



2009 Excellence in Design
AIA Montana Design Awards Program
Honor Award

Photography by Woo Sub Whang (BCHO Architects)



Architects of Record:

Byoung-Soo Cho, AIA
BCHO Architects
55-7 SIL Bldg (3F)
SEOCHO-GU, BANPO 4-DONG
Seoul Korea
822-537-8261
byoungcho2003@hotmail.com

Earth House

Seoul Korea

Earth House is a house of the sky. It is a house built in honor of Korean poet Yoon Dong-joo, who wrote poems about the sky, the Earth, and the stars. I wanted to build this house and feel some peace of mind by carefully viewing the project as a human being and a living creature, rather than just as an architect. I wanted to look at the moon from a one-pyeong (pyeong+3.3m²) room, a study, a bathroom, and a kitchen, from the sky and the Earth, as well as the earth-filled courtyard. As Yoon's poetry expressed hope for the future from times of peril, and as he tried to achieve that hope through self-restraint and self-reflection, I hope that this Earth House would be a house where we can reflect on "ourselves" while living in the present era.

The 14 x 17m concrete box is buried in the ground and has a 6-pyeong small house and a courtyard. The "small house" is open to the courtyard, which in turn is open to the sky, allowing in the sky and the light. The one-pyeong room originated from the size one-kan (6x6 ja; 1 ja=approx. 30cm). The Earth House only has six one-pyeong rooms and a small courtyard. The house has rooms that are just large enough for an adult to lie down straight; a study, a kitchen, and a restroom. One can get out of the house directly, as there is no corridor inside, while two of the rooms adopt the traditional way of entry, in which the door is opened directly to the outside; two other rooms can be joined into the a bigger room. The house's doors are small, as one has to enter which one's back arched. This includes the door entering the house, the door entering the interior from the courtyard, and the door that provided access to the rear path from the study.