

PROJECT TITLE

Whimsical Wisdom Walks

Cultural Landscape of North Ring Greenway in Fuxing District, Handan

PROJECT STATEMENT

Our landscape architects have been exploring how to make the cultural landscape vivid and interesting , and the Handan Idiom Green Corridor project presented an opportunity for an endeavor. Known as the City of Idioms and the Birthplace of Tai Chi, Handan imbues this project with a distinct cultural and design narrative, further inspired by the serene poplar groves that grace the site.

Through bionic translation, the design team designed a set of idiom games that integrate with the environment, have distinct visual characteristics, and can participate in interaction. These "games" are meticulously designed to minimize environmental impact, while trying to expand the horizons of landscape design through "unplugged" landscape installation, exploring the "play heart landscape" bearing cultural content.

PROJECT NARRATIVE AND CONTENTS

Project Background- A Suitable Undertaking for Vibrant Cultural Landscapes

Making the cultural landscape lively and interesting requires the right type of project and opportunity. First of all, the project needs to have a distinct cultural content and theme, the North Ring Green Corridor project with "idioms" and "Tai Chi" as the theme, as the main clue of the design. Secondly, in terms of project location and scale, "non-landmark" public leisure spaces, such as small community parks, leisure greenways, pocket parks, etc., are conducive to creating a relaxed and pleasant space atmosphere. The Idiom Green Corridor is located in the northwest corner of the North Ring Road of Handan, with a total length of one kilometer and a surface width of 40 meters. The total land scale is 4.09 hectares. It was originally a green isolation belt between the North Ring Road and residential areas, and the project tries to transform this negative site into a public green belt for the surrounding residents to enjoy themselves. At the same time, the environmental characteristics of the project site can also bring inspiration to the designer, and the quiet poplar forest on the project site will bring great inspiration to the design team.

Conceptualization of the Project – Establishing Engaging Visual Characteristics and Scenes

- ① The visual characteristics of the landscape scene are an important factor to attract visitors, and also the most important intuitive feeling after entering the site. The design team is inspired by the current poplar forest, through low-impact design approach, fully symbiosis with the environment, and maximize the protection of the site ecology. The aerial grid walkway ensures water permeability while allowing the growth of ground cover plants to embed in the gap of the grid, creating an interesting symbiotic relationship between the artificial structure and the natural landscape.
- ② On the other hand, the combination of bionic design techniques creates a series of visual interactions with the environment. Through the simulation of natural texture, the designer has designed a series of modular design language, and through the change of materials and textures, it forms three visual relationships with the surrounding environment, "accentuation", "translucence" and "camouflage". While coordinating with the environment, it brings "visual surprise" to visitors to a certain extent.

Main Content-- Integrating cultural Narratives into Playful

In order to create a relaxed, joyful, and fun cultural display atmosphere, the designer tried to integrate cultural information into participatory and interactive game processes through a series of "unplugged" landscape installations. These game designs are based on an in-depth interpretation of idiomatic connotations, aiming to create cultural experiences for visitors through dynamic interactive processes.

Design content

The design team, guided by the themes of idioms and Tai Chi culture, meticulously established five landscape nodes: "Hu Fu Qi She" (Adopting Hu Attire for Cavalry Archery, symbolizing adaptation and embracing foreign customs for progress), "Yi Ye Zhang Mu" (A Leaf Obscuring the Eye, illustrating how a minor issue can blind one to the broader picture), "Handan Xu Bu" (Learning to Walk like the people in Handan, a metaphor for losing one's original skills in the attempt to imitate others, emphasizing the importance of staying true to oneself), "Idiom Puzzle Garden", and "Tai Chi Plaza". Each node serves as an interactive and educational feature, thoughtfully integrating cultural depth with recreational activities.

Project Impacts

Adopting Hu Attire for Cavalry Archery node, adopts the principle of visual displacement, creating a game process of finding the best viewing point through the contrast between reality and illusion; A Leaf Obscuring the Eye node, through a small hole, introduces natural light into the wall cavity to create the scene of the Milky Way, and visitors can observe this wonderful scene by flipping the "leaf" device on the wall; the node of Learning to Walk like the people of Handan, by adjusting the angle of the mirror matrix, creates the process of the participant's mirror image from complete to incomplete, implying the loss of self caused by blindly imitating others; The Idiom Puzzle node, through a reversible structure, sets up a mirror and wood grain material on both sides, with the wood grain material carrying the puzzle game, while the mirror material creates a wonderful illusion of disappearing into the environment; The Taiji Square node, through a suspended perforated circular structure, makes the Taiji boxing posture patterns float in the poplar forest, creating a light and functional landscape scene for the wooden square, providing a multi-functional leisure and activity space for residents around.

SITE STATUS

Negative urban space



Current situation poplar forest of silence.



An understory filled with trash.

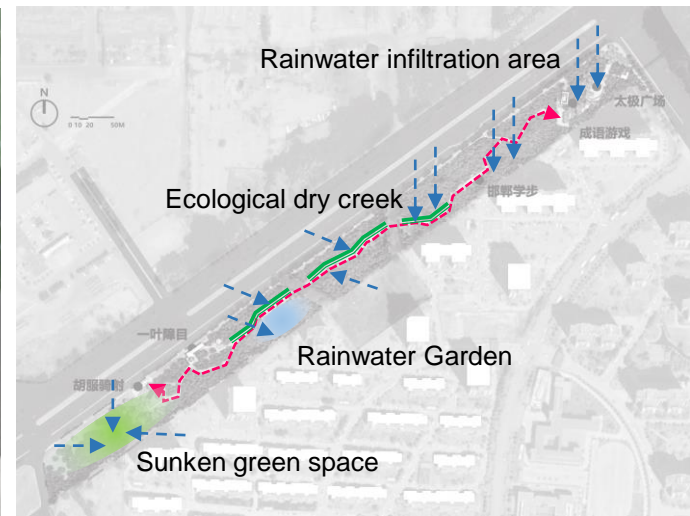


A public green with overgrown weeds.



A negative space filled with household waste.

MASTERPLAN&STRATEGIES



Low impact design

Elevated fiberglass grating plank road protects ground cover plants, sunken green spaces allow rainwater to be retained



Integrating cultural Narratives into Playful Experiences

Integrate cultural information into participatory and interactive game processes through a series of "unplugged" landscape installations



Community sharing

Residents in the surrounding area can flexibly use the public space, redefining its function.

LOW IMPACT DESIGN

Elevated fiberglass grating plank road protects ground cover plants, sunken green spaces allow rainwater to be retained



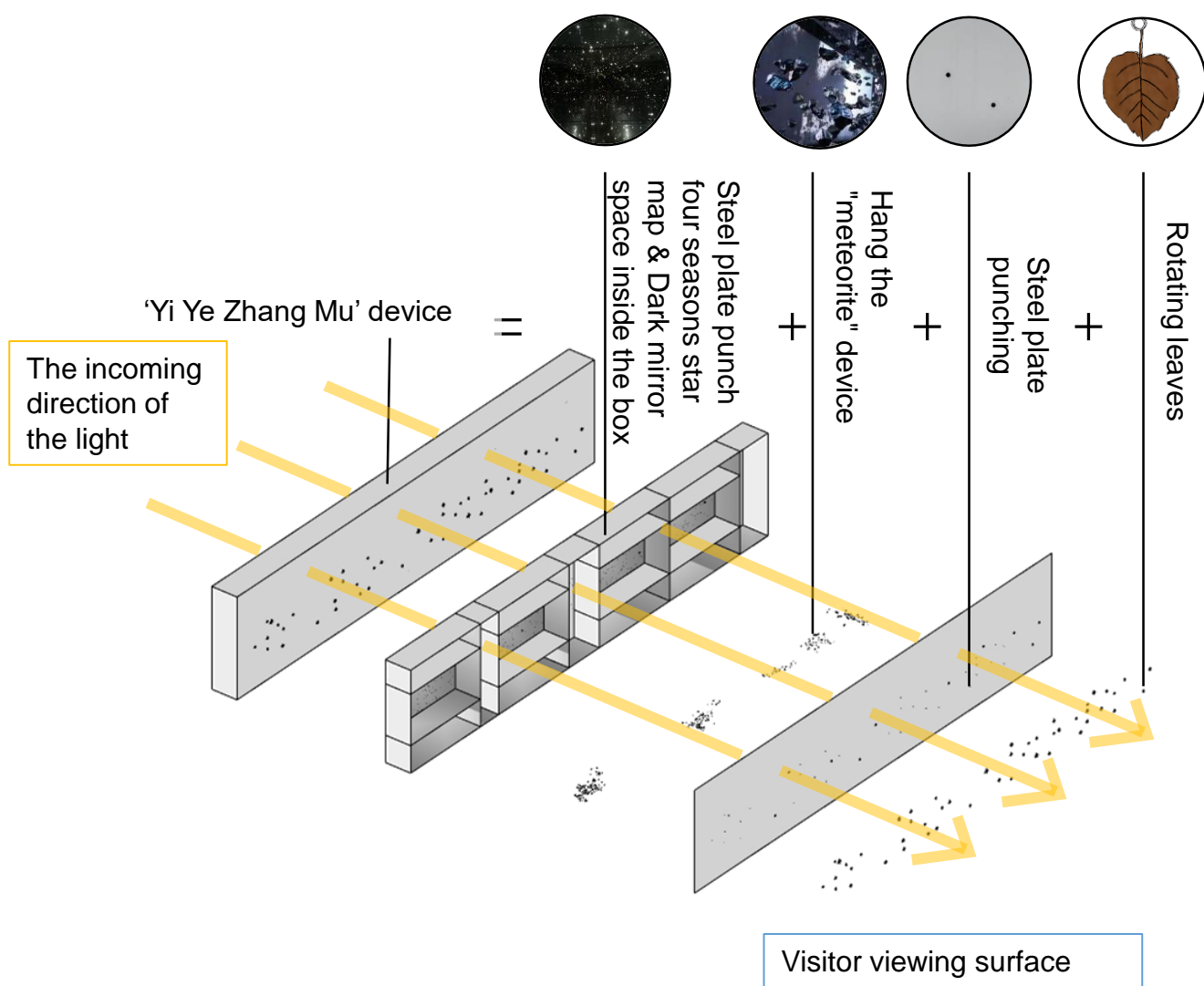
INTERACTIVE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Mirror matrices at different angles, experiencing the meaning of idioms while walking



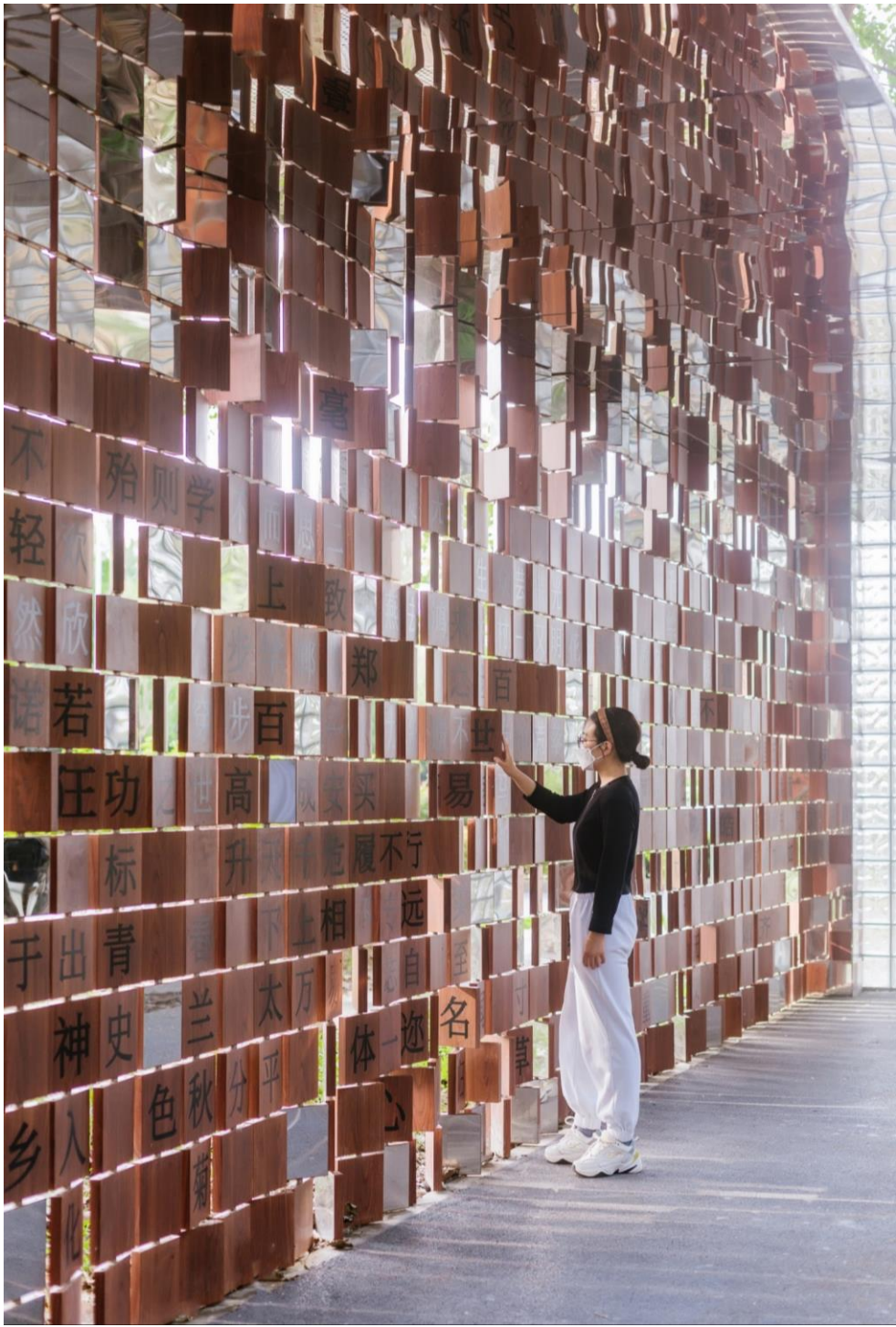
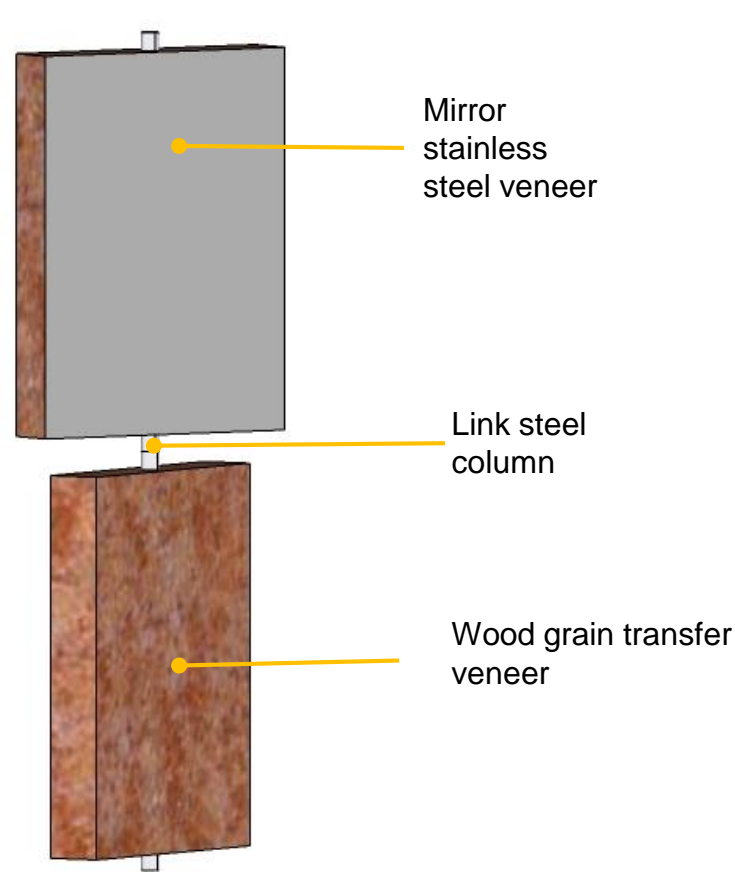
INTERACTIVE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Unplugged landscape installation, open the leaves and see the starry sky during the daytime



INTERACTIVE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A participatory flipping installation, a jigsaw puzzle about idioms



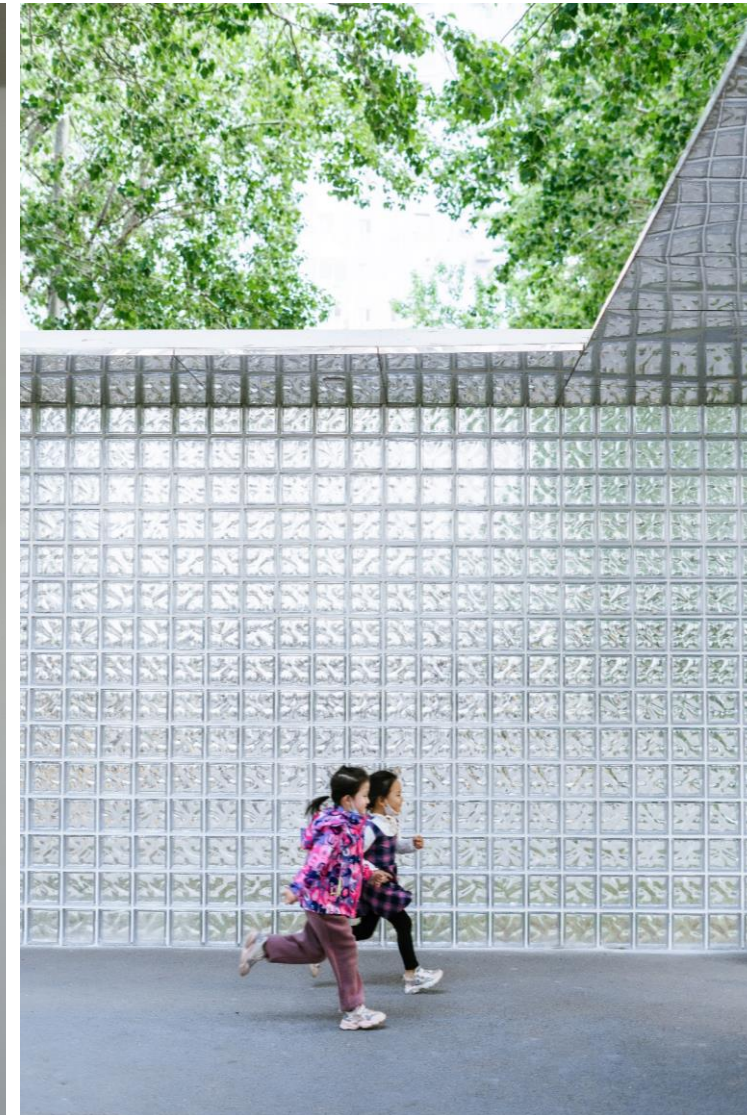
INTERGRATION OF INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIROMNMENT

Specular reflection materials are used interchangeably with solid materials to create a scene that blends with the forest.



INTERGRATION OF INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIROMNMENT

Create interaction with the environment by setting up window openings, patios, transparent materials, etc.



INTERGRATION OF INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIROMNMENT

Landscape structures are interwoven with the environment, fully preserving the existing trees.



CULTURAL THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

The cultural landscape resonates with the types of activities, such as the traditional Chinese Tai Chi.



COMMUNITY SHARING

Residents in the surrounding area can flexibly use the public space, redefining its function.

