URBAN HANOKS (TRADITIONAL HOUSES) IN SEOUL, KOREA
- A CASE STUDY OF GAHOEI DISTRICT 11 AND 31

by

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation is an attempt to study the surviving traditional and historical areas in
the heart of a modern city. The area of study is the Gahoei-district in Seoul, Korea,
which was chosen for observation and analysis as to how this urban traditional area
developed along with the modernization of a city.

Firstly, after touching briefly on the current problems that Seoul city faces, especially
on the notion of co-existence of old and new elements in the city, a study will be done
on the background of how urban hanoks or urban traditional housing forms evolved in
this area in 1930s and what makes the prototype special and traditional.

Next chapter then discusses the formation of urban hanoks and identifies a few
parameters that shaped the composition.

Following that will be the discussion and analysis of the change in urban hanoks and
this study will be done according to a few categories like chronology, uses, spatial
changes and the effects of the changes. The study of these changes will show how the
urban hanok survived through rapid development and urban renewal.

To further illustrate the above-mentioned content, a few case studies will be looked into
as well. The selection of examples are based on the extent of extension work carried
out, and certain characteristics that each hanok possesses, be it configuration, or
division of spaces, or any other qualities worthy to observe.

Lastly, to sum up, the evaluation of historical importance and value of urban hanoks, as
well as current problems will be carried out. To conclude, the concept of preservation
will be discussed and certain key points and guidelines to note in setting future
directions in order to conserve and retain the historical environment of this area are
suggested.