

Contents

Preface 7

Introduction 11

Part One: Surveying the Landscape

1. In the Cradle of Mountains 17
2. Birth of a Capital (1392–1592) 29
3. Incursions into the Hermit Kingdom (1592–1910) 41
4. Thrust of Colonial Modernism (1910–1945) 49
5. Enduring the Percussions of War (1945–1960) 61

Part Two: Realities of Urban Planning

6. The Clash of Tradition and Innovation 73
7. Forging a New Urban Identity 81
8. City Grid Gangnam Style 93
9. The Five Million House Plan 111
10. Primacy of the Construction Myth 121

Part Three: Searching for an Architectural Identity

11. Endurance of the Joseon Dynasty 143
12. The Infiltration of Western Modernism 159
13. Building a New Space for Architecture 173
14. Redefining the Korean Architect 195
15. An Emerging Architectural Culture 207

Part Four: Rising from the Crushing Bowl

16. The Question of Korean Vernacular 225
17. Peculiarities of the Urban Landscape 237
18. The Impositions of Density 253
19. The Weight of the Architectural Pyramid 265
20. Reprogramming the Metropolis 275

Appendix: Seoul as Architectural Laboratory 297

Selected Bibliography 327

Image Credits 331

Acknowledgments 333