



Please provide a 250-word text explaining the selection criteria used to choose the five projects representing the school in the Ribas Piera Award. Detail the aspects evaluated, such as conceptual quality, innovation, thematic relevance, technical resolution, or any other criteria considered in the selection process with a single image, characteristic of the academic process, to accompany the text

The natural and built environment is the foundation of human existence. As climate change accelerates, it increasingly affects our ability to live and thrive. Landscape architecture education at Central Academy of Fine Arts responds to this challenge by focusing on how natural elements and energy flows shape landscape conditions—territorial zones (climate and topography), rural areas (ecological restoration), suburban zones (watershed and waterfront), and urban cores (heritage trees). These themes reflect a growing awareness of ecological responsibility and the development of adaptive design strategies. Rooted in respect for nature and guided by the rhythms of the environment, the curriculum also draws on Eastern wisdom to improve living conditions through thoughtful integration into everyday life. We carefully select student works from diverse contexts, offering a holistic view of how natural forces influence various landscapes. These settings provide students with rich opportunities for exploration and hands-on practice, helping them understand the intricate connections between humans and nature, and the importance of resilient design approaches.

Fieldwork plays a central role, giving students the chance to observe ecological processes firsthand and gather primary data for their design proposals. In studio, students integrate this knowledge into iterative design practice, refining everything from ecological strategies to spatial details. Students' proposals reflect a deep respect for natural systems, skillfully incorporating traditional ecological wisdom with contemporary technologies. Their designs are not only functional and responsive to human needs, but also contribute positively to environmental quality. With strong practical value and artistic expression, these works embody a thoughtful, future-oriented approach to landscape architecture—offering meaningful strategies for addressing environmental challenges and building sustainable communities.



Country/City China / Beijing
 University / School Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture
 Academic year 2023
 Title of the project Reconstructing the Glacier: A Climate-Responsive Freshwater Landscape
 Authors Hongling Yao



Title of the project	Reconstructing the Glacier: A Climate-Responsive Freshwater Landscape
Authors	Hongling Yao
Title of the course	Climate Adaptive Design of Urbanized Alpine Landscapes
Academic year	2023
Teaching Staff	Bin Li, Yuan Ding, Xiangyan Wu
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture / Year 5 (Master Level 2nd Year)
University / School	Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

In 100 years, half of the world’s glaciers may disappear, leading to severe freshwater shortages and increasing imbalance in water distribution. Glaciers, often called “water towers,” store freshwater, regulate droughts and floods, and support both hydropower and the livelihoods of mountain communities. In Sichuan’s Hailuoguo Glacier, now more accessible due to expanding infrastructure, tourists can witness stunning ice caves and frozen waterfalls, yet struggle to perceive the glacier’s alarming retreat—20 meters each year. This design proposes a climate-adaptive water landscape by introducing a series of strategies—blanket, soft dam, artificial glaciers along various critical locations of the glacial watershed. Artificial glaciers store winter meltwater and release it gradually in warmer months, addressing both energy needs and water regulation. Positioned within the Hailuoguo landscape, they reframe glaciers as both functional infrastructure and public spectacle—merging ecological response, cultural symbolism, and visual imagination in the face of climate change.

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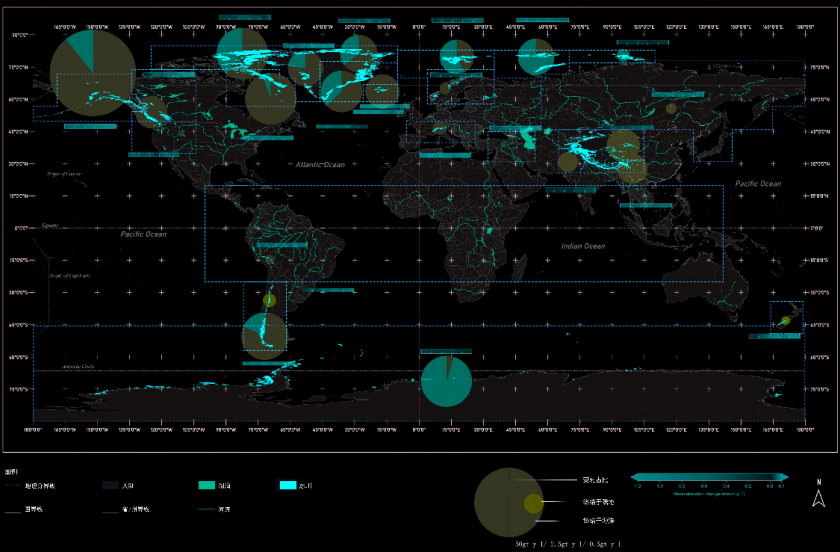
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Venue:
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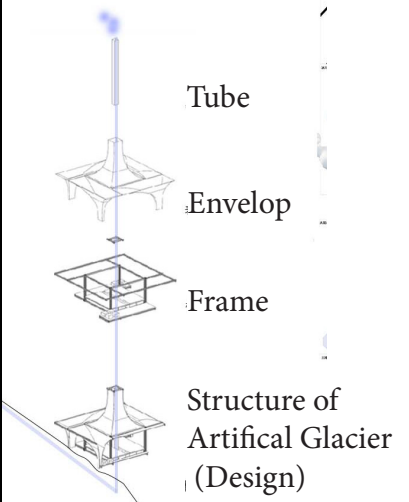
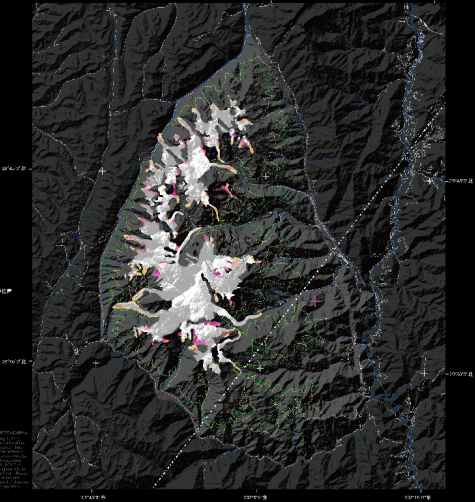
In the geological epoch of the Anthropocene, we are experiencing the dual forces of global climate change and expanding urbanization: rapidly retreating glaciers, rising sea levels, frequent geological disasters, and a growing human desire for environmental healing and outdoor walking. Mountainous regions, as a highly sensitive geomorphological type, are witnessing these transformations firsthand. How can we better understand the dynamic relationship between environment and humanity under the backdrop of climate change? And as designers, how might we respond through the lens of “resilient space”?

This project begins with mapping at the global, national (China), and alpine regional scales, grounded in the design research ethos of “Global Vision / Local Action.” The selected site for planning and design is the Hailuoguo Glacier and Gonghe Village area of Mount Gongga in the Hengduan Mountains of Southwest China. Elevations range from 1,500 to over 7,500 meters, encompassing active geological formations and rich vertical vegetation zones. The area is also a popular destination for outdoor tourism. In September 2022, the region experienced an earthquake, affecting both residents and visitors of the glacier and downstream villages, making it a poignant anchor point for design thinking on resilient spatial responses to climate change in alpine regions.

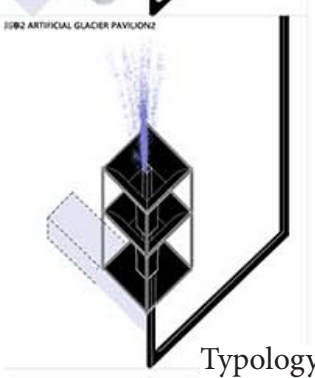
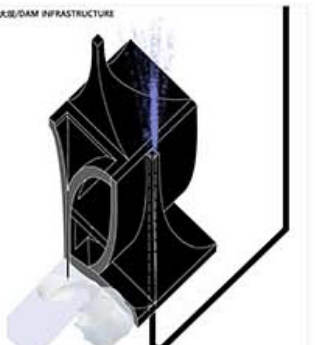
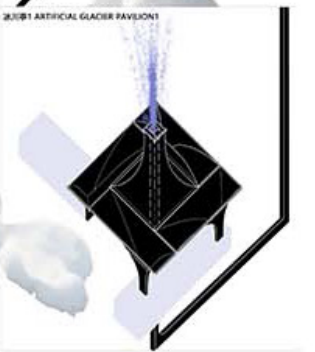
Global Glacial Retreat



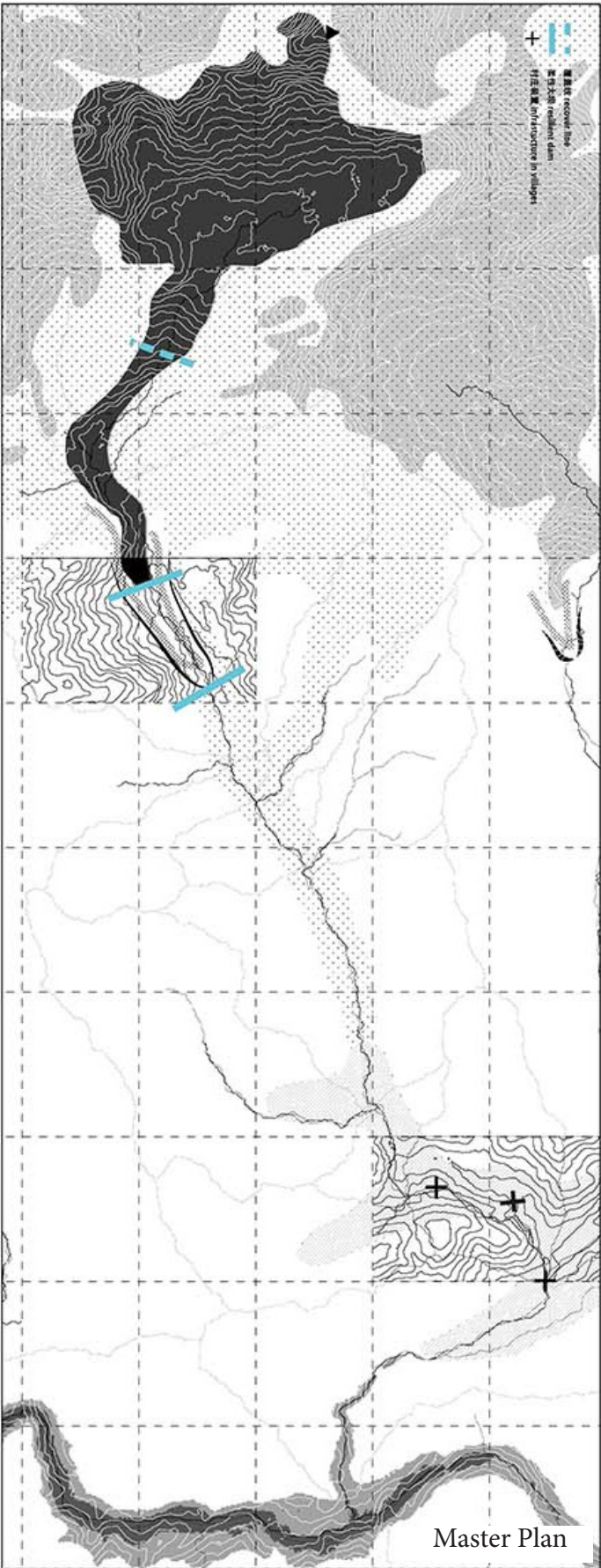
Glaciers around Gongga



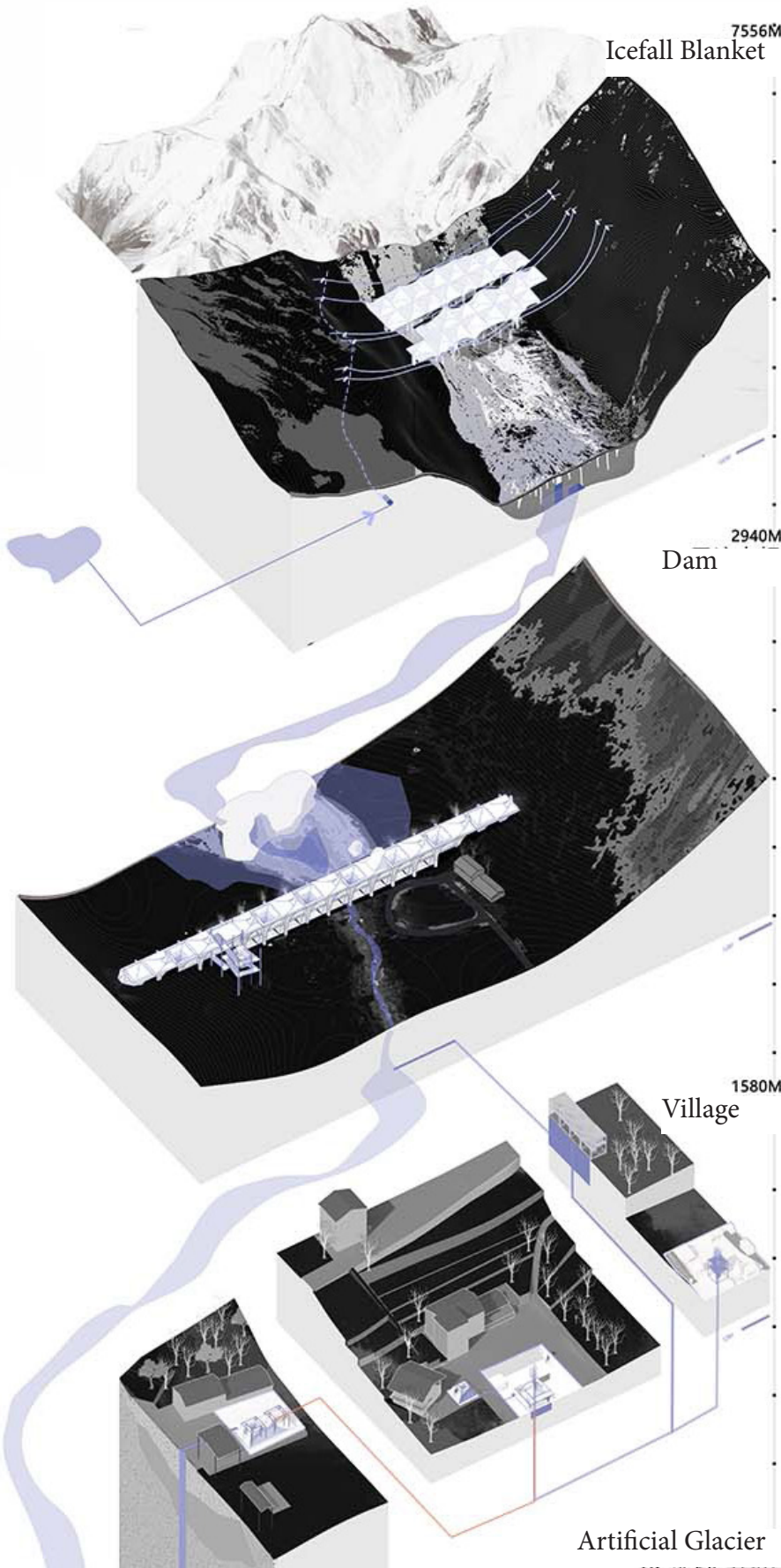
Artificial Glacier



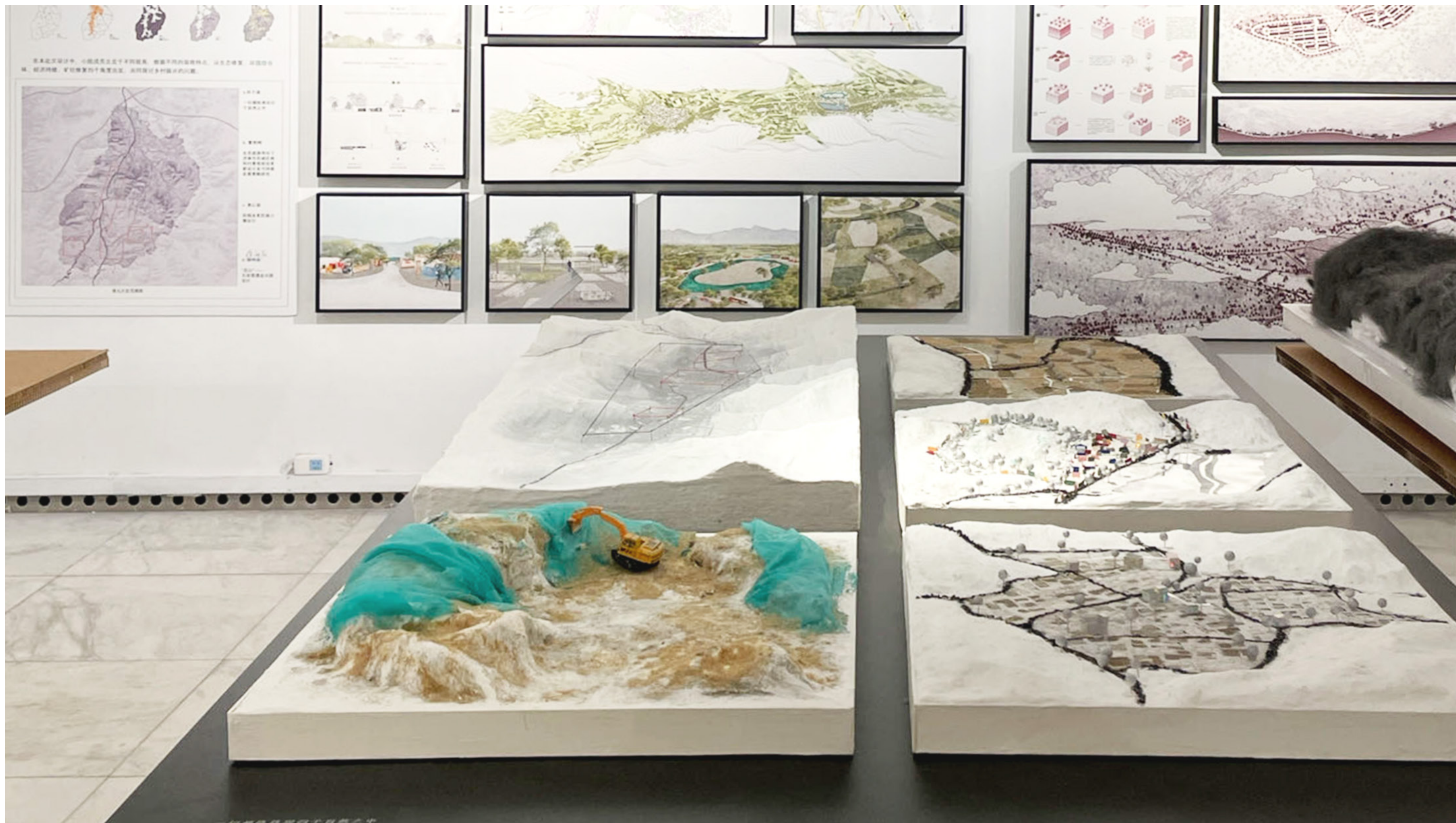
Typology



Master Plan



Artificial Glacier



Country/City

China / Beijing

University / School

Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture

Academic year

2024

Title of the project

Spring Water Village: Rural Landscape Planning and Design in Gangjiu District, Jinan City

Authors

Xinyu Jiang

Title of the project	Spring Water Village:Rural Landscape Planning and Design in Gangjiu District, Jinan City
Authors	Xinyu Jiang
Title of the course	Rural Landscape Planning and Design in Gangjiu District, Jinan City
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Yuan Ding, Yuan Ma, Bin Li
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture / Year 5 (Master Level 2nd Year)
University / School	Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

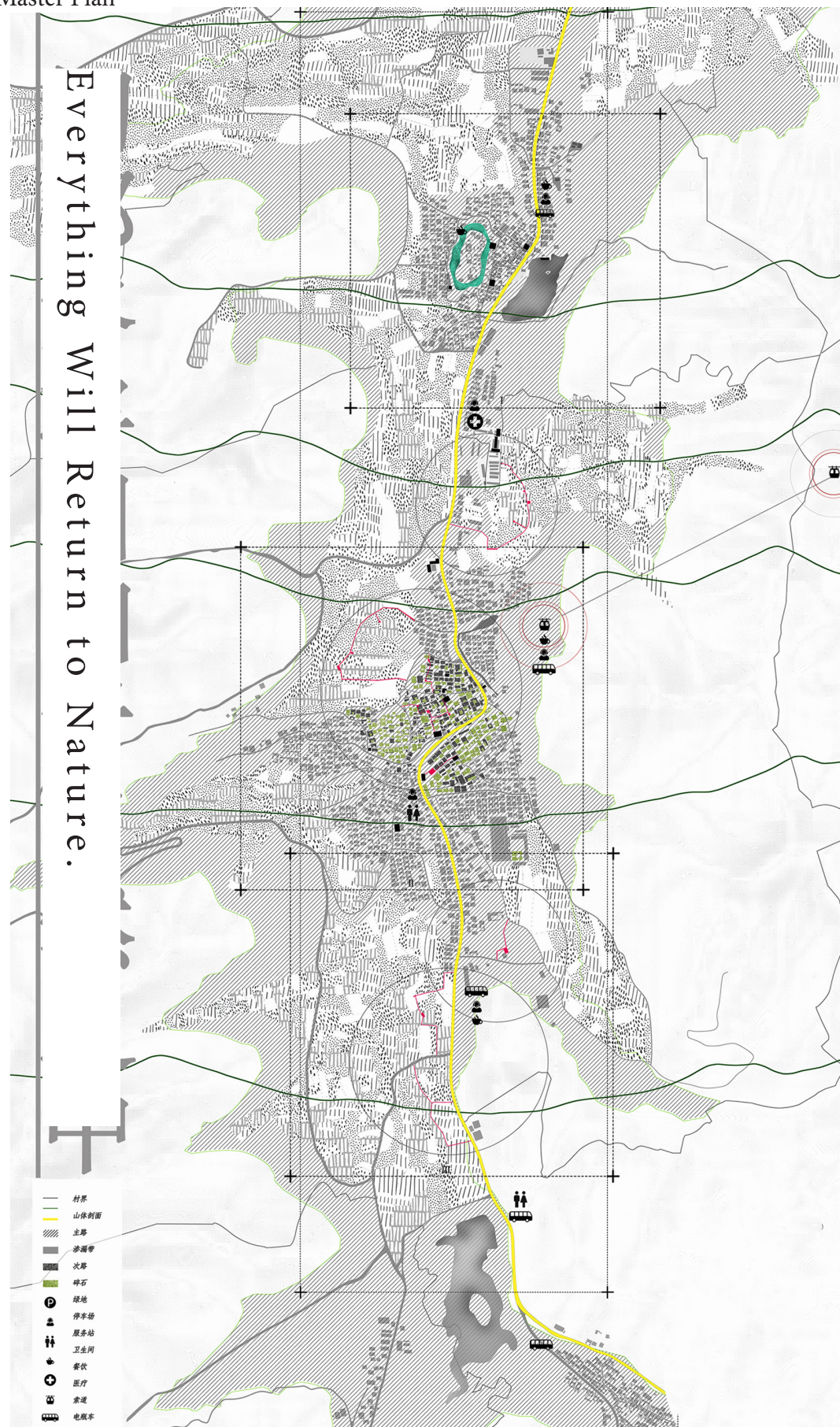
The “Master Plan for the Protection of Famous Springs in Jinan (2023-2035)” proposes to build a “two-zone and three-level” overall protection system, in which the “three levels” of the recharge area include key leakage zones, direct recharge zones, and indirect recharge zones. The ecological environment base in the area is weak, the mountain is damaged, the water pollution is serious, and the water environment needs to be treated urgently. In my design, I preserved fragments of the village—some walls, courtyards, and street structures. After removing non-degradable materials, the remaining elements will gradually merge with nature until they vanish completely. Everything originates from nature, thrives within it, and ultimately returns to it. I hope visitors can envision the village’s past, sense its lingering presence, and foresee the resilient future.

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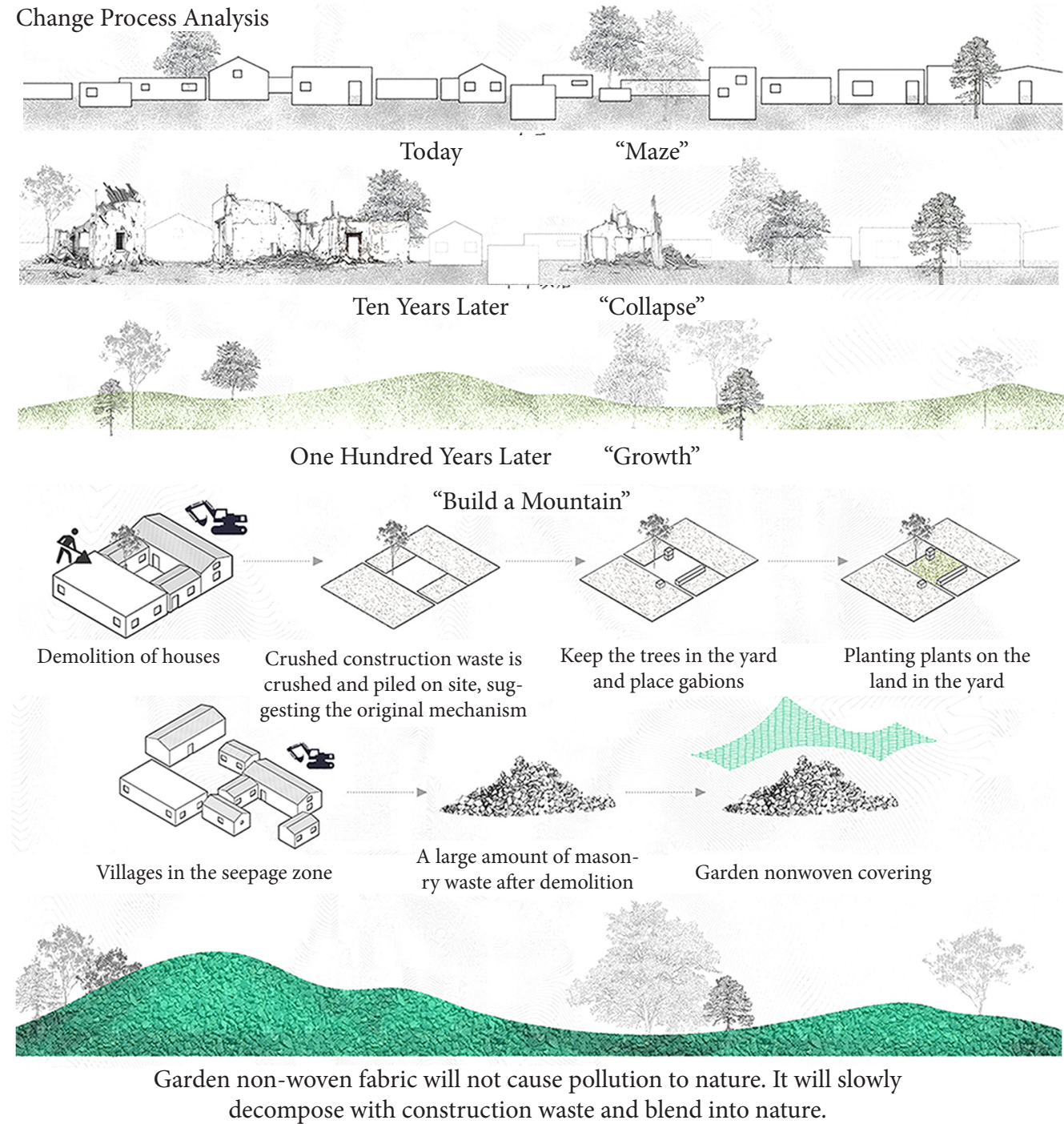
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Master Plan



Change Process Analysis



To protect a nationally important seepage zone and ensure adequate ground infiltration, the villages and most of the impervious surfaces within the site will soon be removed. Yet this land was once home to generations of people. How many lives began here, unfolded here, grew old here... This is not merely a matter of clearing structures—it is the quiet erasure of stories, memories, and lived time. How can we bring ourselves to level it all in a single moment?

I hope that every visitor who steps into this place might pause to imagine the original village—its courtyards, its narrow lanes, the rhythms of daily life—and feel the subtle presence of what once was.

In my design, I have preserved traces: fragments of walls, the spatial structure of courtyards and paths. Non-degradable materials have been carefully removed, leaving behind those elements that will, over time, return to the earth. Slowly, these remnants will dissolve into the surrounding landscape.

Everything comes from nature, flourishes within it, and ultimately returns to it. This cycle does not apply to the village alone, but to all things—including ourselves. And so, within this slow fading, I hope we are reminded to see more deeply, feel more fully, and live more attentively—aware of the impermanence that shapes both place and life.

Rendering





Country/City China / Beijing
University / School Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture
Academic year 2024
Title of the project City-water Symbiosis from the Perspective of Resilient Landscapes
Authors Yifan Liu

Title of the project	City-water Symbiosis from the Perspective of Resilient Landscapes
Authors	Yifan Liu
Title of the course	Natural Waterfront Landscape Design
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Xiangyan Wu, Bin Li
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture / Year 4 (Master Level 1st Year)
University / School	Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

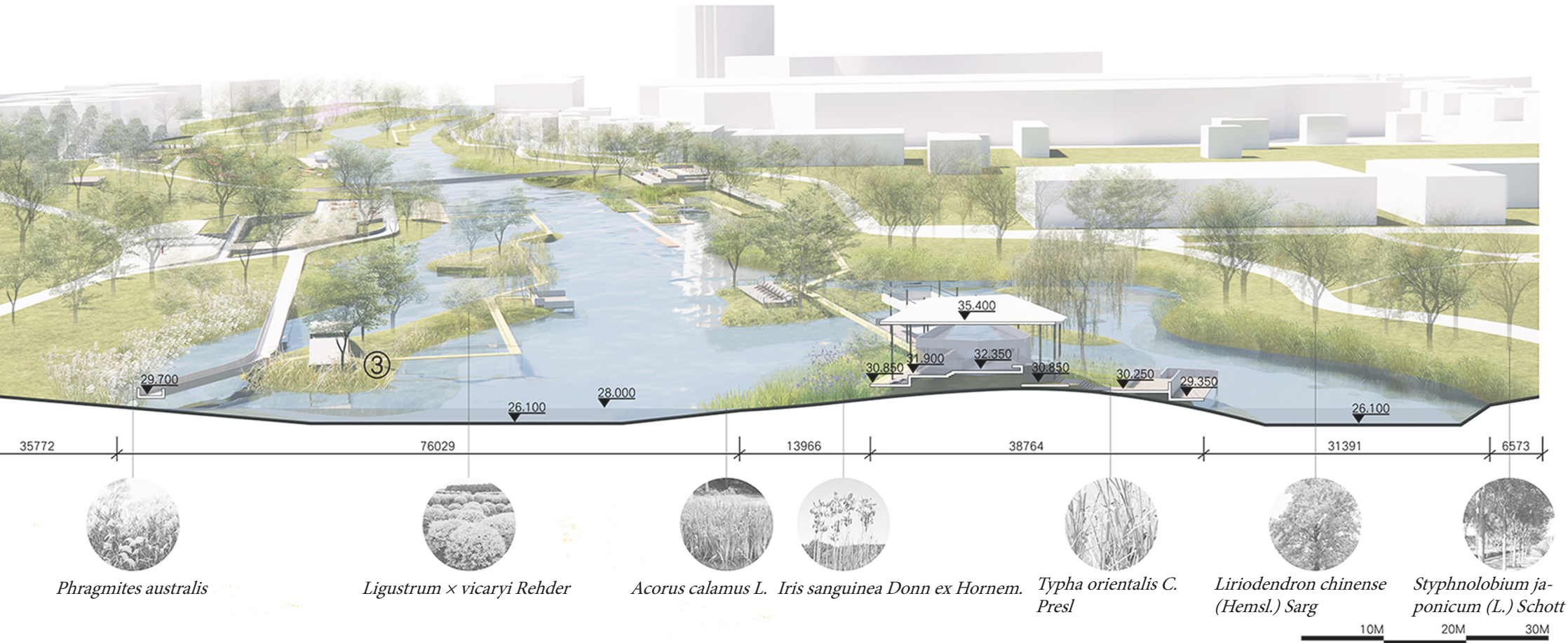
Waterfront space is an important natural and ecological space in the city with water as the medium. It is also a space for human beings to develop culture and life. The design sets goals from the perspective of resilience, achieving urban water safety, waterfront ecological harmony, and an environment combining waterfront activities and recreation, and finally achieving symbiosis between city and water. The site is located around Tuofangying Sluice in the middle of Bahe River in Chaoyang District, Beijing, covering an area of 23.87 hectares. The design aims to enhance the ecological resilience of the area, adding elements such as river water purification, rainwater management, silt utilization, and fish migration, hoping to achieve a state of coexistence between the city and the increasingly severe extreme flood and drought weather conditions in the future while improving water quality.

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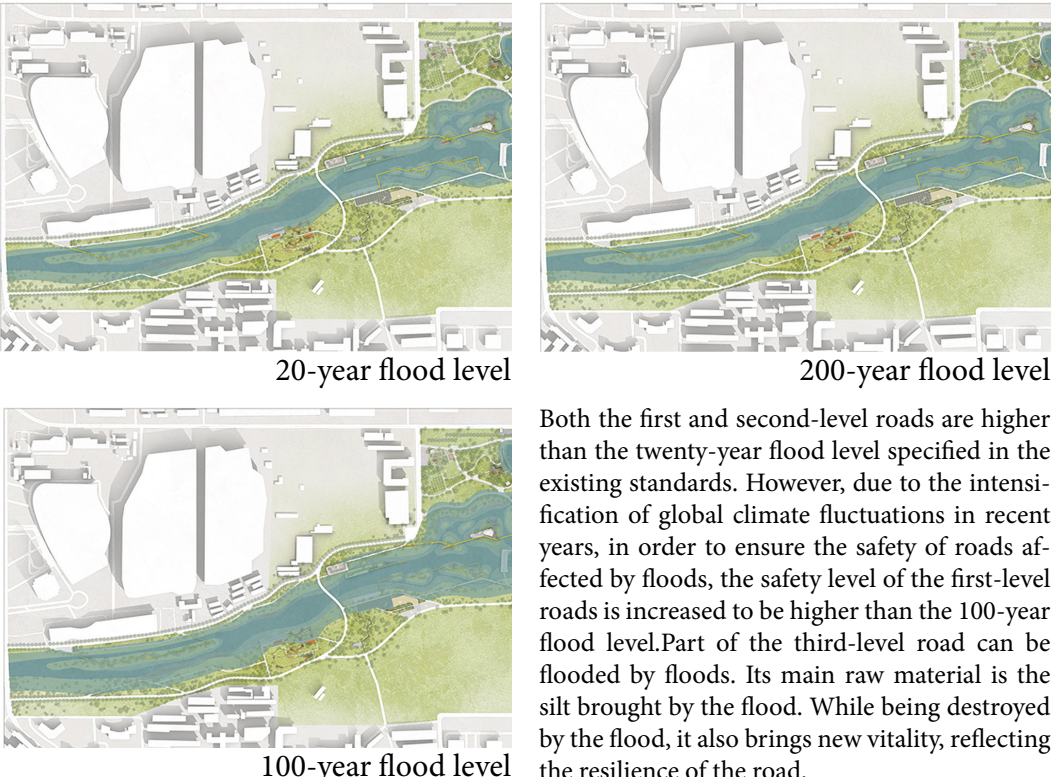
Waterfront Profile



Overall Plan



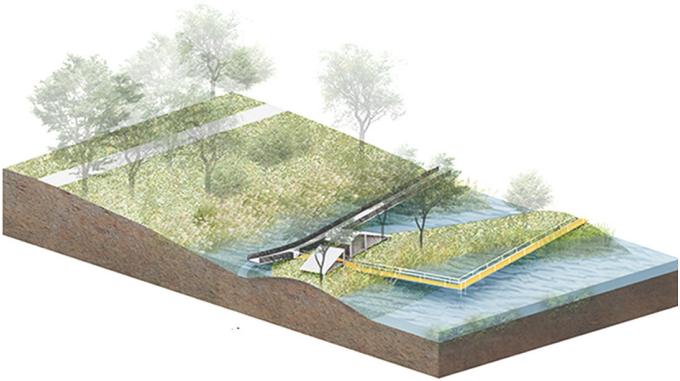
Flooding Scenarios



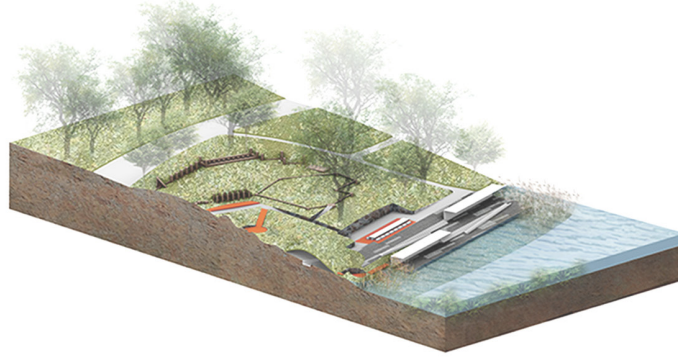
Both the first and second-level roads are higher than the twenty-year flood level specified in the existing standards. However, due to the intensification of global climate fluctuations in recent years, in order to ensure the safety of roads affected by floods, the safety level of the first-level roads is increased to be higher than the 100-year flood level. Part of the third-level road can be flooded by floods. Its main raw material is the silt brought by the flood. While being destroyed by the flood, it also brings new vitality, reflecting the resilience of the road.

Revetment Design

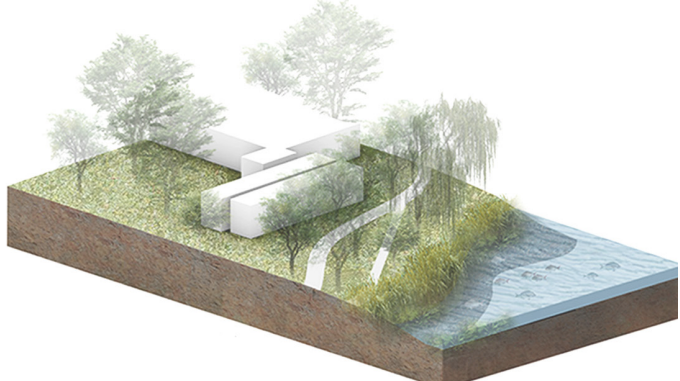
Ecological Island Water Typologies



Waterfront Plaza Revetment



Volcanic Rock Fish Spawning Habitat Revetment





Country/City China / Beijing
University / School Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture
Academic year 2023
Title of the project Renewal Design of Jiangfu Park
Authors Silun Zhu



Title of the project	Renewal Design of Jiangfu Park
Authors	Silun Zhu
Title of the course	Park Renewal Design
Academic year	2023
Teaching Staff	Yuan Ding, Mujing Niu
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture / Master of Landscape Architecture Year 1
University / School	Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

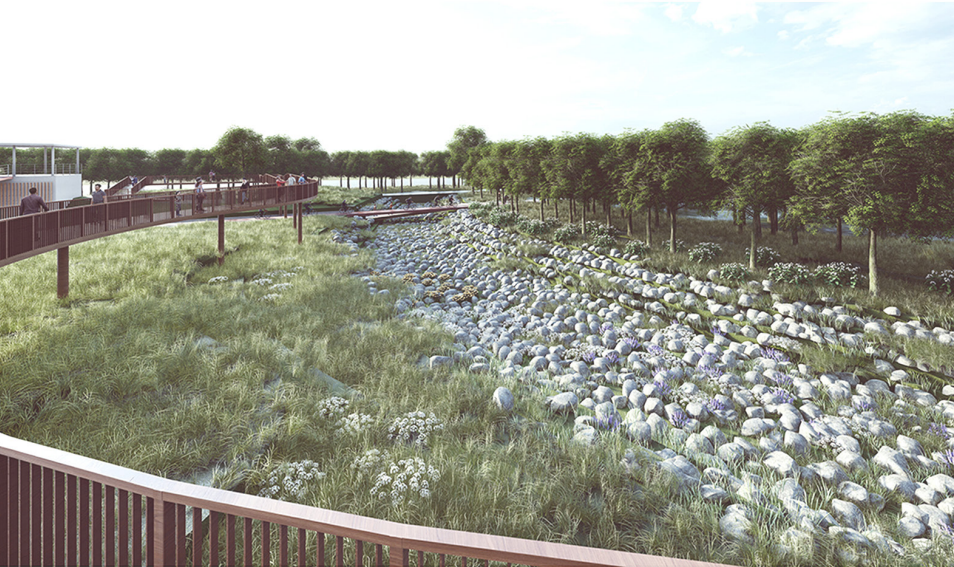
This project optimizes the park's functions and spatial experience with the core of all-age friendliness. The entrance area is replanned to separate people and vehicles, and additional parking spaces for motor vehicles and non-motor vehicles are added to meet diverse needs; the guide system is strengthened, functional zoning is clarified, and traffic efficiency is improved. The park's boundaries are shaped through micro-topography, taking into account both cost and landscape aesthetics. Idle buildings are transformed into visitor service centers to provide group and individual services. Idle green spaces are activated, and nodes such as squares and outdoor theaters are implanted to enhance interactivity and vitality. The design takes into account both practicality and aesthetics to create a safe, inclusive, and sustainable shared landscape space.

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Ecological Dry Creek Rendering



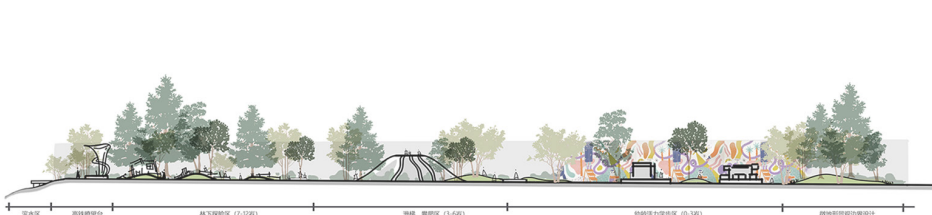
Elevation 1



Ecological Dry Creek Rendering



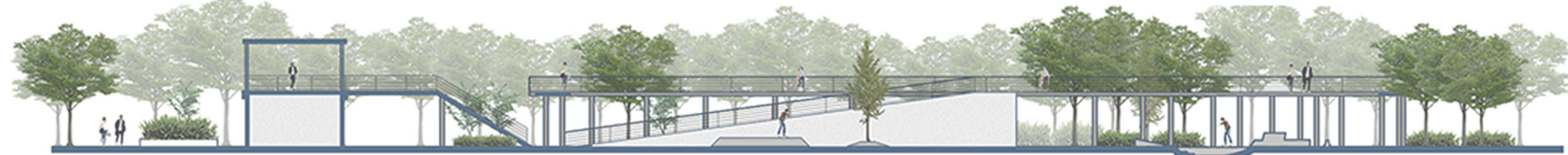
Elevation 2



General Layout



Elevation 3

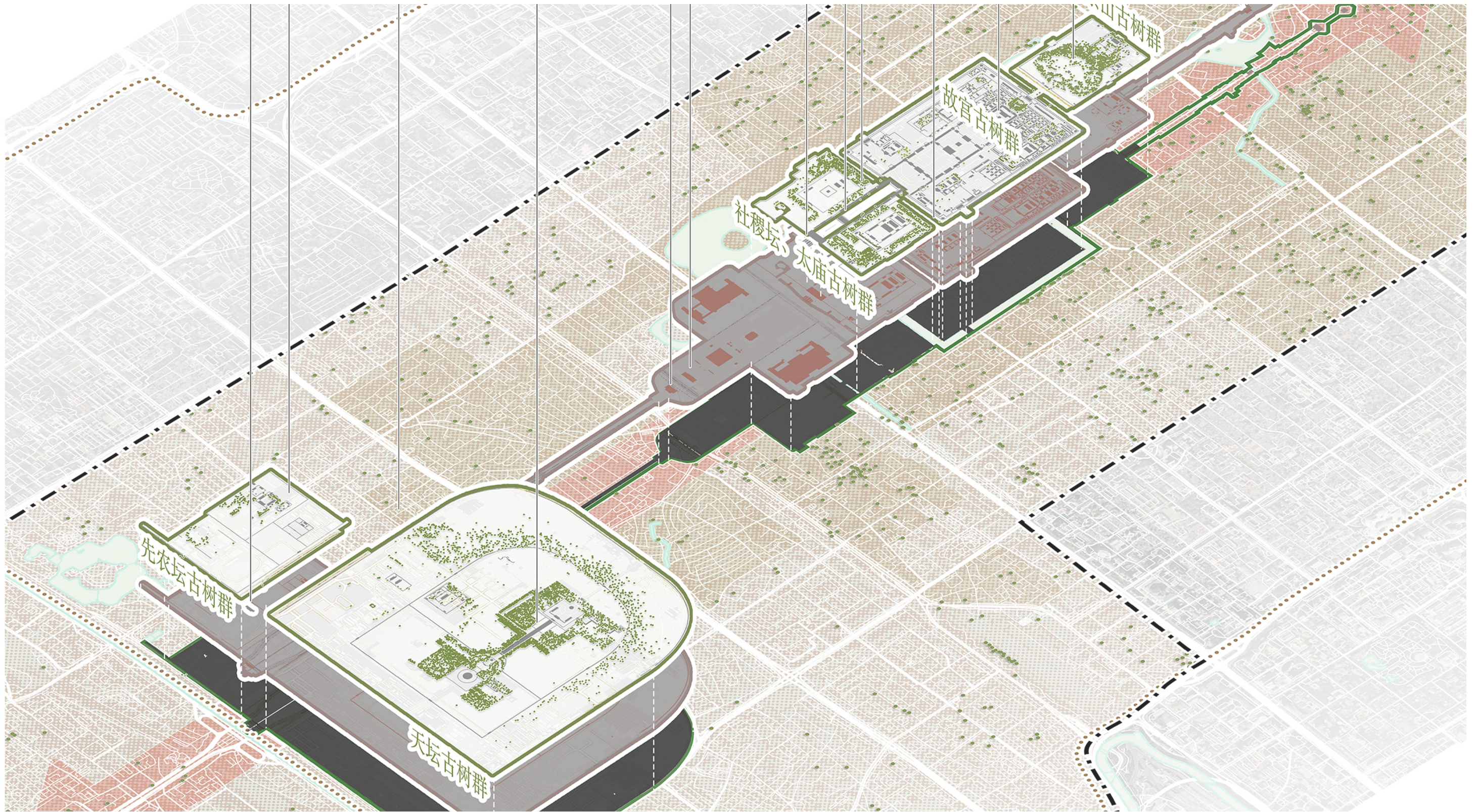


The project is situated on the eastern side of Jiuxianqiao in Chaoyang District, forming part of Beijing's green isolation belt—an ecological framework encircling the urban core. Encompassing 186 hectares, the site is a key node within the capital's park ring strategy and was recognized as a national AAA-level tourist destination in 2014.

Aiming to shape a contemporary urban park that addresses diverse and evolving needs, the design is grounded in detailed site analysis and user research. Through the reconstruction of spatial hierarchies, refinement of programmatic functions, and enhancement of environmental resilience, the park emerges as a vibrant landscape of coexistence—where human activity and natural rhythms are woven together in balance.

At the scale of master planning, the circulation system is restructured into a multi-tiered, pedestrian-oriented network: the primary loop ensures barrier-free access, secondary paths connect key programmatic zones, while meandering leisure trails guide visitors toward more tranquil areas. This layered system facilitates seamless movement while ensuring the separation of pedestrian and vehicular flows.

Functional zoning is carefully articulated to meet the needs of all age groups, with designated spaces for children's play, youth sports, and elderly wellness. Differentiated paving materials, protective buffer zones, and human-scaled facilities work in tandem to ensure comfort, safety, and inclusive accessibility—creating a landscape that invites engagement across generations and seasons.



Country/City China / Beijing
University / School Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture
Academic year 2024
Title of the project Reconsidering Ancient Trees along Beijing's Central Axis
Authors Yifeng Xu

Title of the project	Reconsidering Ancient Trees along Beijing’s Central Axis
Authors	Yifeng Xu
Title of the course	Urban Cultural Heritage Landscape Design
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Xiangyan Wu, Yuan Ma
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture / Master of Landscape
University / School	Central Academy of Fine Arts / School of Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Beijing, as the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties, has a history of nearly a thousand years of urban development. The central axis is the core area of the old city of Beijing. Ancestors built this magnificent central axis according to traditional Feng Shui, architecture, etiquette, and ecology. Trees are an important material for creating landscapes, and Beijing is famous for ancient trees in the world, has over 40000 ancient trees existing. The environment created by these artificially planted trees plays an important role in regulating thermal comfort, enriching urban biodiversity, and creating an environmental atmosphere, which is the wisdom of China’s “harmony between man and nature” in creating a living environment.

This design explores how to showcase ancient trees in key areas along the central axis, exploring their historical, cultural, ecological, aesthetic, and educational values. This topic starts with the historical development and evolution of Beijing’s central axis and the changes in its relationship with the old city of Beijing. It analyzes the factors that contribute to the formation of ancient trees across macro to micro scales. It discusses the value of ancient trees, color vision, spatial services, and ecological narrative, discussing the protection and utilization of ancient trees from multiple perspectives.

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Using data from the Second Ancient Tree Census, we mapped the distribution of ancient tree sites along Beijing's central axis. Through GIS-based density analysis, we classified the axis into three distinct zones and examined the underlying spatial and historical factors shaping their distribution patterns.

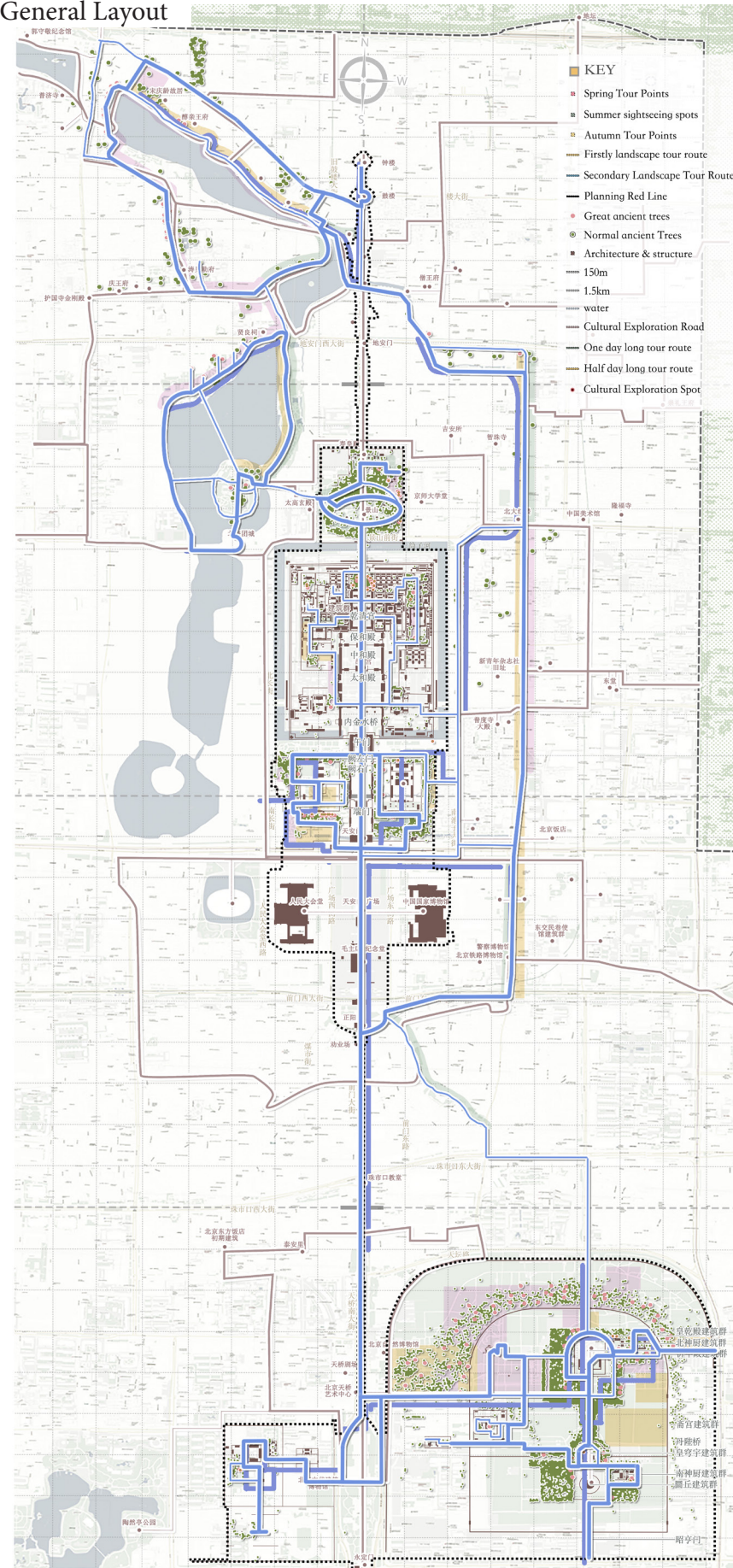
At the macro scale, we proposed a series of ancient tree walking routes, integrating municipal planning directives with the historical street fabric and key cultural landmarks of Beijing's old city. These routes respond to seasonal variations and thematic narratives, enriching both experience and legibility.

At the meso scale, we identified six representative ancient tree spaces, each with distinct stylistic and spatial qualities. By balancing the authenticity of historical context with the realities of current site conditions, we developed strategic recommendations for their future planning and enhancement.

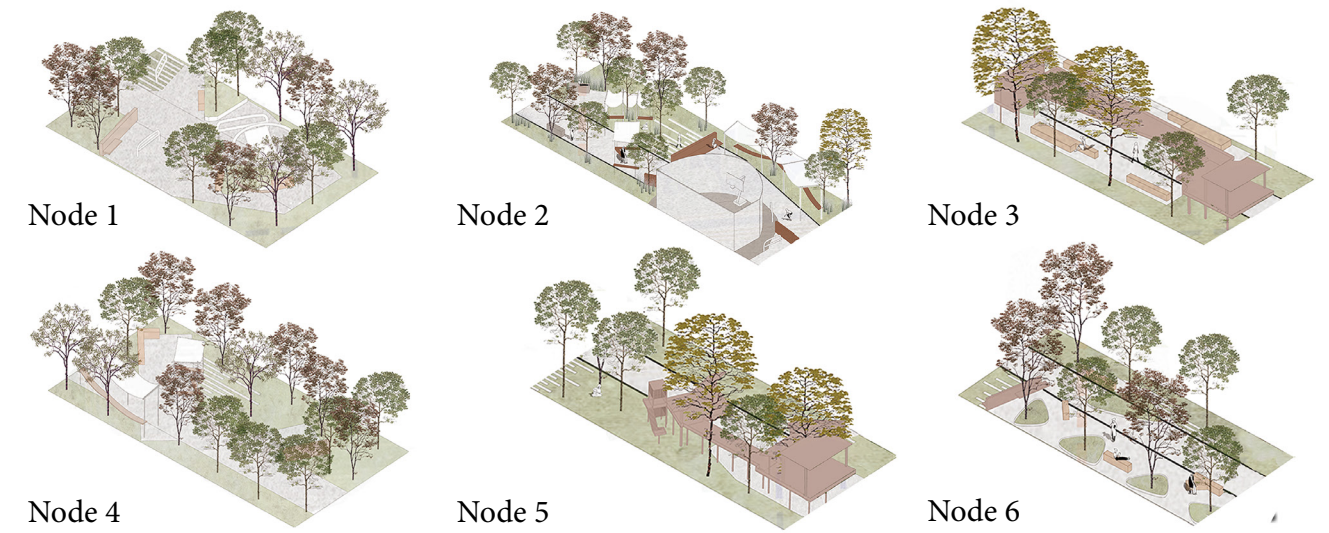
At the micro scale, we focused on the experiential dimensions of ancient tree spaces. We constructed typological profiles based on sensory, spatial, and cultural cues—offering a reference framework for revitalizing the ecological, aesthetic, and cultural value of ancient trees along the central axis. Modular interventions were proposed for key nodes, and themed spatial designs were developed for clusters of well-preserved ancient trees.

This multi-scalar approach seeks not only to protect and reveal the legacy of ancient trees, but to reimagine them as living anchors in the ongoing narrative of Beijing's urban heritage.

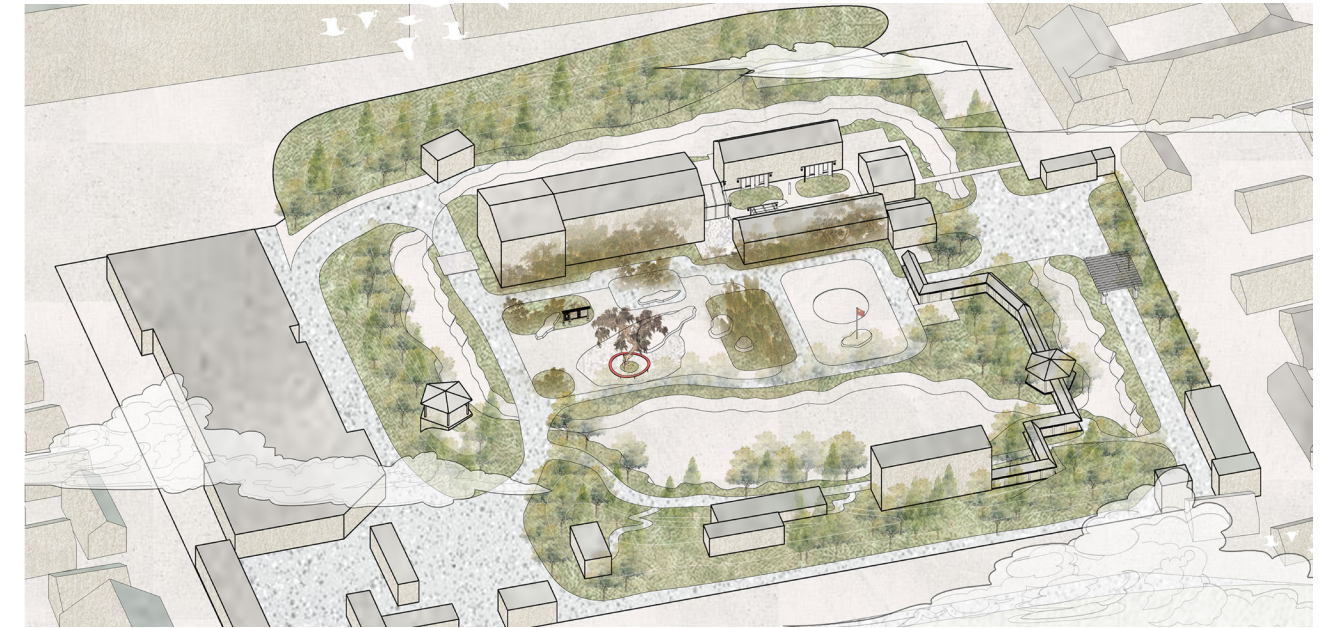
General Layout



Landscape Function Analysis



Aerial View



Rendering

