

### ABSTRACT

This study was initiated when the partial demolition of the site began for the housing redevelopment and maintenance project of the Muak redevelopment zone 2. The interviews of media and residents suggested a possibility that this region had been 'Okbaraji Alley(alley for families looking after prisoners)'. This study was conducted in the following process in order to investigate and record the life culture of a historically controversial old residential area before the redevelopment was completed. First, historical literature, prior studies and media data were investigated. Second, the current status, actual survey and physical changes were recorded. Third, life and culture were recorded through oral statement and written records.

Research on life culture is meaningful, which can determine whether neighborhood regeneration can be carried out prior to economic regeneration, and whether it can be developed while preserving the life cultural heritage in the area.

**KEYWORDS:** Neighborhood, Regeneration, Life-cultural Documentation, Redevelopment, Heritage

### INTRODUCTION

All content should be written in English and should be in 1 column. This study started when the partial demolition of the site was initiated for the housing redevelopment and maintenance project of the Muak redevelopment zone 2 in March 2016. This region faces Hyeonjeo-dong to the West and Haengchon-dong to the South at the border of Eju-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, and Nusang-dong and Sajik-dong to the East at the border of Inwangsan Mountain. It is located between Dongnimmun Station and Muakjae Station of the subway line 3 before going over the Muakjae pass.



*Figure 1. Muak area (Reference : Google Map, 2016)*

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According to the interviews of media and residents, a possibility that this region had been 'Okbaraji Alley(alley for families looking after prisoners)' was suggested, so the conflict between the redevelopment association that promoted the construction and civic groups and residents who were against the construction has deepened.



Figure 2. Situation of Muak area(17th May 2016)

Then, since January 2016, various discussions have been constantly made, and related seminars and activities have taken place in the inns remaining in the region. Finally, a month before demolition, Jongno-gu Office decided to support the initiation of the research on recording the local life and culture including actual survey of Okbaraji Alley and its buildings.

In the future, the mindset of the public and government needs to be changed so that we can minimize the indiscreet disappearance of low-rise residences left in the city center and if physical improvement of a declining region is needed, it may go ahead after excavating and recording the region's unique history and life.



Figure 3. Posters of Events (source : <https://www.facebook.com/urbandrawings>)

**CONDITION OF SITE**

According to 'Encyclopedia of Seoul Geography' published by City History Compilation Committee of Seoul, the name of Muak-dong originated from the fact that it was located under the Muak-hyeon hill. The 'Muak redevelopment zone 2' in Muak-dong is a old residential area where many Korean traditional houses, multiplexes, inns and neighborhood living facilities have remained.

Since the 1920s of the Japanese colonial period, residents have started to live there, and until post-Korean War era, shanty houses were all over the place. Even until the 1980s, it was still a poor hillside village. From 1978 to 1980, the improvement in the residential environment was tried by demolishing 600 houses, and building multiplexes and apartments, but physical declining was faster. In the end, Seoul Government designated the area around 46 Muak-dong as a substandard housing redevelopment zone.



*Figure 4. Photos of Muak 2 Block*

In the 2000s, Hyundai apartments were built with the progress of both the first and second housing reconstruction of Muak multiplexes, and all the area has turned into an apartment complex except for commercial facilities around Serran Hospital, the houses on 18 ga-gil and na-gil of Tongil-ro, and the current Muak redevelopment zone 2. Thus, a promotion committee for the redevelopment of the Muak zone 2 was approved in September 2004, and upon authorization for implementing the project under the name of 'the Muak redevelopment zone 2', the redevelopment began. (Site area : 11,058.70 m<sup>2</sup>. Building Coverage ratio : 25% below, Floor area ration : 209% below. Apartment : 195 households)

**RESEARCH METHOD AND PROCESS**

This study is composed of literature review, actual survey, interview and photo records.

**3. 1 Survey of History and Culture**

In order to summarize the historical evidence, data from the National Archives of Korea (Intellectual Archive Portal), National History Compilation Committee, and a Encyclopedia of Seoul Geography (by Seoul Government) were reviewed, and media data were collected and organized.



*Figure 5. Seodaemun Prison and old village(1915)*



*Figure 6. Yeongeun Gate's Column & plinth, Ansan*



Figure 7. Muakjae in 1903 (source. Munwhwailbo, "People go over the Muakjae," 2008.11.22.)



Figure 8. SuSeon-Map's Detail - Mohwaguan & village (Source : SuSeon-Map(首善全圖), 1861, 160.8X79.0cm Seo 2080, Seoul Museum of History)

### 3. 2 Building and Hosing types and Streets

First, the original cadastral map, which had been first written using a modern measurement technique during the Japanese colonial period (provided by National Archives of Korea), annual closed cadastral map (by Jongno-gu Office, 1939, 1967, 1984, 1999) and digital map (by Seoul Government) were utilized in order to examine the changes in a lot and street. And aerial photographs (provided by Seoul Government, 1978, 1985, 1995, 2005 and recently) and building registers were used to investigate changes in the type of housing.

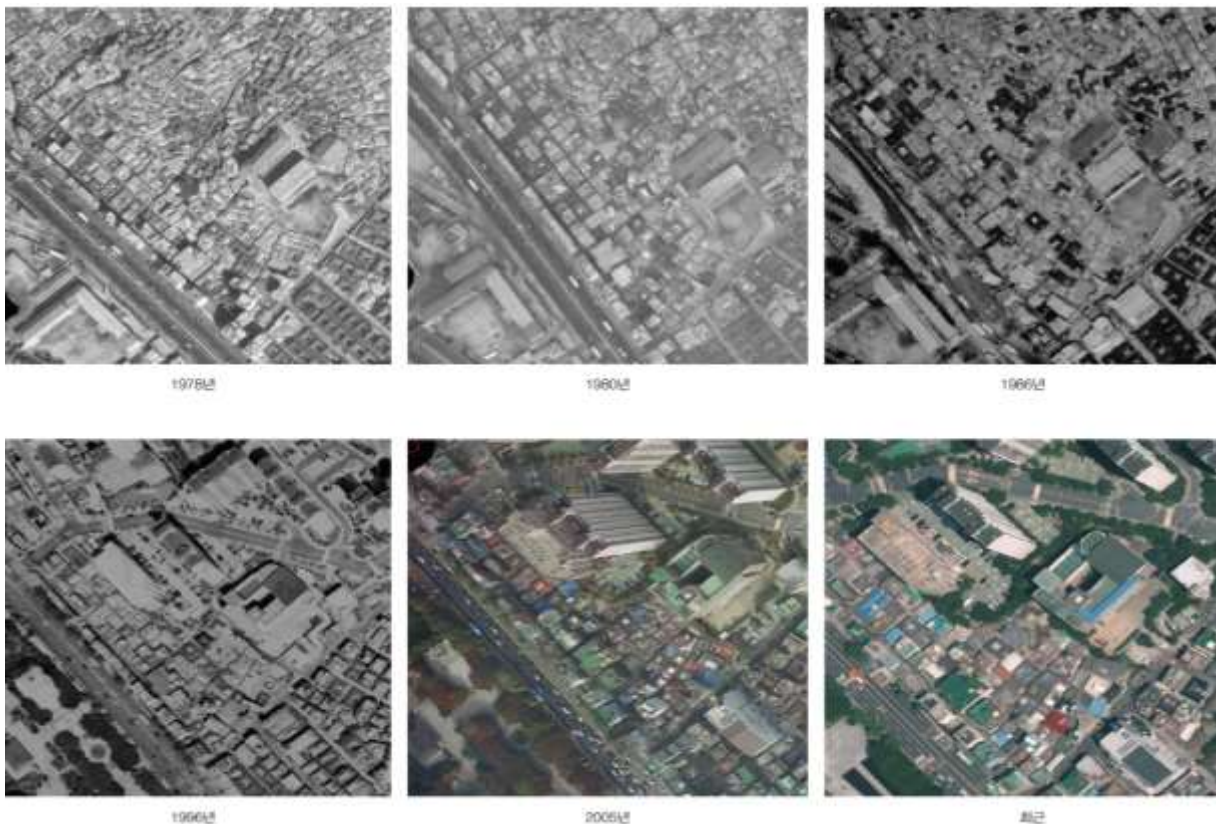


Figure 9. Aerial photographs (provided by Seoul Government, 1978, 1985, 1995, 2005 and recently) (Reference : provided by Seoul Government)

Second, the actual survey was performed for the controversial alley, followed by CAD-work and illustration was made to express the facade material.



*Figure 10. Photos and drawings of Street for accommodations*



*Figure 11. Housing and Accommodation in Muak 2 Block*

Third, 10 field surveys were conducted for the actual survey of the building. The buildings were classified into residential (residential only), neighbourhood living facility (residential + commercial) and accommodations (inn, studio housing, etc.). These field surveys were conducted for 2 months.



*Figure 12. Accomodations and Facilities*

Because electricity supply was already cut off at the time of survey, a flashlight was used in large-scale buildings such as O2 Hotel (formerly Seoil Inn) and the measurement was not possible after 5 pm.



*Figure 13. O2 Hotel Photos and Drawing*

Since then, 5 additional field surveys and investigations were conducted. Expert participation was made in 3 houses which retained the shape of an urban-style Korean traditional house.



*Figure 14. Photos of traditional housing for Store(Muakdong 46-15)*

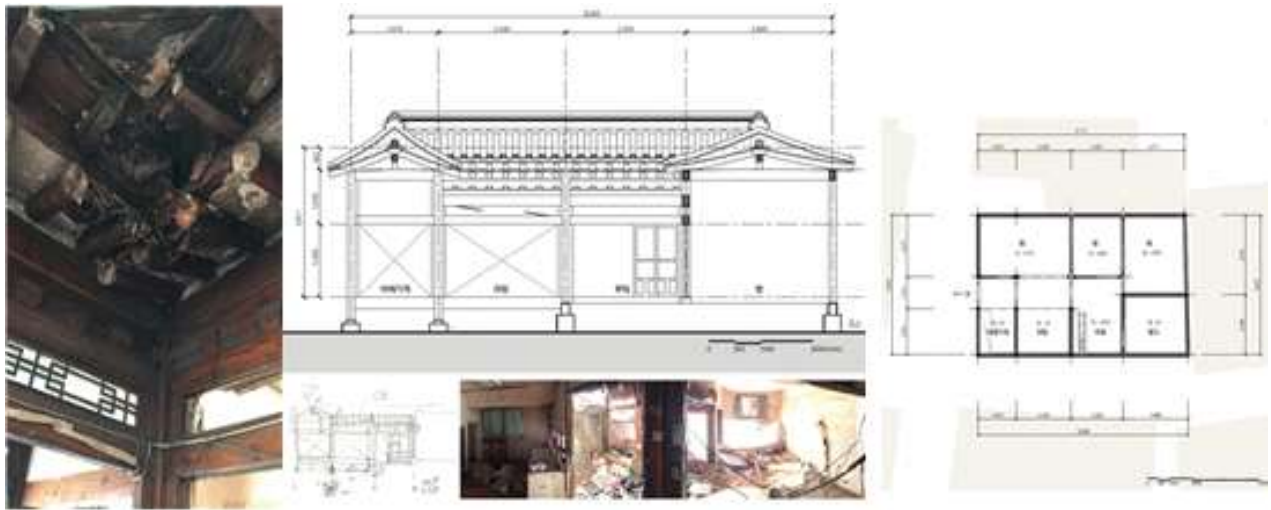


Figure 15. drawings of traditional housing for Store (Muakdong 46-15)

### 3. 3 Residents' Interviews

Interviews were conducted with 8 residents (including husband and wife, mother and daughter, etc.). Interviews were also held with a resident who had resided for about 7 years but opposed redevelopment (Gubonjang Inn) and a researcher who had lived in the neighborhood in the past and worked in education and research (Professor emeritus at Sungshin Women's University). Most of the interviewees were residing in the surrounding areas of Hongje-dong, Gyonam-dong, and Hyeonjeo-dong maintaining the living zone where they have lived for a long time. The questions were focused on objective situations that they remember about the area, rather than why they opposed or approved the development. Things of the past that they have kept were also collected.

During this process, some items over 30 years old such as spools, sewing machines and scissors were identified. Unfortunately, most of the old household goods were been abandoned at the time of demolition, and thus, they did not have many things or photos.



Figure 16. Residents' Interview and photos in Muak 2 block

### 3. 4 Old and New Photos in Muak Village

In this study, photo recording was performed concurrently from the actual survey stage of the current situations up to June 2016. With the help of a photographer who recorded the current situations, the scene as of November 2015 could be recorded. Data from the Internet and media were also collected. Most precious photographs were the past photos provided by residents during the interview.



*Figure 17. Photos of Muak's Life*

## CONCLUSION

After the promotion committee for establishing the redevelopment association was set in September 2004 and the designation of the Muak zone 2 as a maintenance area was made in March 2006, the establishment of the redevelopment association was approved. Numerous discussions and consultations have been made during the 6 years since then.

First, the plan of the maintenance area was changed in October 2011 and the area was designated as 'the 100 year old inn alley where women had temporarily lived while sending private supplies to prisoners in Seodamun prison (later called 'Okbaraji Alley')', leading to the beginning of the movement to preserve the region's historical and cultural values. Then, in November 2013, the authorization to implement the housing redevelopment and maintenance for the Muak zone 2 was obtained and a survey was conducted in 2014. In June 2015, the redevelopment seemed to go ahead in full force as the redevelopment association obtained the authorization of the management disposal plan.

However, since then, debates over cultural and historical values of 'Okbaraji Alley' have become visible through various media. Especially, newspapers reported this intensively in July 2015 and March 2016. However, the redevelopment association filed an eviction suit and won the case against tenants who opposed the demolition, and subsequently, the demolition started from March 2016. Then as the Seoul Government made it official that it would 'suspend the demolition and proceed with advance consultation with residents', the demolition was stopped, and the investigation on the need for conservation began. Compulsory demolition of the last two remaining houses were scheduled to take place on May 17, 2016 after the lengthy consultation, which was temporarily suspended by the will of the Seoul Government, leading to a lot of controversies.

However, eventually, the reconstruction project began again from August. Low-rise residential areas and alleys of the long history have disappeared after this process, and now new apartment complexes will replace them.

We felt conflicted between the value of neighborhood regeneration, economic logics and historical values during this study.

However, apart from the existence of historical value, it is not right that living foundation where residents have lived for many years disappear in an instant due to economic logics. Fortunately, it was possible to record the last appearances and traces, and the voice of residents who left the Muak redevelopment zone 2 with the help of the support agencies, but many old residential areas in the city are still disappearing without trace. Research on life culture is a meaningful study that can determine whether neighborhood regeneration can be carried out prior to economic regeneration, and whether it can be developed while preserving the life cultural heritage in the area. Therefore, it is desirable to establish the direction of regeneration and redevelopment after sufficient reviews though it takes somewhat long time.

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