



# *MORE* THAN A LEVEE

12 km Seawall Safety Improvement Project in the Qiantang River, Hangzhou, China



# Project Statement

This is a **12 km waterfront public space revitalization project** in the Binjiang District of Hangzhou, near the Qiantang River. In response to the call of the Zhejiang Provincial Water Resources Department regarding **the Seawall-Safety Improvement Project**, the goal of raising the flood prevention level to "once in 300 years" is integrated into the landscape design. However, it' s **more than a levee**.

The design follows the overall planning concept of "orange-blue ribbon, super seawall, urban slice," transitioning from "Asian Games" to "Asian Games+," connecting a 12 km urban sports experience belt without walls. It transitions from "safety" to "safety+," constructing a super new seawall that combines multiple functions and various activities, and from "everyday" to "everyday+," creating a set of multi-themed urban slices that establish a connection between waterfront public spaces and the hinterland. It' s a **more optimized, more diverse, and more systematic** waterfront public space.



The Coastline before the Revitalization







  
West Lake

  
Hangzhou Railway Station

  
Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center

  
Liuhe Cultural Park

  
Hangzhou South Station

the Qiantang River

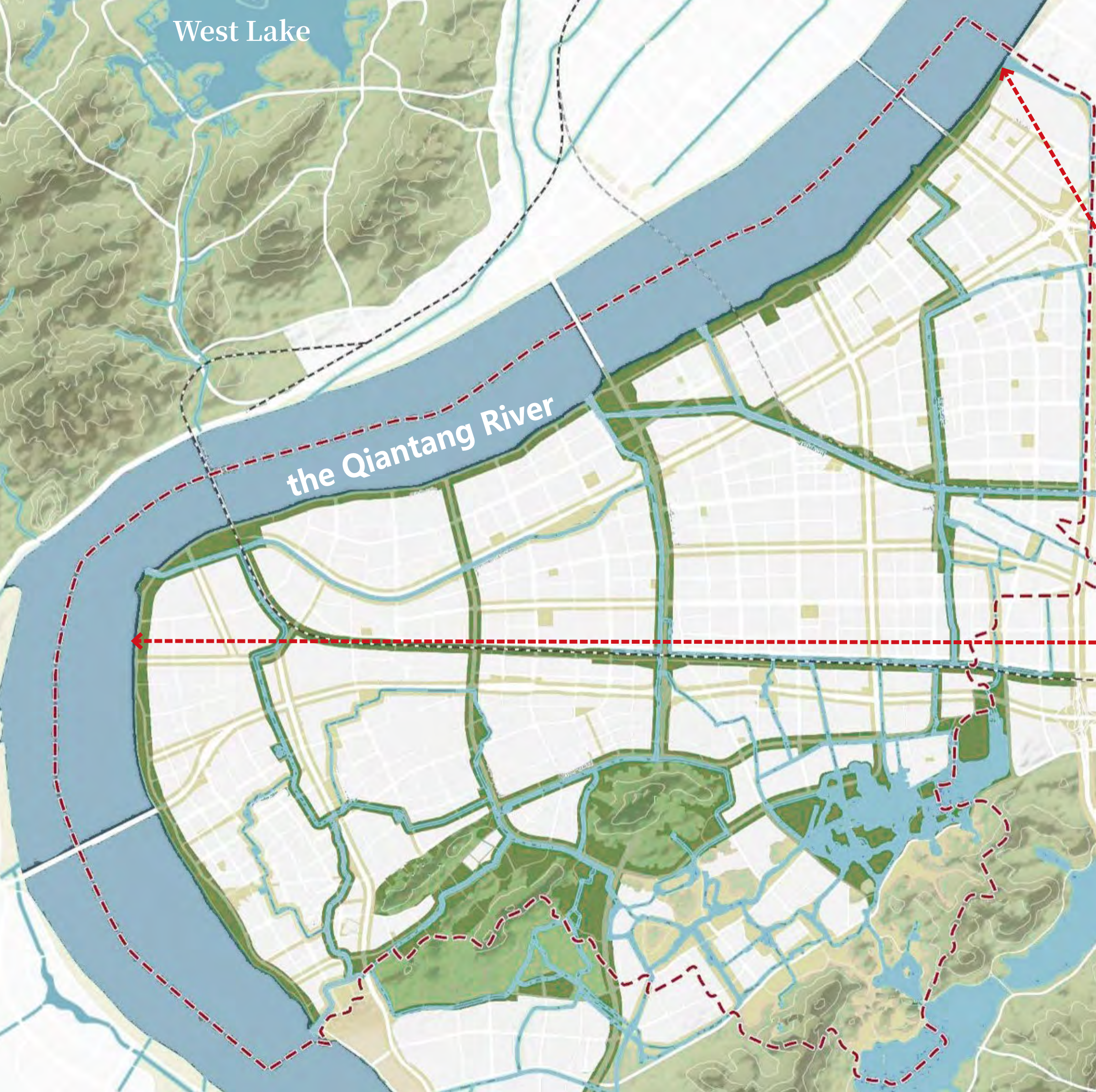
12KM

SITE

## Project Narrative and Contents

BUILT CATEGORY: Flood and Water Management  
LOCATION: Binjiang District, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, China  
SCOPE & SIZE: Total Area of 69.7 Hectares / 12km





The Qiantang River, **the largest river** in Zhejiang Province, flows into the East China Sea through Hangzhou Bay. Known as "**the No. 1 Tide in the World**," the Qiantang River Tide is one of the world's great natural wonders. This impressive tidal surge is caused by the centrifugal effect of celestial gravity, the earth's rotation, and the unique topography of the Hangzhou Bay horn.



## The Qiantang River Tide

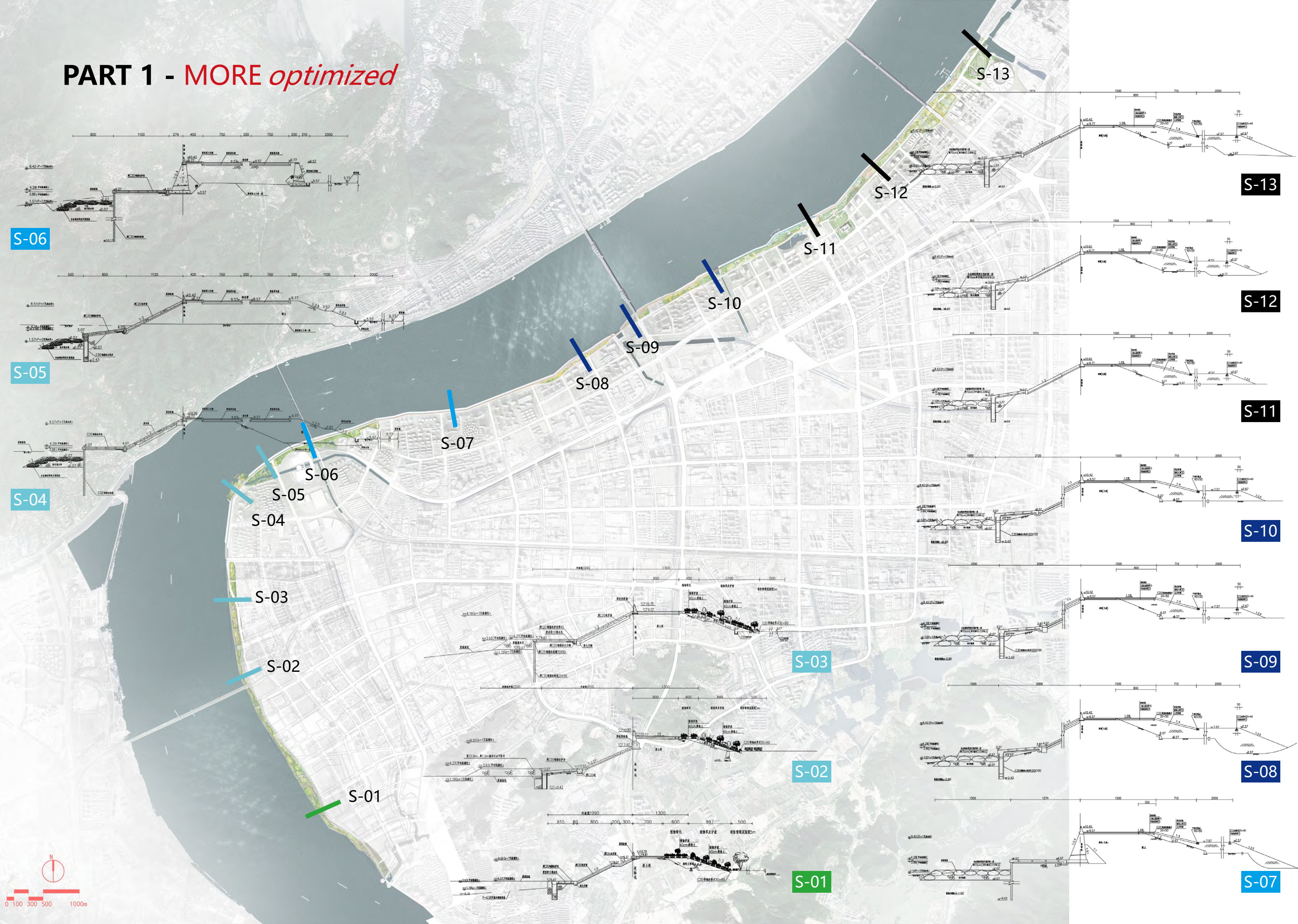


There are over **2,000 kilometers of seawall lines** within Zhejiang. The Qiantang River Tide is spectacular, with peaks reaching 3-5 meters, often posing **safety hazards** to the surrounding urban areas.

In recent years, the Zhejiang Provincial Government has proposed the "**Seawall-Safety Improvement Project**," requiring the tide-proof standard to be raised to once in 300 years.



PART 1 - MORE *optimized*



The Coastline before the Revitalization

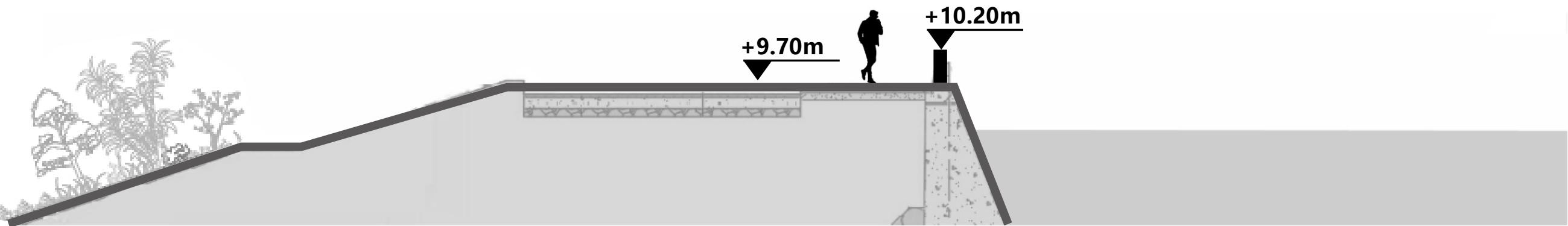


According to the analysis of **the original levee profile**, the previous flood defense level was designed to withstand **a once-in-100-years event**.

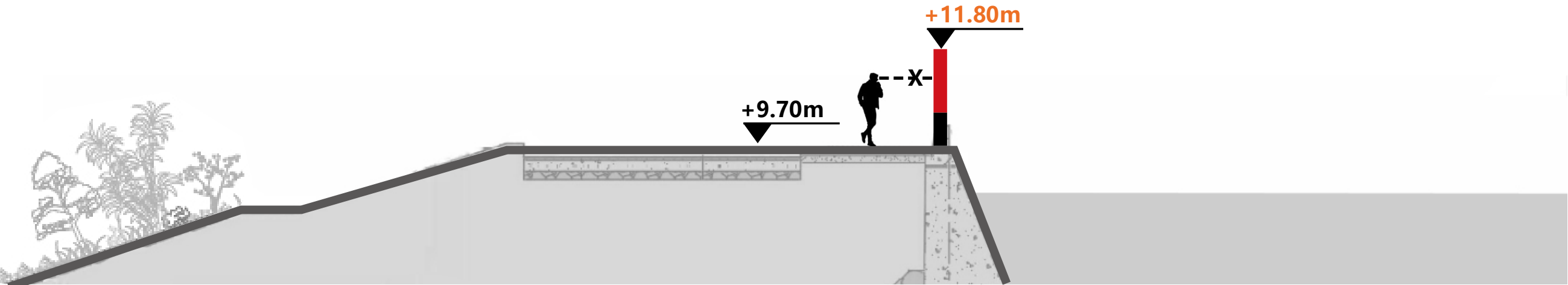


PART 1 - MORE *optimized*

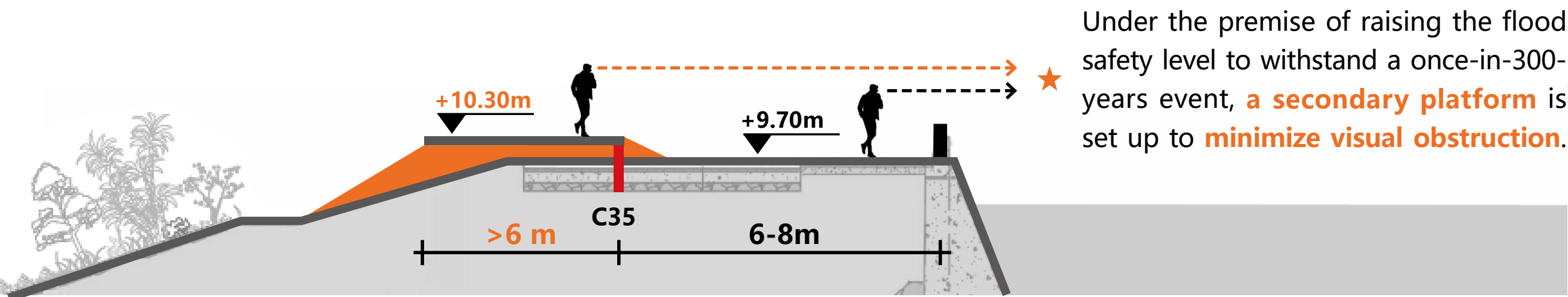
the Original Levee Section Once in 100 Years



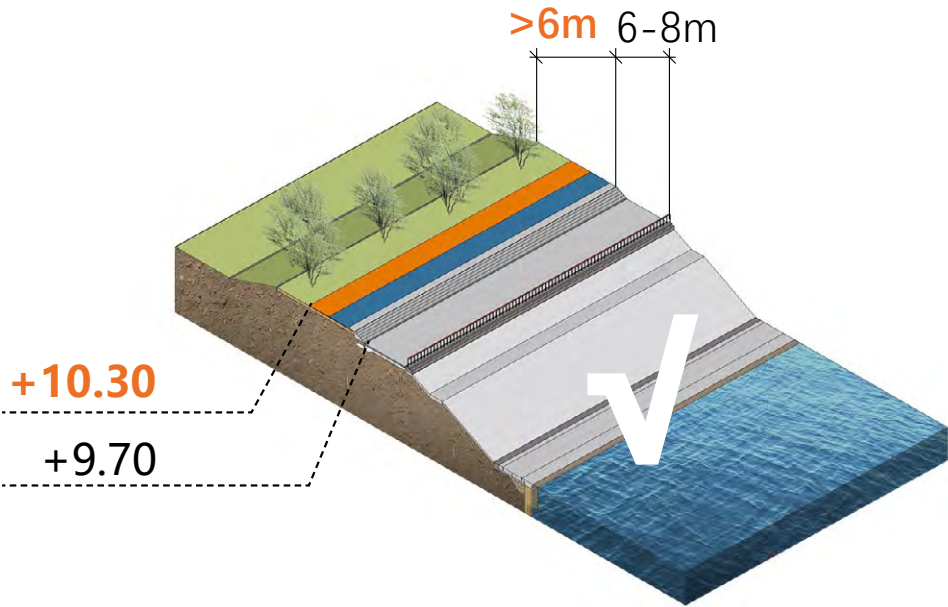
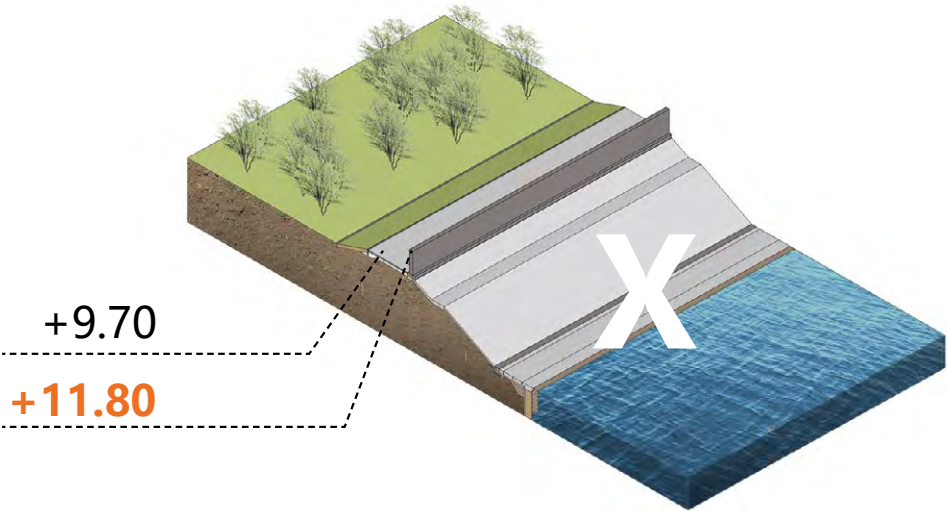
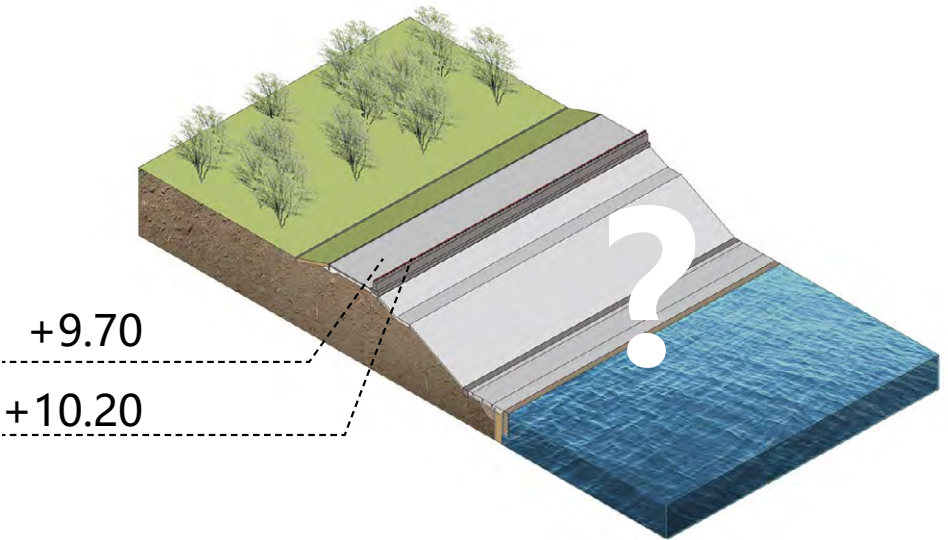
OP1-Conventional Design Solution Once in 300 Years



OP2-Optimized Design Solution Once in 300 Years

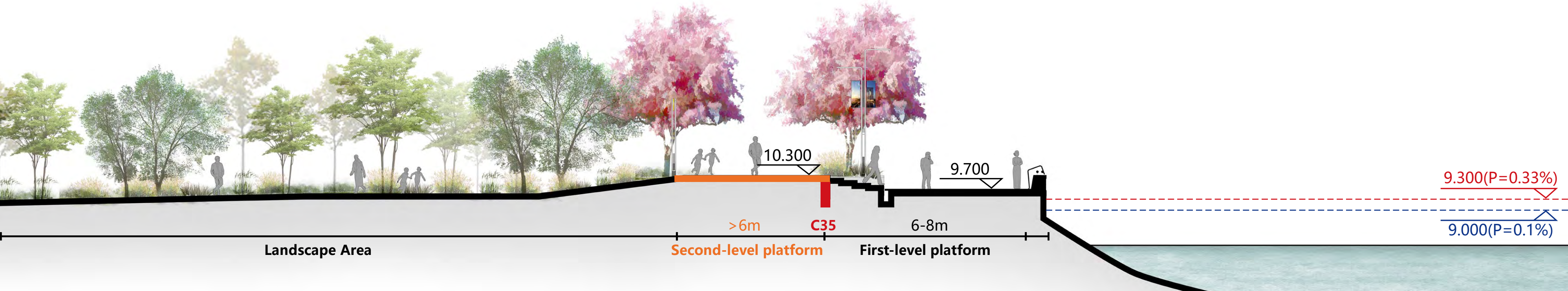


Under the premise of raising the flood safety level to withstand a once-in-300-years event, **a secondary platform** is set up to **minimize visual obstruction**.





PART 1 - *MORE optimized*





## PART 1 - *MORE optimized*



The goal is to build a waterfront that combines urban, cultural, ecological, intelligent, and local characteristics. This project has already been awarded the title of "**Most Beautiful Greenway in Hangzhou in 2023.**"



PART 2 - MORE *diverse*

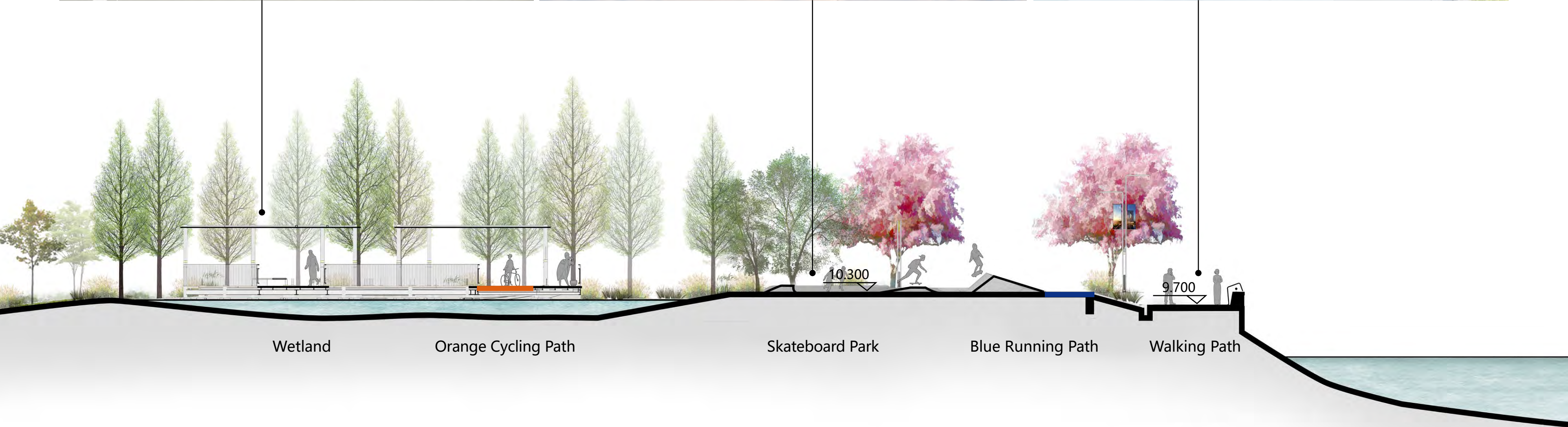
A More Ecological Park



A More Sporty Park



A More Artistic Park





## PART 2 - *MORE diverse*

### A More Ecological Park

This park is the most representative among the newly built parks along the river. It offers various functions, including **wetland protection**, science education, ecological sightseeing, and leisure and entertainment, allowing citizens to **enjoy and interact with the water**.





## PART 2 - *MORE diverse*

### A More Ecological Park

At the west end of this project, there is a riverbank park that allows citizens to **get close to the water**. The seating and benches, made from natural materials, are designed for people to lie down and enjoy the view of the distant mountains. It has become **a popular attraction** in the city.

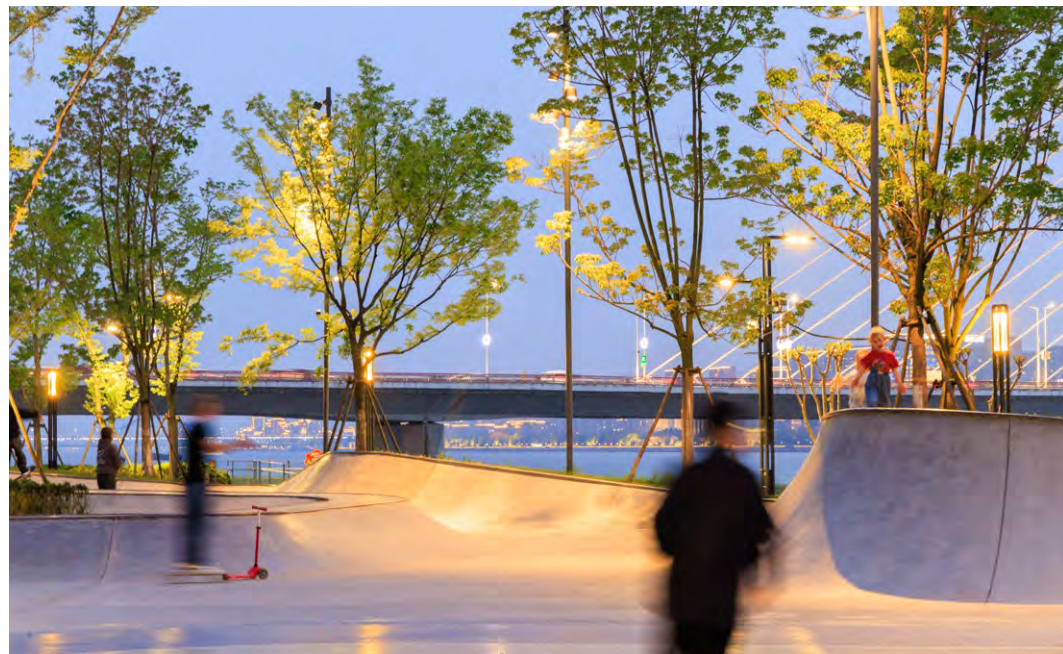




## PART 2 - *MORE diverse*

### A More Sporty Park

This is one of the three newly built **sports parks** along the river, seamlessly connected to the Olympic Sports Center. Covering an area of about 3,800 square meters, it includes facilities such as **a basketball court, skateboard park, children's sandpit, and more.**





## PART 2 - *MORE diverse*

### A More Sporty Park

The orange cycling path and blue running path extend **unobstructed** along the entire coastline. Parts of these two paths are elevated to the second floor, forming a **dynamic sports area**. Residents in the surrounding area can exercise here, and children can play games with friends.

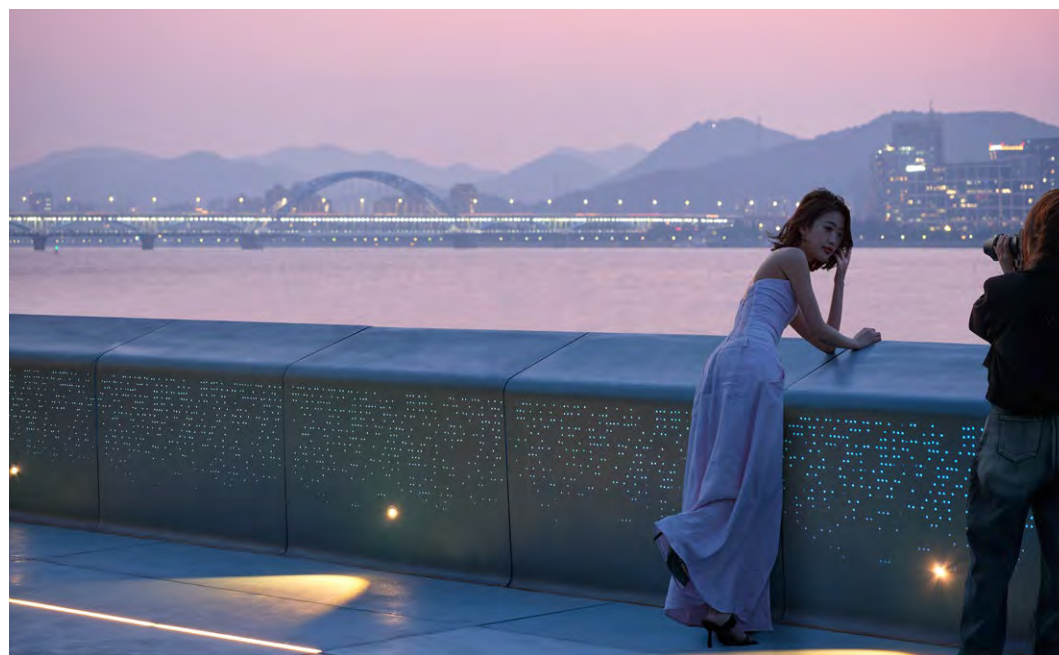




## PART 2 - MORE *diverse*

### A More Artistic Park

The prefabricated blue translucent concrete railing not only enhances the integration of the railing with the road surface but also combines comfort for citizens to lean on, convenience for viewing, and aesthetic lighting, becoming a new landmark of the charming riverside.

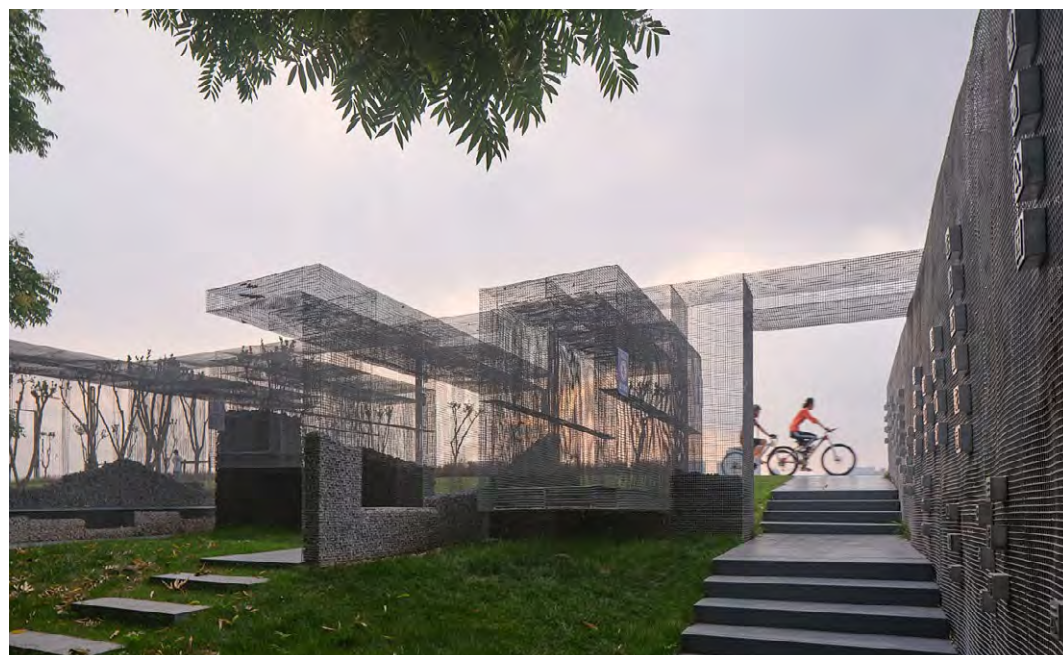
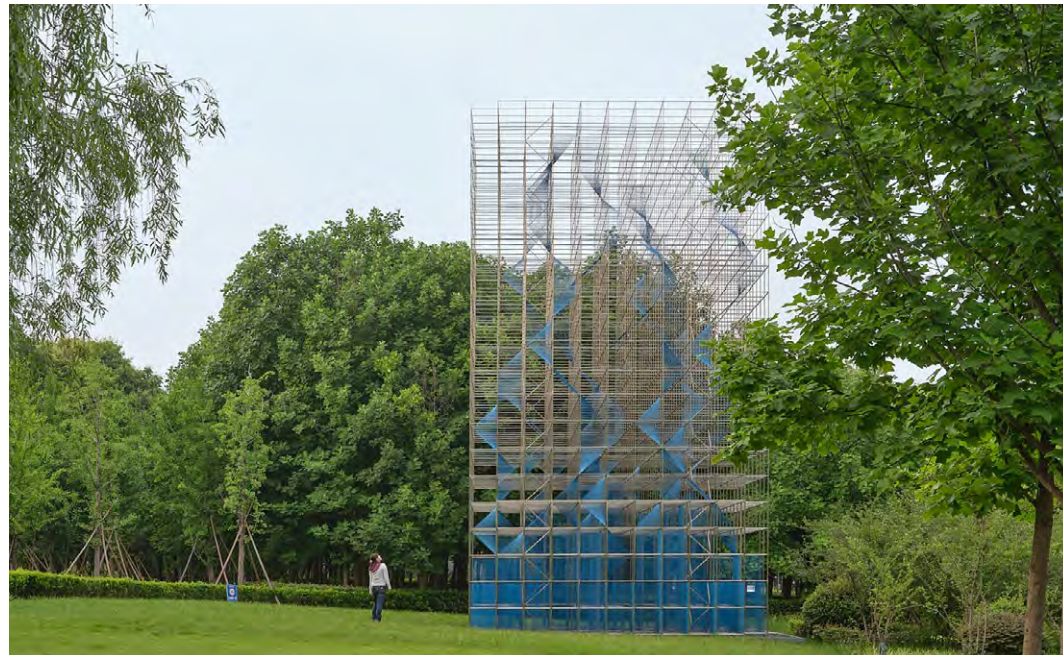




## PART 2 - MORE *diverse*

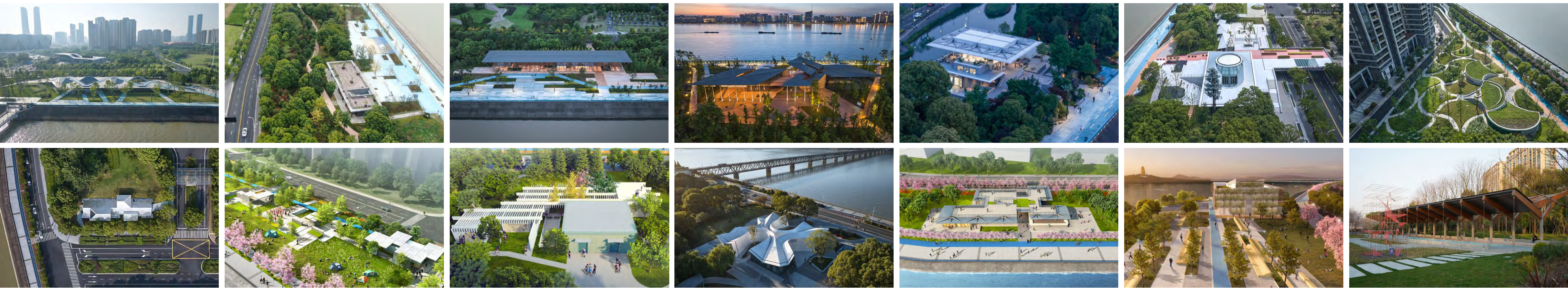
### A More Artistic Park

To resolve the height difference, an **artistic concrete sculpture** is designed to serve both as a resting place for pedestrians and a display for **Asian Games knowledge** -embedded the Olympic year numbers and the colors. It is one of the eight major art sculptures in the project.





PART 3 - MORE *systematic*



The waterfront includes more than ten convenient community centers, each with **a service radius of 500 meters**. Each community center has rest areas, toilets, and commercial spaces, providing **full coverage of the riverside waterfront space service system**.



## PART 3 - MORE *systematic*

Large canopy trees cannot be planted on the embankment, resulting in a lack of shady spaces along the river. To address this, we make full use of the space under the eaves to form a semi-outdoor urban public area, creating a **"long scroll of Chinese painting" view of the river.**

Changting Community Center





PART 3 - MORE *systematic*

Activity Space under the Eaves



Rooftop Activity Space



"Long Scroll of Chinese Painting" View of the River





## PART 3 - MORE *systematic*



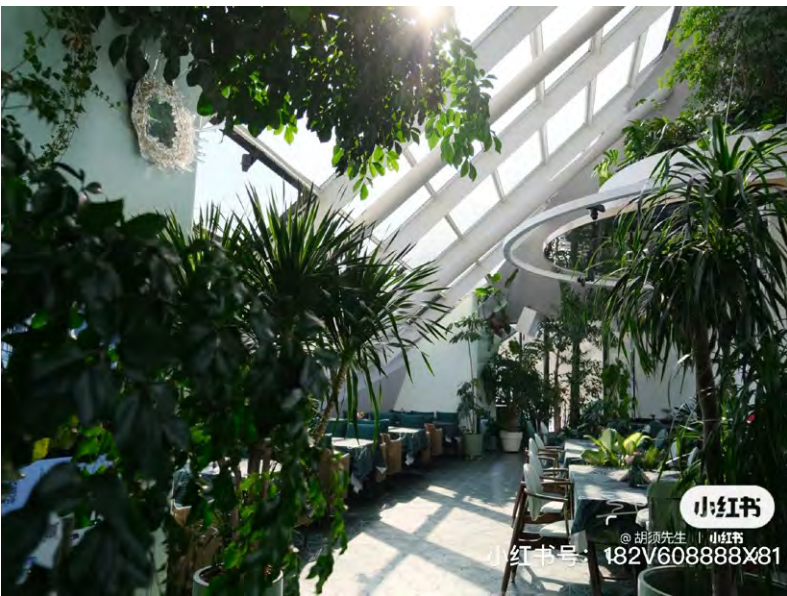
### Yundu Community Center

Yundu community center serves both **the original wharf** function and the **urban basic service system**. By creating folds in the structure and form, and crafting a public activity roof, the building seamlessly **integrates with its surroundings in both shape and function**.





PART 3 - MORE *systematic*



Yundu Community Center

The community center is now open to the public. The building **blurs the boundary between indoor and outdoor** spaces, allowing visitors to rest, eat, and wait here. It has also become one of **the favorite public places** for children.



## PART 3 - MORE *systematic*



### Jianshi Community Center

Renovated from "The Holiday Garden Restaurant," located between the lake and the Qiantang River, the community center features **platforms at different heights** to provide multi-angle views. These platforms also create additional space under the eaves for tourists to rest.

Before

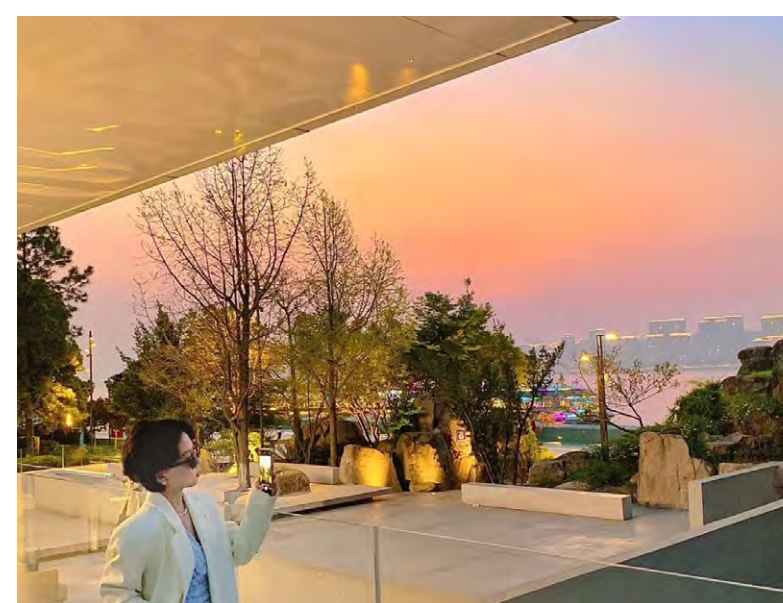


After





## PART 3 - MORE *systematic*



## Jianshi Community Center

The combination of **natural and designed landscapes** is well executed here, attracting many tourists with its **unique views**. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Qiantang River from this community center.



## PART 3 - MORE *systematic*



## Changting Community Center

It is a **two-story steel-wood structure** building. The community center embodies the reality and rationality of the structure, and through the fluid and transparent space created by the structure itself, it reveals the poetic flavor of **the integration of architecture and nature**.

