



2007 Award of Excellence  
**AIA Montana Design Awards Program**

Honor Award



Photography by Kim Jong-Oh

*Architect of Record:*

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### **D-Shaped Concrete Box House**

This studio house was designed as a retreat from the busy life of Seoul, and is located on a peaceful site on a hill overlooking the quiet rice fields of Yangyoung.

The design was created from a primitive and limited form. Based on the traditional Korean House with a courtyard it creates a place of focus for a family. I started with a 14m x 14m square box and placed a 5m x 5m hole in the center. I feel that designing with the primitive in mind puts the mystery back into our lives and lets us experience the subtle changes in nature. In the case of this project, I wanted the presence of the moon and moonlight to be very strong on the interior and I designed it to be a moon-watching space. I created all the details to remain very simple, primitive and clean, as I wanted the overall structure to appear industrial or storage-like from the exterior. The design intent was to create a building that would appear quiet and unassuming on the outside, but offer elements to engage the individual with nature on the interior.

The nature of these things allowed this to be an experimenting project. I focused on three details. I designed steel doors and windows to be closed on the outside without frames to appear clean and industrial. The roof was designed to be only 12" thick including the structure, finish material and insulation. We studied the concrete curing process to create a waterproof seal naturally by using a metal trowel 4 times every four hours, allowing the roof to have clean edges. We also created a frameless skylight detail that was 3" laminated glass just set into the concrete.

With operable windows for ventilation the design responds well to the humid climate. Windows are located near the floor for people sitting and sleeping. The open water garden cools the air and provides plenty of natural light.