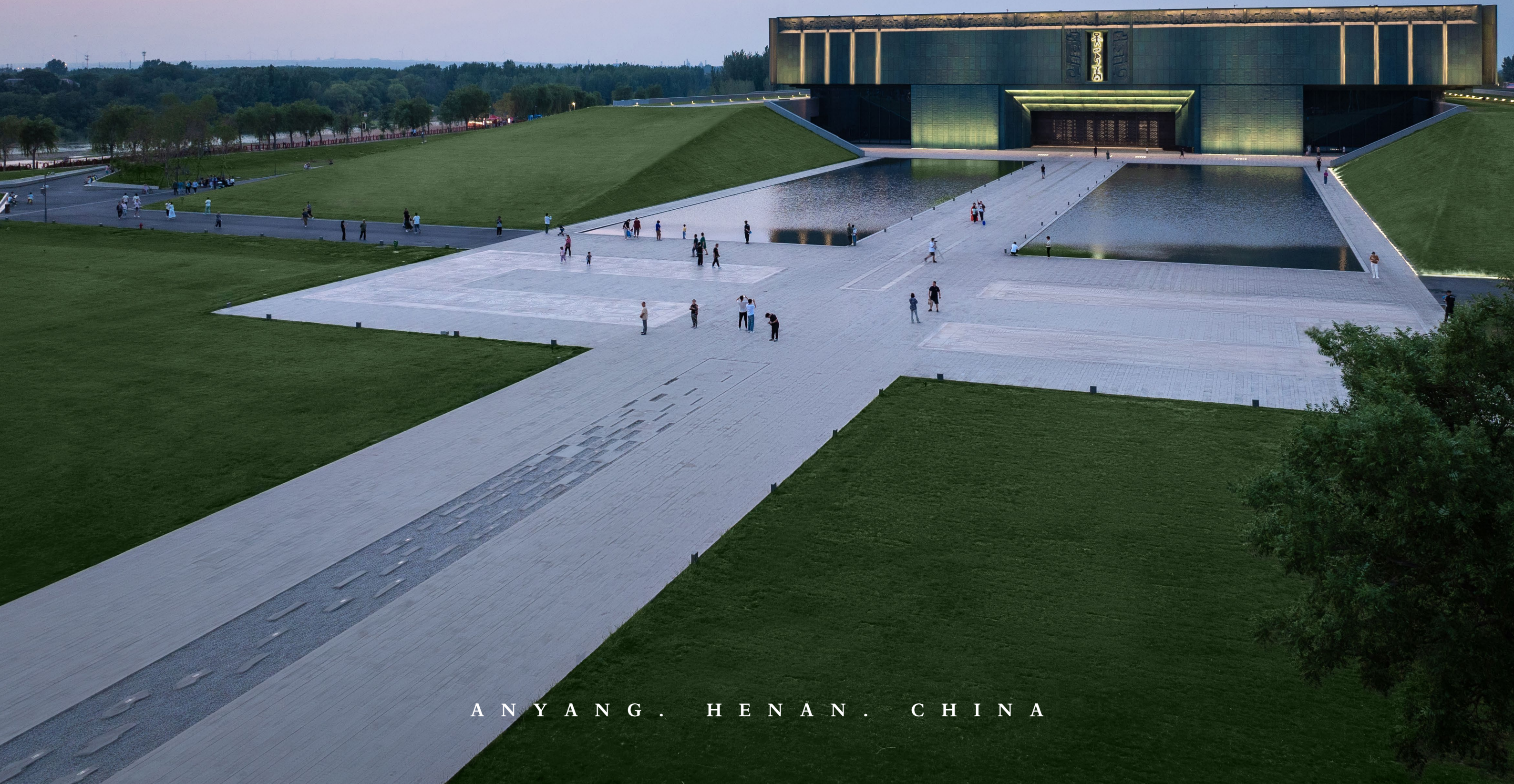


Explore the Cultural and Historical Journey of Yinxu

The Landscape Design of Yinxu Museum



A N Y A N G . H E N A N . C H I N A



Project Location

Yinxu, located in Anyang, Henan Province, China, was the late Shang Dynasty capital (circa 1600-1046 BCE). It is the first documented and archaeologically verified capital site in Chinese history.



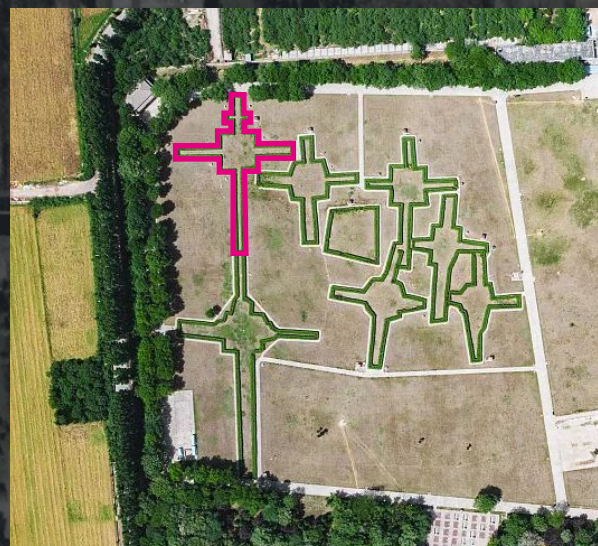
The Material Heritage of the Ruins of the Yin Dynasty Civilization

Historical and Cultural Background

In 1928, over 800 inscribed oracle bones and various artifacts like bronzeware, pottery, and bone tools were unearthed at Yinxu. In 2006, Yinxu was designated a World Heritage Site. The remains, including oracle bone script, bronze artifacts, and palace ruins, mark the origins of Chinese history and are treasures of ancient world civilizations.

Concept of Landscape Design

Following the architectural theme "Yinxu Cauldron, Emerging from the Earth" the landscape design concept is "Explore the Cultural and Historical Journey of Yinxu." It aims to create spaces guiding visitors through Yinxu civilization, fostering a vast and majestic atmosphere.



Extract →



The "Cross-shaped" Layout of the Yin Dynasty Royal Tombs

Display of Historical and Cultural Stories

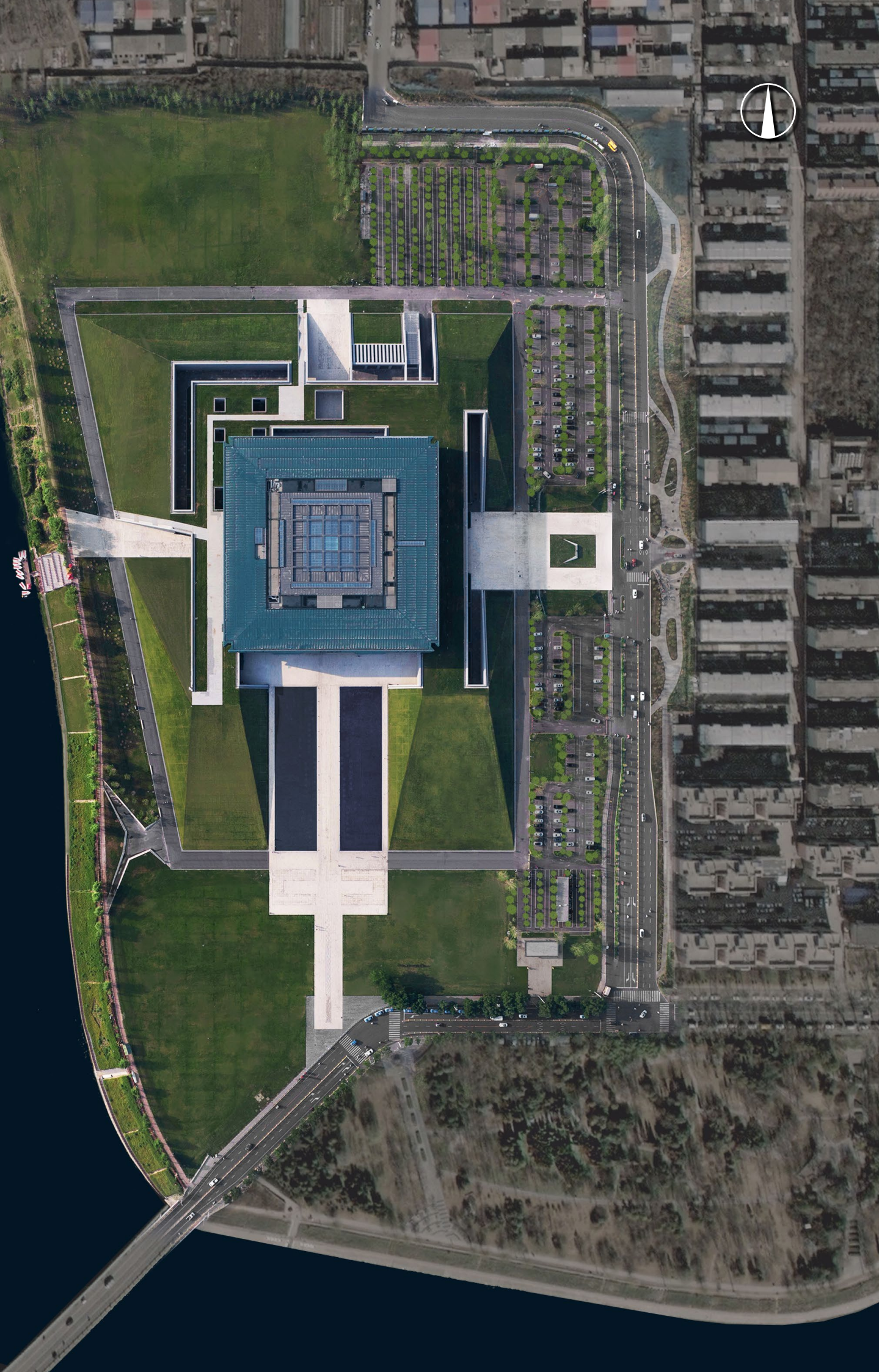
The spatial layout abstractly extracts the central axis symmetry of the Yinxu Palace ruins and corresponds to the "cross-shaped" layout of the Yinxu Royal Tomb ruins. This design integrates Yinxu's history and cultural stories into various spatial nodes and landscape details.

Functional Requirements of the Museum

The site design meets the museum's functional needs, including motor and non-motor vehicle parking, fire evacuation, and equipment room concealment. It also supports multiple scenarios such as visitor services, large gatherings, outdoor performances, and rest areas.

Creation of Spatial Atmosphere for Tourists

The landscape centers around the building, metaphorically treating it as a precious cauldron. Using minimalist grass slope design, it highlights the archaeological emergence of the "Yinxu Cauldron." The open field contrasts with the dense surrounding forest, the old Yinxu Museum to the west, and urban development to the northeast, showcasing the grandeur of the new Yinxu Museum.



Color Extraction

Bronze Artifacts and Oracle Bones

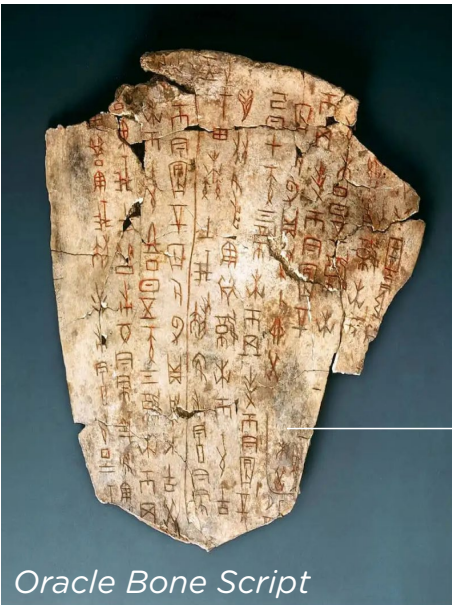
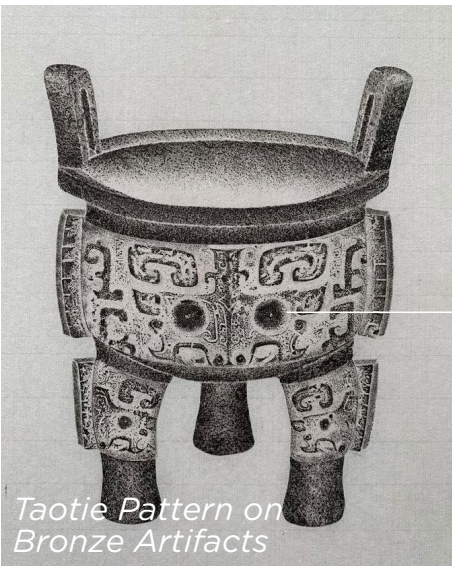
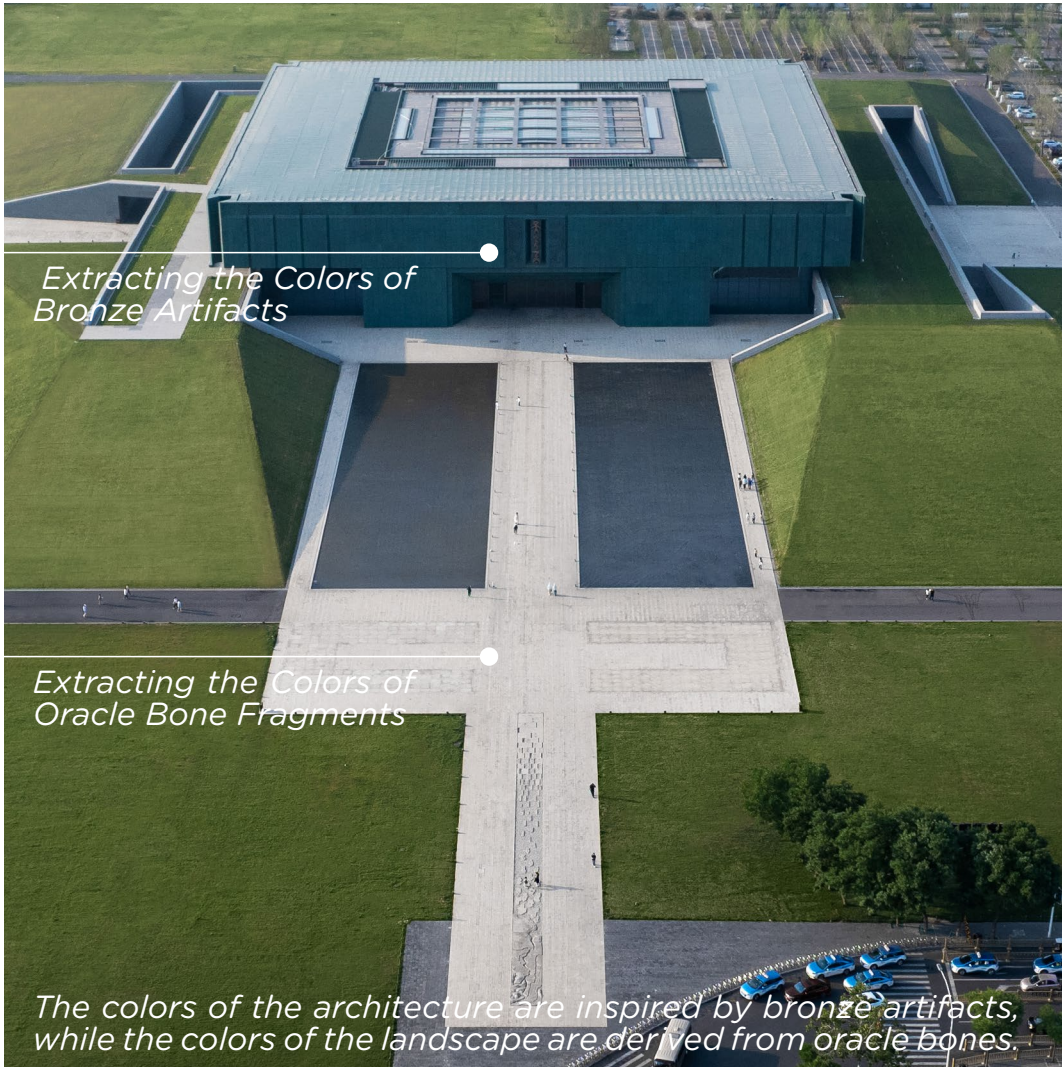
Bronze artifacts and oracle bones, core relics from Yinxu, are extraordinary evidence of late Shang Dynasty cultural traditions.

Bronze Artifacts

The Simuwu Ding, weighing 832.84 kilograms, is the heaviest known ancient Chinese bronze artifact. The architectural design, inspired by the Simuwu Ding, features a square and symmetrical appearance with bronze as the primary color.

Oracle Bones

Used in the Shang Dynasty for divination, oracle bones are primarily turtle shells and animal bones. The landscape design uses the warm yellow tones of the oracle bones as the main color scheme.



Element Extraction

Oracle Bone Script

Oracle bone script, representing the maturity of the Chinese writing system 3,600 years ago, includes over 4,000 characters and serves as direct historical evidence of the Shang Dynasty.

Taotie Patterns

Taotie patterns, also known as beast face patterns, are common decorative designs on bronze artifacts, representing the pinnacle of bronze decoration.

The detailed landscape design incorporates elements such as oracle bone script and Taotie patterns to express the essence of Yinxu culture.



Story of Pattern Art

Story of Ritual Culture

Story of the Dynastic Changes of the Shang Dynasty

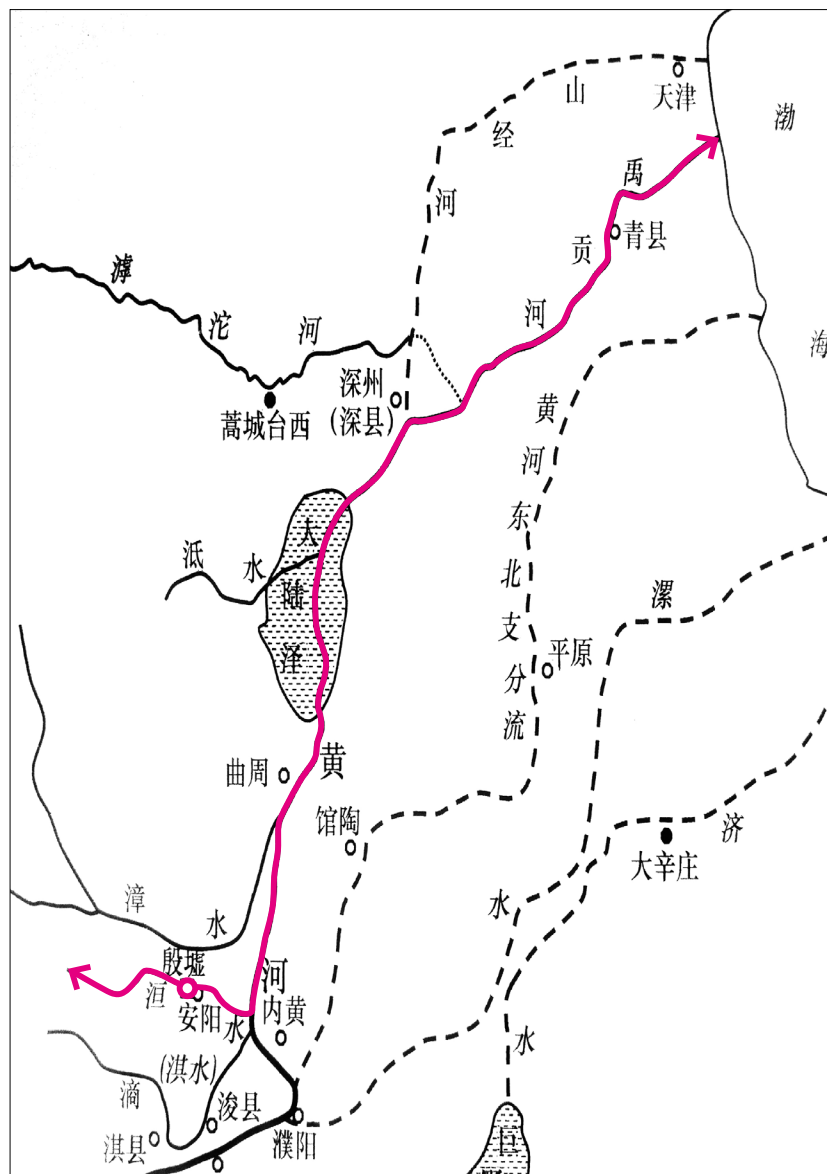
Story of the Origin of Yinxu Civilization

Central Axis Space

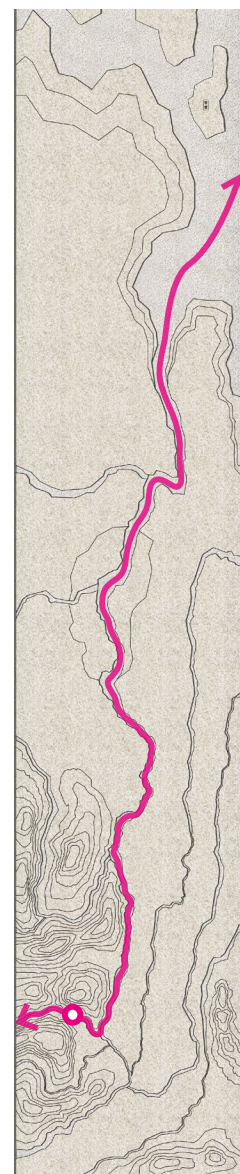
The central axis serves as the main entrance walkway for the new Yinxu Museum, stretching approximately 200 meters from north to south. It integrates four significant historical stories, guiding visitors in exploring ancient civilization from the entrance. This space illustrates the origin of Yinxu civilization, Shang Dynasty changes, ritual culture, and pattern art, enhancing cultural richness and narrative quality.

Story of the Origin of Yinxu Civilization

The central axis begins at the main entrance, depicting the origin of Yinxu civilization through ground stone carvings representing the Huan River. These carvings simulate the river's journey from the Taihang Mountains to the Yellow River, educating visitors about the civilization's beginnings.

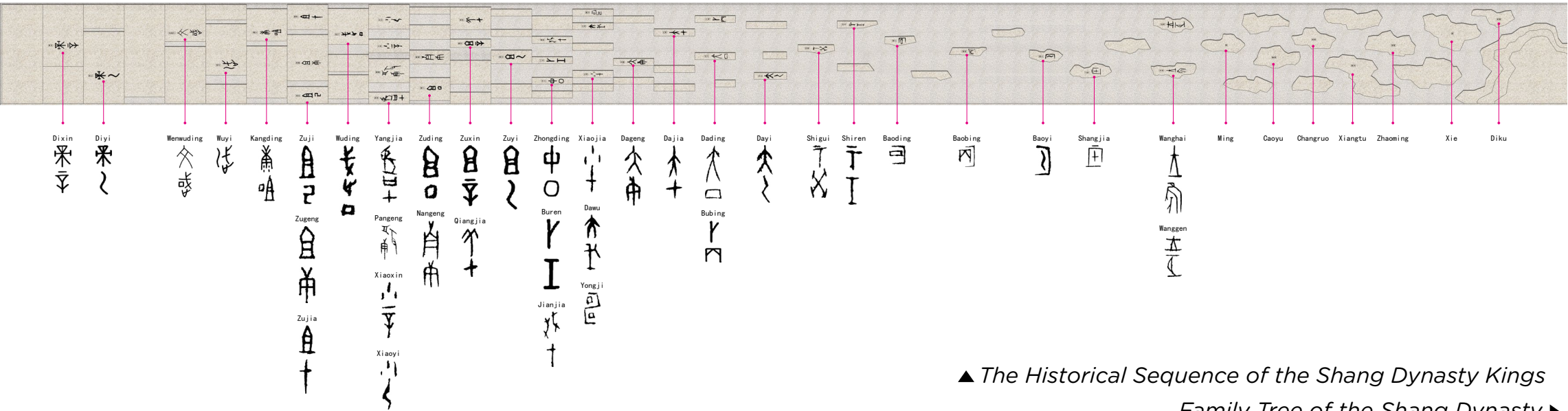


Map of the Ancient Huan River and Yellow River Basin

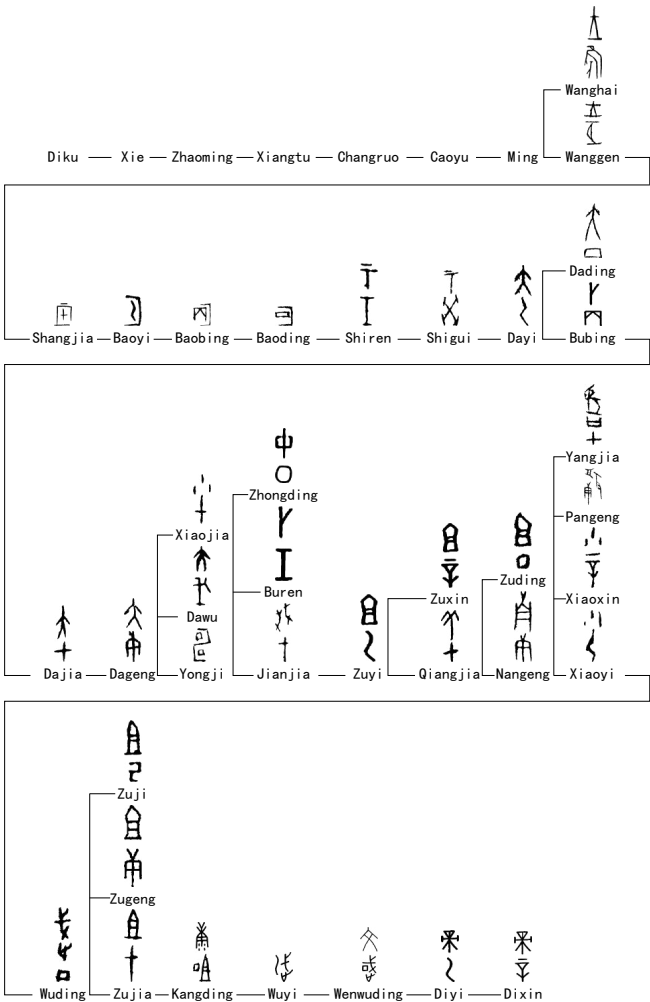


Central Axis

Story of the Dynastic Changes of the Shang Dynasty



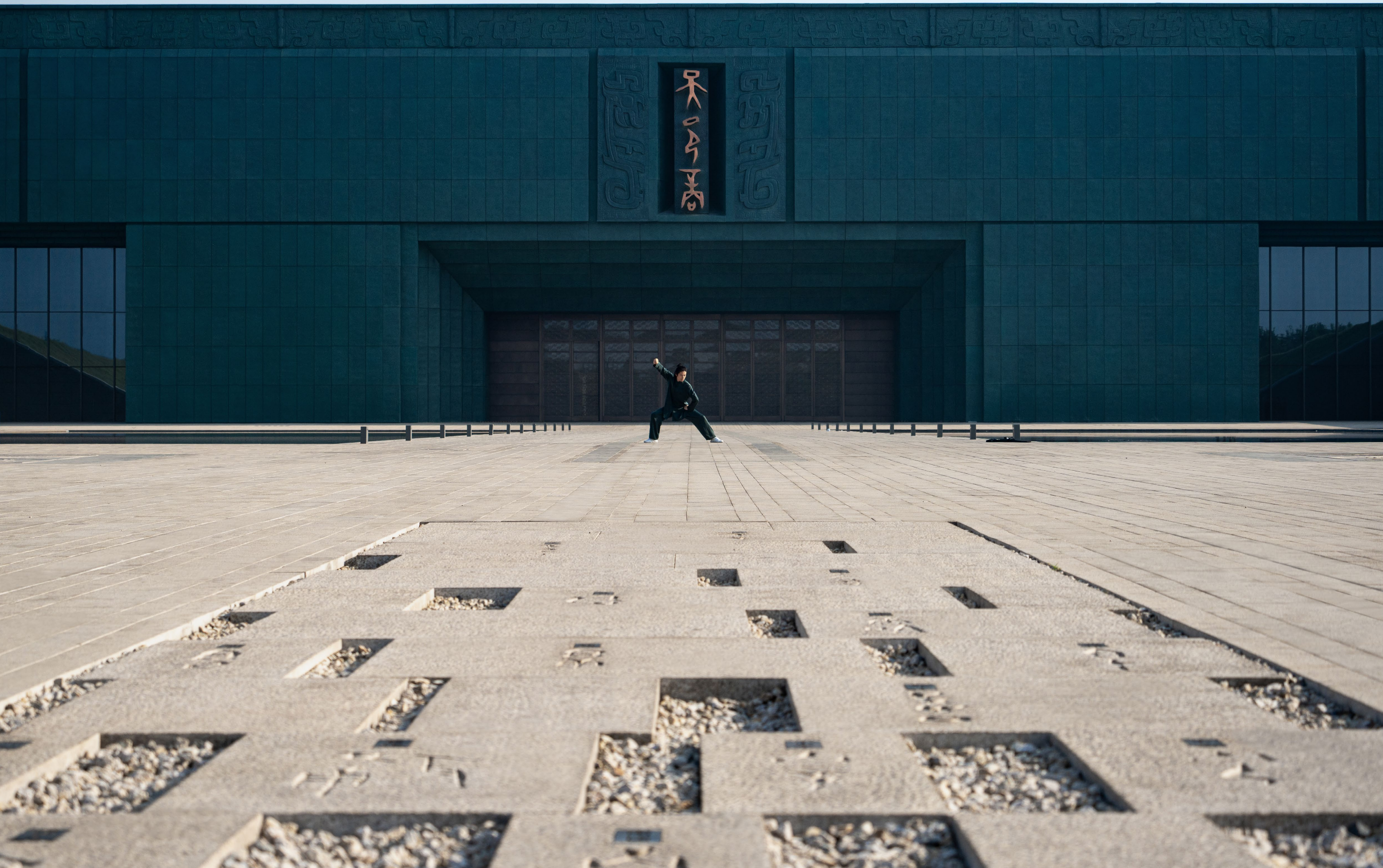
▲ The Historical Sequence of the Shang Dynasty Kings
Family Tree of the Shang Dynasty Kings in Oracle Bone Script ▶



The second node presents the lineage of Shang kings using oracle bone script and modern annotations. The kings' lineage is arranged to show the historical progression of Yinxu civilization, transitioning from scattered to clustered forms, symbolizing the merging of archaeological fragments into a complete historical narrative.



Story of the Dynastic Changes of the Shang Dynasty





Story of the Dynastic Changes of the Shang Dynasty

The open landscape space accommodates flexible outdoor use and large visitor dispersal during peak periods. Stone carvings of oracle bone script alongside modern annotations enhance cultural recognition and historical depth. Different stone textures emphasize narrative power and guide pedestrian movement.



Stone Carvings of Oracle Bone Script with Modern Annotations



Story of Ritual Culture

The third node focuses on the Simuwu Ding, a representative ritual vessel of Yinxu culture.

Story of Ritual Culture

The Simuwu Ding, a ceremonial vessel cast by a Shang king to honor his mother. The intricate surface decorations of the Simuwu Ding are carved into the plaza's paving stones, showcasing the detailed beauty of Yinxu artifacts.



Simuwu Ding



The Exquisite and Intricate Patterns on the Surface of the Simuwu Ding



The paving of the plaza is extensively engraved with the exquisite patterns of the Simuwu Ding.

Story of Pattern Art

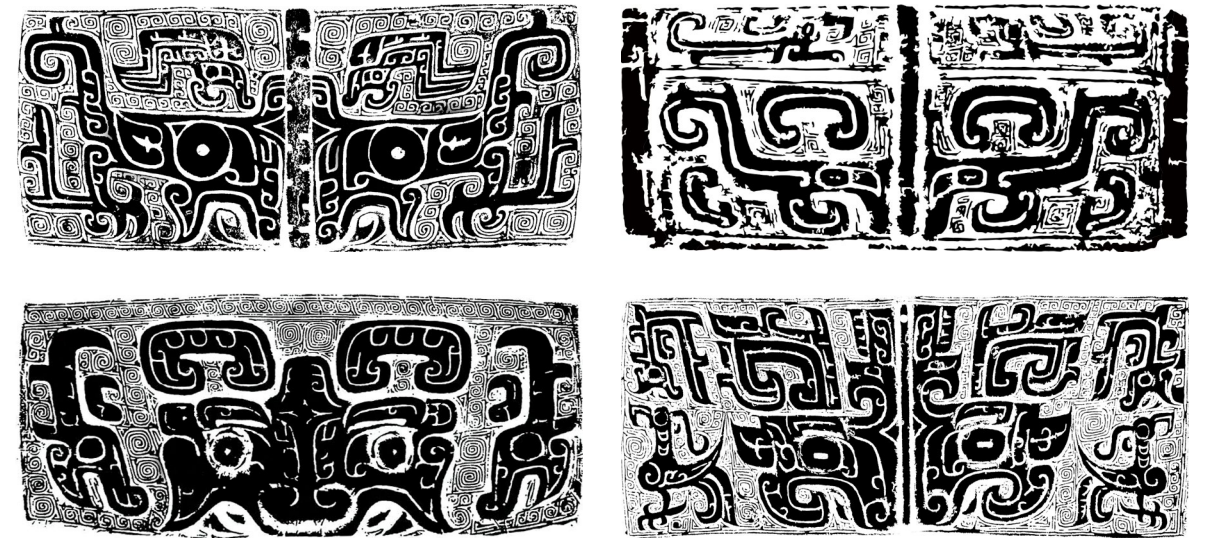
The fourth node features a water element reflecting the building and sky.





Story of Pattern Art

The pool bottom displays four typical Taotie patterns from Yinxu, highlighting the artistic achievements and legends of ancient Yinxu civilization. These solemnly symmetrical patterns are highly abstract, artistic representations of ancient graphic culture.



The Taotie pattern represents the highest level of bronze vessel ornamentation.

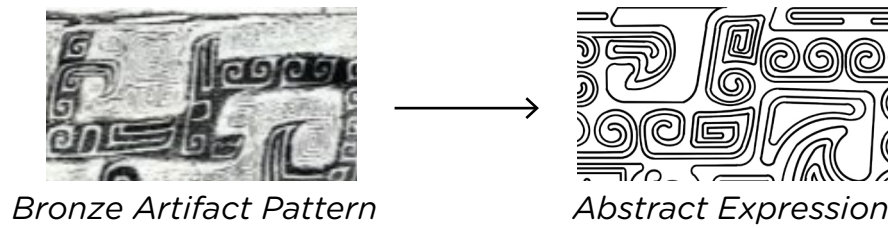


Taotie Pattern in the Water Feature

The Decorative Patterns in the Water Features Match the Facades of the Buildings

Story of Archaeological Excavation

In 1928, the first trial excavation at Yinxu unearthed over 800 inscribed oracle bones and various artifacts. Ongoing archaeological work reveals the ancient civilization's true form. A weathered stone bench symbolizes this story of continuous discovery.



The Design of Outdoor Benches Integrated with Stories from the Archaeological Excavations of Yin Dynasty Ruins



Stormwater Management Strategies

The site design integrates natural drainage patterns with sunken green spaces and overflow pipes, effectively managing stormwater and mitigating surface runoff impact on adjacent river systems.



Integrating Historical and Cultural Narratives into Planting Design

Native plants in the design represent legends or historical anecdotes, creating a picturesque seasonal tableau and enriching the cultural experience. By integrating these plants with historical and cultural meanings, the design not only creates an ecologically beautiful landscape but also provides visitors with a profound and enriching cultural experience.

Feature Plants 1



The Tale of Praying for Rain in the Mulberry Forest



Morus alba L.

The choice of mulberry trees in the design is inspired by the historical anecdote of "Tang Praying in the Mulberry Forest." This tale recounts that after Tang overthrew the Xia Dynasty, a prolonged drought plagued the land. Despite the shaman's long prayers, no rain came, and it was suggested that a human sacrifice was needed. Tang decided to pray for rain himself in the village of the Mulberry Forest. Just as flames were about to consume him, a sudden downpour extinguished the fire.

Feature Plants 2



The Oracle Bone Script Character for 'Li'



Prunus salicina Lindl.

The history of cultivating plum trees (Li) in China is long and storied, dating back to the Yin-Shang period. Oracle bone inscriptions unearthed from Yinxu already contain the character (Li). In the project, a peach and plum grove is planted on the east side, with tree species signage explaining the cultural significance.

Other Feature Plants



Prunus persica



Eriobotrya japonica



Ginkgo biloba





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