

Interior Design Model of a Single Detached House for the Korean Elderly Couple

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The absolute number and proportion of the elderly populations in Korea has been increased. Apart from this trend, compositional characteristics of the family have also changed. In the traditional society, an extended family was popular. However, in the modern urbanized and industrialized society, the nuclear family is popular. This indicates that the number of the elderly family households living separately from their married son is increasing. In fact, the elders in Korea are not sufficiently prepared for the separation from their married children, both personally and socially. This situation has caused somewhat serious social problems. In Korea, there are two types of elderly housing: institutional and non-institutional. There are a few institutional type of residence that includes free and paid ones, and nursing homes. The rate of the elders living in an apartment has slightly increased these days. Currently, the Korean Government is encouraging the developers to provide special housing units for the elders. Therefore, various types of elderly housing are expected to be developed soon. However, there are no specific directional suggestions, such as types of elderly housing and interior design.

As Korea has undergone much trials and errors in developing housings, there could be possibilities to repeat the same mistakes. Korea does not have any good examples of residential unit designs for the elders. Thus, it seems necessary to attempt this, thereby guiding many construction companies to develop the housings with less trials and errors.

This project is an interior design model for Saero Construction Co.. This is the first example of the elder's residential unit in Korea. In this project, to reflect the way of life that is partly traditional and partly modern, their shared visual image, vitality of lives, and our unique spatial preferences and barrier free universal design, there had been deliberate efforts. To give a feeling of emotional, humanistic, and traditional attachment, 'Bojagi', which is a traditional cloth for wrapping and covering objects, is used. Computer simulation was done in the developing stage, and a full-scale model house was built in May, 1994. The model was exhibited in KOEX (Korean Exhibit Center) during " Seoul International Senior Living Industries show '94 ".

The Basic Design Concepts of the Model House and its Applications are as Follows.

1. Energy(Liveliness, Bright and warm energy)

The spatial energy heads toward from west to east, and from north to south.

- Balconies on east and south; porch in front of the west main gate.
- Windows are placed mainly on the south and east.

2. Spatial Variety

1) The spatial energy is designed to expand towards the X and Y axis.

- It expands toward the Y axis according to the condition(open/closed) of the doors between the entrance hall and the living room, and between the entrance hall and the kitchen.
- It expands toward the X axis according to the condition of the doors of the master-room and the living room.
- It expands toward the X axis according to the condition of the doors of the entrance hall and the bathroom.

2) The substantial visual multiplicity is displayed harmoniously by the movement of doors.

3. The Spatial Systems

1) As a rule, the front(south) is low and the back(north) is high.

- The northern part is designed to be mainly of western style and the southern part is designed to be of traditional or compromised style.

2) It is designed to have low east and high west.

- The western part is of western style and the eastern part is of traditional style.

3) The horizontal lines of all walls are lowered to give a calm and comfortable feeling.

4) In the cases of the master's room, 40cm is an adequate height as a verandah for the traditional style.

5) In the cases of the living room, the left side of a sofa should be 35cm, while the back should be 60cm for the compromised style.

4. Efficiency of Energy(Economy)

- 1) Windows are put mainly on the south, avoiding the north. In such case, adherable windows should be used.
- 2) The hall at the entrance plays a role as a buffer zone.
- 3) Screens of energy effective materials are used to prevent from cold air coming in.

5. Naturalness(Visual Harmony)

- 1) Landscape architectures are displaced on places where space overlap and get people's attention.
 - in front of the entrance.
 - balconies in front of the master-room and living room.
 - vertical windows in the master's room.
 - vertical windows in the bathroom.
 - vertical windows in the bedroom.
 - vertical windows in the living room.
- 2) Harmonious inter-linkage of the movements of visual attracting points.
 - the glass pattern & color of storage door→the same glass pattern & color of the main entrance door→similar pattern & color of decorative wrapping cloth across from the main entrance→pattern of sofa fabrics in the living room—the color of the decorative cloth in the master-room→the color of sofa pillows in the living room

6. Behavioral Rationalism

- 1) Separation between working space and living space for preservation of privacy.
 - Separation of space in arrangement, cooking, and dining, so that there would be no interference in space. Especially, there is an independent access from the main entrance to the kitchen.
- 2) The interlinked work chain of divestment(dressing room)—laundry—drying a rrange ment—trimming—folding is provided.
 - There is an access from the traditional styled shower-room to the laundry room.
 - There is a dressing space by putting a closet in the bathroom.

7. Ample Storage Space

- 1) The maximum installation of built-in-furnitures
 - Living room, bedrooms, master-room.
- 2) Outside Storage room
 - The halls on the west are exclusively used as a storage space.
 - There could be a square storage space on the north-eastern side.

8. Modernization of Traditional Image

- 1) The use of design and colors of traditional wrapping

cloth.

- Big co-ordination work on top of a stationary chest in the master-room.
 - The door of the outside storage room.
- 2) The use of traditional design of doors/windows.
 - The doors of each room, window, and gate (the door to the outside storage room)
 - 3) Placement of a garden in front of the main entrance.
 - 4) Placement of a verandah in front of the master's room.
 - 5) Placement of an outside storage room on the west.

9. Security

- 1) Installation of vertical windows through which the resident can see the yard in front of the main entrance from the living room.
- 2) Installation of an aired storage space that has an inner access.
- 3) Installation of vertical windows through which a resident can see the yard in front of the entrance from bedroom.

The Concept of Interior cordination and Specific Directions of Design are as Follows.

1. Response to Life Style

- 1) Master's room:the verandah should have a height of 40cm for the traditional style.
- 2) Living room:the left side of a sofa should be 35cm, while the back should be 60cm for the compromised style.

2. Revival of Traditional Ambiance(Spatial Transparency)

- 1) Inside should be semi-transparent so it will be soft, calm, and simple(i.e., traditional)style—applying the idea of the Korean semi-transparent papers.
- 2) Outside door should be semi-transparent in a bright and modern style. Southern part is designed to appear organically connected with the outer space, using modern blinds of traditional taste.

3. Combination of Traditional Concepts and Modernity

- 1) The combination among modern north, compromised south, and traditional master's room.
- 2) The windows are approached by traditional concepts and modern concepts in a dualist method.
- 3) The characteristics of traditional color and modern design are balanced into one image in harmony.

4. Visual Harmony(inter-linkage)

- 1) The major attracting visual points are inter-linked in harmony.
 - Primary colored and patterned glass door of outdoor

storage→primary colored pattern of main entrance
door→primary colored pattern of wrapping cloth displayed across from the main entrance.

2) The color of decoration cloth (traditional wrapping cloth) in the master's room → pillows in the living room

5. Symbolism

When closing the drapery, the motives on it shows a "fortune" image to the elders, which also gives rich and

misty feeling.

6. Efficiency of Energy

Screens of energy effective material are used to prevent from cold air coming in.

7. Stability

The horizontal lines of all the walls should be downward to give a stable and comfortable feeling.