

A Case Study on Culture Respect Regeneration of Urban Space

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Abstract

The city of Bologna has grown and changed over years, from Middle Age through World War II up to now. It seems little change in urban landscape but upon closer examination, many changes can be found. Current technology has been applied and merged into the existing buildings in a very natural way. Most of buildings have been remodeled and reused accommodating new functions according to contemporary needs. Thereby the city has sustained its cultural identity, which is the power of urban competitiveness now. Differently from other cases, the city Bologna itself as a whole, is the regenerated city. The purpose of the research is to analyse characteristics of the urban space in terms of culture respect regeneration. The methodology used was walk through observation, along with literature survey and visual recording. Diverse ways of creating new space while preserving were identified.

Keyword: Urban Regeneration, Building Reuse, Retrofit Culture Respect, Bologna,

1. Introduction

1.1. Necessity and purpose of Research

The growth-focused development process via an urban policy causes many problems by taking light of the urban's uniqueness and culturality. In this situation, in order to maintain a sustainable urban space culture, the shift in thoughts and the strategy development for making both the traditional culture of the past and the local culture in the present and future tied in a string with them not discontinued and enabling the nature, climate and ecology native to the local to maintain a smooth harmony are needed. Coupled with it, in case of making use of all cultural assets by preserving

them well, the local image is improved and the locals take attachment to and pride in the region, which can become a resource for activating the region by attracting outside people and activity.

In this context, from the Korea's critical mind which in the dilemma of between culture preservation and economic development of the local, the latter has been always behind, this research aims to examine the case of Bologna, Italy which made a successful urban regeneration based on the preservation of history and culture and through the case, seek the implications which can be applied to Korea.

1.2. Scope and Method of Research

As a case study, this research used the following methods.

First, I visited the local in a Walk Through Evaluation method and observed and recorded characteristics and then categorized and analyzed them. Secondly, I investigated literature on the local's characteristics and the special target buildings. The information not posted in the Internet was gathered in the community libraries. Thirdly, in order to take a picture in many-sided angles, especially grasp the structure of the urban space, I took photos in the 18000m distance. Because Bologna itself was an open and accessible space in all directions, I navigated places in the different time range for two days and watched the appearance and space of the local people.

2. Subject

2.1 Outline of the Case Place

The city of Bologna has grown and changed over years till now after turing into ashes going through World War II since Middle Age. At first glimpse, it seems little change in urban landscape but upon closer examination, lots of chimneys have been disappeared due to central heating and new buildings have taken a position and been also replaced. As society develops, new technologies have been applied to the existing buildings in a natural way and most of historic buildings have been remodeled and reused accommodating new functions according to contemporary needs.



[Picture 1] Bologna city's view

Every historic building in Bologna is being reused and regenerated as museums, libraries,

shopping malls, offices and residences. Maintaining the appearance of the city and architectures as it is, the city is a city that the regeneration technology which makes it possible to be reborn as the diverse space which is required in the modern society has been accumulated.



[Picture 2] The view of Bologna reused with its old appearance kept

As a case, I will take a securities exchange building which has been regenerated as a local information library among these many historic building. Keeping both the external appearance of the existing building and the architectural details and decoration in its inner space as they are, the building has been equipped with furniture and equipment necessary for the functions as a library and regenerated as a library which both the present and future coexists in history. The plaza is placed in one corner and every citizen in Bologna is using it in a free way, without distinction of age or sex.





[Picture 3] The inner view of the Securities Exchange Building remodeled as a library.

The city of Bologna consists of streets, large or small, where center on and deviate from a plaza, the characteristic of European urban architecture and holds an architectural culture which the movements are not clogged by the buildings and shares the surface of lands. This city characteristic makes the society activated by making the life of its urbanites led in a natural manner and stimulating the urbanites' interaction. The development of the public space makes the space culture used as an opportunity of raising and maintaining the social integration symptoms by giving a chance of sharing the space together, irrespective of a social stratum.

The plaza in Bologna, the key characteristic of the city, was the space of every citizen that contains the diverse life of the citizens as well as the space in which the political campaigns and the official or unofficial senses are contained. Now, the space has been succeeded to the key space that gives the life, room and freedom of the citizens as well as those events and activities. The individual building groups also consists of inner courts and each corner is open to the streets and as a result, the buildings plays a role of making the exchange of the citizens activated more briskly.



[Picture 4] Plazas and Courts of Bologna

Even in the newly formed shopping centers, I found the principle of this traditional space structure. The shopping centers consisted of semi-open shops in their inner space, keeping the appearance of their historic buildings as they are. Also, the shopping centers that has a structure which are open to outside are connected to the streets that are accessible in several directions get the citizens to promote the use of those centers.



[Picture 5] The Shopping Center planned to make the access possible in every direction like a plaza structure

As Bologna is a gallery-typed portico in which the one side of the whole city is open and citizens can go to and from the city safely, basking in the sun. Also, even though it is raining, they do not haste, which makes the culture of their living kept, makes the social disadvantaged convenient and makes them go to and from the city easily. Each portico integrates the diverse historic styles

in the early Renaissance, Romanesque and Gothic ages and is differentiated. In the space, people rest, eat and purchase things and look another people and the various activities take place in a complex and natural way.



[Picture 6] The view of Portico which every building holds

In the meantime, the ample architectural details anywhere whether in the road flooring materials, building walls and openings, have been preserved in every corner and increases high added value of culture to the whole image of the city.



[Picture 7] The historic architectural detail

5. Conclusion

In developing the city or urban, the conversion from the past growth-focused development to the new urban regeneration which raises the residents' quality of living along with the regional economy development is required. The case of Bologna further increases the local residents' attachment to the city by meeting and developing the elements which the residents in the modern society need and even making them expanded to a tourist commodity, while keeping architectural styles in the old ages. In case of Bologna, Italy, because the city is different from the Korea's social, cultural and economic characteristics, it would be unreasonable to apply the city's regeneration to Korea. However, this research has a meaning in that the consciousness that respects history and culture underlying the regeneration plan and the technology and wisdom which reuse it supply both the universal principle and development method which can be applied commonly to the most of cities whose urban centers are deteriorated and provide a basic material to Korea which seeks an urban regeneration scheme in the future.

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