

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)
Honors theses

Seoul_Sewoon Sangga - A project for urban regeneration of Sewoon Districts

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Our thesis project focused on Sewoon Districts and a megastructure, designed and built by Kim Swoo Geun, Seoul 1966. When we found out that the Council intended to demolish Sewoon Sangga and the eight blocks around it, which still represent the city production center, by means of an urban plan named "Corridors", we started to propose alternative solutions to prevent the above mentioned urban areas from being demolished and, therefore, preserve the landmark of the Korean modern movement, as well as one of the most dynamic public areas in Seoul.

After analyzing the downtown, we came to the conclusion that the two main service areas set in the eastern and western part of Sewoon Districts will so tend to expand towards each other: they will therefore include Sewoon Districts as well as the nearby blocks, which represent Seoul's production centers. This because their extension towards other areas is prevented by natural barriers, such as hills and artificial barriers, or by the proximity of highways, regulating the city traffic.

Being aware of the fact that the urban dynamics of this magnitude can not be stopped or influenced by a simple renovation project, we tried to create a project, focusing on the historical and socio-economic importance of these architectural subjects - influenced by our cultural background and academic training -, which would restart from Sewoon Sangga and Sewoon Districts to enhance and redevelop a part of town that today is degraded and careless.



Urban analysis / floor plan of the project

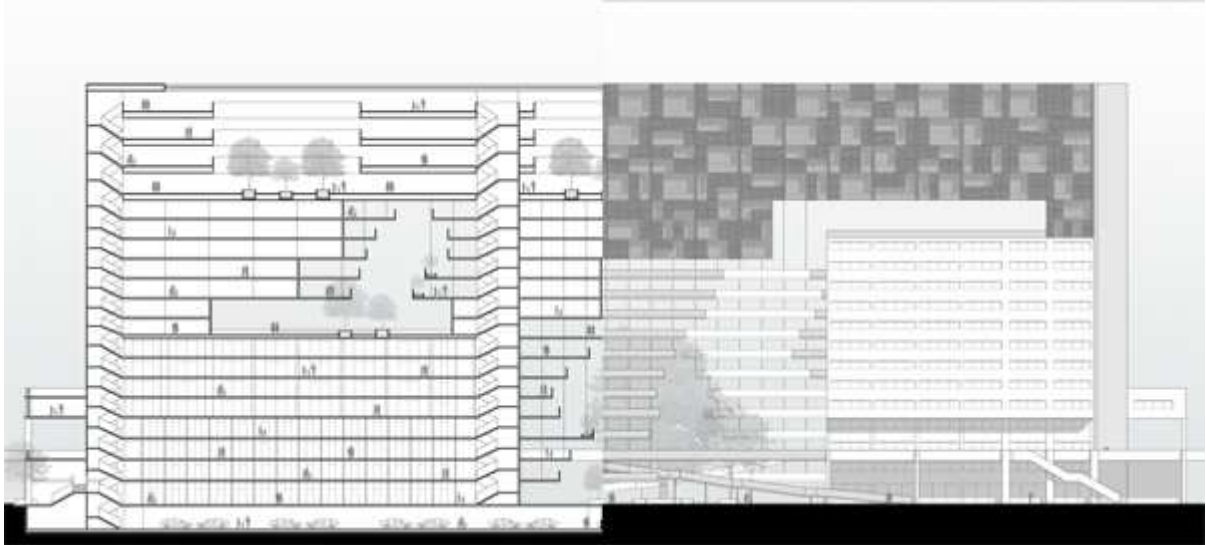
Putting ourselves in opposition to the design ideas of urban development, suggested by Seoul government, our proposal for the creation of a "Green Corridor" would revolve around the presence of meandering green streams, which would follow the paths of ancient tributaries of the Cheonggyecheon Canal, while, as regards the increase of the building capacity of this area, it would take place through a raising of Sewoon Sangga, that would not only help to preserve the megastructure and districts connected with it, but would increase their value and improve the relationship with the existing urban areas.



Sketch of the intervention

The green streams will have the task of reviving the commercial attitude of the spaces that cross, determining also an architectural upgrading and, whenever they intersecting the four volumes of Sewoon Sangga, they will indicate the direction of the restoration project of the megastructure: in the point of intersection, in fact, the floors of the building that are located in correspondence of it, will be removed to make some place for a system of terraces, which will constitute the main element of union between the new volume and the existing block.

Next to this system of terraces, whose shape comes from the natural curvature of the green paths, we developed another system of terraces, this time more regular, that would have emptied the volume of the cant, determining the final shape. The distribution system of the new volume, then, revolves around this dual system of terraces, leaning on the existing system of stairways and lifts, duly completed by new elements of vertical distribution, located in the heads and in the central part of each of the four blocks. The final building will have a mixed functional purpose, developing business and other activities in the first floors and residential areas in the last four levels.



"Perspective section", block 2

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