

A Study on the Policy Measures for Provision of the *Han-Style* Public Buildings

Lee, Kang Min
Ok, Chae Won

This study investigates policy measures for the provision of *Han-style* public buildings as a way to promote *Hanok* architecture. *Han-style* is a brand of Korean traditional culture that is unique and has potential to be promoted with supports by the government. As *Han-style* public buildings belong to both *Hanok* and public buildings, this study starts with clarifying the range of *Han-style* buildings.

Generally, *Hanok* is defined as traditional wood-framed house made of natural materials and covered with Korean traditional roof structure. However, as *Hanok* evolves into diverse types, this definition is too limited to deal with the whole aspects. So in this study, the term '*Han-style*' is used to embrace all types of *Hanok*. *Han-style* architecture is divided into four types on the basis of convenience for modern life and closeness to the tradition; 'Cultural Heritage', 'Traditional *Hanok*', '*Neo-hanok*', '*Hanok*-style building or room'.

'Cultural Heritage' is a significant national property which is designated by law. 'Traditional *Hanok*' includes modern and premodern buildings, which need preservation and management policies. '*Neo-Hanok*' refers to contemporary *Hanok* built by modern technologies and is the main subject of promotion policy. '*Hanok*-style building or room' is modern space designed with traditional motif. Although this is not the subject of direct promotion policy, it is worth being referred for the revival

of *Hanok* culture.

In terms of public buildings, this study limits the scope of *Han-style* public buildings to facilities and spatial environments which are ordered by central and local governments, built with public budget, and opened to the public. On the basis of results from an online poll on *Han-style* public buildings, most of the people support the *Han-style* public buildings. But only 39% of charging government officers want to introduce *Han-style* public buildings. So there is severe difference of views.

Based on the criteria on *Han-style* public buildings, 60 completed or almost constructed projects are selected from mass media reports since 2000. The analysis shows that, '*Neo-Hanok*' is the leading type among current *Han-style* public buildings, and Jeollanam-do is the most active province promoting *Hanok* public buildings. Considering the statistical survey on current trends of *Han-style* public buildings, the following projects are selected and analyzed as representative ones in building types, building programs, design strategy and locality.

Hyewha-dong community center is an example of remodeled 'Traditional *Hanok*'. The second remodeling of restoring *Hanok* space is currently under the construction. The seven examples of '*Neo-Hanok*' range from traditional wood structure to mixed structure of steel and wood. Despite the fact that projects such as the *Hanok* Reception Hall of National Assembly and the Gunja-village community hall are constructed in traditional way, it is notable that space organizations of them were designed to meet modern programs.

Guro-gu *Hanok* Library is designed as the two-story building which makes diverse spaces. It is evaluated with its modern programs and diverse transformations of traditional spaces such as '*madang*(yard)' and '*darak*(attic)'. Namsan Traditional Theater in Seoul and YunSeondo Relic Museum in Haenam are mixed structure buildings. The underground space with sunken garden and atrium suggests a

remarkable solution for maintaining aesthetic values of *Hanok's* human scale, meeting contemporary program needs by providing bright underground spaces which interact with outdoor spaces. F1 *Han-style* bridge which traverses the auto racing track uses a long span wood truss with steel connectors. It is notable that this modern wood structure displays a traditional appearance. Wando Forest Museum adopted the 15th century's architectural style to present a dignity of traditional *Hanok* monuments, however, the harmony with modern function was insufficient.

Compared to the previous types of *Han-style* public buildings, '*Hanok-style* building or room' is easy to be constructed and cost less than other types. Jeollanam-do Livestock Research Institute is a representative example of '*Hanok-style* building'. By finishing steel columns and beams with wood and by designing the first floor elevation as castle wall, this two-story building looks like an castle. Two projects of *Hanok-style* interiors for children in Sanbon Library and Gwansan Library are highly valued as satisfying facilities to the neighborhood.

Along with the analysis on the projects above, current policies and administrative process of *Han-style* public building projects was also inspected. Representative current policies and programs by central government are the followings; 'Intergrated plan for *Han-style* promotion as a pan-government task(2007~2011)', 'Confucious tourism development task(2000~2010)' and 'A task for the vitalization of *Hanok* space' by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST), 'A policy for the promotion of *Hanok*(2009)' and 'System improvements for *Hanok* promotion(2009)' by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs(MLTM), 'A plan to promote Global Korea(2009)' by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade(MFAT). Similar *Hanok* promotion policies by local governments are 'Seoul *Hanok* manifesto(2008)' and 'Happy village task' in Jeollanam-do.

The performing process of *Han-style* public buildings follows the same phases of general public buildings; planning, designing, construction, and management. Planning is the most important phase integrating the characteristics of *Han-style* into

the building. For organized planning process, 'Bukchon Task Force Team(2009)', 'Department of *Hanok* Culture(2009)' was set up in Seoul City Hall. In Jeollanam-do 'Jeonnam Development Corporation' has been getting results in public building.

As programs of early stage of *Hanok* promotion policy, two demonstrative pilot projects for *Han-style* public buildings were performed by MLTM and MCST. In both projects, each department played a limited role in offering, valuing, budgeting, and supporting projects. As practical performers of projects, local governments were selected based on the submitted reports on the plan, schedule, management of building quality, operation of budgets.

Another prerequisite for boosting *Han-style* public architecture is to overcome obstacles to *Hanok* construction. The deficient supply of high-quality timber resources, high labor costs for carpenters, and disorganized work flow of *Hanok* constructions should be solved first. In this sense, new policy measures supporting *Hanok* industry is important to promote *Han-style* public buildings.

As the results of all the analysis, this study suggests four kinds of policy measures for promoting *Han-style* public buildings; stimulating measures, supporting measures, management measures, and legal measures.

Stimulating measures consist of four programs. First, *Han-style* space can be reintroduced in the community facilities to help people experience *Hanok* space in their everyday life. Secondly, the construction program of small pavilions by the local people can be a good way to educate people. By participating in the whole process of planning, design, construction and management of traditional pavilion, the local people can learn and feel *Hanok* culture throughly. An educational guideline book for *Hanok* pavilion construction being led by the local government would be helpful for this program. Thirdly, *Han-style* experience programs for children can be connected with projects for improving educational facilities by the Ministry of Education,

Science and Technology(MEST). By doing this, *Hanok* space can be introduced through diverse facilities for children. Lastly, informational campaign on *Hanok* should also be incorporated into the training programs for local government officials who would be in charge of architectural works for the province.

Supporting measures are composed of funding, material supplying, and technical support programs. First, funding budget is one of the most effective measures. But the efforts to raise fund should be made in a diverse way as the fund itself is limited. Secondly, domestic timber supplying system for *Hanok* can be constructed. By connecting this program with that of 'Korea Forest Service', architectural resources can be supplied in low costs and new demands for domestic timbers can be created. Thirdly, funding current *Hanok* R&D can be considered as a way for developing *Han-style* public building technologies.

Management measures aim to ensure the dignity and functionality of *Han-style* public buildings. Providing professional committee for *Han-style* public buildings, design and management guidelines and the standards of qualifications for the construction companies can be considered as detailed measures. Additionally, high maintenance fee of *Hanok* needs to be taken into account.

Legal measures is the final part of policy measures. By inspecting impediment factors, possible institutional improvements should be suggested for long-lasting promotion of *Han-style* public buildings. Standards for the fireproof construction and the building line should be prepared. Above all, the most urgent issue is the development of Architectural Standard Estimating system of *Han-style* public buildings. For this, current R&D of standard specifications for *Hanok* is important.

Lastly, guidelines for *Han-style* building design and management are suggested. They have three purposes; being a basis for understanding *Hanok's* unique

architectural elements, guaranteeing the minimum quality of *Han-style* architecture and providing management guidelines for government officials' convenience.

Han-style public building design guideline provides criteria on the uniqueness of *Hanok* space. This mostly goes for '*Neo-Hanok*' type and partially applied to other types. This can be used not only as a guideline for designers, but also as agendas for advisory committee at planning and design phases.

Han-style public building management guideline aims to provide management standards for examining and managing building condition of *Neo-Hanok* or remodeled traditional *Hanok*. This comprises of two types of time-based guidelines with different uses. One is used to examine the completeness of each construction phase by the construction supervisors or architectural officials. Another is used to inspect the condition of *Hanok* periodically after the construction by architectural officials.

In conclusion, *Han-style* public buildings cannot be promoted independently. It carries all the complex problems of current *Hanok* industry. Moreover, the defective administrative process of public building task is obstacle to new policy measures for *Han-style* public buildings. However, *Han-style* public buildings are worthy of being studied because they have potentials to play leading roles in promoting *Hanok* culture and to suggest desirable alternative models for public buildings.