WALLING POLITICAL CONFLICTS
An Urban Archetype for the Demilitarized Zone

by

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ABSTRACT

Polarity in political ideologies within the Korea Peninsula has left a heavily militarized infrastructure, called the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The no man’s land is a thickly belted corridor on the Korean peninsula that demarcates North Korea from South Korea, incorporating territory on both sides of the cease-fire line and being created by retreating 2km along each side of the line. For these political reasons, it has remained almost untouched for some six decades since the cessation of warfare in 1953, which has made it one of the most pristine undeveloped areas in Asia. While recent efforts to develop the DMZ into an ecology park are on the rise, this thesis is intended to seek a strategy for initiating a buffer city between the two Koreas. As is well known in the case of the Kaesong Industrial Park near the DMZ, operated as a collaborative economic development between South and North Korea, this territory has oscillated between shutdowns and reopenings because of political fluctuations.

This thesis asks, what if a city in the DMZ confronts a political situation where it is impossible to secure permanent settlements? The thesis aims to propose a new urban archetype in which political ideologies are able to coexist along with their inevitable conflicts. The strategy of the proposition is two-fold. First, the DMZ city needs to accommodate two different political systems, communism and capitalism. This implies that the city should not be made of one consistent system. The second is that because of its extremely unstable military situation, the DMZ city needs to have a different city structure according to the change of political risks, repeatedly alternating between abandonment and reoccupation.

Through the exploration of the DMZ, entangled with political issues under the pressure of uncertainty, this study has tried to explore a new archetype for the political city, the wall and enclave, where different ideologies are co-existing through revealing their conflicts.

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INTRODUCTION
This study aims to propose a city form resilient to political fluctuation through focusing on the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a belt of land running across the Korean Peninsula that serves as a buffer zone between North and South Korea. This perspective stands in opposition to the conventional notion that a city is a collective effort to maintain permanent settlements.

Hypothesis

This myth of urban design has been authorized by an underlying assumption that people sustain their lives as rooting and making memories in a specific place, and a city permanently exists as a gigantic physical fabric supporting them. However, if a city confronts a socio-economic condition which is not able to warrant persistent settlements, the question about possible urbanism in unstable territories would emerge. This study starts from this perspective.

Examining preceding discussions, we find that late modern avant-gardes failed to give convincing answers to many questions in regard to temporality in urban design because they only reduced artifacts to extensions of mobile devices. Recent projects related to temporary urbanism – pop-up shops, beaches, cultural outdoor festivals, markets, and squats – have attempted to emphasize the city as a backdrop
to activities. But they also have a limitation that temporary urbanism cannot ever be a city in itself – it can only be an element within a city. On the other hand, the aesthetics of ruin value which John Soane 1753-1837 and Albert Speer 1905-1981 addressed seems to be relevant to this study in that it highlighted how time affects a physical state of architecture and accepted abandonment as opportunity. This perspective deserves to be revived. In this light, the present study is intended to seek a transient city as an absolute artifact, far from either flexible or transformable megastructure.

The other topic that this thesis takes as a focal point is to reclaim a role of political space in a city. Before arriving at the modern city, cities had retained two components: the space of politics which concerns sharing a public sphere and the gathering of people from different origins, and the space of economy, relating to material conditions of cohabitation independent of any political sense. However, based on the free market economy, the modern city was mostly propelled by the space of economy, and has strived to expand infrastructure and homogenize itself. As a city loses a political space, it becomes unable to mediate different individuals having different ideologies. For this reason, this thesis would argue that the DMZ needs to build a city having archetypes of political space in order to resolve political conflicts and
exchange ideologies from two different worlds – communism and capitalism.

The Korean Demilitarized Zone

In this framework, the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) provides an optimally applicable context because of its politically unstable state. The DMZ is a thickly belted corridor on the Korean peninsula that demarcates North Korea from South Korea, incorporating territory on both sides of the cease-fire line and being created by retreating 2km along each side of the line. For these political reasons, it has remained almost untouched for some six decades since the end of a war, which has made it one of the most pristine undeveloped areas in Asia. While recent efforts to develop the DMZ into an ecology park are on the rise, this study intends to seek a strategy for initiating a buffer city between the two Koreas.

As is well known in the case of the Kaesong Industrial Park near the DMZ, operated as a collaborative economic development between South and North Korea, this territory has oscillated between a shutdown and a reopening because of political fluctuations. For this reason, the DMZ is uniquely positioned to implement a transient urbanism for political resiliency, distinct from the conventional urbanism assuming a physical fabric along with perennial settlements.

Design Proposition

Polarity in political ideologies within Korea has led to defectors and dispersed families who need to cross the border between communism and capitalism. Thus, this study would propose to build a city where these in-between others of two
political systems are able to live and prepare for the next phase in the DMZ. It is assumed that North and South Korea with the U.N. and the Six-Party Committee collaborate to initiate a neutral city in the DMZ, in order to accommodate these political others as well as industries for producing economic profits and an academic institution for politics.

**Strategies**

This design proposition has a two-fold strategy. One is about an archetype for the space of politics. This allows the DMZ city to have diverse enclaves that accommodate plural values. These enclaves would be called the contemporary agora, which is a platform for sharing various ideologies, provided by the academic institution for politic study in the city. Around these agoras, people from North and South Korea share their thoughts, and scholars and students study politics and attempt to do research on the unification of the two Koreas. The other strategy is a resiliency to political risks represented by the WATCHCON code, an alert state system which is changed according to military tension, for political risks also play an important role in designing the DMZ city. Therefore, this thesis aims to build a city whose areas function differently in response to a change of political situations by utilizing the WATCHCON as a temporal parameter.

In short, through the exploration of the DMZ entangled with political issues under the pressure of uncertainty, this study experiments and presents a city form for a political resiliency territory with repeated oscillation between abandonment and occupation.
Fig 1-1. The Temporary City of Burning Man
An experiment in community, art, radical self-expression, and radical self-reliance
1

URBAN MATTERS: POLITICAL AND TEMPORAL
1. URBAN MATTERS: POLITICAL AND TEMPORAL

1.1. Reclaiming a Political City

Before arriving at the modern city, cities always had two fundamental components: which were the political form that concerns sharing a public sphere and the individual form that concerns the material condition of cohabitation. However, the modern city was mostly propelled by the role of economics, and has tried to expand infrastructure and homogenize itself.

In the ancient Greek city, as is well known, it had been established through a mutual relationship between Polis and Oikos. The Polis represented the way individuals and different groups of people could live together, involving public interest and common good. In a physical sense, the Polis had been revealed through the space in between individuals, controlling conflicts among the parts within the pre-existing community. On the other hand, the Oikos meant the space of economy where the administration of private space, houses, and a complex organism of relationships – master-slave, paternal, and marriage – had been constructed. These relationships were given and unchangeable. In this perspective, Greek city-states was composed of ‘oikoi’, which means agglomeration of houses, and the ‘agora’, in which opinions are exchanged and
public decisions are made.

This dialectic structure of a city was also found in the Roman city. The Urbs, supporting the material constitution of a city, was expanding in the form of a territorial organization. It designates a universal and generic condition of cohabitation. Meanwhile, the Civitas, concerning the political status of its inhabitants, was intended to gather people from different origins and share a public sphere among them. Thus, the Polis

---

and Civitas established political form of co-existence, while the Oikos and Urbs are involved in the material condition of cohabitation independent of any political sense.

This dialectical structure of a city had been the traditional frame of the city since the Greek city was invented. This fundamental condition was changed dramatically, well after the dissolution of Roman civilization, with the coming of the modern city. In this age, economic space took over the space of politics in a city, destroying balance between the political and economic space. The space of economics primarily propelled the modern city, expanding infrastructure and homogenizing. This urbanization was represented through infinite repetitions of network and landscape. As urbanization has become dominant in cities, it has become a common problem among them to lose political space.

Eventually, losing political space made a city unable to control different individuals having different ideologies. Therefore, it becomes one of the major issues of the urban design to retain a political space for resolving political conflicts and exchanging ideologies between different political systems. The task to build a political city can be defined as to mediate different individuals having diverse ideologies in a city.

Fig 1-4. The Dichotomy of a city between politics and economics through its history
1.2. Temporality in Urbanism

The discipline of urban design has a conventional notion that a city should be a collective effort to maintain permanent settlements. This myth of urban design has been authorized by an underlying assumption that people sustain their lives by rooting and making memories in a specific place, and that a city permanently exists as a gigantic physical fabric supporting them. However, if a city confronts a socio-political condition which is not able to guarantee persisting settlements, the question of possible urbanism in unstable territories emerges. My thesis starts from this perspective.

Recent discourse in social science, such as a theory of 'non-places', is paying attention to transient places in a city. According to Marc Augé's definition, the non-place refers to contemporary places of temporality that lack the significance to be regarded as "places" in our experience. Examples of a non-place would be an airport, a shopping mall, a hotel room, and a highway. As in the following images of some examples of the non-place, they lack characteristics reflecting a specific time and place. The waiting space of an airport is existing only for moving to one's destination without acquiring meaningful existence. A picture of a supermarket is typically so generic that people cannot judge where the picture was taken. All of these non-places appear momentarily, and could easily alter their configuration and atmosphere as required. This trend is likely to demonstrate the need for urbanism for a transient city.

If examining preceding discussions in the history of architecture, we find that late modern avant-gardes attempted to address this issue through their experimental projects. However, they seem to fail to give convincing answers to many questions in regard to temporality in urban design. One of the primary reasons for their failures is that the late modern avant-gardes only reduced artifacts to extensions of mobile devices. For instance, the Walking City introduced by British architect Ron Herron of the group of Archigram in 1964 proposed a massive building with mobile robotic structures, with their own intelligence. It was designed to be able to freely roam the world, moving to wherever its resources or manufacturing abilities were needed. The project implied flexibility: diverse walking cities could interconnect with each other to form larger ‘walking metropolises’ when needed, and

Fig 1-6. New Babylon Project by Constant, 1959-1974
Based on the idea that architecture itself would allow and instigate a transformation of daily reality.
then disperse when their concentrated power was no longer necessary.

In the 1960s, Constant proposed the series of drawings and models called New Babylon, which was to link transformable structures with the size of a small city. The structures could be altered whenever and wherever people wanted in order to instigate a transformation of daily reality. Despite these efforts of the avant-gardes, their proposals were mostly unable to be implemented in a physical environment because of lack of feasibility.

Under the umbrella of temporary urbanism, many recent projects — pop-up shops, beaches, cultural outdoor festivals, markets, and squats — have attempted to emphasize the city

as a backdrop to activities. But they also have the limitation that temporary urbanism can never be a city in itself – it can only be an element within a city. Temporary projects cannot provide a fundamental system to everyday urban life, but just unordinary events to promote commercial profit.

On the other hand, the aesthetics of ruin value which John Soane (1753-1837) and Albert Speer (1905-1981) addressed seems to be relevant to this study. Both men highlighted how time affects a physical state of architecture and accepted abandonment as opportunity. This view had significant implications for dealing with temporal parameters in urban design, remote from the fashionable and conceptual way that the avant-garde movement had devised through sophisticated experiments.

This perspective deserves to be revived. In this light, the present study is intended to seek a transient city as an absolute artifact, far from either flexible or transformable megastructure.
2

POLITICAL TERRITORY: THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE
2. POLITICAL TERRITORY IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

2.1. Borderlands

As previously examined, this study considers urban matters on the role of political space in a city and temporality under politically unstable situations which are not able to guarantee permanent settlements, requiring temporal flexibility. In the light of this consideration, this thesis mainly focuses on borderlands in which political fluctuation is intensified. Looking at various borders, we can generally divide them into three categories according to the power relationship between two adjacent countries.

The first type which does have any barrier on the
borderlands implies that both countries sharing the border maintain an equivalent power hierarchy with each other. In this type, people can cross freely to the opposite side without any security control. The borderlands of the EU countries within the Schengen Area belong to this type.

5 “The Schengen Area is the area comprising 26 European countries that have abolished passport or any other type of border control between their common borders, also referred to as internal borders. It functions as a single country for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy. The Area is named after the Schengen Agreement. Countries in the Schengen Area have eliminated internal border controls with the other Schengen members, and strengthened external border controls with non-Schengen states. The Schengen area encourages the free movement of goods, information, money and people.”, excerpted from “http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border”

Fig 2-2. Fortifying the Border Between the U.S. and Mexico.
Type I — No Barrier

Type II — Security Wall
- one-side operating

Type III — Demilitarized Zone
- mutual operating
Fig 2-3. Diagrams of Border Types
However, the second and third type are intended to limit movement of people to other countries. These types have a security wall on the border in order to prevent from illegal immigration into a desirable country. For instance, the Mexico–United States barrier is actually several separation barriers designed to prevent illegal movement across the Mexico–United States border. The barriers on the border were built to decrease illegal immigration and transportation of illegal drugs manufactured in Latin America. The barriers are strategically placed to minimize the flow of illegal border crossings along the Mexico–United States international border into the Southwestern United States. Despite their efforts, illegal border crossings are not easily controllable. Hence, the U.S. government still pours a large amount of money into attempting to more fortify the border. The Egypt-Gaza barrier refers to the Route along Egypt’s 12 km border with the Gaza Strip, and now also to an underground metal
barrier Egypt is building, in an attempt to curb the use of smuggling tunnels. It will extend 35 meters below the surface. The Government of Egypt states that the building of the barrier is a matter of national security and aims "to secure the borders and make Egypt more safe".

The third type, the demilitarized zone, is operated mutually with a military tension between two countries, thus creating a buffer zone that generates an abnormal city form. For example, Melilla Border Fence, which is a demilitarized zone existing between the Spanish territories of Melilla and Morocco, has left perimeter fences around a city. It has been constructed by Spanish and Moroccan authorities. The United Nations Buffer Zone in Cyprus, called the Green Line, show the more obvious formal influence of a demilitarized zone on the city form. This demilitarized zone was established in 1974, following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, and divides Cyprus into the area controlled by the Government of Cyprus.


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Fig 2-5. The United Nations-administered Buffer Zone in Cyprus
in the South and that under the administration of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the North. The zone runs for more than 180.5 km along the borderland and has an area of 346 square km. Thus, the Green Line in Cyprus is an example which locates a town cooperated by two countries in a demilitarized zone. In Mamari patrolled by the U.N., 10,000 people are living and working inside of the demilitarized zone.

As we explored, the borders are categorized into three types according to the power relationships between the countries adjacent to it. Those types can be summarized as a type of equilibrium giving two countries balanced power, of filtering, in which one country has dominant power because of its economic superiority, and of buffering, having a neutral area on the border. Thus, the Green Line belonging to the third type is an important precedent for this study, which supports an argument to turn the DMZ into an inhabitable city.

Fig 2-6. Demilitarized Zone in Cyprus, "Green Line". Patrolled by the U.N. peace keeping force. The Green Line is running for more than 180.6km long. 10,000 people live and work in the zone.
2.2. Ideological Confrontation

In this framework mentioned above, the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) provides an optimally suitable context for this thesis on the political city because of its politically unstable state that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The DMZ resulted from ideological confrontation between the capitalist and the communist world in the 1950s. From 1950 to 1953, conflict in political ideologies around the Korean peninsula brought the Korean War. The Korean War was a war between South Korea, supported by the capitalist world, including the United Nations and the U.S., and North Korea, supported by China and the Soviet Union. It was primarily the result of the political division of Korea by an agreement of the victorious Allies at the conclusion of the Pacific War at the end of World War II. The Korean Peninsula was ruled by the Empire of Japan from 1910 until the end of World War II. Following the surrender of the Empire of Japan in Sep-

Fig 2-7. Geography of Ideological Confrontations between Communism and Capitalism in the Korean Peninsula, 1950.
tember 1945, American administrators divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel, with U.S. military forces occupying the southern half and Soviet military forces occupying the northern half. In the global context, the Korean War was one of the first ideological proxy wars between the world powers. The ideological collision between communist China and the Soviet Union, and the U.S. with the capitalist world, moderated because of the Korean War armistice in 1953. The armistice agreement bequeathed a military infrastructure, the area called the Korean DMZ. To this day, a Military Demarcation Line (MDL) runs through the center of the DMZ and divides the communist North and capitalist South Korea. Since the Korean War, the DMZ is the only place where two countries are officially still in a state of war. Once, it had occupied a symbolic position of in the cold war system before the communist world collapsed. Therefore, a reading of the DMZ should start from understanding it as symbolic of the Cold War system. In the North and South Korean peace villages in the DMZ, Kijong-dong and Daeseong-dong, are two flagpoles with the height of 100m (South Korea) and 160m (North Korea). These propaganda towers represent ongoing ideological conflict around the DMZ.

As we explored, the DMZ is a thickly belted region on the Korean peninsula which demarcates North Korea from South Korea, incorporating territory on both sides of the cease-fire line and being created by retreating 2km along each side of the line. It is 250km long from east to west coast, and 4km wide on average, with an area of 907km². This DMZ area accounts for about 0.5% of the Korean peninsula. With

Fig 2-8. (left) Meeting of Korean Military Armistice Commission, 1953

Fig 2-9. (right) "Turce is Singed, Ending the Fighting in Korea", New York Times, 1953

Fig 2-10. The Korean War Truce Line, 1953
Fig 2-11. The border fence of the DMZ
Fig 2-12. Pristine nature of the DMZ
this political background, this vast region has been kept unspoiled by civilization since 1953, the end of a war. For this reason, the DMZ can be one of the most immaculate undeveloped areas in Asia.

As mentioned above, the DMZ is a highly militarized solid wall and keeps political tension between two countries. If we look through the timeline of geo-political history around the Korean peninsula, this wall has never been an unbreakable border since its initiation. In the timeline graph, the upper area of the axis shows military confrontation between North and South Korea. After the independent from the Japan empire ruling, the Korean peninsula was divided along with the 38th parallel by the Potsdam Conference in 1945. With passing through the Korean War, this division was politically reinforced, and still is not resolved. In the
Fig 2-14. The Battle Map of the Korean War, 1950

THE FIRST NINETY DAYS

CHINA

NORTH

KOREA

SOUTH

KOREA

YELLOW

SEA

SEA

U.S.S.R.

North Korean military buildup heavily supported by Russia and Red China.


U.S. units from Japan overrun in delaying actions of July 1950.

Fig 2-15. Timeline of Political Confrontations between the North and South Korea
Border Incidents After the Korean War

- Axe Murder Incident
  - Aug 1976
- 1st Battle of Yeonpyeong
  - Jun 1999
- 2nd Battle of Yeonpyeong
  - Jun 2002
- Bombardment of Yeonpyeong
  - Nov 2010
- ROKS Cheonan sinking, Mar 2010
- Battle of Daechegong
  - Nov 2009

The WATCHCON raising events

- 1st testing
- 2nd testing
- 3rd testing
- The North Korea Nuclear Testings

Democracy People's Republic of Korea / North Korea 1948

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Republic of Korea / South Korea 1948


- Left the demilitarized zone
- Armistice Agreement
  - Jul 1953
- Market-based economic reform in China
- Dissolution of the Soviet Union
- Berlin Wall Fall
- Six Party Talk 2003
- Mount Kumgang Tour Program
- Kaesong Industrial Park
- Economic Co-operation
  - The Sunshine Policy
1960s, it was the most dangerous period when lots of military confliction occurred in the DMZ, bringing it to almost a wartime. However, after the collapse of the communist world, North Korea has staged armed protests by the several nuclear tests. These protests imply that the confliction around the DMZ has been transformed from an ideological battle into an economic conflict. In recent days, there are not only border incidents, such as Yeonpyeong navy battles and the battle of Daecheong in 2009, but also attempts to pursue economic collaboration between two Koreas. Like these, after dissolution of the communist superpowers, not only military confrontations, but also reconciliations between them are getting more frequent.

Also, in the global context, the issue of the defectors from North Korea has been getting more serious than before. If we look into the cumulative numbers of the North Korea defectors, it reached at almost 23,000 people in 2011. Anually, more than 2000 people of North Koran defectors are escaping to other countries such as China, Thai, the United States, and South Korea. These defectors' fleets seriously affect global political geography. This implies that the border area in the DMZ is getting compromised. It is not a heavily militarized solid wall any more. Hence, its importance as a connector between two Koreas should be highly stressed.

Beside sporadic military clashes around the DMZ, two Koreas have tried to initiate co-operative development programs. Among them, the most successful one is a development of the Kaesong Industrial Complex. The complex is located at the north of the DMZ, one hour distant from Seoul by driving a car, with a direct connected highway and freight railway access to South Korea. The complex allows South
The largest settlement of North Korean defectors, 25km distant from Seoul.

Fig 2-16. (above) Flow of the North Korean Defectors into the Globe
(source: Dongsei Kim, 2012)

Fig 2-17. (left) Cumulative Numbers of the North Korean Defectors
Korean companies to employ cheap labor that is educated and skilled from North Korea, whilst providing North Korea with an important source of foreign currency.

As of 2013, 123 South Korean companies were employing approximately 53,000 North Korean workers and 800 South Korean staff. Their wages, total approximately $90 million each year, had been paid directly to the North Korean government. However, in case that military tension increasing, access to the Industrial Park from South Korea is restricted sporadically. This fact tells that the region of the DMZ is exposed to political fluctuation. In response to the political risks, the area should be shuttling between shutdowns and reopenings. This implies that the unstable situation around the DMZ will not be resolved for a long time. So, this thesis would argue that political resiliency should be treated as significant factor for designing the DMZ city.

Fig 2-18. Kaesong Industrial Park co-operated by the North and South governments.

Fig 2-19. Kumgang Mountain Special Tourism Program Across the DMZ

Fig 2-20. Ongoing Military Confliction near the DMZ
2.3. Sentimental Approaches

Starting in the early 2000s, many calls and proposals have been made to conserve or preserve the DMZ region as a national park or construct a peace park. Most of these recent proposals only focus on the environmental value which the DMZ has acquired because of its unique location. Even if we acknowledge that the DMZ could keep its ecological system so well that it becomes an important place for research on ecology, excessive attention to the ecological conservation would prevent us from discovering its potential as a political border between two worlds, communism and capitalism.

So, the question should highlight what the DMZ

can become beyond the existing historical park, security area, ecological themed tourisms, and other moneymaking development. We should attempt to find a way to transform the DMZ into a cultural resource which creates values for both North and South Korea and to stimulate collaboration between the two Koreas.

The DMZ has a potential to be critical to contemporary urbanism issue through political geography around the world. Therefore, this study is intended to seek a strategy for developing a city other than ecological or sentimental development as a peace park or a tourism destination.

One of the few important precedents on the DMZ is the project done by Lebbeus Woods in 1988. The DMZ project
was made for the sake of an exhibition organized by Kyong Park at the Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York, with the intention of addressing the political division of the Korean peninsula, its military as well as social consequences. In this project, Woods aimed to maintain the distinct characteristics of ecological system and human settlement, without sentimentalizing either, and to foster dialectical development between them. That is, Woods wanted to revoke the advantages of empty battlefields, the no man’s land, and to engage humans and nature so as to merge conflicting conditions. This project is a lot thought-breaking in respect that it refused the easy way to develop the DMZ, seeking to sentimental approaches, but rather it pursued to accommodate political

Fig 2-23. Drawings from the Hypothetical Project of the Korean DMZ by Lebbeus Woods, 1988

10 “DMZ Demilitarized Zone”, http://lebbeuswoods.net, 1988
conflicts as a condition of human settlement in the middle of no man’s land.

As explored above, the meaning of the DMZ is shifting from a solid militarized wall to a potential territory to be able to develop as a connection between two political systems. Therefore, this thesis would argue that the DMZ city should be an inhabitable city that reinforces collaboration and unification between two Koreas, other than a sentimental park or an ecological landscape.
Fig 3-1. The Military Demarcation Line Seen through Binoculars from the North Side.
3

THE KORAN DMZ AS A PROJECT
3. THE KOREAN DMZ AS A PROJECT

3.1. Regional Potentialities

The DMZ has very diverse topographic conditions from the east to the west coastline. On the eastern side of the DMZ, it has one of the significant connections between North and South Korea along the coast line. The connection serves to provide a way to the Kumgang Mountains Special Tourism District, which is a special administrative region of North Korea, constructed in 2002 to handle South Korean tourist traffic to the Kumgang Mountains. Despite an existing
infrastructure linking two Koreas, the eastern region is not adequate to develop a new city which needs to be influential over the Korean peninsula in that the region has numerous steep cliffs along the coast line and is too distant from capitals of North and South Korea: Pyongyang and Seoul, where enormous majority of cultural and economic powers are gathering.

The central territory is mostly covered with high mountains and rough terrain. It has maintained greatly-
preserved ecosystem which should be a main focus for researchers from discipline of environment and biology studies. Due to its complicated topographic condition, numerous landmines which were installed during the cold war period are still keeping undiscovered\(^{11}\). The number is estimated at 2.2 million through the whole DMZ region. It leads the central DMZ area to the extremely hazardous zone.

On the other hand, the western region has a plenty of plains and agricultural fields inside of the DMZ in which the villages, Kijong-dong and Daeseong-dong, has settled since the Korean War. Also, the Asian highway network, a cooperative project among countries in Asia, Europe, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to improve the highway systems in Asia, is passing through the western region of the DMZ reaching to Istanbul, Turkey. Like this, the area takes a critical position in terms of global transporting network. Moreover, since the Joint Security Area is located at the western region, this area is familiar with exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea for a long time. That is one of the reason why two governments agreed to establish their first cooperative development zone, the Kaesong Industrial Complex, in the western region.

All things considered, priority to develop the DMZ city should be given to the western territory among all of the DMZ regions. Therefore, this thesis would zoom into the western territory as a site to study of building the political city.

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Fig 3-5. Satellite Image of the Western Region of the DMZ

Fig 3-6. Map of the Entire DMZ Region
3.2. Six-Party Talks Opportunities

As we previously explored, since the Korean War, the political topography around the Korean peninsula has dramatically changed from the Cold War system, which is composed of two ideologically opposite system that is communist and capitalist world, to the Six-Party Talk, which is a series of meetings with six participating states, North and South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the U.S.. These meetings aim to come up with a peaceful resolution to the security concerns which the North Korean nuclear weapons program bring into the global society.

This shift of the mode of confrontation indicates that the global society does not fight for the sake of ideological triumph any more, but rather for economic profits of their own. One of the main points of contention in the Six-Party Talk is security guarantee which has been raised by North Korea after the U.S. government named them as part of an axis of evil in 2002. The second one is the construction of light water reactors that would be built in return for the closure of North Korea's graphite-moderated nuclear
power plant program at Yongbyon. On the other hand, the rest of countries require North Korea to use nuclear energy only for civilian peaceful purposes. In response to abandonment of its nuclear weapon program, North Korea demands normalization of diplomatic and lift of financial restrictions which the U.S. has placed on North Korea for their uncooperative attitude to renounce its nuclear weapons program.

12 Mark Landler, "North Korea Says It Will Halt Talks and Restart Its

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Fig 3-9. Transition from Cold War System to Six-Party Talks

Cold War System

Battle for Ideology

Six-Party Talks

Battle for Money

Six-Party Talks Main Points of Contention

Opportunities for the DMZ City

- Peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Lifting financial restriction
- Fuel Oil

Walling Political Conflicts

67
The main points of contention in the Six-Party Talks offer this thesis with a clue of opportunities for the DMZ development to induce the participation of North Korean government. As we can recognize in the satellite image of a night sky, North Korea suffers from a lack of electricity. Therefore, each of countries in the talk has clear demands to the opposite party. North Korea needs a financial support and fuel oil for generating electricity, and the other party wants to secure peaceful situation. This thesis would utilize this situation as opportunities of the DMZ city development.

The DMZ region is now supervised under the U.N. Command. In order to utilize the opportunities that the Six-Party Talks has generated as mentioned above, the countries in the Talks should be involved in the operation of the DMZ city. This system could secure neutral position of the city between two worlds. Therefore, in terms of operation body of the DMZ city, it will be co-operated by South and North Korea, and supervised under the U.N. Patrol and the Six-Party Committee.

Fig 3.10. (opposite) Operating body
The DMZ city will be co-operated by South and North Korea, and supervised under the U.N. Patrol and the Six-Party Committee.
Existing Border

North Korea

Joint Security Area

DMZ

South Korea

North Limit Border South Limit

Supervised under the U.N. Command

Proposed Border

North Korea

Worker + Researcher

Dispersed Family

Defector

DMZ City Neutral Area

Worker + Researcher + Tourist

Dispersed Family

Defector

South Korea

North Limit Border South Limit

Co-operated by South Korea + North Korea

Supervised under the U.N. + Six-Party Commitee
4
AN URBAN ARCHETYPE FOR THE POLITIC CITY
4. AN URBAN ARCHETYPE FOR THE POLITIC CITY

4.1. Political System and City From

The DMZ city is on the border of physical confrontation between North and South Korea as well as on the ideological border between the regime of communism and the capitalist world which has tried to reconcile and resolve problems of polarity. Because of these reasons, the DMZ city is supposed to accommodate different political systems at once within one city structure. This complicated situation casts a significant question on the conventional urban design in which politic system and city form has a strong linkage. Therefore, in this thesis, it would be one of the primary questions for diverse political ideologies to co-exist in a city. That is the reason why this thesis would say that the DMZ city is a city of political conflicts.

From this perspective, this chapter would move its focus onto a proposed city form. The strategy of the proposition is two-fold. First of all, DMZ will need to accommodate two different political systems, so it cannot be made of one consistent system. The second is that, since the DMZ is under extremely unstable military situation, it needs to have a different city structure according to the change of political situation. That is, the DMZ city is exposed to political fluctuation between relevant countries in the global context.
Polis
- space of politics

Roman Castrum
- walled defensive city

Democracy
- manifestation of absolute power

Baroque City
- free market-based economy
- homogeneous expansion
- capitalized public space
The city form reflects its political system. A series of diagrams in the figure indicates that generally most of cities developed throughout the history are always governed by one specific political system. For instance, the ancient Greek city, the Polis, has the Agora space in the center of its region surrounded by gridded private building blocks. The Agora, which means gathering place or assembly, was the locus of athletic, artistic, spiritual, and political life of the city. This structure shows that, for the establishment of the Polis, democracy played a central role in forming city structure. On the other hand, in the Roman Castrum, the most important element of city form is a defensive wall which protected the city from the outer worlds and religious space in the center of it, serving to reinforce spiritual alliance. Obviously, the city form of the Roman Castum was resulted from military administration which took military functions as the most urgent element of a city. In the Baroque cities, strong axial sequences throughout the city is the most prominent feature among others. This sequence had monumental buildings as its focal point so that whole urban experience were focused on the significant buildings, such as a palace, buildings related with royal families, and a museum. This principle of a city form means that the Baroque cities existed for manifesting the absolute power from the absolute monarchy. In modern cities which is constructed under the principles of free market-based economy, their city form is characterized by repeated grids and equal generic blocks. The modern city is intended to accommodate homogeneous endless expansion through vast network infrastructure. And, their public space is capitalized and captured within private properties. This gridded city form, embracing free will to develop, has been
possibly realized by liberalism, a political philosophy founded on ideas of liberty and equality.13.

Like above, one specific political system has generated its city form throughout a history of city. However, the DMZ is under such a different situation from them. It needs to function well both systems for North and South Koreas. This characteristic requires the DMZ city to have a unique urban archetype which will not be conventional in discourse of urban design. For this reason, this thesis is required to ponder on a new urban archetype which is able to accommodate diverse political system at the same time.

13 Bertrand Russell, A History of Western Philosophy (New York: Simon and Schuster, c1945), pp.577-578

Fig 4-2. A City Form of the Baroque City, Versailles
4.2. Political Risks

In the previous chapters, we explored one of two main strategies for the DMZ city, which is to reclaim a political space in a city that is able to accommodate different political ideologies. Another main strategy for the DMZ city is related with its unstable status resulted from surrounding political situation. This insecurity can be represented by the WATCHCON, an alert state system used by and coordinated between the South Korean armed forces and United States Department of Defense to measure reconnaissance posture, utilized often in matters concerning North Korea. That is, the WATCHCON is changed according to military tension. It has five stages. The stage of '5' means a status of unification between two Koreas. WATCHCON 4 is in effect during normal peacetime. And the code '3' is declared at a time of
indications of an important threat. The stage of ‘2’ is in effect during of a vital threat, and WATCHCON 1 means that the Korean peninsula enters wartime.

These alterations could be obvious when the Kaesong Industrial Complex near the DMZ repeats sporadically between shutdown and reopening according to change of WATCHCON stage. As we can find out in the timeline in the figure, there have been several incidents that raised the WATCHCON stage. And, shutdowns of the Kaesong Industrial Complex exactly corresponded to these rises. Eventually, this thesis would propose a city that is able to deliver its scenarios resilient to the political risks by utilizing the WATCHCON as a temporal parameter.

Fig 4-4. WATCHCON as a Temporal Parameter of Political Risks
4.3. Urban Archetype

The proposed urban archetype is composed of walls and enclaves. Each enclave, surrounded by walled buildings, is able to accommodate plural developments as it needs. I would call these enclaves as discrete enclaves. The urban archetype of discrete enclaves is possible to have diverse ideologies at once because of its wall which are dividing enclaves so as to make them independent from each other. Also, this autonomous structure enables to control every units when it needs to be shutdown or reopening according to the change of military tension around the DMZ area.

These discrete enclaves acknowledge diverse ideologies.

Fig 4-5. Diagram of Wall and Enclave Archetype

- negotiating diverse ideologies
- differentiated values
by revealing differences between them and have a potential to negotiate possible political conflicts. Therefore, this urban archetype would be the fundamental framework for the DMZ city. In history, there were many precedents using walled structure as their archetype. However, most of them have only focused on walled building in respect of its separating nature for security and protecting inside of it. The urban archetype of wall and enclave is different from them since it would attempt not only to utilize wall's nature to segregate from others, but also to manifest an ideology distinct from other politic systems.
Fig 4-7. Fortified Churches in Transylvania
Fig 4-8. Boundary Hotel Elevator, Adam Simpson, 1989
Fig 4-9. The Great mosque of al-Mutawakkil in Samarra, Iraq

Fig 4-10. The 1960s Future Town of Motopia, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, 1959
Fig 4-11. Nature Within Walls in Montreuil

Fig 4-12. Climat de France, Algiers, Fernand Pouillon, 1957
4.4. Wall and Enclave

This urban archetype for the politic city is mainly composed of wall and enclave. The wall is made of collaborative program and integrated with major infrastructures which are post-ideological elements in a political city. On the other hand, the enclave could include representational buildings – such as governmental buildings, civic institutions, cultural programs, and academic institutions – and a specific political form of habitation which reflects ideological status of itself.

We could say that being a wall is inherent in nature of the infrastructure. As we can identify through many examples of highly densified metropolis, once the infrastructure is inserted into the city, it usually disconnect surrounded urban fabrics. Therefore, infrastructure acquire clear formal manifestation in a city much more than a group of buildings. Also, since infrastructure is purely functional and serves
to whole system of a city, we can state that infrastructure is respectively free from political ideologies. Hence, the walls would be the post-ideological elements in the politic city. For this reason, this thesis tried to actively integrate infrastructures into the wall in the following proposition of the DMZ city.

In the wall, another important trait is that negotiation between communism and capitalism could take place in it. It might be economic collaboration through an office or manufacturing space. Along with infrastructure

![Fig 4-14. Infrastructure as a Wall](image-url)
Fig 4-15. Infrastructure as a Form-Giver

Fig 4-16. Architecture Integrated with Infrastructure
inserted into it, the wall could be the space of encountering in a transportation facility in which people from two different political systems meet with each other and make communication. The wall, having the space of encountering, belongs to post-ideological element in a city.

On the other hand, the enclaves, in which residential and commercial-mixed habitations are constructed, would take specific political forms according to its ideologies. As we can see in the comparison pictures, city forms of communism and capitalism are obviously different in terms of their structure. In the communism society, their exemplar urban blocks are ‘Microdistrict’ which is a residential complex in a communism state, ‘Dom Kommuna’ which is a housing experiment of Russian constructivism, ‘Gemeindebau’ referring to residential buildings erected by a municipality, usually to provide low-cost public housing, and ‘Siedlung’ that German socialist devised as a social housing.

Fig 4-17. The Wall as Space of Encountering

The negotiation takes place at the wall = space of encountering between communism and capitalism...
Fig 4-18. Political Form of Communism

MICRODISTRICT
- A residential complex in communism states

DOM KOMMUNA
- Social condenser
Fig 4-19. Political Form of Capitalism

MASS SINGLE HOUSING

GENERIC BLOCKS
C.B.D.

HOMOGENEOUS GRID
The capitalist society has manifestly distinct city forms from the communism ones. Compared to them, the capitalism city form has homogeneous and equal distribution of individual buildings, such as mass single detached housing which is prevalent in suburban development in the capitalist society, central business districts representing capital accumulation in a city, and equal grid blocks.

For initiating entire system of a city by this urban archetype, walls and enclaves are realized through three important moments. First, separating for autonomous developments. Second, putting activators in enclaves. And, overlapping negotiation elements across enclaves. These three layers are superimposed on top of each other. Thus, each layer plays a different role in terms of politics. That is, layers are separating enclaves from other political ideologies. After this, politic activators in enclaves initiate developments in a city. At last, if the DMZ city is fully developed, diverse enclaves are starting to negotiate with each other and trying to mediate their differences.
Fig 4-20. Three Important Moments of Forming the Politic City

1. **SEPARATING**
   - Framing for plural development

2. **ACTIVATING**
   - Representational Things
     - administration, assembly, judiciary

3. **NEGOTIATING**
   - Common Ground
     - library, academic
     - shopping mall, sports complex

Fig 4-21. Superimposed Layers of the Politic City

- Common Grounds
  - negotiating between political values

- Representational Things
  - accommodating diverse ideologies
5
THE DMZ CITY WITH POLITICAL CONFLICTS
5. THE DMZ CITY WITH POLITICAL CONFLICTS

5.1. Proposed Site

The proposed site in which this thesis would test out the new urban archetype is the western territory of the Korean DMZ. Around this area, lots of important facilities and infrastructures are gathering. The reason of such concentration in this area is that the Joint Security Area (JSA), the only portion of the DMZ where South and North Korean forces stand face-to-face, is located here. As in the figures, the Northern Limit Line (NLL) and the Southern Limit...
Fig 5-2. Proposed Site Situation

[Map showing proposed site situation with labels such as "KAESONG INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX", "Highway to Pyongyang", "DMZ", "NLL", "SLL", "Highway to Seoul", "Commute Connection Highway", "Freight Railway"]]
Line (SLL) delimits the DMZ area. On the west area of this site, the only passable highway for civilian is present. By this connection, South Korean workers commutes to the Kae-song Industrial Complex. And, freights for manufacturers in the complex are delivered by this highway and the adjacent railway from Seoul to Kaesong. Hence, the site could play a significant role in distributing resources between two Koreas. The thesis would utilize this condition in designing the DMZ city.

On the other hand, the important disconnected highway is located at the east area. This highway was originally intended to connect Seoul with Pyongyang. However, the DMZ has obstructed its flow. Therefore, this thesis assumes that the reconnection of these two highways will be the activating project of the DMZ city.

In the figure of fundamental system framework, several essential factors to sustain whole city networks are defined. The framework needs to have an expanded major highway network from the activating project, connecting it to the secondary network, the beltway. Along the beltway, several transit stops are placed, and several zones, such as logistics, urban agriculture, park, and industrial, are designated on appropriate locations. From this data, density of each wall can be generated by the calculation of proximity to every factors. The red walls would have taller buildings, while the green ones having the lowest building. This distribution map and the fundamental system framework serve to make urban structure for the DMZ city.
Fig 5-3. Fundamental System Framework

Fig 5-4. Density Distribution on the Walled Buildings
Red ones indicates higher density, while green ones lower density.
5.2. Development Phasing

The DMZ city needs to have several construction stages in order to resolving possible financial issues. It could be divided into five phases according to their economic functions. If we zoom into these phases, in phase 0, reconnection of a highway from Pyongyang to Seoul could be a starting project. Thus, this new reconnected highway and the existing one in the west side delimits the boundary of the project area.

In phase 1, border control facilities and major inner highway make it possible to build an initial city, the Gate project. After this, the secondary infrastructure, beltway, and the governmental complexes inner area of the beltway would decide next expansion. Upon the completion of the phase

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**Fig 5-5. Development Phasing Diagram**

- **PHASE 0**
  - Re-connection
  - Two flanked highways as walls delimits the DMZ city.

- **PHASE 1**
  - Border control
  - Border economy enables gate project.
  - Logistic and passenger control.
2 construction, habitations will increase sharply. In phase 3, in order to boost economy of the city, it will have industrial corridors, connected to the completed major infrastructures. And, in the final phase, the city expands and accommodates public realms, the common grounds, which enable enclaves to negotiate with other political ideologies.

Fig 5-6. The Activating Project
Delimitation of the DMZ city by two main connection infrastructure.

PHASE 2

beltway project
Secondary mobility network decides expandable area. Politic activators which prepare for reunification generate initial expansion of the DMZ city.

PHASE 3

logistic corridors
With the industrial bands, the DMZ city take the economical advantage of border location.

PHASE 4

expansion
Common grounds negotiate plural values between separate enclaves.
Phase 1: Economy related with a borderland enables the gate project. The city will have separate border control securities for logistic and passenger control, respectively. And, the transit hotel for visitors is located at the center of the city.
Phase 2: The secondary mobility network, linked with the major highway, will decide expandable area and initiate further development. On top of it, politic activators which are prepared for reunification generate expansion of the city.
Phase 3: With the logistic corridor, the city takes the economic advantage of border location. Because the DMZ has an optimal location for logistics, a new freight terminal on the existing industrial railway will be placed.
Phase 4: The city have common grounds, such as civic institutions, academic institutions, and cultural venues, mediating between different enclaves. They are overlapped on the walled grid and play as a space of negotiation.
5.3. Political Resiliency

The other reason to make this wall and enclave arche-type for the politic city is related with political resiliency that the DMZ city should have in order to be resilient to military risks. The temporal parameter is WATCHCON representing military tension. As the political tension between North and South Korea changes, a part of the city should be repeating between shutdowns and reopenings. Since each enclave is independent from others in the DMZ city, it is possible to halt only some part of the city without harming its entire network.

Every residents of the DMZ city have different timeline according to their political status. For instance, defectors, who left their own political system and country, are inescapable residents in the DMZ city. Accordingly, they would stay in the city even during a period with the highest risk, the war period. On the other hand, temporary residents, such as tourists, workers, and students, would need to escape from the city just as political risk gets higher.

If looking into each stage in detail, WATCHCON 5 means the status of unification between two Koreas. The city has a full system and starts to prepare for the next stage of extending beyond the DMZ. In WATCHCON 4, common grounds will stop to function, and the outside enclaves of the beltway will be shut down. As the code change to 3, it will be in a status of an important threat. Therefore, most of temporary residents, such as workers and tourists should be evacuated to their countries. As military tension gets higher, the governmental complex and the beltway will be closed. Only a
5 Unification

Full System
Preparation for extending beyond the DMZ

Fig 5-18. Structure of the City in WATCHCON 5

Fig 5-19. Structure of the City in WATCHCON 4

4 Normal Peacetime
Outer areas of the beltway are off

COMMON GROUND for negotiation is out

Evacuated Wall Buildings

Evacuated Enclaves
3 An Important Threat
Inner Beltway areas are off

Evacuated enclaves inside of Beltway

Remaining governmental buildings

Fig 5-20. Structure of the City in WATCHCON 3

Fig 5-21. Structure of the City in WATCHCON 2

2 A Vital Threat
Beltway closed

Governmental complex shut-down

Evacuated walls along the Beltway
part of the city related with logistics is remaining. In the most dangerous stage, the wartime, the city would leave only border control facilities and the defectors who are living in the enclaves inside of the major highway structures.
5.4. Walled Building Typology

In this chapter, we would zoom into a design of walls and enclaves in architectural scale. As we can see in the axonometric drawing of typical enclaves, there are several different types of walled buildings. Types can be categorized based on diverse surrounding situation that walled buildings are facing.

Generic types of continuous walled buildings are divided into three groups. Some of the first type stands without podium and infrastructure with generally a width of from 15m to 32m. This type serves to function as an office, a housing, or a parking garage building. The others belonging to the first type are having a podium structure on the bottom floors. This

Fig 5-23. Axonometric of Typical Enclaves
type is able to include big programs, for example, a supermarket and a warehouse mixed with office and housings to both of residents from communism and capitalism side.

The second type is integrated with the elevated beltway, the secondary transportation network in the DMZ city. In the lower floors, it has common programs and retails mixed with a transit structure from the beltway to local traffics. And, the third type is most complicated one. It includes the major highway structure at the center of itself, flanked by two rows of continuous walled buildings. On the lower floors, it could accommodate warehouses as a podium with multiple infrastructures, the beltway and the highway.
Fig 5-25. Detailed Partial Urban Plan Showing Border Control and Highway

Fig 5-26. Detailed Partial Urban Plan Showing Governmental Complex
Fig 5-27. Walled Building Type 1-1
Continuous wall without podium

Walled Building Typology - 1

- type a.1: standard wall
  - 32m width / without transportation infra.

Fig 5-28. Walled Building Type 2
Continuous wall with infrastructure

Walled Building Typology - 2

- type c: wall + infrastructure
  - beltway: secondary transportation network
  - mixed-use development

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Walled Building Typology - 1

- type b.1: podium + wall
  - without transportation infra.
  - commercial band

Walled Building Type 1-2
Continuous wall with podium

- type b.2: podium + wall
  - without transportation infra.
  - industrial band

Walled Building Typology - 3

- type d: wall + infrastructure
  - highway: border crossing transportation network
  - beltway: secondary transportation network
  - mixed-use development

Walled Building Type 2
Continuous wall with podium and multiple infrastructure

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5.5. Dichotomous Wall Housing

This section explores a case of possible design of a wall building with housing units for residents from both political sides. This thin walled building would be called the dichotomous wall because both of residents from communism and capitalism side are co-living in a narrow wall, generating borders between two political ideologies. This building will be one of the moments of political conflicts in the DMZ city as in a human scale. As you can see in the following figures, housing units belonging to capitalism and communism sides are intertwining with each other. However, these units are not interconnecting at all despite its nearness, approximately at thickness of in-between wall, 200mm. The dichotomous wall housing is intended to create some tension from this close situation.

Fig 5-31. Capitalist Secretly Gazing into a Communism Enclave
In a plinth structure, the building has retail and common program integrated with the highway. Each residential units in a political side has its own vertical core and common space which are not overlapped with the other side units. Furthermore, every housing units will have a view only open to an enclave which their political side is belonging to. The residents could only gaze at the other side through tiny opening secretly. This gazing represents the ongoing political conflict in the DMZ city.

Fig 5-32. Plan of the Dichotomous Wall Housing
Fig 5-33. Axonometric of the Dichotomous Wall Building

Fig 5-34. Plinth Structure of the Dichotomous Wall Building
Fig 5-35. Core and Common Space Diagram of the Dichotomous Wall Building

Vertical Core and Common Spaces

Fig 5-36. Units Distribution Diagram of the Dichotomous Wall Building

Dichotomous Housing Units
Fig 5-37. Sectional Perspective of the Dichotomous Wall Building
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this thesis have tried to explore a new urban archetype for the political city where different ideologies are co-existing through revealing their conflicts. Through the case of the Korean DMZ, we would argue that political instability is able to be managed with the city form.

Fig 5-38. Overview of the DMZ city
of wall and enclave city. This thesis hopes that this proposition for the political city will enable for diverse politics to co-exist and negotiate with each other, while acknowledging their differences in a city.
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