

PROJECT TITLE

RENOVATION OF SUN JIANG & SHI SUN PARK

THE MORDERN JOURNEY OF QUANZHOU CULTURE

QUANZHOU, CHINA



PROJECT STATEMENT

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Quanzhou Binjiang Park, abbreviated as “Quanzhou Waterline”, is a waterfront green corridor created by the government for sustainable urban development and public leisure along the Jinjiang River. The whole project has a total length of about 18km and is divided into five zones and ten parks along the way.



PROJECT STATEMENT

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As a part of the waterline, Sun Jiang & Shi Sun Park are positioned in “cultural heritage zone”, with a focus on inheriting and protecting the cultural historical relics and showcasing Quanzhou local culture.

Simultaneously utilizing the local intangible cultural heritage of Quanzhou, transforming it into landscape elements and incorporating education into entertainment; and the application of a large number of traditional architectural symbols in landscape design are not only a form of inheritance, but also a form of protection.

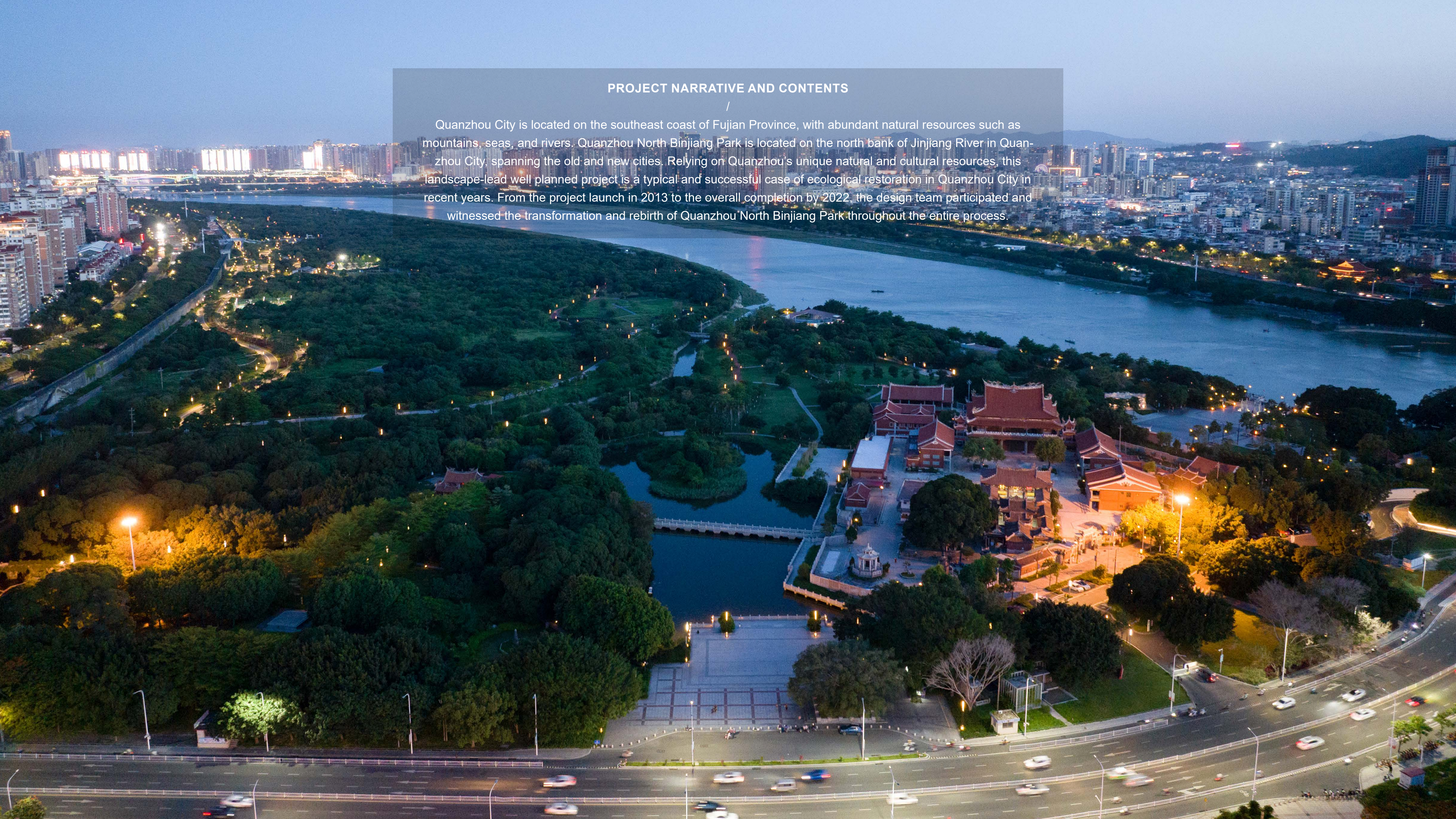


PROJECT STATEMENT

The design team also actively excavated and preserved the use of original valuable and meaningful ecological materials during the renovation process. The original terrain of the site and the original flood control embankment has been re-used, well planned traffic relationship of the urban interface has created a unique waterfront in Quanzhou. It deeply promoted and inherited the cultural connotation and historical memory, enhanced the cultural charm and attraction of the city.

PROJECT NARRATIVE AND CONTENTS

Quanzhou City is located on the southeast coast of Fujian Province, with abundant natural resources such as mountains, seas, and rivers. Quanzhou North Binjiang Park is located on the north bank of Jinjiang River in Quanzhou City, spanning the old and new cities. Relying on Quanzhou's unique natural and cultural resources, this landscape-lead well planned project is a typical and successful case of ecological restoration in Quanzhou City in recent years. From the project launch in 2013 to the overall completion by 2022, the design team participated and witnessed the transformation and rebirth of Quanzhou North Binjiang Park throughout the entire process.





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The overall plan of the project is to create 4 zones and ten parks along the Jinjiang River, with a new green corridor along the riverside and a waterfront landscape belt that returns the river to the people. Sun Jiang & Shi Sun Park are positioned in “cultural heritage zone”.

The total area of Sun Jiang & Shi Sun Park is about 435,000sqm, located between the flood control embankment on Jiangbin North Road and the Jinjiang River. The site is rich in historical and cultural resources, and is an important area for showcasing Quanzhou’s traditional culture and cultural characteristics.



SITE PLAN LEGENDS

01. Fishing Platform

02. Market Corridor

03. Quanzhou Cultural Stage

04. Bicycle Pathway

05. Vehicle Road

06. Nanyin Cultural Square

07. Sunjiang River Water Pavilion

08. Youran Leisure Pavilion

09. Waterside Steps

10. Liyuan Opera Culture Square

11. Ancient Banyan Tree Ancestral Hall

12. Nine-Zigzag Bridge

13. Sunjiang Lake

14. Surrounding Lake Fitness Corridor

15. Guanmao Bridge

16. Traditional Chest Thumping Dance Square

17. Parking Lot

18. Shisun Square
19. Ancient Official Welcoming Reception Avenue

20. Listed Antiquities SHISUN

21. Mountain and River Altars

22. Ancient Official Welcoming Reception Pavilion

23. Fish Release Pond

24. Guishan Bridge

25. Ancient Official Welcoming Temple

26. Square of Ancient Welcoming Ferries

27. Relics Site of Broken Bridge on Sunjiang River

28. Ancient Official Welcoming Reception Ferry

29. Relief Sculpture Wall - The Moonlight of Sunjiang River

30. Sunset Pavilion

31. Resting in the Forest

32. Circular Fitness Track

33. Linzhang Gate

34. Autumn Water Pavilion

35. Shengde Bridge

36. Dezhang Bridge

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With the original intention of restoring and promoting local culture along the city’s memory, the design team excavated the historical legends of Quanzhou ancient city throughout the entire waterline and restored the ancient post road image from the Northern Song Dynasty. Ground sculptures showcasing the changes of the ancient city has been specially designed; the eight scenic spots of ancient Quanzhou have been reconstructed, including the moonlight stop and water pavilions along the River. The design created historical opera scrolls with modern way and reproduced the local customs and traditions of Quanzhou, serving as an important part in the “Waterline” cultural corridor.

The design reminisced about the past while reflecting on the present and future, integrating daily life and festive activities, allowing citizens to remember the local cultural history and hometown characteristics while they enjoy the leisure time in the park.



Bird's-eye view of Ancient Official Welcoming Temple and Ferry Square in Shisun Park



Inherited the culture and repaired the ancient official welcoming reception routes



Bird's-eye view of Ancient Square & Sculpture Wall - The Moonlight of Sunjiang River

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The specific manifestations of design in inheriting history and cultural revival in landscape design include:

1. Inherited the culture and repaired the ancient official welcoming reception routes and recreated the magnificent scene of official reception in modern design method;

The welcoming reception culture of Quanzhou is a set of etiquette and customs used by ancient local people to welcome the visitors, and is a unique local cultural heritage of Quanzhou. The official reception ceremony includes: welcoming ceremony, entertaining & celebrations, giving gifts, arranging visiting routes, and a send-off ceremony. There are a large number of cultural relics of Quanzhou and welcoming reception culture preserved in the park, such as welcoming temple, Square of Ancient Ferries, pavilions, etc., which were important nodes on the Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road during the Northern Song Dynasty.



Ancient Ferry and Square of Welcoming Reception



Memorial Commemorative Gate - Two Qing Dynasty stone monument are still preserved on the shore.



Ancient Official Welcoming Temples and Pavilions



Stone Carved Memorial Wall created using traditional craftsmanship techniques from Quanzhou arranged next to the Welcoming Square.

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The design team restored and reproduced the historical scenes of the reception culture through the analysis of historical literature, folk materials, and on-site investigations.

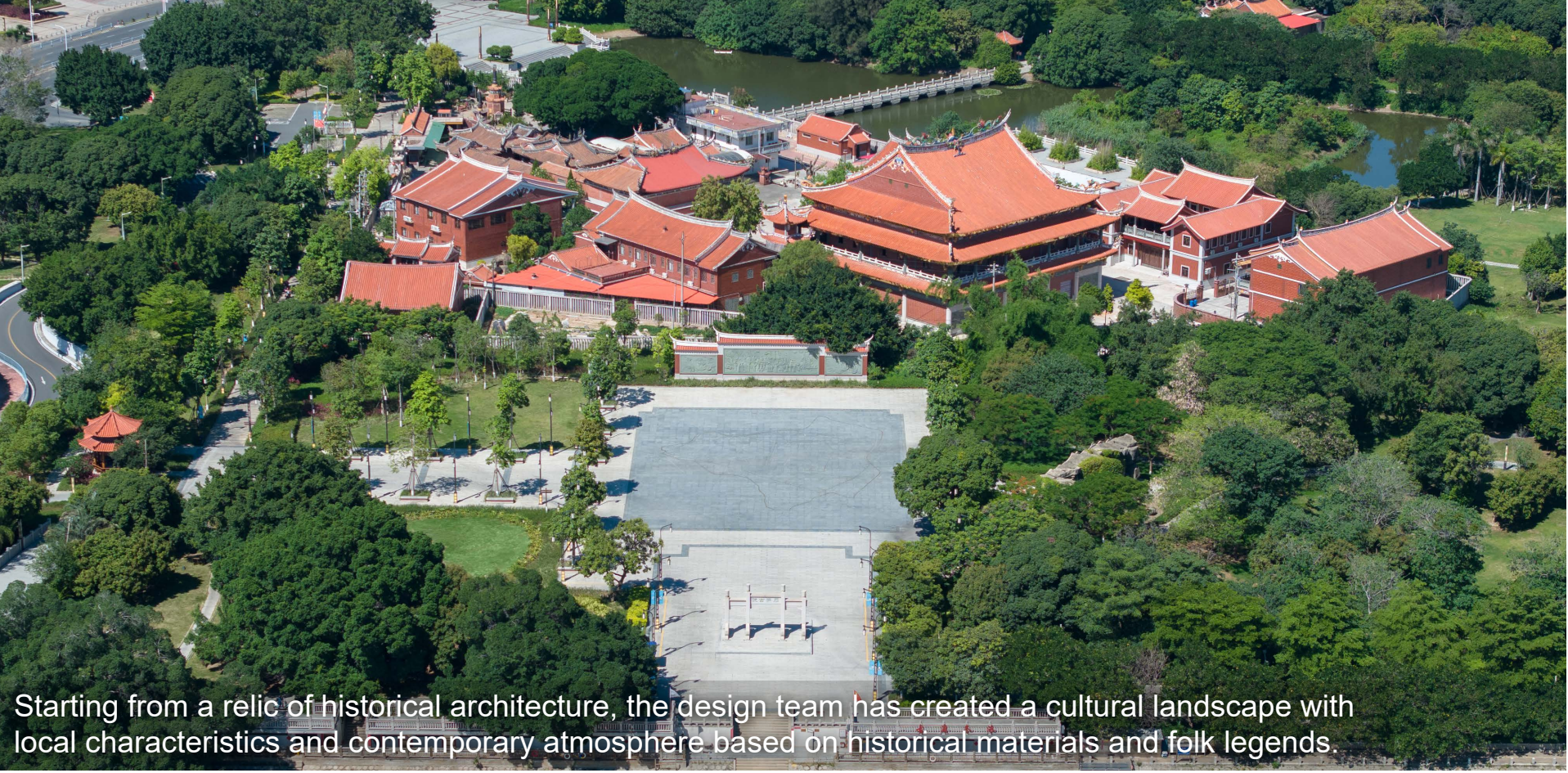
The official reception ceremony starts from the ancient ferries, goes to the Ancient Welcoming Reception Avenue, and then to the main entrance of Welcoming Temple. Each node echoes the scenes of welcoming local gentry, merchants, and visitors in history. Important historical and cultural relics along the way have also been preserved.



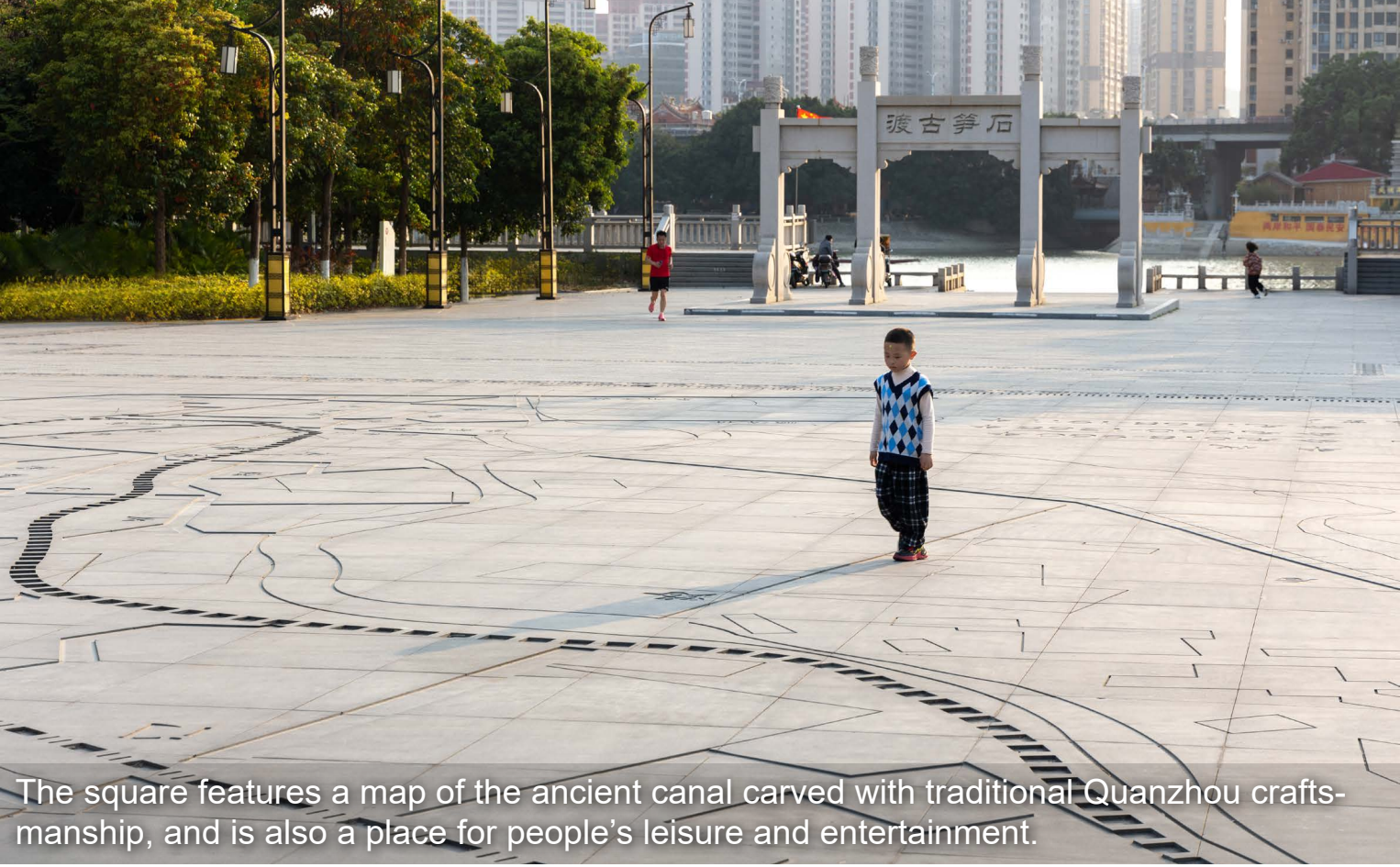
Sculpture Wall - The Moonlight of Sunjiang River
The huge scale forms a spatial closure, achieving the design intention of pushing visitors towards the north side to the route of the official welcoming temples.



Listed Antiquities SHISUN
The design uses soft scenery and different shades of green as a backdrop for cultural relics, emphasizing the central position of the focus and creating a fun experience for people while they explore the park.



Starting from a relic of historical architecture, the design team has created a cultural landscape with local characteristics and contemporary atmosphere based on historical materials and folk legends.



The square features a map of the ancient canal carved with traditional Quanzhou crafts-manship, and is also a place for people's leisure and entertainment.

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2. Preserved historical relics within the park, including mountain and river altars, listed antiquities SHISUN, listed ancient ferries, the eight ancient scenic spots of Sunjiang River;

3. Preservation and re-use of the original site base scene; i.e. creating different atmospheres and experiences through spatial layout and plant configuration, etc;



Shisun Bridge is also a historical relic, and visitors had to enter the central city through this bridge after the official reception ceremony in the ancient times.



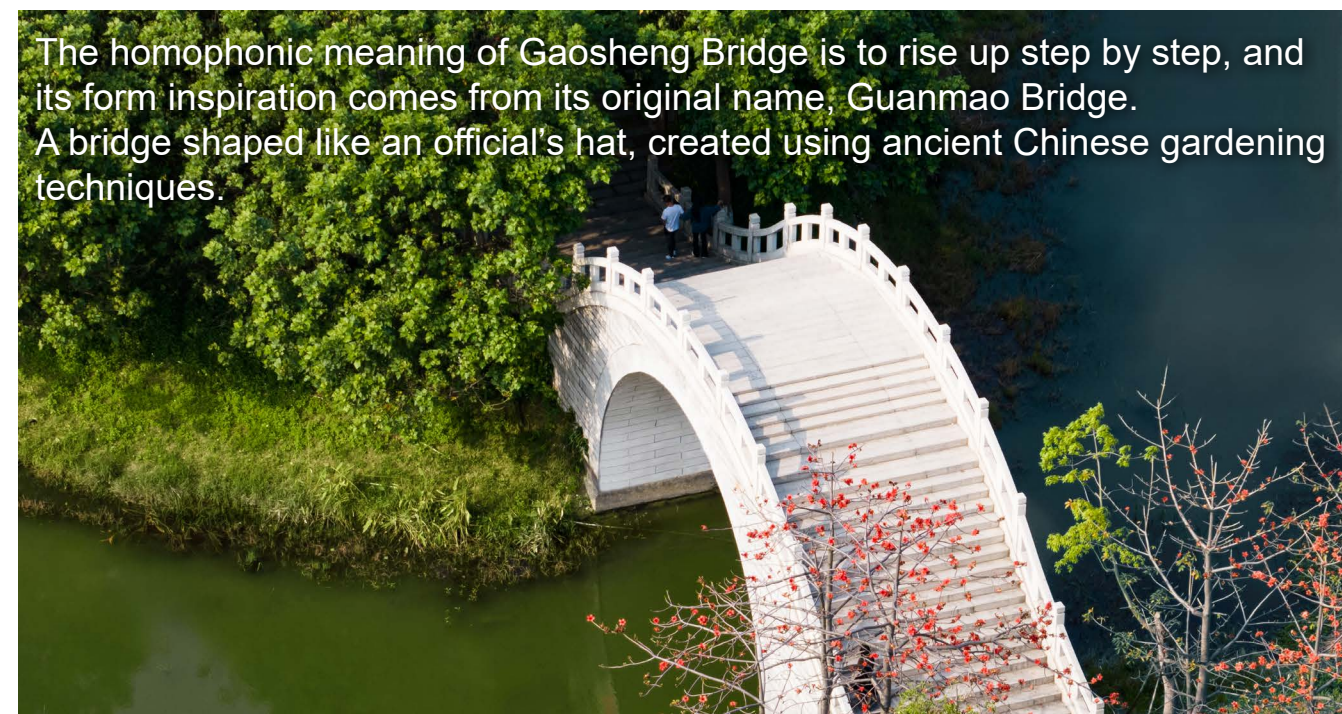
Nowadays, Shisun Bridge is surrounded by the tranquility of the park and has become a good place to relax.



The Mountain and River Altar was a place in ancient times where visitors arrived in Quanzhou and conducted sacrificial activities for the local mountains, rivers, and land.



The Mountain and River Altar is still an important node in the park for sightseeing. The design team cleverly created the process of arrival and increase the sense of ceremony.



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4. The applications of traditional Chinese style bridges, pavilions, and scenic relaxation techniques;
5. The combination and application of traditional historical culture, folk customs, and modern landscape expression techniques;
6. Preserve and promote traditional winter swimming activities for citizens in the park, and improve the quality of repairing winter swimming bases

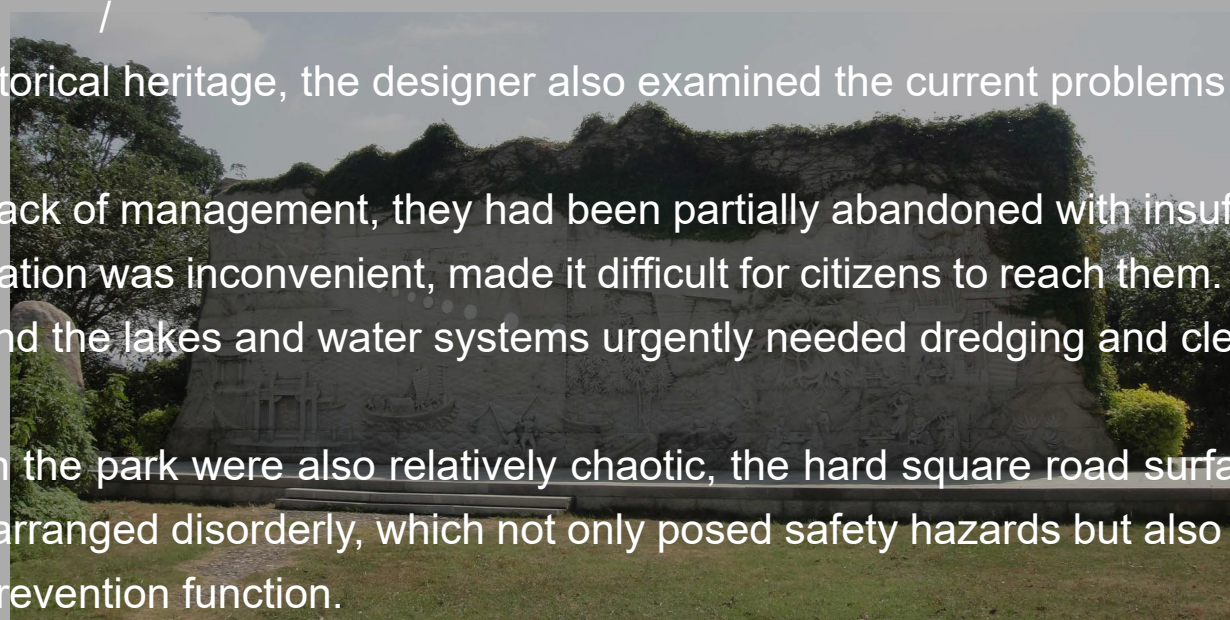


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At the same time, in addition to highlighting the main theme of historical heritage, the designer also examined the current problems on the site.

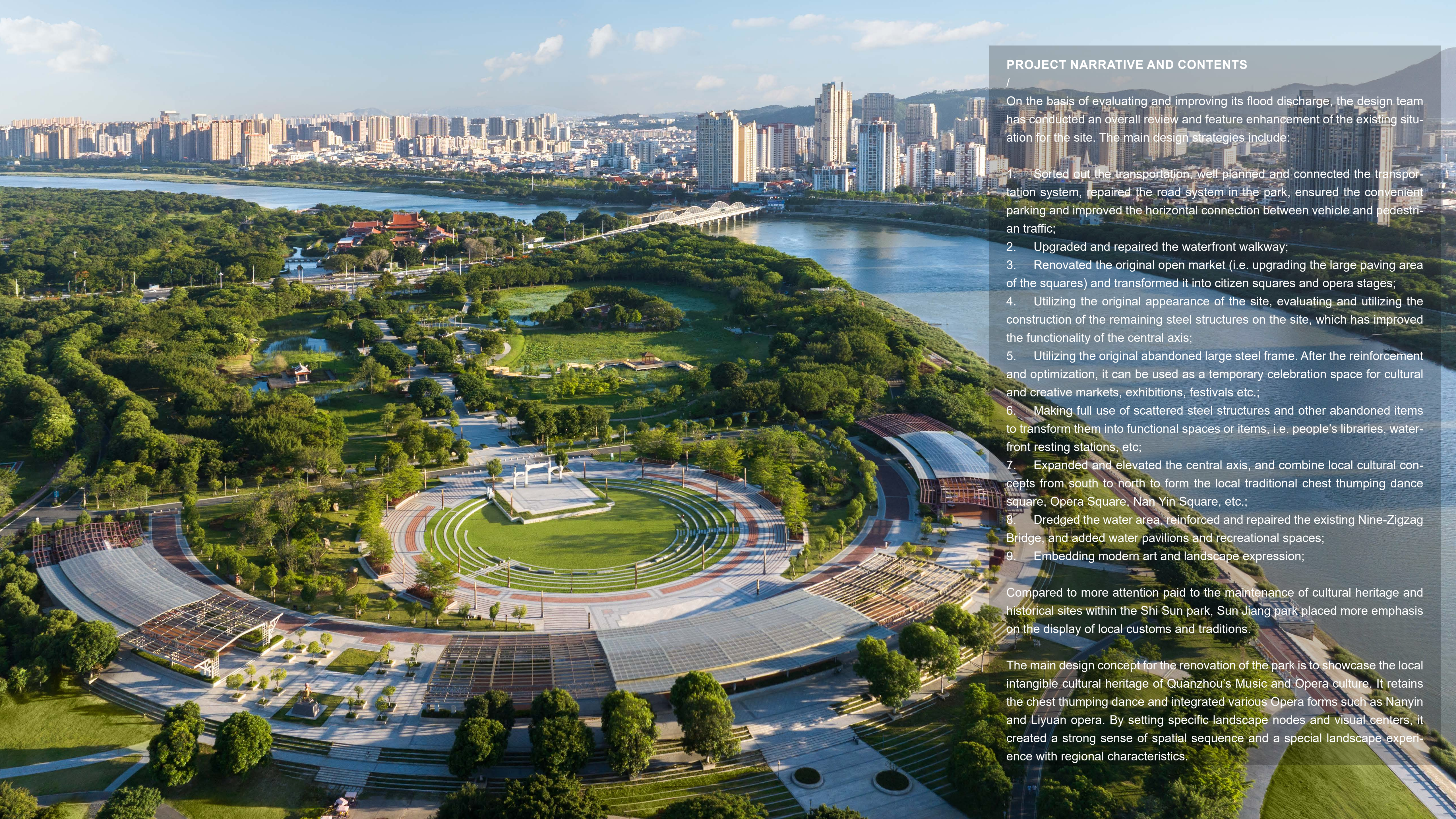
As two old parks that are closely connected to the city, due to the lack of management, they had been partially abandoned with insufficient operation and poor maintenance. In addition, the surrounding transportation was inconvenient, made it difficult for citizens to reach them. The original pedestrian routes on the site were chaotic and disordered, and the lakes and water systems urgently needed dredging and cleaning.

The abandoned steel frames left by the original farmers' market in the park were also relatively chaotic, the hard square road surface was old, and the shops on the original flood prevention embankment were arranged disorderly, which not only posed safety hazards but also affected the flood prevention function.





Bird's-eye view of the main axis in Shi Sun & Sun Jiang Park.
The central axis is based on the concept of ancient charm and fragrance, forming multiple spatial levels of "open-semi open-semi closed".
Each square is shaped around different thematic cultures, becoming a stage to showcase the local history, culture, and customs.



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On the basis of evaluating and improving its flood discharge, the design team has conducted an overall review and feature enhancement of the existing situation for the site. The main design strategies include:

1. Sorted out the transportation, well planned and connected the transportation system, repaired the road system in the park, ensured the convenient parking and improved the horizontal connection between vehicle and pedestrian traffic;
2. Upgraded and repaired the waterfront walkway;
3. Renovated the original open market (i.e. upgrading the large paving area of the squares) and transformed it into citizen squares and opera stages;
4. Utilizing the original appearance of the site, evaluating and utilizing the construction of the remaining steel structures on the site, which has improved the functionality of the central axis;
5. Utilizing the original abandoned large steel frame. After the reinforcement and optimization, it can be used as a temporary celebration space for cultural and creative markets, exhibitions, festivals etc.;
6. Making full use of scattered steel structures and other abandoned items to transform them into functional spaces or items, i.e. people's libraries, waterfront resting stations, etc;
7. Expanded and elevated the central axis, and combine local cultural concepts from south to north to form the local traditional chest thumping dance square, Opera Square, Nan Yin Square, etc.;
8. Dredged the water area, reinforced and repaired the existing Nine-Zigzag Bridge, and added water pavilions and recreational spaces;
9. Embedding modern art and landscape expression;

Compared to more attention paid to the maintenance of cultural heritage and historical sites within the Shi Sun park, Sun Jiang park placed more emphasis on the display of local customs and traditions.

The main design concept for the renovation of the park is to showcase the local intangible cultural heritage of Quanzhou's Music and Opera culture. It retains the chest thumping dance and integrated various Opera forms such as Nanyin and Liyuan opera. By setting specific landscape nodes and visual centers, it created a strong sense of spatial sequence and a special landscape experience with regional characteristics.



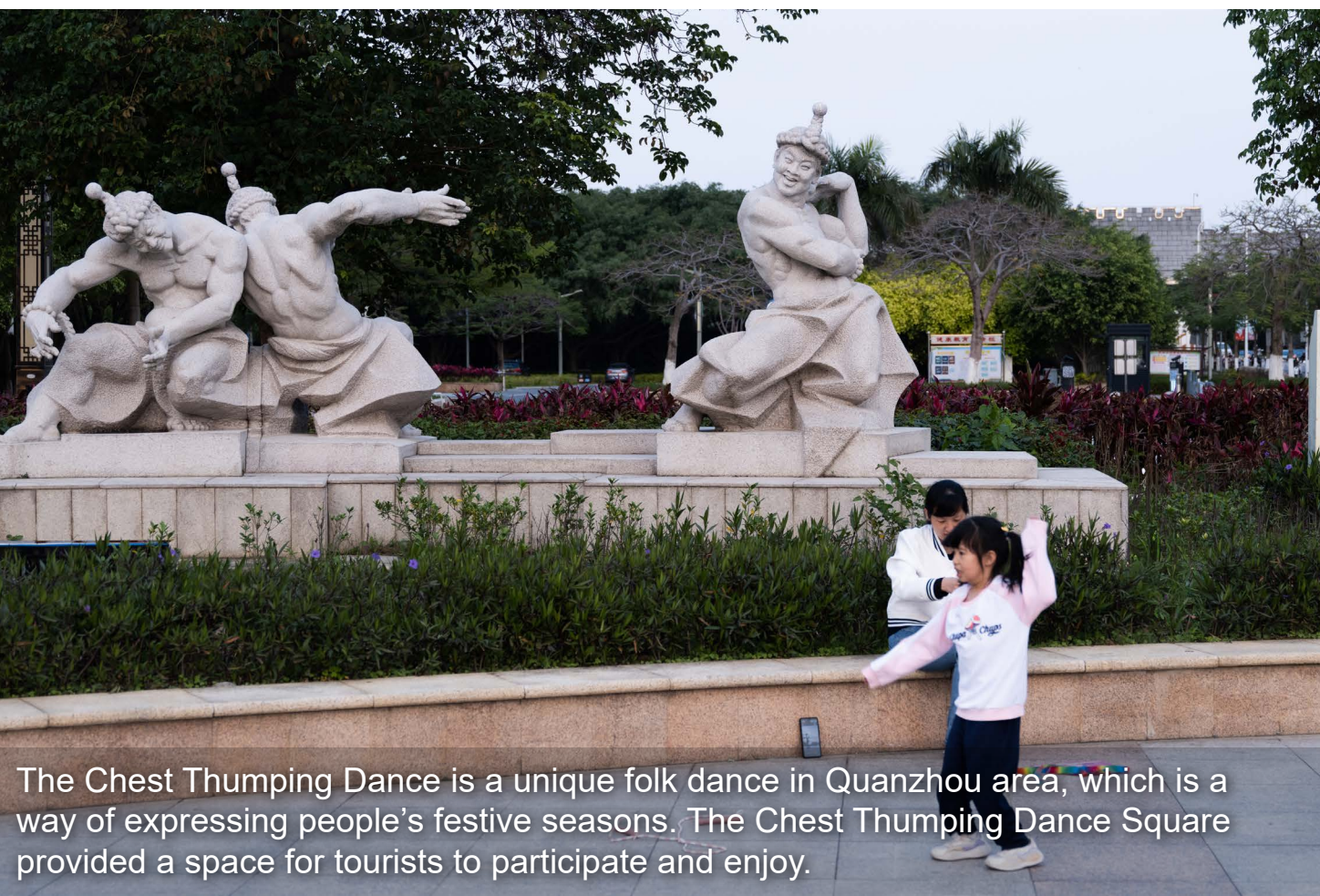


The Chest Thumping Dance Square and the Quanzhou Cultural Stage are arranged symmetrically from end to end, reflecting the classical and solemn style.



Sunset of Nine-Zigzag Bridge

The Liyuan Square is themed around the traditional “Liyuan Opera” and is paved with Quanzhou’s unique grinding bricks. The clever acoustic design also echoes the node theme.



The Chest Thumping Dance is a unique folk dance in Quanzhou area, which is a way of expressing people’s festive seasons. The Chest Thumping Dance Square provided a space for tourists to participate and enjoy.



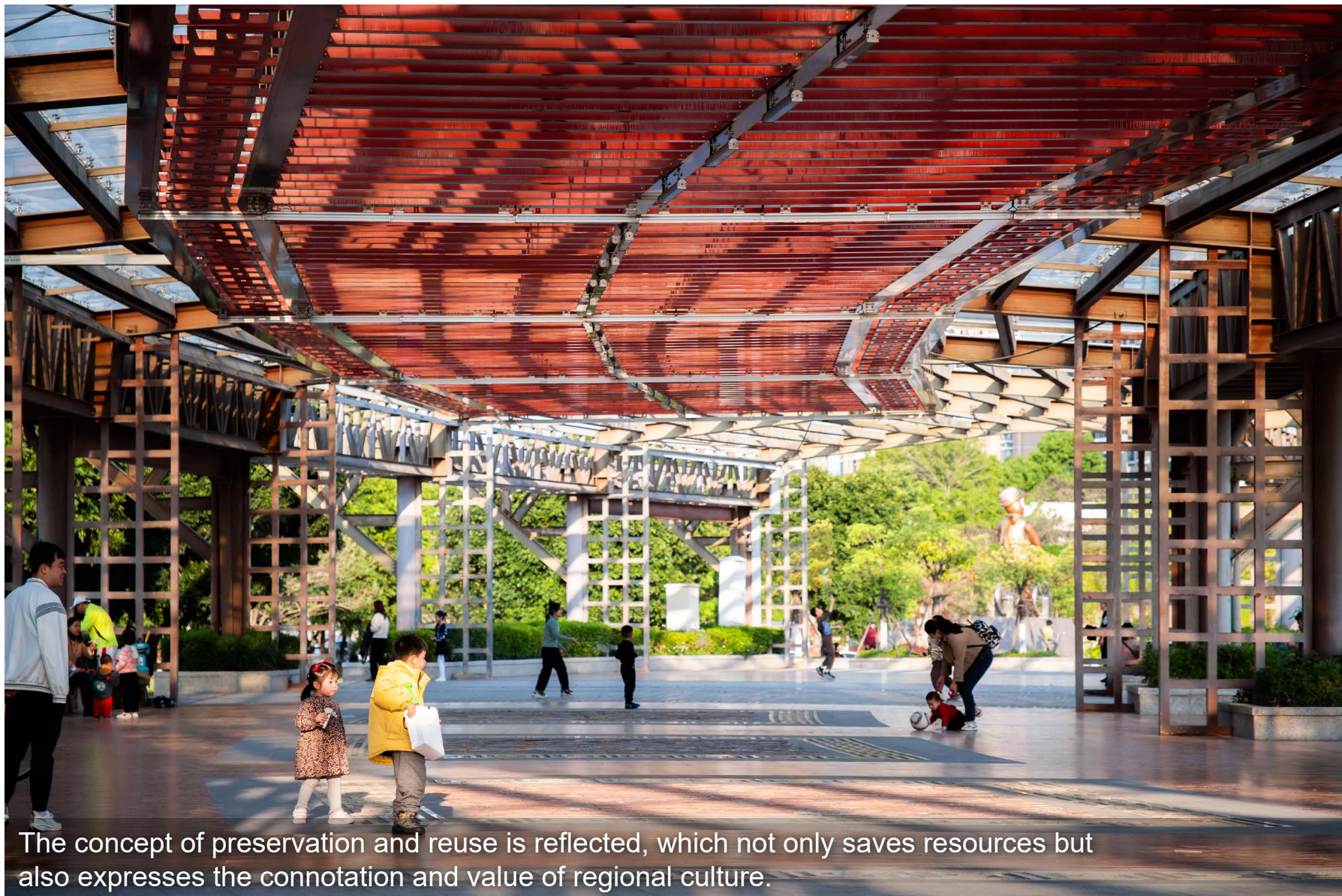
Combined with the terrain, the nodes in the middle of the main axis adopt an asymmetric form, it came with a contrast within the rigorous square layout. This design technique is also derived from the pursuit of “relaxation and moderation” in traditional Chinese gardens.



The newly added waterside pavilions adopted the traditional arch of wooden architecture technique in Quanzhou to respond to the regional characteristics.



The Folk Culture Market is the most important component of Shi Sun & Sun Jiang Park and located at the end of the landscape axis. It is also the climax of the whole spatial design. The designer preserved and artistically enhanced the original steel structure to form an art gallery, which can host a civic cultural market and also formed a vast square space.



The concept of preservation and reuse is reflected, which not only saves resources but also expresses the connotation and value of regional culture.



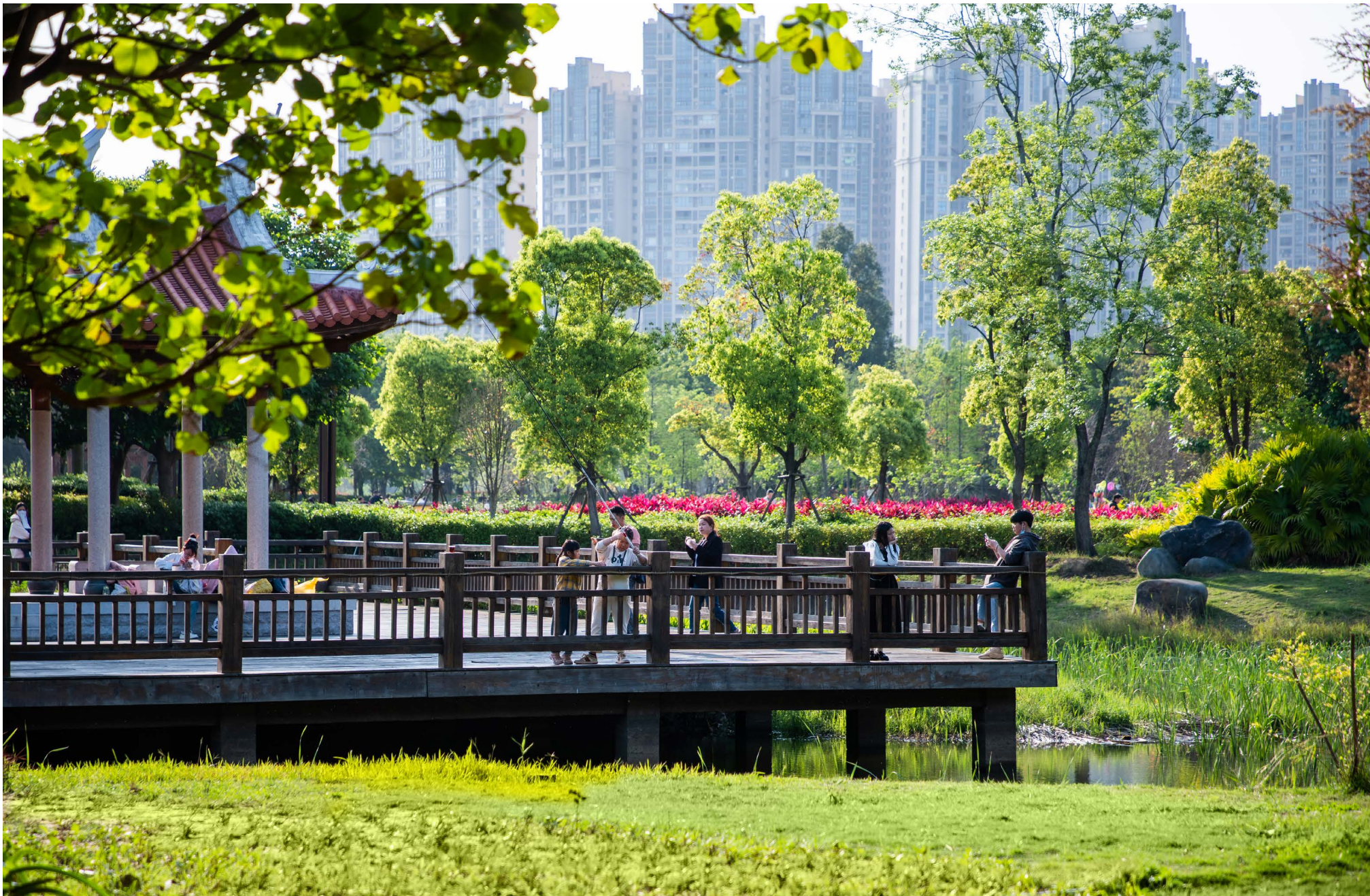
Citizens rest under the steel structure corridors left behind on the original site.



Fun landscape installations encourage people to interact and communicate.



The inspiration of installation "Patrol Monkey" is drawn from the Quanzhou cultural heritage string puppet.



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CONCLUSION

The elements of landscape design are diverse, and for natural landscapes, emphasis should be placed on the characteristics and personality of the site, highlighting the historical memory of the site, shaping unique scenes and spaces, which are the long-term characteristics that attract and meet the needs for local people and visitors.

In this project, the design team has used techniques such as preserving natural resources, protecting historical and cultural heritage, reproducing cultural scenes, creating new perspectives, introducing new ecological elements etc. to restore and revive Sun Jiang & Shi Sun Park. Urban renewal is not only a physical transformation of urban space, but also the inheritance and enhancement of urban spirit and cultural connotation.