

PROJECT TITLE

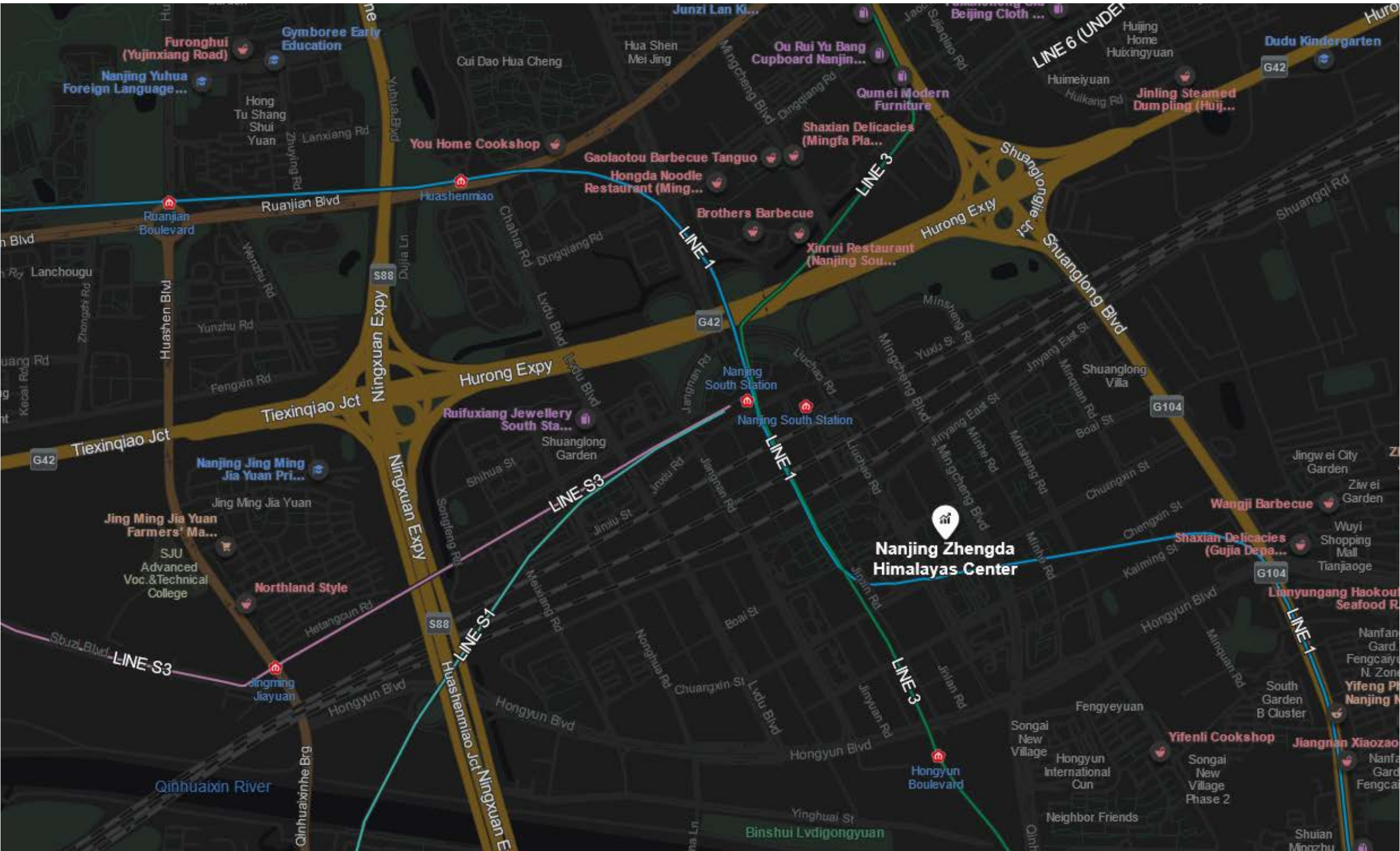
**NANJING ZENDAI HIMALAYAS CENTER**  
**THE MODERN EXPRESSION OF SHANSHUI**  
NANJING, CHINA

## PROJECT STATEMENT

Nanjing Zendai Himalayas Center project is located in the core business center of Nanjing Southern New Town, adjacent to the South Square of Nanjing South Railway Station, with a broad landscape area of about 54,000 Square meters. As the gateway of Nanjing City, the south high-speed railway station integrates comprehensive transportation, modern service industry, and creative industry, which brings a consistent stream of urban tourists. Nanjing Zhengda Himalaya Center could be described as Nanjing's "urban convergence spot".

The project is a mixed use development of offices, iconic hotels, comprehensive businesses and hotel apartments amongst others. The architectural design is based on the presentation of 'ideal landscape city'. The landscape and architecture are integrated. The overall landscape concept takes mountains and rivers (SHANSHUI) as the focus and it runs through the whole project. Flowing green defines the commercial complex's multi levels, leading people to walk from the busy ground street to a three-dimensional landscape park. It has built a dialogue between the architecture and landscape, and also the city and the nature.





## PROJECT NARRITIVE - BACKGROUND

### PROJECT LOCATION & CONTEXT

Nanjing is an ancient former capital in East China, and today it is a bustling cultural metropolis, second behind Shanghai in terms of commerce and known as the “City of Landscape.”

The site is located in the core business center of Nanjing Southern New Town, adjacent to the South Square of Nanjing South Railway Station, with a broad landscape area of about 54,000 square meters. This area was chosen for a new urban planning model of “SHANSHUI city” (the city of mountains and water) and Nanjing Zendai Himalayas Center project is a mixed use development of offices, iconic hotels, comprehensive businesses and hotel apartments amongst others. It consists of six plots in total and it is designed with 3 street blocks, one central square and one central axis.

The gateway’s iconic striking architecture of 11 ‘mountain’ towers are spread over 6 blocks, and connected by streets and elevated walkways. The landscape design has been designed to activate, unite and integrate the whole development.



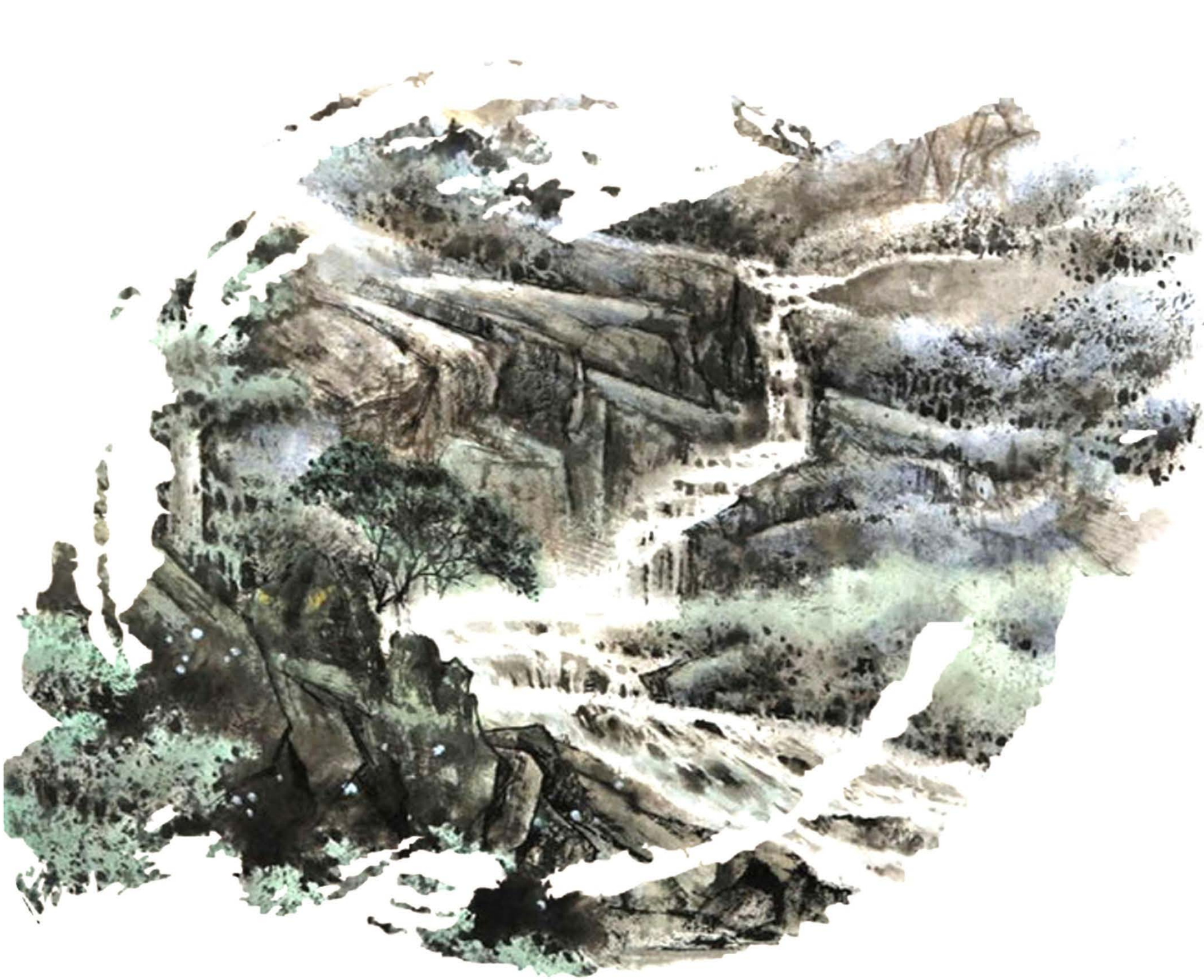


ABSTRACTED TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPE

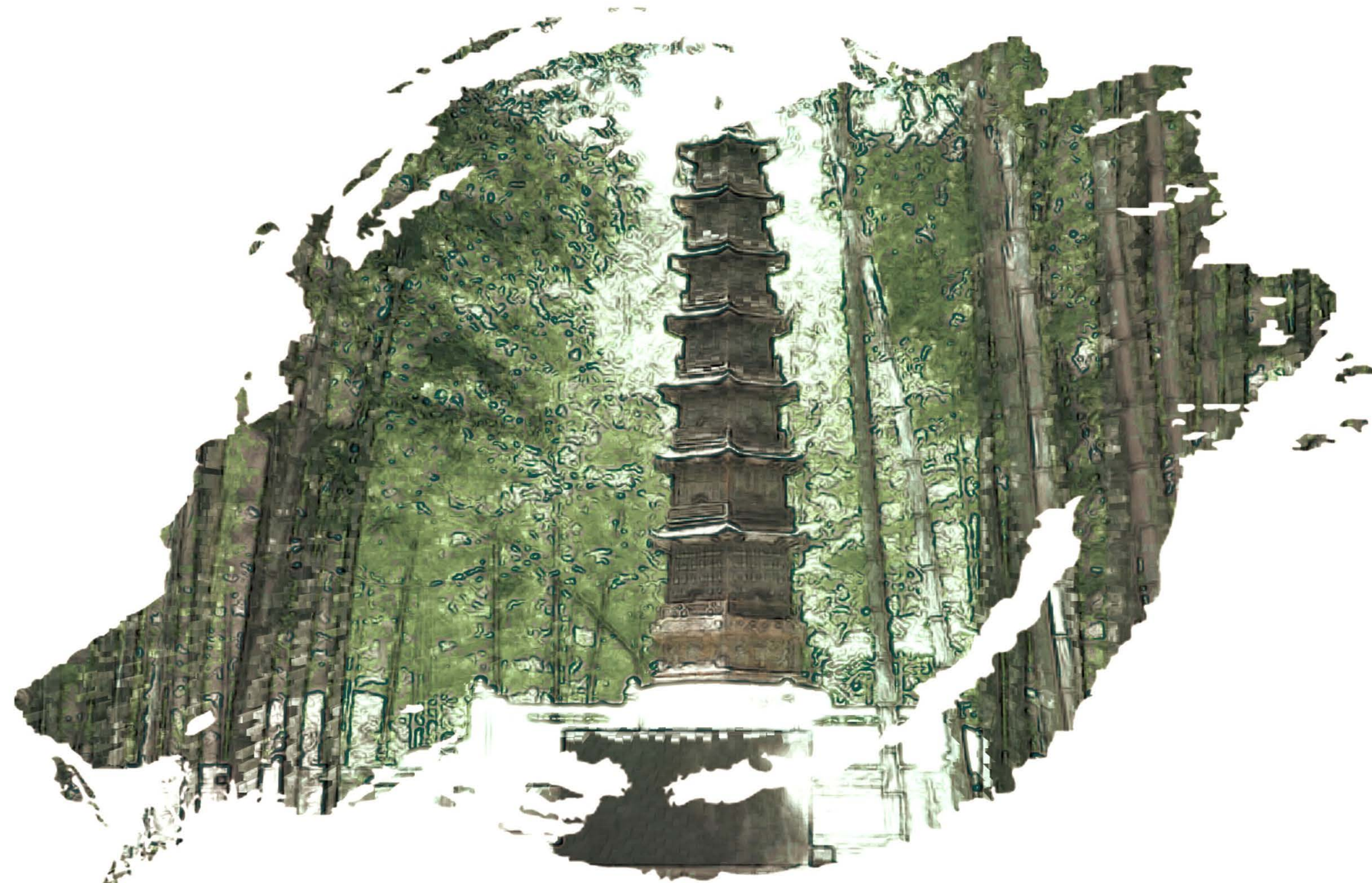


ENDURING NEW LANDSCAPE ARTWORK

NATURAL TRANSPORTED INTO CITY



MOUNTAIN & WATERFALL



TOWER & BAMBOO



STREAM & VILLAGE

## PROJECT NARRITIVE

### URBAN GARDEN OF MOUNTAIN AND WATER

The whole landscape design is guided by an artistic conception of high mountain and flowing water. The stream springing from the waterfall on the mountain (Plot AB) runs through the residential village (Plot CD), and eventually vanished into the elegancy of a bamboo forest (Plot EF). The art implication has been strengthened and enhanced through the design. It aims to help to bring an extraordinary enjoyment to people's body, mind and spirit in the busy urban life.

### A DIALOGUE BETWEEN HUMAN AND NATURE

Inspired by the Chinese tradition of respecting the mountain-water relationship, the design team tangibly sought where to embed nature in this new high density urban environment through architecture-landscape integration principles. The design is experienced in 3 distinct 'stories' within the architectural context: the Village, the Green Mountain and the Bamboo Forest.



**PLOT EF:  
TEMPLE & BAMBOO**

**PLOT AB:  
MOUNTAIN & WATER**

**PLOT CD:  
STREAM & VILLAGE**

3 DISTINCT ‘STORIES’

1. The Village

Nestled in the center of the development containing scattered contemporary sloping roof retail units connected by streets and footbridges.

2. The Green Mountain

A central landmark green clad retail flagship store that acts as a ground level focal point and viewing platform.

3.The Bamboo Forest

A soft green buffer between the private office spaces and surroundings. Within these, the pedestrian experience is prioritized. In traversing the site, there are scenes of water pools, footbridges, hills and flowing water, which is similar to traditional Chinese paintings. It was intended that the scenes are linked seamlessly or uniquely discovered, reinforcing the experience and memorability of the place.

PLOT AB: MOUNTAIN & WATERFALL

- 1. SUNKEN PLAZA WATER FEATURE
- 2. BASEMENT PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE
- 3. MAIN COMMERCJAL ENTRANCE
- 4. PLAZA SCULPTURE
- 5. MOVABLE SCULPTURE
- 6. UNDERGROUND GARAGE GREEN ENTRANCE
- 7. OFFICE DROP-OFF
- 8. DRY FOUNTAIN PLAZA
- 9. UNDERGROUND GARAGE GREEN ENTRANCE
- 10. SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE
- 11. LANDSCAPE BRIDGE

PLOT CD: STREAM & VILLAGE

- 12. ENTRANCE-DRY FOUNTAIN
- 13. MIRROR WATER FEATURE
- 14. ENTRANCE-WATER FEATURE
- 15. FEATURE LANDSCAPE PLANTER
- 16. ROAD PLANTATION
- 17. VIEWING PLATFORM
- 18. STREAM FEATURE PAVING+INSIDE STREETSCAPE
- 19. CENTRAL STAIRCASE
- 20. FEATURE STAGE
- 21. FEATURE ROUND ABOUT

PLOT EF: TEMPLE & BAMBOO

- 22. ENTRANCE-WATER FEATURE
- 23. HOTEL ENTRY WATERFALL & FEATURE ROCK
- 24. GARDEN
- 25. URBAN MOUNTAINS
- 26. PEACEFUL GARDEN27 PARKING
- 27. PARKING
- 28. BASEMENT ENTRY
- 29. REFLECTING WATER FEATURE
- 30. LIGHT TOWER
- 31. GREEN ISLANDS &MOUNTAINS
- 32. LANDSCAPE STONE GALLERY
- 33. BASEMENT ENTRY

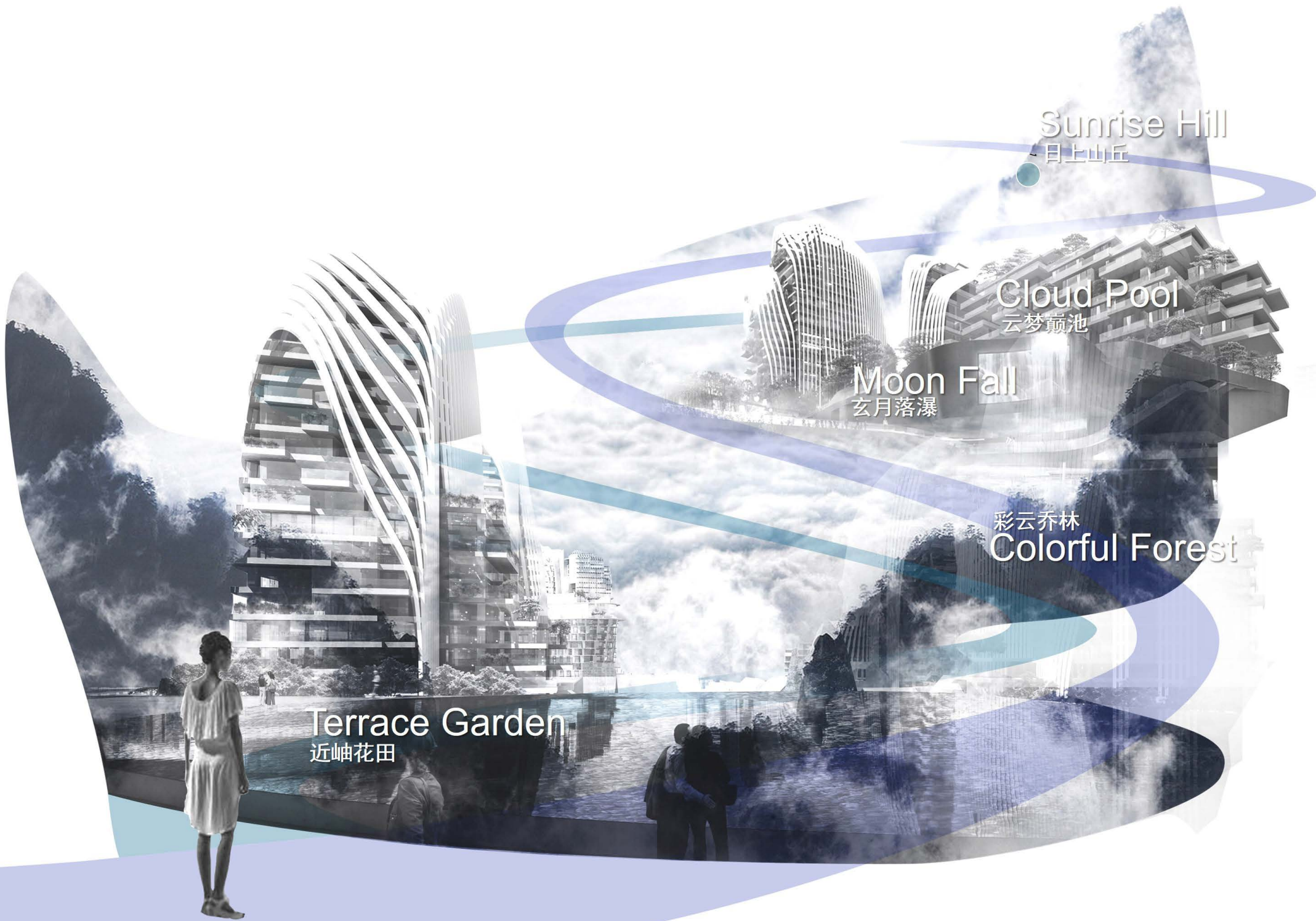
MASTER PLAN



**MOUNTAIN & WATERFALL**

Towers along the edge of the site act as a mountainous backdrop, while water features such as ponds, waterfalls, brooks, and pools connect buildings and landscapes to integrate all of the Center’s elements. This integration goes beyond form, with the water features functioning as reservoirs to collect and recycle rainwater for irrigation as well.

Along the edge of the site, surrounding the village, are mountain-like towers that appear to have been carved out by wind and water. Defined by white, curved glass louvres that ‘flow’ like waterfalls, they reflect Nanjing’s surrounding mountain ranges and meandering rivers.





## STREAM & VILLAGE

Standing in the center of the village will grant one a feeling of being on top of a mountain. We boldly attempted to cover the entire center with greenery. The steel frame of the retail flagship store is the base for green planting. The vertical greenery took account of user's comfort experience at eye level. Primarily using natural plants, and it is seamlessly combined with artificial plants. The entire area will be covered with a drip irrigation control system.

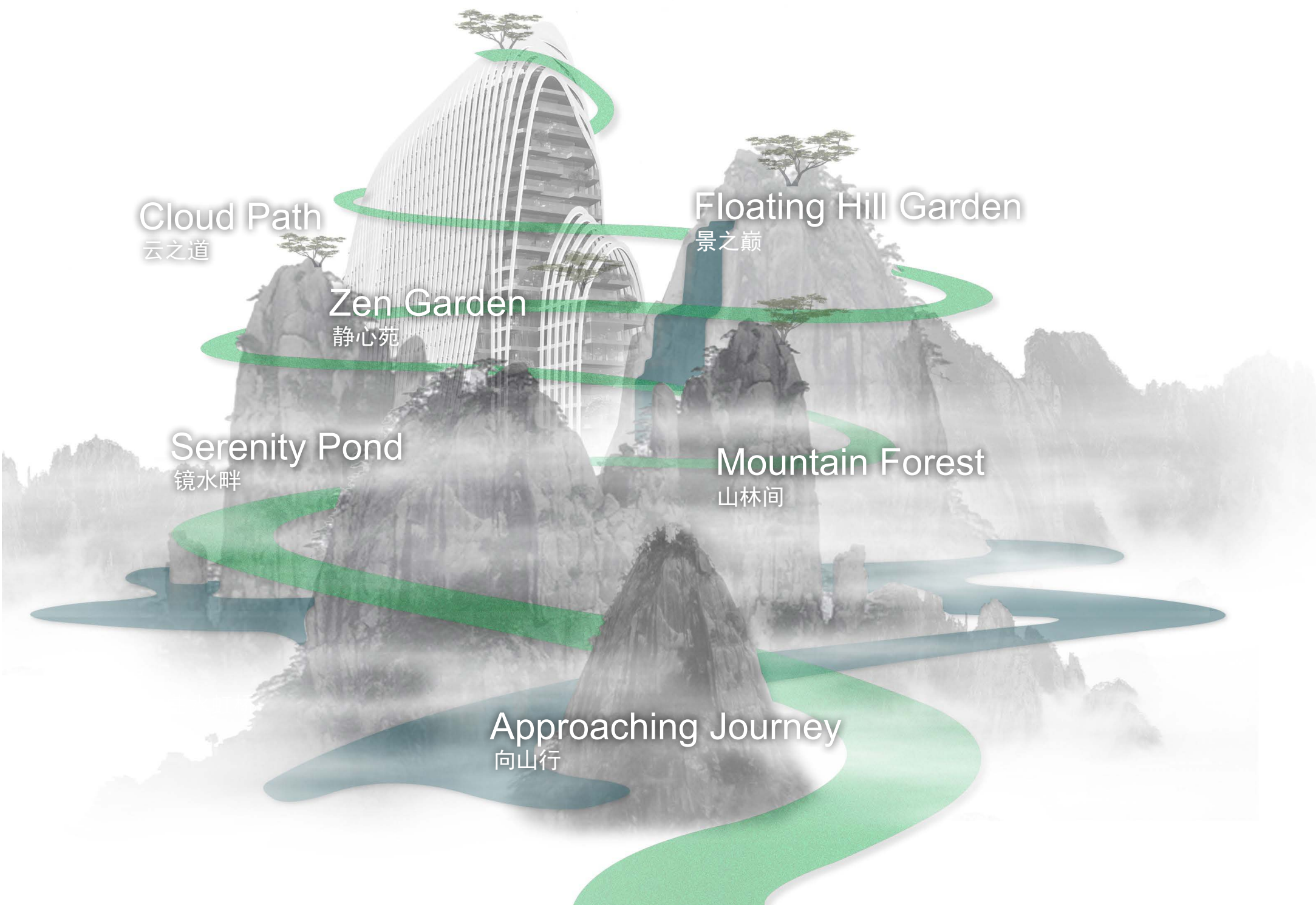
Design reflects the poetic beauty of the mountain and water in traditional Chinese landscape paintings. The integrity of nature and human can be deeply experienced from the scenery of the stream. Coarse surface of rocks brings together the natural charm and the architectural style.



TEMPLE & BAMBOO

Winding path through the bamboo forest leads to the recluse neighborhoods. The reflection of the light tower standing among the bamboos in the water constitutes a poetic Chinese painting.

“Bamboo” in the office area has a “calligraphic” atmosphere. Compared with the business district, the office environment will be of a more elegant and private space. We posed the question of “How to form a “natural barrier” at the boundary between the office and commercial zones?” The solution was the planting; we chose the “bamboo forest,” which is a favorite of Chinese artists. Whether indoor or outdoor, we hope that people can relax in this space.





## THE CONNECTIONS AMONG DIFFERENT “STORIES”

The design also provides visitors with different activity experiences. For example, a different shopping way is suggested, the fresh feeling and the visual experience that online shopping can rarely provide. While trees and rich plantings forming a rich, architectural landscape, the artificial and manmade coalesce with one another also proposed a new way to express designer's idea.

Design unfolds onto the city like a village-like community. A mix of low-rise buildings connected by footbridges are nestled into the landscape. Curving, ascending corridors and elevated pathways weave through the commercial buildings. Activated by public gardens and social spaces, design creates a spiritual and poetic retreat in the middle of the city.





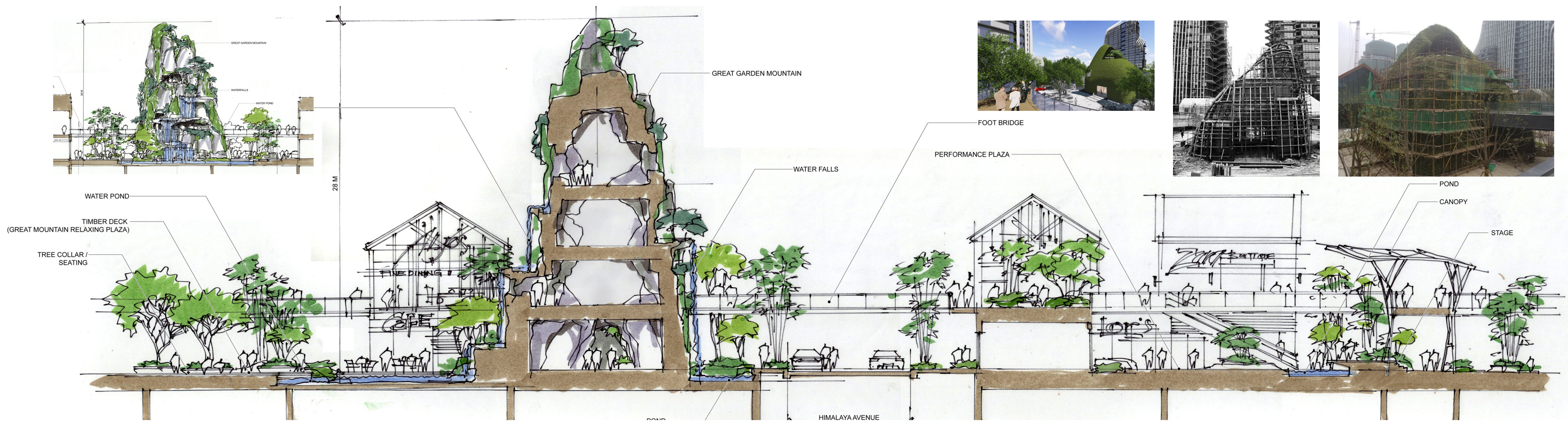
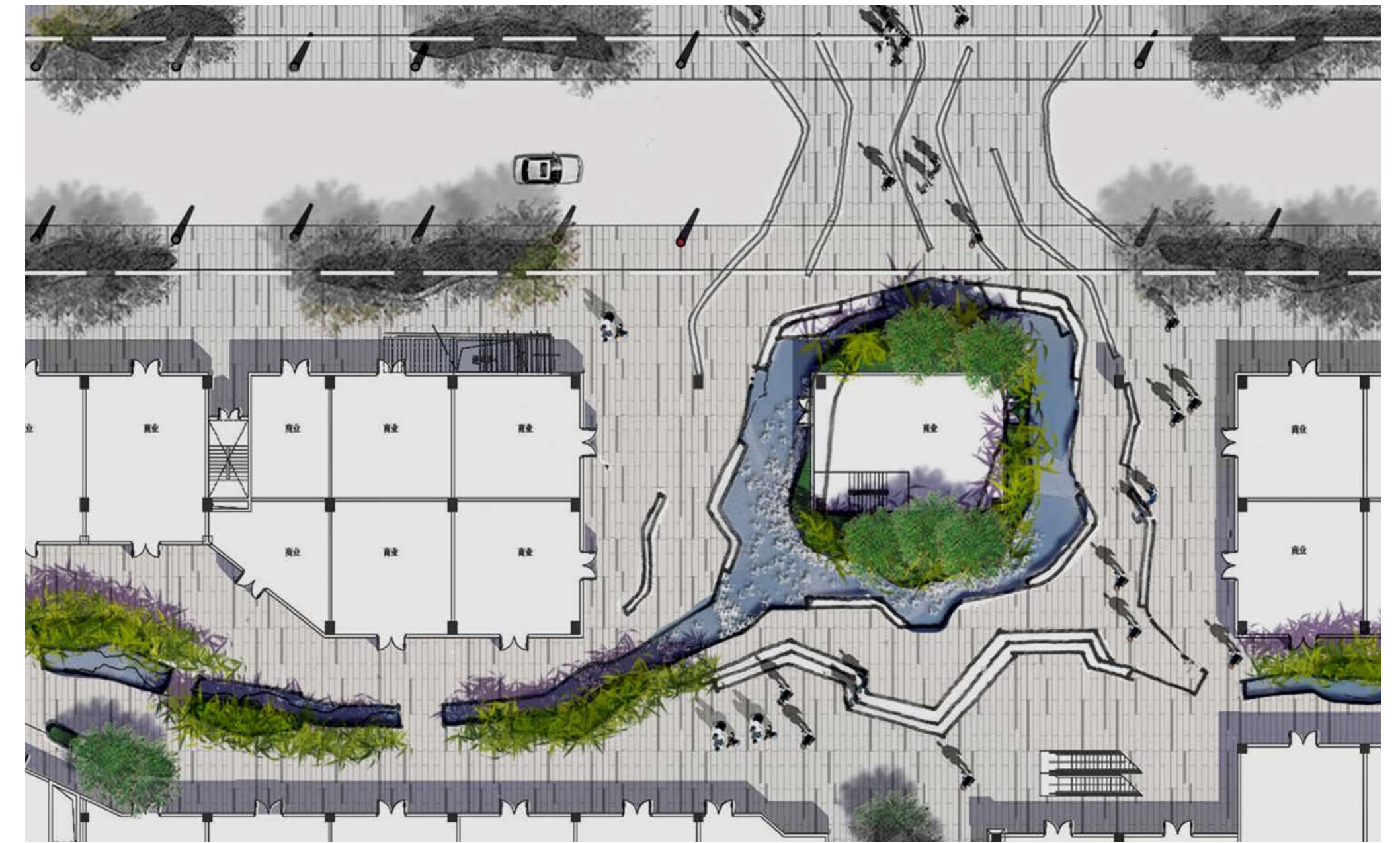
#### **MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION METHODS:**

- Planted large oak, pine, sakura and maple trees within the main ground level open public space that also counter fire safety store functions and access issues;
- Planting representing the four seasonal colours movable seating to encourage socializing;
- A green mountains façade that adopts drip irrigation control to maintain a vibrant sheen;
- A guiding water flow pavement patterning that meanders through the development;
- Movable box planting to add flexibility in function of space;
- Elevated bamboo planting on footbridges to add green and naturalistic view corridors;
- Green terraces and roof gardens, etc.

The implementation of the design required carefully on-site consideration and phasing. Completed in 2021, the site is now used by both locals alike and tourists. It keeps offering unparalleled experiences to the city and human lives.





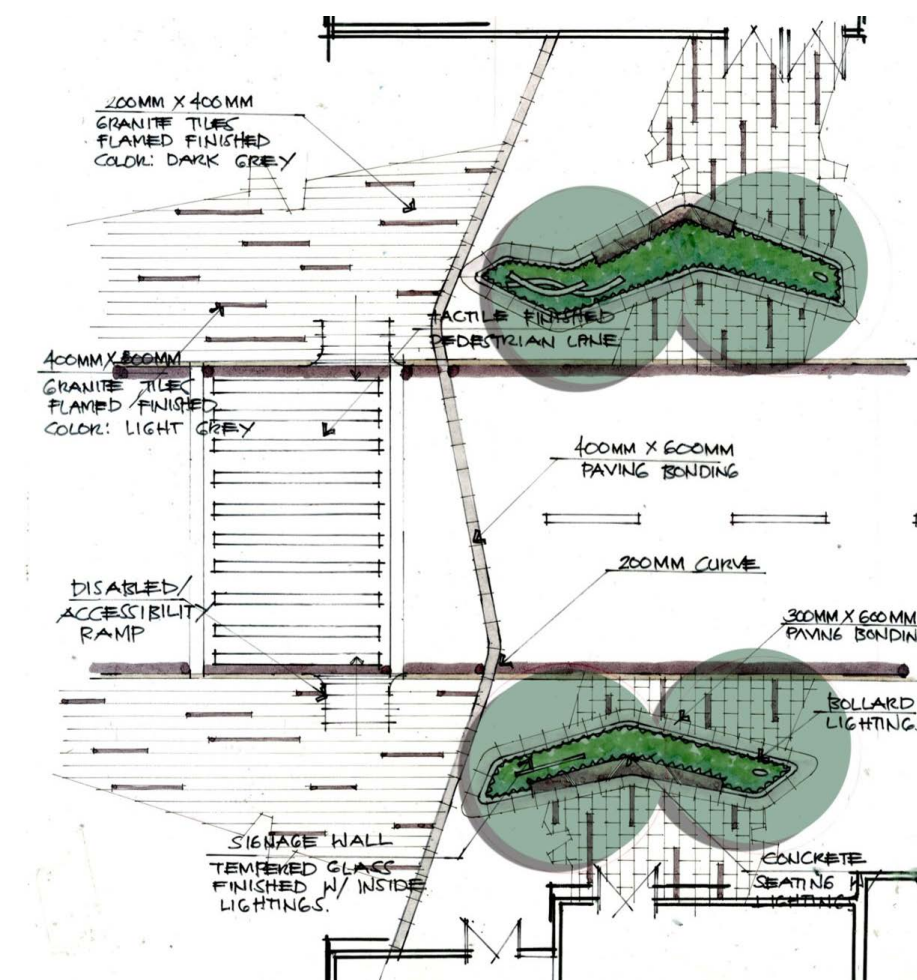






## SUMMARY & CONTRIBUTION

This project is part of the growing new age of landscape design in China - distinctly cultural but contemporary. Focusing upon the whole “landscape painting”, the landscape design team reinterpreted and programmed historic Chinese cultural landscape elements into modern language. It combined functional and accessible features, helped to humanizing the urban scale of “SHANSHUI City” concept to a more intimate and poetic experience.



# NANJING ZENDAI HIMALAYAS CENTER

## THE MODERN EXPRESSION OF SHANSHUI