

Protection and Micro-renewal of Historical and Cultural Heritage

—Historical Culture Inheritance & Tourism Integration Pilot Project in Songshan, Dengfeng City

Keywords:

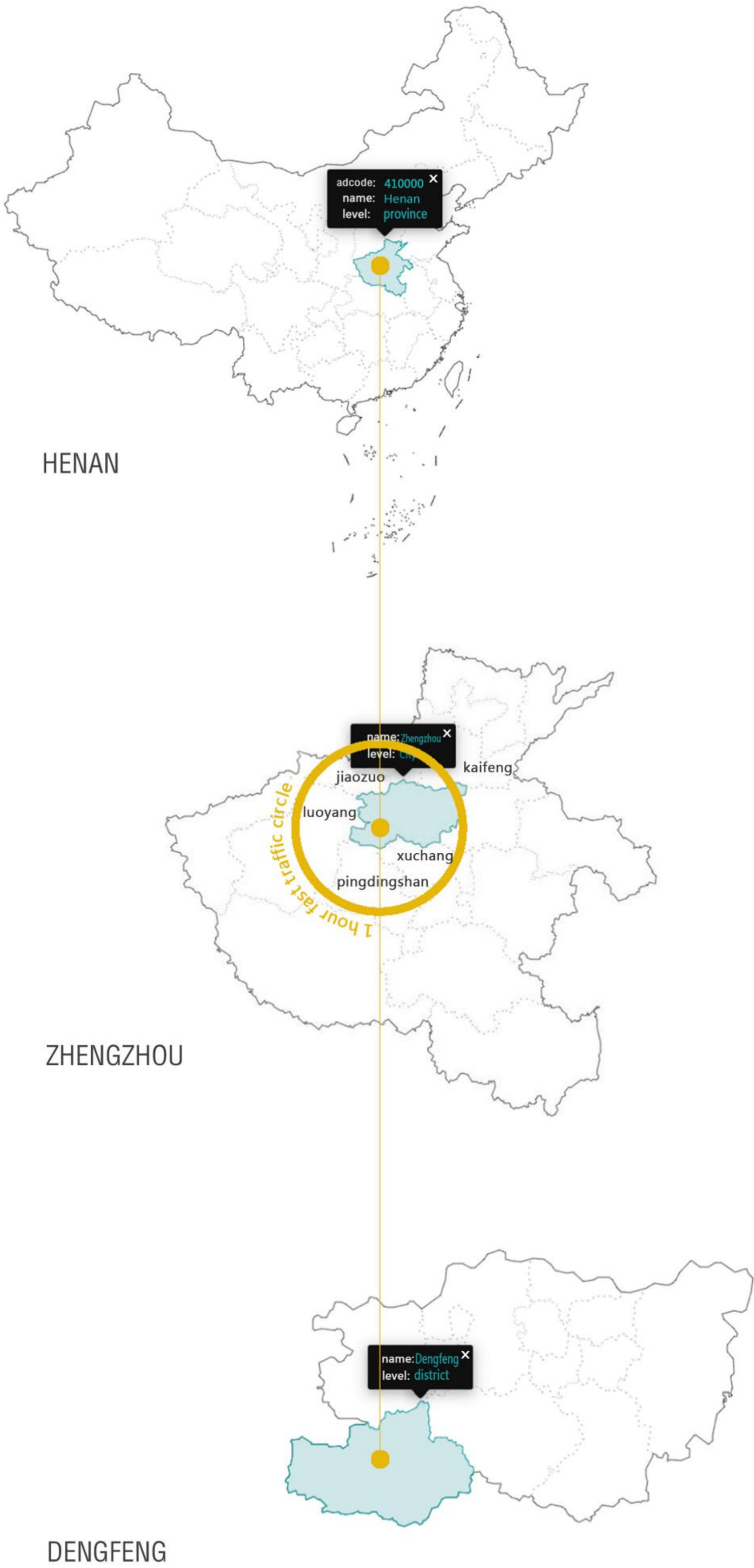
- Enhancing the value of cultural heritage and natural resources.
- Seeking a balance between ecological protection and sightseeing through micro-renewal and low interference.

Project statement:

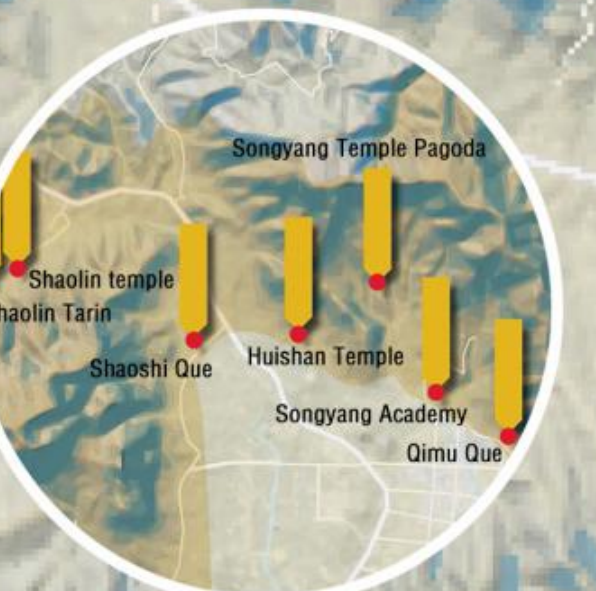
The project aims to rebuild seven scenic spots, including important heritage buildings, in Mount Songshan, the preeminent scenic area in China. Through the scientific design of tour routes, the upgraded entrance image, the highlighted visual corridors and the improved ecological environment, we seek to create a new profile with great value in cultural heritage and natural resources, realizing organic inheritance and integration of culture and tourism, and ensuring the sustainable development of the world cultural heritage.

Display upon Completion

PROJECT NARRATIVE



National Geographical Positioning:
The Center of Heaven and Earth, The Center of the Universe



Center of the Five Great Mountains
and the World

Historic Building Complex in
the "Center of Heaven and Earth"

"Seeking Interaction Between Heaven and Earth"



As one of China's Five Great Mountains, Mount Songshan has confirmed the territory of ancient China, with magnificent mountain scenery, including Shaoshi Mountain, Taishi Mountain and Songyang Scenic Area. Enlisted in the World Heritage List in 2010, the "Center of Heaven and Earth" historic architectural complex in Dengfeng, is home to scenic spots involving temples, towers, pagodas, pavilions and academies. The site has reflected the ritual systems, religions, science and technology, and architectural achievements of the academic buildings throughout the Han, Wei, Tang, Song, Jin, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties in China over 2,000 years, and also verified the belief of "Center of Heaven and Earth" since the Zhou Dynasty.

As a demonstration construction project of the Songshan historical and cultural heritage and cultural tourism integration, the seven scenic spots to be renovated cover an area of about 359,000 square meters, with an investment of RMB 153 million. It consists of four ancient buildings: Shaoshi Que, Qimu Que, which were built in the Han Dynasty to represent the emperor's worship of Heaven and Earth; Songyang Academy, the birthplace of Neo-Confucianism of the Song and Ming Dynasties, and an important academic school of Confucianism in China, is one of the Four Major Academies in Ancient China; and Huishan Temple is the place where the eminent monk and scientist in the Yuan Dynasty Yixing became a monk. In addition, Yongtai Temple, the first female monk temple after the introduction of Zen Buddhism into the Central Plains, Laojun Cave and Chongfu Palace, local religious venues in China, are also important Protected Cultural Relic Sites.

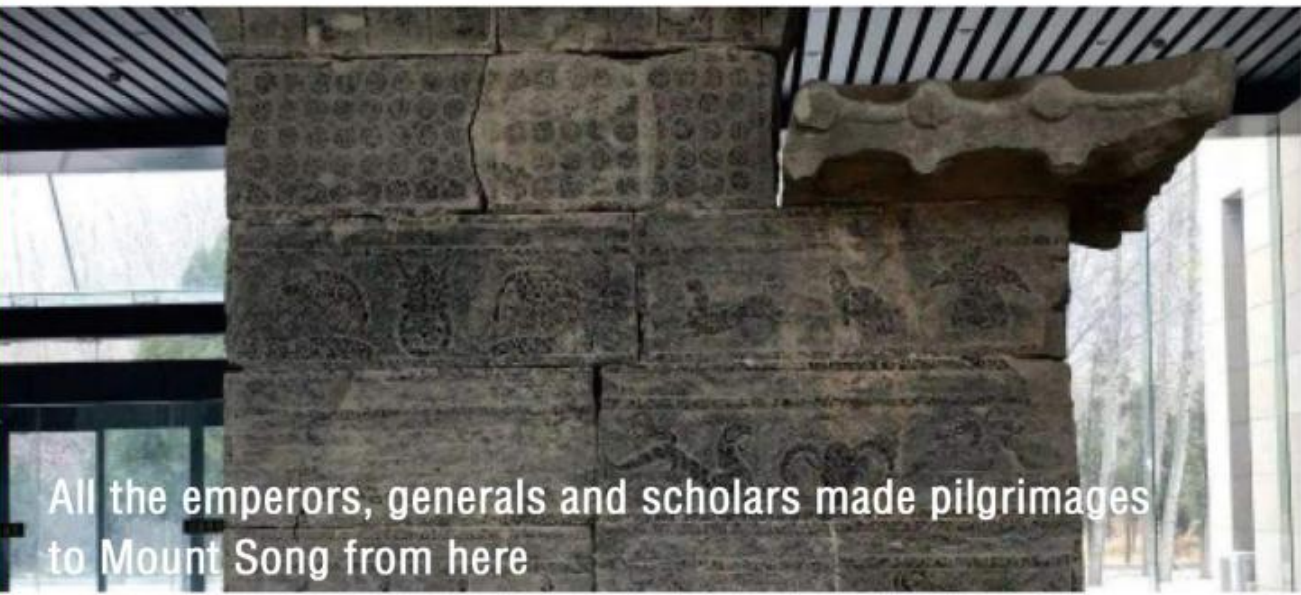
PLAN:

- A Yongtai Temple
- B Shaoshi Que
- C Huishan Temple
- D Laojun Cave
- E Songyang Academy
- F Chongfu Palace
- G Qimu Que

World cultural heritage

State key cultural relics protection units

Historical and Cultural Site
Protected at the Provincial Level



All the emperors, generals and scholars made pilgrimages to Mount Song from here



which were built in the Han Dynasty to represent the emperor's worship of Heaven and Earth



One of the Four Major Academies in Ancient China
Founded in 484 (Northern Wei Taihe eight years)



An ancient Buddhist center in Mount Song, one of Mount Song's four major monasteries



The first female monastery in Central Plain after the introduction of Buddhism



The famous Taoist missionary home
Founded in the first year of the Yuan dynasty (110 BC)



Built in the Tang dynasty, the famous Taoist hermitage

B Shaoshi Que
(Han dynasty)

Que
(Sinology)

G Qimu Que
(Western Han dynasty)

Que
(Sinology)

E Songyang Academy
(Song dynasty)

Confucianism

C Huishan Temple
(Wei Dynasty)

Buddha

A Yongtai Temple
(Northern Wei Dynasty)

ZEN

F Chongfu Palace
(Eastern Wei Dynasty)

Neo-
confucianism

D Laojun Cave
(Tang dynasty)

Taoism

Core Issues:

Thanks to the long and splendid culture and magnificent natural scenery, Songshan Scenic Area enjoys a high reputation. The negative comments mainly come from the low-level environmental taste and poor sightseeing experience. These factors make tourists prefer listening rather than viewing. There exist urgent problems with the construction of the scenic area:



1. Abundant landscape resources and insufficient development and utilization;



2. Separate attractions with high value and large quantity, and poor macroscopic landscape quality;

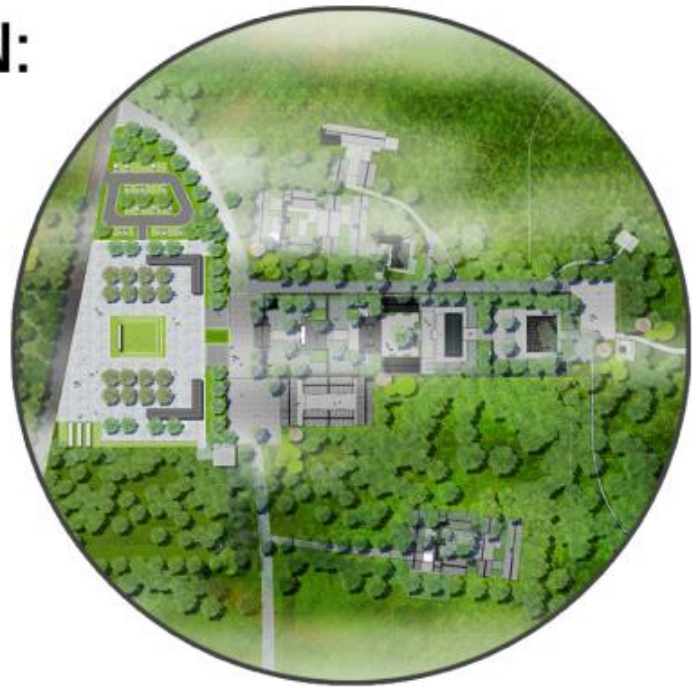


3. Extremely high reputation and unmatched environmental quality.



The center of civilization and geography and an aggregation of cultural highlights

PLAN:



Yongtai Temple



Shaoshi Que



Huishan Temple



Songyang Academy



LaoJun Cave



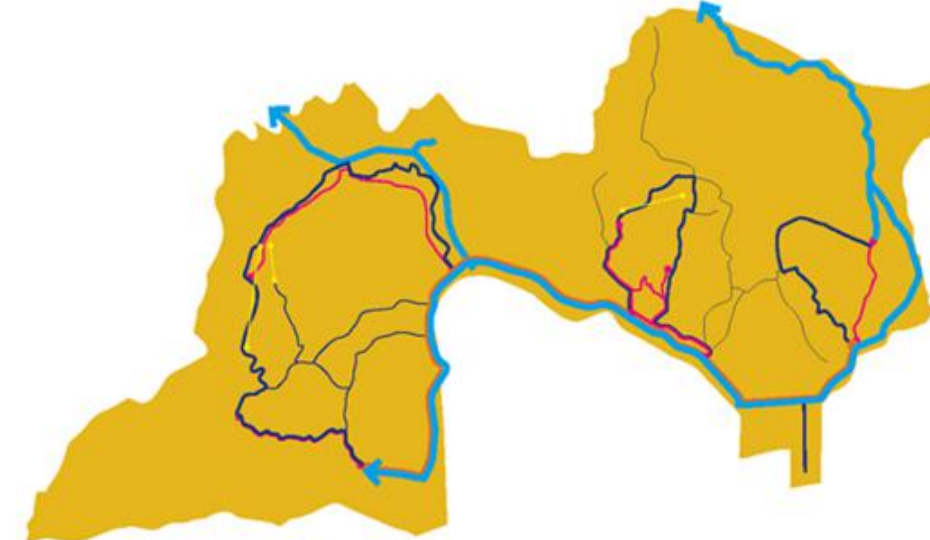
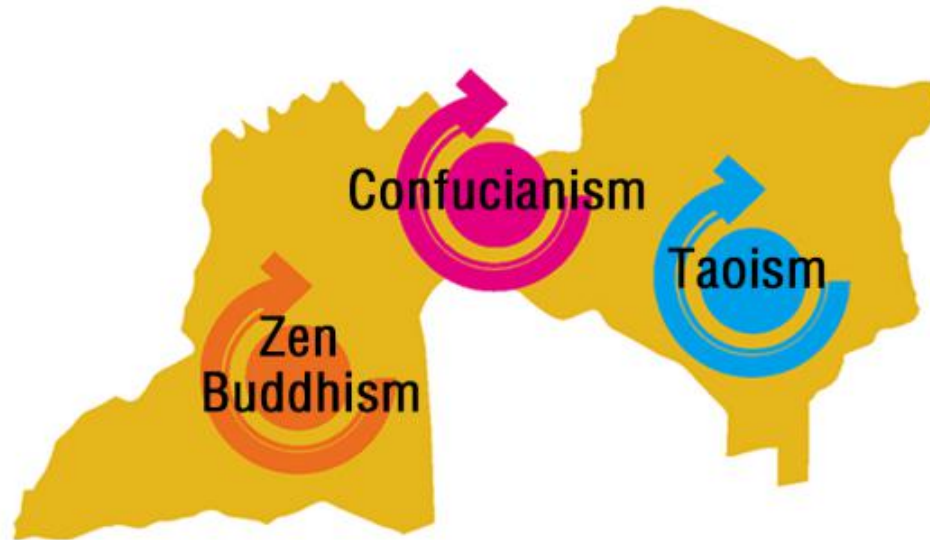
Qimu Que &
Chongfu Palace

- Realizing the Integration of culture and landscape of the Songshan Scenic Area
- Enhancing the experience function of scenic spots and expanding cultural connotation
- Enriching the charm of attractions and realizing the high-quality development of culture-tourism integration

• Prior to the improvement project, the environmental conditions were poor and the ecological resources were seriously damaged; the key historic architectures, threatened by natural and man-made factors, were separated by national highways and expressways, thus influencing the value and growth of local tourism. In accordance with the strict laws and regulations on the protection of cultural relics, the project has studied the development strategy of the Greater Songshan Mountain Area and proposed the vision of building Zhongyue National Park, so as to forge the cultural spirit and lay a solid foundation with ecological resources, optimize the tour routes and improve the supporting facilities of the scenic area. Renovation plans were put forward for the scenic spots according to their own landscape resource characteristics:

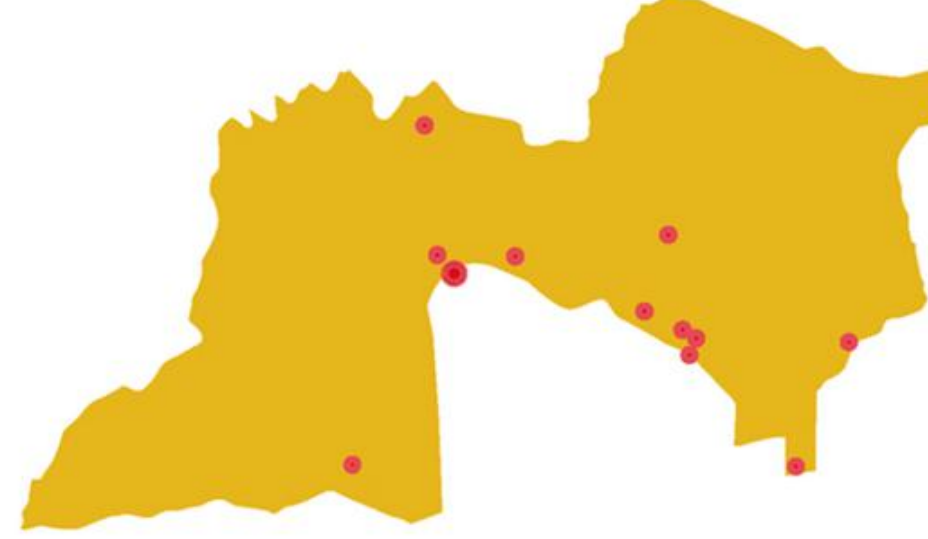
Multi-theme scenic spots

- Division of theme scenic spots
- Environmental renovation of scenic spots



Multiple service nodes

- Service node distribution level
- Upgrade of service facilities



Colorful tour line trails

- The theme swims the line to organize the network
- The traffic type is perfect
- Tour line environment improvement

92764 SqM



Yongtai Temple



Shaoshi Que

50587 SqM

55067 SqM



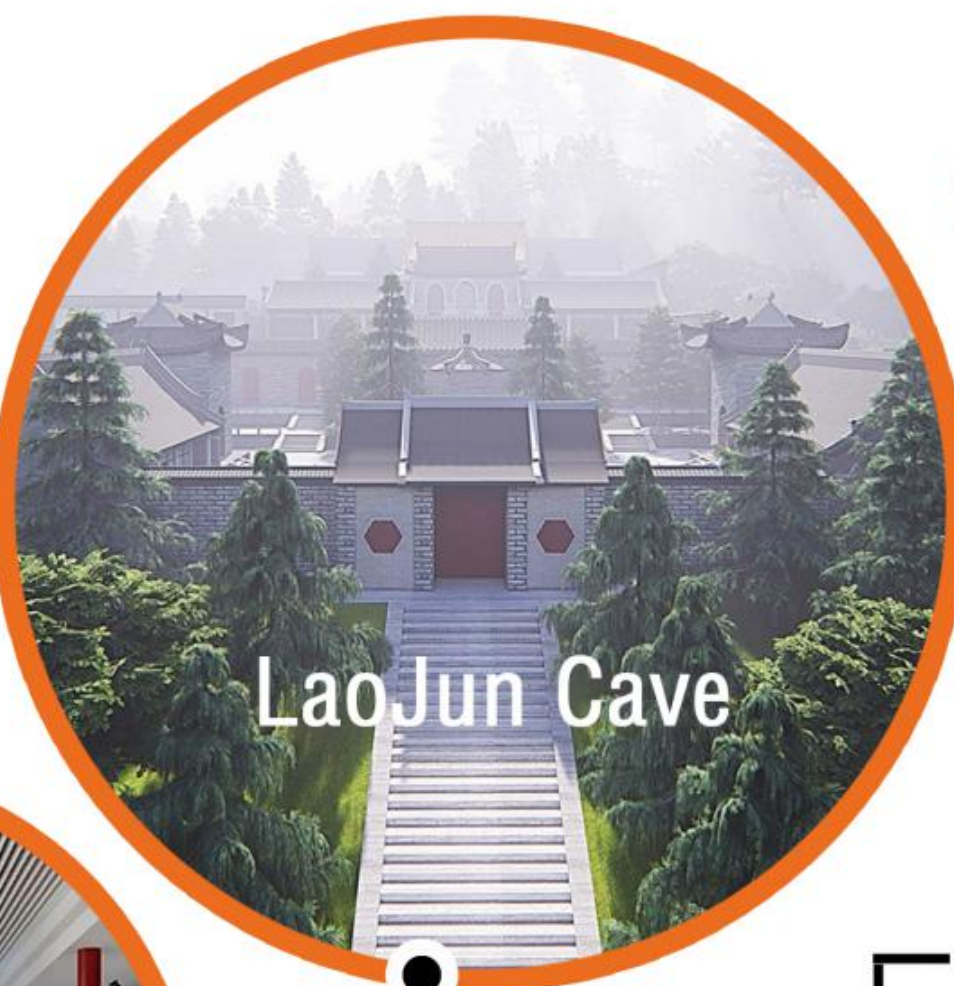
Huishan Temple

3797 SqM



Songyang Academy

10619 SqM



LaoJun Cave

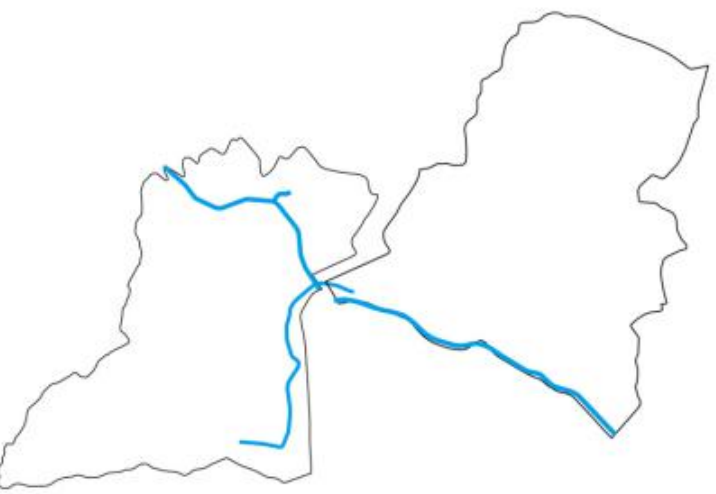
Chongfu Palace

Qimu Que

146122 SqM

Design Strategies:

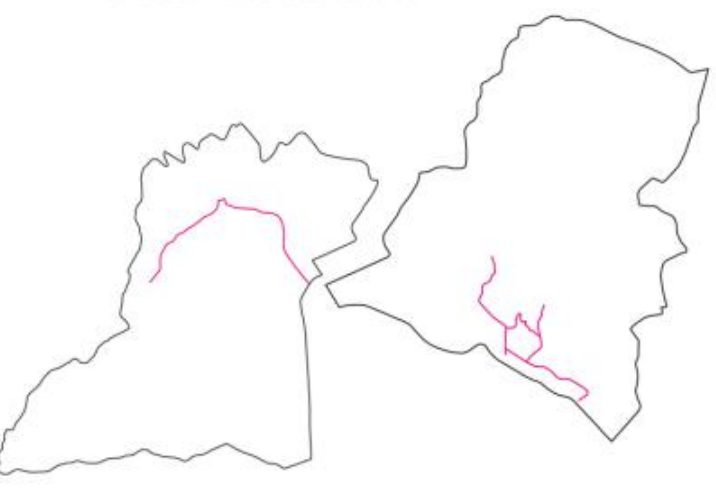
- Scenic Spot interconnectivity and demonstrative pilot area
- Axis reshaping and visual corridors
- Priority on the ecology and harmony of the landscape
- Artistic conception creation and cultural spirit shaping



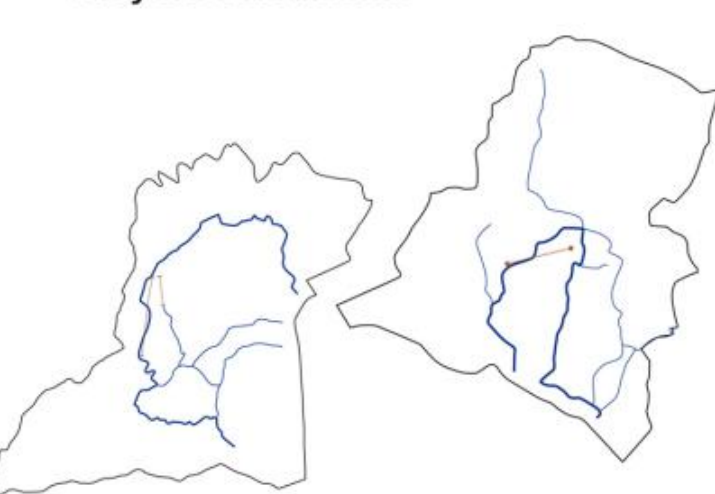
Tourist Boulevard



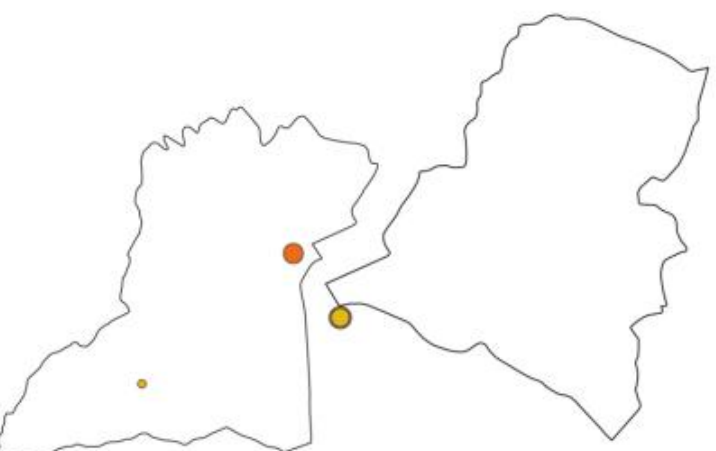
Bicycle streamline



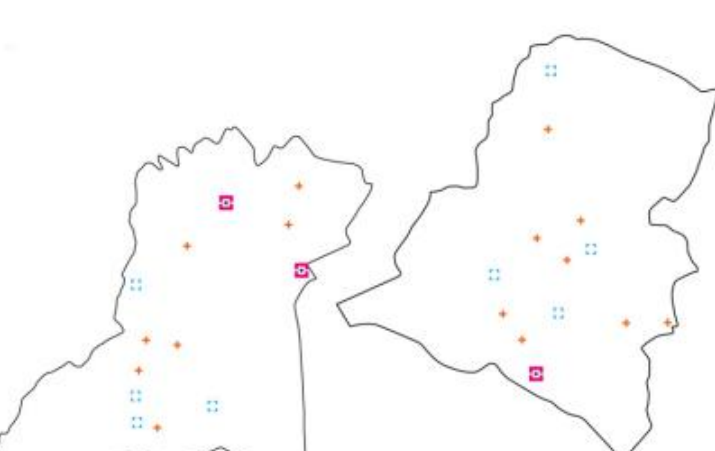
Battery car streamline



Walking Streamline



Visitor service center



Service points

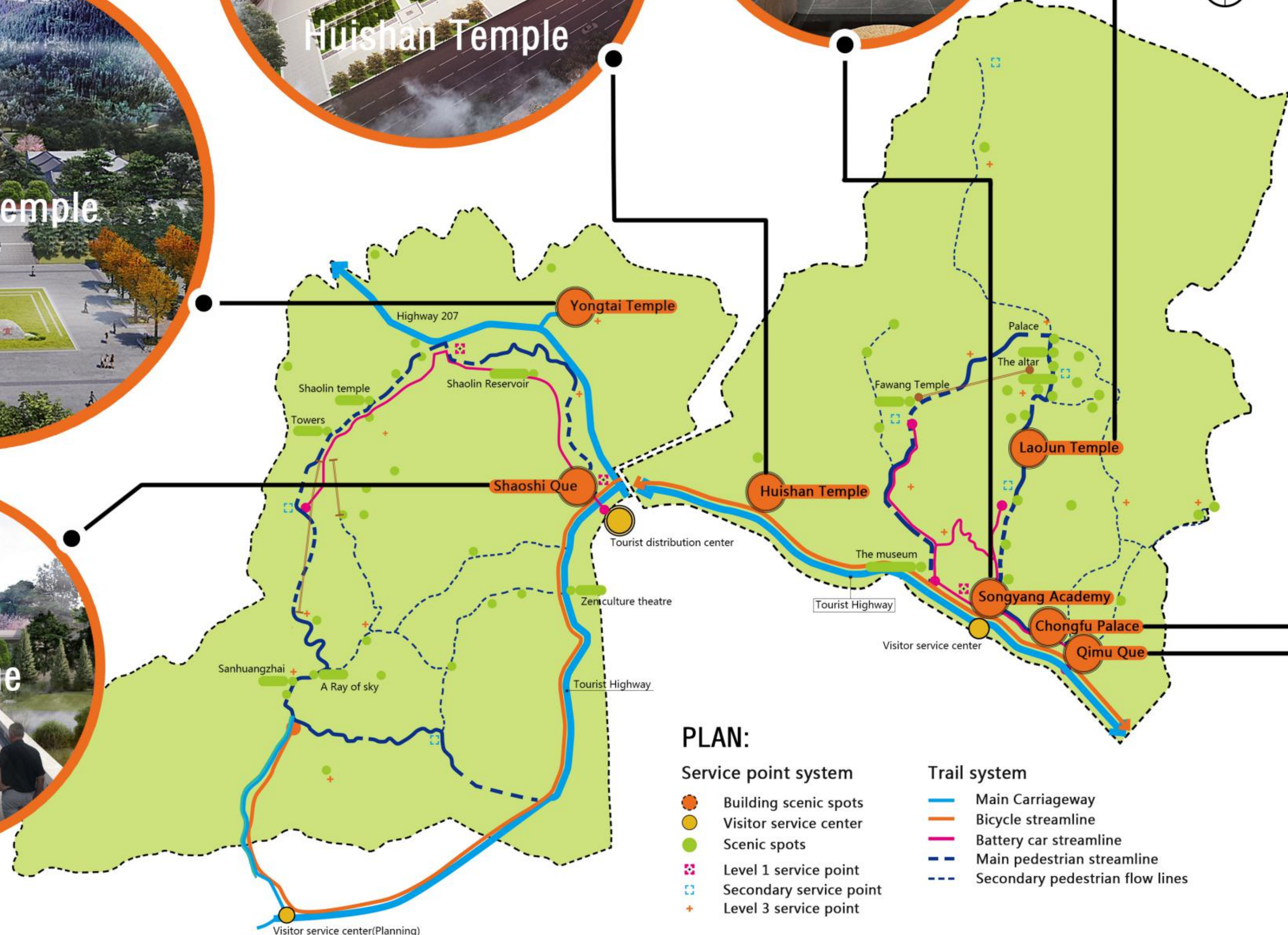
PLAN:

Service point system

- Building scenic spots
- Visitor service center
- Scenic spots
- Level 1 service point
- Secondary service point
- Level 3 service point

Trail system

- Main Carriageway
- Bicycle streamline
- Battery car streamline
- Main pedestrian streamline
- Secondary pedestrian flow lines

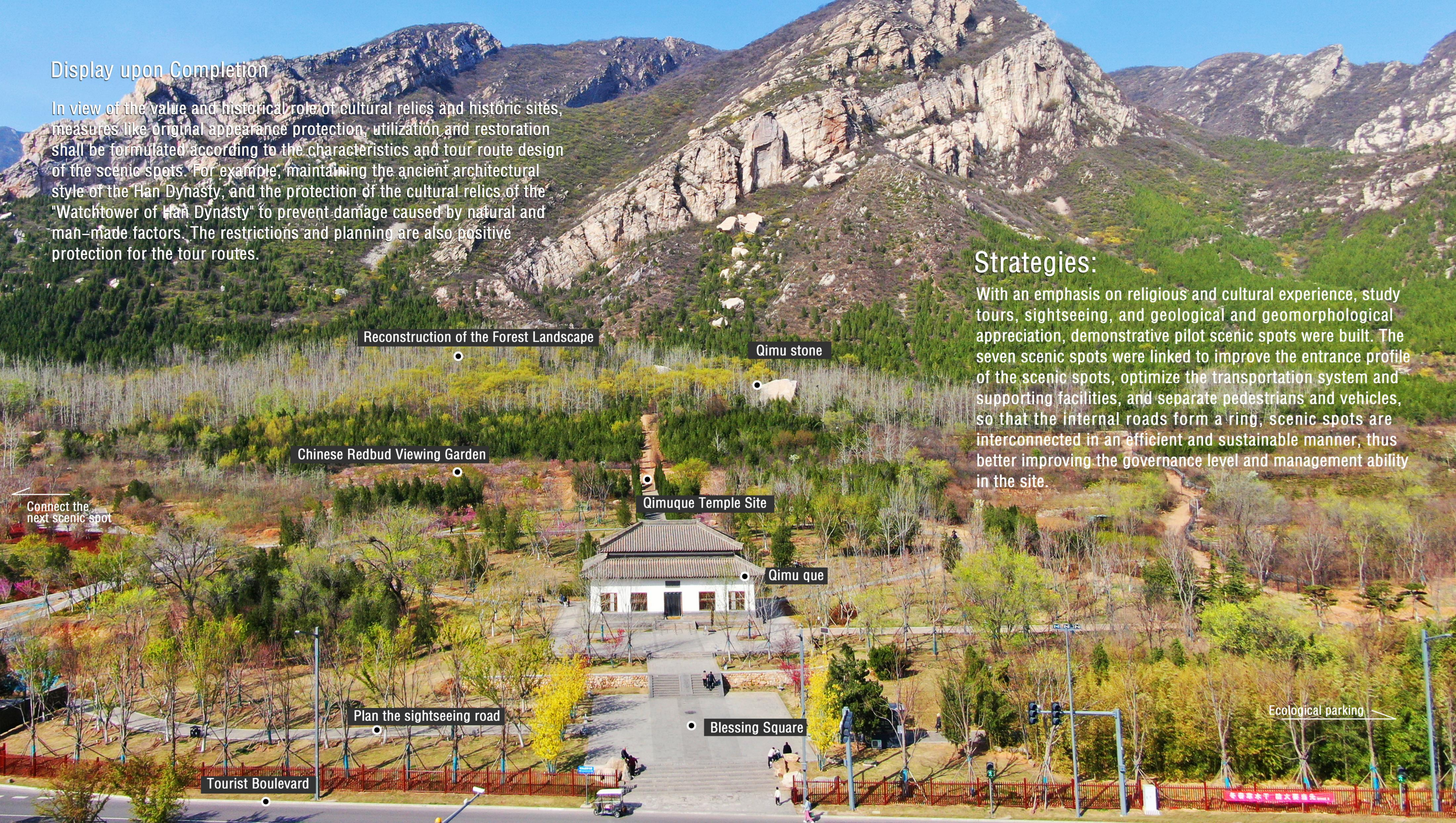


Display upon Completion

In view of the value and historical role of cultural relics and historic sites, measures like original appearance protection, utilization and restoration shall be formulated according to the characteristics and tour route design of the scenic spots. For example, maintaining the ancient architectural style of the Han Dynasty, and the protection of the cultural relics of the "Watchtower of Han Dynasty" to prevent damage caused by natural and man-made factors. The restrictions and planning are also positive protection for the tour routes.

Strategies:

With an emphasis on religious and cultural experience, study tours, sightseeing, and geological and geomorphological appreciation, demonstrative pilot scenic spots were built. The seven scenic spots were linked to improve the entrance profile of the scenic spots, optimize the transportation system and supporting facilities, and separate pedestrians and vehicles, so that the internal roads form a ring, scenic spots are interconnected in an efficient and sustainable manner, thus better improving the governance level and management ability in the site.



Connect the next scenic spot

Reconstruction of the Forest Landscape

Qimu stone

Chinese Redbud Viewing Garden

Qimuque Temple Site

Qimu que

Plan the sightseeing road

Blessing Square

Tourist Boulevard

Ecological parking

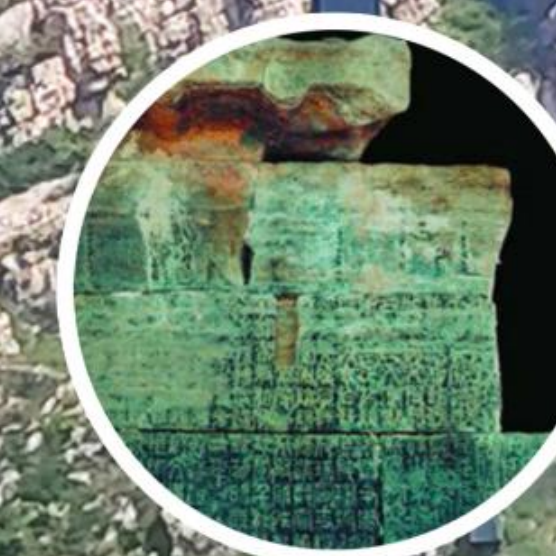


Before

Qimuque: It is located beside the tourist highway around Mount Songshan in Taishi Scenic Area. Qimuque is the sacrificial watchtower of the Qimu Temple. The plan attempted to optimize the relationship between the Qimuque architecture and the visual corridors of Qimu Stone, and proposed a repairing scheme for the appearance and internal structure of the architecture.



Blessing Square



"Han que" hidden in buildings



Qimu Stone



Display upon Completion



Before

H:3.37 metres



H:3.75 metres



Display upon Completion

-Axis reshaping and visual corridors

Build the central axis of heaven and earth, connect the sacrificial path between the sacrificial watchtowers, temples and mountains, so as to form a visual corridor with the unobstructed sight.

“Que”
(The gate of the mountain god)

Shaoshi Mountain
(Mount GOD)

Shaoshi Towers
(Mountain Gate)

Shaoshique: It is a key entrance area of Shaoshi Mountain and the best viewing spot to appreciate the magnificent mountain. The plan highlighted the central location of the Shaoshique Exhibition Hall and the visual corridors of the mountain, optimized the tourist service supporting facilities in the open space, in an attempt to absorb the essence of the Han Dynasty design style in the environmental decoration art of architecture and structures such as roads, bridges, pavilions and lamps.

Zen landscapes

Dry Creek

Park road
around the lake

Ecological revetment

Landscape lights

The way of God
(300 meters)

-Priority on the ecology and harmony of the landscape

We worked to give priority to ecological protection, greening construction, ecological environment improvement and the restoration of the natural scenery's historical features. We introduced the water to the park through the connection with the Shaolin River, reshaped the park landscape and diverted the water in a ring. The site now is equipped with ecological restoration functions and demonstrated a dry stream landscape in the dry season. Meanwhile, it created an open space for resting in the vast forests and grass slopes, which has increased the recreation experience of citizens and tourists, and also enriched the sightseeing content and expanded the horizon.



Before



Display upon Completion



Before

-Upper and lower linkage, entrance moving forward

Yongtai Temple: It is located beside the National Highway 207 of Taishi Mountain Scenic Area. The reconstruction plan focuses on planning religious functional spaces for special tourists, and optimizing parking services in the front square and indoor exhibitions, in an attempt to create a relatively independent scenic area with the theme of religious worship and Buddhism healthcare and recreation.

We created a symmetric entrance space along the central axis in heaven and earth. To broaden the visual corridor, so as to present the sacred mountain and historic architecture at first glance. The use of pine and cypress plants echoes the artistic conception of temple gardens, which closes the relationship between the sacred mountain and the temple and enhances the entrance display effect, memory points and sense of ceremony.



Mountain

God Mountain

Temple

Stone

The morphology of the sacred mountain echoes the scenes and stones

Landscape Stone

Before

after

Repair and protect the building

We created a symmetric entrance space along the central axis in heaven and earth

Display upon Completion

– Artistic conception creation and cultural spirit shaping.

Huishan Temple: It is situated in the Taishi Scenic Area. The plan sought to create a spatial layout of "five pavilions and ten scenes". The five pavilions are ascended step by step, echoing the realm of "Mingxin" (clearing minds), "Fochen" (Buddha Dust), "Jiandao" (enlightenment of Tao), "Poshen" (witnessing the 'nothingness') and "Mingjing" (clear minds). The ecological attractions on both sides are set to make tourists enjoy the enlightenment realm of mindfulness. In addition, a memorial hall for the scientist and eminent monk Yixing and a youth education base are also established in the area.



Before

We highlighted the "Zen and martial arts" culture in Shaoshi Mountain Scenic Area, the "Buddhism and Taoism" culture in Taishi Mountain Scenic Area and the "Confucianism" culture in Songyang Academy Scenic Area.



○ Monastic Republic of Mount Athos

○ Towering old trees

○ Buddha wall

Landscape lighting ○

○ Sacrificial Path and Mountain

Display upon Completion

We sought to protect the overall layout of the ancient buildings and attached importance to the historical and cultural artistic conception of the scenic area in terms of volume, color and form.



Display upon Completion

Display upon Completion

Research activities



The gate

Research activity place

Bookstore

Bookstore

Cultural Corridor

Cultural restaurant

Features Antique Street

Exhibition Hall for academic research

Art Lecture Hall

Creative shop

Towering old trees

Lecture Hall

Confucius Institute

Forest of steles

Cultural Bookstore

Cultural Corridor

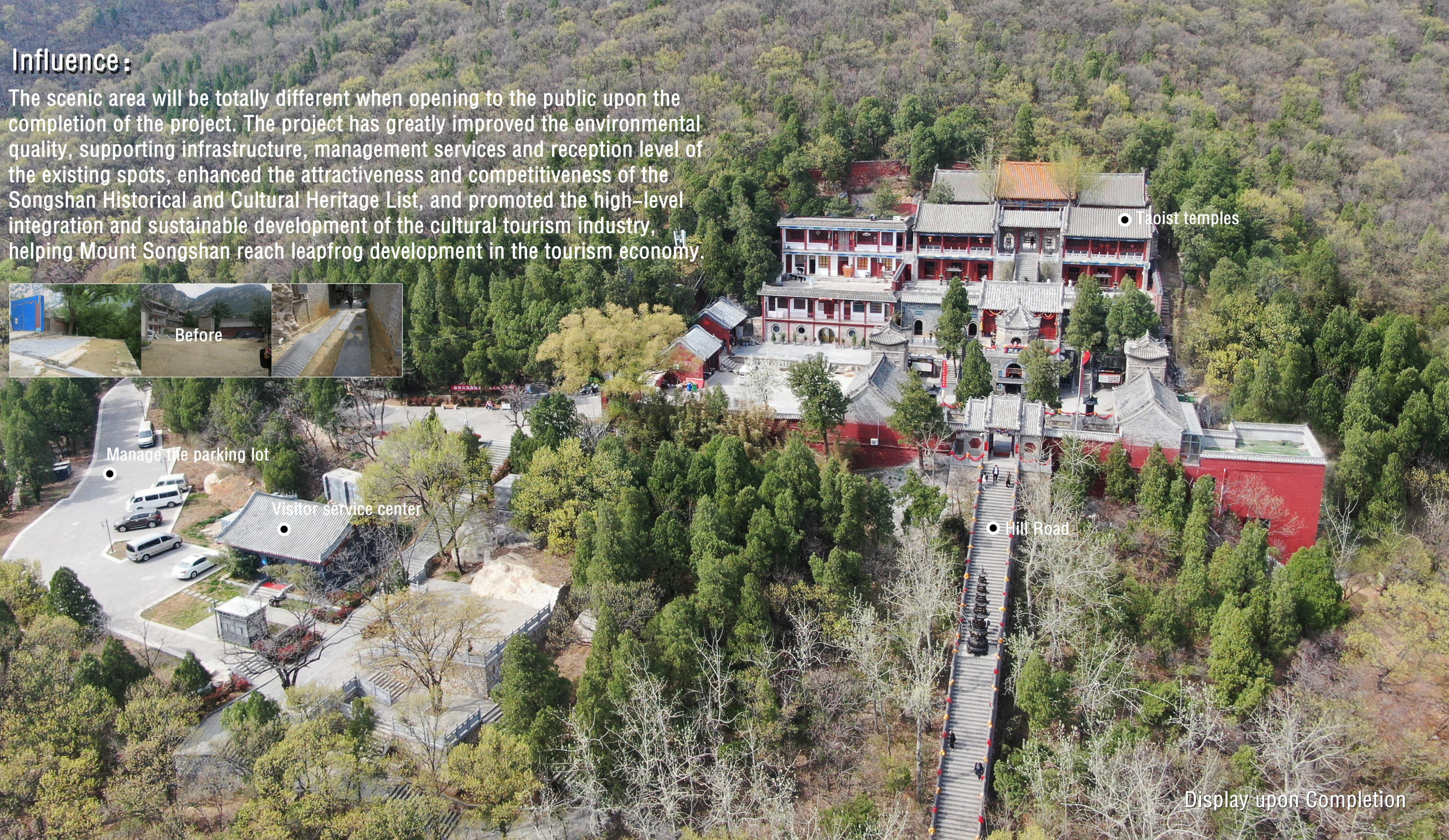
Songyang Academy: It is located in Songyang Scenic Area. The plan emphasized the overall layout of the Confucian Academy and optimized the content and form of the historical and cultural display space, so as to create a study tour venue for the inheritance of new Chinese studies for the external courtyard and internal exhibition of the academy.

We worked to upgrade the supporting facilities of the scenic area, on the foundation of the existing buildings, add multi-functional spaces such as ancient-style bookstores, art lecture halls, study tour classrooms and cultural curation halls, so as to display the Songshan culture in an all-around manner by means of sorting out and producing pictures, cultural relics, books, models, movies and PPT reflecting the historical and cultural connotations.

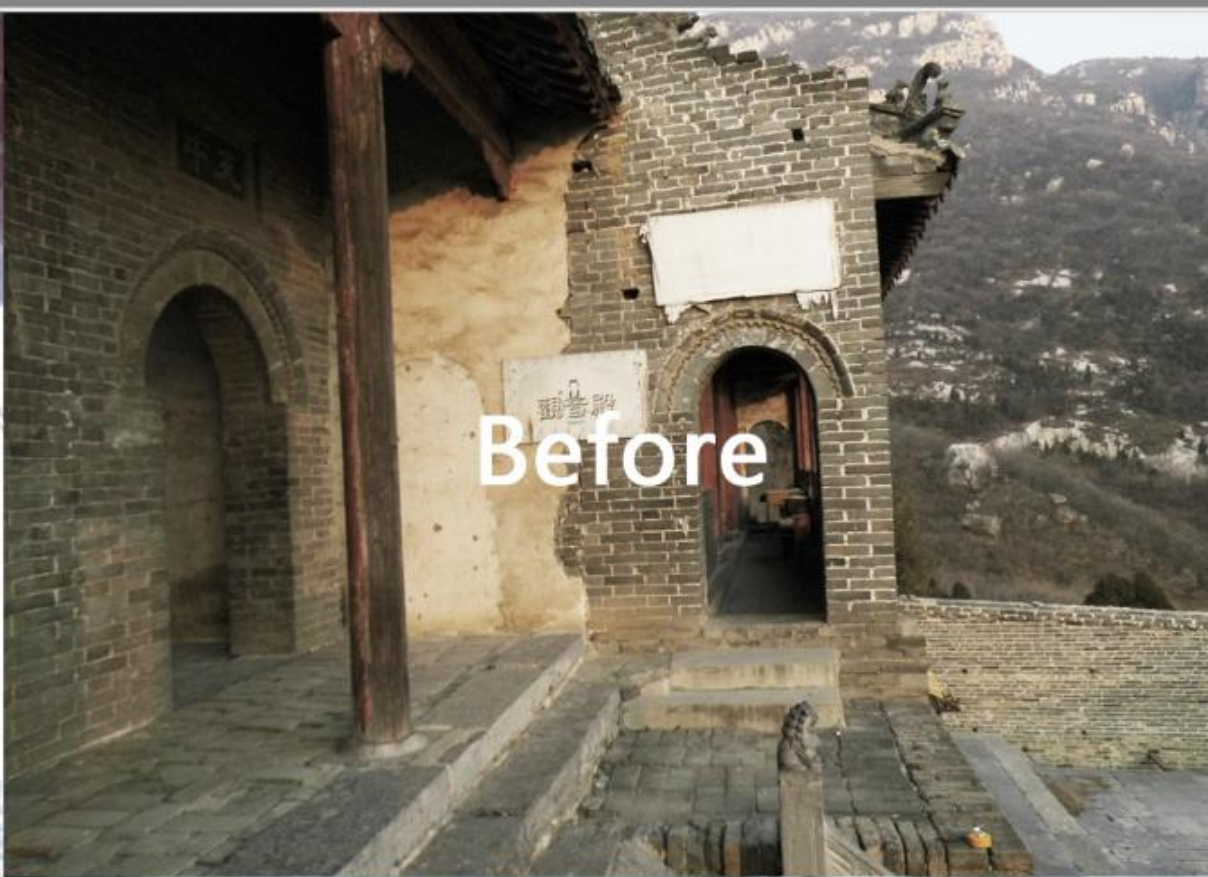
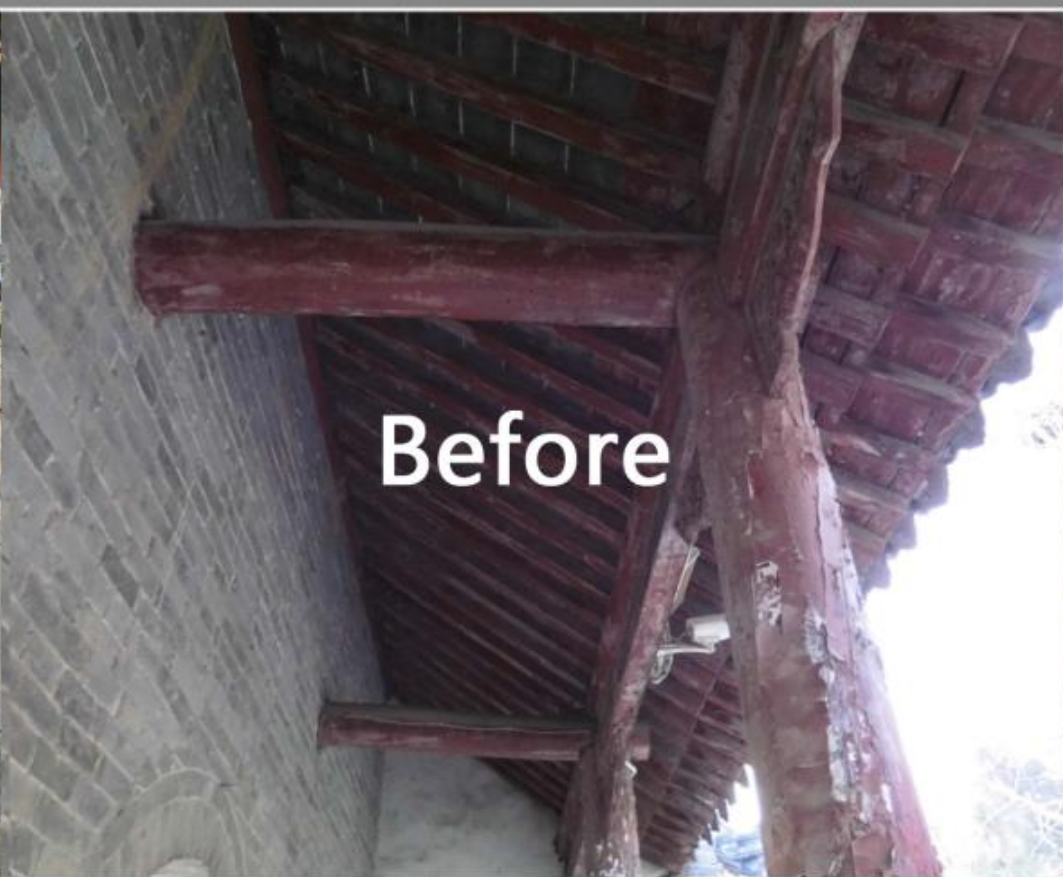
Through activities such as study tour classrooms, Confucian forums, and ceremonial experience and participation, we aim to inherit

Influence:

The scenic area will be totally different when opening to the public upon the completion of the project. The project has greatly improved the environmental quality, supporting infrastructure, management services and reception level of the existing spots, enhanced the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Songshan Historical and Cultural Heritage List, and promoted the high-level integration and sustainable development of the cultural tourism industry, helping Mount Songshan reach leapfrog development in the tourism economy.

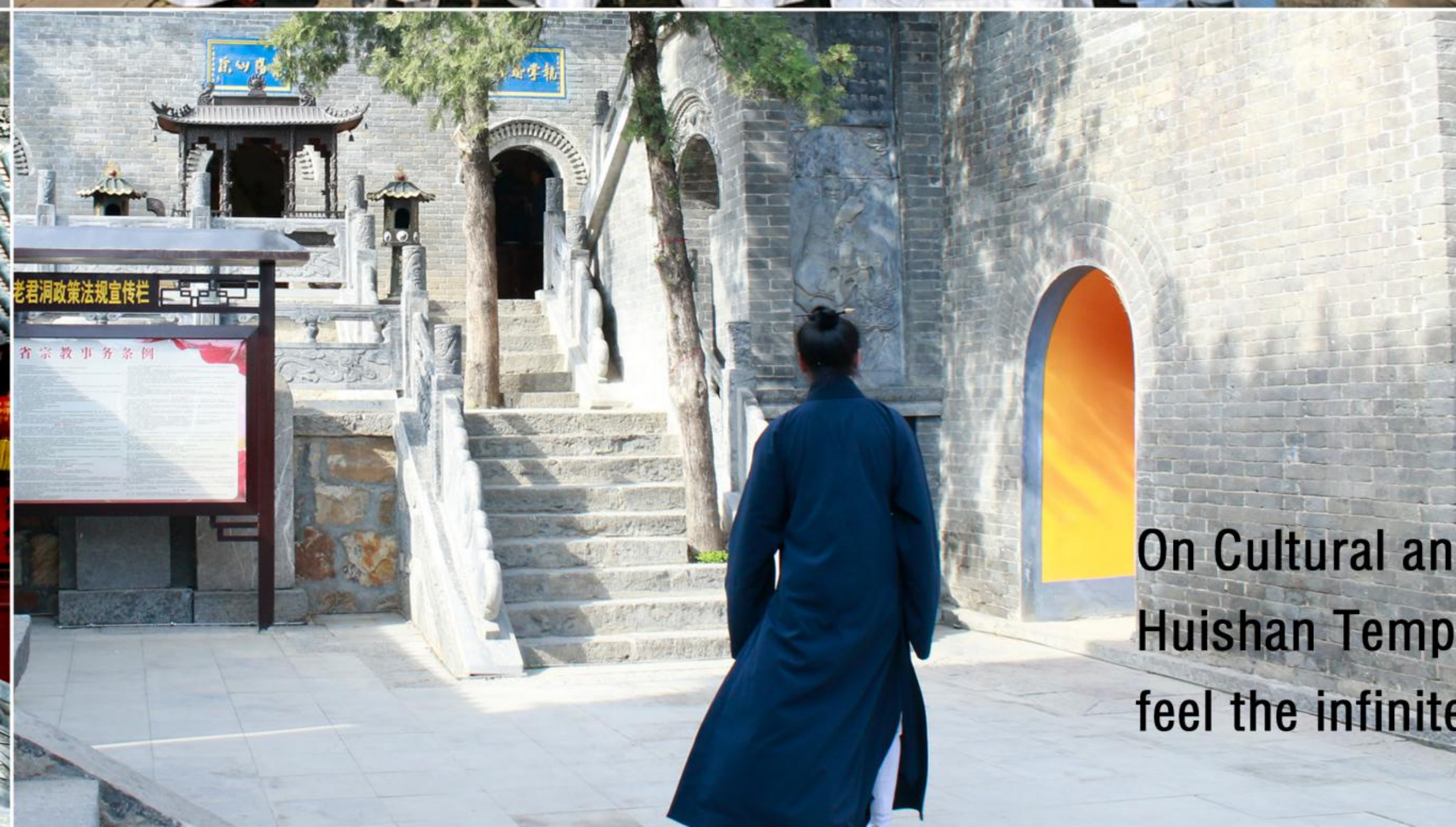
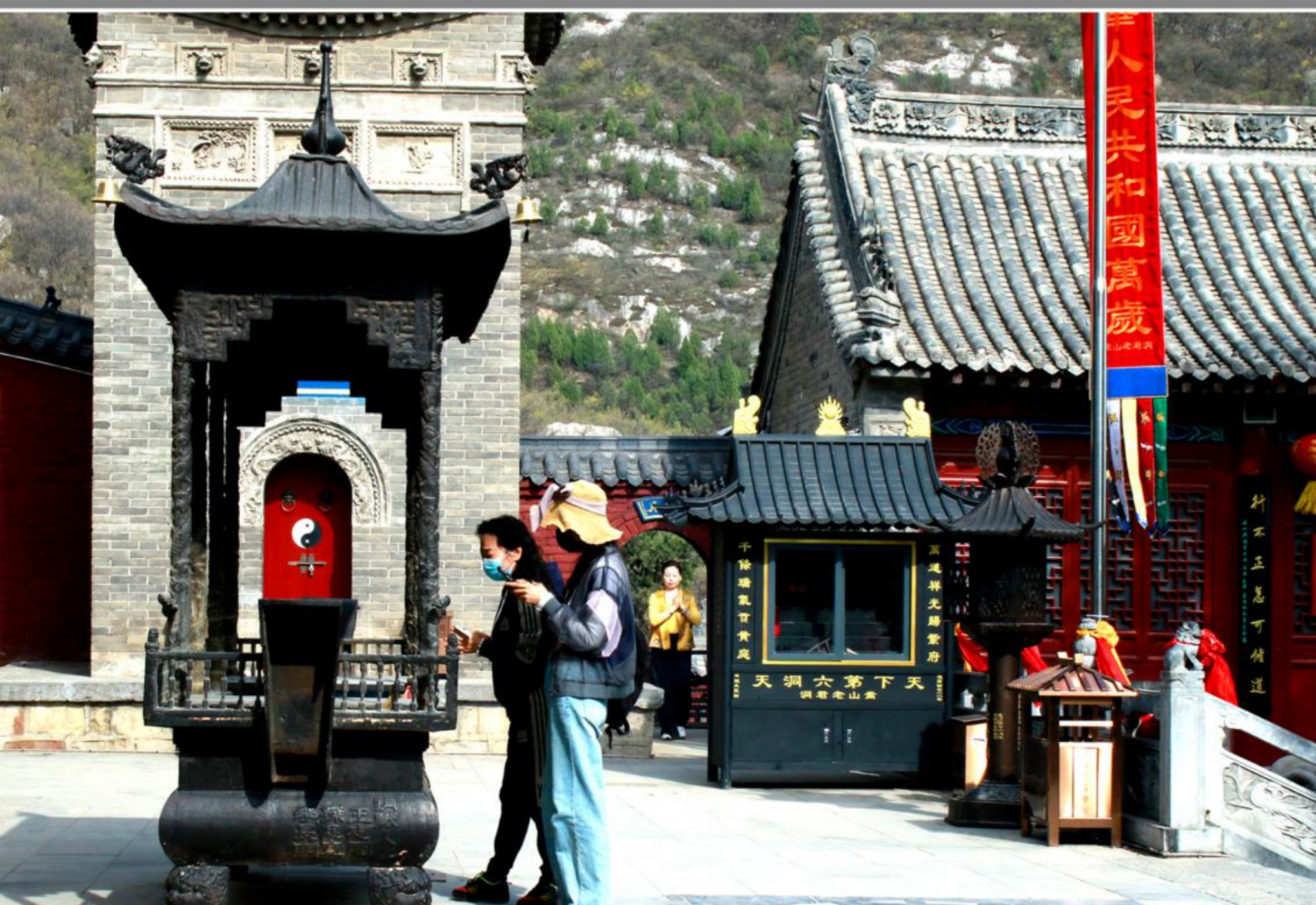


The plan combined the protection and restoration of cultural relics architecture to upgrade the supporting services for recreation and provided warm sightseeing space for people climbing mountains and praying for blessings. We sought to protect the overall layout of the ancient buildings and attached importance to the historical and cultural artistic conception of the scenic area in terms of volume, color and form.





The "Confucius Worship Ceremony" was held at Songyang Academy on June 12, 2021. Tourists in Hanfu cloth participated in the Worship Ceremony of Confucius, a sage of Confucianism, to feel Confucian culture with minds.



On Cultural and Natural Heritage Day which fell on June 12, 2021, scenic spots such as Shaoshique, Huishan Temple and Qimuque have been renovated, and they were opened to the public for tourists to feel the infinite charm of world cultural heritage and Chinese civilization.