

The Meaning of 'Life-Culture Documentation' in Neighborhood Regeneration Focused on a Castle-village Regeneration Plan in Haengchon District, Seoul

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Abstract

In this study, we evaluated the purpose and method of life-culture documentation in neighborhood regeneration during establishment of the plan for regeneration of the castle village in Haengchon District, which was recently carried out by Seoul. In particular, the life-culture documentation project in Haengchon District would have greater significance in neighborhood regeneration of 'castle villages.' It is also meaningful not only to assess village resources and collect and utilize basic data therefrom but also to record and preserve the present shape and appearance of the valuable surroundings of the castle.

Keywords: Castle village; Documentation of physical landscape; Life-Culture Documentation; Neighborhood Regeneration

1. Introduction

Fortress Wall of Hanyang-dosung(dosung means castle town) was constructed to protect palaces, government offices Jongmyo Shrine and Sajikdan Altar and residents in the Joseon capital. Fortress Wall was made to be led by four mountains(Mt. Bukak and Mt. Nak, Mt. Bukak, Mt. Inwang) and have been a total length of about 18.2 km. The castle was planned earthen fortifications on the ground and stone fortress in the mountains. Seoul City Wall today is an historical relic that graces the city of Seoul, with a population of over ten million. It enhances the natural cityscape and adds a historical landmark to a city that is now more than six centuries old.[1] And the harmony between a castle and the surrounding village is unusual worldwide.

Thus Seoul recently determined to have included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.[2] To be designated a World Heritage Site, the site must be recognized for its 'outstanding universal value' and 'a protection and management plan' for the heritage of the site must be in place.

In particular, the World Heritage Committee included the roles of local community in the strategic objectives in 2007 so that the potential value of World Heritage Sites can be maintained by local residents [2]. In this regard, Hanyang-dosung is of great value since it has been preserved along with the village, despite rapid urbanization and growth. For continuous protection and management of that value, a plan for management of the fortress wall, villages and residents must be formulated.

To make the village blend in with the fortress wall in terms of their physical aspects, ill-considered renewal of the village around the castle must be restricted. In particular, the influx of high-rise apartment complexes should be restricted, while

the life of people living near the castle must be respected. In these circumstances, Seoul has developed a plan for regeneration of castle villages in six districts (Figure 1. Castle Villages Map : Ehwa/Chungshin, Haengchon, Buam, Dasan, Samsun, and Myungryun/ Haehwa)



Index. — castle Park & Green Castle Villages

Figure 1. Castle Villages Map
 (Source: Seoul City, 2015)



Figure 2. Foster of Conference for Castle Village's Possibilities
 (Source: Seoul City, 2014)

The interest in regeneration of downtown residences has focused on integrative regeneration as well as physical regeneration since 2000. Seoul has also attempted to establish an overall regeneration plan for castle-villages under which 'village regeneration planning' and 'characterization planning' are paired with the 'project of life-culture documentation'. The latter, as a basic research project for all regeneration projects, is intended to record the present conditions and situations of regions prior to changes. However the 'project of life-culture documentation' for neighborhood regeneration was formulated for the first time in 2015.

Thus, in this paper, we aim to explain the purpose and method of the 'project of life-culture documentation', which was carried out during establishment of the regeneration plan for castle villages in Seoul. In particular, through examination of the example Haengchon District, we seek to reveal and clarify the meaning of documentation of the physical landscape.

2. 'Life-Culture Documentation' in Neighborhood Regeneration

In The 'Life-Culture Documentation Project' (LCDP) is connected with a documentation project of Seoul Museum of History and aims to conduct a comprehensive study, display and record of the history and culture of Korea as a city while preserving the traditional culture and history of Seoul and establishing a cultural identity for the people of Seoul. In particular, the 'documentation project' began recording conditions in the city in 2005 when Cheonggyecheon (brook) was developed, and the project has focused on recording locations and people that disappeared due to renewal projects. However, since 2010, Seoul has carried forward documentation projects in the following places where a unique urban culture has formed: *Shinlim-dong Youth (2015)*, *Garibon-dong Five-way Intersection (2015)*, *Hwanghak-don (2015)*, *Goodbye Dongdaemun Stadium (2015)*, *Shinlim-dong (2015)*, *Seongsu-dong (2015)*, *Majang-dong (2015)*, *Garibon-dong (2014)*, *104 Village (2012) etc.*

Starting of LCDP for neighborhood regeneration is intended for setting up a plan for regeneration of 'Jangsu Village' (another castle village). Jangsu Village was district #3 for Samsun-dong redevelopment. Samsun district #3 was expected to be redeveloped with high-rise apartment blocks. However, the residents and planners were opposed to this redevelopment, so they chose to regenerate the village. Thus Samsun- #3 district was renamed Jangsu Village - 'Jangsu' in Korean means longevity- and to enhance understanding of the village, the planners and residents continued to explore the village and recorded the outcomes of this exploration.

Thereafter, LCDP is to understand and record the culture of life, residents. through the town's physical, historical context of the past and present and LCDP was involved in establishing the regeneration plan for castle-villages in Seoul. Haengchon District is one of six castle-villages regeneration districts and LCDP for Haengchon District involves the following process (Figure 3. Lifestyle & Culture Project Documentation Process).

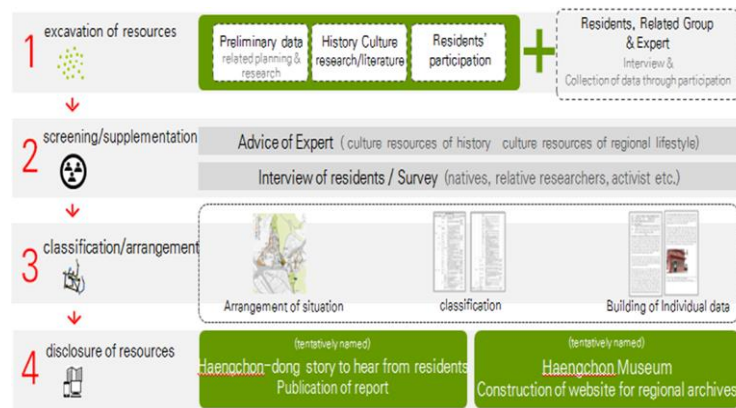


Figure 3. Lifestyle & Culture Project Documentation Process
(Source:PMA)

The LCDP for Haengchon District has aims of : ‘enhancement of awareness of the value of the castle village’; identifying the resources and problems of the village’; ‘determining the possibility of establishment of a resident organization’; and ‘recording of traces and memories of the village’. These are intended to form the basis of neighborhood regeneration projects and informing the residents of the value of the village.

In addition, the LCDP involves recording all aspects of the village, visible or invisible. The invisible aspects of the village include its history, and human and social stories and the story of the inhabitants of the village, *etc.* This facilitates planning by determining the human and material resources of the village; indeed, the recording is itself significant. Visible aspects of the village include the landscape and determination of the inherent value of the village. Recording the present condition of locations, which may be altered by future regeneration, supports sustainable regeneration of the village and the surroundings thereof.

In chapter 3 we discuss the present conditions of the target district and 4, we discuss the meaning of the recording of visible aspects of the village through LCDP for Haengchon District.

3. Present Conditions of the Target District

Haengchon District, as a target area of the castle-village regeneration project, is defined as the surroundings of Hanchon-dong, located at Jongno-gu, Seoul. The district as village started the Josun Dynasty. Under the administrative district system during the latter period of the Josun Dynasty, the district belonged to Bansong-bang, western part and the outskirts of Hansung-bu (Seoul). Under the present administrative district system, Bansong-bang is located then in the areas of Seodaemun-gu (Hap-dong, Hyeonjeo-dong, Naengcheon-dong, Yeomcheon-dong and Cheonyeon-dong) and Jongno-gu (Gyonam-dong, Gyobuk-dong, Muak-dong, Songwol-dong, Shinmunro 2-ga, Haengchon-dong and Hongpa-dong). ‘Haengchon-dong’ was named when various villages (Golwoomul-gol, Eosuwoomul-gol, Eunhaengmaeul-gol and Saemal-gol) located in Western Bansong-bang were integrated under the project for renaming the areas in Japanese style and integration of administrative districts in April 1914.

‘Haengchon-dong’ was named when the names of Eunhaengmaeul-gol and Saemal-gol were combined into Haengchon-jeong. ‘Hang’ of Haengchon was from Eun-haeng-goal and ‘Eun-haeng’ means a ginkgo tree and ‘goal’ means vale(valley).

Because there was a ginkgo tree in the village. The ginkgo tree is still in the place. And 'Chon' of Haengchon was from Sae-mal-gol and 'Saemal' means new village.

In April 1943, when the administrative system was changed, the local offices were abolished and the 'Gu' system was implemented (Decree No. 163 of the Japanese Government-General of Korea), 7 Gus were designated (Jongno-gu, Jung-gu, Yongsan-gu, Dongdaemun-gu, Seodaemun-gu, Sungdong-gu and Yeongdeungpo-gu), and Haengchon-jeong belonged to Seodaemun-gu.

Immediately after achieving independence in 1945, Korea renamed Gyungsung-bu to Seoul-si and the areas with Japanese-style names were renamed in the Korean style in October 1945. Haengchon-jeong was renamed Haengchon-dong. Thereafter, Haengchon-dong, which had belonged to Seodaemun-gu, was included in, and currently stands in, Jongno-gu after adjustment of the districts in May 1970. The 'Hangchon District' in which the castle-village regeneration project is being conducted is on the outskirts of the castle village. The area is 159,553 m² and it has ~5,000 residents.



Figure 3. Historic Interests in the Hangchon-District

From left Dilkusha, a House for Nanpa Hong, 600 years old Ginkgo Tree
(Source : Seoul City)

And there are several places of historic interest such as Dilkusha, a House for Nanpa Hong and a 600 years old Ginkgo Tree. a House for Nanpa Hong and Dilkusha is the western style house. And Dilkusha constructed in 1924, and it was for U.I.A correspondent Albert Taylor.

In terms of physical geography, it is located southwest of Inwangsan (Mt.) and has hill areas and is shaped similar to the South American continent upside down. Haengchon-dong borders Sajik-dong in the northeast, Muak-dong in the west, and Gyobuk-dong and Hongpa-dong in the south. Muak-dong, which has a border with Haengchon-dong, was redeveloped in 1998 and 23-storey high-rise apartments have been built there. It is also expected that the 'Donuimun new town' project will be ongoing until 2017 in Haengchon-dong, Gyenam-dong and Gyobuk-dong. And then Haengchon-district of low-rise residential will surround with high-rise apartments.



Figure 4. Situation of the Haengchon Area, 2015
Left: Haengchon-dong looking along the castle wall
Right: Construction site of Donuimun New Town
(Source: Photograph by author, L: January 2016, R: September 2015)

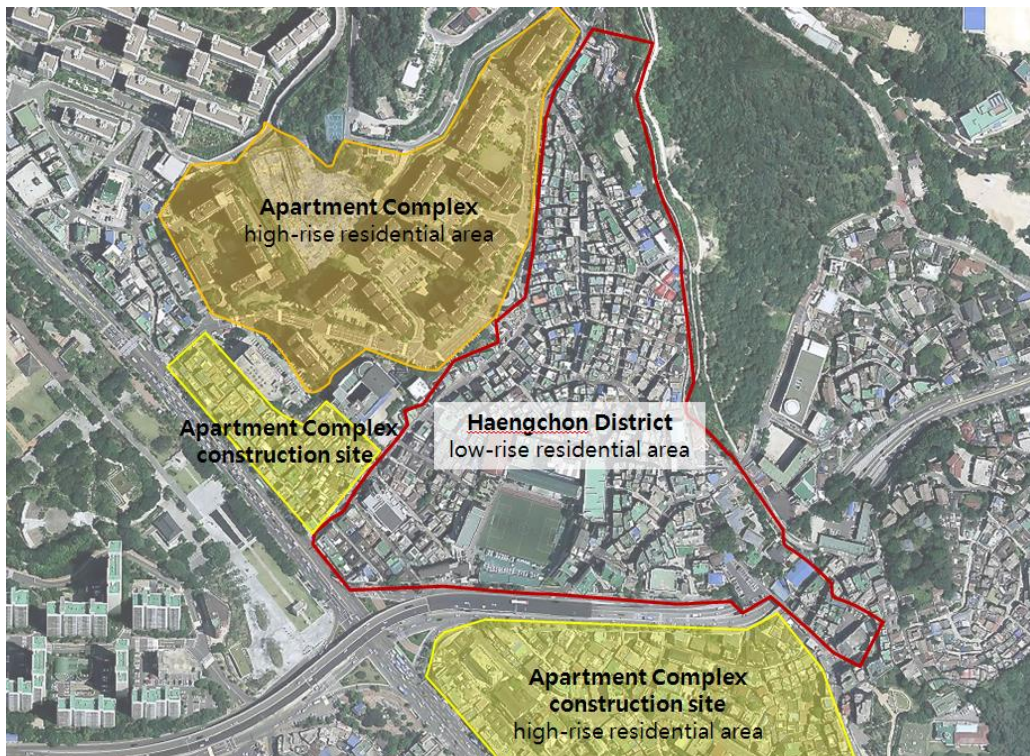


Figure 5. Residential Type in the Haengchon-District and Surroundings, 2016

4. Characteristics of Planning According to Residential Area Type

Since May 2015, we have carried out a number of explorations of the villages in Haengchon District to document the life and culture of the residents through continuous interviews. This process resulted in classification of houses and residences into six types. From July to September 2015, using the roads and site plan for major residential areas,

actual measurements of the internal area of houses by type were carried out and drawings produced.



Figure 6. Field Drawing
(Source: by Author)

In this paper, we selected six blocks of residential areas and each blocks has the major residential type. This is to gain a better understanding of historical/cultural changes in Haengchon-dong by examining residential areas reflecting the life of inhabitants. Haengchon-dong became a residential area during the Japanese occupation. After the outbreak of the Korean War, the residential area expanded to border the castle. At that time, most houses were detached.

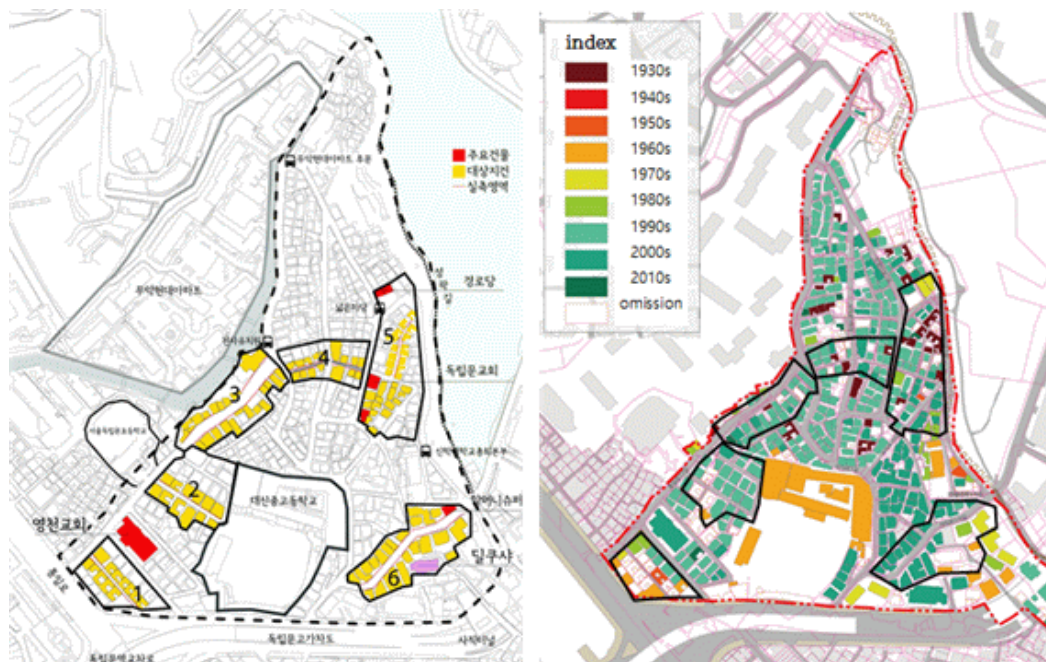


Figure 7. Six Districts according to Housing Type & Building Construction Years

(Source:Left-by Author, Right-by PMA)

The residential areas constructed rapidly since the 1950s deteriorated up to the 1990s and the differences among environment of residential areas has widened as the number of apartment complexes has increased due to redevelopment. In 1990, the government began to improve residential environments so as to enhance low-rise residential areas, and most detached houses in Haengchon-dong have been rebuilt as multiplex houses and multi-household houses. So following Figure 7. Six Districts according to Housing Type & Building Construction Years in this District some houses was built in 1930s~1980s, most of houses was built since 1990s .

Nevertheless, due to historic and geographic factors, Haengchon District includes various types of housing, including ‘Han (Han means Korea)-style detached houses (Hanok)’, ‘low-rise housing’, ‘row houses’, ‘detached houses’ and ‘semi-detached houses.’

While the changes in low-rise residential areas in Korea were led by massive construction of apartment complexes through renewal and rebuilding of houses, Haengchon-district is of great value since various types of housing have been maintained in that district. The process of measuring the six areas of the district using pictures and a field book is shown in Table 1 . Physical Landscapes of Main Housing Blocks in Haengchon District. And Table 2. Elevation Drawing of Main Housing Blocks shows drawings of the elevations of housing blocks. Through this process, we could understand the basic status and types of housing in Haengchon-District and remain the data.

Table 1. Physical Landscapes of Main Housing Blocks in Haengchon District


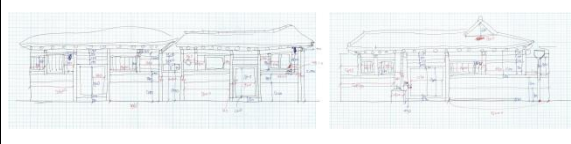



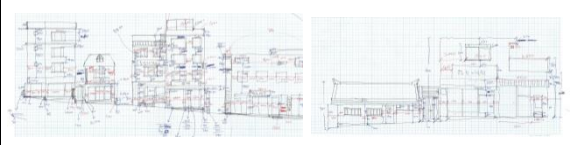

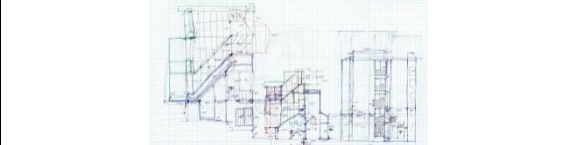









| id | Situation | Field Book (Documents) |
|----|---|--|
| 01 |  |  |
| 02 |  |  |
| 03 |  |  |
| 04 |  |  |
| 05 |  |  |
| 06 |  |  |

Table 2. Elevation Drawing of Main Housing Blocks

| id | Elevation 1 | Elevation 2 |
|----|--|-------------|
| 01 |  | |
| 02 |  | |
| 03 |  | |
| 04 |  | |
| 05 |  | |



And With Figure 7. Six Districts according to Housing Type & Building Construction Years , Figure 8. Aerial Photograph in 1978 and Figure 9. Aerial Photograph in 1995 we explained the planning characteristics of residential areas according to housing type. Because Haengchon District's residential types was changed around 1990 but almost housing lots and roads was not changed. So we can confirm the changes and characters easily.



Figure 8. Aerial Photograph in 1978
Source: Seoul City

Figure 9. Aerial Photograph in 1995
Source: Seoul City

In block #1, traditional urban housing—a Han style detached house—has been preserved in the alley. Parts of the original form of urban Han-style detached houses (started in Seoul in the 1910s) remain inside the gates of houses: while the composition of rooms and yard of traditional housing remains, the room's outer walls which have windows are arranged into the alley. This is to suit the urban density of detached houses.

We confirmed through Registered

| |
|----------|
| Building |
|----------|

 Building

| |
|------|
| Data |
|------|

 Data-administrative documents that only some of the Han-style detached houses in Haengchon-dong were built in the 1950s. We assume that similar houses would have been established at that time. These urban Han-style detached houses in Haengchon-dong are large houses as can be seen in Figure 8. Aerial Photograph in 1978, over 50 of which existed until the early 1980s. Most have been demolished and only some of them remain in Block #1 to create a unique landscape. However, their repair is problematic due to difficulties in management of Han-style detached houses. Thus, measures for repair/maintenance of such houses are necessary for their preservation.

Block #2 comprises a mixture of urban Han-style detached houses and multiplex houses. As shown in Figure 8. Aerial Photograph in 1978 this area's urban-style traditional Urban housing lots were larger than other types of houses but large housing lots has become easy conditions to be for different residential types. So in the 1990s, a number of detached houses were reconstructed into multiplex houses and some urban Korean-style houses remained as the houses for cathedral or shaman's house. Thus, to preserve the present conditions in this residential area, careful management is required. And because this block has side road which connect main commercial street and Hanengchon Distirct's center area and will have Hanengchon Distirct's Regeneration Center, it will be needed road and landscape maintenance for pedestrian.

Block #3 consists of planned downtown dwellings along with the roads. Those commercial residential buildings were constructed in the 1990s when projects for improvement of residential environment and the commercial type Han-style detached houses were conducted in this according to Figure 8. Aerial Photograph in 1978. Thus most lots have slender houses and, the majority of single lots reconstructed into multiplex or multi-household houses are small. Parts of some of those buildings were remodeled into three-storey buildings, and some are ≤ 4 m wide. This area is the only one with a main street, along which pass shuttle buses circulating around Haengchon District. Therefore we must consider to establish a plan for elevation of commercial buildings, pedestrians roads and connection area.

Block #4 has the steepest slope in Haengchon Distritct, and is centered on steps to the castle. Throughout the maintenance of a few years ago, the stairs is flat and handle stairs were set up. Currently, most of the houses are multiple houses or multi-family household houses which were built in the 1990s. They were reconstructed from detached houses constructed in the 1950s. However, because cars were uncommon in the 1950s, parking spaces and roads were not considered during urban planning. Thus, due to reconstruction of the houses in this area into multiplex houses in the same small lots, lack of parking space is an issue. Of course, lack of parking lots is not a this bolck's problem but a serious problem of the whole District. The stairs are connected to the front door in the common area of neighboring houses and form a unique landscape of streets. Recently, the surroundings of those stairs were arranged and flowerpots placed near them to create a friendly atmosphere.

Block #5 is the place where the largest number of buildings constructed in the 1930s remain extant and has a unique landscape as the roofs of single and two-storey houses merge into each other along the streets close to the castle. In particular, the houses are small and they exhibit marked deterioration. It is also the residential area closest to outsiders visiting the castle and so a maintenance plan for utilization of rooftops and streetscape should be established carefully. And because this block has public parking, homes for the elderly and town center space called large courtyard, the plan to strength town center function is needed.

Block #6 includes: 'Dilkusha', a western-style house constructed by Albert Taylor (American journalist) in 1924; a 600-year-old Ginkgo tree planted by General Gwan Yul (great commander during the Chosun Dynasty); and three units of two-storey townhouses

constructed in the 1970s (located at 1 Haengchon-dong and also referred to as 'ant houses'). Around them are two-storey detached houses built in the 1960s and 1980s; moreover, multiplex houses built in the early 2000s exist around the widest street. Therefore, this area contains various types of houses. In other words, this area contains both buildings to be preserved and heritage sites and is required to promote harmony among the various house styles.

5. Conclusion

In this study, we aimed to understand the purpose and method of 'Life-Culture Documentation' in neighborhood regeneration by establishing a plan for regeneration of the castle village in Haengchon District, which was recently carried out by Seoul, and determine the significance and implications of recording the physical landscape for neighborhood regeneration.

For neighborhood regeneration, it is vital to reconcile the opinions of residents and government to preserve the way of life of people in the community, and this must be based on an understanding of the present physical, social and economic conditions of the area. So 'Life Culture Documents Project(LCDP)' in neighborhood regeneration carries out together with recording of the physical spatial conditions and the present physical, social and economic conditions.

In particular, and unlike similar projects in other areas, the LCDP in Haengchon District has greater significance to neighborhood regeneration of the 'castle village'. It is also meaningful not only to identify the resources of the village, and collect and utilize the resulting basic data, but also to record and preserve the present shape and appearance of the valuable surroundings of the castle.

We confirmed that writing down the physical features is not simply to record the physical characteristics of the individual building or landscape. We met many residents in the process of record, and was able to communicate with them. So we heard residents' life and difficulties and understood them. This is key for good neighborhood regeneration.

LCDP could be a process that can increase the understanding of the space while exploring the town during the course of history and lives.

Despite these value, most people are unaware of LCDPs and it doesn't carried prior to establishment of a regeneration plan. Therefore, in future we will report the outcomes of the LCDP and discuss plans for their utilization.

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