

Steel Grove

Gimhae, South Korea

“Steel Grove” is a house for a couple and two university students. The site is located in a town house neighborhood where houses surround each other. We wanted to create a house that provides enough privacy and yet has some kind of relationship with the neighborhood.

“Steel Grove” is a modern translation of a traditional Korean house in terms of how exterior spaces are composed. The mainstream housing for Koreans are apartments. More than 90% of Korean population live in apartments or houses that resemble apartments. These functional living machines don't have exterior spaces. Traditional Korean houses have various exterior spaces; front yard, backyard, taenmaru (narrow wooden porch running along the outside of a room), daecheongmaru (main porch). Each exterior space has a different function in different rooms. Furthermore, some exterior spaces even have relations with the streets outside the fence.

Environment:	Urban
Material:	Grade: 304 Finish: Hand polish
Architects:	Lee Joo Hyoung, Kang Shin Il
Photographs:	Sergio Pirrone
More information:	https://ar-a.kr/168-2/



“Steel Grove” has various exterior spaces that resembles the characteristics of a traditional Korean house. Each exterior space relates with each other and has different function to individual rooms. When you open the main door, you enter an open roofed space, and that space is connected by an atrium to the dining room. That atrium also relates to the front garden which is connected by the living room. The front garden is also related to the 2nd floor's deck. While most of exterior spaces in “Steel Grove” are located in-side the house and function with-in the house, the south façade and the south garden, however, tries

to relate, or to communicate, with the streets of the neighborhood.

We tried to give a sense of privacy while creating a relationship with the neighborhood when designing the south façade, which faces a four lane road. In order to create privacy, one needs to close a façade. In order to create a relationship, one needs to open a façade. These two character contradict each other. We came up with the idea of “Steel Grove” to solve the two contradicting qualities. After many studies, the “Steel Grove” was designed in the form of a stainless steel pipe, which not only creates a sense of privacy, but also relates to the nature and the neighborhood. The “Steel Grove” is made of 4 different types of stainless steel pipe. It was produced after many sample productions in order to find the most stable balance.

The “Steel Grove” not only solves the functional aspect of the house but also tries to create a new type of relation with the streets of the neighborhood. When the sun is up, the “Steel Grove” stands out and acts as the façade. The direct sun light is delicately scattered by the “Steel Grove” when entering the room. When the sun is down, the lights from the rooms permeates through the “Steel Grove” generating a different façade from the daytime. The façade changes create a different environment for the street trough times of the day. By doing so we tried to give a relationship between the house and the neighborhood.

