

IFLA ASIA-PAC LA Awards 2023

AWARD CATEGORIES –BUILT CATEGORY: CULTURAL AND URBAN LANDSCAPE

PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF ZHUSHAN: A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Project Title: Preservation, Restoration and Enhancement of Zhushan: a Cultural Landscape

Project Address: Miaoxi Town

City & Country: Huzhou, China

Project Size: 98000 SqM

Award Category: BUILT Category (Cultural and Urban Landscape)

PROJECT STATEMENT

Zhushan is located in Miaoxi Town, Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province, China. In the past, it was a spiritual mountain where Tang Dynasty literati gathered, and the tea sage Lu Yu and the Tang Dynasty monk Jiaoran, who systematically studied and promoted tea culture, were buried here successively. However, due to the continuous urbanization process, the cultural heritage of Zhushan has gradually fragmented, and the past grand scene of Zen tea culture exchange no longer exists. Therefore, strengthening heritage protection and meeting the functional needs of people's Zen tea culture exchange activities have become the top priority of the design.

The design team took the "Inscription of Miaoxi Temple " as a blueprint, striving to retain the historical context of the site and reproduce cultural memories. For the damaged cultural relics, the design reconstructed the cultural connotation through scene construction and spatial narrative.

The completion of Zhushan Cultural Park is not only the protection and restoration of cultural heritage but more importantly, it realizes the continuous inheritance of Zen tea culture and promotes international exchange of Zen tea culture. It has important social significance in promoting spiritual civilization construction.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

SITE HISTORY

Zhushan is located 13 kilometers southwest of Huzhou City and is a small mountain covered in bamboo forests and tea plantations with an area of only 160000 m². During the middle Tang dynasty around 760 AD, the custom of growing and drinking tea was prevalent in Huzhou. Literary figures such as Lu Yu, Jiaoran, Yan Zhenqing, Zhang Zhihe, and others often gathered here to discuss tea and poetry, leaving behind their works. Lu Yu lived in the Miaoxi Temple on Zhushan and completed the world's first tea book - ***The Classic of Tea***, before passing away in 804 AD and being buried on Zhushan. It wasn't until 1993 that domestic and foreign tea scholars from China, Japan, and Korea gathered here for the first time to pay tribute to Lu Yu, and tea culture exchange activities subsequently flourished.

DESIGN CHALLENGE

After a millennium, the original relics of Miaoxi Temple, Sangui Pavilion, Huangpu Bridge, and Wenge no longer exist. The mountain was covered by a dense bamboo forest and surrounded by railway and high voltage towers. In the context of continuous urbanization, Zhushan is facing problems such as ecological degradation, cultural heritage fragmentation and neglect, deforestation, village encroachment on the mountain, and excessive construction of transportation roads. Fortunately, relics such as Lu Yu's Tomb and Jiaoran's Pagoda still exist, and there are multiple ancient records about Zhushan. The client hopes to enhance and transform the image of Zhushan through this project, protect historical relics, promote Zen tea culture to the world, attract tourists, and develop tourism, thereby becoming an opportunity for the development of the small town.

DESIGN GOAL: REINTERPRET AND REPOSITION

Through deep historical research and analysis of existing site relics, the design team believes that the culture of Zhushan is diverse, with the most prominent being the Zen tea culture represented by the literati Lu Yu. Based on the high-quality landscape resources of the site and its profound humanistic cultural resources, the design goal is to transform Zhushan into a cultural park integrating humanistic culture and natural leisure.

The design team adopts a cultural landscape perspective and uses the method of "protection through design", that is, based on the record of the ***"Inscription of Miaoxi Temple"*** written by Yan Zhenqing, to restore the historical scene with the Lu Yu's Tomb as the cultural value core. Drawing reference from the traditional Chinese garden of Tang Dynasty. The project creates the ten scenic spots of Zhushan, making it a spiritual treasure trove full of humanistic atmosphere.

DESIGN STRATEGIES

Strategy 1: Constructing Material Value System

Based on the cultural landscape connotation of Zhushan, the design scheme has constructed a material-value system. Material system include tombstones, landscape patterns, plant communities, architectural styles, etc.; value system include the material carrier of tea culture, Zen culture, Confucianism and Taoism, etc. Through the layered features of cultural values, the design scheme finally determined a "one axis, one line" spatial layout. "One axis" refers to the Lu Yu pilgrimage axis, which connects the cultural main axis of Lu Yu's Thatched Cottage, Miaoxi Temple, Jiaoran's Pagoda, and Lu Yu's Tomb, and is the main axis for displaying Lu Yu culture and Zen tea culture. "One line" refers to the Zhushan tea tour line, which is transformed from the historical imperial inspector road. This line starts from Lu Yu's Tomb and connects multiple landscapes, providing a deep experience of Zhushan's landscape culture.

Strategy 2: Connecting Fragmented Historical Relics

To address the issue of fragmented culture and unclear cultural features, the design focuses on creating a landscape corridor for pilgrims to visit Lu Yu, highlighting the pilgrimage axis. Nodes are appropriately opened up to form a heritage network group through effective connections to many historical relics, maximizing the cultural value of the site.

Strategy 3: Reconstructing Historical Places

Based on cultural relics and ancient cultural texts, restoration and reconstruction work has been carried out on each scenic spot to create a new landscape suitable for the times, and to construct the "Ten New Scenic Spots of Zhushan": "Fishing Boats and Ferry", "Lu Yu's Thatched Cottage", "Cloud-Contemplating Tea Pavilion", "Stone Pond Tower Shadow", "Lu Yu's Legacy", "Bamboo Sea Like A Painting", "Mossy Bamboo Lodge", "Listening to Pine Trees with Wonderful Sayings", "Sangu Pavilion Overlooking Spring", and "Fragrant Sea of Poetry”.

Strategy 4: Reshaping the Ecological Environment

The design incorporates low-impact development and uses landscape techniques to handle mountain drainage through streams and ponds. At the mountain notches, water channels are designed as dry streams, making full use of the original terrace terrain and setting up recreational points and buffer platforms. Different varieties of *rhododendrons* are planted to reflect traditional Chinese plant landscape features. For the exposed mountain rocks, ecological restoration is achieved by planting moss plants such as *Bryum argenteum*, *Tortula ruralis*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, and *Callicladium haldanianum*. These moss plants have a pure and natural harmony, making them good materials for creating a traditional landscape.

Strategy 5: Revitalizing the Development of the Town

Various measures have been taken, such as planning activities and optimizing the industrial structure, to inject new economic vitality and continuous popularity into the town. The original tea field texture has been preserved, and it provides an innovation base for the Huzhou Tea Culture Association to develop new varieties of high-quality tea such as *Sangui Yuya*, *Luyuju tea*, *Sangui white tea*, and create a tea maternal tree gene bank, so as to revitalize the local tea industry while inheriting tea culture.

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE SPACE SEQUENCE

The primary feature of the park is the Pilgrimage Road of Lu Yu. This road is the main display path of the material cultural value system in the park, and the main axis of displaying Lu Yu culture and Zen tea culture.

In the past, a steep path across the village houses led to Lu Yu's tomb. After the negotiation with villagers, a desolate school building was demolished and reconstructed with Miaoxi Temple, then a new path was built next to the village. The Pilgrimage Road is a landscape sequence of commemorative narrative spaces that begins with Shanmen(Mountain gate) and ends with Lu Yu's Tomb, connecting Lu Yu's Thatched Cottage, Miaoxi Temple, Jiaoran's Pagoda and Shanmen Stele. In terms of spatial details, it integrates bamboo walls, stone slabs engraved with the Chinese character "tea", and the architectural language of black tiles and yellow walls of Tang Dynasty temples in regions south of the Yangtze River. People can feel the cultural context through details. In addition, with the space from large to small, the road from straight to curved, and the landscape elements from monotonous to rich, tourists' visual perception and emotional experience change accordingly, and finally reach the Lu Yu's Tomb with reverence.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Since the completion in 2022, various social groups from surrounding cities, such as government departments, civic associations, schools have visited the park, and dozens of activities have been organized here, including family education programs, calligraphy exhibitions, aesthetic photography competitions, tea culture exchange meetings, etc.

The park opened official accounts on various social media to disseminate tea culture. It has also organized annual international Tea Culture Festival that aimed at promoting international tea culture exchanges.

CONCLUSION

In addition to protecting and repairing the existing cultural relics, this improvement and renovation project focused on how to showcase and promote the core spirit of Zen tea culture in the landscape. The protection and renovation of Zhushan landscape not only inherited the authentic historical information and protected cultural relics, but also improved the environmental quality and promoted the economic and cultural development of Miaoxi Town, achieving a balance between protection and development. It is a successful practice of sustainable renovation of a commemorative cultural site.

Site plan

The design team took the "Inscription of Miaoqi Temple" as a blueprint, and made reference to relevant paintings and books to retain the historical context of the site and reproduce cultural memories.

The park expanded with Lu Yu's Tomb as the core, and restores the scenes in the poems of Lu Yu, Yan Zhenqing and other literati.



MAP OF HISTORICAL SITES IN ZHUSHAN, PAINTED BY SHEN DERONG IN THE 2000S

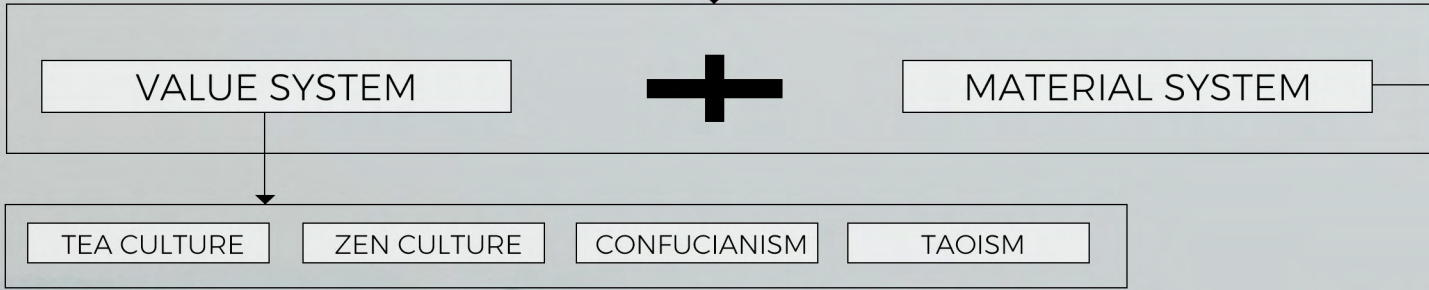


- 1 FISHING BOATS AND FERRY
- 2 LU YU'S THATCHED COTTAGE
- 3 ZHUSHAN CULTURE MUSEUM
- 4 RUINS OF MIAOXI TEMPLE
- 5 PILGRIMAGE ROAD OF LU YU
- 6 STONE POND TOWER SHADOW
- 7 LU YU'S LEGACY
- 8 BAMBOO SEA LIKE A PAINTING
- 9 MOSSY BAMBOO LODGE
- 10 LISTENING TO PINE TREES WITH WONDERFUL SAYINGS
- 11 RHODODENDRON GARDEN
- 12 IMPERIAL INSPECTOR ROAD
- 13 FRAGRANT SEA OF POETRY
- 14 SANGUI PAVILION OVERLOOKING SPRING
- 15 CLOUD-CONTEMPLATING TEA PAVILION

0 10 20 50 100m



COMPOSITION OF ZHUSHAN MATERIAL VALUE SYSTEM



Strategy 1: Constructing Material Value System

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"One axis" refers to the Lu Yu pilgrimage axis. "One line" refers to the Zhushan tea tour line.



LU YU'S TOMB

唐·孟郊《送陆畅归湖州因凭吊故人皎然塔陆羽坟》
孤吟玉凄恻，远思景蒙笼。
杼山砖塔禅，竟陵广宵翁。



THE WAY TO LU YU'S TOMB



FISHING BOATS DOCK



SANGUI PAVILION

唐·颜真卿《湖州乌程县杼山妙喜寺碑铭》
陆处士以癸丑岁冬十月癸卯朔二十一日癸亥建
因名之曰三癸亭



JIAORAN'S PAGODA

唐·孟郊《送陆畅归湖州因凭吊故人皎然塔陆羽坟》
孤吟玉凄恻，远思景蒙笼。
杼山砖塔禅，竟陵广宵翁。



IMPERIAL INSPECTOR ROAD

唐·颜真卿《湖州乌程县杼山妙喜寺碑铭》
树桂之有支径，以袁君步焉，因呼为御史径。

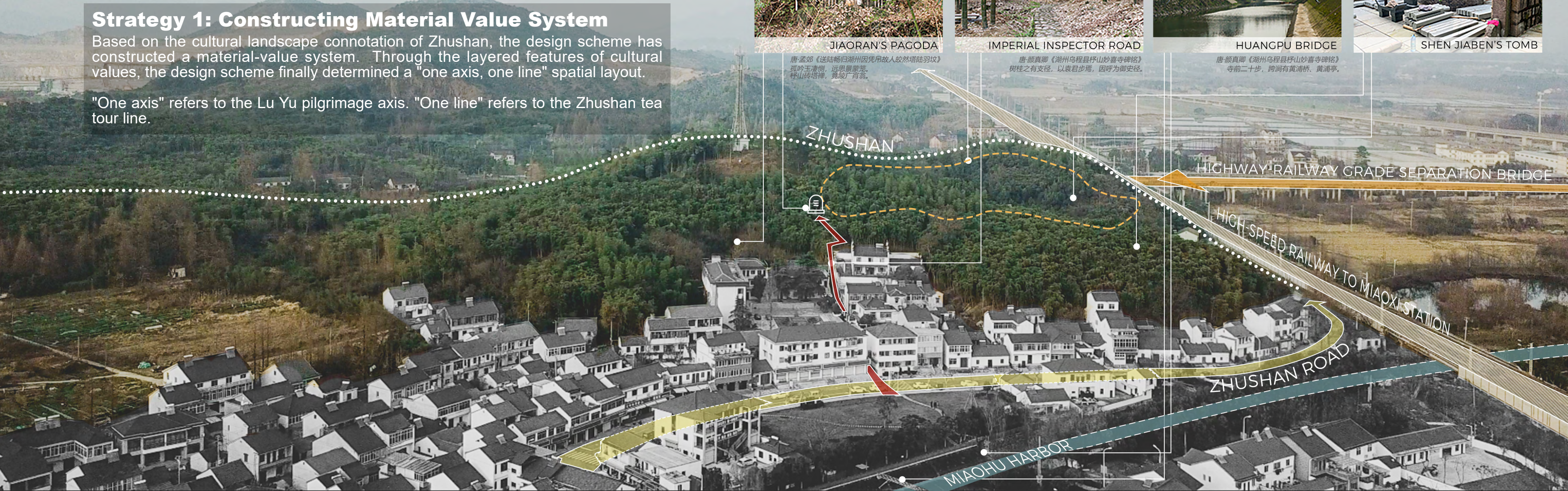


HUANGPU BRIDGE

唐·颜真卿《湖州乌程县杼山妙喜寺碑铭》
寺前二十步，跨涧有黄浦桥、黄浦亭。



SHEN JIABEN'S TOMB





JIAORAN'S PAGODA

MOUNTAIN STREAM

LU YU'S TOMB

THE PATH TO LU YU'S TOMB

Jiaoran's Pagoda

Lu Yu's close friend, the poet monk Jiaoran, was buried in a pagoda, facing the Lu Yu's Tomb across the water. This scene comes from ancient records.



OLD JIAORAN'S PAGODA

HARD TO ARRIVE

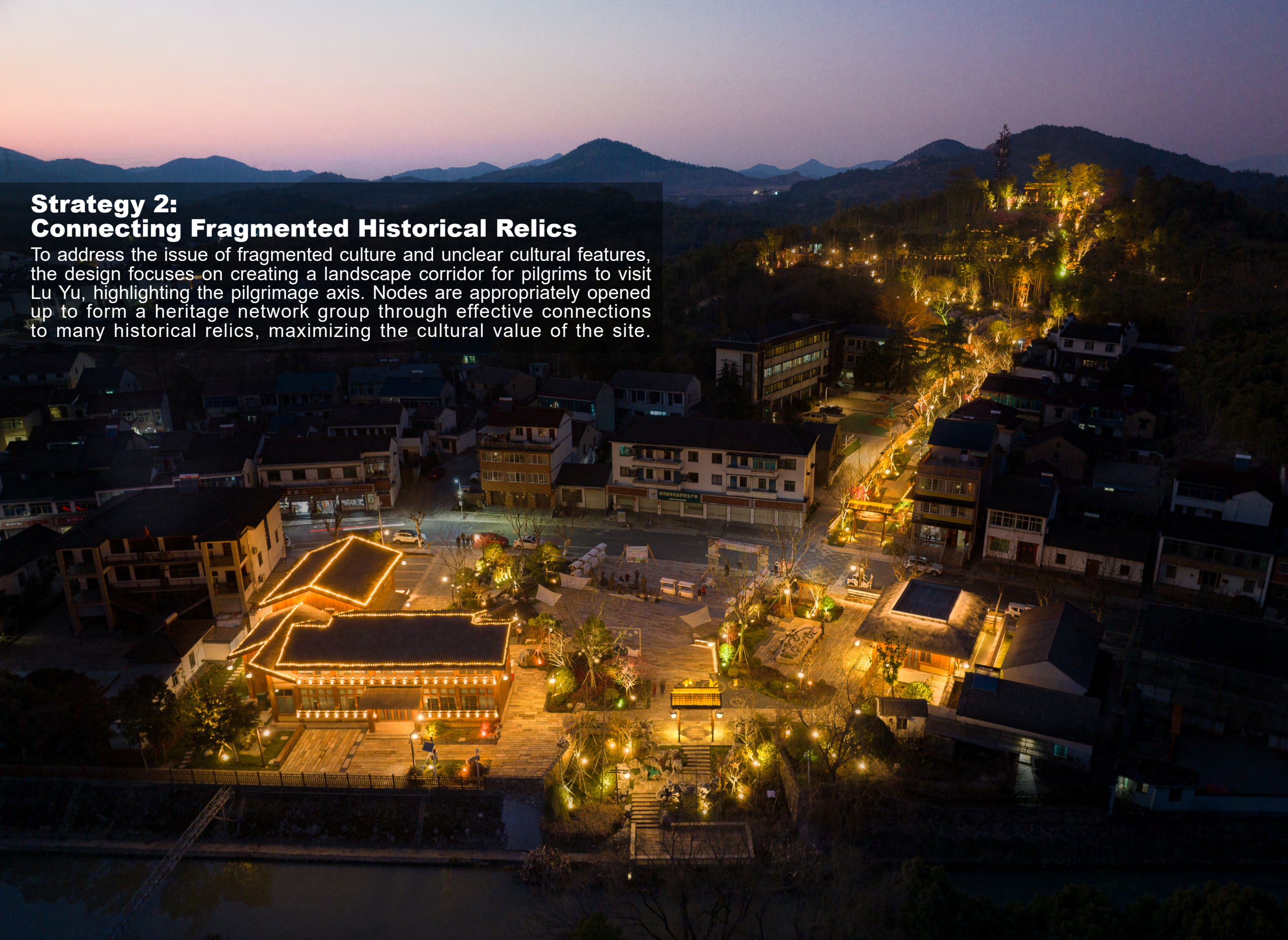
BEFORE



AFTER

Strategy 2: Connecting Fragmented Historical Relics

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NEAR THE MIAOXI TEMPLE
ANTI-CORROSION WOOD GRILLE
HAVE A VISUAL CONNECTION WITH THE MIAOXI TEMPLE
THAT WILL BE BUILT IN THE FUTURE

NEAR THE FOLK RESIDENCE
REFER TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF TANG DYNASTY
YELLOW WALLS AND BLACK TILES

TRADITIONAL CHINESE TEMPLE PLANTS
RED PLUM, BLACK PINE, CAMELLIA, RHODODENDRON
MATCHED WITH TURTLE STONES

PEBBLES SPLICING STONE SLABS ENGRAVED
WITH THE CHINESE CHARACTER "TEA"

TRADITIONAL OLD STONE SLABS, COMBINED WITH LOCAL PEBBLES,
HIGHLIGHTING TRADITIONAL CULTURAL ATMOSPHERE.

The Pilgrimage Road in Memory of Lu Yu

The Pilgrimage Road is paved with traditional old stone slabs combined with local pebbles, with roadside plants mainly traditional Chinese plants.



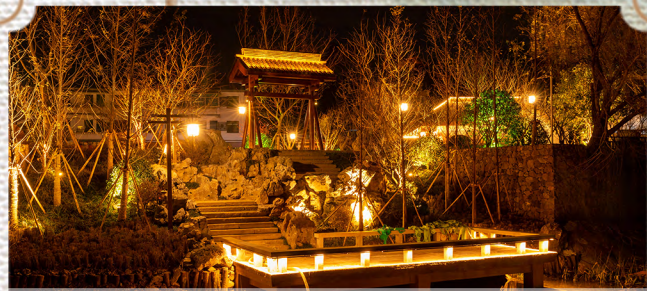
BEFORE



AFTER

杼山文化园

ZHUSHAN CULTURAL PARK



1 FISHING BOATS AND FERRY



2 LU YU' S THATCHED COTTAGE



3 STONE POND TOWER SHADOW



4 LU YU' S LEGACY



5 BAMBOO SEA LIKE A PAINTING



Strategy 3: Reconstructing Historical Places

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6 MOSSY BAMBOO LODGE



7 LISTENING TO PINE TREES WITH WONDERFUL SAYINGS



8 FRAGRANT SEA OF POETRY



9 SANGUI PAVILION OVERLOOKING SPRING



10 CLOUD-CONTEMPLATING TEA PAVILION



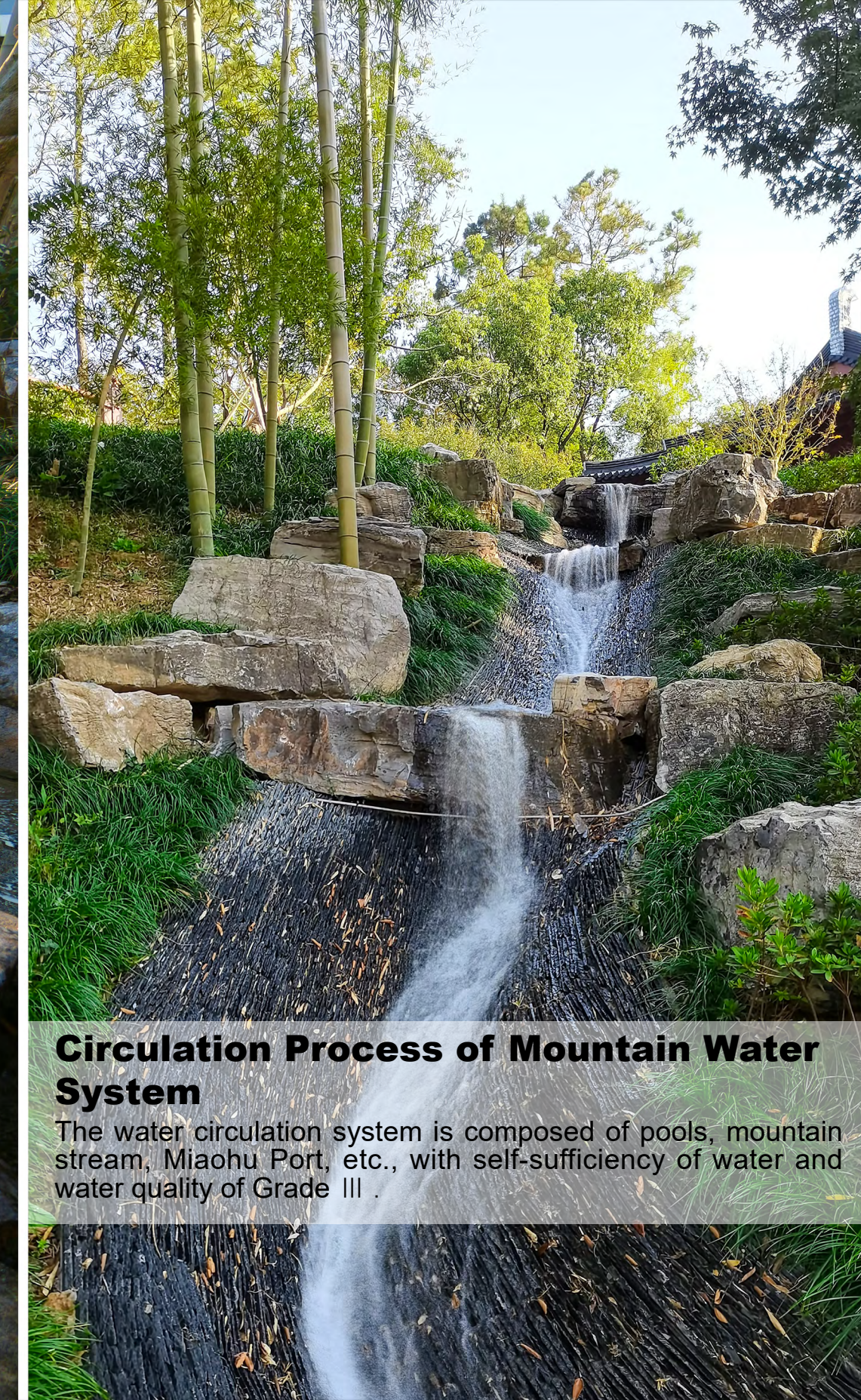
Strategy 4: Reshaping the Ecological Environment

For the exposed mountain rocks, ecological restoration is achieved by planting moss plants. These moss plants have a pure and natural harmony, making them good materials for creating a traditional landscape.



USED TO BE A DRAINAGE DITCH
CONVERTED INTO A MOUNTAIN STREAM
BLACK CHIP STONES

ROCKWORK ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE
MOUNTAIN STREAM FLOWS THROUGH HERE TO MIAOXI PORT



Circulation Process of Mountain Water System
The water circulation system is composed of pools, mountain stream, Miaohu Port, etc., with self-sufficiency of water and water quality of Grade III .

Strategy 5: Revitalizing the Development of the Town

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Cultural Exchanges

Now Zhushan Park has the capacity to hold large-scale ceremony activities, in-depth cultural experience, cultural promotion and other activities.

