

Space Walk

History of the project

Space Walk is an experiential sculpture planned and constructed by POSCO, and donated to the city of Pohang, where the steelworks is located. Within just two years and six months of its establishment, it has attracted over 2.5 million visitors, garnering significant attention and affection nationwide.

POSCO initiated the Space Walk project to foster mutual growth with the Pohang community and to transform Pohang into a tourist attraction, thereby revitalizing the local economy. The project, which took a total of two years and seven months from planning to completion, stands as a prime example of creative public cultural and artistic endeavors that enhance the appeal of the region and promote community cooperation.

Category:	Art	/ 30x30 space
Location:	Pohang, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Republic of Korea	Thickness : 3mm Surface finish : electrolyte surface treatment
Environment:	Park side	Other Materials used: SM355
Use:	Experiential Sculpture (Hand Rail, Rail Step)	Material quantity: STS329J3L: 56Ton SM355 : 261Ton
Material - Hand Rail	Material Type: STS 329J3L D60.5 Thickness : 2mm Surface finish: electrolyte surface treatment	Artist: Heike Mutter&Ulrich Genth (GER)
Material - Rail Step	Material Type: STS 329J3L PLATE 3T / H30	Architect: 9DIRECTORS&COMPANY (KOR), Designtoproduction (GER)
		Fabricator and Manufacturer: POSCO
		Photographs: POSCO
		More information: spacewalk.or.kr



| Space Walk. Picture courtesy of POSCO

Why was stainless steel chosen?

Given its location just 250 meters from the coast, it was crucial to select a steel material that could withstand strong winds, minimize corrosion from salt exposure, and maintain a refined surface appearance. Therefore, the high-end stainless steel grade STS329J3L was applied to the handrails, railings, and stairs, which are frequently touched by visitors and thus more prone to wear and tear.

Additionally, the choice of stainless steel was influenced by its excellent environmental properties, including 100% recyclability and a significant reduction in CO₂ emissions during maintenance—half that of aluminum.

Designed by the German artist duo Heike Mutter & Ulrich Genth, who were selected through a public competition, Space Walk is a new concept of experiential sculpture. Unlike traditional artworks that visitors

merely observe, this piece allows visitors to physically ascend and walk along its steps, engaging with the artwork through touch, sound, and other senses, thus merging art and audience into a unified landscape.

POSCO managed the entire process from planning to production and installation, utilizing 100% POSCO steel for the sculpture. POSCO E&C was responsible for the production/installation, with supervision by POSCO A&C. POSCO Group's capabilities and technology were fully mobilized for the project.

In selecting the material for the sculpture, considerations were made for both aesthetic appeal and the geographical characteristics of the coastal location. After extensive research and evaluation of various materials that could withstand strong winds and earthquakes without corroding, the high-end steel grade



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STS329J3L, which is significantly more resistant to corrosion than standard

stainless steels (such as 304 and 316), was chosen.

To prioritize safety as an experiential sculpture, all 25 supporting pillars of the structure were interconnected underground. These interconnected pillars were then combined with 114 micropiles to anchor the entire sculpture to the bedrock, ensuring stability against maximum wind speeds of 80 m/s and earthquakes of up to 6.5 on the Richter scale.

Additionally, to enhance the design value of the artwork and ensure it shines beautifully in sunlight on clear days, each part of the sculpture, including the steps, was handcrafted with the precision of a sculptor. The construction of the large, irregularly shaped structure, which twists and bends in three dimensions, was completed with a margin of error of less than 0.5 cm, demonstrating exceptional technical skill.

Through these meticulous processes, Space Walk has emerged as a new landmark in South Korea, winning the Presidential Award at the good place award 2022, being named a Star of Korean Tourism in 2023, and being selected as one of the Top 100 Korean Tourism Sites for 2023-2024.

How did stainless steel contribute to the sustainability of the structure?

Given that the sculpture was to be donated to the local government after its construction, it was essential to consider the future maintenance by the municipality. By applying stainless steel to the handrails, railings, and stairs, which are subject to frequent friction and thus likely to require maintenance, we minimized the maintenance burden on the local government.

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