Bluestone Church

JUNGWOO JI
Iowa State University
Considering the regional regulation, the chapel should be placed on the basement level. From the regulation, the name of church (‘Blue Stone’), and the desire of the church to be a cornerstone of the region, a symbolic narrative was created: “Excavate and raise up the blue stone from the underground, build a church on the excavated place, and make the raised stone a symbol of the region.”

This narrative is successfully incorporated into the design, and opens new possibilities for small-scale church projects which can easily lose their identity wandering through restrictive regulations and demands on maximizing floor area.
The city is constantly changing and impermanent. There has been new master plan, new developments, and new money, and new people. There will be more and more ‘new’ in this city. How to address permanence to a single building in this kind of city? Do we need ‘permanence’?

The answer might be from the ground. The architecture will represent the permanence of the ground even though there might be more impermanence in human being’s everyday life.
ANOTHER ATTITUDE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR A LOCAL CHURCH IN KOREA

This church is located in an undefined context and will be a part of community. The design approach is focusing on a primitive prototype out of the site rather than corresponding undefined context. It was from the original church name, Cheong Seok (Blue Stone) as well. This church will be a Corner Stone as a foundation of this region and open ministry. It will be composed with rock shaped mass, piloti, below grade chapel, and spiral path from B1 to roof top.

BLUESTONE CHURCH
ACSA FACULTY DESIGN AWARDS 2016-2017

“CORNER STONE, CONTAINING A CHURCH AND LOCAL COMMUNITY”

Protestant church, 2015
Location: Woonjung, Paju, Kyounggi, Korea
Site Area: 257 m²
Total Floor Area: 537 m² (149.63 py)
Structure: Reinforced Concrete
Levels: 4 floors and below grade
Finish Material: tile / exposed concrete
Design Period: Jul. 2013 - Nov. 2013
Thinking a prototype of church in this age and comparing with historical and local references

Not defined yet but easily predictable context through similar new town precedents in this age

The site is located between a future school site and a community pocket park which are good assets in the community and public

The corner site which can be exposed to pedestrian movement and create local identity

The church’s desire as being a part of community rather than being just spiritual but isolated space
SITE REGULATION AND INITIAL STUDIES

SITE GIVEN CONDITIONS
Each floor should not be aligned due to the right to light and setback requirement.

INITIAL CLUES

VERTICAL OVERLAYS
A possibility to create stairs as a part of the main building body.

SHIFTED SPACES
A possibility to create richness of outdoor spaces with using in and out masses.

CONNECTING FROM GROUND TO THE ROOF
A possibility to make a spiral circulation to connect all floors.

FLOATED MASS & BELOW GRADE
Simultaneity of rigidity and openness.

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SECTIONAL CONFIGURATION

BUILDING ABOVE GROUND

OPEN GROUND LEVEL ELEMENTS

UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE

EXPLODED BUILDING ELEMENTS

BUILDING ABOVE GROUND

OPEN GROUND LEVEL ELEMENTS

UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE

[EAST-WEST SECTION PERSPECTIVE]
MAIN CHAPEL SPACE

MAIN CHAPEL SPACE WITH NATURAL LIGHT

Natural light though skylights helps the worship serenely rather than just being scared.

INITIAL SKETCH FOR THE CHAPEL

BUILDING ABOVE GROUND

SKY LIGHT w/ 24mm FAIR GLASS IN-FILLED IN EXPOSED CONCRETE GROUND LEVEL

CEMENT BLOCK ON TOP OF DRY AREA / CAST-IN-PLACE RETAINING WALL

UNDERGROUND CHAPEL

SKYLIGHT DETAIL
MAIN CHAPEL SPACE

B1 PLAN
1. mezzanine chapel
2. children lounge

B2 PLAN
1. e/v hall
2. main chapel
3. storage

INITIAL RENDERING VIEW

THE MAIN CHAPEL
NORTH-SOUTH SECTION PERSPECTIVE

NATURAL LIGHT TO B1

MAIN CHAPEL

COMMUNITY

KIDS / CAFE

MULTI & FLEXIBLE SPACE

OFFICE

ROOF TOP GATHERING SPACE

[SECTION DEVELOPMENT]

SECTION
1. lobby
2. courtyard
3. main chapel
4. elv hall
5. mezzanine chapel
6. children lounge
7. cafeteria
8. multipurpose hall
9. office
10. lounge
11. guest room
12. prayer room
13. toilet
14. storage

SCALE
0 1 2.5 5m
FLOOR PLANS

4F PLAN
1. e/v hall & lounge
2. office
3. guest room
4. bathroom
5. terrace

ATTIC PLAN
1. prayer room

ROOF PLAN

1F PLAN
1. entrance
2. lobby
3. e/v hall
4. courtyard

2F PLAN
1. e/v hall
2. kitchen
3. storage
4. cafeteria

3F PLAN
1. e/v hall
2. multipurpose hall
BLUESTONE CHURCH

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MASSING

SE VIEW: MORE OPENINGS AND RECESSED STOREFRONT

SW VIEW: MORE OPENINGS AND RECESSED STOREFRONT

NW VIEW: LESS OPENINGS AND SLANT MASS

NE VIEW: BIG OPENINGS ON EAST AND CONTINUED PATH TO THE ROOF
UNWRAPPED ELEVATIONS

Show the relationship between floors and circulation
The Korean Pavilion of the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale focuses on how the country’s architects “perform a high-wire balancing act” between the Seoul metropolitan area’s high land values and the government’s strict building regulatory system. This balancing act is referred to as “playing the FAR game,” where FAR refers to floor area ratio, the ratio of built area to site area. The projects in the FAR Game are primarily medium-scale multi-family housing or mixed-use buildings, meaning the results are highly varied and creative. The Bluestone Church was selected as one of 36 feature projects and has been displaying.
To provide a local identity in an undefined new town area and connect as a part of the community, we have considered a storytelling which was from the region and the church name. All basic architectural elements like piloti, stair, setback, and windows as well as humble material could help this storytelling in regional code restriction. This fundamental way a part of my practice and research as a design faculty and architect. This small local church has been used and activated by public and church members successfully after the completion.