



Planning and Design of South China
Educational Historical
"Research and study" Base
(Pingshi),
the first phase of the project

Historical Milestone



1938

Guangzhou Was Occupied During the World War II

The Guangdong provincial capital was urgently moved to Shaoguan city.



1940

Universities and Colleges Insist on Running in the Front of the War

In 1940, National Sun Yat-sen University was the first to move into the Pingshi historical Street.



1941

The private Lingnan University of Hong Kong and the National University of Guangdong moved into the Pingshi historical Street. Subsequently, Pui Ching and Pooi To Middle School of Macao moved in and merged.



1942

The Second National Overseas Chinese Normal School moved in. National Overseas Chinese No. 3 High School and private Chinese Cultural College were established in Pingshi.



1944

Pingshi Became the Center of the Educational Base During the Wartime

The provincial agricultural, industrial and commercial school moved in.



Nowadays

The Pingahi is Locked in a Developing Crisis Nowadays

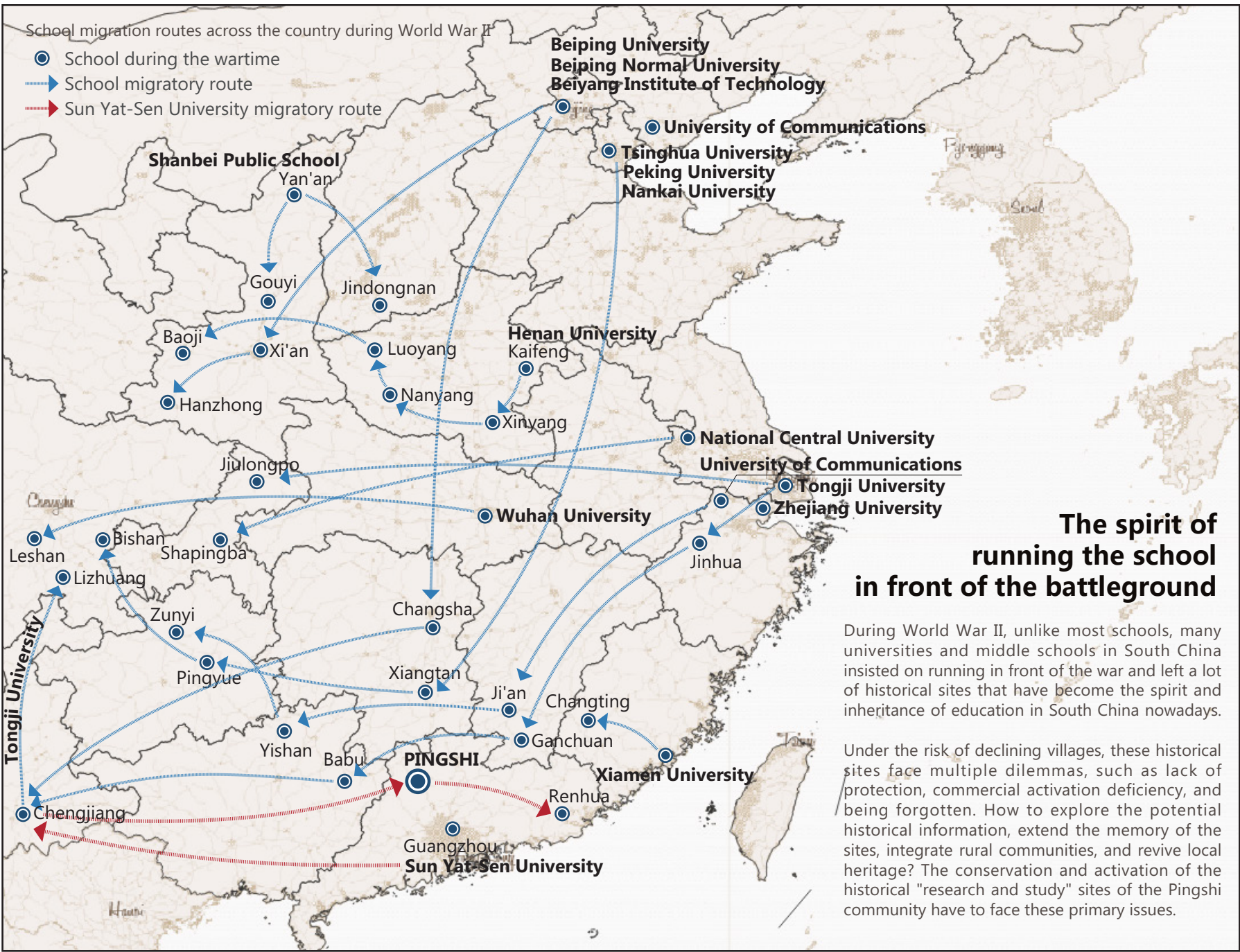
After the War, the colleges and universities withdraw from Pingshi. With the impact of the rapid urbanization process, the original historical environment of Pingshi is gradually depressed, and the public has forgotten the cultural environment.

Future

What Should We Do for the Future Development of Pingshi?



Time Axis



The Spirit of School Running in Challenging Circumstances

During the War, teachers and students of the universities and colleges in South China kept teaching and researching together until the end of the War. The spirit of these people who kept researching in challenging circumstances should be extended.



Adhere to International Exchanges to Create Remarkable Achievements



During the war, the teachers and students adhered to international exchanges, scientific research and exploration. In the spring of 1944, Joseph Needham, a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, visited Pingshi and had productive discussions.



The Historical "Research and Study" Bases Have a Profound Influence

The universities in Pingshi have trained more than 20 educators, and have developed a lot of famous universities in Guangdong province. Due to the adjustment of departments of the teachers and students after liberation, the spirit of South China education spread to many renowned universities in China and even overseas, with profound influence.

Challenges & Goals

Sanxingping



Pingshi Historical Street



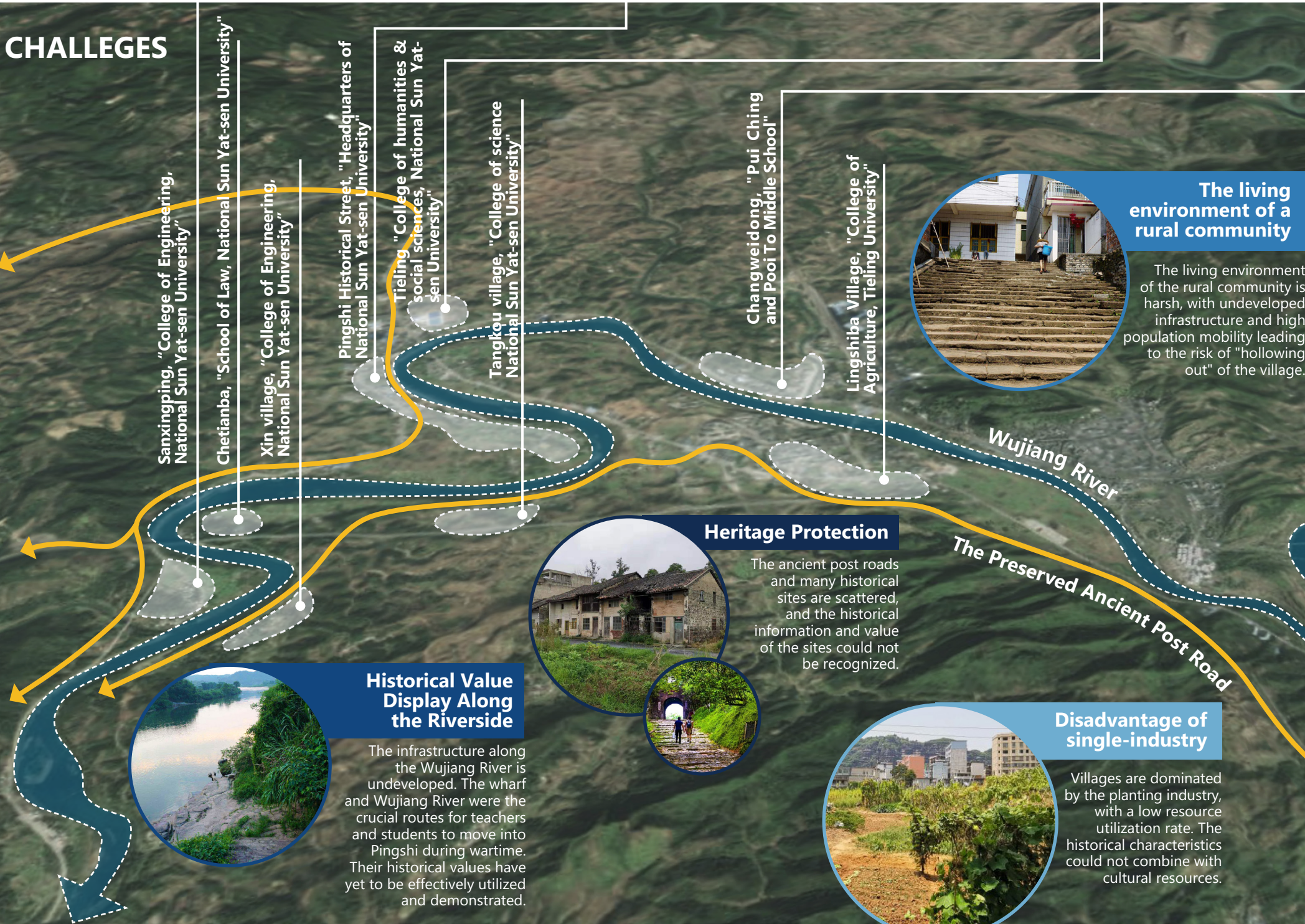
Tieling



Changweidong



CHALLENGES



Historical Value Display Along the Riverside

The infrastructure along the Wujiang River is undeveloped. The wharf and Wujiang River were the crucial routes for teachers and students to move into Pingshi during wartime. Their historical values have yet to be effectively utilized and demonstrated.

Heritage Protection

The ancient post roads and many historical sites are scattered, and the historical information and value of the sites could not be recognized.

The living environment of a rural community

The living environment of the rural community is harsh, with undeveloped infrastructure and high population mobility leading to the risk of "hollowing out" of the village.

Disadvantage of single-industry

Villages are dominated by the planting industry, with a low resource utilization rate. The historical characteristics could not combine with cultural resources.

GOALS

Heritage Protection

Relied on the ancient post roads and rivers, these memorial sites are connected as an interactive cultural route that could display the value chain of South China's educational history.

Display the historical value

Considering the historical value of the harbor along the riverside, the site's natural and historical elements must be integrated into the design. And linked the historical wharf and formed a display line beyond the river.

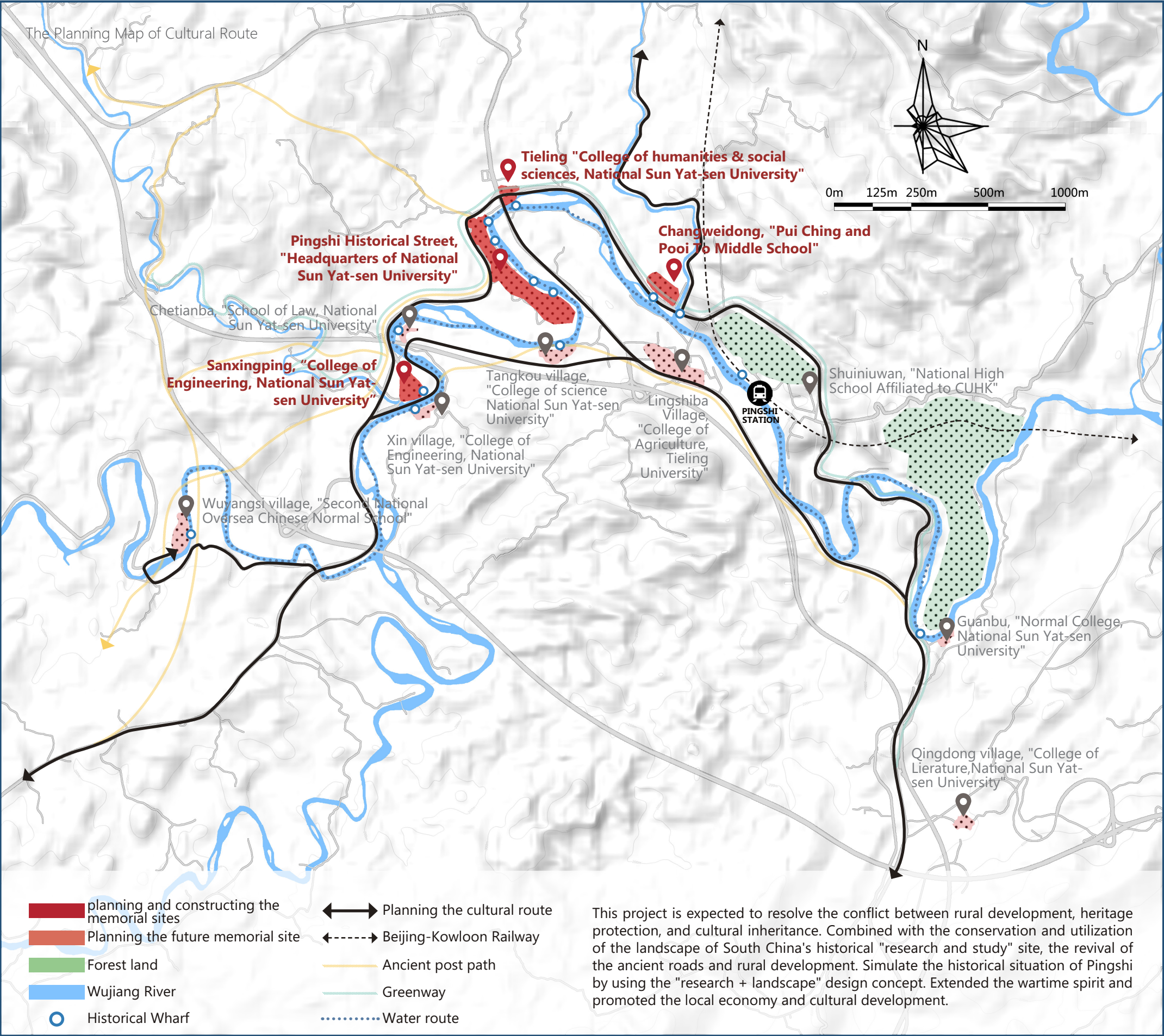
Improve the rural living environment

This project uses historical information and stories as landscape elements. Historical memories could disseminate through the interaction between landscapes and human beings, reviving the decline of rural public spaces and improving the quality of human habitation.

To solve the single-industry issues

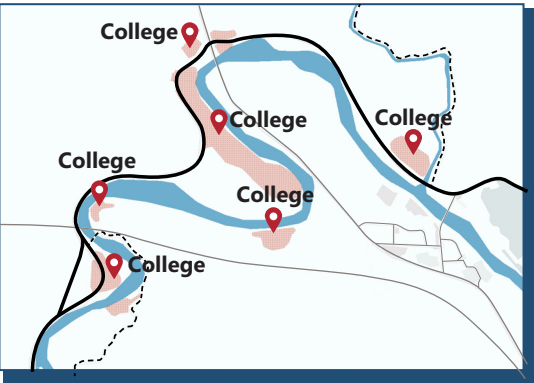
To explore the rural industry activation mode of culture and tourism, arouse and inherit historical South China's educational memory and culture, and promote local economy and culture development.

Design Strategy



Step 01 Linked the cultural routes

Linked the four critical historical sites and form a heritage network at the regional scale. This project created the water exhibition tour line to present the educational heritage value of South China.



Step 02 Restore historical sites

All the landscape elements this project explores should suit historical facts and memory. In this project, combined with facade restoration, preservation, and renovation, the historic buildings are transformed into public places related to South China's educational history.

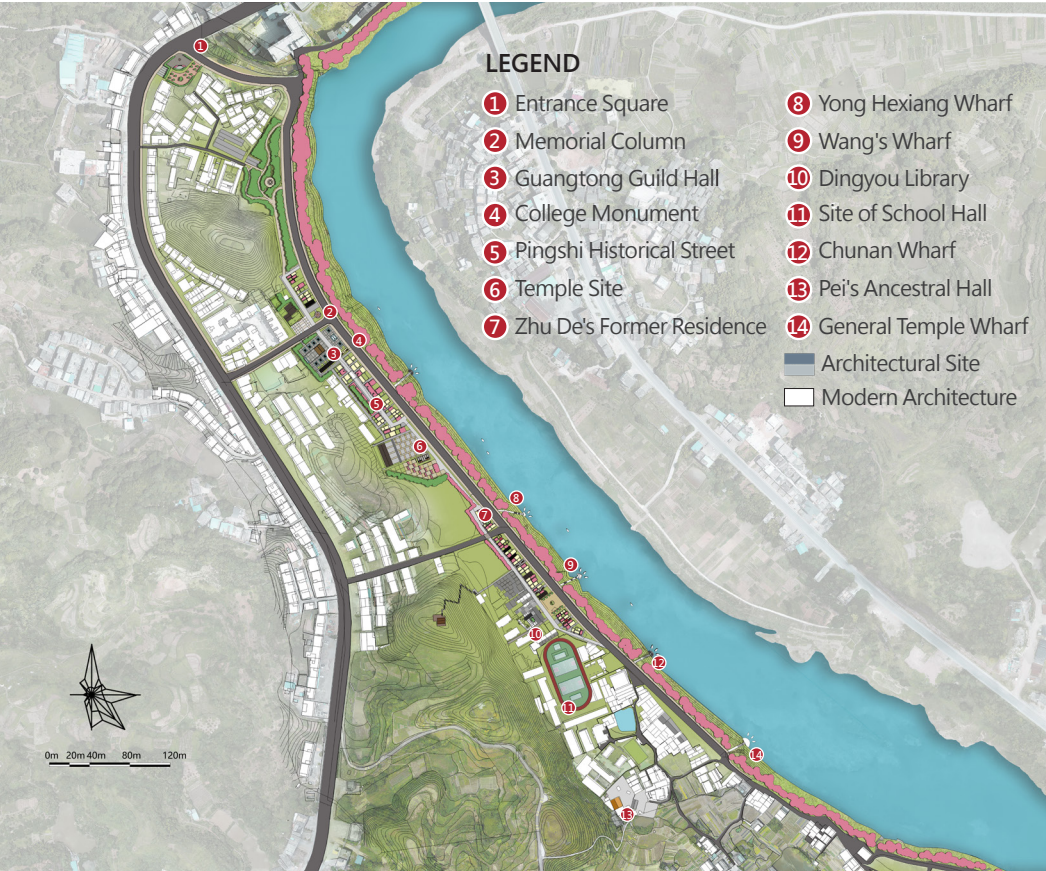


Step 03 Rural revitalization

Improve the quality of the rural living environment and revitalize the rural industries using "cultural elements". Promote residents to participate in the protection practice of historical heritage to enable the sustainable development of historical and cultural heritage.



Monument 1: Pingshi Historical Street "Headquarters of National Sun Yat-sen University"



Historical stories are transformed into landscape elements such as landscape walls, ground carvings and pavilion-shaped corridors, improving the rural public environment with the design technique of time zone (pass-present-future) linkage.

Monument 2: Sanxingping, "College of Engineering, National Sun Yat-sen University"



Reconnect the interior places of the historical site and the riverside pier, and bring the bamboo scene on the other side of Wujiang River into the internal area using the method of view borrowing.

Monument 3: Tieling, "College of Humanities & Social Sciences, National Sun Yat-sen University"



Simulating the scroll by using the landscape wall, the visiting process is just like the scene of unrolling the scroll reading, and exploring the historical stories from the sculpture of the landscape wall.

Monument 4: Changweidong, "Pui Ching and Pooi To Middle School"



Exhibit the historical information by restoring the historical gate site, and improve the overall landscape combined with the existing basketball court, seedling field, and waterfront plot could complement the infrastructure of the rural community.

Restoration and Activation of Schoolhouse Ruins

Model 1 Restore landscape based on historical photos



Historical photo



Restored landscape pavilion

Model 2 Repair the damaged classroom building and reuse it



Before



Renovated as a community volunteer service station

Model 3 Rehabilitate abandoned historic buildings and revitalize them into community centres



Before



After



Exterior square landscape



Transformed into a community library

Dingyou Library

To commemorate the historical deeds of Du Dingyou in protecting books during the wartime.



Before



After



Repair the facade of the building



Exterior square landscape

Zhongshi Theater

Restore the historic theater and reuse it as a community theater.

Preserve and restore the architectural skin of historical sites, and transform historical buildings into public places related to the history of education in South China through facade restoration, preservation, and renovation.

The Cultivation Process of Rural Cultural Research

Excavate historical sites and information

Under the guidance of experts, the volunteers were organized to investigate the historical sites, and the historical information was fully excavated and sorted out by archaeology, interview, surveying, and mapping.



Find historical buildings

Look for sites based on historical photographs



Excavation site



Hung the signs



Supplementary historical information



Use landscape to communicate historical stories

Before the planning and construction, the signs should be hung on the historical sites, and historical information should be attached to facilitate residents and visitors to understand the history of Pingshi.

Build iconic message boards for historic sites

Volunteers display and preach Pingshi historical stories

Relying on the resources of universities in South China, a team of volunteers has been formed to regularly carry out exhibitions, lectures, and teaching in the local area.



Resident is reading the history



Display stories in historic buildings



Resident is reading the history



Alumni review school



Systematic research activities



Cultural tourism spot

Many universities and middle schools have carried out several research activities with the theme of "Tracing history." In addition, various tourist routes have been launched, and many schoolfellows have visited Pingshi and reviewed the study history.

Create an influential research and study base

Under the premise of protection, while excavating and sorting out the history, planning and designing, planning and carrying out various research activities, forming the construction mode of "simultaneous construction and research."

Social Effect Achievement



← **Form An Interdisciplinary Service Team**



This project has set up a volunteer team covering archaeology, planning, landscape architecture, architecture, engineering, and tourism. Provide a professional services guidance team for the "research and studies" base construction.

From the multiple aspects of cultural planning, exhibition design, logo design, art and sculpture creation. Etc. Revealing this unknown history and providing a more substantial experience of heritage interaction platform.

↓ **Cultivate the "Research and Studies" Industry**



↑ **Promote Community Development**

Many media have reported and publicized the landscape renewal and activation of the Pingshi. The continuous development of research activities has attracted more tourists to Pingshi, driven the sales of local agricultural products, and promoted the development of the rural economy.

The project has greatly benefited from stimulating the historical "research and studies" bases. The preservation and activation of the educational heritage of Southern China are revitalizing Pingshi.