



Re-weaving the Lanes and Alleys

Renovation Project of Qingguo Lane Historical and Cultural Block (Phase II)

Changzhou, China

Project Statement

History is a process that continues from the past, exists in the present, and looks toward the future. The significance of revival lies in exploring adaptive ways for the preservation and evolution of historical environments.

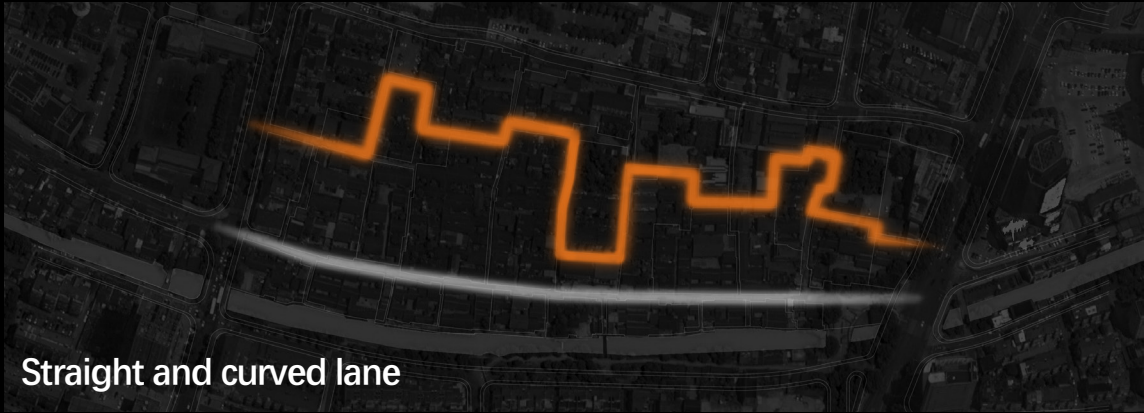
Qingguo Lane is located in the central area of Changzhou City. It is the most complete historical and cultural block in Changzhou and is also known as the “cradle of famous figures” of modern Changzhou. The Phase II renovation project of the Qingguo Lane Historical and Cultural Block in Changzhou, China, has **resulted in the creation of a comprehensive commercial block that incorporates both traditional cultural characteristics and commercial functions**. This has been achieved by weaving the lanes and alleys. At the same time, the project has stimulated numerous interactive activities such as performances and exhibitions, thereby achieving a fusion of the historical block with contemporary life. This has resulted in the creation of a vibrant, all-day dynamic scene, which allows the public to engage with the space in a truly participatory manner.



PART01.

Re-organize Block Network

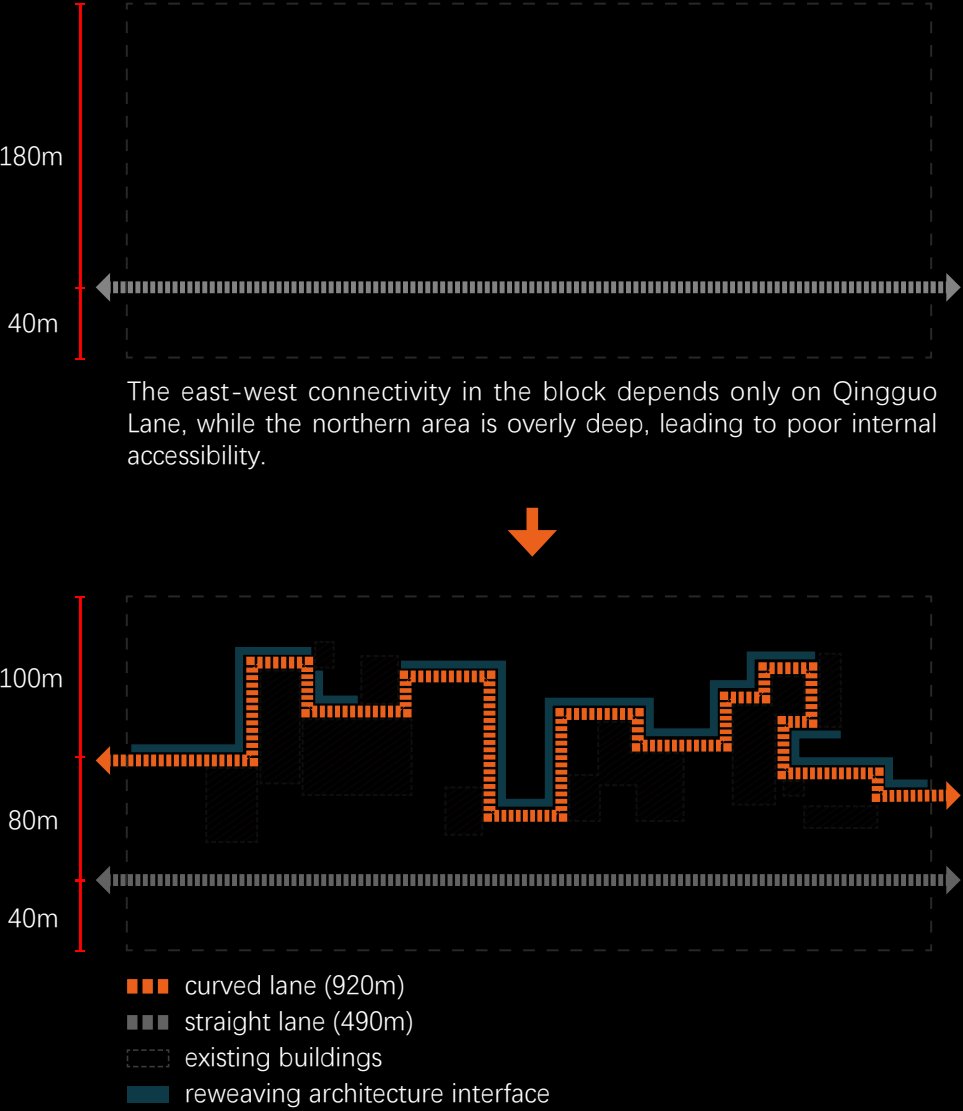
The design is based on the comprehensive block preservation plan and serves to reinforce the first-phase conservation and renovation design. The project's objective is to facilitate the dialogue between the “new” and the “old.” **The essence of the water town is not merely the symbolic expression of architectural forms; rather, it is the process of spatial experience.** Therefore, the elements of lanes and alleys be-came the focal point of the second-phase block planning. The block is approximately 220 meters in length and runs in a north-south direction. The first-phase straight lane is situated approximately 40 meters south of the river interface. The offset placement of the main street results in a lack of accessibility and vitality on the northern side, necessitating improve-ments to connectivity.



Overlooking the historical and cultural district of Qingguo Lane

PART01.

Re-organize Block Network

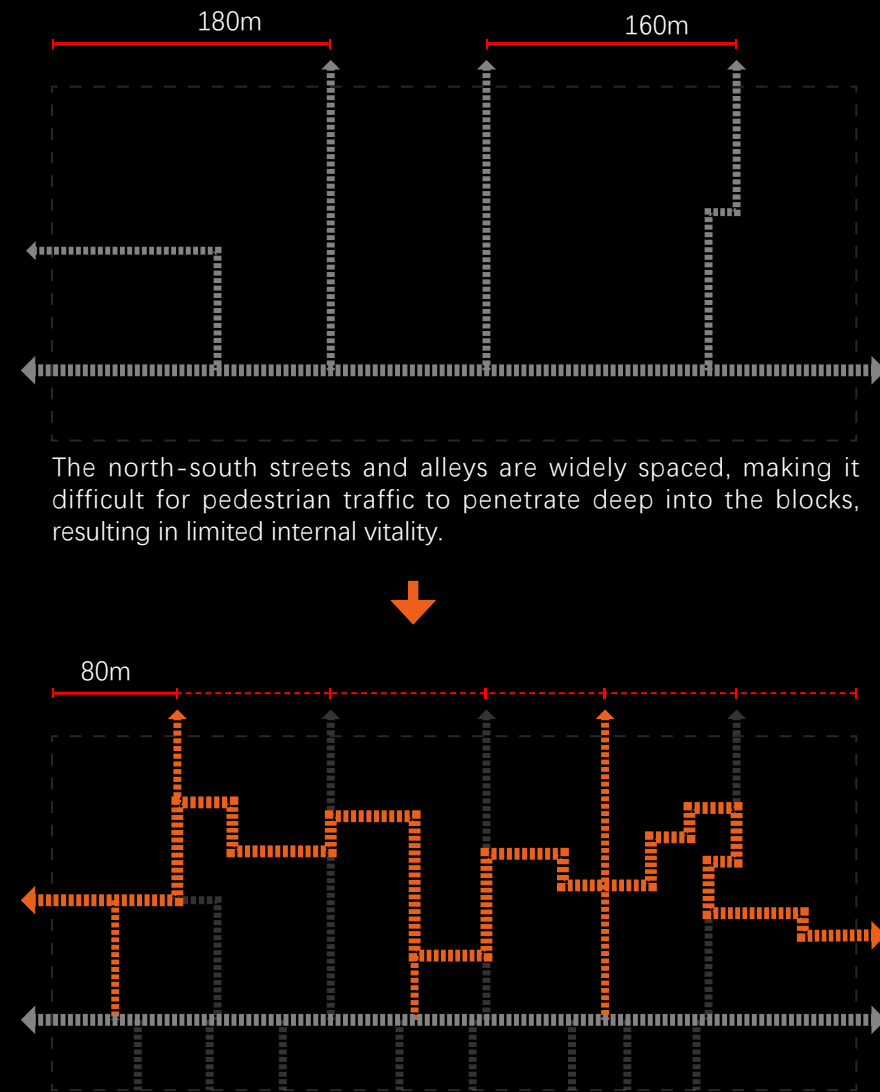


To address this issue, the design proposes **the addition of a curved lane in the northern part of the second-phase area**. This would serve to reduce the depth from north to south and enhance internal vitality within the block.



PART01.

Re-organize Block Network

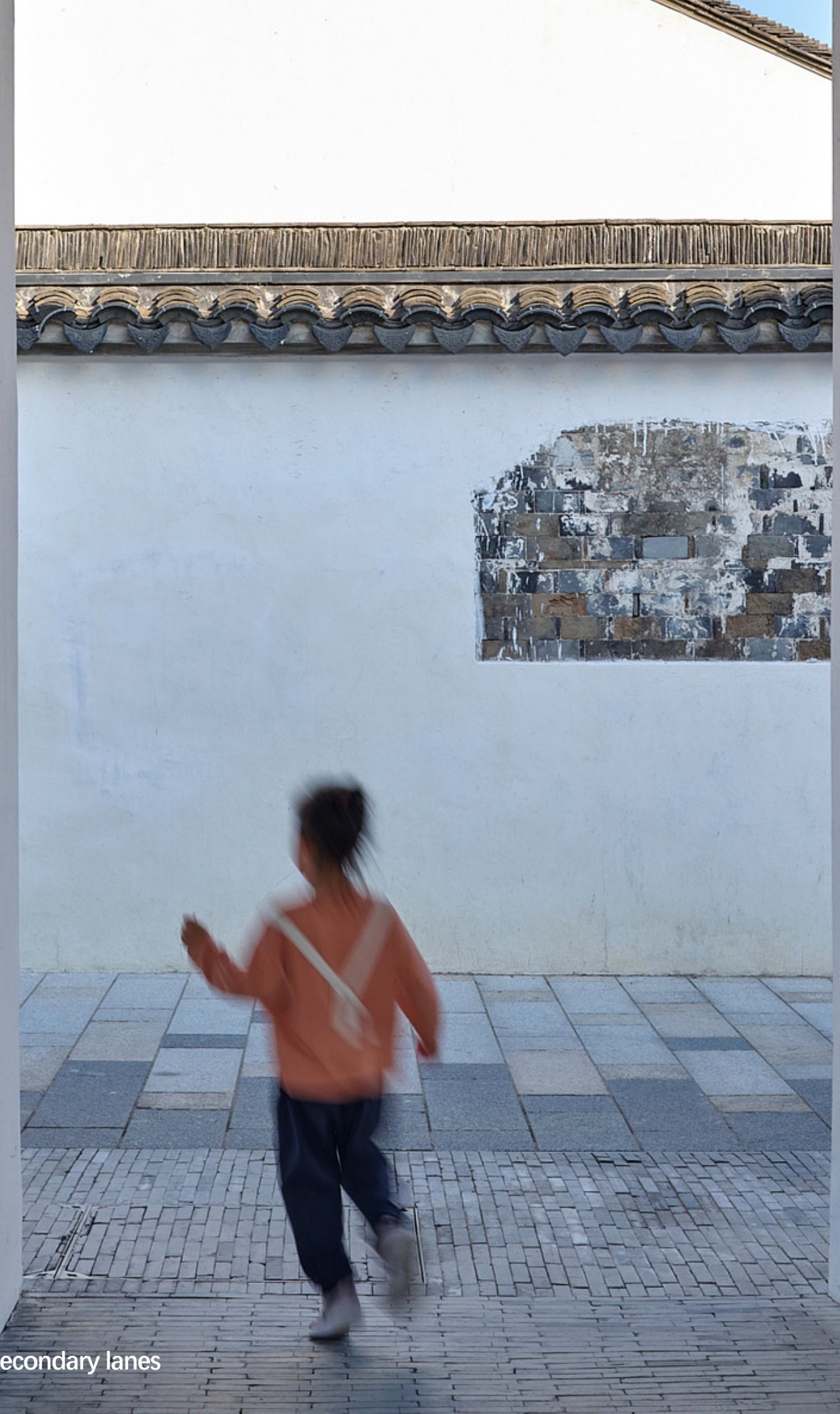


The north-south streets and alleys are widely spaced, making it difficult for pedestrian traffic to penetrate deep into the blocks, resulting in limited internal vitality.



The design reinforces the curved lane while continuing the original block preservation plan's comb-tooth road pattern. This is achieved by **adding secondary streets perpendicular to the curved lane to facilitate pedestrian flow**, thereby clearing historical alleys north to south and restoring the historical street and alley features.

Enhancing vitality in secondary lanes



PART01.

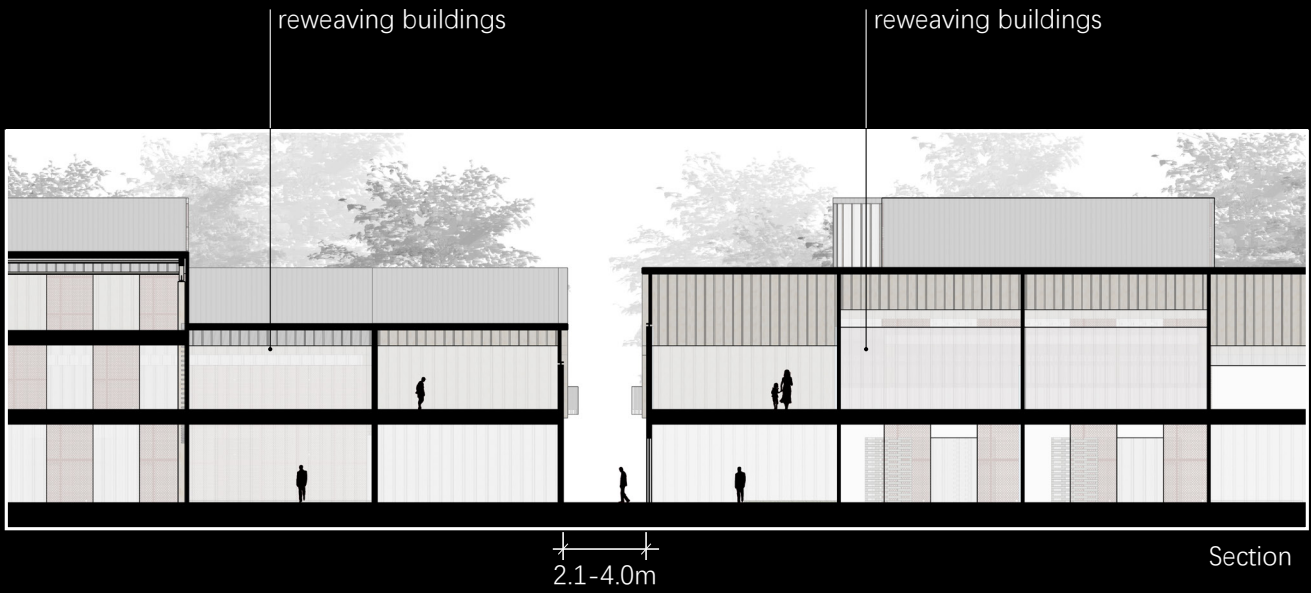
Re-organize Block Network

The reorganization of the block's network facilitates a spatial dialogue relationship that combines old and new elements with the first-phase conservation and renovation area. The newly created street and alley spaces allow for a temporal dialogue, where the introduction of new buildings woven into the same vocabulary serves as carriers for new formats, thus becoming important catalysts for revitalizing the block. **The design reshapes the spirit of the streets and alleys, satisfying both visual and experiential enjoyment while achieving spatial continuity and heritage preservation.**



Modern business block in harmony with existing buildings

PART01.
Re-organize Block Network



PART02:

Re-vitalize Landscape System

The historical block on Qingguo Lane once exhibited a profusion of landscape features, though subsequent construction phases have resulted in the partial destruction of these elements. The block currently encompasses over seventy distinct gardens and courtyards.



Songjian Academy

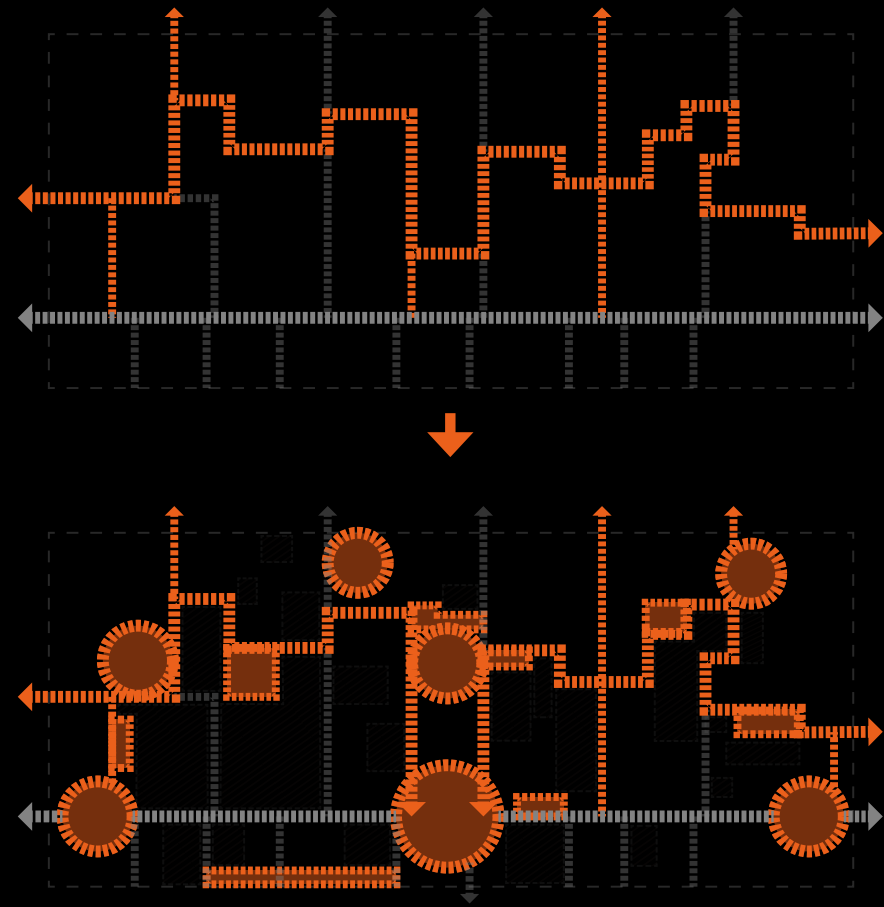


Ban Garden



Sheyuan Scholar's Academy

PART02: Re-vitalize Landscape System



In the renovation, adherence to higher-level planning requirements is maintained, tracing back to historical open spaces and courtyard areas. The design integrates street views with existing spatial characteristics to create the public landscape system of the “Ten Gardens of Curved Lanes” in the second-phase rewaving areas. This effort synergizes with preservation planning, fostering a balanced and harmonious urban space.



Street and alley pairs and landscape vignettes

PART02:

Re-vitalize Landscape System

The design introduces new core nodes in the central square, the Sheyuan Academy in the north-central area, and the Ruins Plaza in the southern part. These additions, along with the reconstructed Ban Garden and Sheyuan Scholar's Academy projects from Phase I, are interconnected via straight and curved lanes, forming a cohesive network of public spaces.



Relic Square looking towards the Central District group

PART02: Re-vitalize Landscape System



Using old bricks and tiles to create a Chinese-inspired landscape

PART02:

Re-vitalize Landscape System

The creation of outdoor and semi-outdoor green spaces has significantly enhanced the overall quality of existing public areas. The atmosphere is further enhanced by the introduction of tall landscape plants, climbing vines, lawns, and other elements. Strategically placed integrated tree-box seating on the second level along visitor paths provides additional opportunities for leisurely exploration.



Ban Garden window with scenery creation



Water features complemented by vegetation

PART02: Re-vitalize Landscape System



Ancient charm, modern design



Wooden pergolas provide resting spaces.

PART03: Re-concile Traditional and Modern Architecture



The architectural design respects the authentic state of the lanes and alleys, restoring characteristic elements with a modern vocabulary based on the actual conditions and functional requirements of different plots. This approach enables the redrawing of the scenes of the historical block.



Reweaving architecture in harmony with existing buildings

PART03:

Re-concile Traditional and Modern Architecture

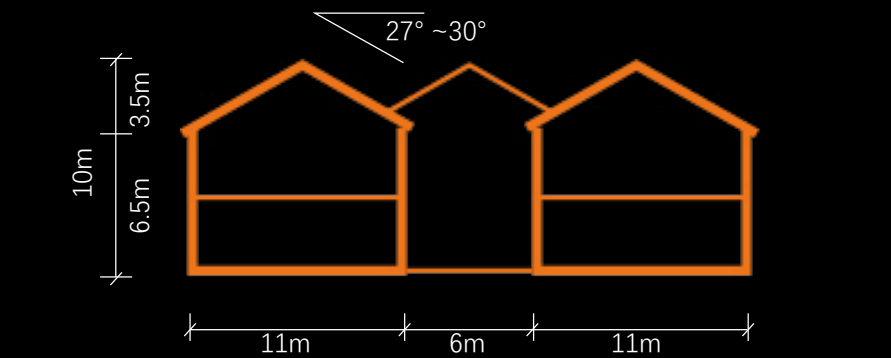
The reweaving of buildings adheres to the original scales and layouts, incorporating the original roof slopes found in the historical block. By employing methods such as linking, extending, and intersecting, they form characteristic elements of “continuous roofs.” The combination of different roof types creates a variety of interesting ground-level spaces, thereby enhancing the architectural diversity and appeal.



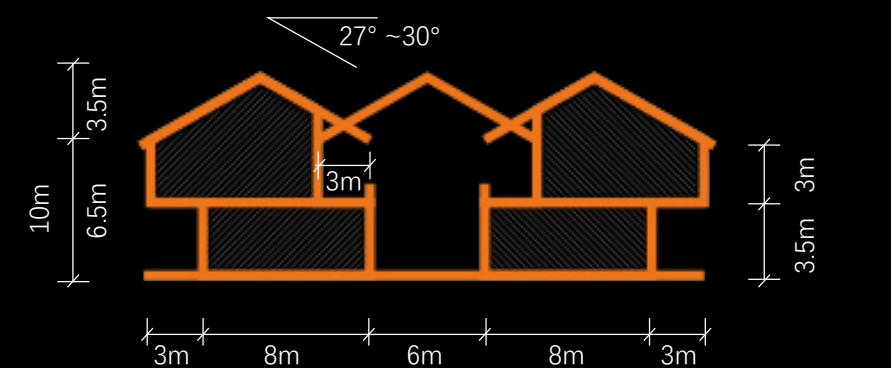
PART03:
Re-concile Traditional and Modern Architecture



Comparing the relationship between new and existing buildings



1. Extracting dimensions and roof slopes of historic buildings



2. Using historical building dimensions for new construction modules.



3. Roofs extend down, integrating greenery for covered areas.

PART03:

Re-concile Traditional and Modern Architecture

The similar roof forms emphasize the roof texture of the area, with deep gray titanium-zinc sheet roofs complementing gray-white fluorocarbon-coated walls. These elements harmonize with traditional gray tiles and rough plaster walls, thereby evoking the architectural intention of water towns with their white walls and black tiles.



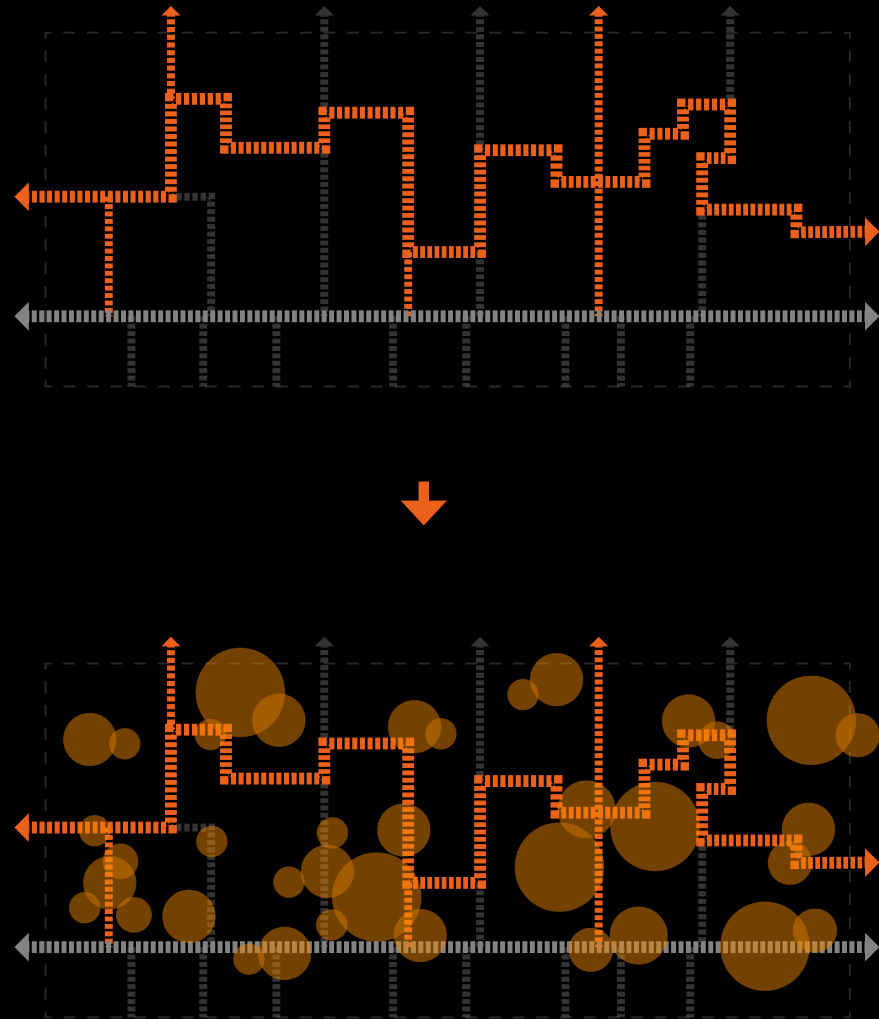
Modern reinterpretation of traditional building materials

PART03: Re-concile Traditional and Modern Architecture



Modern language interpretation of courtyard space

PART04: Re-integrate Historical Block and Modern Life



This locale was once imbued with the aroma of books and the scent of ink wafting along the river. As a gathering place for officials, aristocrats, and literati, Qingguo Lane also holds the reputation of being the “Street of Scholars.” **From commoners to literati, the updates have facilitated the continuation of life scenes and the transmission of historical culture.**



Vibrant street spaces

PART04:

Re-integrate Historical Block and Modern Life

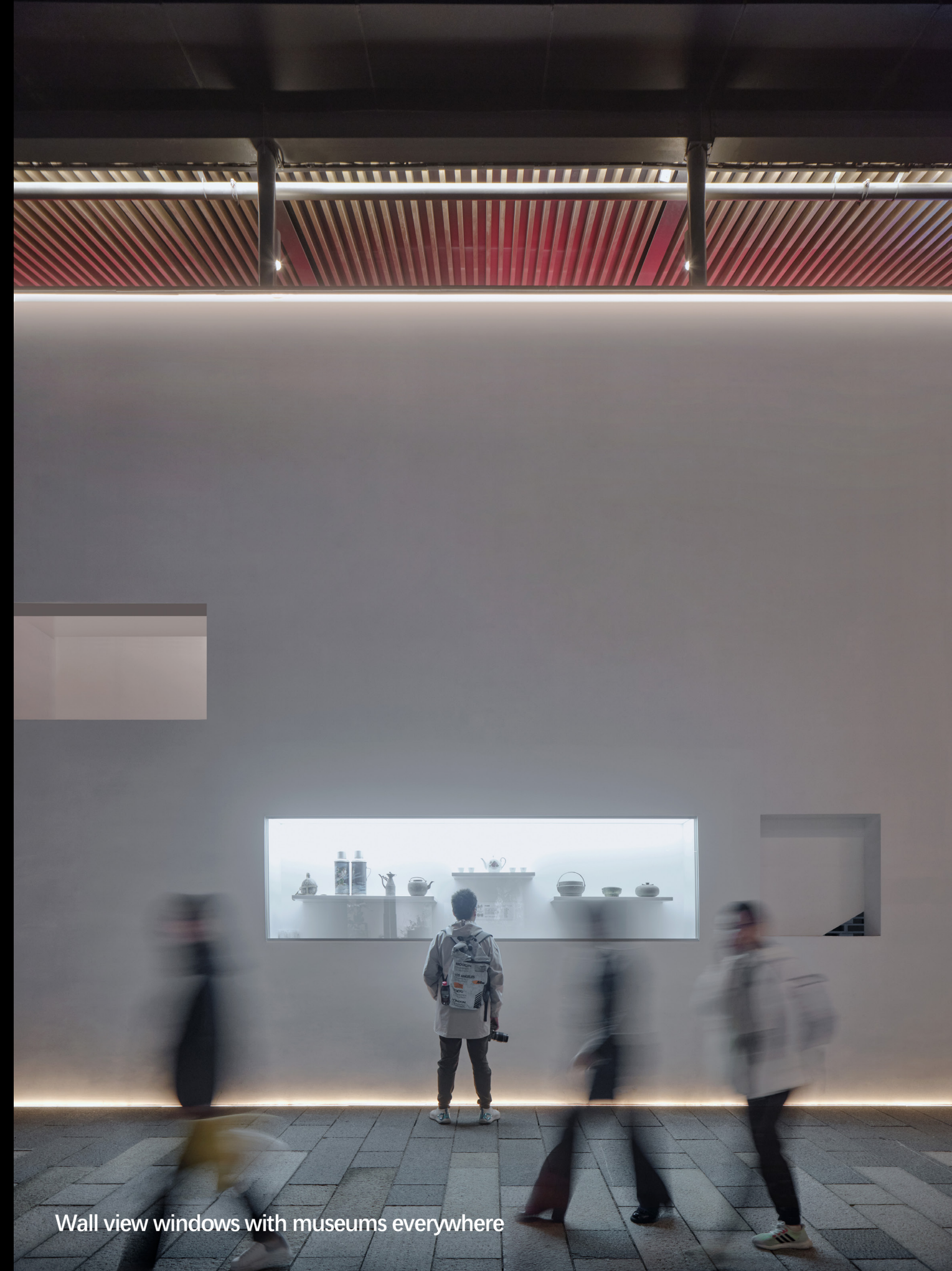
The streets and dual-level blocks that pervade the area achieve the three-dimensional extension of traditional Qingguo Lane. As people wander through the area's twists and turns, they effortlessly connect the ground alleys with the elevated galleries. The partially adorned pavilions and corridors blur the boundaries of time and space. The landscapes at street corners and alley ends integrate various aspects of life into the memories of the streets and alleys. While experiencing the charm of traditional neighborhoods, people enjoy the convenience brought by updated functionalities and perceive the blended spatial scenes of past and present.



Channeling vibrancy into second-story alleys

PART04: Re-integrate Historical Block and Modern Life

Images from social media platform



Wall view windows with museums everywhere