



18<sup>th</sup> century: The city gates of Ganghwa are part of the citywall and act as a juncture between the rural and urban environment as well as controlling the access to the old town. Their primary function. The citygates are symbols and give an identity to Ganghwa.



Nowadays: The gates of Ganghwa are no longer part of the citywall in their most tangible way and no more a juncture between environments. They are still symbols today but in a very diluted way having lost their control over circulation and being part of the city instead of expressing the entrance of it.

**THE CITYGATES OF GANGHWA, CONTEMPORARY APPROACH**  
The human reflex would push us to work the citygates of Ganghwa perpendicular to their position in the city in order to try to reestablish their old functions or the ancient way of seeing them. This reflex, though humanly legit, is in our case rationally illogc considering the strong contradictions and oppositions in the state and the role of the citygates. Thus, the proposition of this project is to flip the intervention in order to work in parallel with these symbols of the past, and furthermore to work with the walls of the ancient lines of the walls, entering in direct relation with the basic definition of a citygate: a gate within a wall.

**THE CITYGATES GENERATE NEW URBAN SPACES: URBAN GATES**  
As a newborn in a old fortified town, these new urban gates give strength to the citygate serving mainly as a monument by reinforcing intangible ways of interacting with it. The greatest paradox would be to invert the way of approaching these who were serving as juncture between districts environments and serving as a "going through", by literally inviting people to live with them with the help of all the functions and public facilities attached to their brand new environment.

**THE OLD CITYGATES AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS: LOCAL GATES**  
The ancient citygates of Ganghwa still have their function in a local scale, in their own surrounding. Our purpose is to explore it, and give the historical identity of the gate back to the old quarters. Together with old axis, the gates will qualify the life and the structure of the quarters grown spontaneously around the gate. These two systems will intersect themselves and revitalize the city of Ganghwa in a local and urban scale.

**THE CITYGATES AND GANGHWA MOUNTAINS**  
The citygate and the wall of the ancient city are the natural juncture between the typical mountains and the human scale. We want to give value to this natural vocation of the gates, by creating (in the new urban gates) open views and perspectives towards these mountains which have always been and are still today the main aspect of landscape in Asia.

