

국립도시건축박물관 유물수집전략 마련을 위한 사전 기획연구

A Study on Pre-planning to Establish Artifact Collection Strategies for the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture

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SUMMARY

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This study is for establishing strategies for collecting artifacts for the (tentatively named) Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture that is scheduled to be opened in 2025. The multiple studies conducted for the construction of the Museum of Urban and Architecture since 2007 were focused on the basic plans for the museum, construction feasibility, theme of the exhibit, direction of contents, and direction of architectural design. This study was a more research as an extension of preceding studies in that it focuses mainly on artifacts.

The purpose of this study is to summarize how the concept of artifacts during the course of pursuing the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture was carried out, and to provide preparations and basic directions for the collection behavior to be carried out prior to opening the museum. Generally, artifacts and archives in museums are determined by the vision and objective set for the by the museum operator and the direction presented by the museum's personnel or body of jurisdiction. However, in a situation where there is no museum operator as of yet, the only other option is to check through the plans and research directions reviewed by the constructors and operating entities. Therefore, in the first half of the study, discussions related to the Korean

Museum of Urbanism and Architecture were investigated and analyzed. Based on this, the meaning of artifacts by modern museums and museology were arranged, and the concepts of artifacts used in museums and exhibition halls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) that has been tentatively designated as the operating entity of the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture were investigated and analyzed. There are few museums in Korea specializing in artifacts in the urban architecture sector, so there were restrictions in configuring the artifact collection procedures based on cases of other institutes. In particular, by examining the special traits of artifacts in the urban architecture sector that are distinguished from other general movable cultural heritages, the discussion procedures between the relevant entities, need for procuring temporary space, etc. prior to opening were reviewed. In this situation where transaction of artifacts in the urban architecture sector is inactive in many museums in Korea, a strategy of procuring artifacts simply by ‘purchasing’ does not have much meaning. Therefore, the direction for collecting artifacts in the future was suggested by also considering the method of donation, loans, etc.

There are a total of three studies for major decision-making and research related to the collection of artifacts among the procedures for pursuing the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture. First is the project policy materials of MOLIT prescribed in May 2015. These materials are composed of the missions and vision that the museum should pursue, and the structure of designs for each function. In particular, the policy for the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture was set as ‘establishing a national hub facility and cultural infrastructure that can contribute to the enhancement of national awareness on urban architecture culture and to promote the relevant industries.’ This served as the basic direction for the museum in inter-departmental discussions and multiple studies that were carried out later. The second is the ‘Study on the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture Contents Development and Exhibition Plans’ (2016) carried out by the Presidential Commission on Architecture Policy and the Architecture & Urban Research Institute. This study was joined by not only the Presidential Commission on Architecture Policy, but also MOLIT to visualize the main exhibition theme of the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture, while also offering the opportunity to predict the blueprints for construction of the museum in the future. The third was the ‘Study on Construction of the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture and Concretizing Exhibit Programs’ (2020) ordered by the National Agency for Administrative City Construction and carried out by Architecture & Urban Research Institute (auri) and the Korea Architects Institute. This study

configured the concept of the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture exhibits and presented directions for artifacts and archives to be collected in the future. In the same year, the foundation for the design guidelines of the ‘Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture (KMUA) International Design Contest’ was provided. The major decision-making processes over three stages were not limited in meaning as simple policies and research, but are significant in that it concretized the establishment of the museum by gather opinions from experts in different fields in addition to mediating opinions of the relevant agencies. This study comprehensively reflected the discussions held thus far and proposed an artifact collection method based on the presumption that the architectural overview arranged according to the design guidelines for the international design contents announced in July 2020 and the main themes of exhibits have received consent from the museum as of current.

The Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture is the first museum specializing exclusively on urban architecture in Korea and the MOLIT is expected to be the operating entity in the future. While there were a variety of art gallery exhibits and biennales related to urban architecture in Korea, there are no cases of museums focusing on the permanent preservation of such artifacts. While the aforementioned cases can hold exhibits only on contents without relying on artifacts, the latter is required by law to have a collection of at least 100 artifacts, and it is a norm to also hold exhibit plans together with the artifacts. However, in addition to the minimal number of artifacts that must be procured as a museum, there are still ongoing discussions on whether to establish the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture as a museum based on history or on art like art museums. Therefore, the basic preconditions is to collect approximately 10,000 pieces with an artifact purchase budget of 21.6 billion KRW presented in the ‘Preliminary Feasibility Study for the National Museum Complex Establishment Project’ carried out by the KDI in 2015. Artifacts in the urban architecture sector have similarities and peculiarities distinguished by the moveable cultural heritages under the jurisdiction of the Cultural Heritage Administration and the collections of national museums under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Here, similarity is not limited to valuation restricted to the type and materials of artifacts as the scope of artifacts of modern museums are expanded to the so-called ‘collections,’ but occurs from the fact that it can accommodate various themes and mediums of artifacts from the point that extended values can be accommodated. For peculiarity, all byproducts such as models, drawings and sketches generated in the production, planning and management aspect of architecture and cities are included in the scope of

artifacts that can be accommodated by a museum, but the historic value that generates the value of artifacts such as materials for architecture, urban scenery, daily life of citizens, etc. begin from the same era similar to art museums. From the aspect of recognizing such diversity, the museum and exhibit halls under the jurisdiction of MOLIT were organized as a concept of artifacts as 'materials.' Furthermore, the trends in which 'artifacts' are expanded toward a concept of value-centered 'collections' in the systems related to museums recently have been confirmed.

Traditional museums are usually built with the purpose of properly organizing a collection that an artifact owner has already procured. However, many contemporary museums including the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture are placed in an environment of having to collect related artifacts according to the vision and goal that the museum aims to embody. They thus have the task of procuring the actual artifacts in advance for exhibitions needed at the time of opening. In this study, the number of artifacts per year up until the time of opening was computed to judge whether it is possible to utilize the Korea Territorial Development Museum repository under the MOLIT Seoul Regional Office of Construction Management. In addition to space, procedural plans for procuring and executing artifact purchase budgets were proposed. Considering the fact that purchasing of artifacts in the urban architecture sector is not active in Korea, the potential for auctions, donations, etc. in addition to purchasing of artifacts were taken into account. Furthermore, procedural matters such as operation of a committee needed for the method of procuring artifacts for each method were arranged to present procedures necessary prior to the opening of the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture in the future. Finally, potential artifacts in the architecture and urbanism sectors were listed. The scope of artifacts and keywords related to artifacts possessed by the National Museum of Korea, National Museum of Korean Contemporary History, and national exhibits in other provinces were organized. Through this, the main theme of exhibits for the Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture provided through earlier research and design contests were reverted as artifacts to seek out possibilities for artifact collections. The list for this was provided through an appendix.

In the conclusion of the study, plans for artifact collection strategies were presented. As major cases, an artifact collection strategy to be carried out in 2021 was presented taking reference to the modern history collection method of the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History and the listing work of contemporary cultural heritages of the Cultural Heritage Administration. Because artifacts and archives have been constructed on contemporary history architecture and urban development and planning in many

museums in Korea, the detailed expenses and procedures were referred to in order to provide collection strategies from 2021 to 2025 for its bibliography and models. In particular, the place of collection and collection method were systemized by limiting the main and sub-themes of the museum presented in the 2020 Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture (KMUA) international design contest to the three themes 'space of life,' 'space of consent and agreement,' and 'cities, architecture and people.' Regarding this, the opinions of the 2020 KMUA design contest operating committee, steering committee and expert committee operated by MOLIT and the National Agency for Administrative City Construction were gathered. Aside from the syntax of urbanism and architecture, directions for collections from the aspect of public history that can consider the daily nature was also presented. In addition, while the scope of recognizing historic value of artifacts should be proposed for all ages from ancient to modern times, it was suggested that in the open preparation phase, artifacts from contemporary history to the present times should be collected preferentially.

The Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture is the first museum to be constructed within the national museum complex that is being pursued for the first time in Korea. In addition, its main theme is on urbanism and architecture, which were not main themes among museums, to serve as the first institute built as a cultural complex that not only conveys history, but also acts for communication, education and infrastructure research for the nation. Therefore, this report took into consideration the normal museum construction procedures and restriction conditions according to domestic administrative circumstances, but it expressed the importance of providing a strategy that can guarantee the future of the institute through sound opening of the museum exhibit. In particular, the artifact sector has not been directly mentioned in the numerous studies in the past, and its weight has not been presented in detail either. But this leads to the difficulty of having to procure the collection according to the museum construction condition within approximately four years from publishing this report. Hence, there are limitations in actual procurement of artifacts based only on the administrative procedural operations of the MOLIT, which is the operating entity during this period, and it is necessary to begin a donation drive of valuable artifacts based on interest from the urban and architectural sector, as well as the entire nation.

Keywords

Korean Museum of Urbanism and Architecture, Artifacts, Archive, Collections