



2009 Excellence in Design
AIA Montana Design Awards Program
Honor Award

Photography by Woo Sub Whang (BCHO Architects)



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Hanil Cement Information Center and Guesthouse
Danyang, South Korea

The purpose of this project is to educate visitors about the potential for recycling concrete. In Korea concrete is the primary building material so it is imperative that we begin to re-use the material as buildings come down. The Information Center is an example in itself and it also displays types of construction which use recycled concrete in new and interesting ways. Some of the examples displayed show how concrete can be cut down for transportation and then immediate reuse. Concrete has also been broken and recast in various materials creating both translucent and opaque tiles. The displays will continue to evolve and change at the Information Center as new techniques are designed.

As the site is situated beneath a hill, I mainly took consideration of the access to the building, the direction in which it faced, the natural lighting, and its relationship with the Hanil headquarters building. In addition, I also took much account of movements of spaces that follow an open linear layout. This project is comprised of the Visitors' Center, where the reception and cafeteria are the main spaces, and the Guest House, where the living quarters are mainly located.

The site is located to the westernmost part of the factory, adjacent to Mt. Sobaek National Park. The existing land had been changed much to facilitate the movements of trucks to the cement factory. First of all, we tried to restore the damaged original mountains and forest. In order to revive the landscape, we brought in the earth to fill the courtyard between the two buildings, along the original mountain ridge. The seeming flow of the mountains from the west leads to the reception and cafeteria in the inner courtyard of the building. In the in-between spaces we allowed people to experience obstructive ness and non-obstructive ness.

While following the linear placement and movement of land and earth, we came up with the ideas for the new building façade. We applied canvas-like concrete walls to the east façade, evoking images of the forest behind the building. There are four openings in the eastern wall and long vertical windows have been created in their in-between spaces. Through the windows, one can see how concrete is produced at the factory. Behind the two larger openings, one can see the courtyard of the Visitors' Center and the cafeteria next to the courtyard, which is encircled by a water garden.

The Hanil Visitors' Center and Guesthouse focused on the possibilities of recycling waste concrete. The gabion wall and fabric concrete constitute the main façade of the building. The fabric formed concrete wall was erected first, and concrete left over from it was recycled on the other side, creating the gabion wall.