

THESIS

BUILDINGS - REFLECTIONS  
INTERIOR SPACES

Submitted by  
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In partial fulfillment of the requirements  
For the degree of  
Master of Fine Arts  
Colorado State University  
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WE HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER OUR SUPERVISION BY JISEON LEE ENTITLED BUILDINGS - REFLECTIONS AND INTERIOR SPACES BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING IN PART REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS.

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## ABSTRACT OF THESIS

### Buildings-Reflections

#### Interior Spaces

Buildings-Reflections and Interior Spaces are abstractions of urban environments. Their conception springs from a wish to break familiar patterns of ordinary environments. The simple, geometric and repetitive images indicate uniform urban architecture and reveal the standardized lifestyle of contemporary cities. In turn, the layers of spaces symbolize the complicated construction of urban architecture.

The inspiration comes from urban architecture. Buildings as man-made geometrical forms are attractive to me. I was born and raised in a big city, which was modernized and developed in a short time. Concrete buildings and houses of similar styles pervade the city, but also claim their own identity. For me, the insignificantly detailed architectural structure provides considerable differences among buildings and for the overall aspect of the city. The sequence of windows and doors and angles and combinations of walls and stairs offer visual and physical variety. The question is: how can this visual aspect visually and physically interact with audiences, when forms inspired by buildings - which are exterior and hard objects - become relatively small, soft and interior when set up into exhibition spaces?

Initially, I was looking for visual similarities and differences within the forms of spaces with which I am familiar. It became my intent to incorporate these with my experiences and observations of people in these spaces. My visual interests include physical distance and the relationships of forms within interior spaces, buildings and environments. The built environment is represented as a more universal space and a communicative object of abstracted geometric structure. Buildings-Reflections integrates repetition, order and disorder, relationships among surfaces, three-dimensional forms and untouchable perspectives. I am also interested in the relationships of opposites such as dark and light, big and small, transparent and opaque, condensed and open details,

which represent features of urban architecture. Buildings-Reflections is intended to evoke viewers' memories of specific or ordinary places, just as I interpret these environments through impressions and fragments of my own memories.

Interior Spaces invites viewers to participate in internal spaces that are created in an exhibition space, which are themselves already interior spaces. Partitions or wall-like panels are stitched and joined to create an isolating and contemplative space. This work leads audiences to walk through the passages created by screen panels. The stool placed inside invite the audience to sit and allows them to experience the layers of space around them as a new environment.

I regard materials and techniques as parts of the content of my works. Plastic screen is an actual architectural material and connects exteriors and interiors of buildings. In the actual objects, architecture, which is hard and opaque, becomes soft and transparent with this material. The use of transparent screen and opaque fabric, or several layered pieces of screen, allows me to create surface depth and three-dimensional forms. Softness of the works reduces the intimidating feeling out of size and architectural form. The size of the works suggests that viewers are in an imaginary big city. Soft and transparent materials are also deliberately chosen to eliminate the standardized feelings of architecture, providing intimate and tactile feelings. Stitched drawing is applied to plastic screen and fabric, which along with simplified geometric shapes that relate to three-dimensional forms, and various thickness of stitching allows variety of spatial perspectives.

By manipulating these materials and techniques, I develop spaces that can interact with the actual environments in which the work is installed. Reinterpreting architectural forms in soft materials allows me to transform the nature of the original objects. I hope the work allows the audience to experience new environments that are a transformation of the familiar patterns of contemporary architecture. I also wish that the installation of the works allows audiences to interact with my works both physically and visually.

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Plate 1. Installation of BUILDINGS-REFLECTIONS and INTERIOR SPACES

Plastic screen, rayon, cotton, wooden stool, stitching



Plate 2. Partial view of BUILDINGS-REFLECTIONS through INTERIOR SPACES



**Plate 3. Partial view of BUILDINGS-REFLECTIONS, consisted of 8 individual pieces, plastic screen and cotton fabric stitched , each element approximately 46 by 46 by 5 to 12 inches**



Plate 4. Partial view of BUILDINGS-REFLECTIONS, consisted of 8 individual pieces, plastic screen and cotton fabric stitched , each element approximately 46 by 46 by 5 to 12 inches





Plate 5. BUILDINGS-REFLECTIONS, 2 pieces among 8pieces, plastic screen  
and cotton fabric stitched , each element approximately 46 by 46 by 5 to 12 inches



Plate 6. INTERIOR SPACES, consisted of 25 individual plastic screen panels stitched and 3 wooden stools, each element approximately 18 by 99 inches



Plate 7. Partial view of INTERIOR SPACES, consisted of 25 individual plastic screen panels stitched and 3 wooden stools, each element approximately 18 by 99 inches



Plate 8. Detail of INTERIOR SPACES, consisted of 25 individual plastic screen panels stitched and 3 wooden stools, each element approximately 18 by 99 inches