

**REBIRTH OF THE HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM CITY**  
**LANDSCAPE RENOVATION DESIGN OF RUZI PAVILION PARK, NANCHANG**



**Project name:** Rebirth of the Historical View of the Millennium City——Landscape Renovation Design of Ruzi Pavilion Park, Nanchang

**Project address:** Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province, China

**Area :** 4.27 hectares

**Award category:** Cultural and Urban Landscape

## PROJECT STATEMENT

Ruzi Pavilion Park, with an area of 4.27 hectares, located in the downtown of Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, is named after the Ruzi Pavilion inside built thousands of years ago, which is the significant character of the ancient view “Xu Pavilion and Willows”, one of the Top Ten Views in Yuzhang formed since Ming Dynasty. Yet it once became an enclosed and forgotten park with dilapidated facilities and stinking water before the reconstruction. The proposal focuses both on the integral enhancement of landscape quality and the cultural interpretation and re-presentation, achieves the poetic expression on the picturesque landscape of historical scenes with modern technology. Meanwhile, the ecological environment, especially the water eco-system is restored by a variety of means. The current Ruzi Pavilion Park benefits hundreds of thousands of residents by providing them with an activity space for recreation as well as for exchange of folk art. It also connects the surrounding blocks with an area of about 3 square kilometers centered on the West Lake, effectively promotes the development of culture, business and tourism in the region. CCTV News Broadcast recommended it as a model for the organic renewal of China’s old parks.



# PROJECT NARRATIVE

## 1.PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ruzi Pavilion Park, located in the downtown Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, and named after the Ruzi Pavilion inside built thousands of years ago. The pavilion is the significant character of the ancient view “Xu Pavilion and Willows”, one of the Top Ten Views in Yuzhang formed since Ming Dynasty. As a landmark of spiritual culture in Nanchang, the park now covers an area of about 4.27 hectares, including 2.13 hectares of water area.

Before the renovation, the park was outdated and sluggish. Its landscape space was closed, resulting in the park being fragmented from the urban landscape, poor in accessibility and short of spatial layers and permeability, and causing the feeling of gloom and dreariness. While it was rich in cultural heritage, its expression was single, with low recognition and weak experience. Due to historical reasons, the deterioration and stinking of the water in the park due to historical reasons made the nearby residents suffer unspeakably. Accordingly, the local government classified it as a black-odorous water and required rectification. Based on this, the Nanchang Municipal Government started the organic renewal of Ruzi Pavilion Park. It is expected to create an open, ecological and dynamic cultural park for the public by renovating the water body and reproducing the millennium Yuzhang views of “Xu Pavilion and Willows”.

## 2.DESIGN OBJECTIVES

The thousand-year cultural heritage of Ruzi Pavilion Park is inherited to realize the rebirth of traditional culture under the modern landscape system. Efforts are made to build the “green lung” and “blue core” of the city with green ecology, beautiful landscape and integrated city view , based on the idea of “lake & city connection, poetry & painting into situation, ancient & modern integration”.

## 3.STRATEGIES

### (1) Integral enhancement of landscape quality

- Demolish the fence and bound of the park to show the landscape of the lake, supplement it with the sight from architecture, corridors and greenery, and strengthen the landscape infiltration inside and outside the park by shoreline adjustment.



- Sort out the vegetative landscape levels and thin out the greening areas with over-high canopy closure to release the understory space.
- Highlight the primary and secondary rhythms of landscape nodes and form a spatial sequence going from dynamic to static, and integrating spots, lines and surfaces.
- Upgrade the park's supporting service facilities and enhance the overall service quality so as to provide more diverse activity spaces under the guidance of clear functional zoning.
- Focus on building the park's night scene to offer a "fairyland on earth" night-tour experience. The park's cultural temperament is presented in the simplest color shape, all lamps are replaced by LED light sources and a time-control mode is used in the power distribution system to reduce energy consumption.

## **(2) Cultural interpretation and reconstruction**

- Cultural interpretation: In Ming Dynasty, Ruzi Pavilion stood on the bank of the West Lake in Nanchang, which was covered with willow trees. In spring, there appears a sight of misty rain and swaying willows, people named the view with "Xu Pavilion and Willows", which is one of the Top Ten Views in ancient Nanchang, with a thousand-year history. Standing in the West Lake, Ruzi Pavilion is a hexagonal pavilion with double eaves built in honor of the famous scholar "Xu Zhi" of the Eastern Han Dynasty, being not only the spirit carrier of Nanchang's scholars and literati but also the cultural landmark of the city's memory.
- Cultural reconstruction: On the basis of valuing the existing Ruzi Pavilion, Ruzi Tomb, monument corridor and other heritage buildings, interventions are moderately considered, including landscape buildings and supporting facilities with the overall color coordinated. Inspired by the "Xu Pavilion and Willows" ancient painting, the historical landscape are reorganized and recreated in the park through the analysis of the clues in ancient poetry and paintings, including build nine humanist attractions. The landscape integration art and hi-tech means are employed to re-present the fine view of "Xu Pavilion and Willows", revive the artistic conception of "Night with Spring Moon" and reproduce the thousand-year relic of Ruzi so that the public can regain the sense of pride for the city Culture through the cultural manifestation and inheritance.



· Cultural representation: The lighting show of “Xu Pavilion and Willows” is produced in the park. The public art “Water Book”, as the southernmost origin of the park’s water body, presents a sunken “water character” on the calm water surface, recreating the artistic conception of “The breeze blows on the bank lined with willows; the humming comes along with the strolling”. The public art “Ruzi Appreciating the Moon”, the climax of the whole park, is based on the original Mid-Lake Pavilion and the allusion “Ruzi Appreciating the Moon”. With the “moon” as the main character of creation, the work hides the moon in the forest during the day and rise it up at night, meanwhile creating images suspended in the sky by technological means and lighting projection, presenting a dreamy and gorgeous picture so as to revive the earthly wonderland of the “Spring Moon”.

### **(3) Ecological measures**

Such four major measures as source pollution control, internal source treatment, ecological governance, water cycling activation and water & bank integration are enforced. This aims to resolve the problems of black-odorous water in the West Lake, restore the water environment, rebuild the water ecology system, and carry out the experiment of sponge city and the intelligent management system.

· Source pollution control: A sewage outlet is blocked through the reconstruction of peripheral municipal pipelines through rainwater and sewage separation. The existing sewage outlets are given the sewage intercepts, such as the addition of overflow wells and storage ponds, to effectively reduce the peripheral pollution sources.

· Lake-bottom dredging: The use of mechanical dredging cleans 2m-deep silt of the lake bottom, with the total cleaned silt of about 40000 m<sup>3</sup>.

· Living water cycle: A 174-m living water pipe is laid along the West Lake Road to recharge the lake with fresh water. The small water surfaces on the east and west sides are raised to form the internal circulation.

· Enhancing the self-purification functions of the water in the West Lake :The secondary revetment is applied to grow more aquatic plants, while the ecological green islands and 6 aeration machines are added to accelerate microbial metabolism in the water.

· Rainwater collection for recycling: In accordance with the topography of the park, the “ecological grassland ditches” are used instead of the rainwater pipeline system to collect and utilize rainwater.



#### 4.PROJECT PERFORMANCE

The organically renewed Ruzi Pavilion Park has been considerably upgraded in landscape quality and creatively achieved the poetic expression of modern technology on the picturesque landscape of historical scenes. Covered by dozens of authoritative media such as CCTV News Broadcast, it is recommended as a model for the organic renewal of China's old parks in ecology, culture and landscape.

In terms of water ecosystem governance, the mechanical dredging has cleaned the 2m-deep silt of the lake bottom, with the total cleaned silt of about 40000m<sup>3</sup>. The effective measures of the sponge city are used to collect 21,000 cubic meters of rainwater each year.

These actions eventually transform the black-odorous water full of blue-green algae into the clear water grading with class IV.

The current Ruzi Pavilion Park benefits hundreds of thousands of residents by providing them with an activity space for recreation as well as for exchange of folk art. It connects the surrounding commercial streets including Ruzi Road, Yuanming Road S. and Zhongshan Road to form a bustling business district with an area of about 3 square kilometers centered on the West Lake. Its public arts stimulate people's desire to visit the park at night, with a maximum of 12,000 visitors per day. This not only boosts economic growth, but also produces a positive radiating effect on the peripheral areas and drives land appreciation, effectively promoting the development of culture, business and tourism in the district and even the whole Nanchang city, and truly returning the lake, park and green space to the public.



# MASTER PLAN

—The thousand-year cultural heritage of Ruzi Pavilion Park is inherited to realize the rebirth of **traditional culture** under the **modern landscape system**.

—Efforts are made to build the “**green lung**” and “**blue core**” of the city with green ecology, beautiful landscape and integrated city view.

## LOCATION

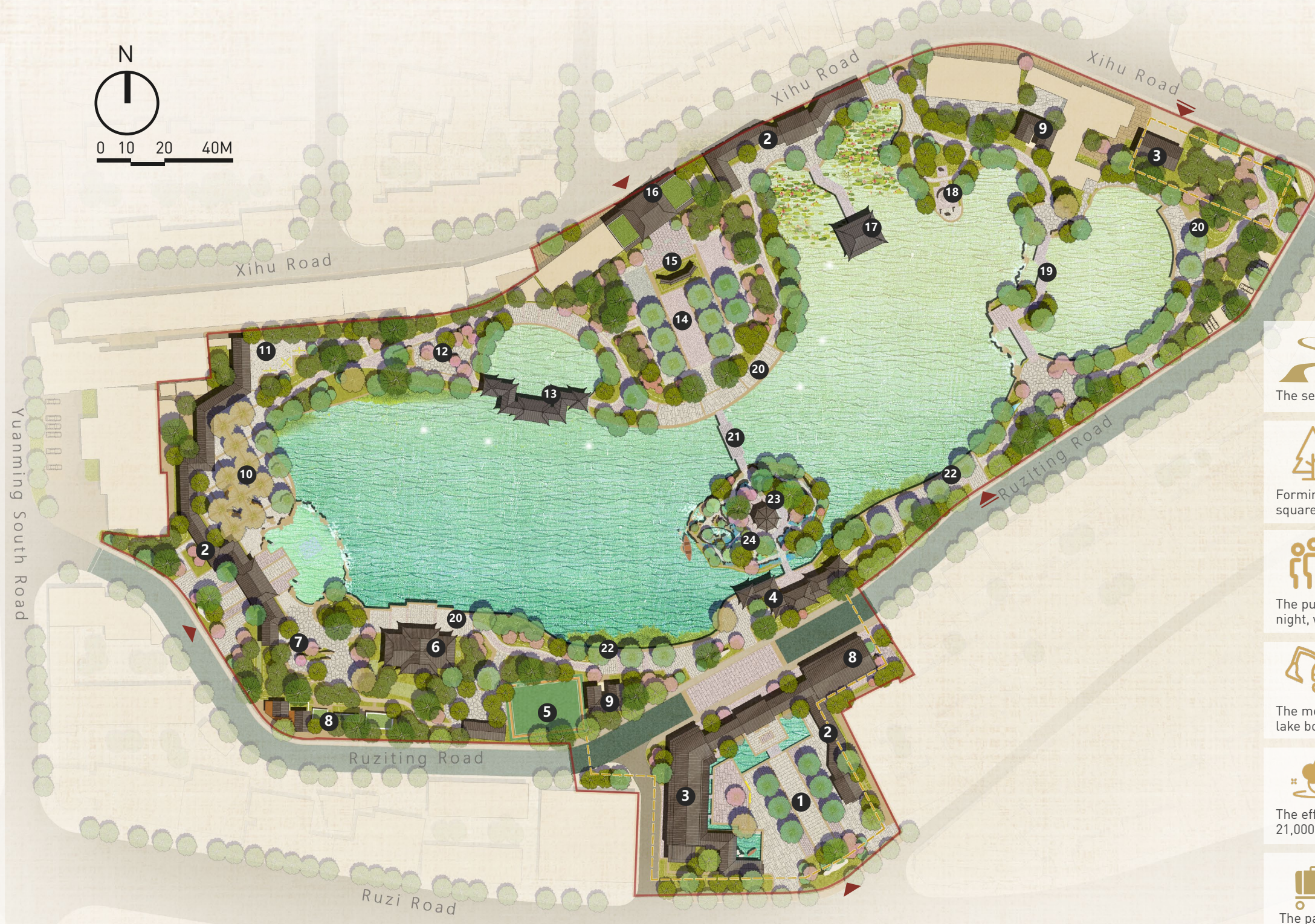
Ruzi Pavilion Park is located in the center of Nanchang City of Jiangxi Province. It has been the core of the time-honored city.

Jiangxi Province, China

Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province



- 1 Open square
- 2 Recreational veranda
- 3 Basement entrance
- 4 Renovation of the stele gallery
- 5 Gateball court
- 6 Equipment room
- 7 Rock viewing park
- 8 Supporting facilities
- 7 Public toilet
- 10 Garden in the forest
- 11 fitness garden
- 12 Parent-child paradise
- 13 Fish-viewing pergola
- 14 tree array square
- 15 Screen wall
- 16 North gate of the park
- 17 Lotus View Pavilion
- 18 Xu Ruzi's Tomb
- 19 Water boardwalk
- 20 Riverine platform
- 21 Renewed arch bridge
- 22 Strip square
- 23 Xu Ruzi Pavilion
- 24 Full moon structure
- Main entrance
- Secondary entrance
- Design area
- Underground garage area



**+373M** LENGTH OF NEW SECONDARY REVETMENT  
The secondary revetment is applied to grow more aquatic plants.

**+180** ADDED CHARACTERISTIC TREES  
Forming a greening characteristic space combining ginkgo square, peach blossom forests, etc.

**↑1.8X** HIGHEST NUMBER OF DAILY VISITORS  
The public arts stimulate people's desire to visit the park at night, with a maximum of 12,000 visitors per day.

**40,000M<sup>3</sup>** TOTAL DREDGING VOLUME  
The mechanical dredging has cleaned the 2m-deep silt of the lake bottom, with the total cleaned silt of about 40000m<sup>3</sup>.

**21,000M<sup>3</sup>** ANNUAL RAINWATER COLLECTION  
The effective measures of the sponge city are used to collect 21,000 cubic meters of rainwater each year.

**>3KM<sup>2</sup>** A PROSPEROUS BUSINESS CIRCLE  
The park connects the surrounding commercial streets to form a bustling business district centered on the West Lake.



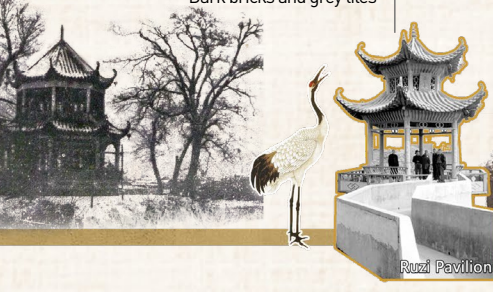
# CORE STRATEGY

## CULTURAL INTERPRETATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

### Step1:Cultural Interpretation

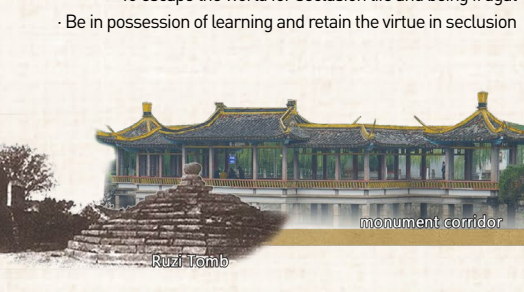
**ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE**

- High ridge with overhanging eaves
- Dual-slope roof house
- Dark bricks and grey tiles




**ANCIENT CELEBRITIES**

- Wisdom in young age and intelligence
- Indifferent and clear-minded with affection prioritized
- To escape the world for seclusion life and being frugal
- Be in possession of learning and retain the virtue in seclusion




**ANCIENT FAMOUS SCENERY**

- Willow, Moon, Pavilion, Smoky and fog



**MODERN MURALS**

- Yellow and blue colors
- Artistic conception



### Step3:Cultural Reconstruction

















## ECOLOGICAL MEASURES

**A. ABUNDANT AQUATIC PLANT COMMUNITY**

BEFORE: THERE IS BORING. THE WATER IS TERRIBLE. Hard revetment is rigid and dull with hardly any aquatic plant community.

AFTER: LOOK AT THOSE BIRDS! Growing more aquatic plants. Adding ecological green islands.

**B. RAINWATER COLLECTION FOR RECYCLING**

DRY GRASSED SWALE: Rain, Runoff, Vegetation layer, Humus, Geotextile, Permeable layer, Water storage space, Permeable layer.

WET GRASSED SWALE: Rain, Runoff, Pebble retaining weir, Planting soil 20cm, Water permeable layer 30cm, Rainwater collection pipe.

**C. AERATION MACHINES**

BEFORE: DONT STAY HERE! IT SMELLS AWFUL! The black anaerobic sludge decomposes dead algae, fish, and food at the bottom of the lake, emitting toxic gases. Algae block sunlight, release toxic substances, and rot algae become scum. Oxygen thin layer: suitable for fish growth. Deadwater: fish and animals cannot survive. Sapropelic layer: no oxygen.

AFTER: IT'S SO CLEAN! The upper and lower layer flow exchange, eliminating temperature differences and excluding waste gas.

**D. SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL**

Abundant aquatic plant community: Build a secondary revetment.

Lake-bottom dredging: The total cleaned silt of about 40000 m<sup>3</sup>.

To Xihu Lake

Source pollution control: Addition of overflow wells and storage ponds.

Rainwater collection for recycling: The "ecological grassland ditches" are used instead of the rainwater pipeline system.

Aeration machines: Increasing the self-purification functions of the water.

Living water cycle: The small water surfaces on the east and west sides are raised to form the internal circulation.

After conversion according to the runoff coefficient:

THE GREENING AREA : 10550\*0.15=1582.5M<sup>2</sup>

PAVING AREA: 13000\*0.9=11700M<sup>2</sup>

THE ANNUAL COLLECTION OF RAINWATER IN THE PARK : 20000-21000M<sup>3</sup>

### Step2:Cultural Integration

**A. REFINEMENT OF CULTURAL ELEMENTS**

Pattern + Formation + Color + Material

**B. TRANSFORMATION OF CULTURAL ELEMENTS**

Deformation + Visualization + Symbolization + Integration

**C. RE-PRESENTATION OF CULTURAL ELEMENTS**

Landscape facilities + Paving elements + Space functions + Art installations



# PHOTOS | "XU PAVILION AND WILLOWS"

The proposal showcases how cultural heritage can be utilized for landscape revitalization. After the renovation, the Millennium Yuzhang beauty of "Xu Pavilion and Willows" has been reproduced; meanwhile an open, ecological and dynamic cultural park is created for the citizens.





# PHOTOS | "NOSTALGIA AT XU PAVILION"

Ruzi Pavilion is the spiritual carrier of Nanchang's figures and a cultural landmark of urban memory. The design respects the existing Ruzi Pavilion by moderate intervention and overall color coordination to reconstruct the landscape for artistic conception in the history.





# PHOTOS | "RUZI APPRECIATING THE MOON" LIGHTING ARTWORK



A lighting artwork setting is created based on the traditional allusion. With the structure “moon” rising up at night, it creates suspended images by technological means and lighting projection, presenting a dreamy picture to revive the earthly wonderland in history.



Construction process



Lighting installation



# PHOTOS | "WATER BOOK SHOW" LIGHTING ARTWORK

The artwork "Water Book" presents a sunken "water character" on the calm water surface, recreating the artistic conception of "The breeze blows on the bank lined with willows; the humming comes along with the strolling".





PHOTOS | “PAINTING SCREEN”&“RUZI WILLING OX”PUBLIC ARTWORK



“Painting Screen”

The painting screen, resembling a unfolding scroll, is designed based on the ancient story for Xu-Ruzi which has been passed down for thousands of years.



“Ruzi Willing Ox”

The willing ox is not only public art for landscaping, but also a leisure seat.



# PHOTOS | FISH VIEWING AT XU CORRIDOR

The design reshapes the historical scenic spot of the Fish Viewing Pond. The overall vertical image is recreated with partial structures added and the building repaired so that the corridor is wholly integrated with the atmosphere of the park.







The front space of the existing building is redesigned by reasonably setting up the entrance, integrating and upgrading the existent tree array square, retaining the available vegetation, and creating a square space that is conducive to the leisure and entertainment.

PHOTOS | "AROMATIC FOLDING WATERFALL"



# PHOTOS | PARK ENTRANCE

In order to avoid a thorough view of the park at the entrance space, in combination with the square, a foyer and a corridor with certain barrier function is designed, which can adjoins the riparian platform while creating entrance sequence.





# PHOTOS | HUNDRED-METER VERANDA

"XU PAVILION AND WILLOWS"



The integrally renewed Ruzi Pavilion Park not only improves the landscape quality , but also creatively realizes the poetic expression of historical scenery by modern technology. The park now provides visitors with a ideal space for relaxation and folk activities.