

An aerial photograph of a historic town in Xikou, Fenghua, Zhejiang Province, China. The town is situated along a wide river, with a dense cluster of traditional Chinese buildings featuring dark tiled roofs. A stone wall runs along the riverbank, separating the town from the water. In the foreground, a bridge crosses the river. The background shows rolling mountains under a clear blue sky.

REVITALIZED HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

—— OPEN SPACE RENEWAL OF THE CHIANG'S FORMER RESIDENCE AREA IN
XIKOU, FENGHUA, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

Project name: Open Space Renewal of the Chiang's Former Residence Area in Xikou, Fenghua, ZheJiang Province

Project address: Xikou, Fenghua, ZheJiang Province

Area: 26,207.8 Square Meters

Award category: Open:Streetscapes&Planting

PROJECT STATEMENT

Chiang Kai-shek, president of the National Government of Republic of China Period(1840-1949), was born and raised in Xikou Town, Fenghua City in Zhejiang Province. The scenic area of Chiang's Former Residence covers an area of XXha, with 22 historical sites scattering around and mainly along the Wuling Road. This once glorious historical neighbourhood with outdated facilities was lacked of vitality and overall organization in the past decade and was imperative to carry out renovation and transformation towards a new stage of development. The landscape architects proposed complex spatial renovation strategies integrating spots, lines and surfaces, activating not only the road space but also the overall block. Traditional local materials and recycled materials are widely utilized in the construction phase, meanwhile the high-tech sound and photoelectric methods are also innovatively adopted to well-demonstrate the abundant history and culture.

After the renovation, the annual number of tourists increased from 3.5 million to 6 million, and the staying time was largely extended, which greatly stimulated the local tourism industry. The project showcases a high-level cultural tourist complex, a window to present local culture, and a comfortable neighbourhood place for the public.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

[Overview]

Background

Xikou in Fenghua City, ZheJiang Province is the hometown of Chiang Kai-shek, and 22 historical sites there have been well protected. It is known as "the first town of the Republic of China culture (specifically refers to the period from 1912 to 1949, which was the transition period of Chinese society)". Among the historical sites, the Chiang's Hometown Building Group was listed as the major national protected cultural relics in 1996. Because of the uniqueness and irreplaceability of its historical and humanistic value, it has been hailed as one of "the most imaginative building groups in China". The core relics of Chiang's hometown include Fenghao House, Yutai Salt Shop, Historical Villa, Wushan Temple, Wenchang Pavilion, Chiang's Ancestral Hall, Maha Hall, and the Cemetery of Chiang's Mother.

This project is located in the section of Wuling Road, southwardly adjacent to the city's important natural resource—Shanxi River and northwardly adjacent to core cultural resource of the city—the major sites of Chiang's former residence, which is an important corridor across the city.

This once glorious historical neighbourhood lacked vitality in the past years and faced the dilemma of development and transformation. Due to the scattered and uneven distribution of historical attractions, it was difficult to organize tourism routes around it and balance the development in the entire area. The streets and alleys were narrow, and tourists mostly made passing tours, and there was a lack of highlights that attract people to stay. Additionally, the sense of cultural experience was limited and weak, and it was difficult to meet functional demands for citizens and tourists in the new era. The quality of landscape and infrastructure was also outdated, with the lack of service facilities.

In this circumstance, Xikou government entrusted us to carry out the overall renovation and improvement of the roadscape and surrounding

areas of Chiang's former residence, expecting that the local culture would be respected, and this historical street which had been gradually losing its vitality could be activated to create a high-level tourist site and a cultural symbol for the local area.

The renovation project is highly comprehensive which includes architectural renovation, landscape regeneration (including pavement, urban furniture and signage system), lighting design, and public art design.

[Core Strategies]

1. Spatial strategy combining spots, lines and interfaces

- 1) Lines - Improving the experience of slow traffic system: the main road was transformed from an area for vehicles to an area for pedestrians; a featured walking trail was added; water was introduced into the street space to improve tourist experience.
- 2) Spots - Special improvements on road intersection nodes: through the renewal and new intervention of cultural spots such as archway and public arts, the functional experience in linear space were strengthened; a series of spots are connected in the sequence of "foyer-porch-living room" and shapes the narrative rhythm of the road landscape that echoes from beginning to end.
- 3) Interface – Constructing four major interfaces combining with the slow traffic system of the city: the architectural interface of the historical period of China, the street block interface, the Shanxi waterfront interface, and the on-water sightseeing interface. They altogether contribute to the transition from a simple sightseeing tour to a complex combination of dynamic and static tour experience.

2. Scenic Sights Organization Strategies

- 1) Through reorganizing the vegetation layers, thinning the understory space along the road and opening the original closed roadside space, a landscape surface facing Shanxi River was formed;
- 2) By organizing the primary and secondary visual focuses in street space and integrating the resting space as well as the guidance of sight lines, the tourists are led and attracted to move along the east-west direction of the street and enhance the overall vitality of the area.

3. Cultural strategy

- 1) With the history, local culture and neighborhood genius loci being fully studied through community research and relevant studies, public art settings were created along the road to add cultural features, combining with resting spaces, which has enhanced the continuity of the distribution of cultural attractions and the touring value of the whole block.
- 2) In addition, participatory interactive devices were applied to fully demonstrate the charm of culture. The themed light show named "Dream of Xikou" were also proposed, in which 3D projection, high-tech sound and photoelectric methods are used to realize the popularization and promotion of local culture and vitality. Additionally, multiple settings of interactive public art were tailored, such as "Shanxi River Youth", "Maitreya", "Beautiful Voice of Meiling", " Middle School of Wuling ", etc., which have typical regional cultural characteristics and enable various forms of public participation.

4. Construction and Materials

Attention was paid to ecology and environmental friendliness during the whole construction process, and lots of local materials and recycled materials were adopted, which not only reduced the cost, but also integrated the sense locality and history into the project.

- 1) Usage of eco-friendly materials: all paving materials were sourced locally and most of them are abandoned stones;
- 2) Reuse of recycled materials: Public art settings and peripheral landscape facilities mostly adopt old items discarded in the daily life of local people, reused through processing and re-creation;

The overall quality of landscape was enhanced through the reorganization of onsite landscape resources, enhancement of spacial layout, and enrichment of scenery layers. Moreover, the project combined multi-aspect improvements such as lighting, public art and urban furniture, which highlighted and realized the organic renewal of the entire block.

[Economic, social and ecological benefits after renovation]

After the renovation of Chiang's former residence scenic area, the annual number of tourists increased from 3.5 million to 6 million, which greatly stimulated the local tourism industry. Additionally, the business along the route was also significantly revitalized, and the staying time was largely extended. The light show at night attracted tourists to stay around overnight, and the touring time was extended to 12 hours from the original 6 hours. The tourism consumption was stimulated and the regional tourism revenue has increased by about 1.5 times.

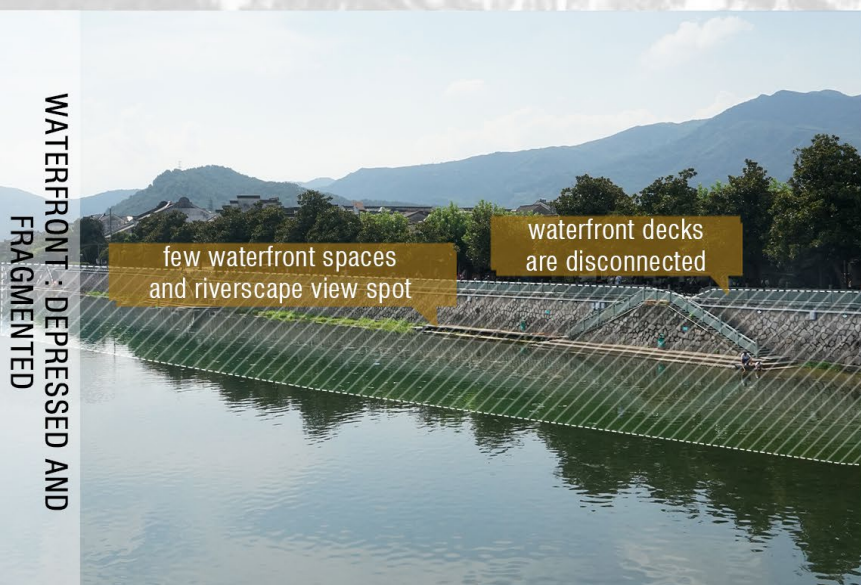
By complex strategies and overall coordination, this project has realized the compound revitalization of ecological benefits, cultural benefits and economic benefits, showcasing an high-level tourist site, a window to present local culture, and a comfortable block for neighbourhood public, contributing to the sustainable development of the city area.



STREET SPACE : NARROW AND DULL

sparse vegetation

long and narrow path with no resting area



WATERFRONT : DEPRESSED AND FRAGMENTED

few waterfront spaces and riverscape view spot

waterfront decks are disconnected



STREET BUSINESSES : LOW POPULARITY, SINGLE BUSINESSES TYPE

cluttered building facades

cramped space at front



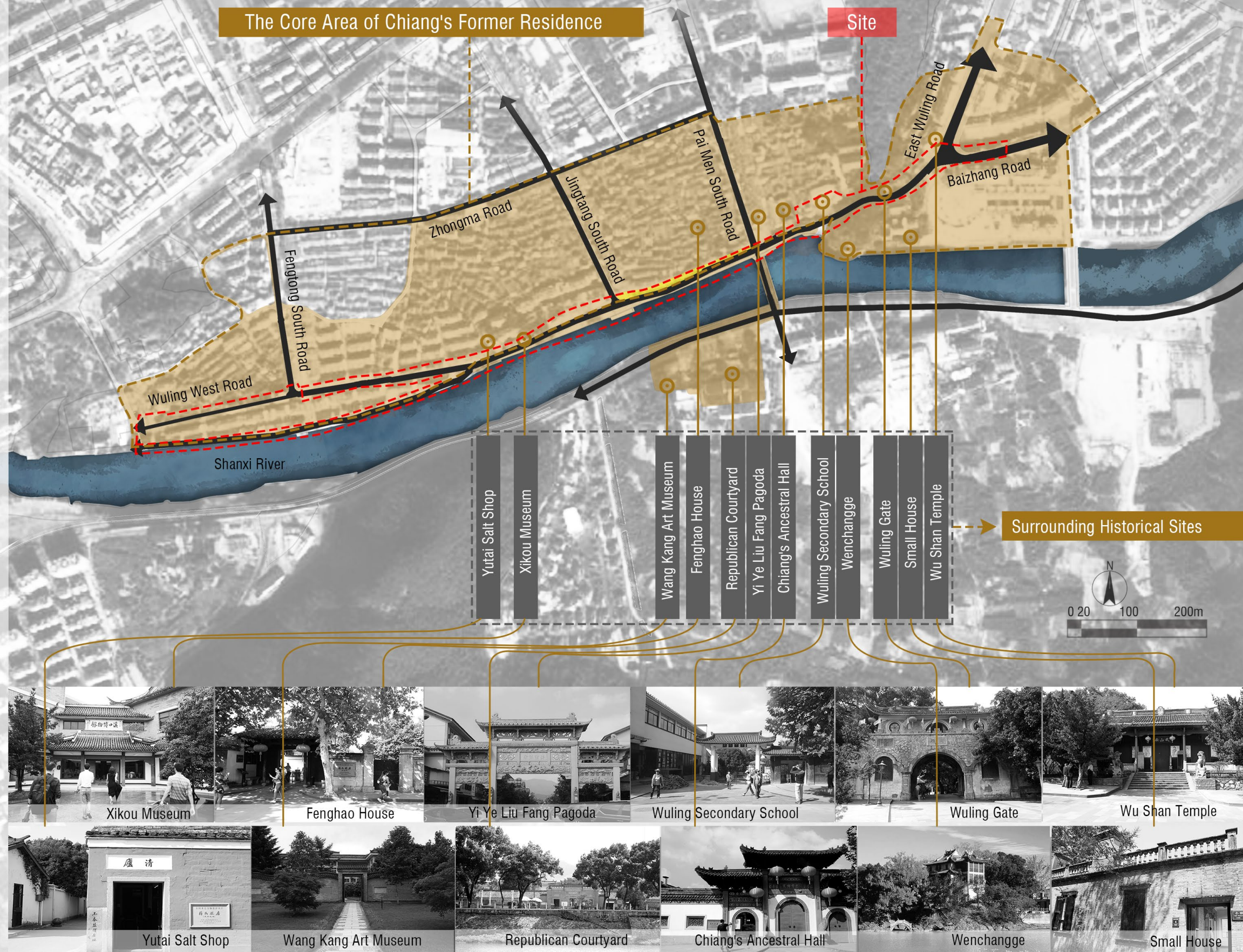
SERVICE FACILITIES : DILAPIDATED AND LACK OF COMPLEX FUNCTION

facilities are old and disorganized

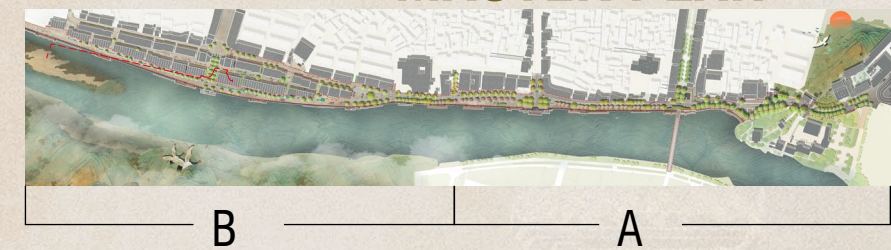
EXISTING SITE

PROBLEMS:

- 1.This once glorious historical street lacked vitality in the past years and faced the dilemma of development and transformation.
- 2.Due to the scattered and uneven distribution of historical attractions, it was very difficult to organize tourism routes around it and balance the development in the entire area.
- 3.The streets and alleys were narrow, and tourists in Wuling District mostly made passing tours, and there was a lack of highlights that attract people to stay.
- 4.Additionally, the sense of cultural experience was limited and weak, and it was difficult to meet more functional demands for citizens and tourists in the new era. The quality of landscape and infrastructure was also outdated, with the lack of service facilities.



MASTER PLAN



RENEW

24757.8M² pavement

1.4KM-LONG street

6 squares

NEWLY BUILT

61 parking spaces

23 activity areas

2400M slow-traffic space

6 public artworks

340 M² building façade

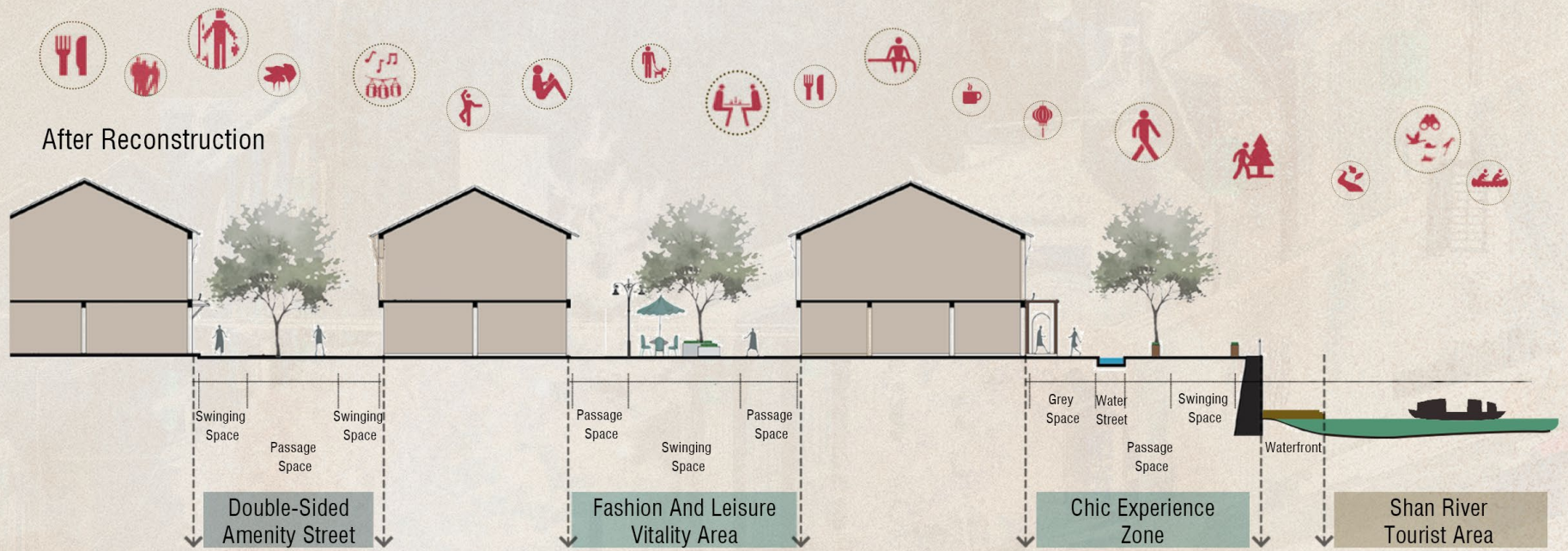
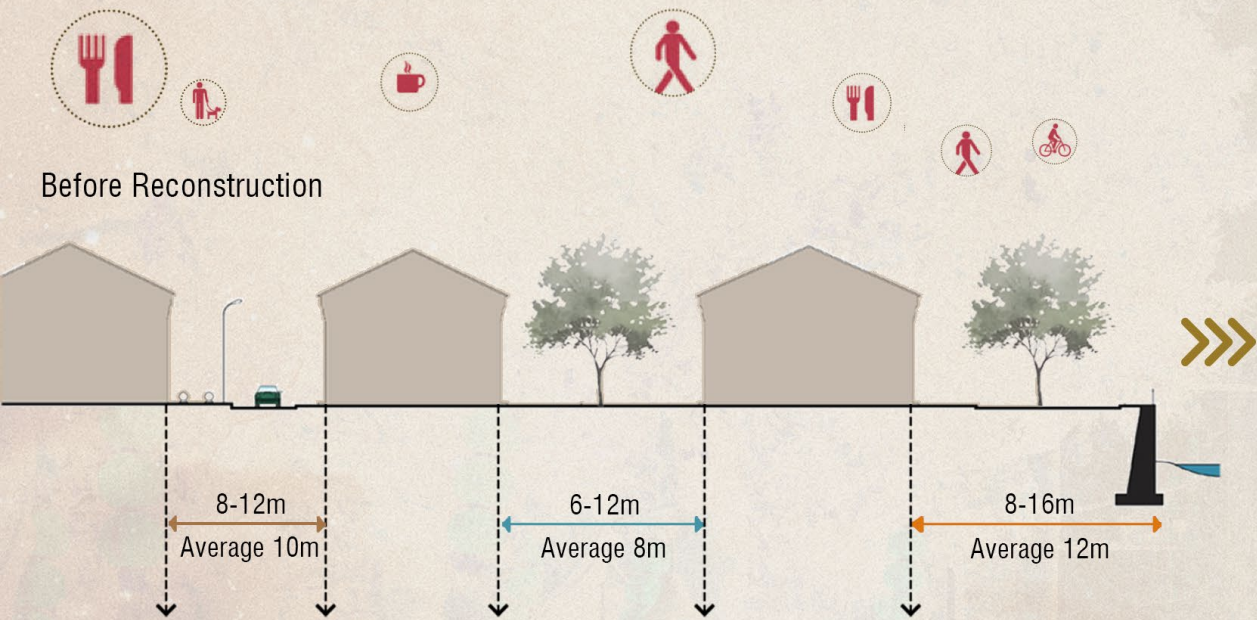
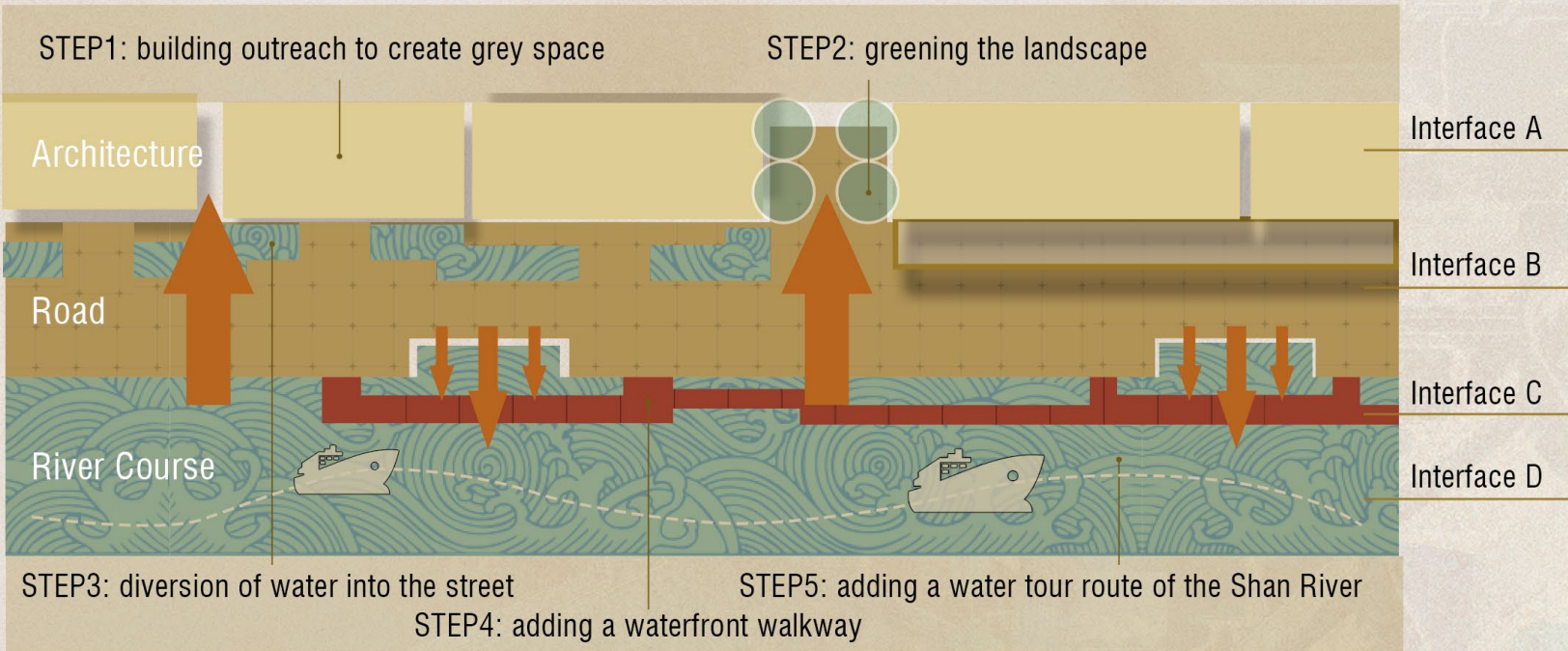
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Command pavilion | 13 Plaza |
| 2 Signage wall | 14 Activity Square |
| 3 Canal paving | 15 Water features |
| 4 Waterfront platform | 16 Goblets |
| 5 Ancient well | 17 Viewing wall |
| 6 Original pagoda | 18 Featured courtyard |
| 7 Xinan Gallery Bridge | 19 Featured water features |
| 8 Water walkway | 20 Landscape Bridge |
| 9 Shanxi River Teenager | 21 Sunlight Corridor |
| 10 Tree Square | 22 Waterfront walkway |
| 11 Relaxation Corridor | 23 Entrance view |
| 12 Public Art Sculpture | |

Aerial view

CORE STRATEGY - INTERFACES



Interface Activation
»»»



A. Architectural Interface

Width: 8-12 m

Width/Height: 0.5-1

With a certain degree of privacy, it belongs to the transition area between living space and open space. By creating additional space for outreach and access, a double-sided street with a strong sense of atmosphere is created.

B. Street interface

Width: 7-15 m

Width/Height: 1-2

The space has a certain intimacy and at the same time can accommodate commercial space. This allows for the creation of an outward-looking area in the middle of the block to reinforce the commercial atmosphere and create a fashionable relaxing area.

C. Shanxi Waterfront Interface

Width: 8-16m

With a relatively open view of the river landscape, adjacent to the waterfront. The main street connecting waterfront leisure spaces is created through the outward expansion of the grey space of the building, the addition of a waterfront walkways and the diversion of water into the street space.

D. On-Water Sightseeing Interface

The light show "Dreams of Xikou" is also created accordingly.

Using 3D projection, high-tech acousto-optic means, the show brings together the landscape culture, Chiang's culture and Buddhism culture of Xikou, presenting the history and ancient charm of the thousand-year old town.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS

Attention was paid to ecology and environmental friendliness during the whole construction process, and lots of local materials and recycled materials were adopted, which not only reduced the cost, but also integrated the sense locality and history into the project.

- A.USAGE OF ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS:** all paving materials were sourced locally and most of them are abandoned stones;
- B.REUSE OF RECYCLED MATERIALS:** Public art settings and peripheral landscape facilities mostly adopt old items discarded in the daily life of local people, reused through processing and re-creation



【 NORTH BANK OF THE SHANXI RIVER 】

The organic regeneration of the the Shanxi River bank is achieved through a combination of architectural renovation, landscape reconstruction (including open space, urban furniture and signage systems), lighting design, public art design etc.



BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



AFTER CONSTRUCTION

【 SHANXI RIVERSIDES 】

The design also focuses on the creation of night landscape effect, forming an interactive development of the day and night economy, thus driving the development of the area with the high added value.

AFTER CONSTRUCTION



BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



【 MEMORY OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA 】

The addition of the folk-style clock sculpture at the otherwise empty and sluggish intersection of the Wuling neighbourhood creates a sight focal point, while infusing the neighbourhood with the historical atmosphere of the Republic of China.



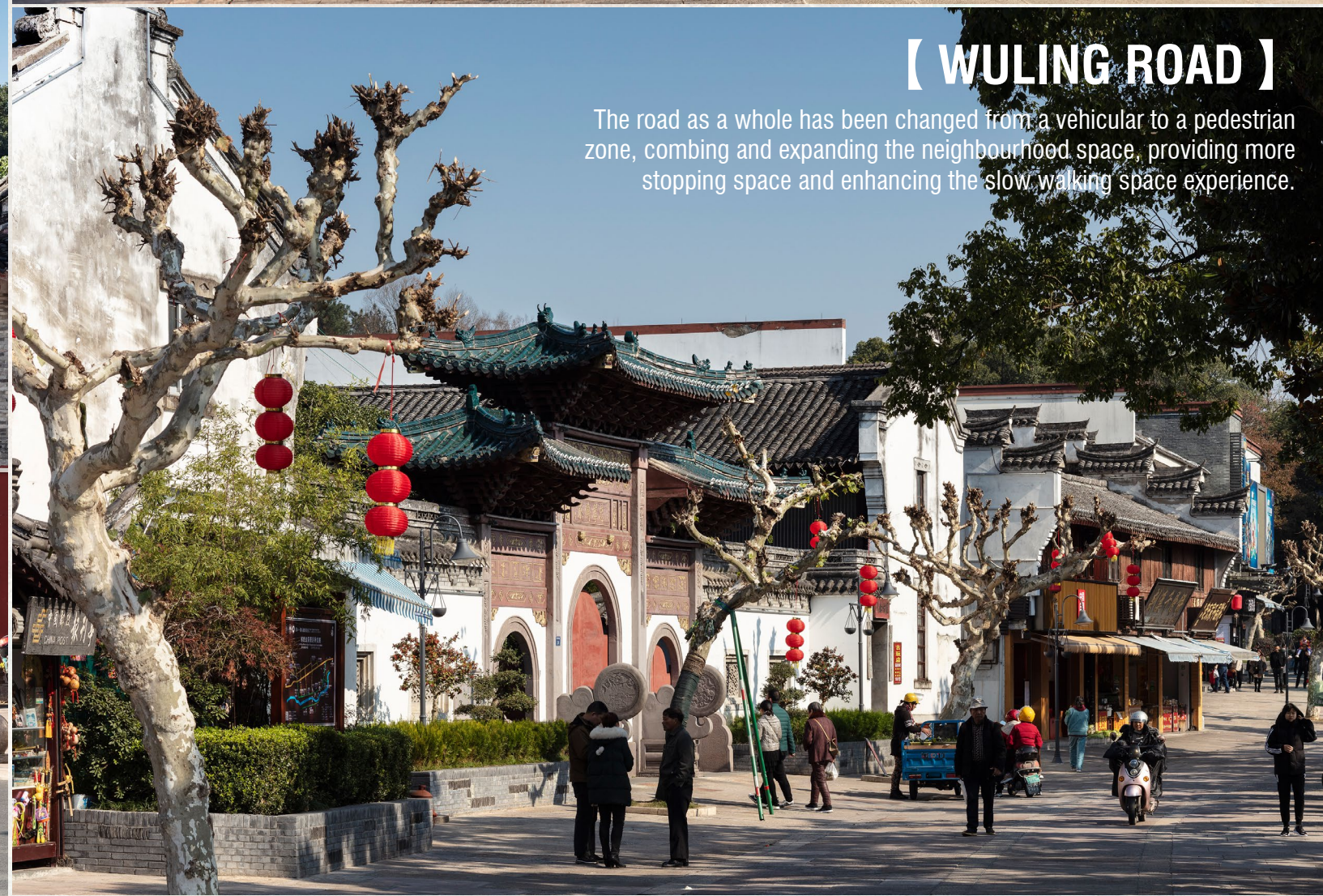
【 ANCIENT WULING GATE 】

The Wuling Gate is the symbol and soul of the Republican culture of Xikou. The design reshapes this iconic spot through vegetation reorganizing, sight guidance and colour coordination.



【 WULING ROAD 】

The road as a whole has been changed from a vehicular to a pedestrian zone, combing and expanding the neighbourhood space, providing more stopping space and enhancing the slow walking space experience.



MEMORIAL ARCHWAY 【 AUTUMN MOON AT JINXI RIVER 】

The memorial archway is a distant echo of the existing Wuling Gate, forming the first and last spacial node of Republican culture; the archway is a reuse of an collected old pagoda, full of a sense of history and age.



【 WULING SCENERY 】

The view points along the street space are organized, and through the integration of open spaces and visual guidance, the circulation flow along the east-west direction is guided, thus the overall vitality of the area is enhanced.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



AFTER CONSTRUCTION



ART WORK SETTINGS

Public art work settings were created along the road to add cultural and historical features, combining with resting spaces, and enabling various forms of public participation. It enhances the continuity of the attractions' distribution and enriches the touring experience.



Shanxi River Teenagers



Shanxi River Teenagers



The Beautiful Song of Melling



Maitreya Traveling to Man's World



Xikou Family



The Youth of China

【 “ DREAMS OF XIKOU ” : LARGE-SCALE LIGHT SHOW 】

The themed light show named "Dream of Xikou" were also proposed, in which 3D projection, high-tech sound and photoelectric methods are used to realize the popularization and promotion of local culture and vitality



【 SHANXI RIVER SCENERY 】

By reorganizing the riverside vegetation layers, the original enclosed space is opened up, offering a clear view corridor from the street and creating a landscape inter-surface facing the river.

