

**Project Name:** REBIRTH OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE——SHENZHEN GUANLAN RIVERSIDE PLAZA

**Project Location:** Longhua District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

Project Area: 47,000m<sup>2</sup>

**Project Statement:** 

Guanlan Riverside Plaza is located in an area with a population density of 27,000 people/sq km. The updated plaza has provided a much-needed open space for this densely populated area. The design of the plaza incorporates the concept of a "park-like plaza," which emphasizes open sharing, resilience, diverse activities, and cultural heritage. This design also created various tree-lined venues that help alleviate the urban heat island effect. Additionally, the plaza aims to preserve the cultural heritage of Guanlan, radiating the vitality of the plaza. Since its opening in 2022, nearly 50 large-scale events and rallies have been held, attracting over 2 million people and becoming a popular and vibrant gathering place for citizens.

# **Project Narrative:**

# **Background**

Guanlan Riverside Plaza is located in Longhua District, Shenzhen, which serves as a typical example of rapid urbanization. However, during the urbanization process, a number of "urbanized plazas" have built, characterized by grand axes, undulating platforms, and boring facilities, etc, lacking consideration for people. This renovation project aims to meet the diverse activity needs of the city and its citizens. Based on the concept of a "park-like plaza," it has reshaped an open space through equal sharing, tree-lined design, resilient features, diverse activities, and cultural heritage, rejuvenating the vitality of the plaza.

## **Cultural Heritage**

The Guanlan area where the plaza is located has a history of over 100 years and is surrounded by many Hakka people. The design of the building is inspired by the traditional Hakka residential building "Weilong House", which gives a sense of belonging to the surrounding residents. The circular architectural form, open and inclusive functions, and permeable layout blend well with the landscape. The building features various functions, including a cafe, book bar, gym, toilet, and management room. The design brings a sense of belonging to Hakka people.

## **Open Sharing**

Addressing the issue of limited access to the plaza, the design has enhanced connectivity with surrounding commercial and residential areas, art gallery and the Guanlan River through an efficient road network, allowing citizens easily to access and share the space.

## **Tree-Lined Design**

Taking into consideration the hot climate in southern China, the design incorporates evergreen trees as the main tree species to provide shade year-round. The tree coverage has been increased from the original 30% to 65%, alleviating the urban heat island effect, creating a comfortable and diverse space for activities. The multifunctional fountain in the center of the plaza also helps to cool down the plaza.

### Resilience

To enhance plaza's resilience to natural disasters, a 300-square-meter garden has been created to collect rainwater, and a 200-cubic-meter underground storage system has been installed to store excess rainwater. After purification, the collected water is used for plant irrigation and cleaning.

#### **Diverse Activities**

Based on the site's characteristics, the entire plaza has been divided into three distinct activity areas:

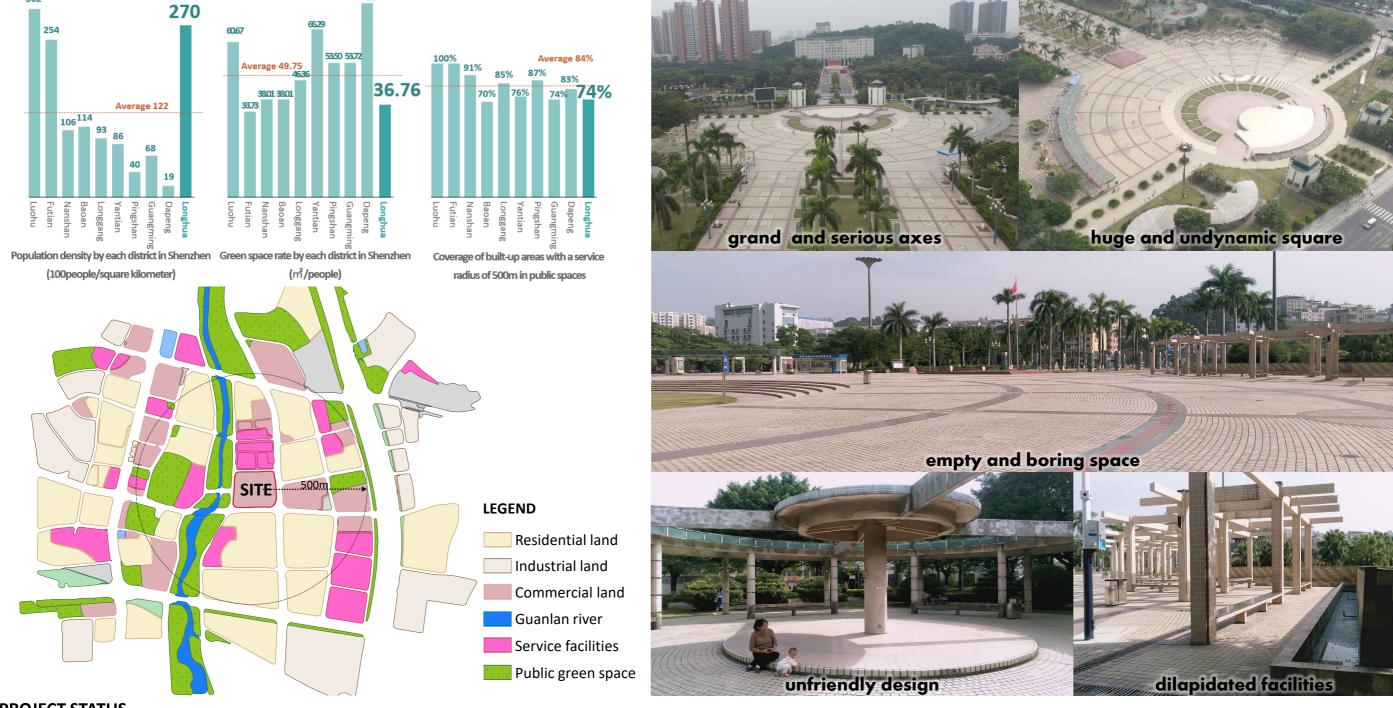
Ecological Garden: Creating a natural experience in the city, the original large trees on the site were retained and 200 native plants have been planted to create a space for gatherings, camping, picnics, sunbathing, frisbee, art performances, etc.

Urban Stage: Serving as a performance space for large-scale urban events, the central area of the plaza features a flexible multifunctional fountain and lawn. It can accommodate various urban activities such as gatherings, festivals, singing and dancing, art exhibitions, marathons, markets, flag-raising ceremonies, and also serves as an emergency urban shelter.

Tree-Lined Square: Enclosed by rows of trees, this area provides space for activities for all ages, such as resting for the elderly, elderly exercise, children's slides, hide-and-seek, cafe, book bar, gym, markets, and small concerts.

#### **Overall Benefits**

The plaza took five years and more than 50 government and citizen discussions before it was completed and opened in 2022. Since it opened, nearly 50 large-scale events have been held, attracting more than 2 million people, making it a popular and vibrant gathering place for citizens.

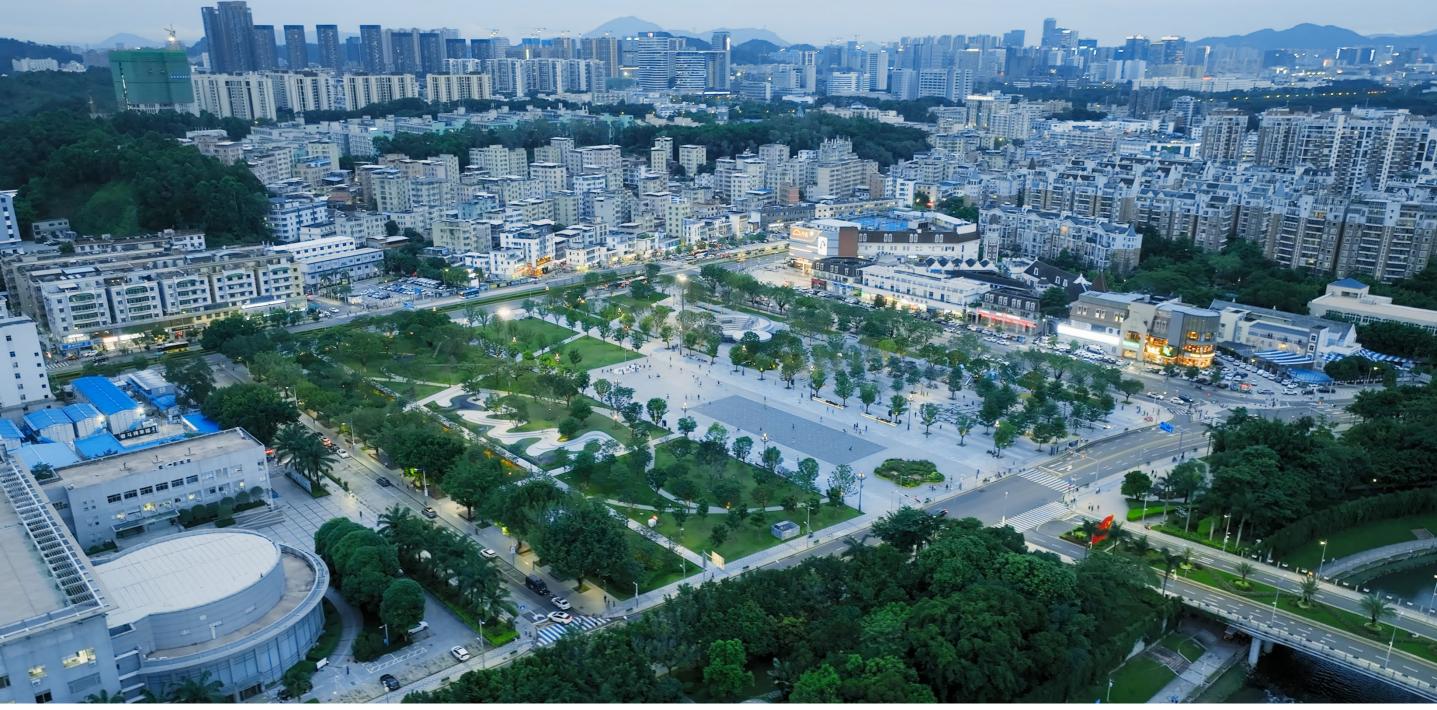


### **PROJECT STATUS**

The plaza is located in an area with a population density of 27,000 people/sq km, public activity spaces are extremely scarce, however, in the past, it was difficult to attract citizens.

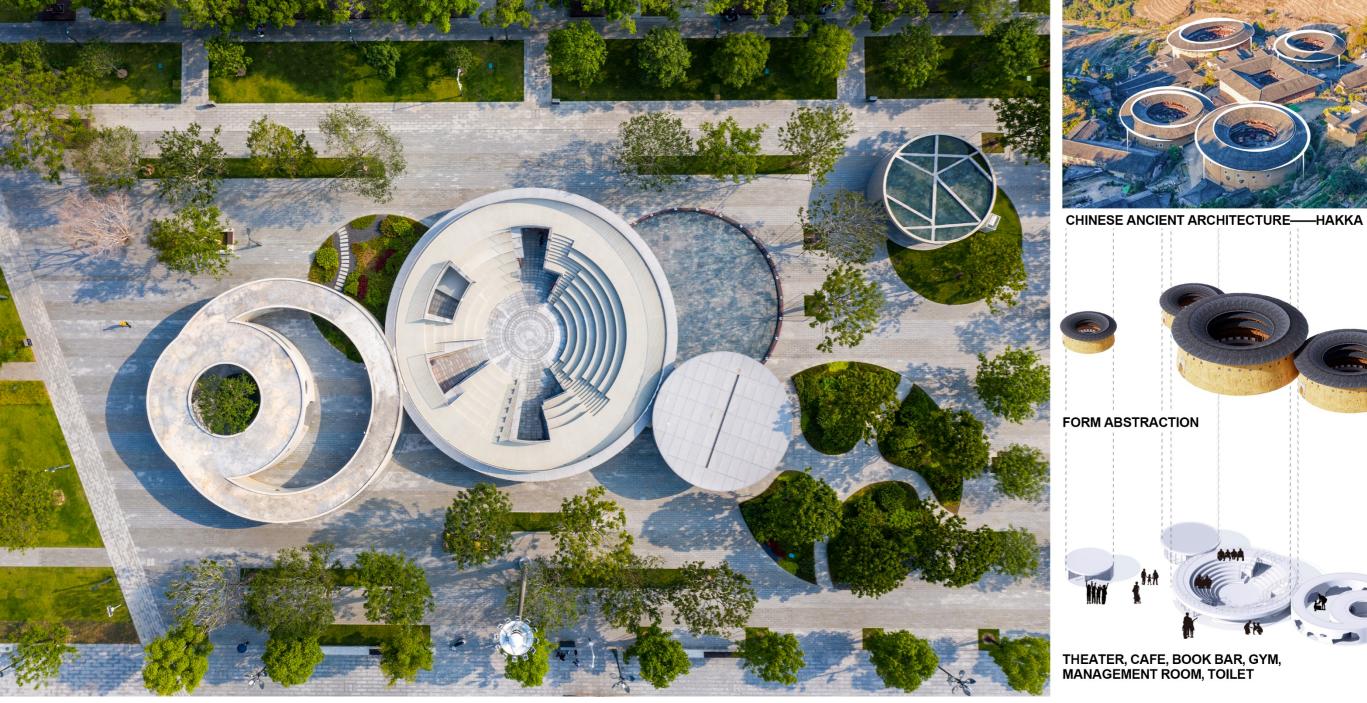
### **SITE PLAN**

The design through efficient roads link the surrounding area, with 65% tree coverage offering varied and comfy spaces for community activities.



**OVERALL VIEW** 

Guanlan Riverside Plaza transforms from bare and boring to cool and lively, providing much-needed open space in a 27,000 people/sq km dense area.



**SERVICE BUILDING** 

Inspired by Chinese ancient "Weilong House", the service building with café, theater, book bar, and toilet, brings a sense of belonging to the Hakka people living in the surrounding area.



**TOILET / CORRIDOR** 

The toilet with an circular corridor, inspired by Chinese traditional garden design way called "framing scenery", offers spots for rest, dance, and hide-and-seek, make it more open.



THEATER / GYM

The terraced theater creates an indoor gym and a semi-open outdoor performance area for activities like singing, magic, and dance.







CAFÉ / BOOK BAR

The cafe features glass walls, blending architecture with landscape, suitable for indoor reading and outdoor chit-chat.

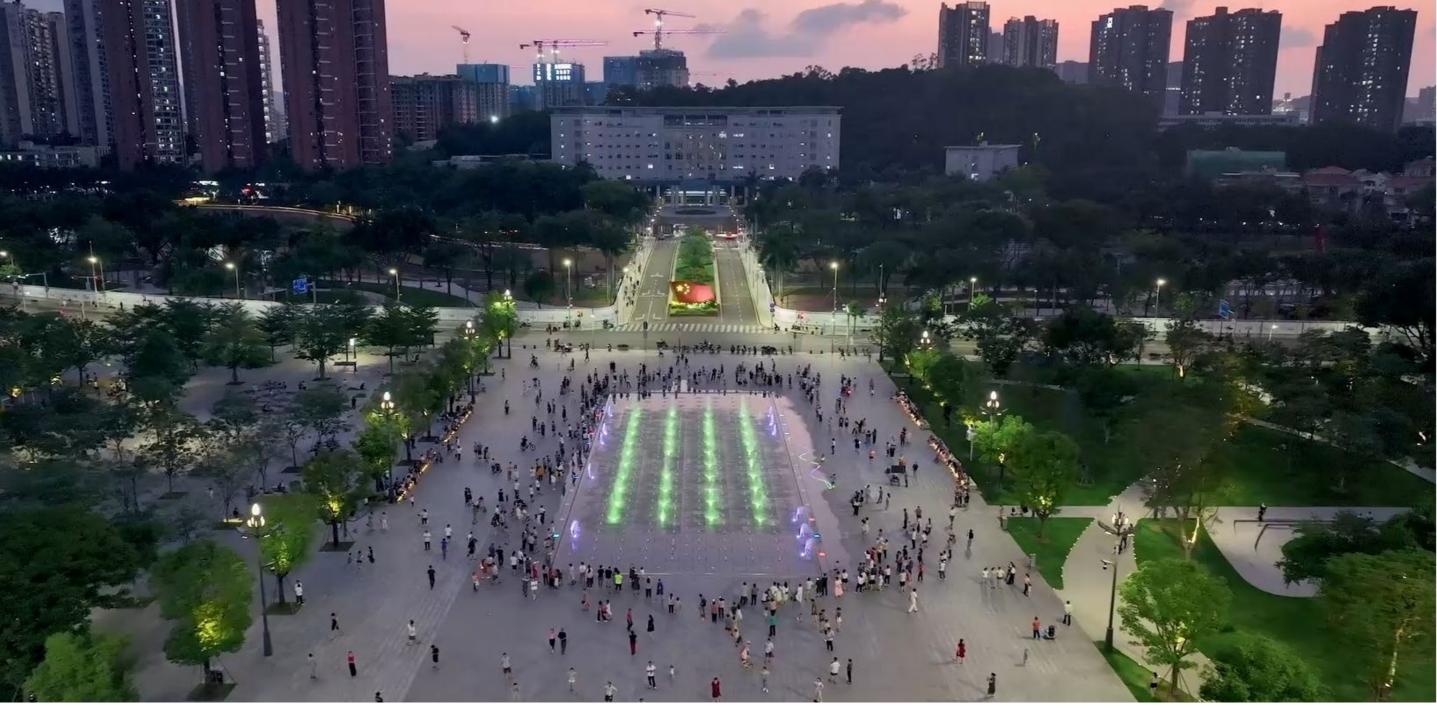


# **CONSTELLATION CULTURE SCIENCE PARK**

In ancient China, people relied on the stars to observe the sky and determine the direction. This is the theme of the Children's Science Park. Through the high and low reliefs of "constellations", in the way of "hopscotch", children can perceive the changes in direction and understand the wisdom of the ancients.

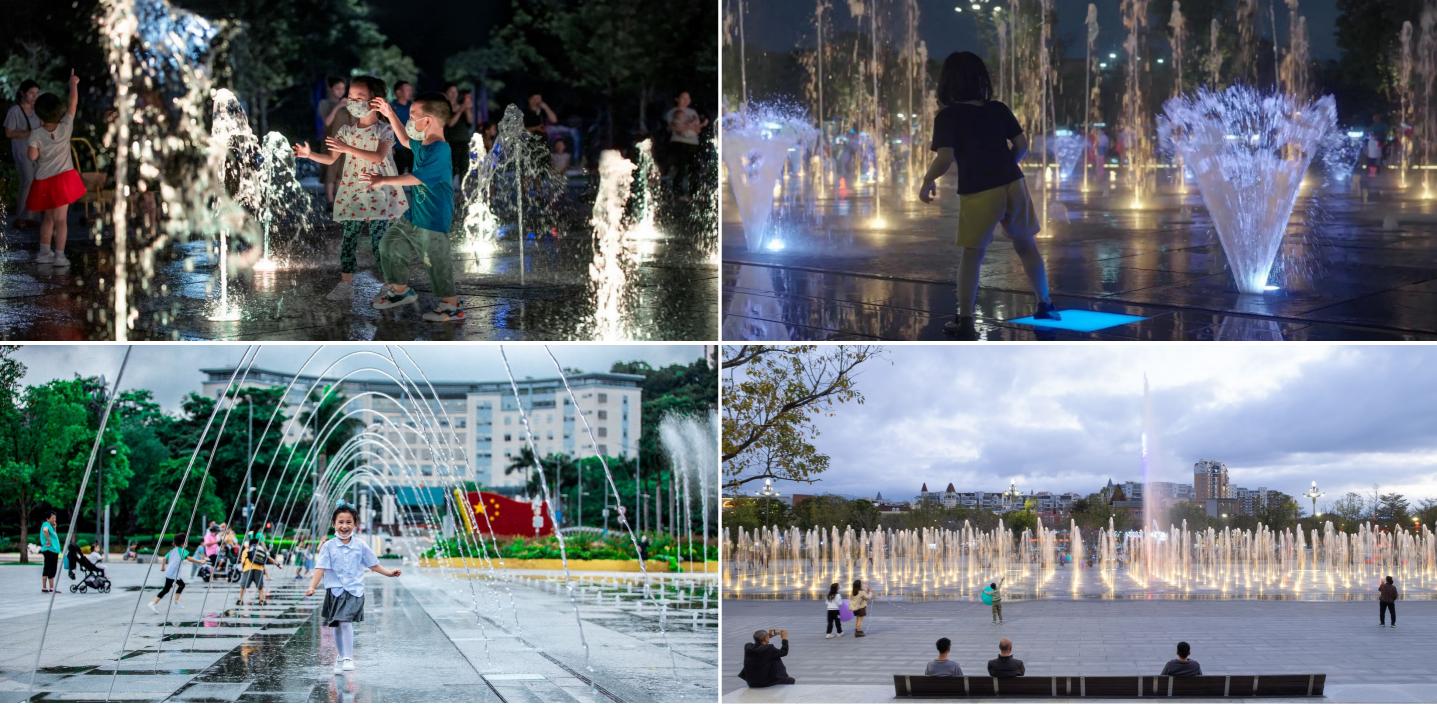


The exterior design of the children's facilities is inspired by the traditional Chinese "hip roof" architectural style. The "Hundred Family Surnames" wall inside the venue displays 100 Chinese surnames, which is both educational and entertaining.



MULTIFUNCTIONAL FOUNTAIN

To cool down the plaza, especially during hot summer, a multi-functional fountain offers visual appeal, play, without water, it's an open venue for diverse activity, drawing diverse citizens.



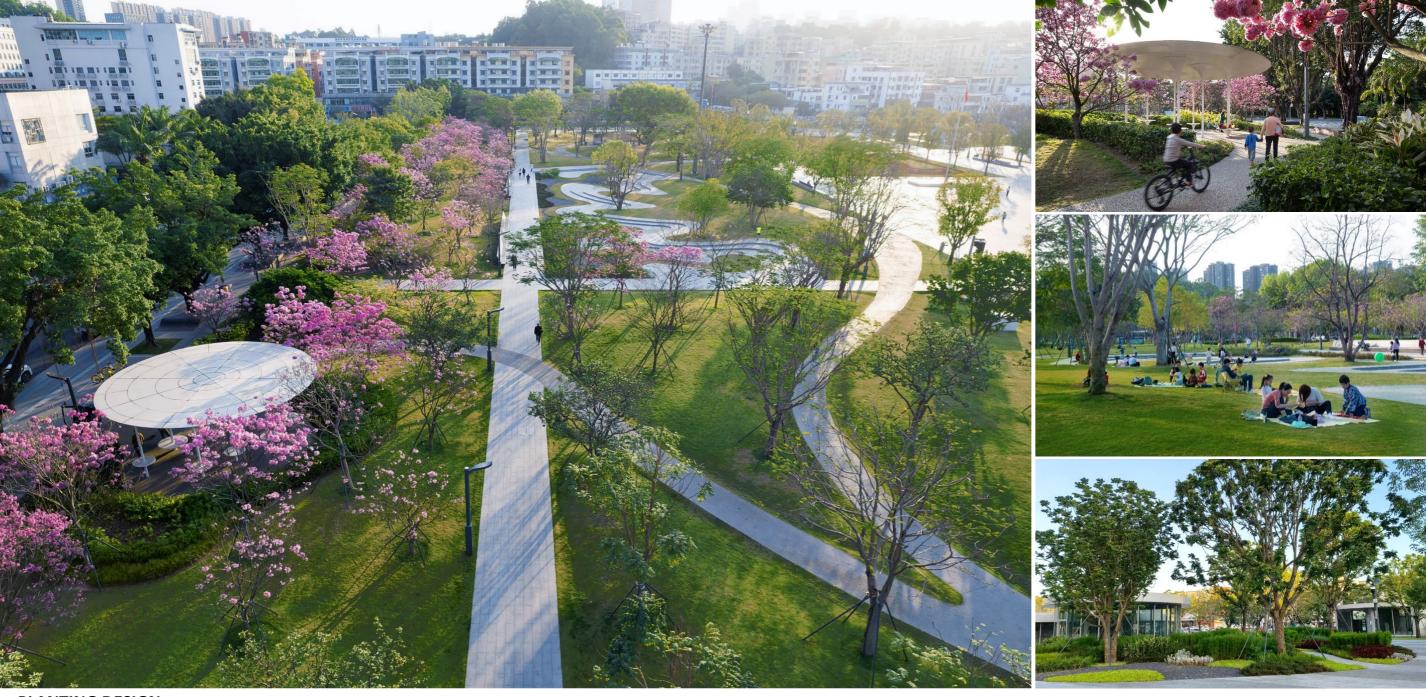
FLEXIBLE UTILIZATION

With water, it's an interactive fountain; without, an open venue for festival celebrations. Yingge dance, etc.



TRADITIONAL FOLK CULTURE PERFORMANCES

When without water, many traditional folk culture performances, such as Yingge dance, waist drum dance, dragon lantern dance, etc., are held here, attracting many citizens to watch.



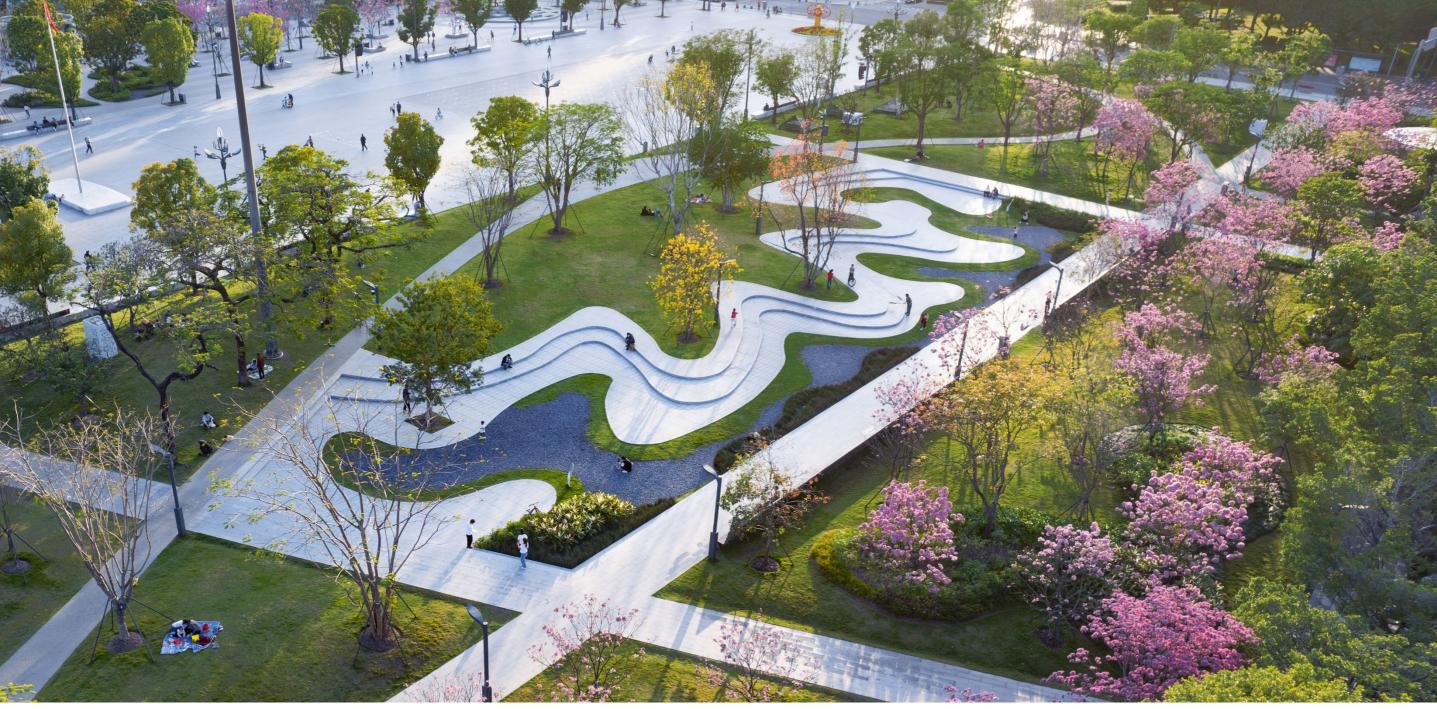
**PLANTING DESIGN** 

In Shenzhen's hot climate, the design employs evergreens as the main trees and some flowering trees for year-round shade and scenery.



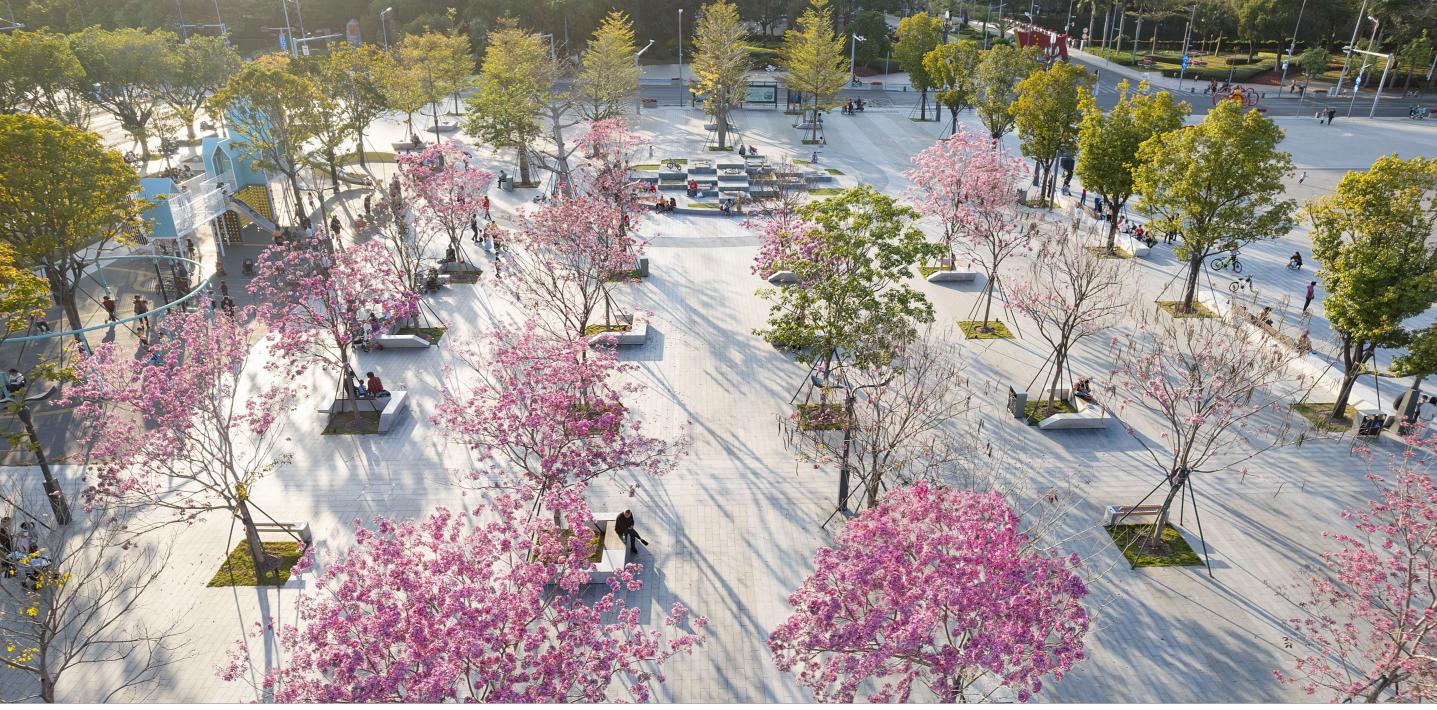
**RESILIENCE** 

A rainwater garden and underground storage enhance resilience, serving as a rainwater collector and open space on sunny days.



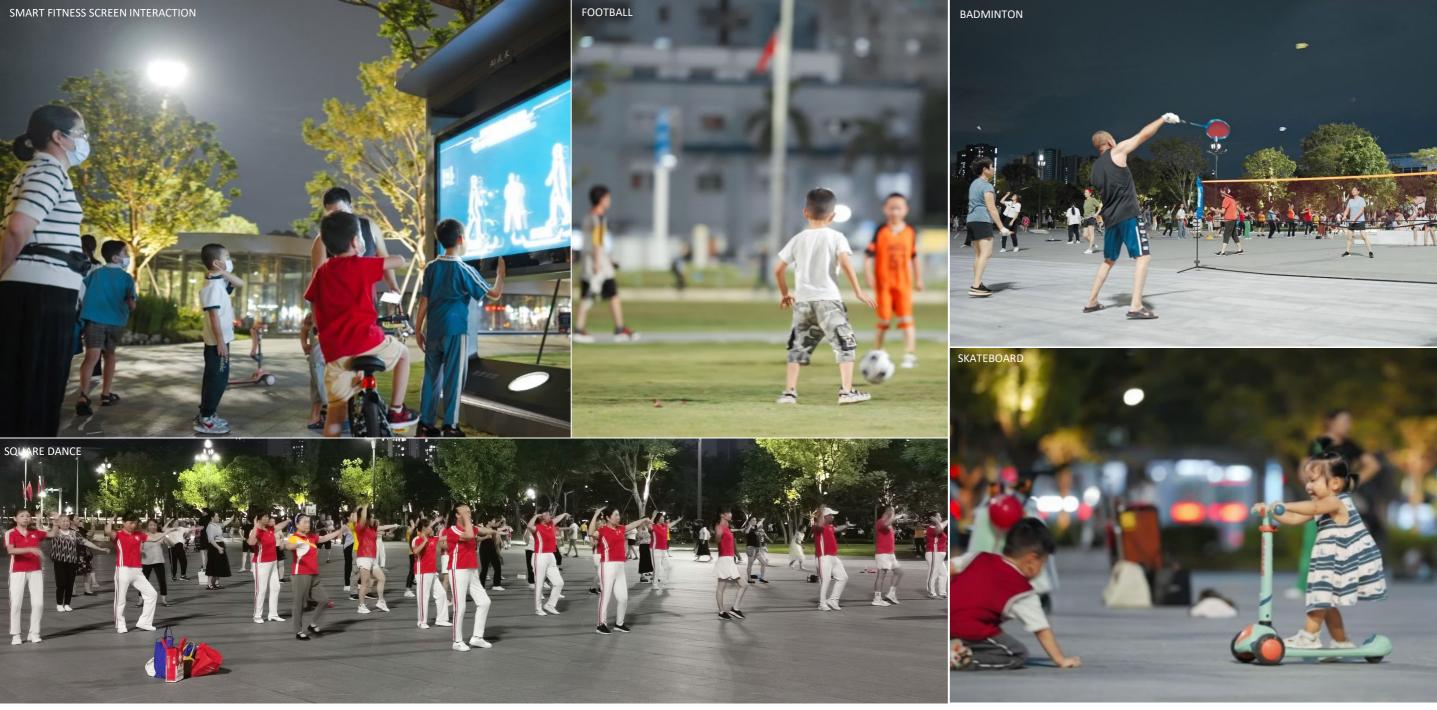
**SHADED LAWN** 

Preserving the original large trees and planting 200 natives, created shaded lawn for activities like gatherings, camping and picnics.



TREE-LINED SQUARE

Tree-lined square provides activity space for all ages, relief from the square's heat with ample seating provided.



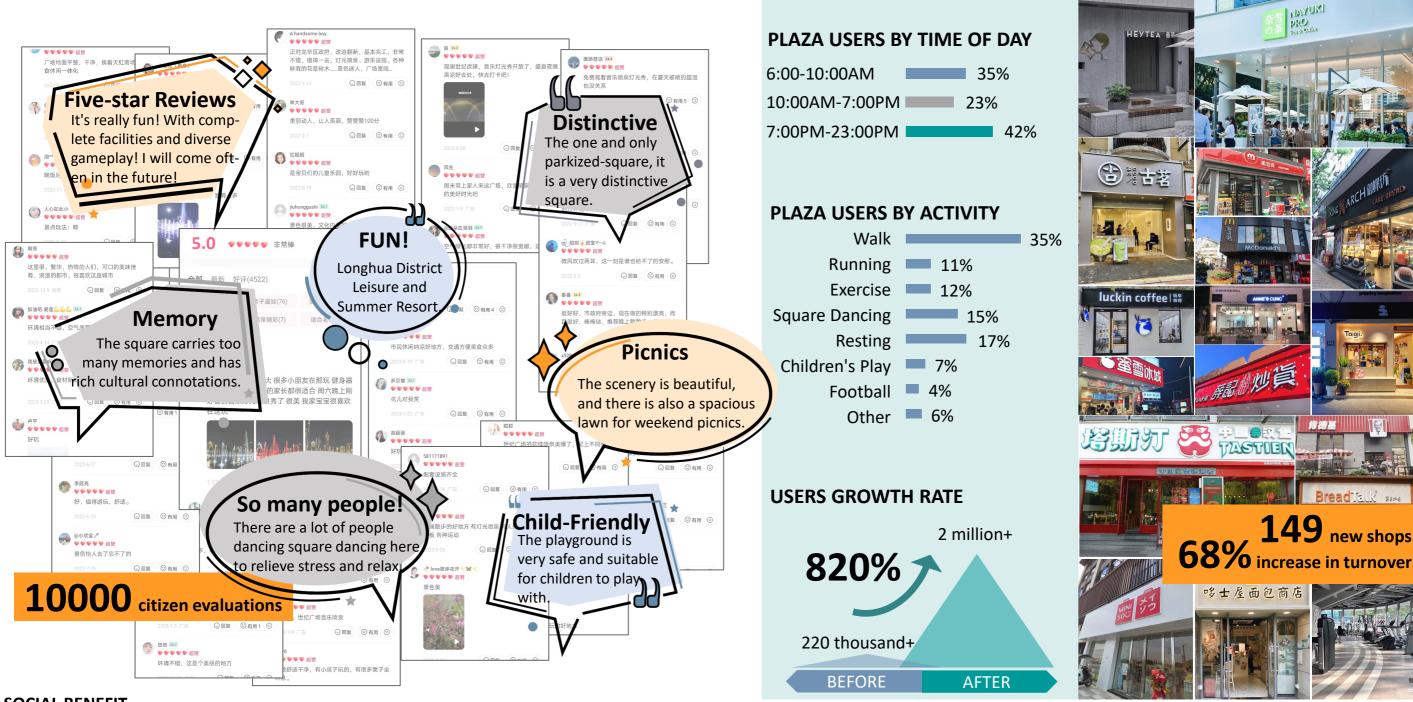
## **CITIZEN ACTIVITIES**

Diverse activities include square dance and intelligent interactive running for the elderly, play badminton and football for the young, and skateboarding for children, etc.



#### **PROJECT PROCESS**

In all aspects of the design and construction, we have extensively consulted with experts, government, enterprises and citizens. Public participation played a huge role in the project.



#### **SOCIAL BENEFIT**

Since it opened, the number of citizen visits every year increased by 820%. Through the statistics of 10000 citizen evaluations on Xiaohongshu, Tiktok and other network platforms, the favorable rating reached 98%. Additionally, 149 new shops opened in the surrounding area, resulting in a 68% increase in turnover.