

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture
Honors theses

Mega[Seoul] slum in megacity: a proposal for the district Baeksa-maeul

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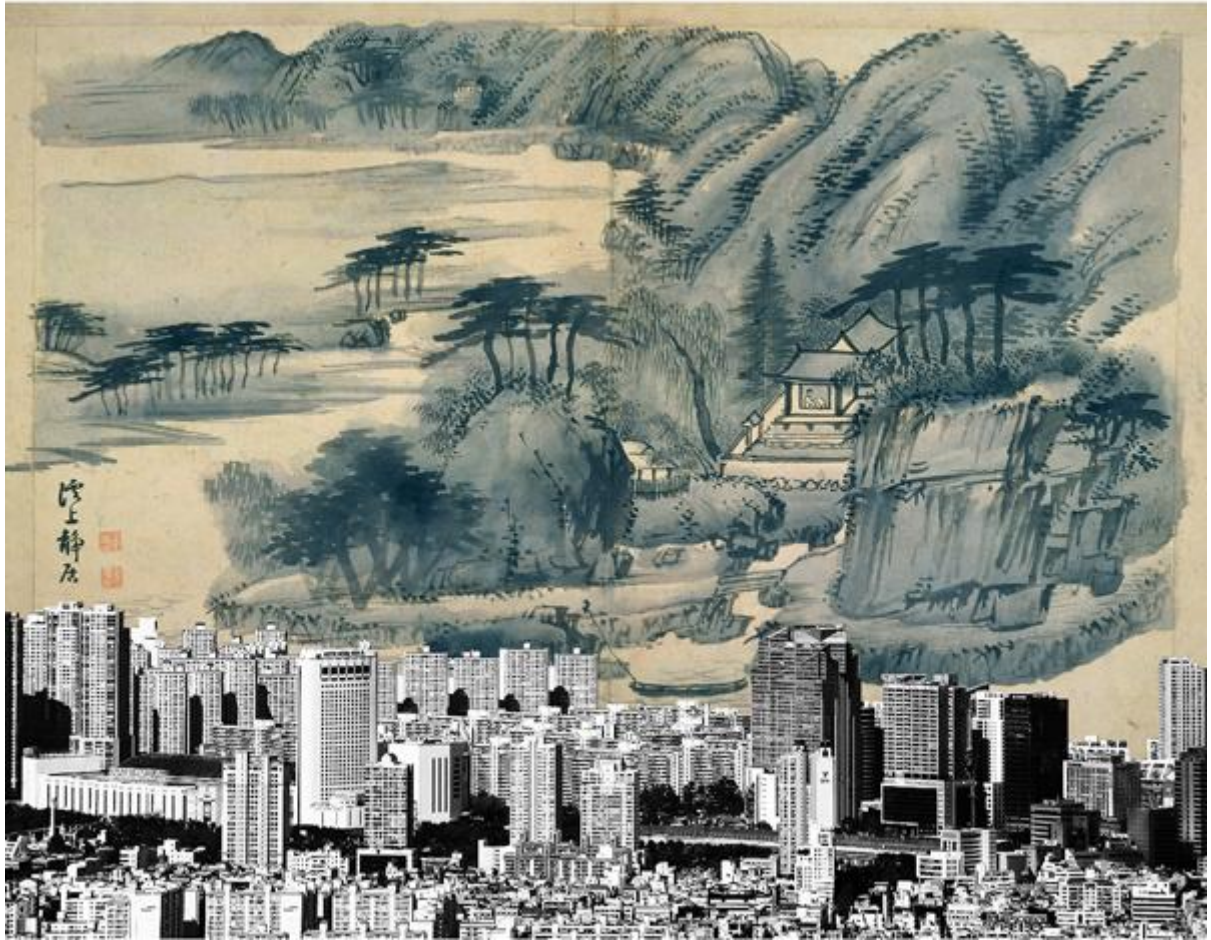
Tutor: Massimo Camasso

Megaseoul

Since 1952 Seoul has started an unstoppable run towards an extraordinary urban and economic development; in fact it resulted one of the four largest city with the highest GDP in the world with a value of 774 billion dollars in 2012. From the architectural point of view, the city has suffered several changes that have radically transformed its appearance. A famous and recent example is the DDP (Dongdaemun Design Plaza), recently opened and defined as the largest irregular three-dimensional architecture of the world. Or the Lotte World Tower which will be completed in 2016 which will become the tallest skyscraper in the OECD. These are just some examples of a number of new buildings built by foreign architects that have few things in common to share with the traditional culture of the country. I certainly do not claim that every project necessarily has to maintain a link with the past but this kind of "Western style" could be the reason of a possible losing point of reference with the tradition and history of Korea.

From this reasoning came the idea of this thesis and starting from this problem I wondered what had been the causes of this sprawl. In which direction and what developments are going to affect the city of Seoul?

This thesis is a close-up of the Korean urbanism and in particular of Seoul, bringing out the history of its development, analyzing the conditions that led to its formation and expansion to become a mega city. Finally is also analyzed the case study of a slum district named "Baeksa-Maeul."



Megaseoul

Small village

Until 1960 Baeksa-Maeul was a rural village and only in a second period the migrants from other slums. Began to transfer to this place, causing the increase of its population. In 1969 there were about 7.000 inhabitants.

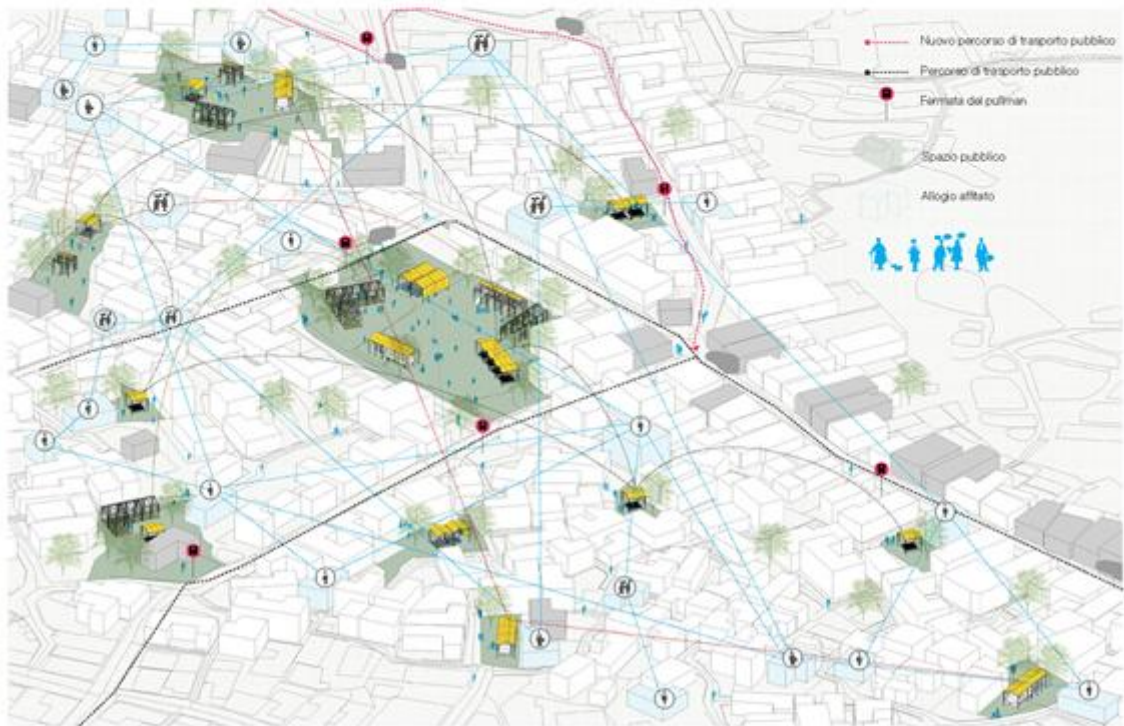
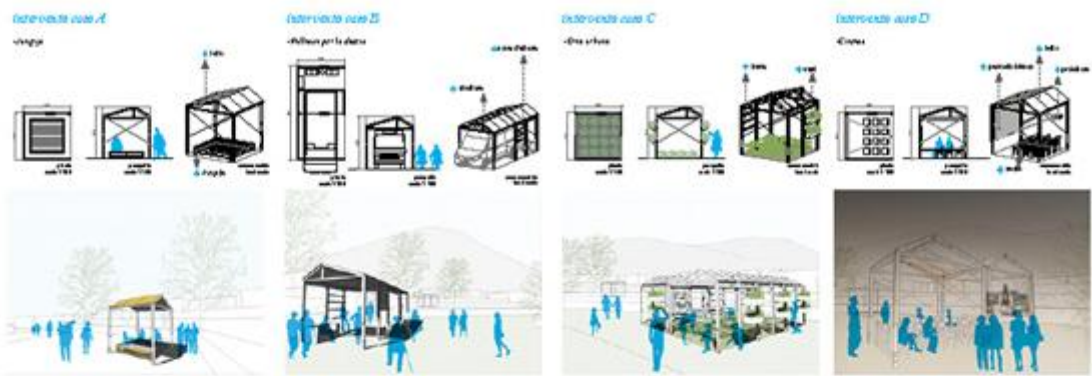
Since the 1980s the area underwent to redevelop all around except the Baeksa-Maeul and in the present day from the satellite's images you can immediately notice the difference between the districts and the retrained Baeksa-Maeul

Today the quality of life is extremely low. The public transportation only arrives to the entrance of the district, health services and other essential services such as hospitals, supermarkets and commercial activities are located away from the neighborhood.

The inhabitants are missing spaces and therefore they occupy public space, the street.

A sort of occupation does not mean just leaving the stuff on the road but to build a private space of fundamental importance for social relations. For example is possible to find a chair on the way where people can stop for a rest, or to put a blanket on the floor and everyone brings some food so the street becomes their restaurant.

All of these uses of the neighborhood fit as part of the landscape.



Smallarchitecture

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