Project Summary

Client: Korean National Assembly
Program: conference room renovation
Location: Seoul, Korea
My Assignment: interior concept design, design development and presentation

This is a renovation project of a main conference room of the National Assembly of South Korea in Seoul. The main concept of this project can be described as ‘creating a unique space where the new technology and tradition aesthetics meet’.

The requirement from the Korean assembly was to make a conference room with up-to-date equipment which can show Korea’s advanced information technology and the traditional beauty simultaneously. Therefore, the most significant issue for the designer was how to interpret and express the traditional aesthetics harmonized with technology. At the same time, it was also important to symbolize the essential meaning of the Korean assembly through a physical environment. The design solution was approached as symbolizing the space as a venue of making national decisions, so created a form inspired by one of the strongest traditional inventions of their predecessors.

The first sundial (Ang-bu-il-bu), which informs people of the time and the date, is interpreted as coinciding with the national assembly in terms of showing the direction of its present and its future. Moreover, it also can manifest the succeeded spirits of scientific challenge and inventions, such as from the sundial to the top IT industry of Korea. The sundial is represented in the ceiling with decoration of the Korean native characters (Hun-min-jung-ern) in the materials of frosted glass and light metal.

The traditional atmosphere is also expressed in the use of color and pattern. The traditional five colors are yellow, blue, white, red, and black, and each one has its own meaning: yellow (center of universe), blue (power of the whole creation), white (truth), red (passion), and black (wisdom). Above these meanings, the five colors represent the coexistence of the whole creation in one space as well as express the spirit of harmony of the diversity. The five basic colors were used in the main walls’ fabric panel which is good for absorbing noise.
The Sundial “Ang-bu-il-gu”
the first Korean sundial made in 1434 by Young-sil Jang

"Dae-dong-yeo-ji-do" map
texactly measured Korean map made in 1861 by Jeong-ho Kim

"Cheon-sang-yeol-cha-bun-ya-ji-do" map
the first Korean map of the stars made in 1395 by Kun Kwen

The traditional five colors (yellow, blue, white, red, and black) represent the coexistence of whole creations in the universe.
Main Conference Room (3D Modeling Perspective)