

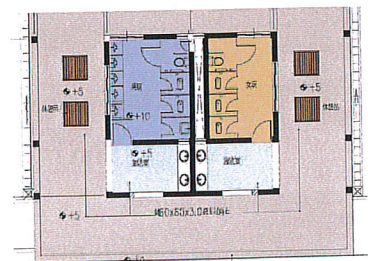
IV. Innovative Approaches for Designing Public Toilets

Architects are trained to design buildings with their skills to create unique quality toilectecture. During the past few years, Taiwan seems to have undergone a revolution in toilet design. There are diversified concepts for the design if architects are willing to devote more time on the design. They can manipulate the design factors, such as site condition, floor planning, building materials, structure system, or interior finishing etc., to create a good quality toilet. The following are some examples that architects have used to approach their design projects:

1. Breaking Flatten Floor Plan

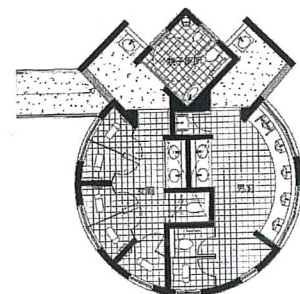
(1) Rectangular or Square in Plan

It is considered the most efficient and economic way of design. Sink and toilet spaces can be separated in order to keep the floor dry and clean.



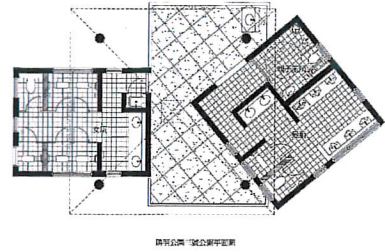
(2) Circular Plan

Due to the site condition or surrounding environment constraints, circular form layout is often used. It can be a very unique toilectecture building.



(3) Combination of Geometric Forms

- * Use two types or two similar geometric plans to organize the toilet spaces.
- * To avoid rigid and flattened image of the building.



2. Breaking Rigid Building Form

The most common way to explore the building form is trying to break the conventional box building form. The toilectecture built recently in Yangmingshan National Park of Taiwan, designed by architect Mr. Wu (TTA President), was a good example. He tried to separate the rest room into two parts; one was the toilet space with a flat roof, the other an entrance way with a pitch roof. He also raised the pitch roof slightly and supported it by a separated columns system. As a result, the restroom looks open and elegant, and has good ventilation.



Yangmingshan, Taipei, Taiwan

3. Underground Toilet

There are some cases where the toilets are placed underground due to site constraints.

The space above ground is used just for the entrance staircase or other purpose. These types of toilets are more flexible and free in building form.



Pershing park plaza, Washington D.C., USA

4. Good Usage of Building Materials

Usage of materials, whether for exterior or for interior, is also a very important factor in creating a unique building image. The following are two types of materials that I think can best demonstrate the trends of toilet design:

(1) Nature Type

In scenic areas or parks, "nature elements" are the most dominant factors in the environment. Therefore, integration of the toilet building with the surrounding natural environment should be considered as one of the best approaches in design.

There are some cases in Taiwan where



Green World Ecological Farm, Hsin Chu, Taiwan