

SCENARIO REAPPEAR

Micro Renovation and Renewal Design of Guangzhou Panxi Restaurant





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01 Project Statement

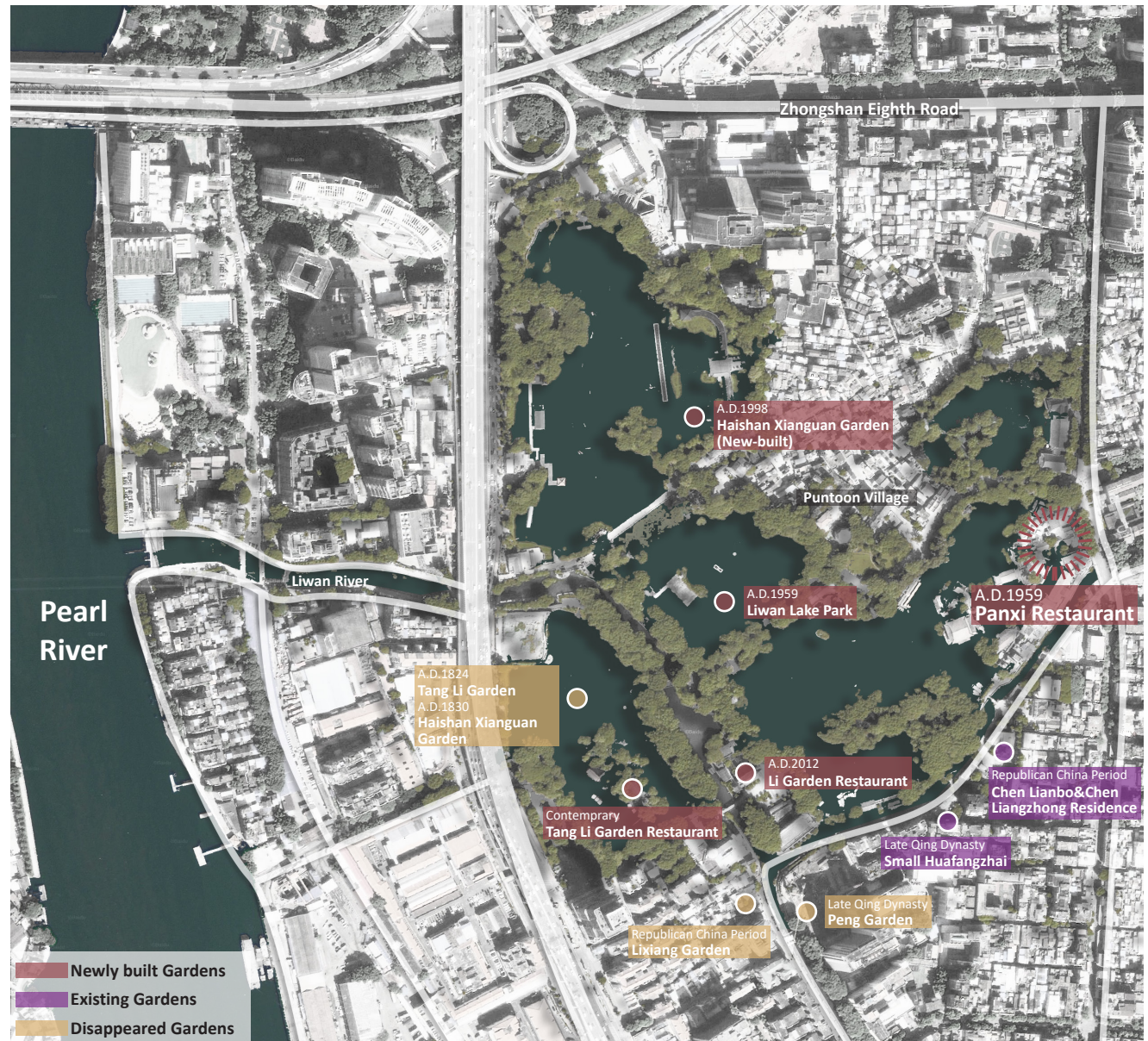
Panxi Restaurant is located on the shores of Liwan Lake in Guangzhou, the former site of the "Chang Hua Yuan" of the Southern Han Dynasty a thousand years ago, the prosperous "Xiguan Community" of a century ago, and a historical and cultural district rich in activities today. As a representative work of Lingnan garden restaurants and Lingnan gardens, Panxi Restaurant is one of Guangzhou's cultural cards and is closely related to the profound historical and cultural connotation of Liwan.

We pay attention to this historical lineage, recreate well-documented historic scenes based on real historical materials, and consider its integration with contemporary and future residents' daily life practices. Based on the aesthetic standards of "flamboyant but elegant style, exotic and bustling atmosphere", we build a landscape with emotional memory and make Panxi Restaurant a living museum of traditional Lingnan gardens, folk crafts, and intangible cultural heritage.

AREA: 14160 m²

COMPLETION DATE: 2023

LOCATION: Guangzhou, Guangdong, China



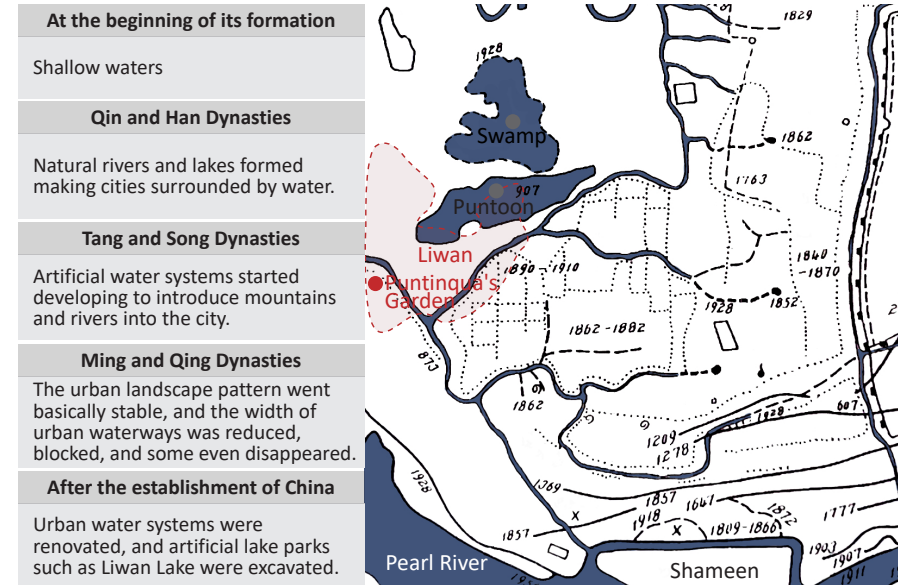
Current water system and location

02 Continue Xiguan's culture, recreate the water town scenes

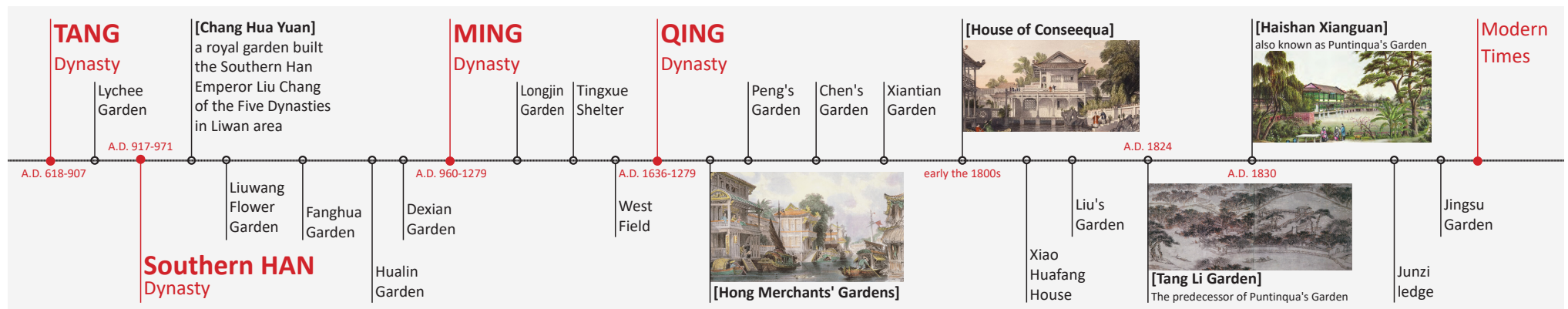
Xiguan gardens arise from the water system and change with it. In this renovation, we aim to recreate the cultural landscape of the site and the long history of Lingnan gardens, emphasizing the relationship between the reproduced scene and the surrounding water system.

There is a dynamic and developmental connection between Guangzhou gardens and the urban water system, with Liwan of Xiguan being a typical example. Xiguan is located on the outskirts of the western gate of Guangzhou's ancient city, where the natural appearance forms and changes as a result of the changes in the water system. Taking "the Great Liwan Lake Scenic Area" as the background, we think about how to create an urban landscape in the centre of a cultural district with a deep history that can not only echo history and adapt to the times but also excavate and reinterpret the history and culture of the old city.

Panxi Restaurant is located in the Liwan water town settlement, which is rich in various resources. While considering the architectural space form, the overall style, and the interface along the lake of Panxi Restaurant, as well as its functional characteristics as a government reception, we chose to recreate the historic scenes of Haishan Xianguan Garden in the present, echoing the diplomatic and other functional attributes of this historical pinnacle of Lingnan's Hong merchants' gardens.



Historical Changes in the Xiguan's River System

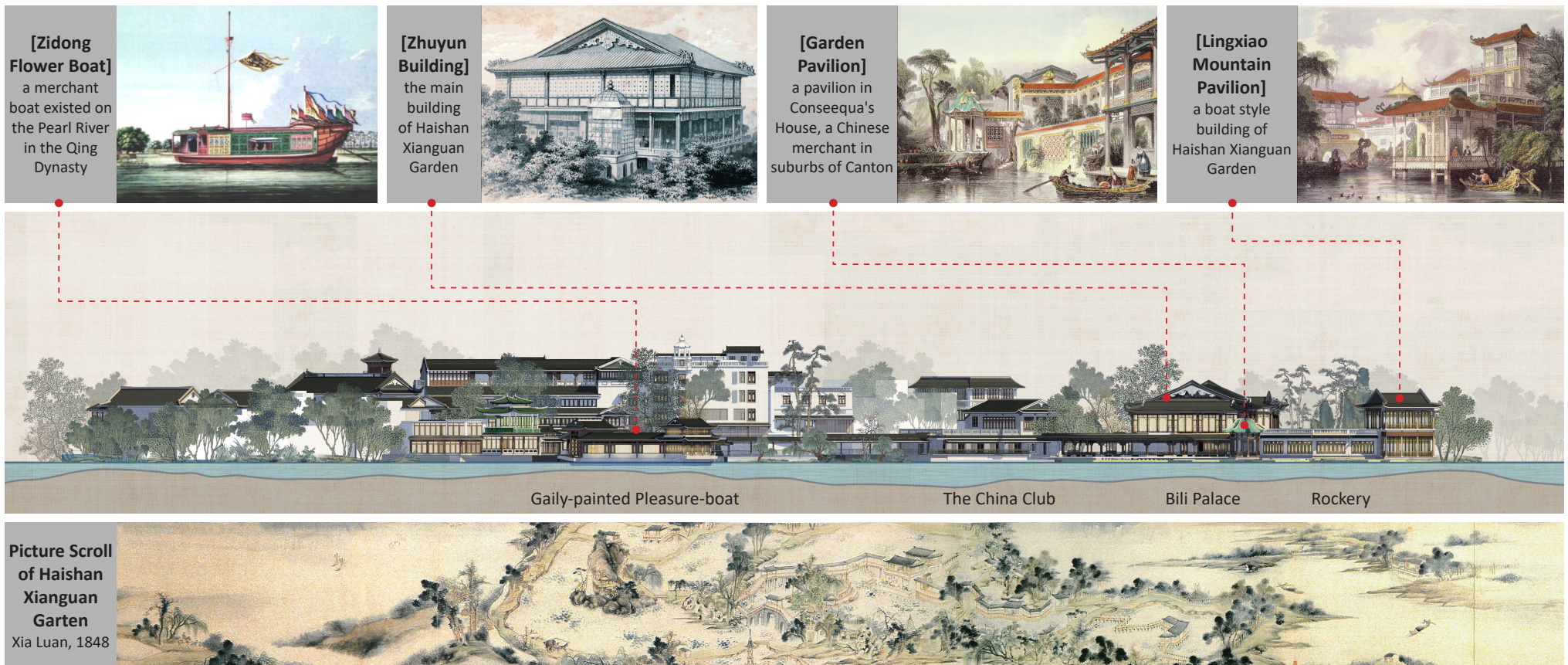


Dynasty alternation and emerged gardens in Xiguan

02 Continue Xiguan's culture, recreate the water town scenes

The design integrates Panxi Restaurant with the surrounding historical buildings and neighbourhoods, linking the historical building complex, the Lingnan garden restaurant and the modern urban park, with the east side of Liwan Lake as the centre. Not only does the architectural design echo the surrounding historical buildings such as Renwei Temple, Liang's Lineage Hall and Wen Pagoda, but the garden creation is also in dialogue with historical gardens such as Tang Li Garden, Chang Hua Yuan and Haishan Xianguan Garden.

We recreated the diachronic and synchronic scenes of the Liwan area, integrated the episodic scenes scattered around Liwan Lake into a montage of continuous scenes, excavated and reinterpreted the culture of Liwan, strengthened the perceptibility of history, presented to the public the historical development of Guangzhou Xiguan and the former garden scene of Liwan, and aroused the public's perception and empathy for history.



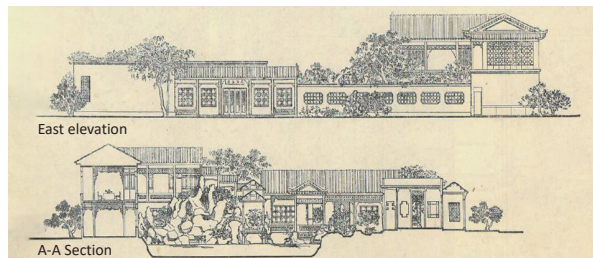
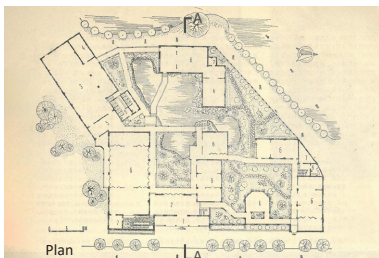
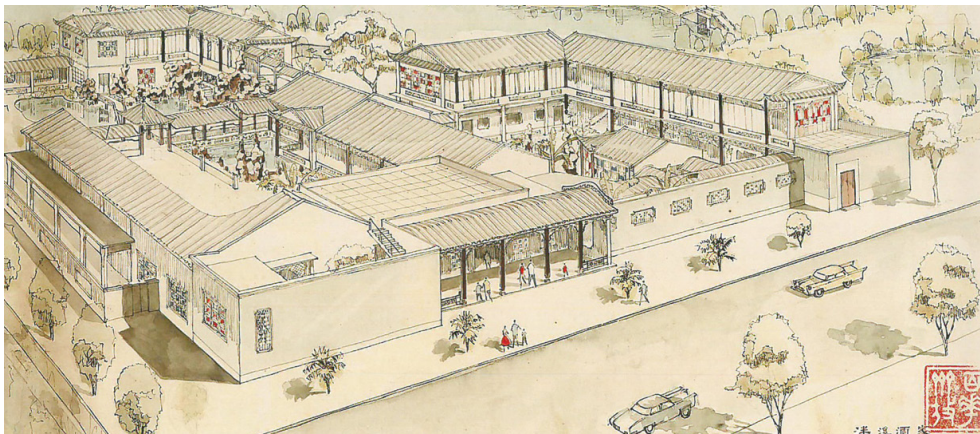
The long scroll unfolding along the lake at Panxi Restaurant

03 Optimize the spatial pattern and draw a contemporary picture scroll

With respect to the historical spatial pattern of Panxi Restaurant, this renovation and renewal of Panxi Restaurant was taken as an opportunity to further promote the transformation of the Great Liwan Lake Scenic Area, assemble the classic Lingnan garden, and reproduce the long history of Haishan Xianguan garden while driving the revival of the old city.

① Respecting the authenticity of historical information

In this renovation and renewal process, based on a respect for the authenticity of historical information, we maintain the overall layout and structure of the original design by Academician Mo Bozhi, utilize his research on Lingnan gardens, continue the inherent spirit thereof, and further optimize the spatial experience of architecture and gardens based on their predecessors.



The historical spatial pattern of Panxi Restaurant drew by Academician Mo Bozhi, 1959

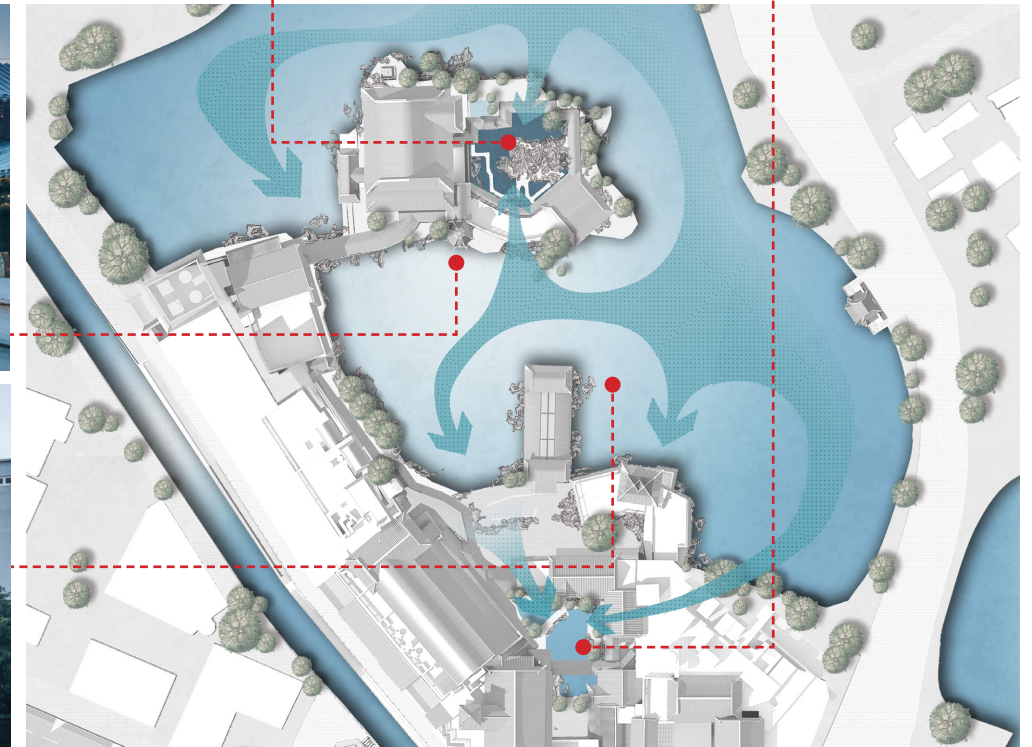


The current spatial pattern of Panxi Restaurant

03 Optimize the spatial pattern and draw a contemporary picture scroll

② Strengthening the characteristics of garden restaurants through conservation and renewal

We hope to narrate the cultural landscape of the site and the long history of Lingnan gardens but not to just directly reconstruct the gardens from history. This consideration of the renovation and renewal of Panxi Restaurant extends deep into history in terms of time and echoes the surrounding environment of the Liwan Lake water system in terms of space. We use the water system to link the various gardens and integrate the charm of the water system into the garden through the rockeries.



Integrate the charm of the water system into the garden

03 Optimize the spatial pattern and draw a contemporary picture scroll

② Strengthening the characteristics of garden restaurants through conservation and renewal

Based on a respect for the historical function of Panxi Restaurant and through an examination of historical images, such as export paintings, we renovate the main building of Pandao. In the building facade, we replicate the architectural details of the Haishan Xianguan garden, restore the scenes of the stormy corridor and the lotus leaf pavilion, create a rockery in the atrium to continue the landscape courtyard designed by Mo Bozhi and reproduce the historical situation of the Haishan Xianguan garden's Zhuyun building.

While reproducing the old scene of the Haishan Xianguan garden, the reception function of the Haisan Hall is reproduced here, which can be

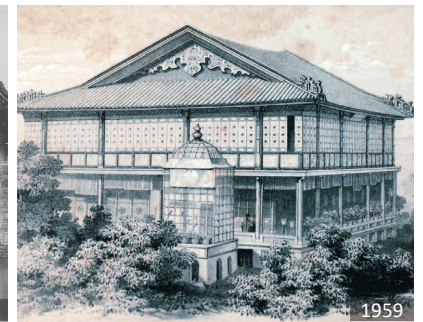
used as a window into the history and culture of Guangzhou Xiguan and is a modern continuation of the functions of the commercial garden life, office, banquet, and cultural display. In addition, the renovation of the boat in Panxi Restaurant echoes the historical purple hole boat and recreates the historical scene of Xiguan.

Meanwhile, we also renovate and upgrade the existing corner building facade and optimize the commercial interface along the street by the city river, using micro-renovation techniques to reproduce the historical situation of Xiguan Waterland.

Renovate the building based on historical images



Reproduce the old scene of the Haishan Xianguan garden



Strengthen the characteristics of garden restaurant

03 Optimize the spatial pattern and draw a contemporary picture scroll

③ Heritage of traditional craftsmanship of Lingnan residential houses

Historically, a large number of folk crafts were gathered in Panxi Restaurant. During the renovation, we also introduce traditional crafts such as ash sculptures, wood carvings, and stone sculptures to make Panxi Restaurant a living museum of traditional Lingnan gardens, folk crafts, and nonheritage cultural displays.

Ash sculptures



Under construction

Stone sculptures



Under construction

Wood carvings



Under construction



Under construction



After renovation



After renovation



After renovation



After renovation

Introduce traditional folk crafts during the renovation

04 Respect the historical function and continue the life scene

The historical context of local residents' interaction with the environment is fully explored, and their integration with the daily life practices of contemporary and future residents is considered.

Panxi Restaurant has, historically, hosted hundreds of national leaders and celebrities from all walks of life at home and abroad. It witnessed the development of diplomacy in the early years of the founding of New China, as well as the development of cultural exchanges between Chinese and foreigners in Guangzhou. It has not only assumed the function of government reception but has also served as a place for local residents to live, entertain and relax. It has characteristics such as folk secularity, business-oriented pragmatism, tolerance, and openness.



Host national leaders and celebrities in Panxi Restaurant

04 Respect the historical function and continue the life scene

This renovation has updated the functional space according to the needs of the restaurant but always retained the public interaction space for the community to be closely connected. The public can still enjoy the same activities and the convenience that Panxi provides to the neighbourhood, such as listening to theatre and TCM consultation. We hope to maintain these truly important and warm human scenes. Throughout its history, Panxi has been not only a cultural symbol but also a way of life closely linked to the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Outdoor activities in Panxi Restaurant



People listen to Cantonese Opera in Panxi Restaurant



Lantern Festival in Panxi Restaurant



Rich public activities in Panxi Restaurant

People enjoy dimsum in Panxi Restaurant



Retained the public interaction space for the community



05 Conclusion

The micro renovation and renewal design of Panxi Restaurant is a renewal of the restaurant's architecture and space, as well as a translation and reproduction of historical scenes. Based on real historical materials, we integrate Panxi Restaurant with the surrounding historical environment, provide citizens with the space for rich community activities and build a landscape with emotional memory through the renovation and renewal strategies of continuing Xiguan's culture and recreating the water town scenes; optimizing the spatial pattern and drawing a contemporary picture scroll; respecting the historical function and continuing the life scene.





Thank you for Reading