

## Public Architecture and Public Spaces Utilization towards Urban Regeneration of Small and Medium-sized Cities

Tchah, Chu Young  
Lim, Kang Ryoan  
Jeong, Min Ki

People's awareness on urban regeneration is shifting towards one that centers on 'place making,' which pursues physical, economic and social regeneration. 'Place making' considers people, economy, and place as interrelated factors for urban generation. In this vein, public architecture and public spaces are a crucial medium for urban regeneration in that people use them a lot and that communities are activated by them. In a word, they are major tools for 'place making.' Additionally, public architecture and public spaces are a symbolic stronghold representing the identity of a city. They also function as major factors that make people recognize 'placeness.'

Furthermore, public architecture and public spaces play a key catalytic role in revitalizing regional economy; they cause economic impact on neighboring areas through public investment. Because of this, creation of public architecture and public spaces is used as a central project for urban center regeneration both at home and abroad. Under this backdrop, the study intends to present methods of using public architecture and public spaces as a tool for place making, aiming to revitalize small and medium-sized cities of the nation where phenomena of urban decay are deepening such as population reduction, industrial decay, and deterioration of physical environment.

To achieve the research goal, the study intends to draw out specific policy alternatives and strategies that can be adopted at the local government level. To this end, first of all, the study analyzes policies and legal systems related to urban

regeneration, public architecture and public spaces, as well as the current status of the promotion of related projects in the nation. It investigates the current situation of urban regeneration projects via public architecture and public spaces that are pushed ahead by local governments, along with the limitations in the utilization. Second, the study draws out the implications of urban regeneration policies of the U.K. and Japan. It also examines the achievement in urban regeneration by Liverpool, Kanazawa, and Iida City, which successfully implemented urban regeneration policies based on public architecture and public spaces. This is to verify the significance and need for urban regeneration strategies based on public architecture and public spaces.

Third, with the intent to draw out methods of utilizing public architecture and public spaces that can be adopted to local small and medium-sized cities, the study selects seven out of the cities with a population of less than 300 thousand, after considering population size, major urban industries and location of the cities. Then, it analyzes the space structure and characteristics of population distribution of each city, focusing on public architecture and public spaces. It also analyzes the facilities in the cities and the characteristics of the distribution by space, period and size. Finally, the study explores the current state of the utilization that has a variety of aspects as follows: location and size of public architecture and public spaces, their neighboring areas and the accessibility, park and green space network system, relevant plans, characteristics and types of the budget, and current status of the distribution.

Based on the analysis, the research presents, as its major findings, first, directions to using public architecture and public spaces towards urban regeneration for small and medium-sized cities; second, an urban regeneration framework that can be referred to when establishing urban regeneration strategies based on public architecture and public spaces at the local government level; and third, measures for the central government to improve related systems that may contribute to urban center regeneration for small and medium-sized cities of the nation, along with suggestions for a mid to long-term implementation of the measures.

The results of the investigation on policies by central and local governments on urban regeneration show that increasingly local governments take the lead with the central government providing support for them. However, systems and policies of the nation on urban regeneration are still divided into two categories as follows:

improving decayed parts of metropolitan cities and supporting farming and fishing villages that remain underdeveloped. What this means is that it lacks a system for institutional support that suits the conditions of small and medium-sized cities decaying. In addition, currently there is a lack of institutional ground needed to establish integrated strategies for urban regeneration and ensure consistency in business.

As for pilot projects by the central government that are related to public architecture and public spaces, many of them are an isolated project and carried out primarily on an individual project basis. Therefore, there lacks an overall consideration from the urban regeneration perspective. Additionally, as projects are undertaken individually by the department concerned, they are little connected to each other. Due to the lack of consideration for consistent management and operation, it fails to ensure effectiveness of the projects. As for systems related to the formulation of public architecture and public spaces, related criteria are focused on urban expansion. This makes it difficult to reuse local assets such as public facilities that are no more in use.

According to the findings from the analysis on the current state of public architecture and public spaces utilization in the seven cities, first, there is a difference in the facility distribution depending on the characteristics of each local government. Second, public architecture is evenly distributed among the cities. And third, densely populated urban centers have little public architecture in all the cities investigated. In addition, basic living facilities of a large scale such as city hall, and most of the public spaces including public parks are also distributed primarily in urban centers and housing complex that are newly formulated. In other words, urban infrastructure is unbalanced in distribution between old and new parts of a city. In particular, the old part lacks public spaces and basic living facilities. As such, the old part of a city where housing and employment opportunities are concentrated lacks public spaces for daily use. The use of public architecture is insufficient despite of its wide distribution in this part.

Next, the study examined the current state of public architecture and public spaces formulation based on the investigation on related plans, projects, budget and departments in charge. The results reveal that there is no integrated plan and

therefore facilities are built in an isolated manner. Furthermore, there lacks offices to take overall responsibility for planning and managing related projects. Lastly, most of the projects are implemented by the public, with participation of residents and the third sector perfunctory or almost lacking.

Plans and budget for facility creation are concentrated on urban outskirts rather than central parts of a city. Projects are primarily for tourism and for construction of large facilities, leaving a gap between the facilities and residents' actual life. Projects of a single function are the main concern, with little consideration given for spaces available within urban centers and for multi-purpose use of the facilities. The use of local assets is insufficient as well.

The framework for regeneration of small and medium-sized cities via public architecture and public spaces presents directions that should be referred to when local governments want to take the lead in establishing urban regeneration strategies and plans for physical space. It also provides principles to be applied when using public resources including public architecture and public spaces. In brief, the framework is a manual to be referred to by those in charge of urban regeneration-related tasks in each local government.

The framework puts together problems arising in small and medium-sized cities that are currently on the decline, along with directions and principles commonly shared among local and overseas urban regeneration cases that pursue physical, economic and social regeneration of the cities. Accordingly, the framework can be understood as a checklist of items to be considered when each local government understands urban regeneration and formulates the strategies based on a collection of case studies. In this sense, for specific implementation plans, each government should reconstruct the framework and implement it in proper ways according to its own situations and conditions.

The framework is largely composed of three parts as follows: the first part presents basic items to be generally applied upon using physical facilities towards urban regeneration as preconditions for the use of public architecture and public spaces. The second part provides items to be considered and applied when preparing urban regeneration strategies and establishing integrated plans for public architecture

and public spaces. The third part suggests items needed to prepare an implementation system including composition of organizations and budget.

Aiming to provide methods to use public architecture and public spaces towards regeneration of small and medium-sized cities, the research suggests measures to improve related systems. They are divided into five categories as follows: first, it is necessary to improve related criteria so as to ensure effective and flexible use of public architecture and public spaces within the urban center. Second, currently public architecture and public spaces are not recognized as local assets, and management of the spatial information system for them is insufficient. Therefore, it is needed to manage the history of public architecture and public spaces, and provide an integrated system for management so that they can be used as local assets.

Third, it is important to promote multi-purpose construction and utilization towards an effective use of public architecture and public spaces located in the urban center. Fourth, it is crucial to expand support for local small and medium-cities, providing the support criteria. Lastly, it is required to present multi-dimensional improvement measures in order to support the promotion of autonomous projects for urban regeneration, which are suited for the characteristics of small and medium-sized cities.

The significance of the study lies in the fact that it covers and puts together almost entire tasks to be addressed to use public architecture and public spaces towards regeneration of small and medium-sized cities. In order to ensure effectiveness of the use of public architecture and public spaces, it is considered that more concrete measures of implementation should be suggested in follow-up studies based on the measures suggested in the research. Most of all, it is crucial to prepare more specific measures to use public spaces including public land, surplus area and idle facilities, along with the support criteria.

**Keyword : Public Architecture, Public Space, Small and medium-sized Cities, Utilization, Urban Regeneration**