

“Why did humanity start living together?” GIST hosts the 63rd GIST Academy Breakfast Forum

- *Invited Lecture by Architect Young-seop Kim, an urban and public design expert and former chairman of the Seoul Metropolitan Government Public Design Committee*
- *A humanistic examination of the process of human community formation, from prehistoric sites to early urban civilizations*



▲ The GIST Academy held its 63rd Breakfast Forum on Monday, June 29, at Oryong Hall, inviting architect Kim Young-seop (CEO of Kim Young-seop Architecture & Culture).

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that it held the 63rd GIST Academy Breakfast Forum at Oryong Hall on Monday, June 29.

Under the theme of "The Beginning of Civilization as Read Through the Origins of Cities and Architecture," this lecture was organized to examine the process by which humans, communities, and spatial culture were formed through the origins of cities and architecture, and to shed light on the development of civilization from a humanities perspective.

Architect Young-seop Kim, CEO of Kim Young-seop Architecture & Culture, was invited as a speaker for the forum.

Since establishing the Institute of Architectural Culture Design in 1982, CEO Kim has continued his research in architectural design and architectural culture, engaging in activities that encompass architecture, urban culture, and public design.

He devoted himself to nurturing future generations of scholars while serving as a distinguished professor and professor in the Department of Architecture and the Graduate School of Architecture and Design at Sungkyunkwan University, and contributed to the development of urban and public design by serving as the master planner for the Han River Renaissance and the chairman of the Seoul Public Design Committee.

Based on these achievements, he has been recognized for his expertise and accomplishments as an architect both domestically and internationally, receiving awards such as the Kim Soo-geun Architecture Award and the Grand Prize for Environmental Culture of Korea.

In the lecture, using the prehistoric sites of Göbekli Tepe and Karakhan Tepe in Turkey as examples, he examined the process by which humanity formed communities and created ritual spaces even before the advent of agricultural societies.

He explained that these sites serve as examples demonstrating that human communities established spaces for rituals and faith even before the agricultural era, introducing the idea that space has functioned not merely as a place for people to stay, but as a venue embodying the values and culture of the community.

He then explained the changes brought to human lifestyles and spatial culture by the beginning of settlement and agriculture, stating that the development of agriculture led humans to settle in one place and served as a catalyst for forming villages and communities, and that these changes led to the development of residential culture and spatial structures.



▲ *Architect Young-seop Kim is delivering a lecture titled "The Beginning of Civilization as Read Through the Origins of Cities and Architecture" at the GIST Academy's June Breakfast Forum.*

He also introduced examples of early urban civilizations, including Mesopotamia, explaining that the natural environment and agricultural-based community order played a crucial role in the growth and development of cities.

He emphasized that early cities were not merely expansions of residential areas but complex spaces combining functions of production, religion and rituals, and exchange. He further stressed that architecture needs to be viewed not just in terms of building forms or technology, but from the perspective of human life, community, and the values and meanings embedded in space.

In addition, he stated that understanding the formation process of cities and architecture involves examining the history of how humans have formed communities and established order, and provides meaningful insights into understanding the spaces and societies in which we live today.

Through this lecture, attendees had the opportunity to examine the process by which human settlement and agriculture led to the birth of cities and the formation of civilization, and to understand how space and architecture have developed by embodying the faith, culture, and social order of the community.

Meanwhile, GIST Academy, which is responsible for GIST's non-degree educational programs, has established and operates the Technology Management Academy (GT MBA) as its flagship program, and regularly hosts breakfast forums for local businesspeople and alumni by inviting experts from various fields every March, May, June, September, and October.