Selected projects

2025

Spanish registered architect COAM #13990

-Daniel Valle Architects-

Daniel Valle Architects is an interdisciplinary design practice with a portfolio spanning architecture, interior design, and urban design. Our work is guided by a deep environmental and cultural sensitivity, expressed across a wide range of scales — from the craftsmanship of a single piece of furniture to the complexity of urban planning.

From our offices in Madrid and Seoul, we develop diverse projects including residential, cultural, educational, and sports facilities, each approached with the same commitment to design excellence, functionality, and context-driven solutions.

Daniel initially harbored a passion for car design and had plans to study industrial design in Italy. However, during his senior year, his interests shifted towards architecture. Consequently, he enrolled in the E.T.S.A.M, the School of Architecture in Madrid, and graduated with honors in 1999.

His educational journey continued at the Berlage Institute in The Netherlands, where he pursued a Master's Degree in Architecture. For two years, he immersed himself in a world of books and the picturesque canals of Amsterdam.

Post-graduation, Daniel gained valuable experience working in various countries with well-known architectural firms. These included stints at Foreign Office Architects in London, Nomad Architects (Eduardo Arroyo) in Madrid, and Euroestudios Engineers in Abu Dhabi. In 2008, he founded Daniel Valle Architects in Madrid, expanding the firm to South Korea in 2013.

PROJECTS at a Glance

OFFICE

KYOMUNSA
A mixed use building combining office and storage space for Kyomunsa Publishing Company. Located in Paju Book City , a contemporary industrial hub on the north side of Seoul.

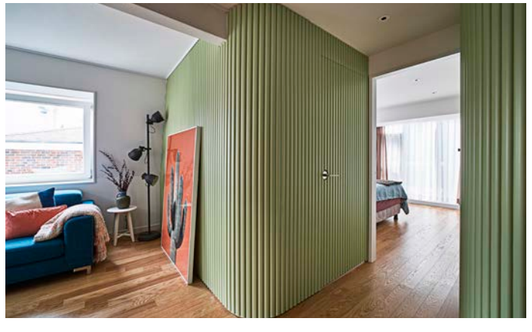
DONGDAEMUN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Proposal for the new Dongdaemung public library. in Seoul AWARDED 2nd PRIZE. A library designed for the XXI century.

RESIDENTIAL

HERNANDEZ RESIDENCE
Private house for a Spanish family in Madrid composed of three children and their parents. The strategy of the project is to provide natural light to the central area of the house by making a diagonal cut to the cubic form.

HAEHWA HOUSE RENOVATION
Hyehwa's House is a three-story building located in Seoul's city center, constructed in the early 1990s. The project entails a comprehensive renovation of the entire building, including upgrades to all mechanical and electrical systems.

YEOKSAM VILLA
Development of a private villa that features a duplex residence spanning the 4th and 5th floors, along with six 30m² rental apartments on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The villa boasts a distinctive facade design, blending classic window louvers with modern architectural composition.



MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN
A city serves as a vast infrastructure enabling mobility for numerous residents, while also forming a vast entity expanding from and connected by this infrastructure. Often, cities lose the human scale essential for fostering connections among people.

EDUCATION

MAEBONG KINDERGARTEN
Competition first prize. A public daycare center in Seoul for children up to five years old. The building is divided into five smaller volumes. Each of them have a distinctive color, geometry and finishing material to emphasize the smaller ones among the overall mass.

SPORTS

EOULIM SPORTS CENTER
The purpose of the design is the establishment of a sport center shared seamlessly by disabled and non-disabled in the northeastern part of Seoul for its lack of sport infrastructure and large disabled population. The building will also incorporate and bury the existing public parking lot.

INTERIOR

STAR MICHELIN JAVIER ARANDA RESTAURANT IN SEOUL
Interior design of Javier Aranda's new restaurant in Seoul. The design follows the culinary concepts of Javier by providing three different spaces to experience a three-stepped culinary journey.

PUBLIC

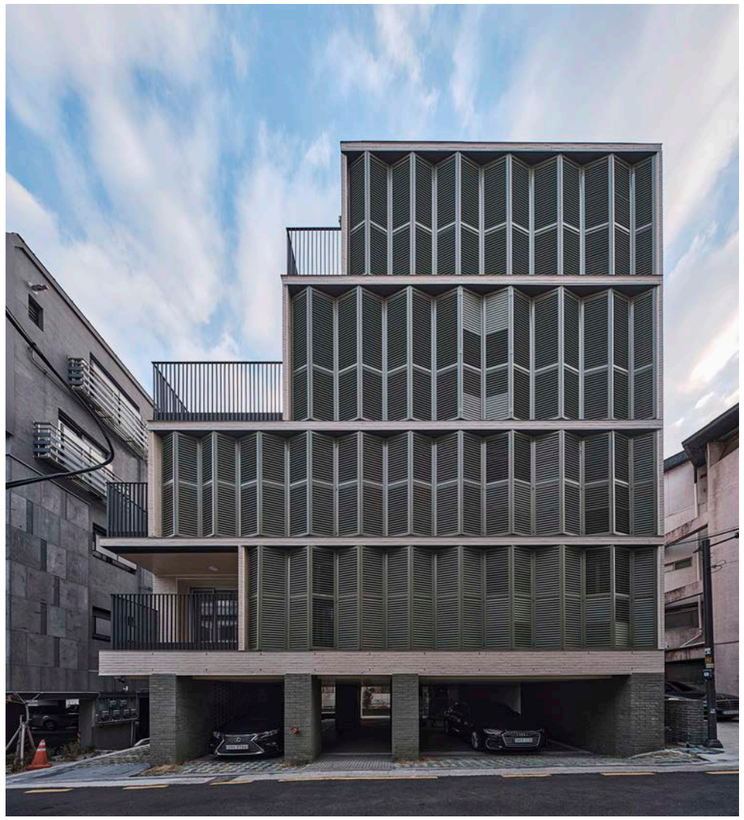
DAEGU PUBLIC TOILET
In Daegu's southern Susongmot Lake area, our renovation of a 1990s public restroom reimagines the building as a living part of its natural surroundings.

VILLA G

A combined living space. Rental studios and a private duplex.

The multi-family residential building, commonly known as “villa”, is a well spread typology in the cities of South Korea. Despite the large quantities of these residential buildings, arguably is not the preferable option for living in the city. The legal preconditions to design these type of buildings gives little space for innovation or typological variation in consequence creating a continuous urban magma of impersonalized buildings with a constant solution to massing, materiality and programmatic organization.

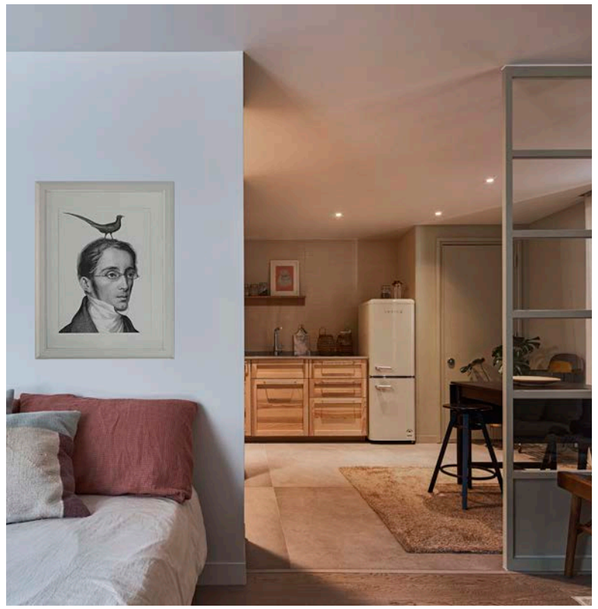
For all these reasons, designing yet another multi-family residence in Yeoksam-dong was an opportunity to find small design solutions that could provide certain level of newness to the restricted building typology. Firstly, the massing of the building, obtained as a consequence of strict application of the shadow-related code, is manipulated in order to increase the complexity of the volume. Two balconies are inserted in the north-west corner of the building, at 2F and 3F. By inserting the balconies in perpendicular direction to each other, the overall mass of the building is enriched.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Villa G
Seoul, South Korea
2021
Commisioned, Built
2,000,000 USD
850m²

Challenge some of the conventions on residential typologies



It is also taken in special consideration the design of the only one façade towards the city. This façade is designed with a prefabricated green colored aluminum shutter that acts as a second skin of the building. The undulated disposition of the shutters intent to provide depth to the façade in contrast to the flatness of the brick walls of the remaining facades. Shutters are useful to protect the direct penetration of the west sunlight inside the house during the summer months while preserving some natural light access during the morning and early afternoon.

The building includes two types of houses: rental apartments of 30m2 on the 2F and 3F and a private residence in a duplex solution on the 4F and 5F. The rental apartments are designed with the intention to subdivide the space into two distinctive zones differentiating the kitchen area from the living/ sleeping one avoiding direct visual contact between the bed and the cooking. Ultimately, the purpose of the design is to create the sense of larger space.

The private house on the 4F and 5F is designed with a classic European principle of space organization. The kitchen, dining and living room are organized linearly along an axes creating long visual perspectives, again, to increase the perception of scale of space inside a relatively small house.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Kyomunsa Publishing Company
Paju Book City, Paju, South Korea
2006
Commissioned. Built
2,915,000 USD
1,500 m2

KYOMUNSA PAJU BOOK CITY

In colaboration with Lee, Minah

PAJU kyomunsa

A hybrid building that combines half of its surface with a book's storage and the other half, mainly, with a working space.

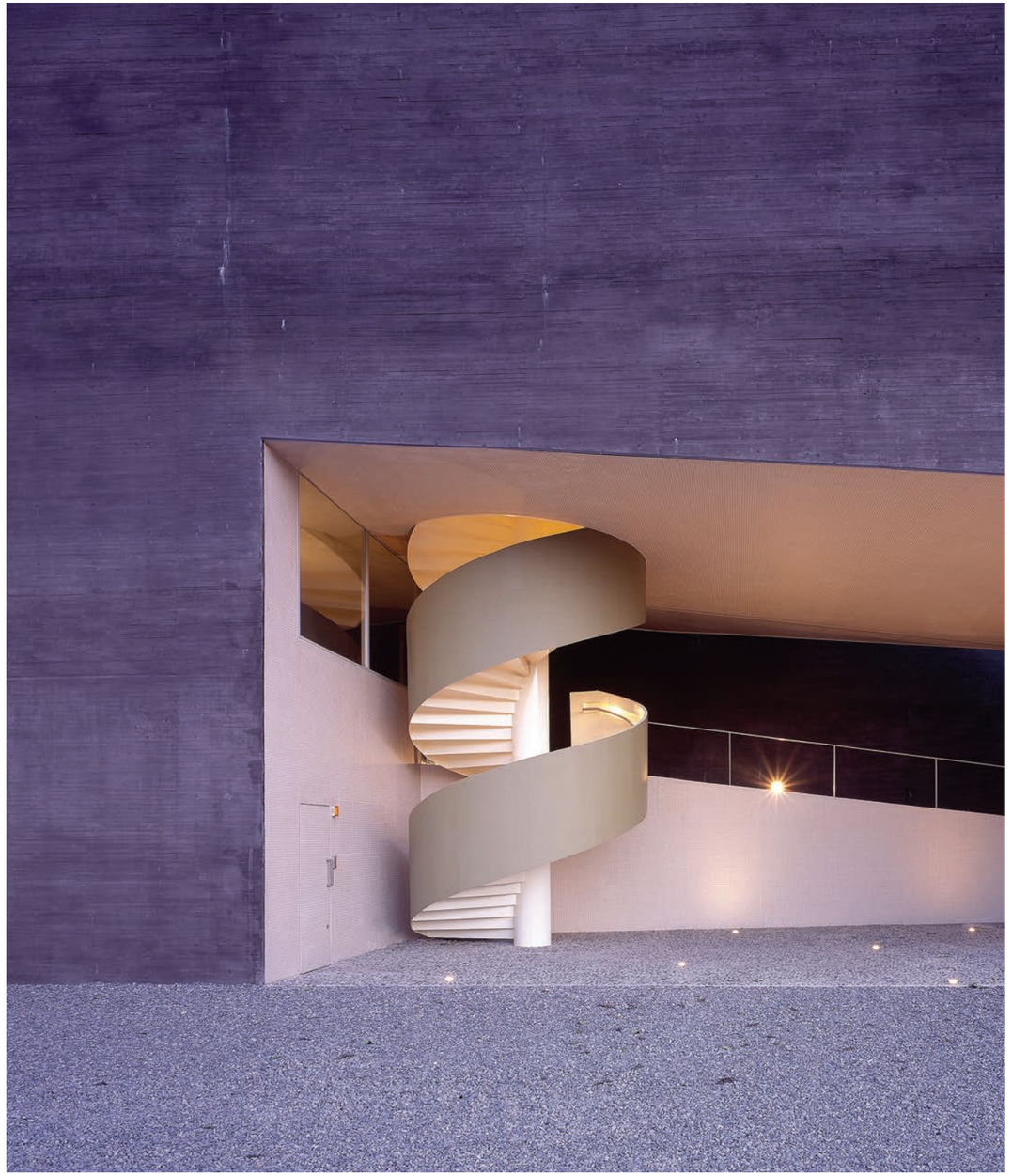
The project takes the opportunity to propose a common container capable to absorb both programs.

Consequently, the building is thought as a sequence of correlative sections constructed along an eighty meter long structure with its first section in a rectangular, one floor, six by eleven meters shape -"ideal" for storing books- and its last section in a three floor, pitched roof, fifteen by seven meters shape -a section that resembles to a living or working typology.

The sequence of sections along the project is smoothly morphing between first and last creating a continuous building.

The result is a sixty meters long longitudinal piece. The longest dimension of the site, though, is forty meters which meant that the resulted building couldn't fit in the proposed site. Consequently, the building bends until it fits in the site adopting a V-shaped configuration.

RIGHT: entrance from parking area
BOTTOM: storage terrace



STORAGE & OFFICE

Which one is more important? the proposal does not prioritize any of the programs but rather tries to explore architectural synergies between them. The interior and exterior materials have same treatment for both programs as well.

a spiral staircase made in steel guides visitors and users from the parking area to the second level where the office is located

RESIDENCE H

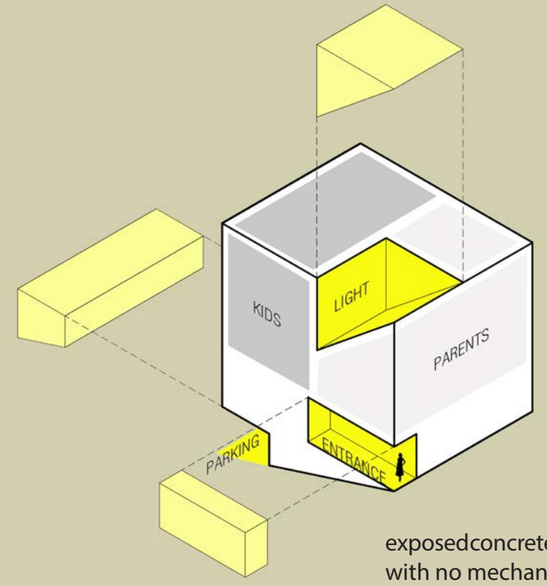
SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE

The relationship between parents and children is in flux for the coming years: from total dependency to independency. According to this the house organizes itself ambiguously between one family nucleus and two independent areas expressed to the exterior by a diagonal cut that divides the cubical mass into two sub-masses. This cut also allows natural light from the south penetrating through a large size window to the main circulation core and further in the living spaces.

Family is the basic unit of society. Spain, as a Catholic based culture, understand family as the core of social conduct and education. For many years, family has been understood as a solid unit with all of the members living close to each other under the same roof including, in many times, three different generations at once.

Now days, Spanish modern society has shift its understanding of family and its core values. Though still remains as a pivotal element in society, the relationship between parents and children has changed dramatically.

Moreover, that relationship between them fluxes in time making a design of a house a challenge. How do you organize a house and its different rooms if the relationships between family members are constantly shifting?



exposedconcreteslabs with no mechanical systems visible in both walls and ceilings

PROJECT INFORMATION

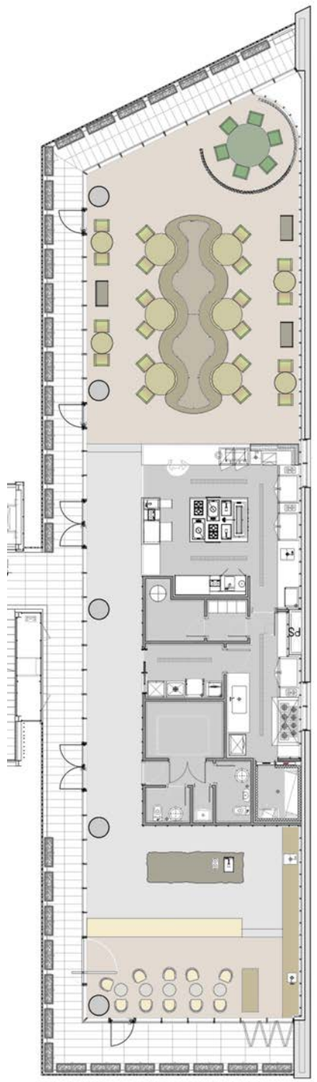
Single Family Housing for Hernandez Family
Madrid, Spain
2009
Commissioned. Built
700,000 USD
270 m²

JAVIER ARANDA SEOUL

One star Michelin Spanish restautant

PROJECT INFORMATION

Chef Javier Aranda (Madrid)
Seoul, South Korea
2022
- USD
400 m2



NOBLE AND QUALITY MATERIALS

All finishing materials are of high quality and provide to the customer a sensation of excellence and comfort.
The dining area is mostly cover in natural woods where the kitchen area is mostly finished in stainless steel panels and a ceramic floor (wood printed). Bathrooms are finishes in green terrazzo both on floors and walls.
Furniture in the dining area is composed of marble top tables, chairs (canalla or elegant version) and complementary cupboard furniture to support the waiters.
There is a predominant use of wood and dark marble that combines with the floor and wall materials.
A flower setting is placed on top of the cupboard cabinets.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dongdaemun Public Library

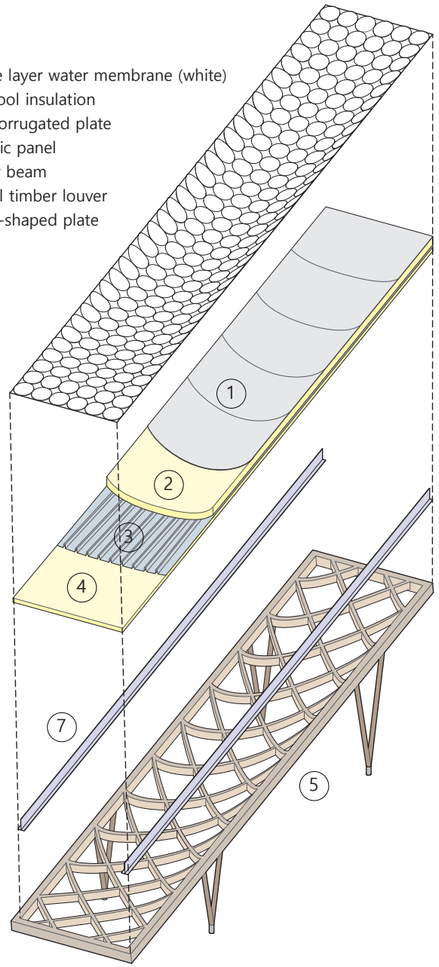
PROJECT INFORMATION

City of Seoul
2023
2nd PRIZE
60,000,000 USD
24.500 m²

Libraries are evolving towards a new conception of the public, seen as a safe space promoting equality and participation. Today, libraries are more of a public space than a building. To signify this transformation, we propose a large roof—a structure that reflects a sense of continuity and stability amidst the library's increasingly complex program.

The new Dongdaemun Public Library aspires not to be an iconic building, but rather a symbolic one. It seeks to move away from the notion of a fortress and monumentality, instead embracing the idea of an open institution accessible to all.

Street view of front facade



All technical solutions for the roof exceed environmental standards and inject a sense of "green pride" in future generations of library users.

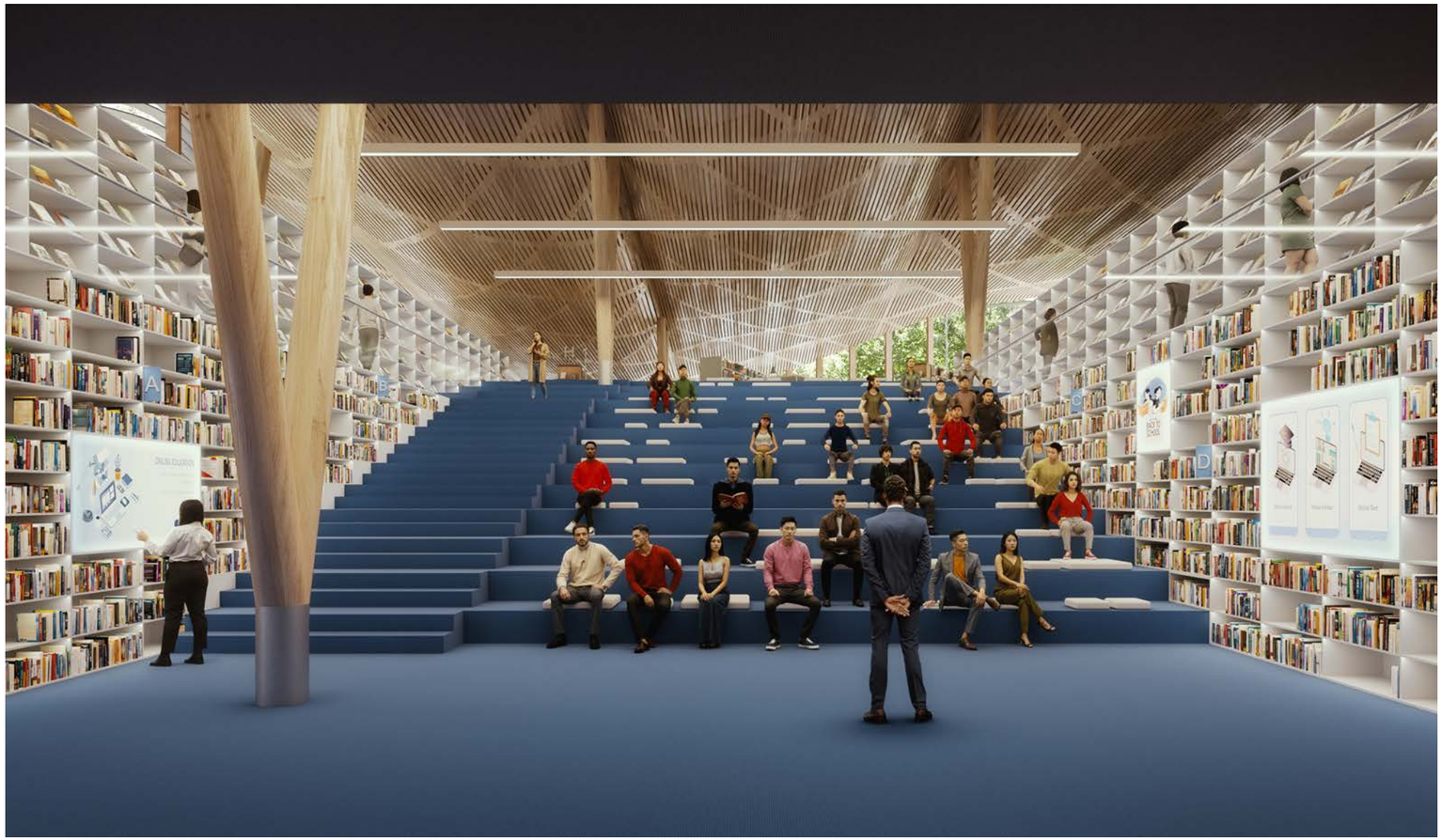
A grid of columns distributed throughout the main space will provide support for the timber roof. The placement of the roof in a low position aims to prevent obstruction of views from nearby apartments.

Due to its low position, the roof is considered the fifth façade of the building, visible from many apartment windows. Consequently, all technical elements on the roof will be integrated into the overall design.

Beneath the exterior circular modules lies a lightweight roof solution supported by a timber structure designed to create a gentle curve. Towards the interior, a sound-absorbent material and a finished natural wood ceiling are proposed.

The circular modules are built in pre-coated steel and integrate three types of systems: a customized BIPV solar panels. A titanium dioxide coating module capable to absorb and destroy air pollution and finally, a skylight allowing light and fresh air circulate inside the building.

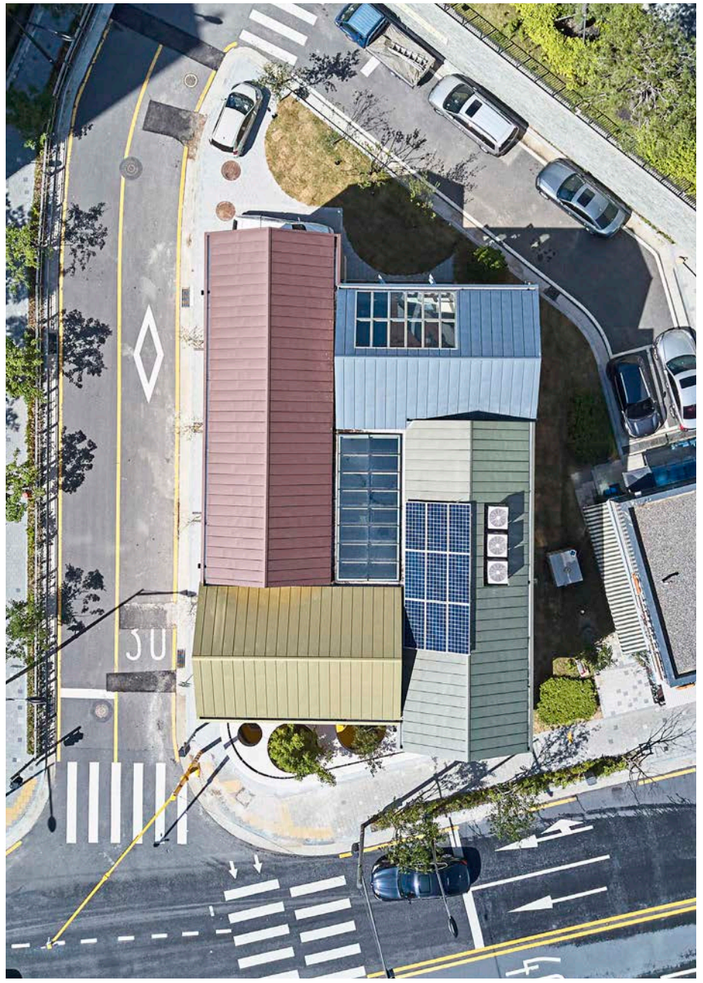
The light color of the roof retains a small amount of heat from the sun helping to reduce the overall temperature of the neighborhood.



MAEBONG KINDERGARTEN

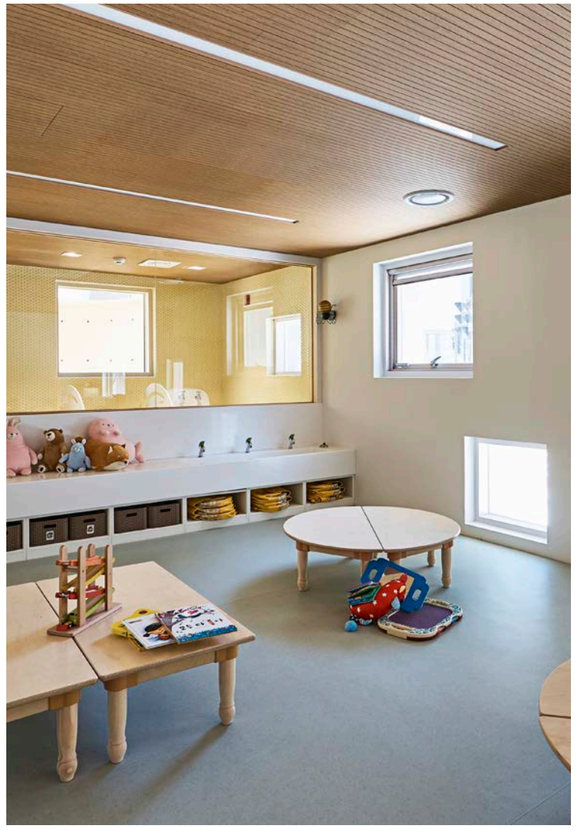
A building subdivided into five buildings to adapt to the children's sense of scale.

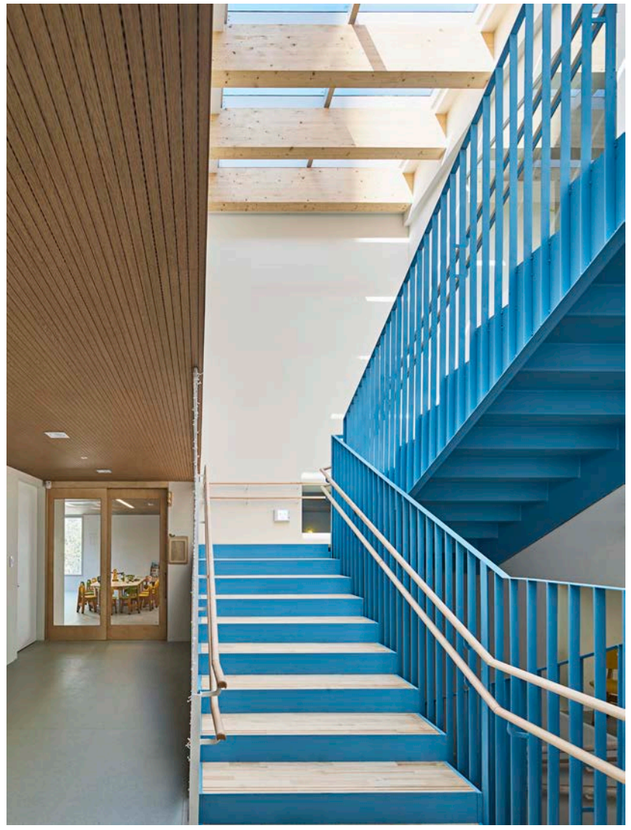
Children have a different scale perception than adults. At a young age everything looks larger in size than when we see it as adults. The project focuses on the idea of scaling down the perception of the building so that the future young users can relate more to it.
To achieve this goal the massing of the building is divided into five smaller volumes. Each of them have a distinctive color, geometry and finishing material to emphasize the smaller ones among the overall mass.
Windows also contribute to the overall idea of scale perception. They are designed in various sizes and heights so that all users –children from one to five years and adults- can have direct views to the exterior. No matter what the height of the user will be, there will be always a window that adjusts to it.



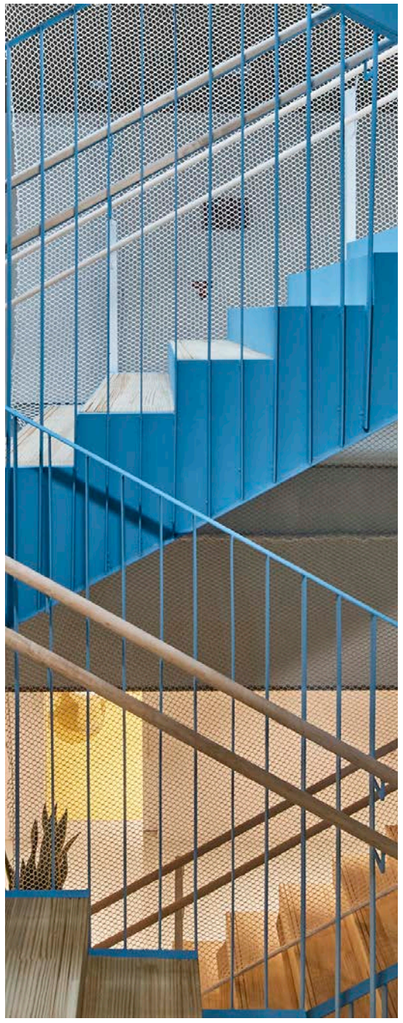
PROJECT INFORMATION

Maebong Public Kindergarten
800 m²
1,900,000 USD
Seoul, South Korea
2017-18
Competition First Prize
Built

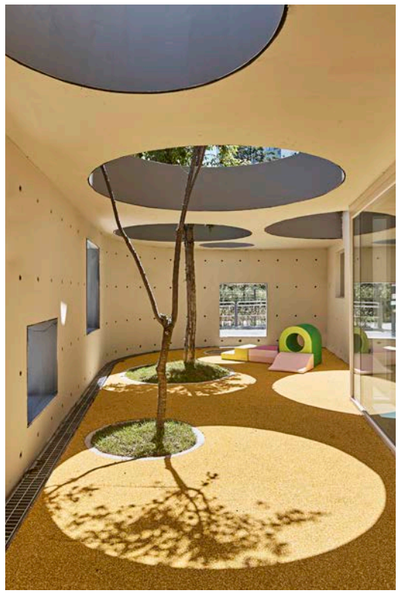


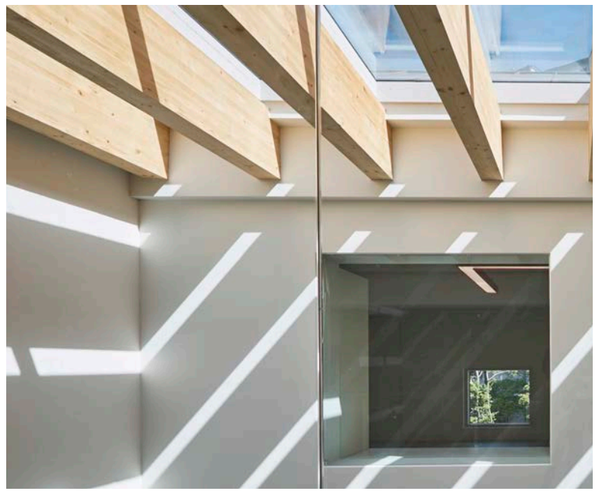


The building is located in the junction between two roads. The main entrance of the building opens towards the wider road consequently the entrance is designed so that children cannot have a direct exit to the road but rather through a transition space.
This space serves as a safety area but also as a playground and as a buffer zone between classes and the traffic's noise coming from the main road. For safety reasons the parking area is located in the opposite side from the main entrance with access for vehicles from the secondary road.
The building is organized around a central stair painted in blue color with a large skylight on the roof that allows natural light access to the heart of the building. Classrooms open towards this space
Classrooms are orientated to south and east while the serving programs such as kitchen, storages, elevator and bathrooms are orientated towards the north. A greenhouse is located in the third floor that not only acts as part of the educational program but also as a heating system during the cold days of the winter. The warm air accumulated during the day is released later in the evening to the inner spaces contributing to the overall air treatment of the building.



Well-being. All interior spaces are designed with the objective to improve the well-being of the users. The selection of the right finishing materials have an impact on the healthy conditions of the interior environment. In this regards, all finishing materials have been chosen with a low VOC (volatile organic compound) components including the fixation elements such as glues or mortars. Also there is a large presence of natural materials such as the acoustic wood boards or the marmoleum (made from 97% natural raw materials) in the floor.
All ceilings are finished with wood-made acoustic panels to reduce significantly the levels of sound which are typically high in kindergartens.
Natural light is the primary element for a healthy life. Consequently, all interior spaces are naturally lit with generous size and number of windows. All classrooms are orientated to south and east while the kitchen, bathrooms and other service areas are orientated to north.
The building is designed to allow natural air flows crossing various spaces with special mention to the triple space with the stair that acts as a chimney in the summer allowing the warm air to be released from the roof top's opening while in the winter keeping it in the interior.
Finally, floor heating and mechanical air circulation systems are implemented in all rooms to increase the overall comfort of the users.
The main stair is designed as a two independent though consecutive stairs each of them with different materials and geometry rather than as a continuous element. The stair starts in the first floor as a solid wood structure and continues as a lighter steel structure colored in light blue from the second floor. The interior blue parapet of the stair extends from first to third level connecting visually all levels of the stair.





The facades are painted in four distinctive colors with a light grey brick wall on the first level.

GWANCHEON MASTER PLAN

1,000 housing neighbourhood

The proposed urban fabric aims to foster a pedestrian-oriented city through a highly accessible street grid design. By connecting two blocks into cohesive units resembling small towns, the plan enhances city walkability. This 'pairing' strategy of buildings promotes interaction across small-scale spaces in various directions, encouraging community engagement and connectivity.

A city serves as a vast infrastructure enabling mobility for numerous residents, while also forming a vast entity expanding from and connected by this infrastructure. Often, cities lose the human scale essential for fostering connections among people.

The proposed urban structure aims to reintroduce an appropriate scale conducive to community interaction. It envisions a vibrant cityscape along its streets, characterized by continuous block facades. Meanwhile, the city's primary fabric emphasizes urban scale through permeability and dynamic ground-level structures within the blocks.

EOULIM SPORTS CENTER

Sports facility for disabled and non-disabled people in Seoul

The purpose of Eoulim Sports Center is the establishment of a sport center shared seamlessly by disabled and non-disabled in the northeastern part of Seoul for its lack of sport infrastructure and large disabled population. Under this idea, the project will provide 13,500m² of specialized sports facilities for Paralympics, including two swimming pools, a bowling center with 32 lanes and a multipurpose gymnasium. The building will also incorporate and bury the existing public parking lot.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Seoul Eoulim Sports Center
Seoul, South Korea
Competition first prize. Under construction
2023-26
14.500m²

PIEZO GARDEN

The piezo-garden is an artificial forest made of vertical and flexible poles that rise to the air up to 12 meters. These tubes are moved by the power of wind and by moving them a system of small piezo-electric generators displaced as a main spine generates electricity to light the LEDs displaced along the park. When an excess of electricity production from the garden happens, the electricity is diverted to the tanks.

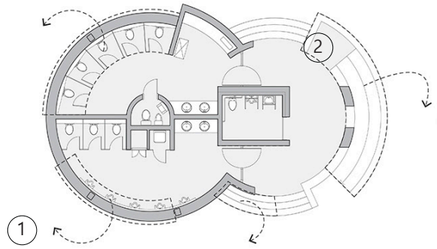
SOSUNGMOT LAKE PUBLIC TOILET

RENOVATION

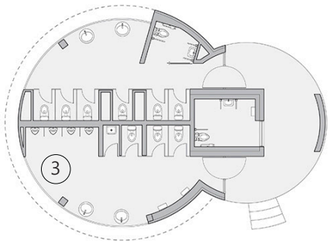
In Daegu's southern Susongmot Lake area, our renovation of a 1990s public restroom reimagines the building as a living part of its natural surroundings. Outdated concrete and stone were replaced with a façade of 450 timber studs in two angled layers, allowing light to enter while preserving privacy. Over time, vegetation will grow over the structure, blending it seamlessly into the lakeside landscape.

PROJECT INFORMATION

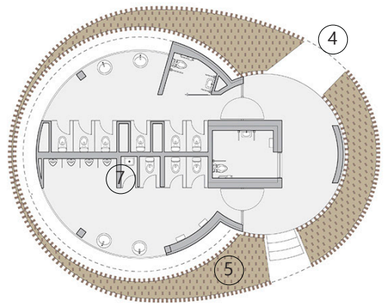
City of Daegu
Built
105 m²



REMOVE



RE-ORGANIZE



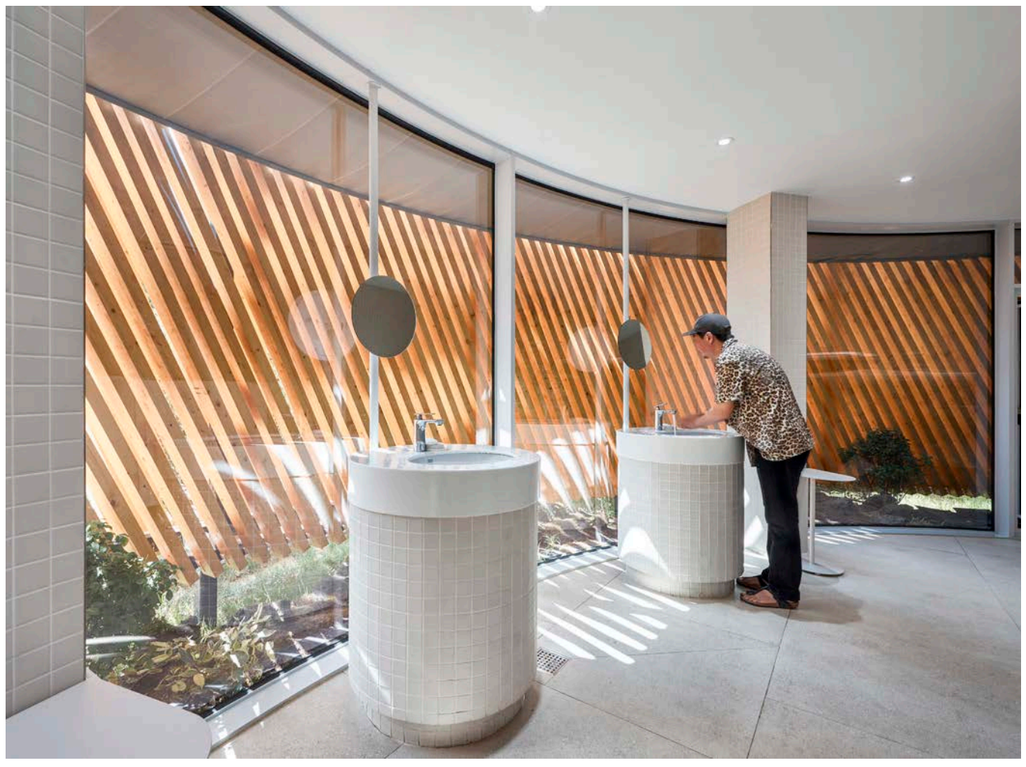
INSERT

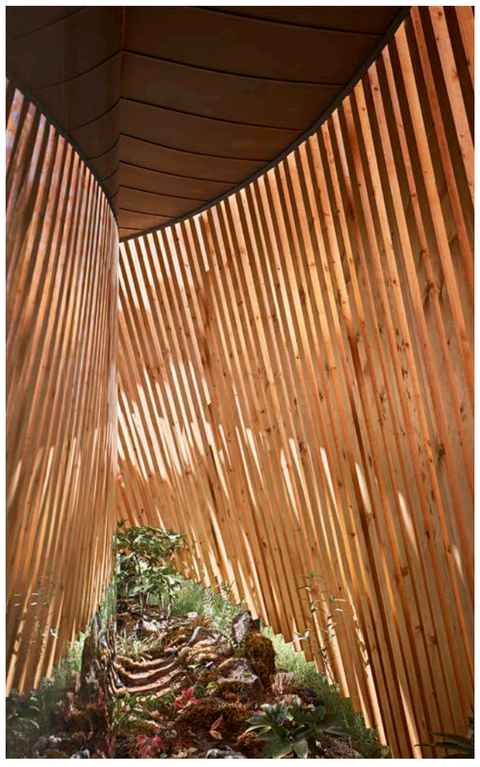
Over time, the façade is intended to be colonized by climbing plants and other vegetation.

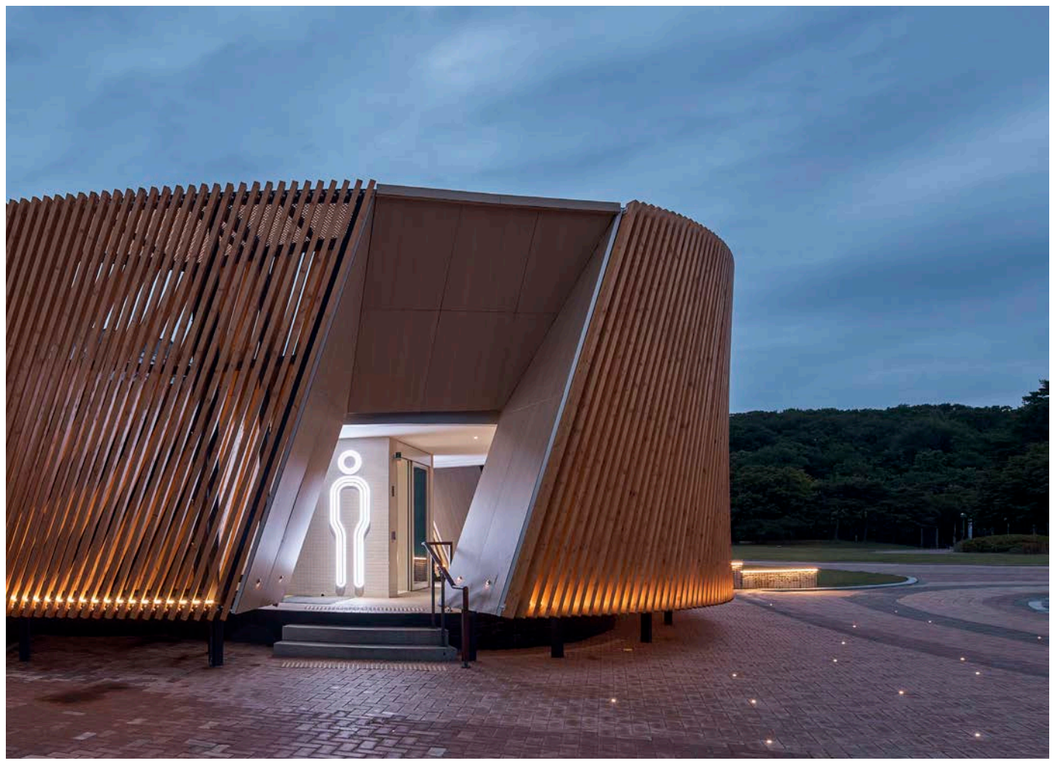
In the southern part of Daegu lies Susongmot Lake, a cherished destination where citizens come to enjoy nature and quiet contemplation. The area is supported by a few essential public facilities, including a public restroom built in the 1990s. Over time, this facility had become outdated, and a renovation was needed to bring it up to contemporary standards—both functionally and aesthetically.

The design concept for the renovation centered on two main ideas: bringing the surrounding natural environment into the building, and transforming the old\ concrete-and-stone structure into a living, breathing architecture that evolves over time, much like nature itself.

1. Demolish walls and interior finishes
2. Remove access ramp
3. New bright interiors
4. Elevate the ground floor for BF access
5. New timber facade







WHO WE ARE

PEOPLE

Architects

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HISTORY

Registration

Daniel Valle Architects is the design and architectural department of DV2C2, a professional limited liability company registered in Madrid in 1997 with legal identification number B-81641771 and with registered branch office in Seoul, South Korea.

License

The company holds architectural license and is fully authorized to practice in Europe. Daniel Valle is member of the Madrid Institute of Architects, COAM #13390.

WHERE WE ARE

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