

## The establishment and operation of the National Public Architecture Center

Seo, Soo Jeong  
Kim, Young Hyun  
Cho, Sea Eun  
Lee, Eon Hwa  
Lyu, Hyeon Suk  
Chung, Ji Bum

Public architecture is deeply embedded in our society, embodies local and cultural significance, and affects the quality of our urban environment. Not only that, there are 143,000 public buildings in Korea amounting to 24 trillion KRW, and the number of facilities are increasing on a yearly basis, constituting towards a large segment of public asset. However, despite such increased significance of public architecture, the design quality remains low due to a number of reasons such as generally inadequate architectural project planning, absence of relevant expertise, and a bureaucratic design and build process. Such drawbacks have resulted in public facilities which fail to reflect the needs of local community by either being concentrated only in certain areas, or being built where there is no significant demand. There is also the problem of overly standardized design of public architecture which equally bears negative effects towards the overall built environment. Hence, the research aims to present the establishment and operation model of a centralized design support and management organization which enables sufficient architectural planning, systematically manages the design process at all stages of the project, operates a comprehensive public architecture database system, and fosters relevant specialists that are specifically required for public projects.

During the first year of research, the limitations of the existing design and construction process were analyzed in order to present the necessity of a centralized design advisory organization. Additionally, by investigating similar design management organizations from abroad, the research proposed a model suitable within the Korean administrative context, and a framework of its function, works, and its operational processes.

Building from the previous year of research, the second year focused on developing the design management process in detail, which was identified as one of the crucial works of the National Public Architecture Center and proposed feasible legislative establishment measures.

In order to put forward an effective design management standard, various systematic devices were investigated. This included the Project Definition Rating Index used by the Public Buildings Service US, the public architecture design guidelines of Kyoto City, the public architecture management planning forms of the Government Buildings Department, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism Japan. Additionally, in order to induce the operational model of public architects who will directly or indirectly be involved in the architectural planning and design stages of public facilities, various relevant models both from within and outside of Korea were examined.

From such analysis, the research concluded that the model of the 'public architect' needs to be operated in two strands. First, an individual can be employed by the local government to oversee local projects and manage projects in a holistic approach to construct a consistent local identity. Second, individuals with experience in public projects can work on the planning and design phases of individual projects by request from local governments. This research recommends that both approaches be utilized to effectively match individual local government's needs. Within this operation a continuous monitoring process needs to be in place to develop and amend relevant public architecture management guidelines and standards, and if the need arises, experts who can mediate between various stakeholders can also be fostered to enable a structured support system.

This research conducted both survey and focus group interview sessions among experts who participated in the design pilot projects supervised by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, and local architects who co-worked with existing city architects, in order to define the scope of work of an effective public architect. The proposed scope of work of public architects were tried and tested in architectural projects from Yeongju, Suwon, and Pyeongtaek. In turn, this resulted in the development and feedback process of the planning form, design performance checklist, and design review which were devised through this research and suggested as part of the main works of the public architect and the Center.

Based on the various case studies, surveys and application of proposed works of a public architect, the research set the organizational structure and operational model of a centralized design advisory and management organization. Specifically, the design management process at individual stages of a project were presented in detail highlighting the works and respective roles of the public architect, government officials and the Center as the main coordinator of the process.

The organizational structure of the National Public Architecture Center was discussed in terms of a non-departmental central organization, a local government support organization, and a mutually dependent organization amongst existing entities within the administrative system. The legal alternatives of establishment of the Center was discussed in terms of three approaches: first, by amending the 「Framework Act on Building」 ; second, by establishing general law; and third by establishing an organization act. By discussing the feasibility and suitability of each individual approaches, the research concluded that the establishment of general law would be the most appropriate measure in terms of legal content and direction.

Additionally, in order to ensure a stable operation of the National Public Architecture Center a number of support measures were suggested. First, the position and authority of the public architect needs to be ensured to create a stable working environment for experts. Second, architectural planning needs to be recognized as a discrete stage in the overall planning system in order to effectively utilize public architects. Third, there needs to be a consensus of the critical stages within the planning system where the role of the public architect is required. Furthermore, the operational direction of the National Public Architecture Center was discussed in three developmental stages, first being the groundwork stage, second the center settlement stage and last being the expansion stage. The legal grounds, organizational model, required labor force, applicable projects of the organization were summarized according to the different developmental stages of the Center.

The research identifies that detailed measures of securing operational funds, application processes etc are issues that needs further investigation. However, the achievement of the research lies in its detailed design management process proposition and the carefully thought out practical establishment measures, which will lay the foundations for further in-depth studies of the establishment of the National Public Architecture Center.