

KIM JONG UN

**LET US LAUNCH
A NEW REVOLUTION IN
CONSTRUCTION TO LEAD THE
WAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF SOCIALIST CIVILIZATION
(Excerpts)**

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 113 (2024)**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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...

Construction is a patriotic cause of lasting significance for building a thriving socialist country, a people's paradise, and important work for increasing the economic might of the country and raising the level of its civilization.

When we build many monumental structures by bringing about innovations in construction, the firm foundations of a thriving country will be laid and a sound basis built for the people's happiness. Seeing the daily-changing appearance of their prosperous and civilized country, our people will feel a sense of great dignity and revolutionary self-respect and cherish warmer affection for their country. The new construction speeds and the spirit of the times created at the grand construction sites inspire all the people and service personnel to wage a heroic struggle and perform feats in building a thriving country.

It is our Party's steadfast determination to usher in a new

age of national prosperity by developing the current heyday in construction into a great golden age of construction in Songun Korea and by making the torchlight of innovation in this sector flare up as the flames of a great leap forward on all the other fronts of socialist construction.

...

We should lay out the capital city of Pyongyang, the heart of Juche Korea and the hub of Songun-based culture, as a city of global standards in all aspects and raise a hot wind of construction across the provinces, cities and counties to remodel them in a beautiful fashion as suited to their characteristic features. By so doing, we can turn the country into a socialist paradise.

...

The guidelines to be followed in carrying out our ambitious construction plan and reaching our goals are the Party's Juche-oriented idea and theory on architecture and its construction policy.

Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, who are responsible for the country's architecture. It is the people themselves who create it and benefit from it. So it is a natural requirement in construction to give top priority to the aspirations and demands of the people and their convenience and to ensure its perfect ideological and artistic value and usability in conformity with their emotions and aesthetic sense. In construction we should preserve the Juche character by

applying the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, combine national identity properly with modernity, and build at an extraordinary speed monumental structures that will surpass global standards and remain immaculate even in the distant future. This is the basic principle which we must abide by in construction and the core of the Juche-oriented idea on architecture.

...

They should bring about a revolutionary change in the design, building work and the production of building materials so as to ensure that the country's construction sector reaches the global standards.

Design, building work and building materials are three elements of construction. The key to building excellent structures is the proper combination of these elements.

The main requirements of our Party's policy on developing design, building work and the production of building materials are to abide by the principle of prioritizing convenience over aesthetic beauty, and the construction of infrastructure over that of superstructure, to make construction specialized, industrialized and modern at a high level and to complete projects at one go by adopting finish-one-at-a-time tactics and pressing ahead with them in a three-dimensional way.

First of all, we need to develop the architectural design sector rapidly.

Architectural design is the initial process in construction

and creates an operational map for it. Keeping in mind that the future of a civilized country is visualized first on their drawing boards, architects should guarantee the highest level of excellence in their work, as intended by the Party and desired by the people.

They should fully embody the requirements of our Party's Juche-oriented theory on architecture and its construction policy in their architectural designs.

In drawing the designs for a structure, primary attention should be paid to providing the people, its users, with convenience for their comfort and then to creating an environment and conditions with the highest levels of safety, hygiene, sanitation, culture and aesthetics. It is also important to constantly update the formative and artistic features of architecture. It should be regarded as an iron rule in architectural design to give precedence to the designs of infrastructure, with due concern paid to modernizing the infrastructure network in keeping with the world trend.

It is important in architectural design to sustain the utility and characteristics of structures. General Kim Jong Il taught us that architecture is a composite art, so similarity and repetition are a taboo in architectural design.

Architects should always rack their brains for distinctive designs for structures of various forms that conform with their characteristic features, utility and capacities. As the characteristics and utility of structures are manifested in the formation of the exterior and the interior space, their

exterior should be configured and their interior plane arrangement designed so as to conform with their missions and functions. In architectural designs for local areas it is important to avoid the tendency of blindly copying the models in Pyongyang or of drawing them only for style's sake; they should assume varied and unique forms to bring out the character of each locality. In keeping with the world trend towards green architecture structures to be built should be designed on the principle of promoting the ecological environment and making them friendly to their surroundings. On the other hand, precautions should be taken against adopting architectural forms and trends that are incongruous with the Korean style on the pretext of creating distinctive designs.

The level of scientification in architectural design should be raised radically, in line with the demands of the new century.

Scientific methods should be introduced into design and its means modernized. Architects cannot present satisfactory designs for world-class structures based solely on their sense of responsibility and duty. The days are gone when designs were drawn on paper. The most pressing issue in putting methods of architectural design on a scientific basis is to develop and use the advanced CAD applications and system of a Korean style. National institutions for architectural design and similar units in the provinces should equip themselves fully with modern devices such as the latest computers and multidimensional

design programs so as to ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in their work.

Special attention should be paid to ensuring the scientific accuracy of calculation of cost-effectiveness in design. A misplaced dot or line on a design can result in the country's materials, funds and manpower being wasted in large amounts. From the standpoint that they are answerable to the country and people for the structures they design, architects should map out plans for them carefully in the light of economic profitability and draw designs of each structure only after repeated deliberation.

The architectural design sector should develop all its branches rapidly with the great ambition of beating the world.

...

Fresh innovations should be brought about in building work.

The process of building work is the major process in construction. However excellent a design may be, if the building work is not done properly, a structure will not meet the requirements of the Party and people.

Building work should be put on a specialized basis.

Making building work specialized is an important guarantee for higher speed and quality.

Radical steps should be taken to consolidate the material and technical foundations of central construction enterprises, improve their employees' level of technical knowledge and skill, and make up for the shortage of

manpower. Provinces, too, should build up their own construction forces. Specialized construction enterprises should work effectively to reinforce their technical personnel and train skilled construction workers. Given the experience in construction this year, it is advisable to second construction forces in the provinces for major projects in Pyongyang so that they can learn advanced construction methods and gain experience.

It is important to raise the level of industrialization and modernization decisively in building work.

Only then will it be possible to make work easier in the construction sector and carry out construction projects more quickly and better with less expenditure of manpower and materials.

Fundamental to putting building work on an industrialized and modern footing is upgrading the equipment, machinery and tools. Since we are to undertake many projects in the coming years in answer to the Party's call for a construction campaign, we should replace old building equipment, machinery and tools with modern ones. As we have the experience of manufacturing various types of building equipment and as we are supported by firm industrial foundations, we are surely capable of producing and supplying modern building equipment, machinery and tools if we buckle down to it. Factories and enterprises in the machine-building industry and construction units should make positive efforts to produce building equipment, machinery and tools. It is also

important to make scrupulous arrangements for importing complete sets of up-to-date building equipment, machinery and tools.

Advanced building methods should be introduced proactively. People's aesthetic standards rise and building methods develop in step with the times. A struggle should be waged to invent and apply various building methods suited to the requirements of the times and the characteristics of the construction projects, and positive efforts be made to adopt the most up-to-date building methods. In order to raise construction to a higher level, we should switch from wet to dry process.

...

We should create an example in building work and generalize it. It is our Party's traditional method of work to create a model in a unit and generalize it across other units. We should raise the overall level of building work by setting up exemplary, model units in the capital and provinces and making all other construction units follow suit.

When carrying out a construction project, close attention should be paid to laying out the area surrounding the site. A structure should be completed in parallel with cleaning up the surrounding area and landscaping it with trees and lawns so that the traces of construction are removed entirely, along with the completion of the project.

An epochal turn should be made in the production of building materials.

Building materials production is decisive to the success or failure of construction. Building materials are to construction what shells and bullets are to the army.

Building-materials factories should normalize their production so that they can supply materials for construction in sufficient quantities. Cement factories and the units producing steel for construction should upgrade and perfect their existing production lines and operate their equipment at full capacity, and thus produce and supply quality cement and steel according to the specifications. The production of standard aggregate and prefabs should be industrialized so as to boost their output rapidly. Modern bases for producing building materials should be set up in larger numbers to meet the growing demand for them in the construction sector.

The proportion of domestically-produced finishing materials should be raised. To produce building materials by relying on domestic resources is a requisite for the development of construction and, at the same time, it is an important aspect of political work to inspire the people with trust and pride in their own things and enhance their confidence.

...

We should channel strenuous efforts into developing materials for fittings and furniture so that large quantities of light, durable, convenient and attractive materials are produced. Positive measures should be taken to turn out varieties of quality coating materials by relying on

locally-available raw materials.

The responsibility and role of the officials and working people in the construction sector should be enhanced so as to usher in a great golden age of construction.

They are point men and pioneers who perform the honourable duty of taking the lead in paving the way for the prosperity of Songun Korea and the people's happy tomorrow. By relying on their ardent loyalty and patriotic zeal, our Party intends to open up a great golden age of construction with a view to translating the people's ideals and dreams into reality.

The officials in the construction sector should work to the best of their abilities and make persevering efforts to carry out the construction plan of the Party, and its intentions.

...

They should make exacting demands in construction. In construction the criteria are that which is required by the Party and the people. In carrying on any project, officials should not feel satisfied with what they have done, but make greater demands so as to construct all structures as monumental creations which reach the standards required by the Party and the people and are of the highest international standards.

...

Construction science and technology should be developed onto a higher stage.

Science and technology are an engine which drives

constant advances in construction, and the shortcut to the great golden age of construction is to rapidly develop science and technology in this sector.

The scientists and technicians in the construction sector should have the national pride and scientific faith that they will beat the world and should make the best use of the knowledge and talents they have acquired under the care of the Party, so as to provide a scientific and technological guarantee for and push ahead with the grand construction campaign for the country's prosperity and the people's well-being. They should further develop architectural design and building work on the basis of intensive research into structural diagrams, scientific methods of calculation and advanced methods of building work which are appropriate to the actual conditions of our country and may lead the world. They should strive to ensure the domestic production of building materials, and increase their variety and improve their quality so that they can compete with world-class ones. They should also make proactive efforts to develop and introduce modern and more efficient equipment, machinery and tools.

Emphasis should be put on training scientific and technical personnel in the construction sector. Today, when the heyday of construction is being led into a great golden age for the new century of the Juche era, talented designers and architects are in growing demand. Pyongyang University of Architecture is the base for training talented personnel in Juche-oriented architecture and an outpost in building a

civilized socialist country. The university and other educational institutions in the construction sector should put education on an informatized, modern and advanced basis as demanded by the era of the knowledge economy, combine theory with practice, and teaching with productive labour, and guarantee the best conditions and environment for teaching so as to increase the number of able designers and architects who are fully equipped with the Juche-oriented idea on architecture. In order to produce able personnel who are talented in construction science and technology and can render a contribution to building a thriving nation, it is important to select promising people and send them abroad to study and for internships and effectively organize refresher courses for in-service officials.

A dissemination centre for construction science and technology should be built and widely used. A wide range of worldwide architectural data should be entered into the central database to enable the relevant organs to gain access to them through a computer network.

Supervision and control over construction should be improved and strengthened.

Supervision and control should be conducted in a responsible manner in the interests of the Party and the state. With a high sense of being supervisors defending the demands and interests of the Party, the country and the people, officials in this sector should exercise strict control over construction and make increasing demands on design and building work.

We should establish a nationwide, unified system of supervision and control over construction. Only then will it be possible to conduct the overall construction of the country in line with the Party's construction policy, the development orientation for construction set by the state, and the laws and regulations on construction.

...

Let Us Make Our Capital City Even More Splendid by Building 50 000 Flats

Speech at the Groundbreaking Ceremony
for a Project to Build 10 000 Flats in Pyongyang
March 23, Juche 110 (2021)

...

Building 50 000 modern flats in Pyongyang, the capital of our great country, is something our Party has long intended, prepared for and aspired to, in order to provide its citizens with more cultured and stable living conditions.

...

This large-scale house-building programme introduced by our Party and state is not designed for the pursuit of financial profit; it is an ennobling undertaking to turn the state's assets and the fruits of their creative labour into benefits for the working masses.

If, starting today, we build 50 000 flats by 2025 when we will mark the 80th founding anniversary of the Party—10 000 flats every year—we will have built almost 70 000 flats, including the more than 16 000 that are currently under construction. Thus we will have solved, once and for all, the problem of housing for the citizens of the capital.

...

The construction of 10 000 flats this year will be carried out in circumstances that are entirely different from when

we started building Ryomyong Street five years ago; moreover, the amount of work we must complete in a limited time is many times greater than it was back then.

Yet our Party decided that the project must go ahead unconditionally, since it will have a direct impact on the life of the citizens of the capital, and since it is an important political undertaking in the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress.

...

This grand construction project will be of monumental significance in the history of the capital's development.

...

Building 10 000 flats and distinctive public buildings every year in the Songsin, Songhwa, Sopho, Kumchon and September 9 Street areas will transform our national capital in a more magnificent fashion, and make these streets monuments to the most arduous yet glorious third decade of the 21st century.

...

Construction combines the intelligence of an era with the strength of the nation concerned, and represents a major stride towards a civilized lifestyle and development.

Today, as we advance to achieve development and prosperity, upholding the principle of our-state-first, this project will constitute a major area of thrust, symbolic of the era in which a fresh upsurge and transformation are being recorded in socialist construction.

Through this project we will make a further

improvement to the appearance of our capital city and usher in an era of a fresh dynamic advance, in the course of which socialist construction will be confidently developed, step by step.

...

The task facing the design sector is paramount.

Construction is a highly creative undertaking, and buildings are becoming aesthetically appealing, artistic, multi-functional and intelligent. This adds to the importance of the design.

What our Party asks of the design sector is that every single dot and line placed on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of our times and embody the noble ideals and standards of a civilization that can proudly take the global lead.

Based on the street formation and design plans that have already been decided and issued, the designers should ensure that all the designs for the buildings are perfected so that they fully embody the Party's concept of architectural aesthetics, and should submit them to the construction sector as soon as possible.

...

Every construction detachment and unit should focus its main energies on improving the quality of construction, and consistently hold fast to the principle of ensuring quality throughout the construction process.

If every official and builder maintains at all times the stance and attitude that their loyalty, patriotism and

conscience will be proved by the Party, the state, the people, posterity and history, all the structures will become outstanding creations of our times both in name and in reality.

...

Let Us Launch a New Revolution in Construction to Lead the Way in the Development of Our Own Style of Socialist Civilization

Letter to Those Attending the Second Grand Short
Course of Officials in the Construction Sector
February 8, Juche 111 (2022)

...

Our Party has unfolded a grand blueprint for radically transforming the living environment of all the people across the country within 20 to 30 years and making ours an ideal socialist country, a socialist paradise, which is admired by the world and where the people live in comfort and harmony, enjoying the highest quality and standard of civilization. The construction sector is at the forefront in translating this objective into reality.

Construction is an important part of political work. By making it possible for people to feel the benevolence of our Party's people-first politics and of our system first hand, and by encouraging among them an intuitive understanding of the criteria of creation we are aspiring to and the beautiful future, construction leads them to the civilization of a new era and inspires every one of them to devote themselves to the socialist patriotic cause, filled

with pride in being the citizens of a great state and confidence in a better tomorrow. In this sense, the current revolution in construction can be defined as a worthwhile undertaking to create priceless assets for the country and, at the same time, a process of ideological education and cultural revolution for enlightening people and driving them forward towards a bright future.

Construction is also a prerequisite for comprehensively developing socialism and improving the people's living standards. Moreover, it is a patriotic undertaking of lasting significance for creating a civilized future.

If we are so preoccupied with the prevailing challenges that we fail to focus our efforts on construction, we can neither cement the foundations for the development of the state nor furnish our people with a happy life. Construction is a hallmark of progress and renovation and an investment in the future. Only when we give precedence to construction and push ahead with it audaciously can we create fresh potential for sustained economic growth and expand the foundations for cultural progress, and thereby bring about the substantial changes that will be welcomed by people in every realm of state and social life. Our great people have bravely gone through the period of severe trials and training. By bringing about a revolutionary turn in construction, we should vividly show the world the ideals and ambitions our people cherish in their endeavours to make progress at the stage of a fresh upsurge in, and the renewed

development of, the revolution, and demonstrate the dignity of a powerful country more dynamically.

We are creating all our structures on the strength of self-reliance, with an eye to the future and in the face of the current difficulties. They will remain as bases for the well-being of our people and posterity, as solid assets for national prosperity and as historical monuments which will tell future generations of the level of the ennobling ideological feelings and creative wisdom of the people in the era of the Workers' Party.

...

The basic orientation we must follow in construction at present is to prioritize construction projects for the people's well-being, at the same time as pushing forward with the industrial construction and land development that will consolidate the country's economic foundations.

A society's progress and prosperity are inconceivable apart from the level of its people's cultural life. In providing our people with better housing and an excellent environment for enjoying cultural activities, we can apply the people-oriented policies of the Party and state and the original features of socialism in a more concrete way and bring about a positive change in the rhythm, habits and mode of the people's life and an improvement in their political consciousness and level of civilization.

The housing problem is a matter of greatest concern for our people and a principal issue in providing them

with the tangible benefits of the socialist system.

...

In order to enable our people and the rising generations to study to their heart's content, attain a high level of knowledge and civilization and maintain good health, we should build many modern educational and public health establishments with excellent facilities and conditions so that the Party's plan to build ours into a civilized socialist country will be implemented at an early date. Based on the experiences gained and standards set so far, we should push ahead strongly with modernizing the educational institutions, medical service facilities and pharmaceutical bases at all levels.

To enable our people to enjoy the reality of socialist civilization to the full, we should build, at the celebrated mountains and scenic spots across the country, cultural and tourist resorts that are in perfect harmony with the beautiful natural scenery. We should also continue to lay out distinctive parks and recreation grounds in all towns and villages, and set up modern, high-standard service facilities.

Our Party has put it forward as an important strategic line of socialist construction to fundamentally eliminate the differences between the capital city and provinces and between towns and rural communities.

...

Sprucing up cities, county towns and rural villages is a worthwhile undertaking which is welcomed by our people and gives impetus to the construction of a civilized

society. The state should increase its investment, true to the Party's policy of regional and rural construction, and every province, city and county should raise the torch of a revolution in construction so that every provincial seat, city, county town and rural village is transformed into an ideal socialist one.

We should focus our efforts on industrial construction and land development so that fresh foundations for economic development are steadily laid.

The objective we must attain in industrial construction is to create fresh foundations for the development of the national economy, and to provide the working people with better and advanced working conditions by establishing and upgrading not only production lines but also all the industrial, cultural and welfare facilities. Buildings should substantially conform to the requirements of the new era in terms of not only their appearance, but also their operation and profitability.

...

While directing efforts to building key infrastructure such as railways, ports and power plants, which constitute the foundation of the country's development, we should be working persistently on such land administration projects as sea walls and hydraulic structures, river improvement and road construction. In this way, we can transform the country's appearance, and defend from natural disasters the people's lives and property and the material and cultural wealth they have created through such great exertion.

So, the construction tasks we are facing are enormous and challenging. But if we press ahead with them responsibly without interruption, with the mindset that doing so is an essential process in opening up a broad and smooth road for the state's development and securing a guarantee for improving the people's living standards, not only we, but also the coming generations, will enjoy the tangible benefits and, in the near future, our country will be transformed into a beautiful and ideal socialist country that is good to live in.

...

Our architecture, if it is separated from its political character, has no value. We reject the tendency to regard construction as merely a practical undertaking, as the pursuit of beauty alone and as art for art's sake. Making architecture political and policy-oriented is the core and the seed from which Juche-oriented architecture develops. It should be our consistent policy to ensure that structures bear visual representation of the principle of regarding our Party, our ideology, our system and our nation as the best. This can be done by, for instance, displaying political slogans or catchphrases on them. All the structures we build should be lively ones that fully embody the Juche- and people-oriented character unique to our Party and state, our national traits, the people's aspirations and emotions, and the dignity and mettle of our great powerful nation.

...

Architectural style is a visual representation of the

aspirations, aesthetic views, level of civilization and national strength in a particular period of time. We should create and introduce into overall construction architectural styles that are symbolic of the civilization in the era of the Workers' Party, typical styles of our own that encapsulate the features of the architectural art to which we aspire. In this regard it is important to ensure that every element of architecture embodies our national style, the spirit of the times and the mettle of innovation and creation. In other words, we should sustain our inherent style and features while meeting the requirements of modern architectural art in our own way.

...

Construction requires a huge amount of human and material resources and, once it has been completed, it cannot be reversed—this is its unique feature. Depending on its purpose and standard, a construction project may powerfully lead social progress, or hinder it. Therefore, it should be carried out, based on a scientific calculation in close combination with the long-term national development plan. Moreover, throughout the whole course of the project, from drawing up the master plan to the design and building work, we should strive to achieve economic efficiency and practicality by adopting the optimum options. We should maintain the principle of profitability, actively encourage resource-, area- and energy-saving models in accordance with the global trend and the actual conditions in our country, and perfect every

aspect of every structure so that it serves as a base for the growth of our economic potential and the development of our country's civilization and prosperity even after fifty years, nay one hundred years, to say nothing of today.

...

If construction is to make the dramatic advance desired by the Party, progress and change should be achieved first in design work.

An excellent structure which embodies the Party's Juche-based idea of architectural aesthetic beauty and encapsulates the people's ideals comes from the design desk, and it is at this desk, too, that we take the first big strides towards a civilized socialist country.

Our Party demands that every single line and dot drawn on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of the era of the Workers' Party and embody the standards of a civilization that can proudly take the lead globally. As for the architects who are charged with this task, what they need is the enduring perseverance with which to rack their brains and get an ingenious idea or inspiration that is consistent with the Party's idea and ideals and the people's aspirations, and with which they admit or yield to nothing that is not new.

Designers should think, study and strive every minute of their life, well aware that every design they produce will translate our Party's line and policy into reality and open up a bright future for their country.

The central task in architectural design is to maintain

the Juche character and our national identity, sustain originality and convenience, and promote practicality and functionality.

As the Party has often stressed, the Juche character and our national identity are the lifeblood of architecture, while originality and convenience, practicality and functionality are the guidelines in drawing up architectural designs. The design sector, while maintaining the principle of giving priority to convenience, aesthetic beauty and infrastructure construction, should, as required by our Party's construction policy, design all structures in such a way that they accord with the sentiments and aesthetic tastes of our people and with our actual conditions, are diverse and distinctive, and are fit for purpose. This will help to open up a new phase in architectural creation.

Its elevation is the face of a structure, where its attractiveness is primarily expressed.

It is important to avoid similarity and repetition and to sustain the individuality of all structures in designing the elevation. In other words, it is necessary to sustain the characteristics of the structural skeleton of a building while ensuring its formative and artistic beauty so that it is possible to tell at a glance from its outward appearance what it is for. In the elevation formation we should pay attention to finding an original seed that can intently reflect the mission, purpose and characteristic features of the structure and to thoroughly subordinating every part and detail to the seed. In particular, even structures with the

same mission and purpose must be designed in harmony with their surroundings, without being repetitive and monotonous while preserving the characteristics of the area—whether mountains, coast or plain.

A structure's appearance should be attractive, and its interior, as well as being practical and convenient, should also be flawless in terms of its aesthetics.

A fundamental principle in interior design is to achieve the perfect combination of practicality, convenience, and artistic and formative beauty. Even though practicality and convenience are being emphasized, formative and artistic beauty should not be neglected, nor should practicality and convenience be overlooked because formative and artistic beauty are being stressed.

Attention should be paid to creating a rational floor plan based on the principles of fully meeting the functional requirements of the building according to its mission and purpose, maximizing the utility rate of the building area, and ensuring its convenience. At the same time, we should actively create and make use of new and diverse architectural formation methods of our own style.

The interior decoration is particularly important in architecture. It can be likened to an art. In interior decoration, the principle should be observed of sustaining modernity and our taste. We should improve the effect of interior decoration by employing such various decorative elements as folding screens and paintings and such methods of decoration as openwork, as well as by

arranging the various items of furniture and fixtures in good harmony according to their purposes.

The design sector should pay special attention to encouraging national forms of architecture on a wide scale and designing the exterior and interior of structures so that they suit our national characteristics.

The formation plan for a structure acquires its detailed features through technical design, and it is the technical design that guarantees that the quality, safety and technical engineering standards are met.

Scientific character, accuracy, rationality and delicacy should all be assured in the technical design. The design sector, in strict accordance with the formation plans ratified by the Party and the technical requirements, should present optimum technical design options which can guarantee the quality and safety of structures with less materials and manpower and fully satisfy the functional occupancy demands and the technical engineering demands while sustaining modern aesthetic tastes and decorative effects.

...

Furniture designers should hold fast to the principle of designing furniture that is fit for purpose, blends well with the structure's character and its interior space, and caters to the tastes of the users. While attaching importance to making furniture that is varied, formative, multi-functional and light, they should switch from pre-assembled to flat-pack models and design all items of furniture to suit their purpose. They should encourage the production of

light and good-looking furniture made not only of wood but also of various other materials, and choose colours that are congenial to that of the structure's interior space.

In modern architecture, landscaping plays an important role as a means of formation, and its standard is a yardstick for evaluating the level of a country's civilization.

As landscaping is another form of formative art, the design should be given priority, and the work should be carried out according to the design.

Landscaping designs should be drawn up in a characteristically formative and artistic manner and in such a way as to enhance the dignity of the building and sustain the natural scenery, taking into account the surrounding environment, the features of the terrain and the ecological characteristics of the garden plants. Landscape designers should guard against stereotypes in their work, and draw up varied designs, for example by planting trees of high ornamental value in groups, laying out lawns and flower beds in harmony and enhancing the natural beauty through a combination of such elements as artificial hills and rocks.

We should work effectively to widen the vision of landscape designers, should step up the research on landscaping and should adopt methods that are widely used internationally, as suited to the situation in our country.

The design sector should draw up proper master plans.

Master plans should be drawn up on a long-term basis with an eye to more than 50, nay 100, years ahead, and with their ideals properly defined in line with the Party's

intention. They should be based on a scientific calculation of the specific conditions and environment of the region and project and the direction of their development, while making sure their seeds and themes are sustained.

It is important in drawing up a master plan to define the central axis properly according to the area and project, to divide the districts clearly according to their functions, and to form architectural groups in such a way that they retain their unique features. In undulating areas it should be a principle to distribute buildings by making the most of the natural curves and slopes, while in flat areas it would be a good idea to divide them into square districts and settle the location of imposing buildings. Artistic interaction, compatibility and connection between buildings should be ensured in a smooth and refined way, while retaining the unique style of the individual buildings that constitute the architectural formation. In drawing up a master plan, the infrastructure networks, including the water supply, sewage treatment, electricity supply and telecommunications, should be carefully laid out so as to provide the people with the conditions and an environment in which they do not experience the slightest inconvenience.

In keeping with the global development trend, we should study and introduce alternative architectural design options, including green and smart architecture, so that we are competing with the world in terms of the level of our advanced architectural technology. Along with this, we should make a big effort to raise to the world standard the

comprehensive level of our design in the construction of ports, railways, roads, bridges and everything else.

The design sector should eliminate subjectivism and formalism and ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in the guidance and deliberation of designs. It should fully realize cooperation and unity among design institutes by branches and systems so as to secure, from the stage of making an operations plan, a guarantee of victory in construction.

The quality of a structure is immediately the quality of the building work.

In ensuring the quality of building work, the primary task is to raise the level of what the builders do. Construction units should promote the efforts to ensure that builders possess the expertise and qualifications for completing any building task flawlessly. In particular, efforts should be made to strengthen the ranks of skilled workers who are good at finishing work. The overall level of technical skills should be raised by effectively organizing technical studies, skills transfer and competition among skilled workers and by forming construction workforce in a rational way so that novices learn and master the building methods while working alongside highly skilled workers.

The construction sector should establish a proper quality control system, introduce advanced methods to this end, and never allow any concession or compromise concerning the quality of building work.

Construction units should strengthen the leadership

bodies of building work that guide building work and provide proper guidance so that it can be done in accordance with the requirements of architectural engineering and aesthetics. They should also keep their workers fully informed of the standards of design and building work and the engineering requirements and make exacting demands on them so that these standards and requirements are fully met. They should conduct an incisive review of work with the focus on the quality. Builders guilty of bad habits and empiricism, who have violated the engineering requirements, should be called to serious account and made to put matters to rights.

The construction sector should overcome the deviation of attaching overriding importance to speed through crash campaigns on the pretext of completing a project by a fixed date, and give precedence to ensuring the quality of a building on the principle of prioritizing quality over quantity.

The quality and speed of building work can be improved by advanced engineering methods. The construction sector should launch a fresh innovation movement to introduce advanced building methods. It should step up the research into and the invention of material- and labour-saving building methods, including the introduction of dry processing, and should perfect the method of coloured mortar plastering. Construction units should constantly investigate and apply advantageous and new building methods.

If we are to push ahead with construction without interruption at the level intended by the Party and according to our resolve, we need larger quantities of building materials.

...

In particular, the building-materials industry should achieve substantial results in carrying out the Party's policy of attaining self-sufficiency in finishing materials and producing a greater diversity of building materials in terms of type, shape and colour. We can proudly say that only the structures erected by our builders from our own designs and completed with the finishing materials of our own style stand as symbols of Juche-oriented architecture.

The building-materials industry should push ahead forcefully with developing from our own resources the finishing materials that are needed for construction, and installing production lines for them. It should set proper standards and targets for the domestic production of finishing materials including not only tiles, stone materials, glass and metal and plastic materials, but also heat insulators, coating materials, waterproofing materials, wallpaper, vinyl flooring and wall panelling, and attain the standards and targets in a planned way.

It should strive to lower the production costs of finishing materials while improving their quality and increasing production. It should modernize production lines, proactively introduce advanced technologies for producing building materials, and standardize the building

materials in terms of type, material, size, form and colour.

It should step up the research into green building materials, and study how to use various waste materials effectively in their production.

We should work effectively to protect and develop our building-materials industry. While increasing investment in the sector, the state should encourage, from the stage of the architectural design, the use of our own building materials, and adopt measures for restricting import of those finishing materials the demand for which can be satisfied by domestic production.

The Party's policy of making construction professional and focused should be carried out consistently.

The key to making construction professional is to train specialized workforce capable of fulfilling any building tasks. It is a matter of course that construction should be undertaken on a mass basis, but the principle to be adhered to here is for specialized workers to undertake it.

...

Construction should be conducted in a focused manner in strict accordance with the blueprint.

To this end, the initial planning should be done properly.

Not only the state but also provinces, cities and counties should make it an iron rule to regard the Party's policy on construction as their guideline, conduct a detailed assessment of their actual conditions, potential and possibilities, and, on this basis, set their annual targets to

the minutest detail and meet them without fail.

...

Substantial improvement needs to be brought about in making construction scientific and modern.

There should be a change first in the attitude of officials and builders towards, and their stand on, making construction scientific. As construction has a direct impact on the life and safety of the people and social and economic development, officials and builders should always be aware that the whole process of construction, from the foundation work to erecting the framework and the finishing, must be run through with scientific accuracy. They should rid themselves of the deviation of working haphazardly by relying on their experience while neglecting the scientific and technical requirements, and support every stage of a project, from the design to the building work, with science and technology. In particular, every one of them should adopt the stand of a master in introducing the achievements of the latest science and technology.

Scientists and technicians in the construction sector should, by setting high objectives, launch a drive to conceive and develop new, advanced design and building methods, as well as building materials, equipment and tools, from a Juche-oriented standpoint.

They should organize seminars and symposiums at which, through broad discussions and debates on practical issues, new concepts and the experiences gained, they can

find workable solutions, and learn and spread the positive achievements.

The educational institutions in the construction sector, including Pyongyang University of Architecture, should improve the level of their teaching in conformity with our Party's idea of Juche-oriented architecture and with the demands of the developing modern architecture, and should produce a larger body of talented individuals who can shoulder the future of our architecture. Graduates of universities and colleges in the construction sector should be appointed to fields that are related to their major, such as design institutes and construction enterprises, so that they can play the key role in putting construction on a scientific basis. Construction units, for their part, should discover talented individuals and make strenuous efforts to train them into standard-bearers in the development of their respective units. Officials and builders should steadily raise the level of their knowledge by making active use of the system and means of disseminating science and technology.

...

We should regard modernizing construction as a crucial task that is of the utmost urgency, and promote it with serious intent.

By modernizing the means of design and establishing a system of disseminating various advanced design methods and CAD software programmes on a regular basis, we can create the conditions for drawing up designs at any level at the earliest possible date and with a high quality standard.

We should radically increase the rate of mechanization in construction work. We should lay state-level foundations for producing modern construction equipment and tools and develop and produce machinery that can be used in various kinds of construction work including not only housing construction but also industrial construction and land development.

...

The supervision and control of construction need to be strengthened.

If supervision and control are weak, the Party's idea on Juche-oriented architecture and its construction policy cannot be implemented accurately, the interests of the country and people will be infringed, and the safety of structures cannot be guaranteed.

Construction supervision organs should be rigorous in their supervision and control throughout the whole course of construction, in line with the Party's principles and in full compliance with the requirements of Party policy and the country's construction law. They should adopt the attitude of assuming full responsibility for the quality of structures before the Party, state and people, and work according solely to the country's supervision rules and without bending to the will of others.

...

The revolution in regional construction and rural construction, which our Party is determined to carry out without fail, is a massive undertaking without precedent in

the history of socialist construction in our country.

This undertaking is a sweeping drive, the purpose of which is to wash away the long-lingering historical dirt from the rural areas and develop them into modern locales where socialist civilization can flourish. It is not a campaign that can be completed in just a year or two, but a highly responsible undertaking that should be resolutely executed with a medium- and long-range vision aimed at creating a new era of transformation of the regional areas and realizing the centuries-old desire of our agricultural workers.

Building up regional forces for architectural design and building work is the most pressing issue in realizing our Party's plan for regional construction. As all the provinces, cities and counties across the country are expected to conduct regional construction simultaneously, true to the measures adopted by the Party, none of them will ever carry out the Party's policy of regional construction if they merely anticipate receiving help from the central design and construction units.

They should strengthen the body of designers who can play the vanguard role in their regional construction, and steadily improve their qualifications.

...

Our Party requires regional construction to sustain the characteristics of the specific area. The country's regions differ from one another not only in their natural and geographical conditions and their climate for economic

development, but also in the lifestyle habits that have been handed down throughout history. Therefore, if the characteristics inherent to regions are to be sustained, the designers should be fully aware of their respective regions' characteristics, ranging from the natural and geographical features to the unique economic conditions and people's manners and customs, and should be capable of embracing them in the architectural design.

It is necessary to reinforce the regional design institutes with talented people who have architectural insight, and to enhance their qualifications and role. Regional designers should accumulate experience through practical construction work and learn from the designers from the capital city whom they work with. Regions, while making exacting demands on designers to steadily improve their qualifications, should provide them with the conditions for accessing the latest architectural materials from abroad. They should enrol promising individuals, including those with an aptitude for fine art, in universities and colleges in the construction sector so as to train them as the reserve for their design bodies.

Regions should strengthen their local building workforce so that they can build any structure for themselves at a high level of quality.

...

Provincial, city and county Party committees should play a major role in building up their local construction workforce. Despite the prevailing hardships, the Party has

set aside a considerable quantity of cement for rural construction. Therefore, provinces, cities and counties should, first of all, have their own powerful construction workforce if they are to push ahead with regional construction on a long-term and qualitative basis with an eye to 100 years in the future. They should be well aware that the work of consolidating their regional construction workforce, the body of designers in particular, is not only a major guarantee for developing their regions in a characteristic way but also an undertaking for creating resources and wealth locally.

Regions should take the path of building up reliable bases for producing finishing materials and developing quality ones by using the resources that are available locally, thus enabling their buildings to preserve their unique characteristics.

They should organize annual provincial building-materials exhibitions and conduct proper reviews and appraisals so that these exhibitions can boost the domestic production of finishing materials and contribute to the development of the country's building-materials industry.

True to the Party's intention, they should draw up realistic plans for regional and rural construction, with the top priority given to building houses in rural communities, and should establish rigid discipline whereby they are carried out without fail.

KIM JONG UN

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