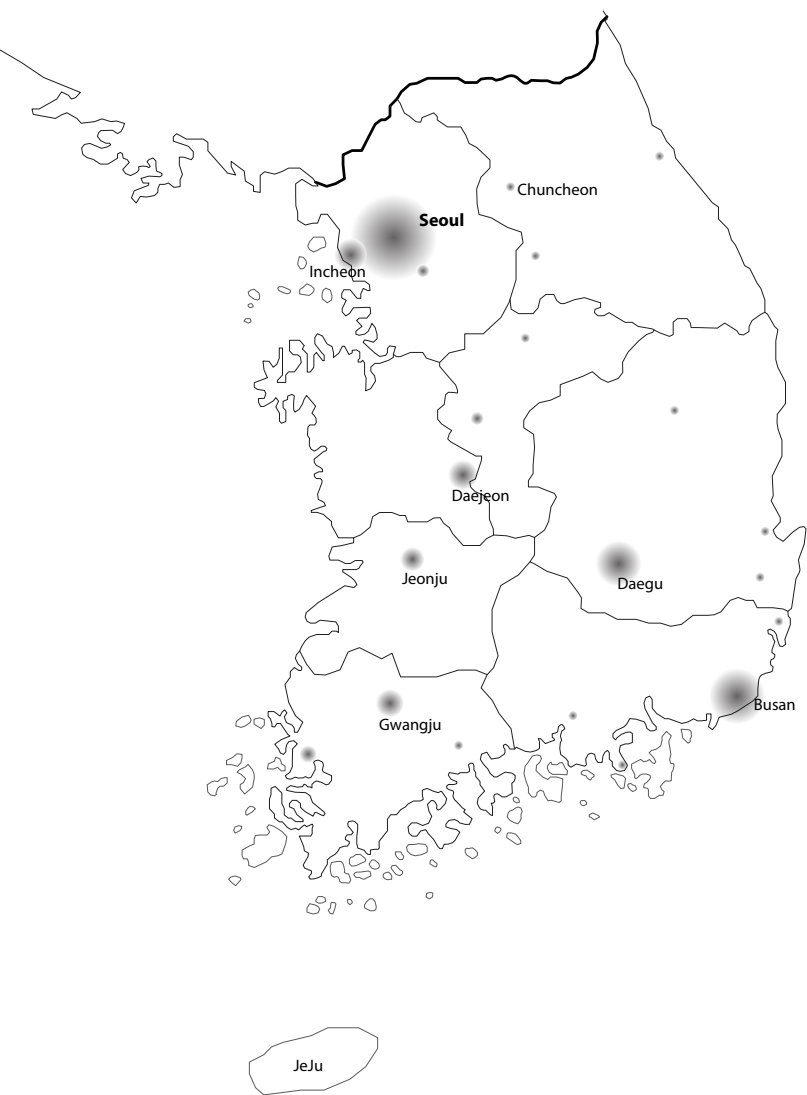
abstract

background information

concept

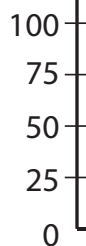
1960s condition

1970s condition



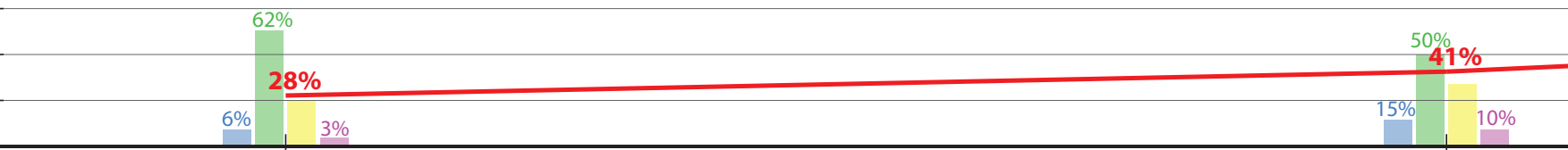
rate(%)

- urban population
- service
- agriculture
- industry
- etc

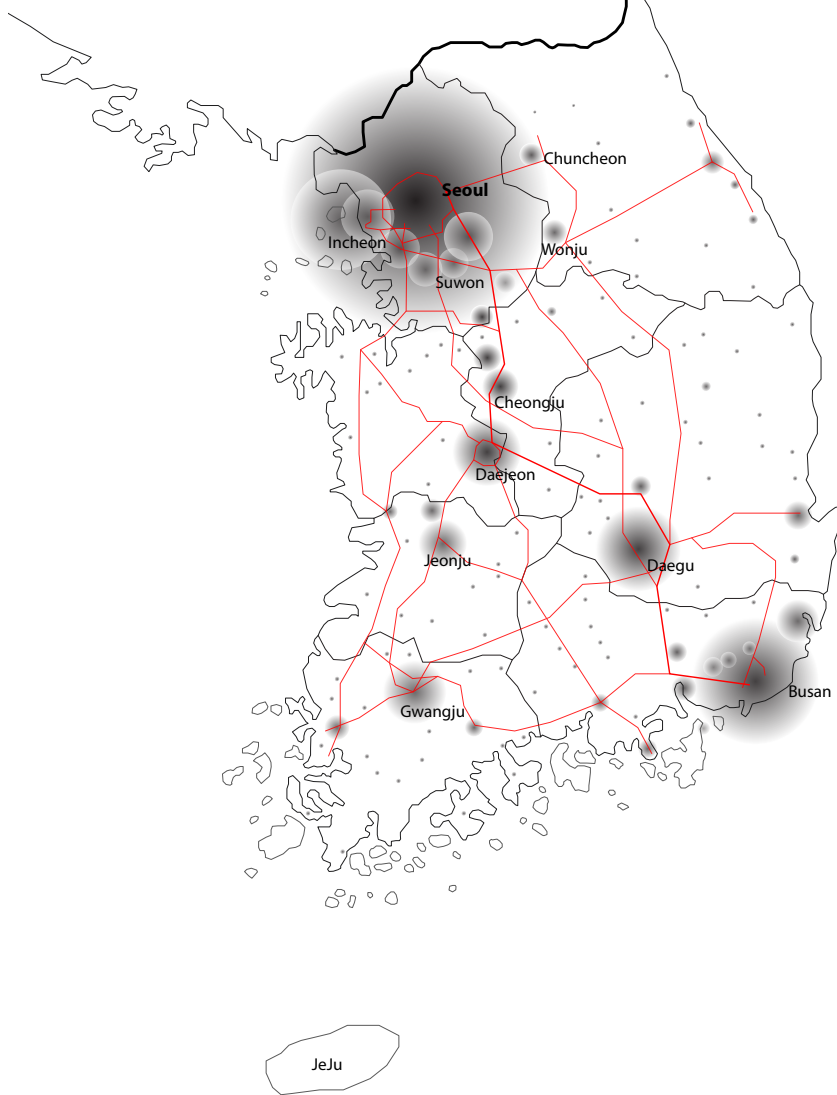


1960s

1970s



1980-2000s condition



research

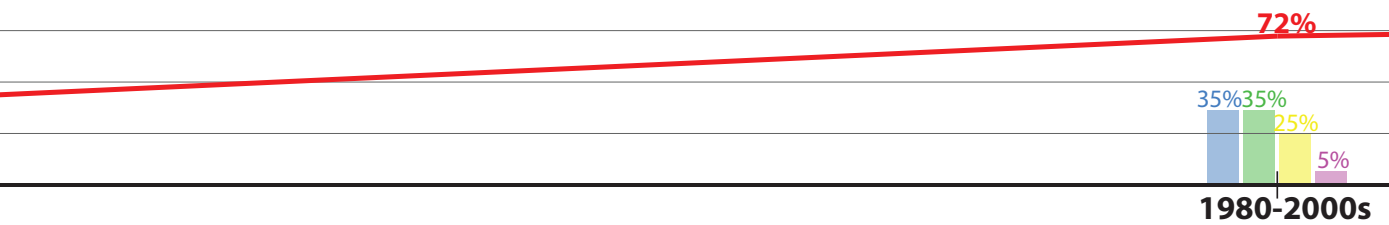
precedent study

site information

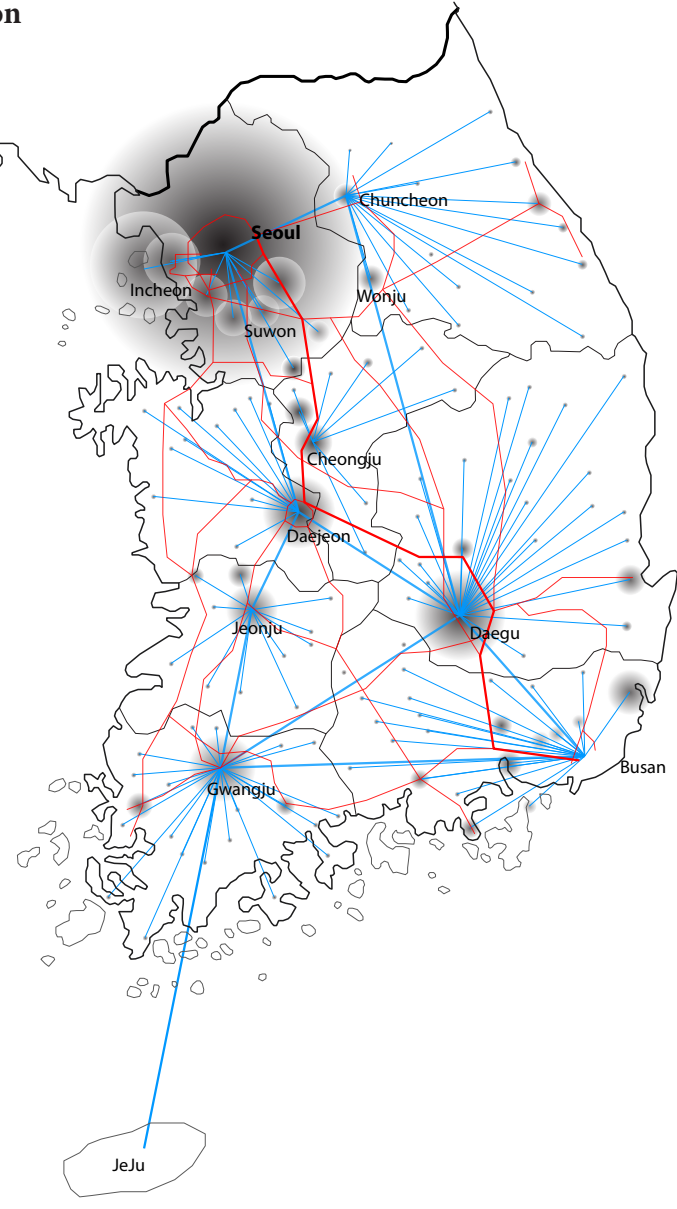


**RESEARCH**  
urbanization | highway and city growth

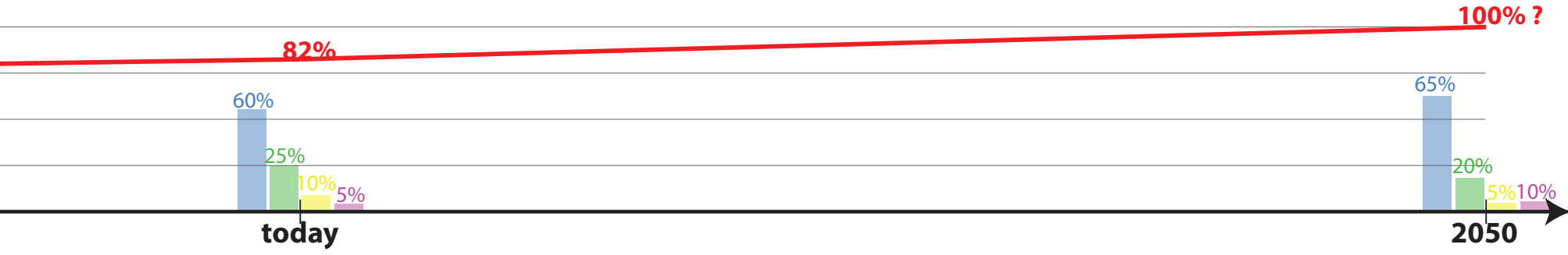
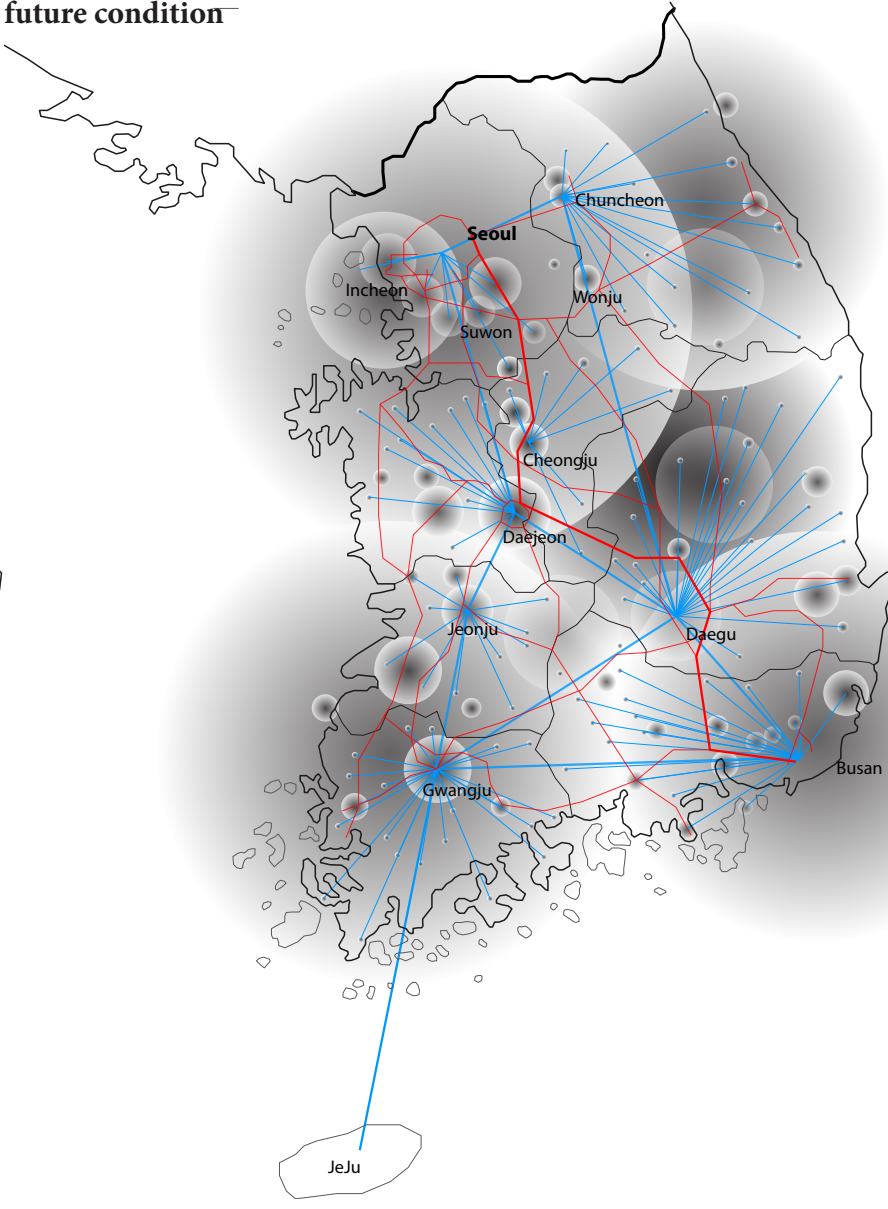
In 1968, the first highway called kyungbu expressway was built that connected between Seoul and busan which were the biggest cities in the country. after that, preexisting cities around the highway grew rapidly and new cities appeared as well. More and more highways have been designed and built to connect between the cities (big cities-small cities, small cities-small cities and big cities-big cities). As a result, these infrastrucute helped the growth of the cities and made an urban system as well as the network between the urban and rural areas. However, for the future, this phenomenon (city growth) called urbanization will cause those rural areas to disappear.

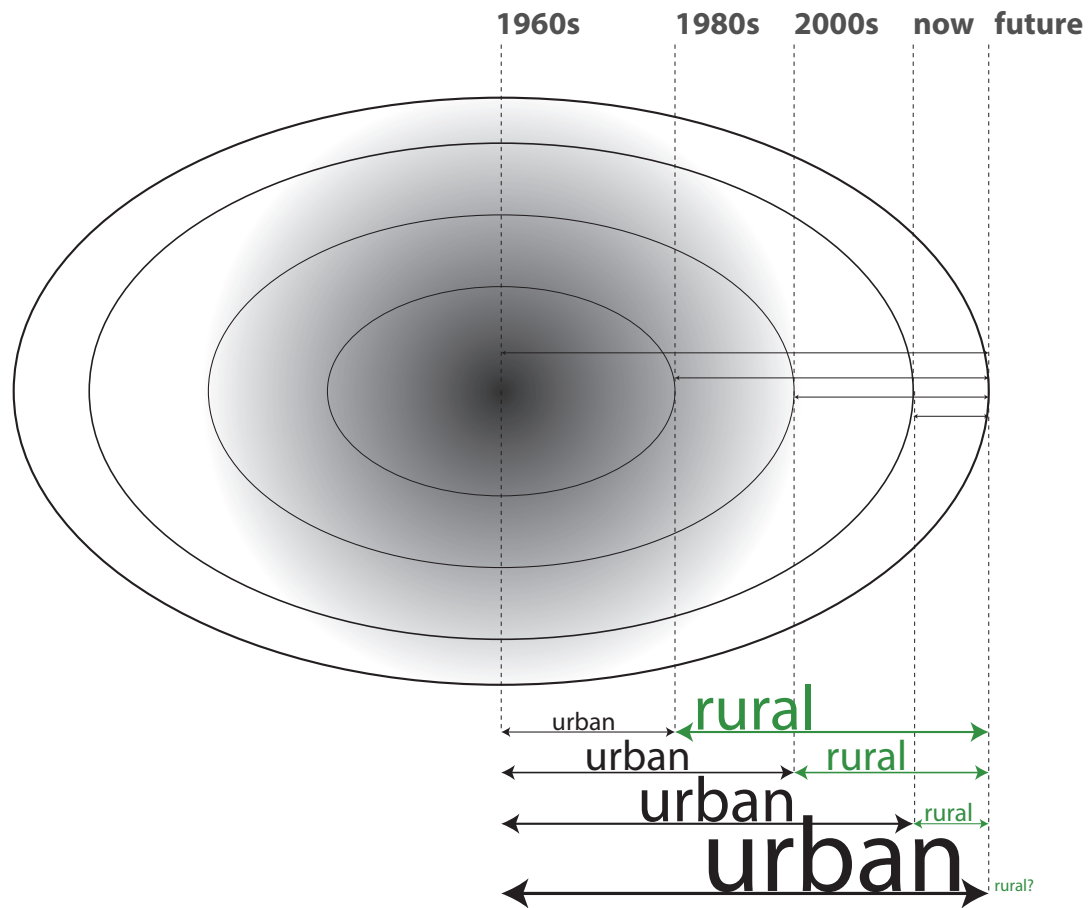


today's condition



future condition





RESEARCH  
urbanization | highway and city growth





CBD



INNER CITY



SUBURBS



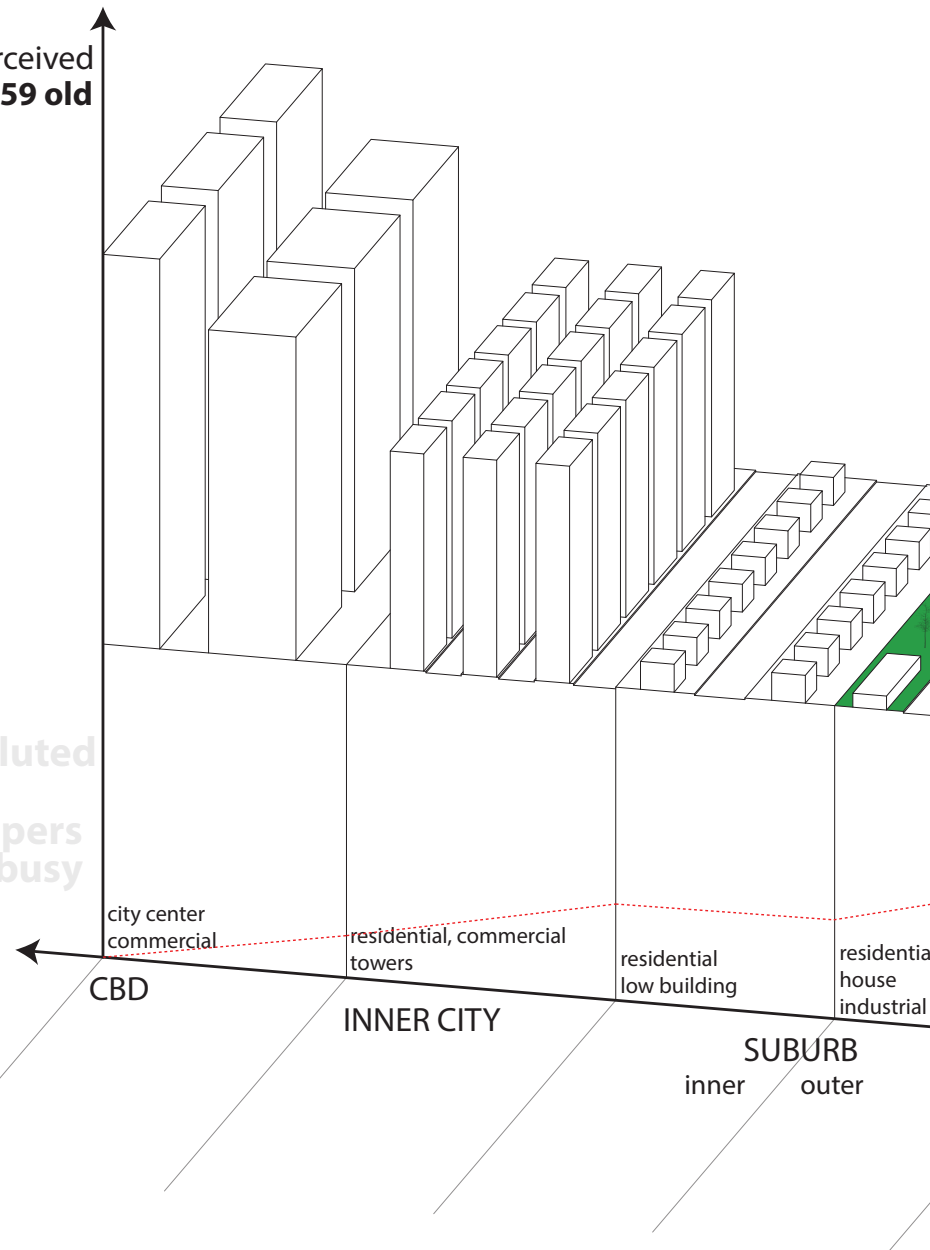
URBAN FRINGE

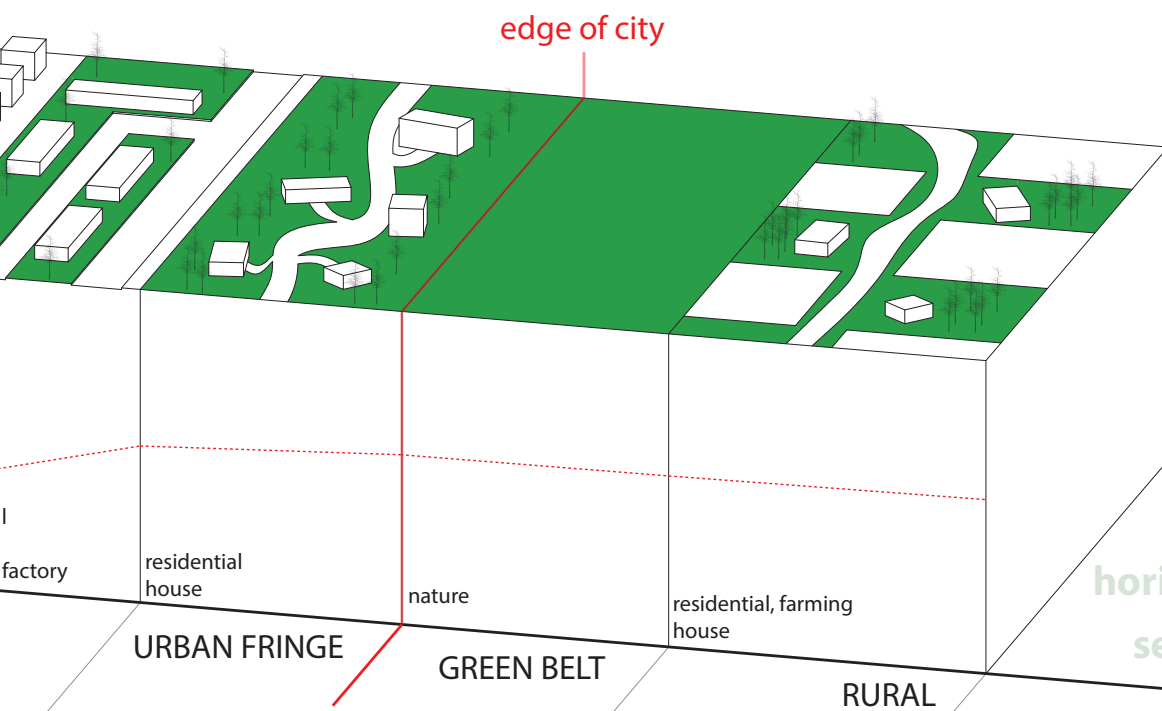


RURAL

quality of life perceived  
50-59 old

polluted  
traffic  
sky scrapers  
dense  
busy





nature  
open  
horizontal  
self-sufficient

**RESEARCH**  
urban-rural pattern | quality of life

There is a study showing the quality of life that korean baby boomers perceive when they move to rural from urban areas. This group of people feel that the quality of life increases when they go to countryside where greens are spread out as well as self-sufficient life is there.

# Linked Hybrid | basic concept

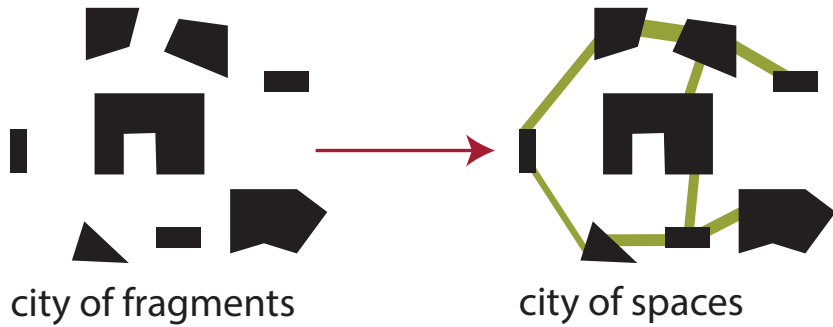
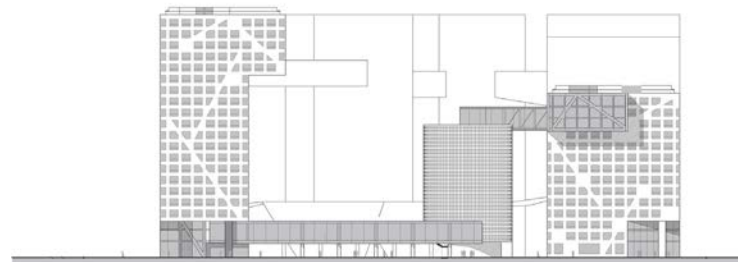
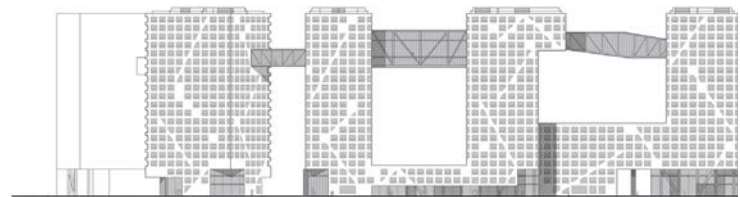
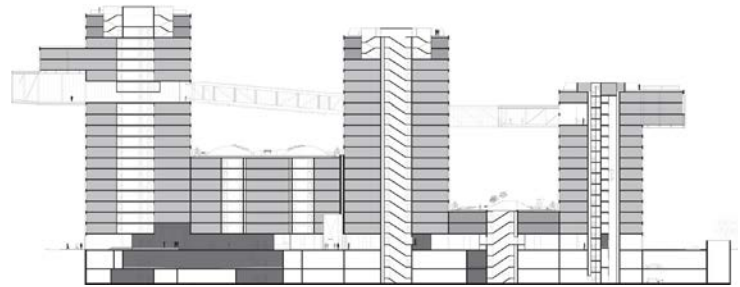
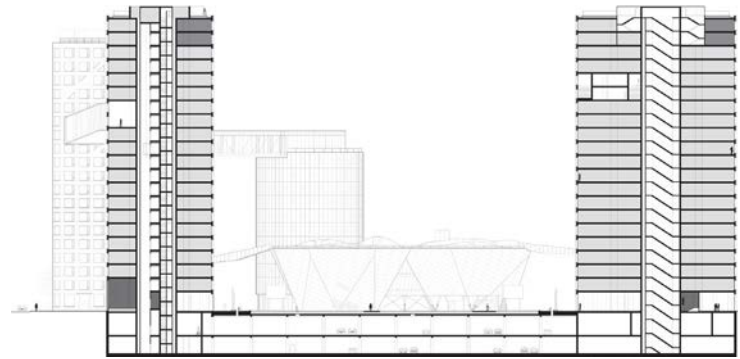
## space



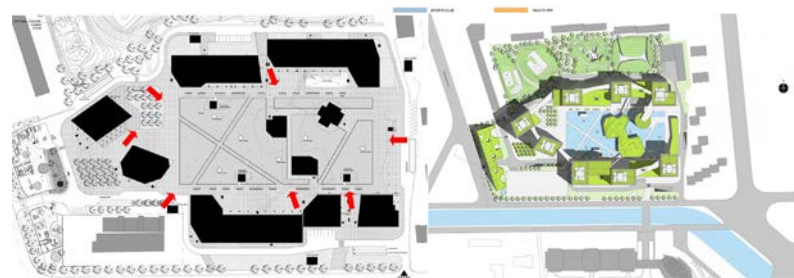
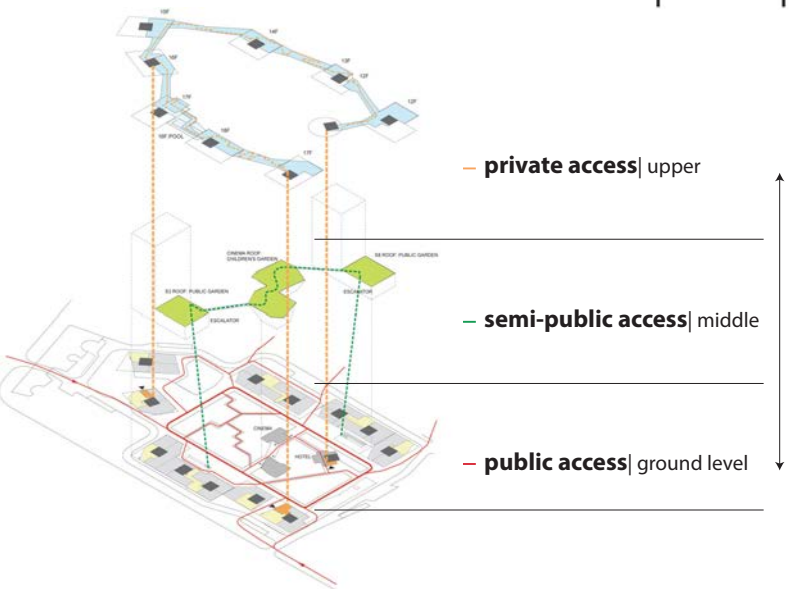
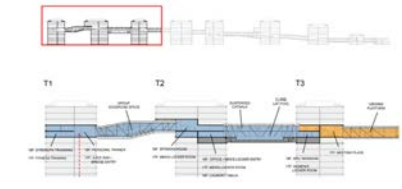
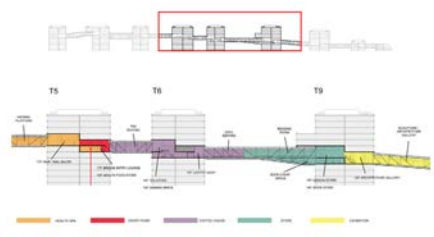
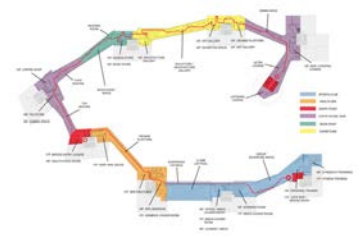
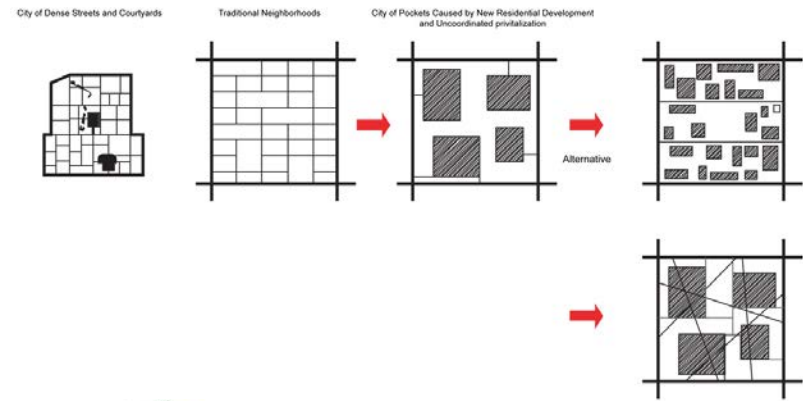
Beijing before 1980s

Beijing after 1980s

proposed

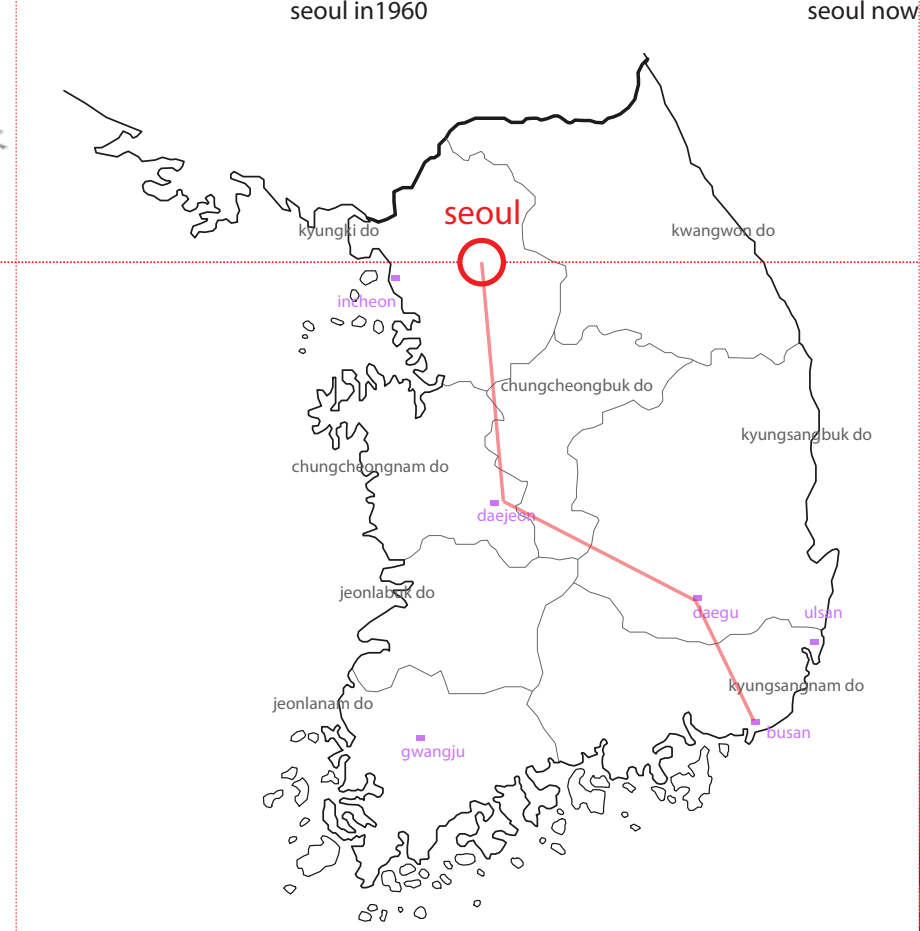


**Neighborhood**



**Precedent study I**  
**Linked Hybrid | steven holl**

“The 220,000 square meter pedestrian-oriented Linked Hybrid complex, sited adjacent to the site of old city wall of Beijing, aims to counter the current privatized urban developments in China by creating a new twenty-first century porous urban space, inviting and open to the public from every side. Filmic urban public space; around, over and through multifaceted spatial layers, as well as the many passages through the project, make the Linked Hybrid an “**open city within a city**”. The project promotes interactive relations and encourages encounters in the public spaces that vary from commercial, residential, and educational to recreational. The entire complex is a three-dimensional urban space in which buildings on the ground, under the ground and over the ground are fused together.”





## SITE

### Seoul, Korea | general information

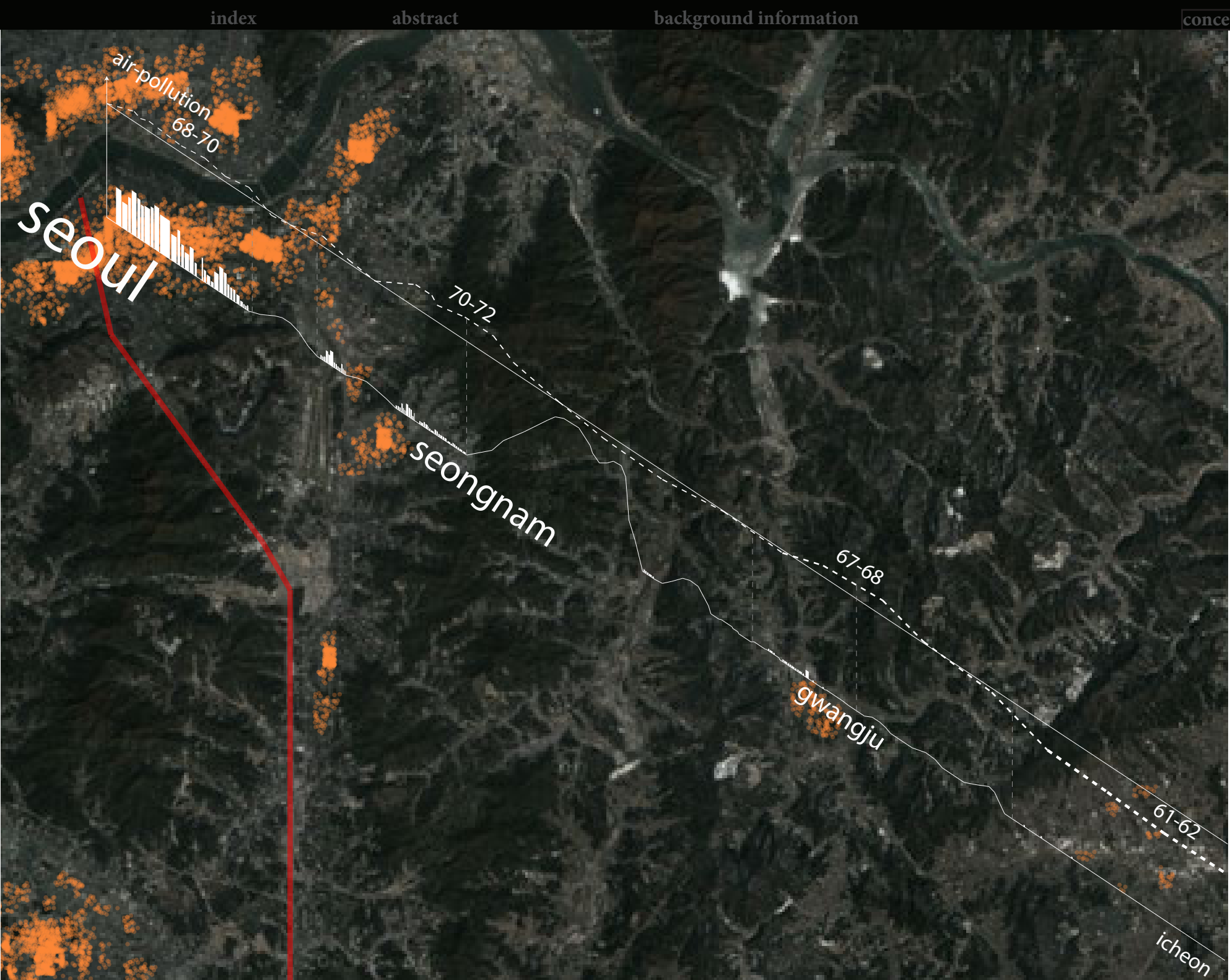
Seoul is the capital and largest metropolis of South Korea. Its population has become more than 10 million, it is the largest city proper in the OECD developed world. The Seoul National Capital Area, which includes the surrounding Incheon metropolis and Gyeonggi province, is the world's second largest metropolitan area with over 25 million people, home to over half of South Koreans along with 366,000 international residents.

gangnam in 1960



gangnam in 2002





seoul

seongnam

gwangju

icheon

air-pollution  
68-70

70-72

67-68

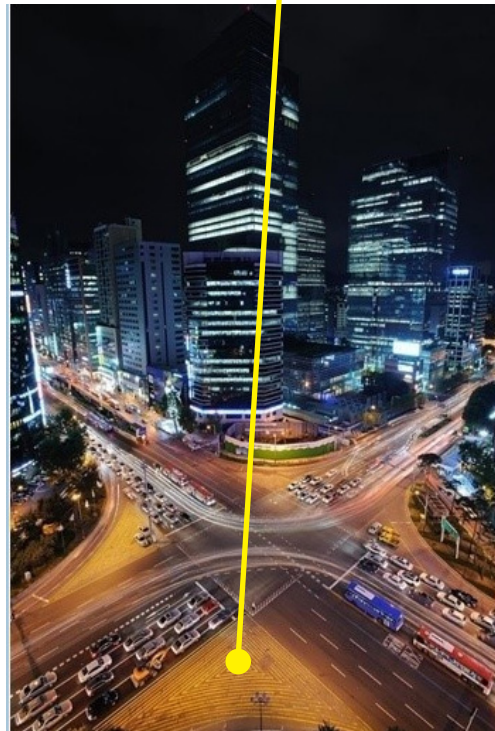
61-62

**SITE**

**Urban-rural condition within actual site |**

Seoul - Seoungnam - Gwangju - Icheon



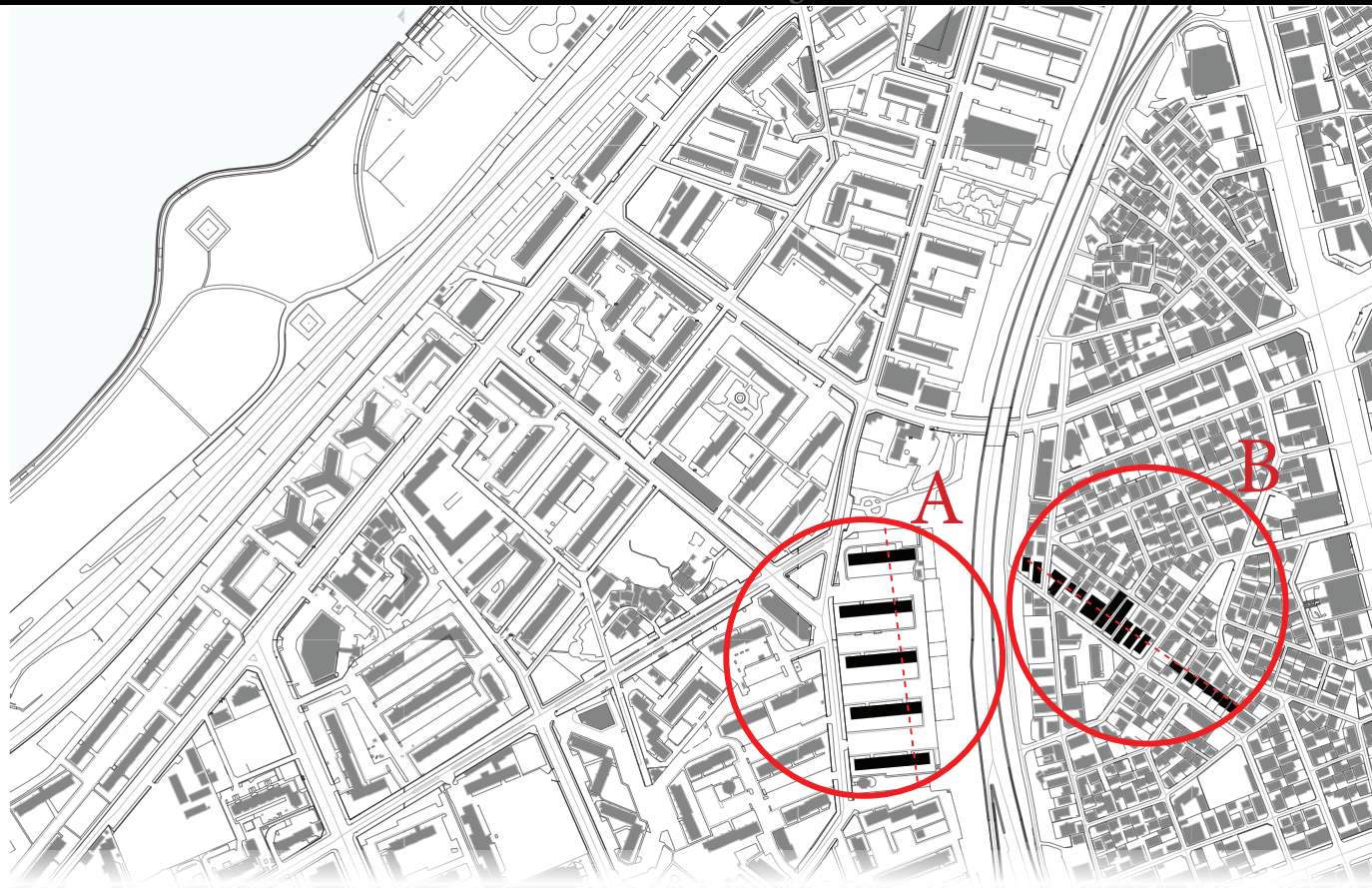


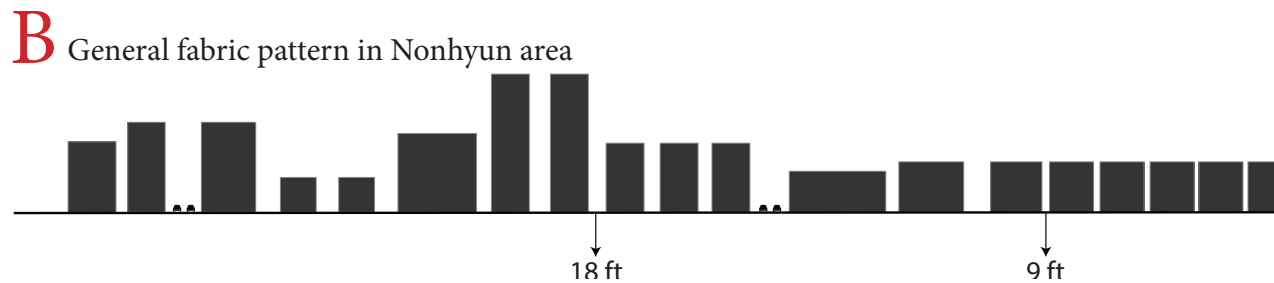
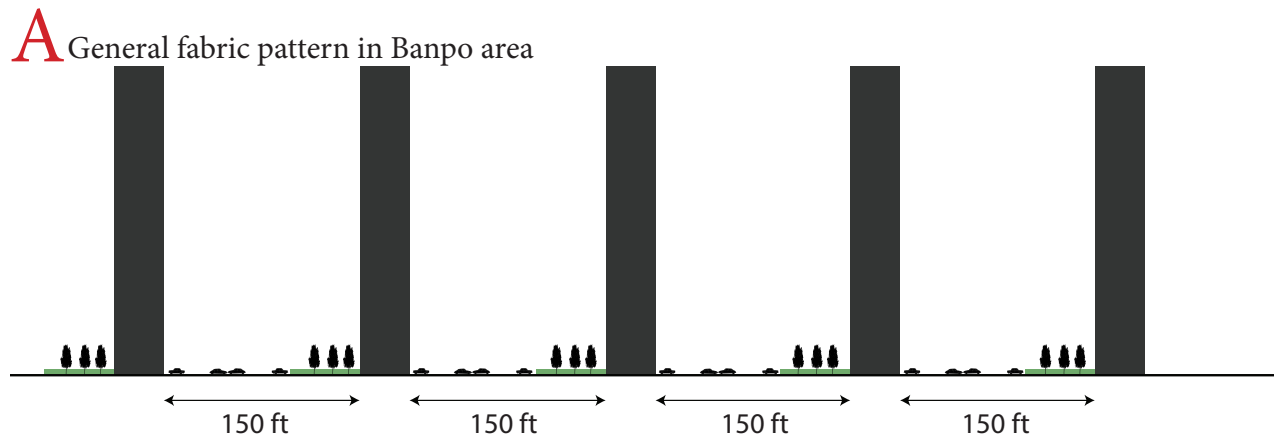


## SITE

### Gangnam | general information

Gangnam District is one of the 25 gu (local government districts) which make up the city of Seoul, South Korea. Gangnam is literally “South of the (Han) River”. As of the 2010 census, Gangnam District had a population of 527,641, making it the 4th most populated district in Seoul. Gangnam District is the third largest district in Seoul with an area of 39.5 km<sup>2</sup>. Gangnam is one of three gu that make up the Greater Gangnam Area along with neighboring Seocho District and Songpa District. Combined, these three gu cover approximately 120 km<sup>2</sup> land and had a population of 1,567,881 as of 2010, making up 20% of the area and 15% of the population of Seoul.



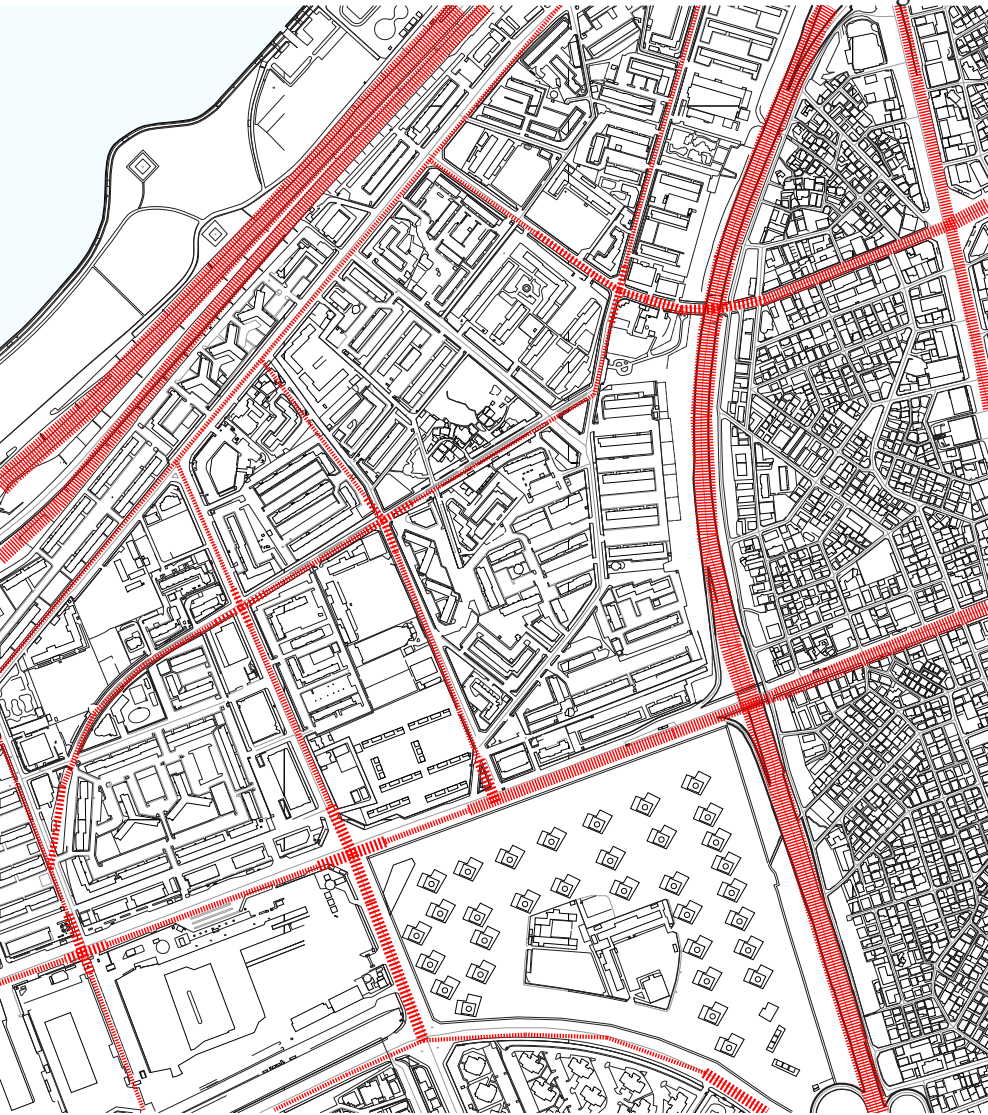


### SITE

**Gangnam** | general urban fabric pattern

There are extremely different living conditions between two areas which are divided by Highway #1. Area **A** called Banpo dong is a well-known area where the rich people live in as well as that has a great living condition within Seoul city. Most buildings are the residential towers, and there are private green spaces in between the towers. However, Area **B** named Nonhyun dong is where the commercials are concentrated and where a lot of people go to enjoy as well. In terms of living condition, mostly it is in a bad shape because of the density of the buildings, lack of green spaces and density of people.

traffic congestion



green space

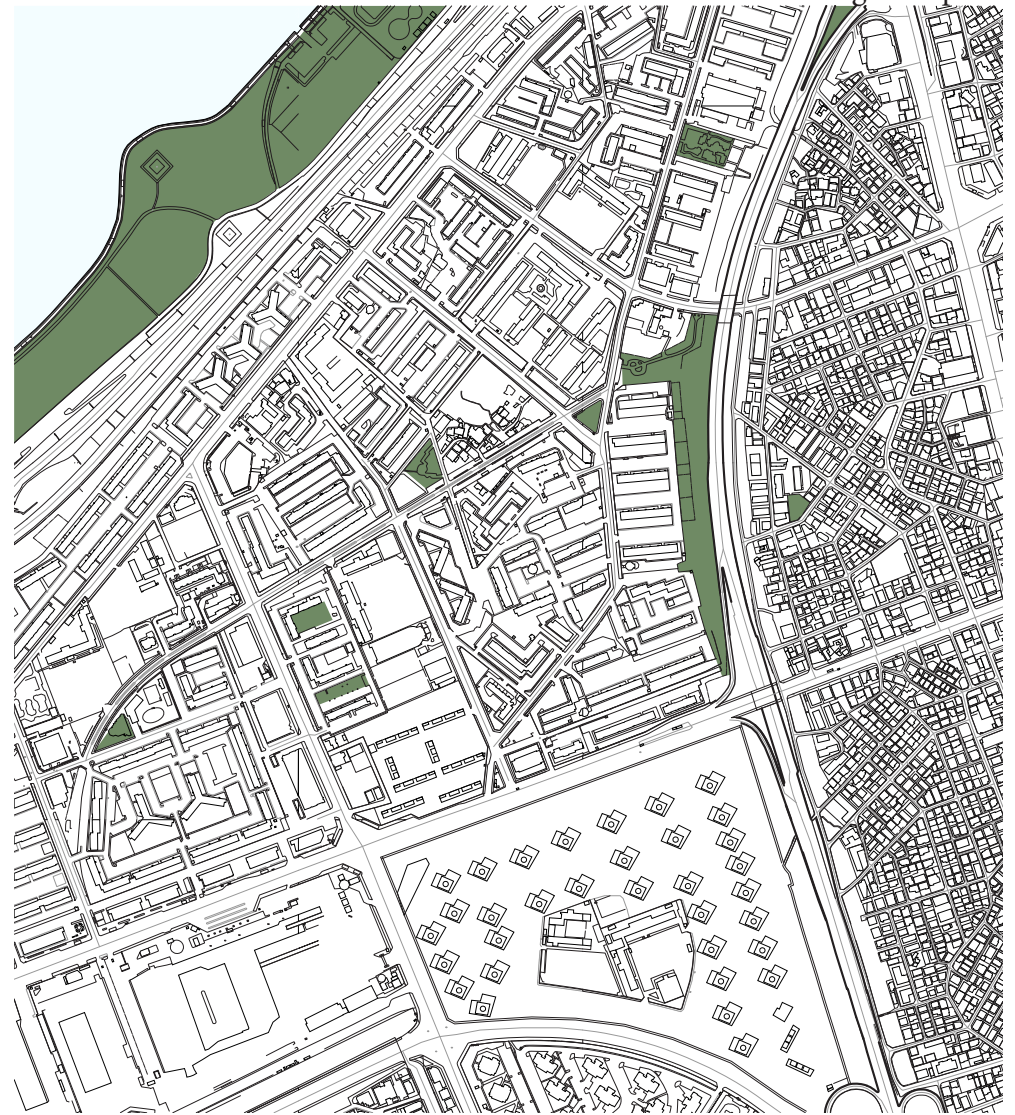


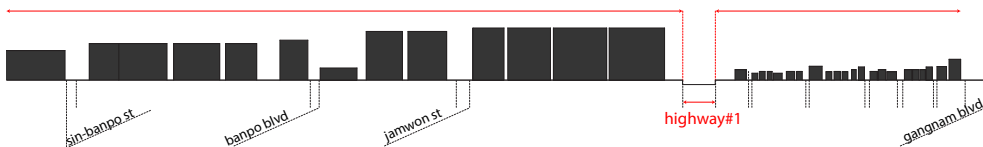
figure ground



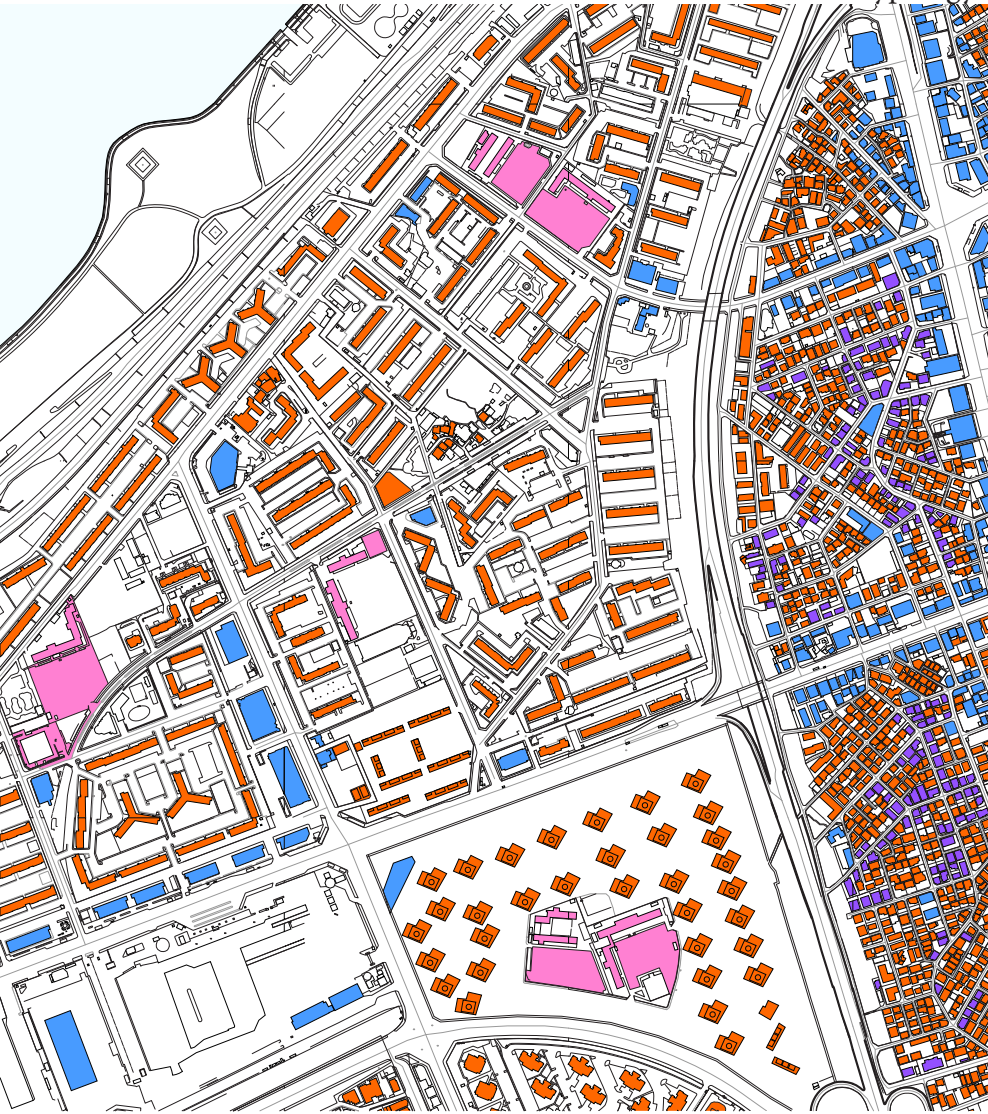
## SITE

### gangnam | urban issue

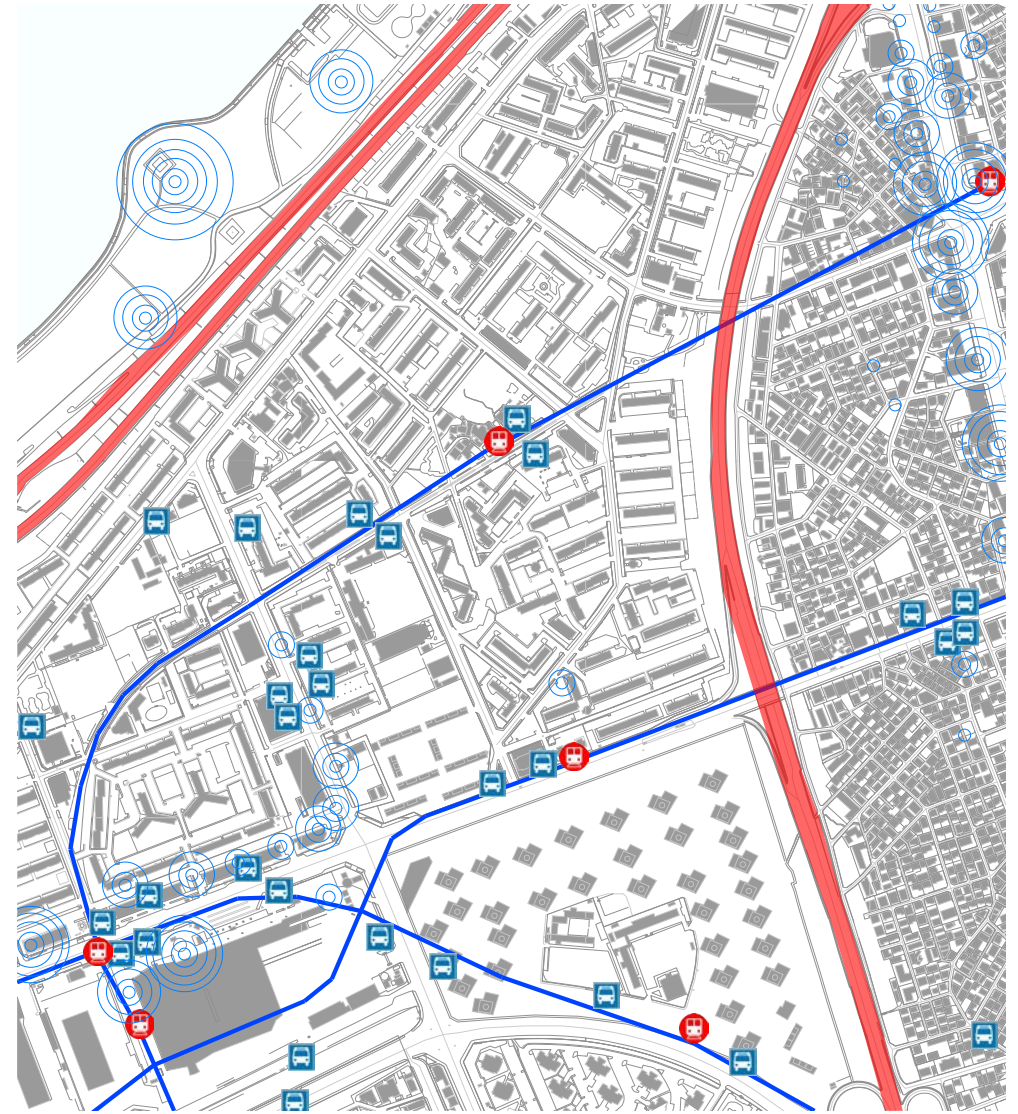
The site, Gangnam, has developed very fast and become a place where the commercialism and residentiality are concentrated since the highway#1 (kyungbu expressway) was built. Also, the district on the left side from the highway called Banpo dong is in a good shape in terms of living condition compared to Nonhyun dong (right side of the highway). There are different types of urban issues(traffic congestion, green spaces, infrastructures, typology and density of people and buildings) between these two districts.



typology



infrastructure



- education
- residential
- commercial
- mixed (commercial and residential)



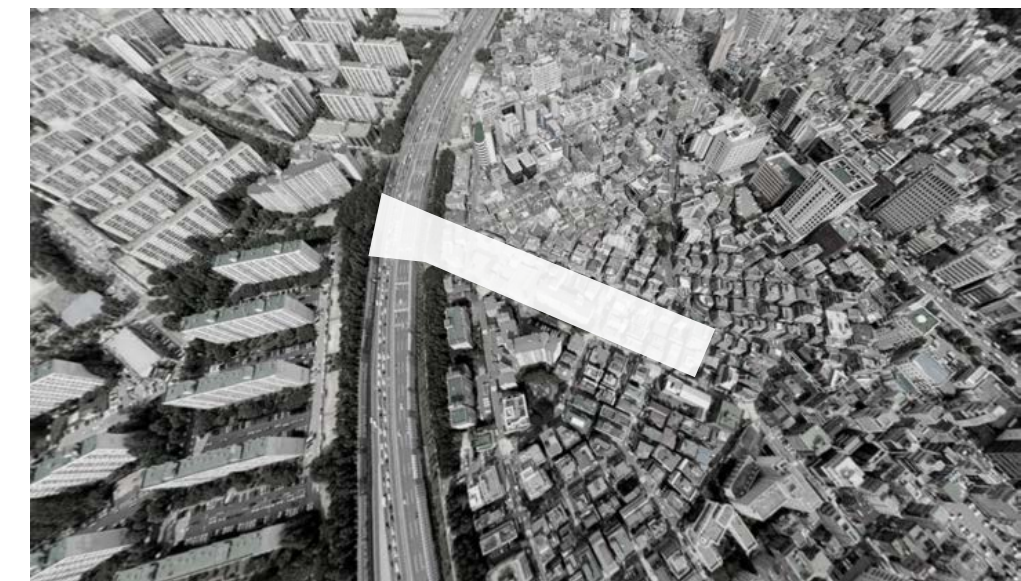
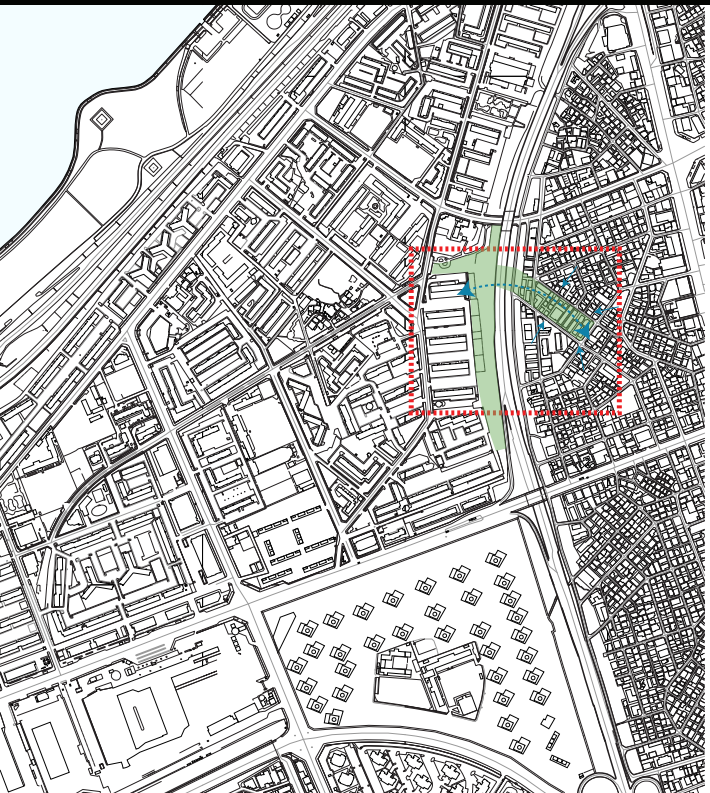


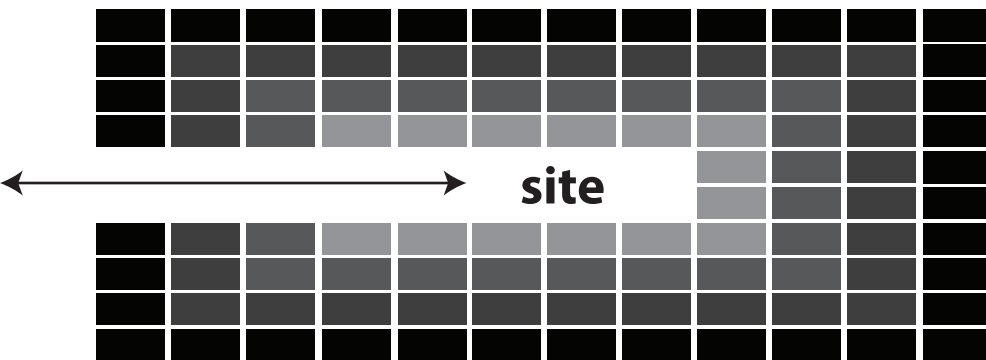
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abstract

background information

concept





## SITE

**potential site** | bridge idea

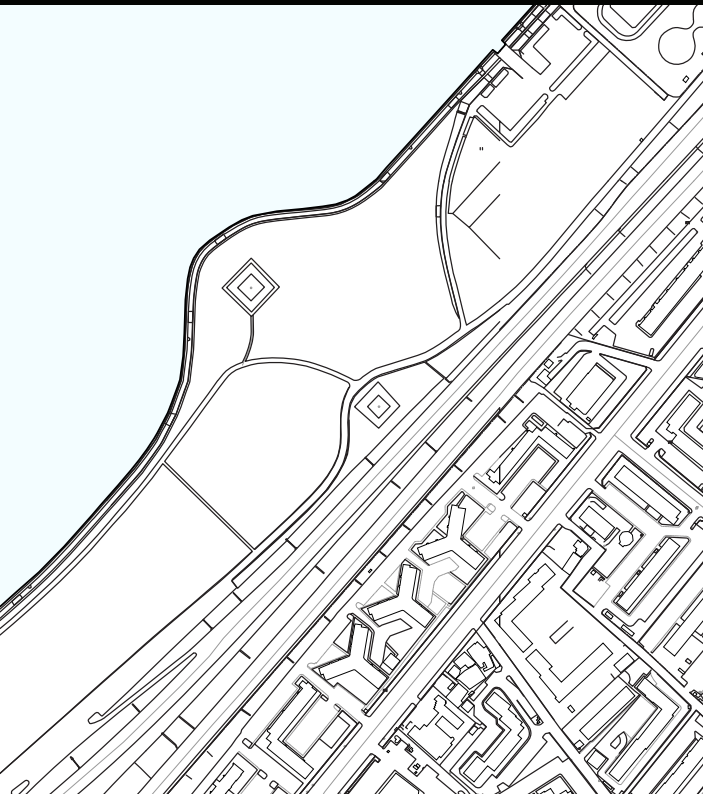
What the potential of this site is the possibilities to connect between two different districts physically as well as conceptually with using the bridge idea above the highway #1. There is a large public green space in Banpo area that is also used as a buffering zone of the highway. The extension of the green space from the Banpo area to the Nonhyun area will allow itself to become a better living condition by creating a green space as well as open space in a dense area.

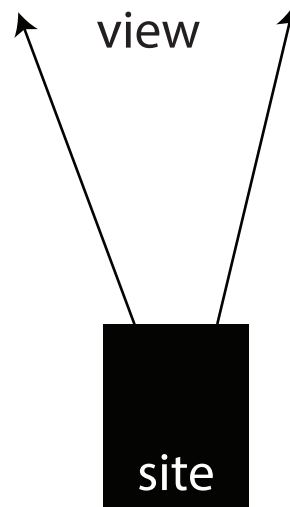
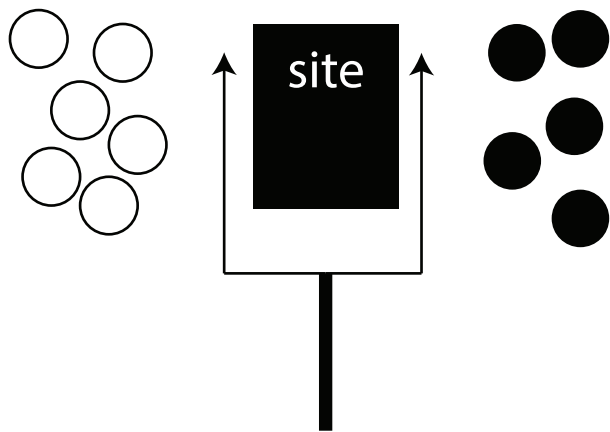
index

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background information

concept





### **SITE** potential site II |

**This site is where the Hotel is located now, however, the site would be more useful if it is used as a residential town that is related to nature(green). It is because this site is the starting point of seperating the city into two different models. There is a possibilities to deal with this fact.**



## selected annotated bibliography

**Anonymous, South Korea's sejong city taps spirent to test IT infrastructure. 2011. Entertainment Close - Up (Aug 25). <http://search.proquest.com/docview/885027194?accountid=14214>.**

“Sejong City was designed to be a model planned community with best in-class communications infrastructure.”

**Livesey, Graham. Arq : Architectural Research Quarterly15. 3 (Sep 2011): 271-278**

Like the Garden City, we can consider cities as either gardens, or complex ecologies, or as a tapestry of functions, only some of which are gardens and parks. Nevertheless, cities are ecologies of infrastructure, buildings, people and other organisms, social and political systems, biological and environmental factors.

**Thomas C. Myers, Jr, Foundations in Urban Planning: Ebenezer Howard Garden cities of to-morrow with the garden city movement up-to-date. London: De Facto Publishing, 2010.**

the creation of limited-population, fixed-size (pedestrian-scale), self-sufficient and sustainable towns centered around well-planned transportation systems

**W.D.P. BLISS, Secretary of “The Garden Cities Association of America.” W.D.P.B.. New York Times (1857-1922) (New York, N.Y) 09 Dec 1906: SM5**

It is the idea of the “Garden City” movement to carry out the city attractions into the country, and yet not to destroy the country charm.

