

# **SHANTANG STREET AND RIVERSIDE CONSERVATION**



## PROJECT LOCATION

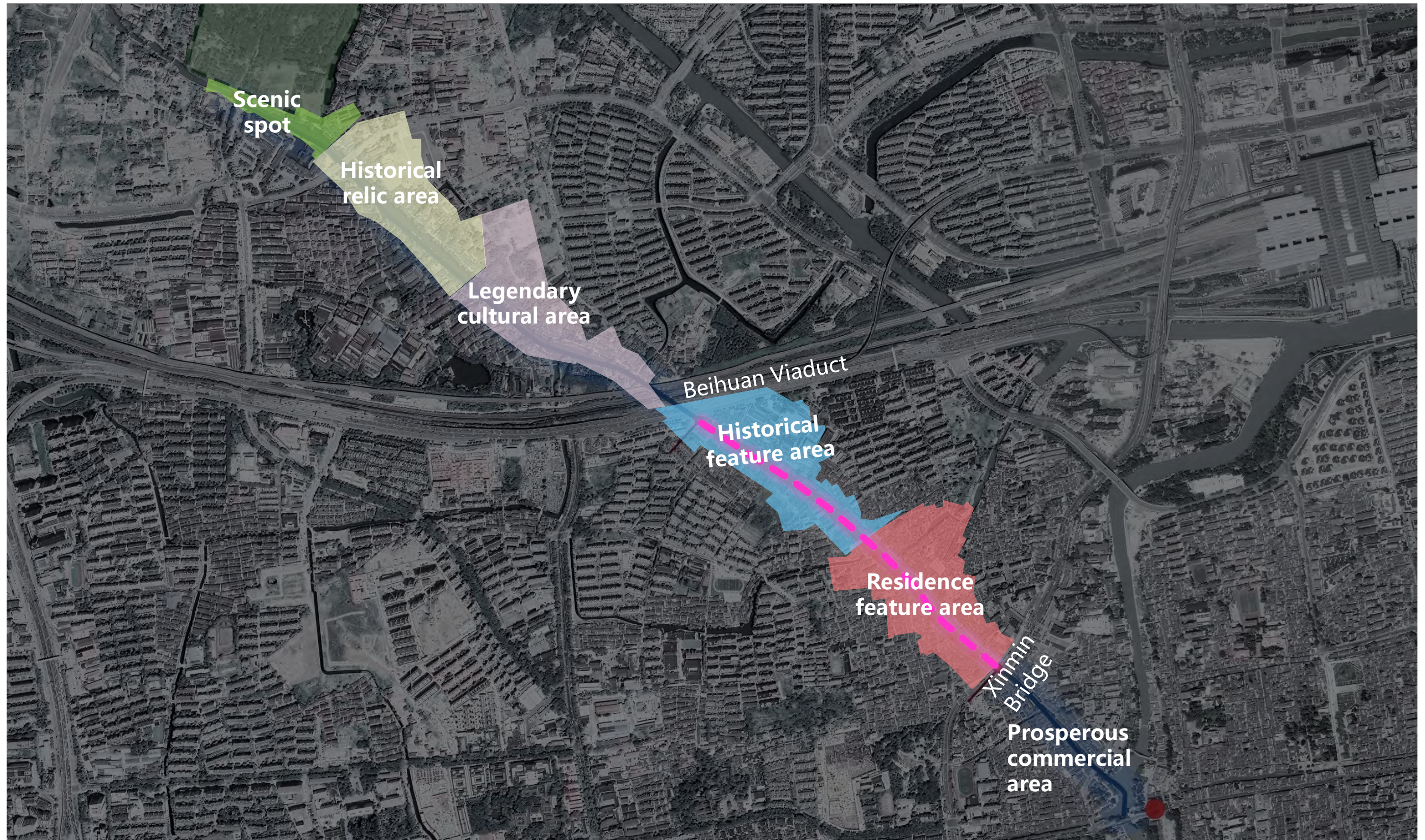
SHANTANG STREET IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF SUZHOU, KNOWN AS "A LIVING THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD STREET". IN 825 AD WHICH IS THE TANG DYNASTY OF CHINA, BAI JUYI, A FAMOUS ANCIENT CHINESE POET, WAS APPOINTED AS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF SUZHOU. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE WATER AND LAND TRANSPORTATION IN SUZHOU, HE EXCAVATED A SHANTANG RIVER FROM CHANGMEN IN THE EAST TO HUQIU IN THE WEST, AND BUILT A ROAD, SHANTANG STREET, ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE RIVER. SHANTANG RIVER AND SHANTANG STREET HAVE A TOTAL LENGTH OF ABOUT 3.6 KILOMETERS. SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THEY HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS "THE NO. 1 NEIGHBORHOOD IN SUZHOU". THEY WERE ONCE ONE OF THE MOST DEVELOPED COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOODS IN CHINA DURING THE MING AND QING DYNASTIES.





# FUNCTIONAL DIVISION

SHANTANG RIVER IS THE MAIN CHANNEL THAT ENTERS THE ANCIENT CITY OF SUZHOU FROM THE NORTHWEST OF THE BEIJING-HANGZHOU GRAND CANAL. SHANTANG STREET AND RIVER AREA IS AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROTECTION BLOCK IN SUZHOU. IN 2012, IT WAS INCLUDED IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AS THE ICONIC SUZHOU SECTION OF THE BEIJING-HANGZHOU GRAND CANAL.





## SITE EVOLUTION



*1940*



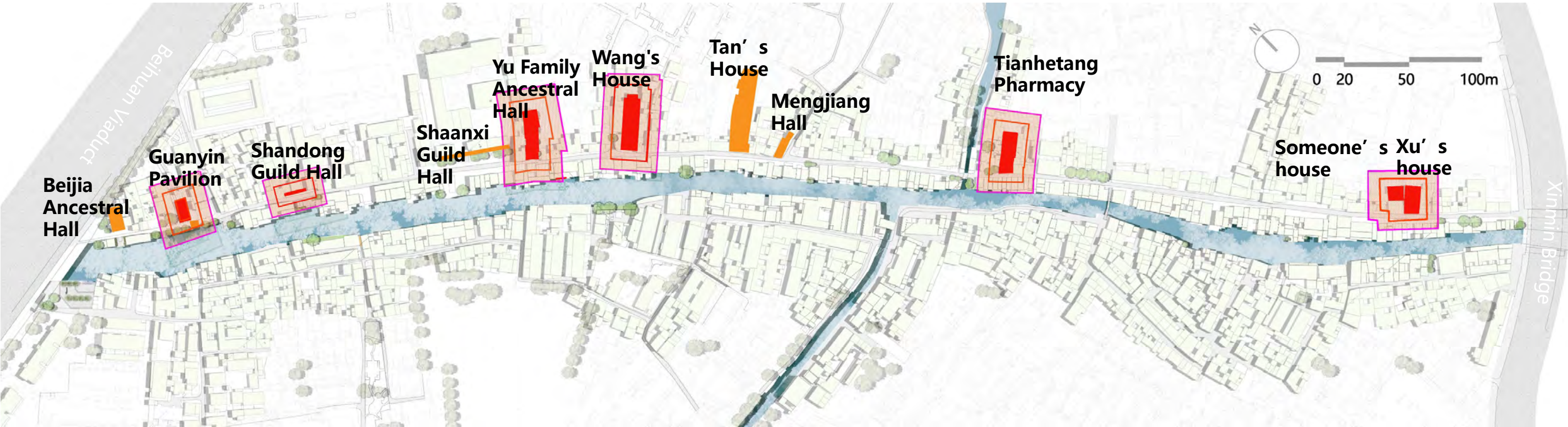
*1966*



# DISTRIBUTION PLAN OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

## CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

- (1) INTEGRITY  
THE BASIC PATTERN OF "SHUICHENG ANCIENT STREET" AND "RIVER STREET PARALLEL" ALONG THE LINE AND THE TRADITIONAL FEATURES OF "LITTLE BRIDGES AND FLOWING WATER" AND "PINK WALLS AND DARK TILE" FULLY REFLECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE HISTORICAL FEATURES.
- (2) AUTHENTICITY  
THERE ARE MANY CULTURAL RELICS AND HISTORIC SITES ALONG THE SHANTANG RIVER. THERE ARE 11 CULTURAL PRESERVATION UNITS AT THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS, 16 MUNICIPAL-LEVEL CONTROL AND PROTECTION BUILDINGS, 9 ANCIENT ARCHES, MORE THAN 40 OTHER HISTORIC SITES, MANY EXCELLENT HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND WELL-PRESERVED TRADITIONAL DWELLINGS, WATER LANES AND STREET MARKETS, ETC. EMPEROR QIANLONG AND KANGXI OF THE QING DYNASTY AND MANY FAMOUS LITERATI AND WRITERS HAVE VISITED SHANTANG, AND THERE ARE STILL MORE THAN 300 POEMS FROM THE TANG DYNASTY TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT FULLY REFLECTS THE AUTHENTICITY OF HISTORICAL RELICS.
- (3) CONTINUITY  
THE TRADITIONAL DWELLINGS ARE DENSE, AND 100% OF THE LOCAL ABORIGINES LIVE BY THE RIVER AND FACE EACH OTHER, AND STILL RETAIN THE TRADITIONAL LIVING CUSTOMS, WHICH FULLY REFLECTS THE CONTINUITY OF HISTORICAL LIFE.



SHANDONG GUILD HALL



SHAANXI GUILD HALL



BEIJIA ANCESTRAL HALL

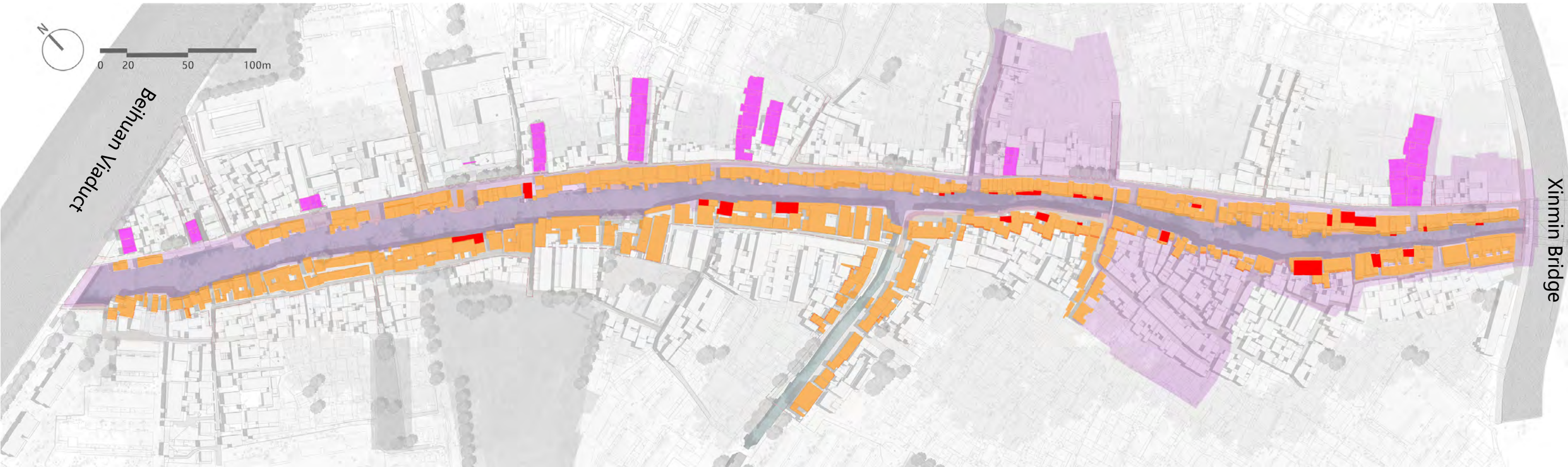
## LEGEND

- The red line of the protection area
- The purple line of the protection area
- The protected buildings
- The historical site



# CURRENT SITUATION OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLE PROTECTION

CONDITIONS BEFORE CONSERVATION: (1) THE ORIGINAL NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERN AND HISTORICAL FEATURES ARE MAINTAINED, AND THE OVERALL FEATURES ARE WELL PROTECTED. THE OVERALL STYLE AND APPEARANCE OF THE BUILDING FACADES ALONG THE RIVER IS WELL PROTECTED, BUT THERE ARE A FEW BUILDINGS THAT ARE NOT IN HARMONY WITH THE STYLE AND APPEARANCE SCATTERED ALONG THE RIVERSIDE FACADE AND WITHIN THE LINE OF SIGHT.



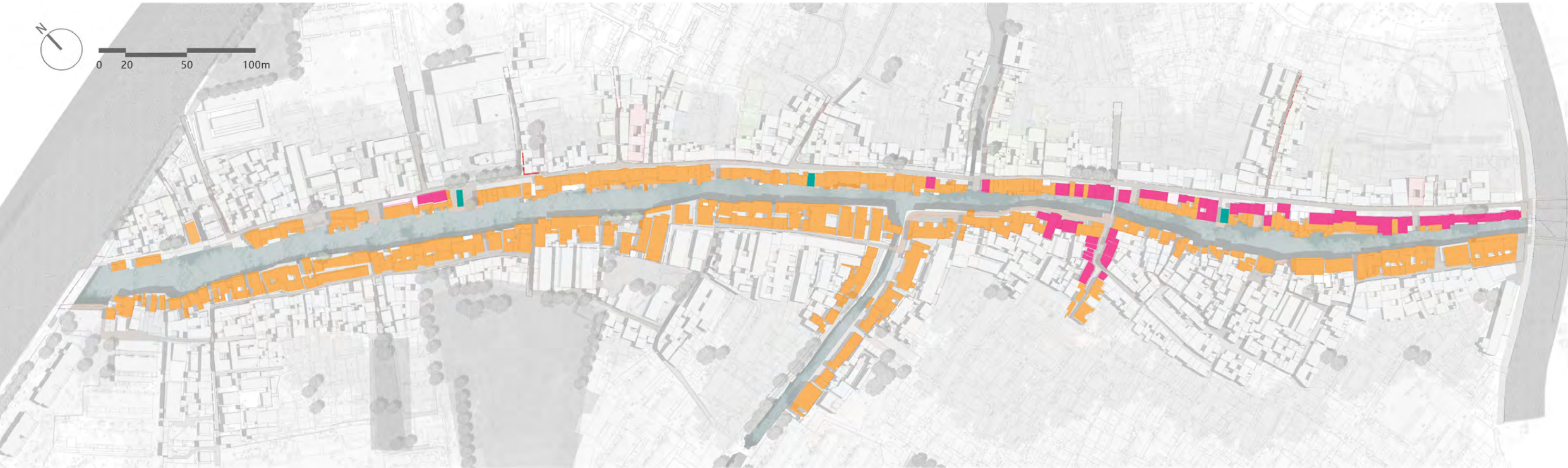
## LEGEND

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Boundaries of core protected areas      | Buildings with traditional facades and basically intact structures     |
| Protected buildings and historic relics | Buildings whose facades and structures are incompatible with tradition |



# DISTRIBUTION PLAN OF BUILDING FUNCTIONS

- (2) THE LOCAL ABORIGINES ARE 100%, AND THE FACADES ALONG THE RIVER ARE BASICALLY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.
- (3) COMPLETE THE BASIC RAIN AND SEWAGE SEPARATION. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE HIGH WATER TABLE, THE WIRES CANNOT ENTER THE GROUND.
- (4) THE CONSTRUCTION YEAR OF THE BUILDING WAS IN BOTH THE QING DYNASTY AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS SUCH AS ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION. THE OVERALL FEELING IS SHABBY AND DIRTY.

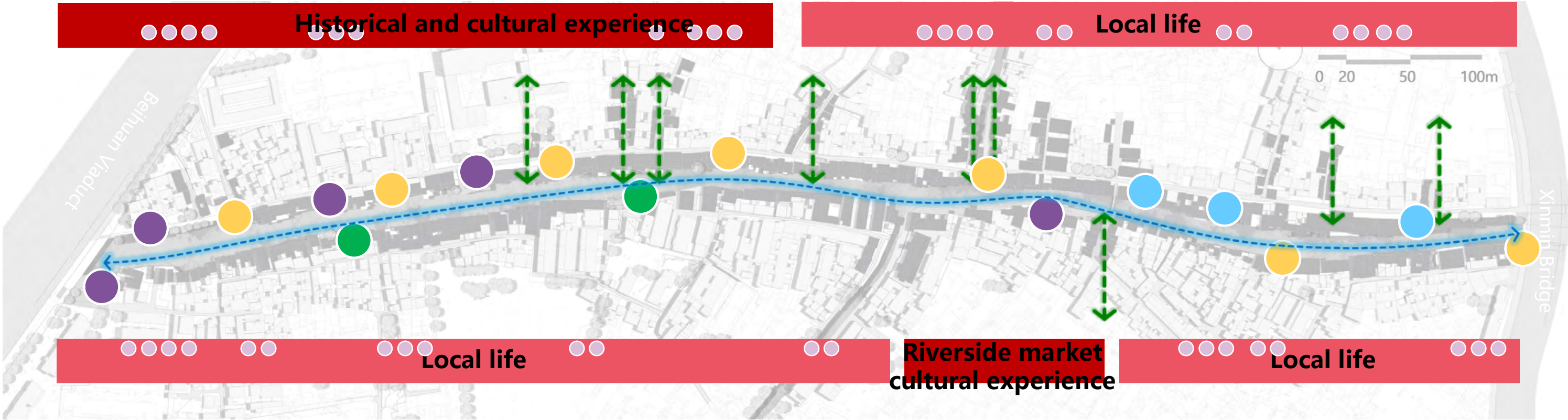


**LEGEND**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Washroom



THE DESIGN FRAMEWORK



**The design framework:  
One cultural tour line, two sections of riverside style, three types of landscape nodes, nine  
alleys in the town**

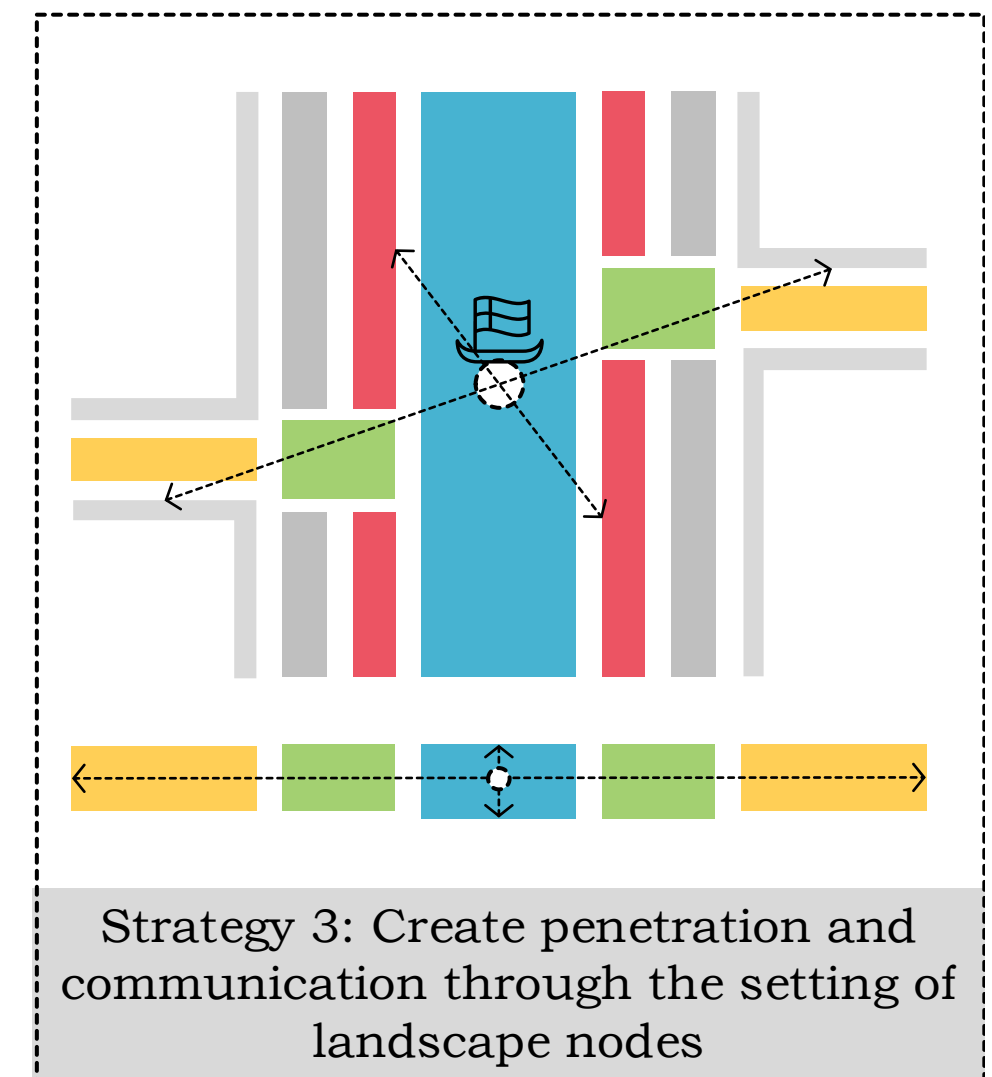
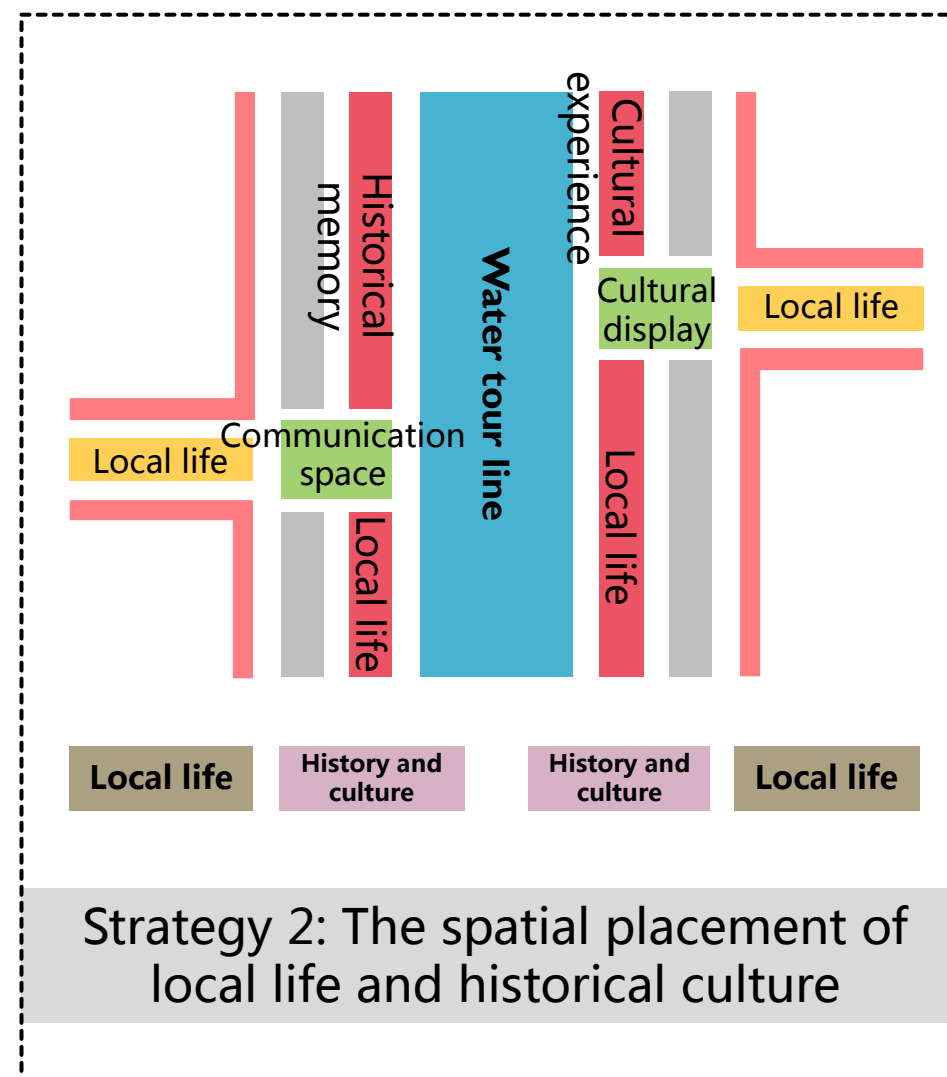
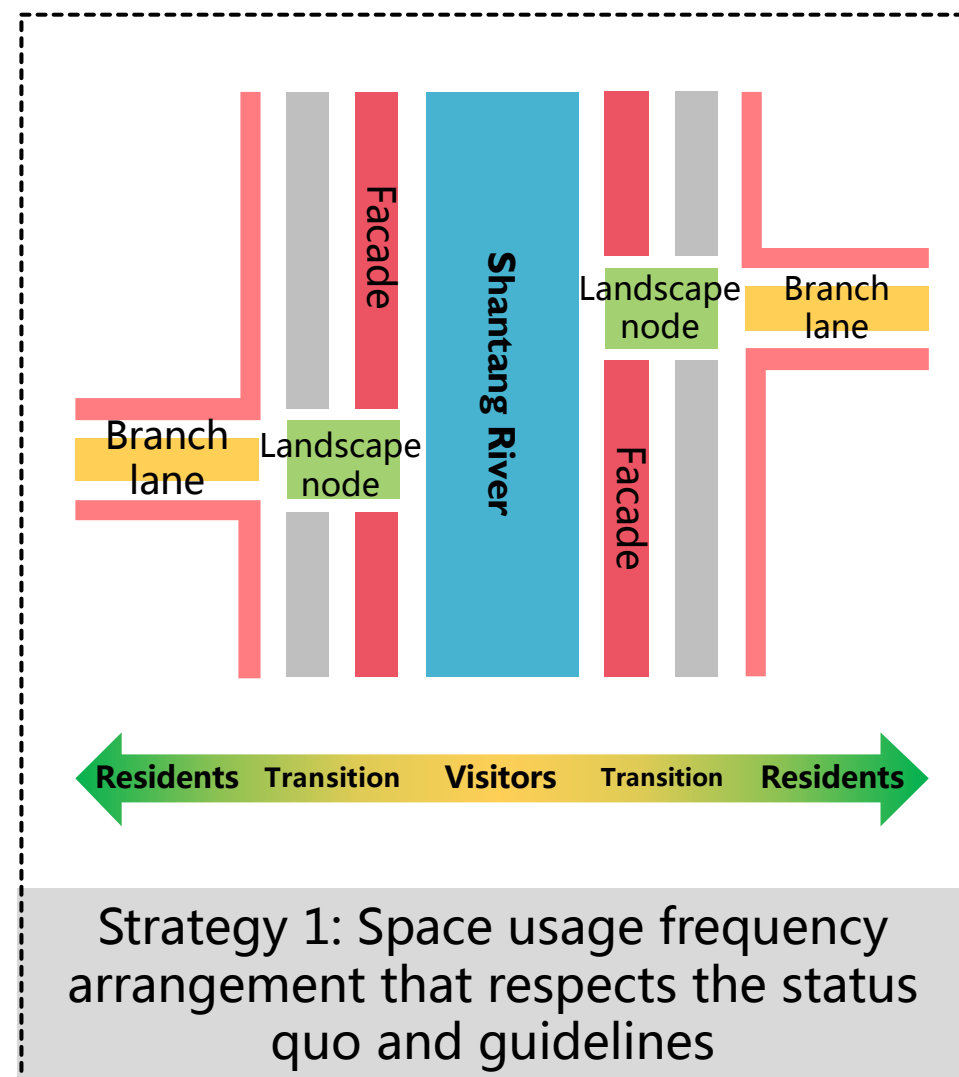


## The Perspective of Everyday Urban Heritage

Basic concept of Heritage Protection-authenticity, integrity

Residents' Perspective - Phase 3 - Internal Living Needs  
**Pleasant communication space,  
historical memory of the place**

Visitors' perspective - Phase 3 - external tourism needs  
**Vivid life scenes, readable history and  
culture**





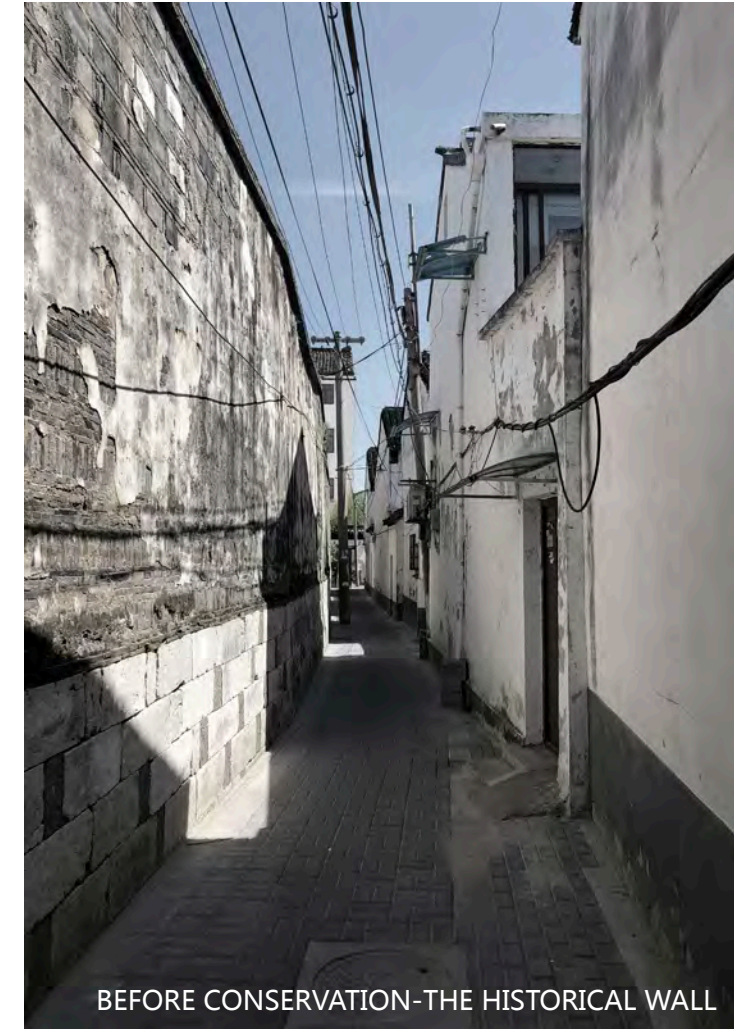
# SITE STATUS



BEFORE CONSERVATION-XINGQIAO XIATANG



BEFORE CONSERVATION-XUEJIAWAN



BEFORE CONSERVATION-THE HISTORICAL WALL



BEFORE CONSERVATION-XINGQIAO XIATANG



BEFORE CONSERVATION-XINMIN BRIDGE NODE



BEFORE CONSERVATION-XINMIN BRIDGE NODE



PROJECT MASTER PLAN





## DESIGN SKETCH





# CONSTRUCTION PROCESS





## **DESIGN CONCEPT**

OUR DESIGN SITE IS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE SECTION OF SHANTANG RIVER, CONNECTING THE WESTERN AND EASTERN SECTIONS OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT. IT IS A TRANSITIONAL AREA FROM THE PROSPEROUS CITY SCENERY TO THE RURAL PASTORAL SCENERY, AND IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT SECTION IN THE SHANTANG HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

IN THE CONSERVATION AND RENOVATION OF THIS PROJECT, THE ORIGINAL RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS ARE THE IMPORTANT MAIN SUBJECT, THE ELEVATION LANDSCAPE OF SHANTANG RIVER AND BOTH SIDES IS IMPROVED BASED ON PROTECTION OF THE AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY OF CITIZENS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HERITAGE. IT TRULY REFLECTS THE SUZHOU CHARACTERISTICS THAT PEOPLE LIVE BY WATER AND GRASS, AND THE CITY IS BUILT ON THE RIVER.

THEREFORE, OUR CONSERVATION AND RENOVATION FACE A UNIQUE ISSUE: HOW CAN THE RENOVATION OF THE OLD CITY RIVERSIDE ALLOW TOURISTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS TO SHARE THE WATERFRONT SPACE? HOW TO PRESERVE AND LET VISITORS EXPERIENCE THE AUTHENTIC LIFESTYLE OF CITIZENS BY THE RIVER?

WE SORTED OUT THE OVERALL PROJECT FRAMEWORK IN THE COMPLEX SITE: A CULTURAL TOUR LINE, TWO SECTIONS OF RIVERSIDE STYLE, THREE TYPES OF LANDSCAPE NODES, AND NINE ALLEYS, SO AS TO IDENTIFY DESIGN GOALS FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS SEPARATELY:

(1) RESIDENTS' PERSPECTIVE - INTERNAL LIVING NEEDS: PLEASANT COMMUNICATION SPACE, HISTORICAL MEMORY OF THE PLACE

(2) VISITORS' PERSPECTIVE - EXTERNAL TOURISM NEEDS: VIVID LIFE SCENES, READABLE HISTORY AND CULTURE

## **THE DESIGN SOLVES THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS:**

THE DESIGN FOLLOWS THREE MAJOR METHODS OF REMEDIATION: RETENTION, DEMOLITION, AND UPGRADING.

AMONG THEM, "RETENTION (CONSERVATION)" INCLUDES THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE ALONG THE RIVER; THE PRESERVATION OF THE WATER TOWN SYMBOLS AND THE RHYTHM OF THE FACADES OF THE BUILDINGS ALONG THE RIVER; AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE URBAN LIVING STYLE IN THE SMALL ALLEYS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

"DEMOLITION" INCLUDES DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL SHEDS, TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND SIMPLE HOUSES; DANGEROUS PARTS, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES WITH POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARDS, AND WATERFRONT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES THAT AFFECT THE SAFETY OF BOATS ON THE SHANTANG RIVER; AS WELL AS THE UNCOORDINATED PARTS, AUXILIARY BUILDINGS AND OTHER BUILDINGS THAT CANNOT BE COORDINATED WITH THE STYLE AND APPEARANCE THROUGH LOCAL CHANGES. GUIDELINES FOR DEMOLITION HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR OWNERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH RESIDENTS.

"UPGRADING" METHODS INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT OF LANDSCAPE NODES, GREENING, AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, WHICH FOCUS ON SOLVING CLUTTER AND FUNCTIONAL PROBLEMS. THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT ENHANCES THE STYLE AND CULTURAL FUNCTIONS OF STREETS AND ALLEYS, AND THE DESIGN ALSO UPGRADES NIGHT LIGHTING AND STREET FURNITURE, ETC.

AS A PUBLIC WELFARE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT, OUR DESIGN METHOD EMPHASIZES MICRO-RENEWAL, MICRO-INTERVENTION AND LOW COST. DIFFERENT FROM THE STRONG COMMERCIAL ATMOSPHERE OF SOME SCENIC SPOTS, WE PREFER TO BUILD A DAILY LIVING PLACE. THEREFORE, IN THE DESIGN, WE PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON LOCAL RESIDENTS. ON THE BASIS OF MEETING THEIR LIVING NEEDS, WE INTEGRATE NEW DYNAMIC SPACES SO THAT TOURISTS CAN COME TO VISIT AND FEEL THIS UNIQUE SHANTANG HISTORIC RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD.







PARTIAL BIRD'S-EYE VIEW-SHAANXI GUILD HALL SECTION





PARTIAL BIRD'S-EYE VIEW-XIATANG XINGQIAO





PARTIAL BIRD'S-EYE VIEW-TONGQIAO HISTORIC SITE SECTION





PARTIAL BIRD'S-EYE VIEW





PARTIAL BIRD'S-EYE VIEW





## PARTIAL BIRD'S-EYE VIEW













XINGQIAO NIGHT VIEW













# NEW NODE ON THE SOUTH RIVERBANK





XINGQIAO NIGHT VIEW













INTERFACE ELEMENTS ALONG THE RIVER: WINDOW





THE HISTORICAL WALL CLEANING OF THE BRANCH ALLEYS IS PRESENTED





INTERFACE ELEMENTS ALONG THE RIVER:  
PLANTS, PAY ATTENTION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE ORIGINAL PLANTS DURING THE RENOVATION PROCESS









## BEFORE CONSERVATION – AFTER CONSERVATION



XINGQIAO XIATANG  
BEFORE — AFTER



XINGQIAO XIATANG  
BEFORE — AFTER



XUEJIAWAN  
BEFORE — AFTER





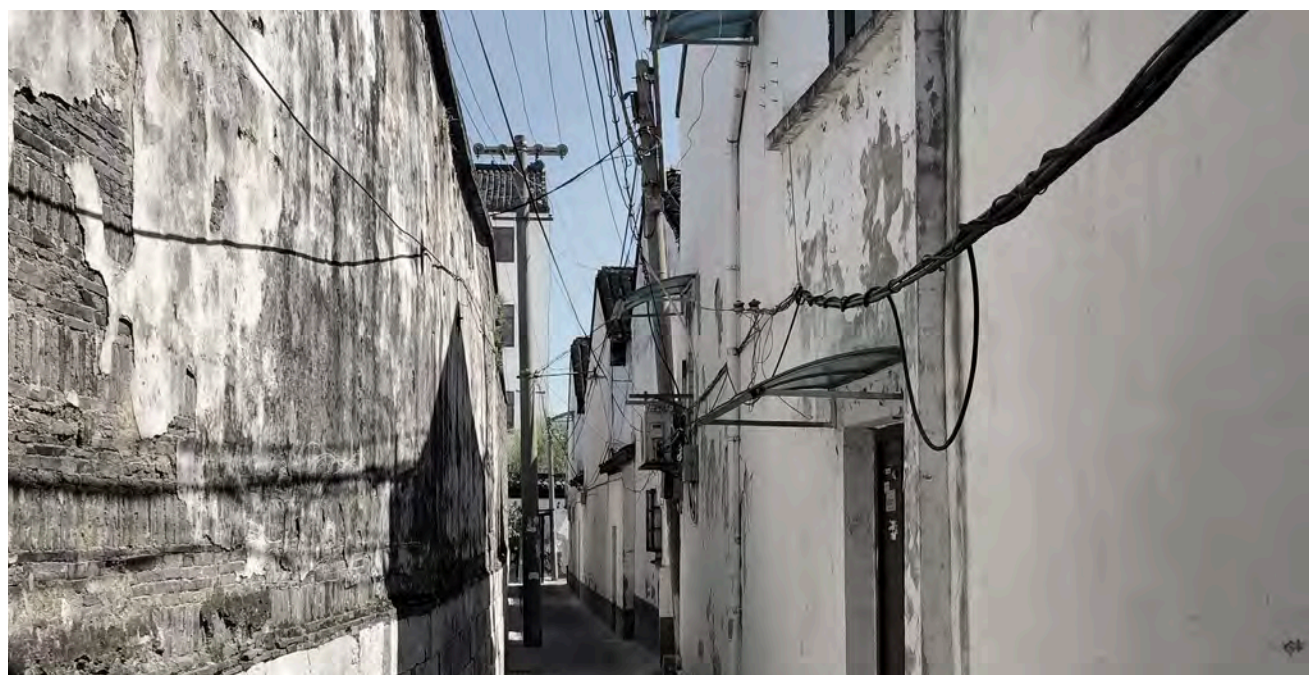
## BEFORE CONSERVATION – AFTER CONSERVATION



XINMIN BRIDGE NODE  
BEFORE — AFTER



XINMIN BRIDGE NODE  
BEFORE — AFTER



THE HISTORICAL WALL  
BEFORE — AFTER

