

Columbia University  
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Advanced Studio V, Fall 2018, Rebirth of a city “Micro Geoje”

Studio Syllabus, Jinhee Park

## *‘Rome wasn’t built in a day?’*

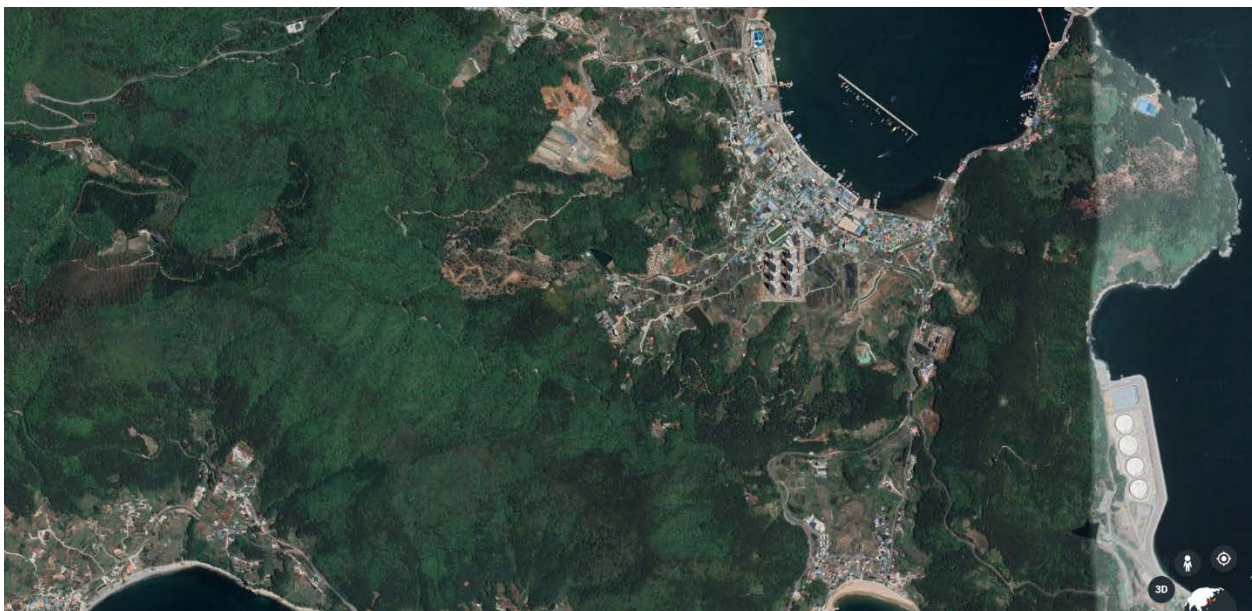
### OVERVIEW

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Geoje’s glorious history with shipbuilding industry is rebirthed by positioning its new identity in between the second largest city, Busan and the historical cultural city, Tongyeong: allowing it to be the prosperous destination once again. This island will be reimagined from the disturbed landscape of a delicate ecosystem with heavy shipyard infrastructure cutting through it not as scars but as valuable characteristics of its own. The Korean context is especially a significant backdrop to address these current issues. With the creation (and re-creation) of new urban areas, architecture has not only become the vehicle through which these territories compete for a sense of identity, it has also become the catalyst through which the concept of the public domain is defined within a climate of dynamic social change. Three sites in Geoje, pivotal to its future development and identity, will act as the framework through which each studio member will question, invent, and define the terms of ‘Micro-Urbanism.’ A visit to Geoje in Korea and its surrounds is planned where we will tour the site, hold a workshop and meet key individuals and organizations of the island.

### SITE Geoje, Korea: Negotiations of Infrastructure, Culture, and Ecology

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During the last few decades Geoje has emerged as a leader in the shipbuilding industries which was robust enough to survive even during the economic crisis. It served a key role as a powerhouse of the industry particularly due to the geographical location but on the other side of coin, its constantly evolving housing, industrial, and infrastructural construction overshadowed its rich historical architectures and delicate landscape in the surge of the economic demands.

Here and in many other regions in Asia that are radically transforming from obsolete industrial centers to technology and culture based economies, the question remains of how to leverage existing infrastructural buildouts, programmatic uses, and historical fabrics so that they add cultural and pragmatic value to new layers of development. The broad strokes of partially realized masterplans and speculative development thus far has led to non-characteristic urban developments that has destroyed valuable historical villages and natural habitats. As the faltering economy due to the shipbuilding industry crisis that the city is currently facing, the studio will have the rare opportunity to critically witness and evaluate firsthand the city's transformation from within this brief hiatus. This will in turn allow us to intervene into Geoje's future materialization with new synthetic paradigms toward development within existing infrastructures, fabrics, cultures, and ecologies.

The studio will focus its investigation on the most essential natural and constructed elements in reflection of Geoje's history and culture. As a fragment of what is occurring at the larger scale, the first goal will be to gain insight into and forge methodologies for negotiating the conflicting forces of development: the tensions between new density and existing fabric, the contrasting programmatic needs of local and international stakeholders, and the leveraging of existing hard/soft infrastructure versus the current methods of a tabula rasa style urbanism. Secondly, we will research past and current high sloped land building techniques to propose new prototypical conditions that transform Geoje's interface between land and water from its former industrial use to its new role as a socio-environmental system that supports leisure, wildlife habitats, and sensitively link infrastructural needs. Thirdly, we will critique the current piecemeal urban development strategies and investigate ways in which Geoje can successfully reconnect to the immediately adjacent historical cultural city, Tongyung as well as the high commercial city, Busan with visionary yet pragmatic design solutions. Instead of the 'smoothness' of tabula-rasa style urban renewal, we hope to open up a territory of design inquiry that intercedes

between conflicting parts of the larger whole. At the urban scale, students will produce a framework that demonstrates a thesis about leveraging existing conditions to negotiate the conflict between fragile ecologies, historical and cultural identity, transformations in programmatic use, contemporary developmental pressures,. At the scale of architecture and landscape architecture, new spatial-ecological paradigms for the Geoje Island City will be seen as the catalyst that concretely focuses an attitude about the urban redevelopment.

### ‘Micro Urbanism’

As our cities rapidly densify it is undeniable that we now need new forms of urbanism to address new demands. How can a new conception of city-making be conceived so that it not only provides efficient space and economical value but also provides flexibility for changing demographics and social values? Micro-Urbanism offers radical flexibility within existing cities in the face of rapid change caused by political, economic, and cultural forces. It reformulates relationships between the essential elements of a city at a finer grain. Instead of the broad generalist descriptions of housing, retail, culture, etc. that current modes of urbanism are based on, understanding spatial and programmatic relationships as activities at the micro scale opens up new possibilities of collaboration, environmental performance, and urban efficiency. This studio will aim to redefine value by new innovative terms that each studio member will invent guided by 10 principles below. Beginning from the human scale instead of the overall aerial view, we will generate ‘fragments’ that nonetheless have embedded in them new social/cultural/economic possibilities. In this case ‘Micro’ does not necessarily mean ‘small,’ instead it is about accommodating interrelated variables by breaking down to essential elements to maximize their effect. Now with rapid social adaptation to advanced technology, creating a sense of publicity and privacy can be handled in many other ways. Spaces can now hybridize. Commercial and institutional spaces are being used as surrogate living rooms calling into question of what is ‘domestic.’ Individuality and community is achieved not through generic space, but paradoxically through designing highly specific conditions.

### Principles of Micro-Urbanism

1. Physical / Perceptual (define space by its quality rather than its quantity) The pressure of real estate development artificial maps literal size onto the ‘value’ of space. Instead the role of perception can augment spatial experience and inhabitation.
2. Owning / Sharing (support ownership to create sharing) When taken to the extreme, ownership creates programmatic redundancy and material and energy waste. Through gradations of privacy and publicity, new productive social relationships and interdependencies can be gained while at the same time decreasing the energy footprints.

3. Contracting / Expanding (use contraction to achieve expansion) By contracting multiple programs into more intense alliances and overlapping patterns, space can be expanded rather than subdivided into smaller units.

4. Timing / Programming (program with time to avoid underutilized space) Not all spaces must be used at all times. By aligning use and timing, spatial redundancy can be minimized.

5. Division / Continuity (divide with finer grain to create continuity) Instead of broad descriptions of housing, retail, culture, etc. of modes of urbanism, understanding spatial and programmatic relationships as activities at the micro scale opens up new possibilities of collaboration, environmental performance, and urban efficiency.

6. Local / Global (be local to be global) Alliances between local infrastructure, economies, and social relationships create momentum when viewed from the overall urban framework allowing the local to create culture and resources rather than merely consuming it.

7. Future / Past (use the past to create the future) Instead of tabula rasa urbanism that starts from a condition of erasure, existing conditions can be leveraged for their specificity into new infrastructures, spaces, and programs.

8. Diversity / Density (use density to create diversity) Instead of density merely fitting more inhabitants into a smaller space, it can be utilized to gain programmatic and spatial diversity.

9. Security / Amenity (turn oppressive control into public amenity) While the one-way gathering of information of the 'smart city,' threatens privacy, multi-way networks can turn the concept of security into a form of real and virtual public space and amenity.

10. Curated Use / Mixed Use (curate programs and activities to maximize synergies) The concept of mixed-use as a general framework can be radically sharpened so that specific curation at the fine grain scale can create greater synergies socially and economically.

Geoje is relevant and powerful for the application of Micro-Urbanism. Students will be asked to analyze the existing citymaking strategies, invent upon emerging concepts of Micro Urbanism, then project an architectural and ecological future for Geoje. How can we recharacterize the city of depleted industry so that its obsolete symbolic trace serves the public wellbeing? How can we leverage the underutilized infrastructure, buildings, farmhouses and open areas into new spaces that allow it to become a sustainable keystone in the local/global network? Finally how can it become a prototypical city for other cities that have undergone periods of crisis due to unsustainable monopoly industry?

## SCHEDULE

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Studio will be conducted on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Typically there will be desk crits on Tuesday, followed by pinups on Thursday. Because of the research nature of the studio the group discussions during the pinups will be crucial to the advancement of the ideas of the studio as a whole,

so, while the pinups will be informal the students should work in such a way that good presentations can be made each week.

For the first few weeks the studio will work on analysis and gathering material on the site. After the analysis phase, the students will work again in groups to draft proposals for the design work that will consume the balance of the semester. These proposals will operate as programs for a more inclusive version of design, outlining the strategies. After the site visit the studio will split up to pursue individual projects based on the group's proposals and flesh out the proposed designs for the remainder of the semester. The final presentations will make use of the initial analysis work in support of the design thesis as appropriate.

#### Week 1

5 Sept: Studio Lottery  
6 Sept: Introduction

#### Week 2

11 Sept: Studio Pinup/ Discussion: urban analysis, spatial identity research  
13 Sept: \* No Class

#### Week 3

18 Sept: Studio Pinup: Program organizational strategies / diagrams / massing  
20 Sept: Desk Crits

#### Week 4

25 Sept: Desk Crits  
27 Sept: Studio Review: Goeje Micro proposals

**Week 5 Studio Trip: comprehensive city perception analysis\***

#### Week 6

9 Oct: Studio Pinup: massing and aggregation development 'compatibility'  
11 Oct: Desk Crits

#### Week 7

16 Oct: Desk Crits  
18 Oct: Studio Pinup: urban development 'multiplicity' \*

#### Week 8

23 Oct: Desk Crits  
**25 Oct: Mid Review :**

#### Week 9

30 Oct: Desk Crits  
1 Nov: Studio Pinup: Structure 'constructability'\*

Week 10

6 Nov: Desk Crits

8 Nov: Studio Pinup: Envelopes 'breathability'

Week 11

13 Nov: Desk Crits

15 Nov: Studio Pinup: Image 'interchangeability' Urban Spectacle \*

Week 12

20 Nov: Desk Crits

22 Nov: No Class, Thanksgiving \*

Week 13

27 Nov: 3/4 review\*

29 Nov: Desk Crits

Week 14

4 Dec: Desk Crits

6 Dec: Desk Crits / Dry Run

Week 15

**Final Review: 12 Dec**

READING & REFERENCE

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Edifice complex, Deyan Sudjic, 'Chapter 1 WHY WE BUILD'

The city of tomorrow and its planning, Le Corbusier , 'Part I, IV PERMANENCE'

Crating Architecture and the City, Sarah Chaplin and Alexandra Stara,

'From flash art to flash mob: how have new gallery spaces informed the nature of contemporary display?', Corinna Dean'

'The necessity of distance, : setting the position for critical spatial practice, Catharina Gabrielsson'

Architecture between Spectacle and Use,

'The Way the World Sees London: Thoughts on a Millennial Urban Spectacle, Mark Dorrian'

Learning from Las Vegas, Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown

Delirious New York, Rem Koolhaas,

Program and Manifestoes on 20th century Architecture, Ulrich Conrads

Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture:: Architectural Theory 1993-2009, A. Krista Sykes  
Towards an Architecture / Le Corbusier

The Vertical Village: Individual, Informal, Intense / MVRDV

Project Japan / Koolhaas, Obrist,

Made in Tokyo /

The Image of the City / Kevin Lynch

Garden City of Tomorrow / Ebenezer Howard