the Sea of Itami Jun

Project Outline

Project Intention: Itami Jun is a Korean born in Japan who lived as an architect all of his life. He lived on the borderline as a Korean and a Japanese, but he is someone who lived in his own way. Unfortunately, his work wasn’t as recognized due to the fact that he was a Koman when he was in Japan, and because he was considered Japanese when he was in Korea. But he never gave up and continued to build his own architectural style and the end of his life he received worldwide recognition. He considered the Jeju Island as his heart’s hometown and ended up leaving his masterpiece there as he passed away in Tokyo, failing to make his Seoguipo sea view dream home in Jeju a reality. This film is about the slow but aggressive life journey of Itami Jun and his works as we look at his architectural philosophy. The world of architecture he built is where nature and buildings are intermingled, light and dark preside in the same space, and traditions and future are linked. Many of his acquaintances say that Itami Jun was a conservative and warm man. Shigeru Ban stated that Itami Jun’s architecture and its warm and attractive characteristics reflect the architect himself. Instead of being swept by the time’s trends, Itami Jun made warm spaces that do not change over time. He questions what architecture has to mean to humans and nature to the Korean society which has recently started to pay more much attention to architecture. Many youths are faced with deprivation at this time and age, Itami Jun’s life philosophy and architecture will give us a chance to rethink about the slow tempo, warm energy, and the values we’ve forgotten.

Production Plan:
- Project Intention: Itami Jun is a Korean born in Japan who lived as an architect all of his life. He lived on the borderline as a Korean and a Japanese, but he is someone who lived in his own way. Unfortunately, his work wasn’t as recognized due to the fact that he was a Koman when he was in Japan, and because he was considered Japanese when he was in Korea. But he never gave up and continued to build his own architectural style and the end of his life he received worldwide recognition. He considered the Jeju Island as his heart’s hometown and ended up leaving his masterpiece there as he passed away in Tokyo, failing to make his Seoguipo sea view dream home in Jeju a reality. This film is about the slow but aggressive life journey of Itami Jun and his works as we look at his architectural philosophy. The world of architecture he built is where nature and buildings are intermingled, light and dark preside in the same space, and traditions and future are linked. Many of his acquaintances say that Itami Jun was a conservative and warm man. Shigeru Ban stated that Itami Jun’s architecture and its warm and attractive characteristics reflect the architect himself. Instead of being swept by the time’s trends, Itami Jun made warm spaces that do not change over time. He questions what architecture has to mean to humans and nature to the Korean society which has recently started to pay more much attention to architecture. Many youths are faced with deprivation at this time and age, Itami Jun’s life philosophy and architecture will give us a chance to rethink about the slow tempo, warm energy, and the values we’ve forgotten.

- Production Plan: Architect speaks with architecture. This film also listens to the stories that the buildings hold within them. For Itami Jun, architecture holds his own stories which means those architecture has become Itami Jun. This film will take a look at the architect’s major buildings one by one and show the stories each hold through the words of Itami Jun. While looking at the episodes and philosophy of the buildings, we would reach a point where his life can be realized. Unlike other documentaries, this film required more shooting equipment (heli cam, jimmy jib, steady cam) in order to show Itami Jun’s works beautifully and precisely. Not only that, in order to show the buildings in changing seasons and time, the shooting schedule had to be flexible to show the four seasons. Therefore the production team is working with the minimum number of staff in order to be flexible in scheduling and also production costs. “The Sea of Itami Jun” is shot on 4K where UHD are gaining interest in the contents market. Itami Jun’s architecture that is one with nature will be a strong player through displaying beautiful images.

- Investment status, plan and production budget: Out of 150,000,000KRW budget, 70,000,000 KRW has been secured through the support from Jeju Film Commission - A donation of 20,000,000 KRW from architecture firm ‘The Frame’ - 10,000,000 investment from Giraffe Pictures - 40,000,000 KRW investment plan through Itami Jun Architecture Culture Foundation opening and “The Sea of Itami Jun” crowd funding event to be held, as well as apply for film production support programs.

- Casting and Staff: YOO E-hwa – ITM Architects / She is ITM Architects’ director and Itami Jun’s first client, a Korean-Japanese whose home town was Jeju Island’s Seoguipo, he asked Itami Jun to build his last house in Seoguipo but was unable to keep the promise. KIM Hong-ji – the client for Itami Jun’s masterpiece, Jeju Project. Honke Kamtoya. Asked Itami Jun to build a utopian-like ecological city in his parent’s hometown, Seoguipo. Kunihiko Ryo: Just like Itami Jun, Kunihiko Ryo is also Korean-Japanese and his hometown is Jeju Island. He’s a musician influenced by wind and will be participating in the film through a song of the wind. Shigeru Ban – Winner if Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2014. While missing Itami Jun, Shigeru Ban pass on Itami Jun’s architectural philosophy. PARR Kil-ryong – Honorary professor of Kookmin University’s school of architecture / role of an elderly man that looks like Itami Jun in a film within the film. Staff director – JUNG Da-woon producer – KIM Jong-shin cinematographer – CHOO Kyung-yeop – graduate of Seoul Institute of the Arts, Korean Academy of Film Arts’ cinematography major, participated on “Gyeongju”, “Pieta”, “Jiseul” – Kunihiko Ryo – theme song

- Domestic and International Distribution Plan: Sign the contract for domestic theatrical release and broadcast rights, distribute on IPTV UHD broadcast contents, sign for distribution rights pending on size of the Japanese investment