



URBAN ACUPUNCTURE — THE RENEWAL AND RECONSTRUCTION OF URBAN VILLAGE
JUZI KENG VILLAGE, SHENZHEN, CHINA

The Renewal And Reconstruction Of Juzikeng Village

Longgang District, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China



The Chinese character for 'Ju' in the name of 'Juzikeng' Village means **orange**. It is said that the hilltop where the village is located made a living by growing oranges.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Urban rehabilitation is a strategic initiative proposed in the context of China's current transition of urban stock renewal. As a product of the rapid development of urbanization, high-density urban villages are important urban textures and living spaces in megacities. Under the premise of overall protection, progressive organic renewal can be achieved by Urban Acupuncture to solve residential safety and improve community well-being.

Juzikeng is one of the typical urban village, just separated by one avenue from Dafen Oil Painting Village, the largest commercial oil painting production and trading base in China. As a residential village for workers engaged in the oil painting industry, it has continued to provide a residence for generations of young people with painting dreams for 26 years. However, with the influx of population and the diversification of the modern need, the problems of large height differences, difficult parking, few public activity spaces, and shortage of drying space caused by terrain restrictions in communities have become more obvious. Aging infrastructures also further threatened residential safety.

In response to the above, this project proposes four major strategies to enhance the community's sense of belonging: improving infrastructure, activating pocket parks, beautifying street facades, and reshaping the community image.



1. Aerial photo of original site was taken in 2021.

2. Painters were working in the Dafen oil painting village opposite to the Juzikeng.

3. Alleys and Streets were occupied with cars in Juzikeng.

4. Painters' family could not find recreational space in community.

Project Narrative & Contents

Project Location, Size and Scope

Juzikeng Village is located in Buji Street, Longgang District, Shenzhen, nearly 2.0 kilometers away from Shenzhen East Railway Station, with a total community area of 86,000 square meters. Juzikeng Village is bordered by the East-West Main Road and Shiyaling Park to the north, and Longgang Avenue to the south. Just like other typical urban villages in Shenzhen, the whole community is surrounded by modern residence in the northeast and southwest. Juzikeng Village is opposite to the famous Dafen Oil Painting Village across Longgang Avenue, and the south entrance of the community is only 200 meters away from the Dafen Metro Station.

Context Investigation

Longgang District ranks first in Shenzhen in terms of the number of urban villages. According to 2019 data, there are 499 urban villages in the district, accounting for nearly one-third of the total number of urban villages in Shenzhen. “Large number, wide range, and large population” have become the distinctive features of urban villages in Longgang District, and have also become the main city texture of urban environment. The comprehensive renovation, and revitalization of these urban villages, which are equipped with profound Lingnan history and ancient folk culture, have extremely important demonstration significance for Longgang and even Shenzhen.

Compared with the well-known Dafen Oil Painting Village, Juzikeng Village is positioned as a residential village serving for oil painting industry. According to an in-depth community survey before the design and renovation, it was found that 86% of the villagers in the community are now tenants, most of whom are workers engaged in the oil painting industry, and nearly two-thirds of the population are between the ages of 20 and 49. The community also has a significant characteristic of high dependent coefficient. Hence, this also means that children and the elderly have become the main users of community spaces, and their demands for environmental safety and recreation are more prominent.

Design Intent

The renovation design of Juzikeng Village aims to improve the well-being of villagers by solving the safety defects of the urban village, rebuilding high-quality facilities, reshaping community public space, and retrieving the cultural identity through a small-scale and progressive renewal method, thereby supporting the important oil painting industry in this area.

The renovation started with ensuring the basic safety of the community, and provide villagers with a comfortable living environment by improving infrastructure, solving electricity safety issues, and eliminating fire hazards. Secondly, through acupuncture-style renewal, key spaces with potential in the community are targeted to be transformed into composite pocket parks that can take into account both parking and leisure functions. These pocket parks can meet the diverse daily activity needs of community residents. In addition, in order to solve the problem of the cluttered appearance of urban villages, the renovation focused on street facades and commercial store signboards to improve commercial quality and change the dilapidated appearance in the memory. Finally, by adding the artistic resources and elements of Dafen Village into Juzikeng, introducing innovative lifestyles, and reactivating the vitality of the streets, Juzikeng Village will be built into a cultural quality community that is suitable for living, working, and traveling.

Four Actions For Renewal

The overall renovation design of Juzikeng Village is carried out from the following four major strategies:

1) Improve infrastructure and amenities

Improvement includes updating and renovating old lines and private connections, achieving three lines underground in the entire community, and strictly restricting the occupation of fire escapes. The renovation also added air-conditioning drainage pipes to solve the problem of air-conditioning dripping. In addition, in order to solve the problems of difficulty in drying clothes and strong smell of garbage in the community, new public drying areas and large garbage transfer stations have been added.

2) Add Pocket Park

Public spaces between buildings, negative corner and activity spaces with old facilities are selected for improvements to create pocket parks with mixed functions and different themes to meet the diverse needs of all ages in the community. Efforts to create more inclusive access was also a key consideration throughout the design process.

3) Beautify street facades

By optimizing the facades, upgrading store signboards, and adding weather corridors to the main commercial streets in the community, the commercial quality will be improved. In addition, the drainage system of the central slope protection that originally connected the upper and lower Juzikeng was reorganized, and its exterior facade was renovated. Chinese hat plant were replanted to recreate the unforgettable landscape in the villagers’ memories.

4) Reshape the image of the community

The regeneration increased the recognizability of the community by adding a systematic characteristic wayfinding system and controlling the style and color of the main street to enhance the residents’ sense of belonging. And orange is best symbol and color representing Juezikeng Village.

Social Impact

The renovation and renewal plan of Juzikeng has been completed, which not only provided an age-friendly living environment for children and elderly people in the urban village, but also transforms an urban village that has been forgotten and criticized for its poor environment into a vitality bond that reconnects with society. Juzikeng has also become an popular destination for surrounding citizens to explore on weekends, and has also become an important part of Dafen cultural tourism.

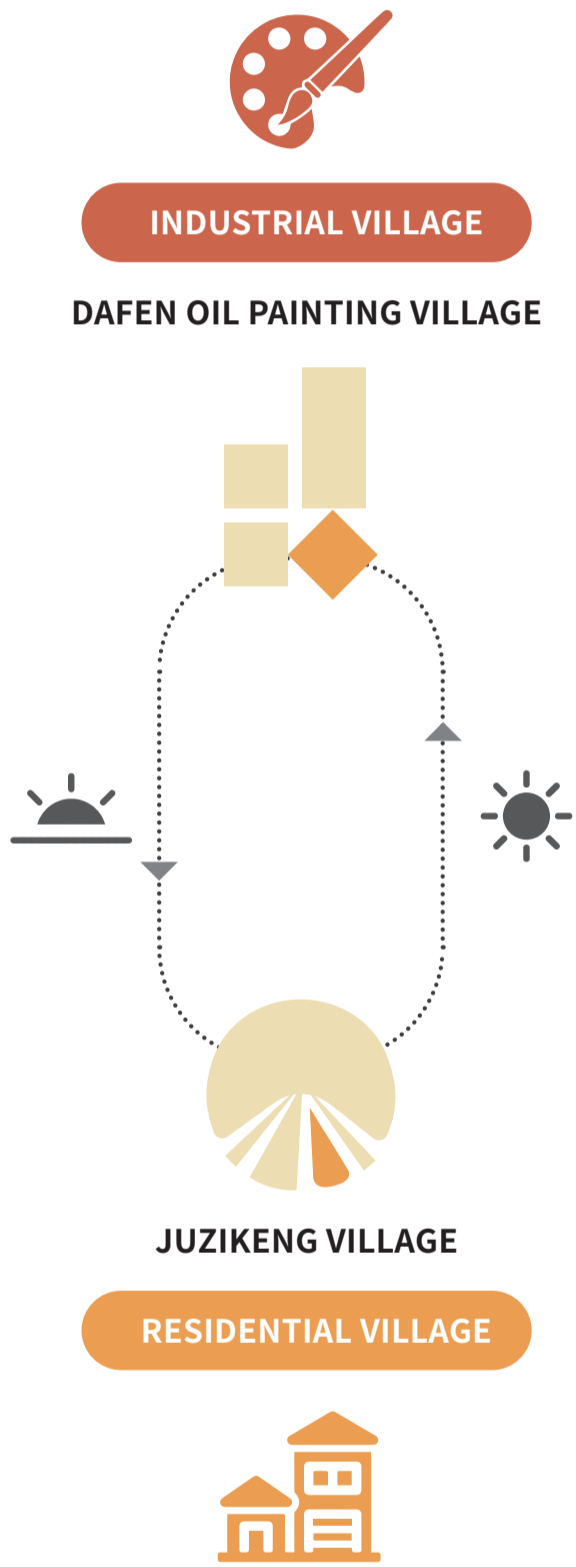
This renovation design was also fortunate to participate in the Longgang “City/Village Plan” press conference and academic forum in December 2022. Through such an open and participatory activity, we can explore together and seek a new coevolution future of city and village.



SITE INTRODUCTION



Dafen Village is one of the largest commercial oil painting production and trading bases in China. And it once occupied more than 70% of the international market for oil paintings.



SHIYALING PARK

MASTER PLAN

COMMERCIAL STREET OF EAST-WEST TRUNK ROAD

EASTERN BANSUAN HOTEL

Northern Entrance

DAFEN NEW VILLAGE

UPPER JUZIKENG

LOWER JUZIKENG

DAFEN NO.1 KINDERGARTEN

WYVERN PALACE

SHENZHEN METRO LINE 3 : DAFEN STATION

- ① Commercial Street Of Longgang Avenue
- ② Juzikeng Market
- ③ Community Main Street
- ④ Children's Playground
- ⑤ Central Slope Protection
- ⑥ Life Theatre Park
- ⑦ Art Stage Park
- ⑧ Sport Space Park
- ⑨ Hilltop Playground
- ⑩ Northern Entrance Landscape
- Public Drying Area

Southern Entrance

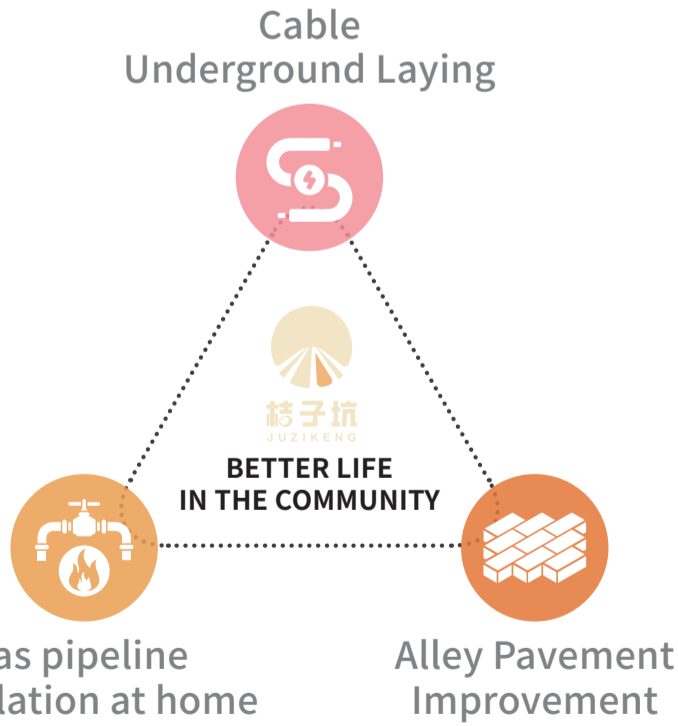
DAFEN OIL PAINTING VILLAGE



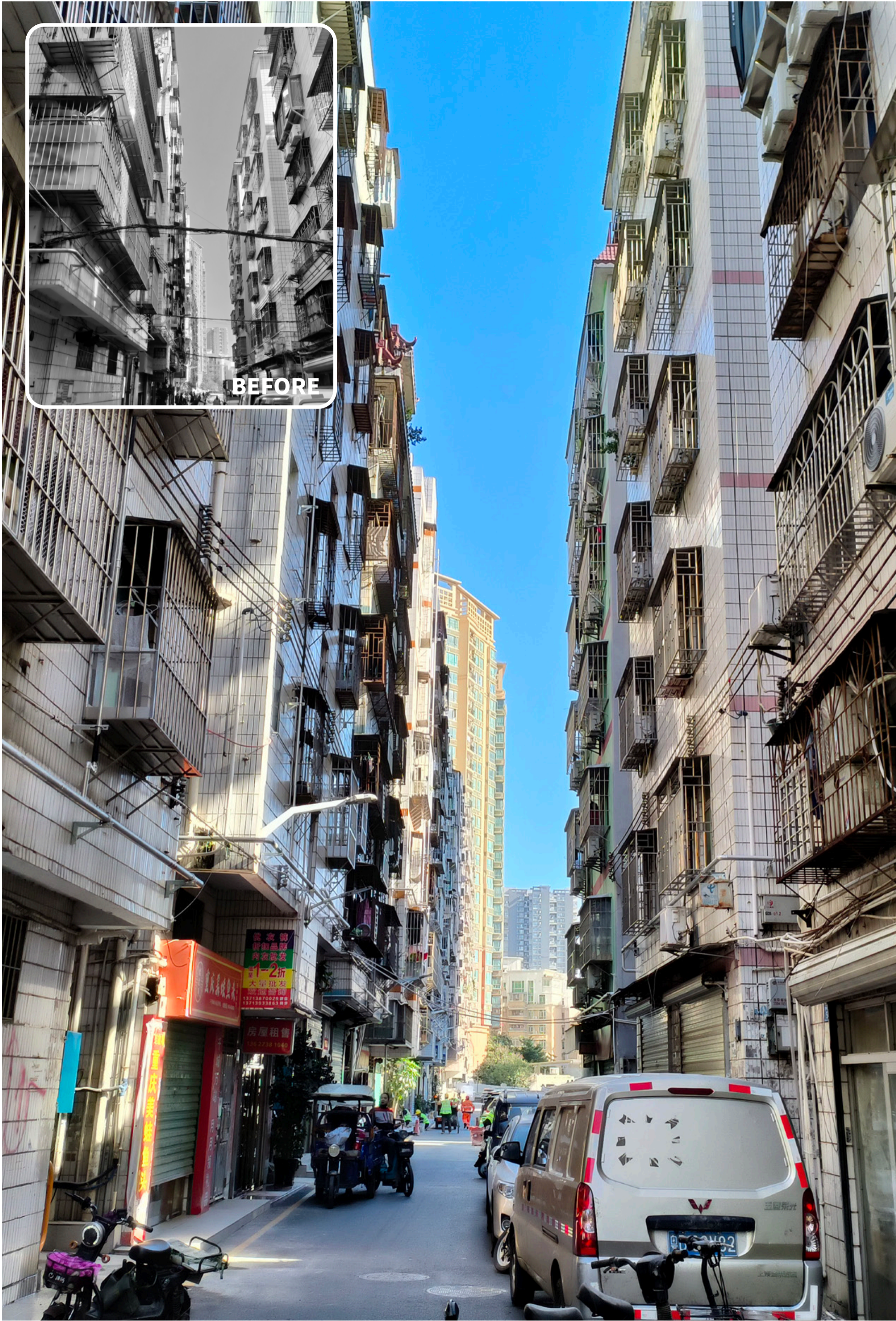
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

ENSURING QUALITY OF COMMUNITY LIFE

As the primary task in urban village renewal, security is an important foundation for ensuring the quality of community life. The design have solved fire hazards by updating old electric wire and cleaning up the cable net hanging in lanes, and improves infrastructure to facilitate villagers' lives.



Number of Gas pipeline installation: 5391 Household



CLOSE TO NATURE | VIBRANT | MIXED USE |



POCKET PARK HILLTOP PLAYGROUND

In order to balance the high demand for parking and insufficient activity space, the design reorganized and upgraded the original court and parking space on the Upper Juzikeng in the urban village. By constructing a three-dimensional park that combines parking and entertainment, the street space occupied by parking can be released and returned to pedestrians, and the vibrant landmark under the big tree on the Upper Juzikeng has been refreshed.

Pocket park size: 748 m²





1



Exsiting
Camphor Tree

CANOPY

Feature Canopy

2F PLATFORM

Climbing Net

Children Care Area

1F PARKING LOT

Chatting Area

Locker Room

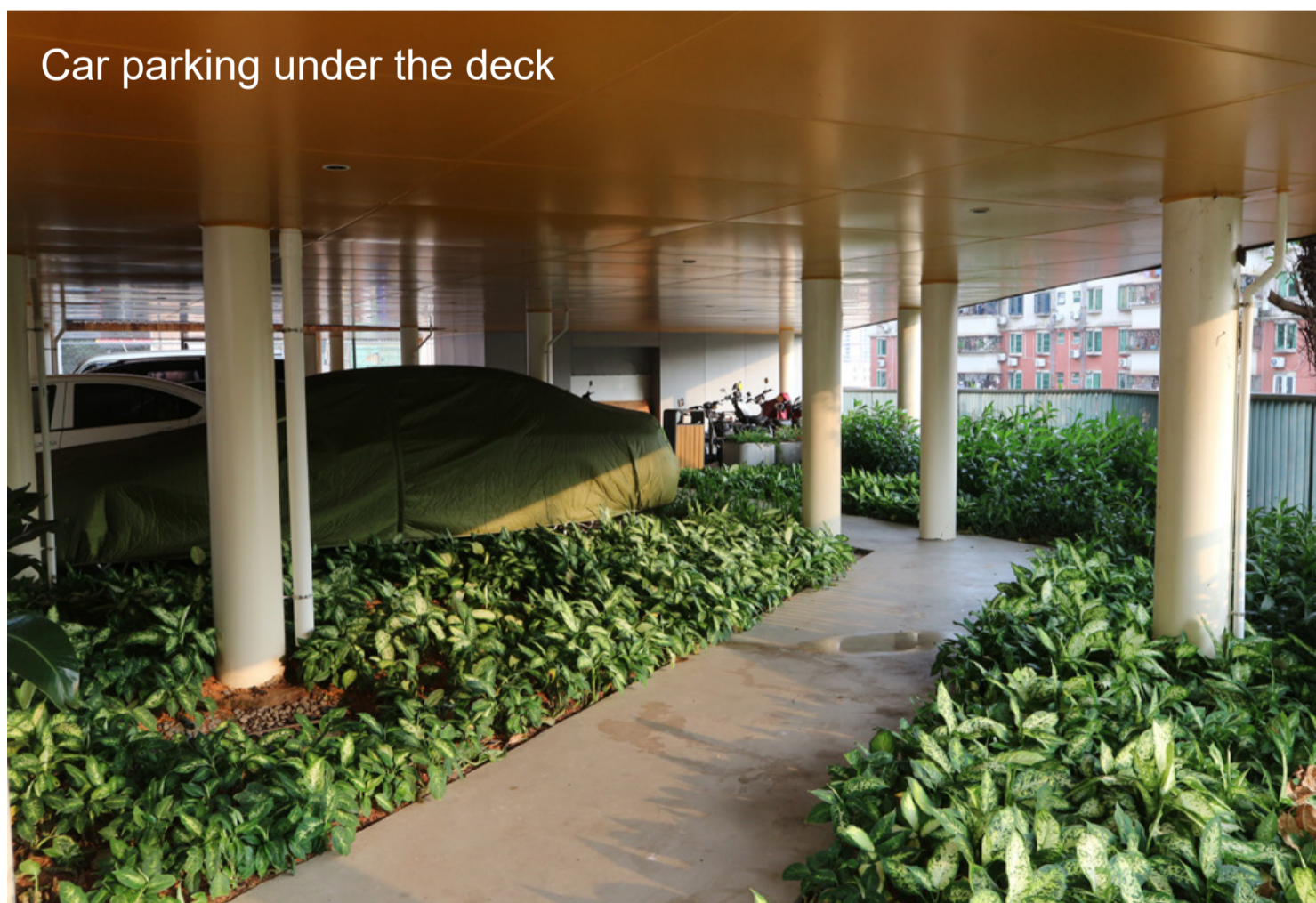
1. The narrow alley in urban village become a special landscape of 'a thread of sky and camphor tree'.
2. Villagers came out to have fun on the playground just after the heavy rain stopped.

2

Seating under the tree shade



Car parking under the deck





POCKET PARK CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

In order to reshape the site and eliminate the original 5-meter height difference, the original parking space in front of the kindergarten, which was not conducive to children's safety, was transformed into an energetic community children's playground. And the original high retaining wall was fully utilized to create a painting wall for children to play without destroying the foundation of the existing retaining wall. Orange plus square can be used to host Movie Nights and other community events.

Pocket park size: 410 m²





POCKET PARK CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

1. Children play games on the painted floor.
2. Old retaining wall has become one of landmarks in the community.
3. Blackboards on the painting wall were designed for different kids' heights.
4. Orange plus square is the most joyful space after school.





POCKET PARK MICRO NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

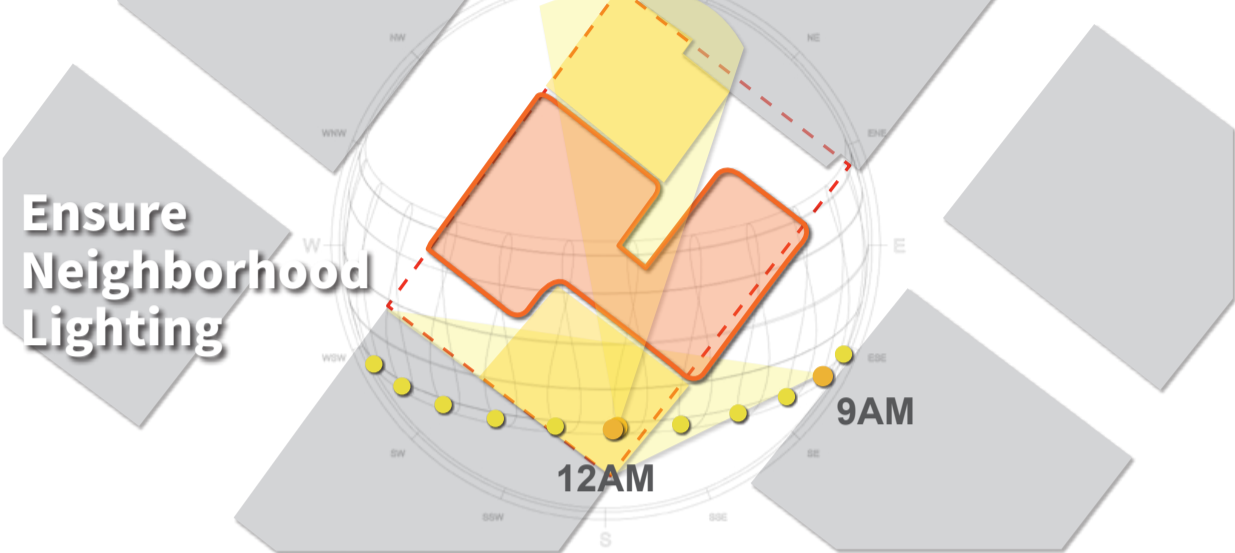
Pocket park size: 150 - 165 m²

1. Children are playing the game under drying poles.
2. Park accommodates the parking at dusk.
3. Elders playing the chess at the Art Stage.

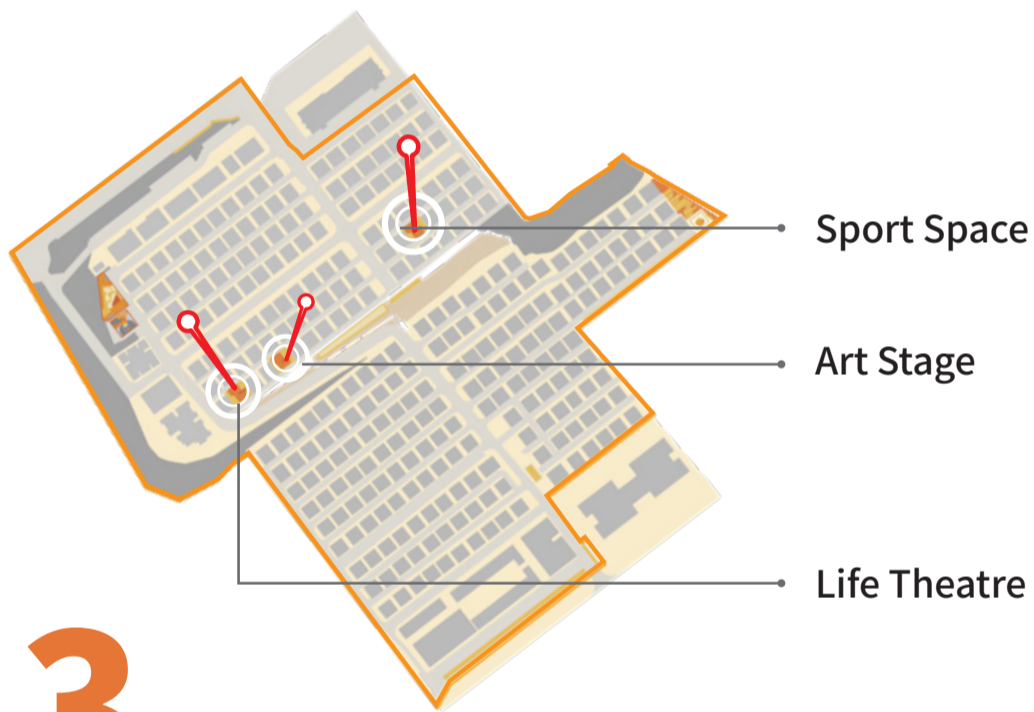
Urban Acupuncture Toolbox



Illumination analysis (on winter solstice)



1F-Parking + Sitting 2F-Diverse Functional Platform



3 Acupoints of Vitalit

EXTREME UTILIZATION | DIVERSE NEEDS |

Faced with the lack of public space in urban villages due to high density of spontaneous buildings and too many vehicles, the design proposes a mixed-functional neighborhood micro park based on the balance against diverse needs.

Three potential space between the building were chosen to be renovated as acupoints of vitality.

4. Furnitures are designed in consideration of kid's safety.
5. Second platform has become a popular social point.
6. Children use interactive exercise equipments after dinner.





BEAUTIFIED STREET CENTRAL SLOPE PROTECTION

The central slope protection is the core display surface in the whole community, and also serves as the main pedestrian path connecting the Upper Juzikeng and Lower Juzikeng.

Under the premise of a tight budget and without damaging the safety of the slope protection structure, the design reorganized the vertical drainage on the slope protection and renovated the facade to recreate the 'flower slope' landscape in the villagers' memories. At the same time, it also takes advantage of lighting to provide excellent public drying space for villagers.



Slope protection size: 1120 m²



Recreating the landscape of Chinese hat plant in villagers' memory



Aging external leakage drainage facilities make the retaining wall facade dirty.

BEFORE ◀



▶ **AFTER**

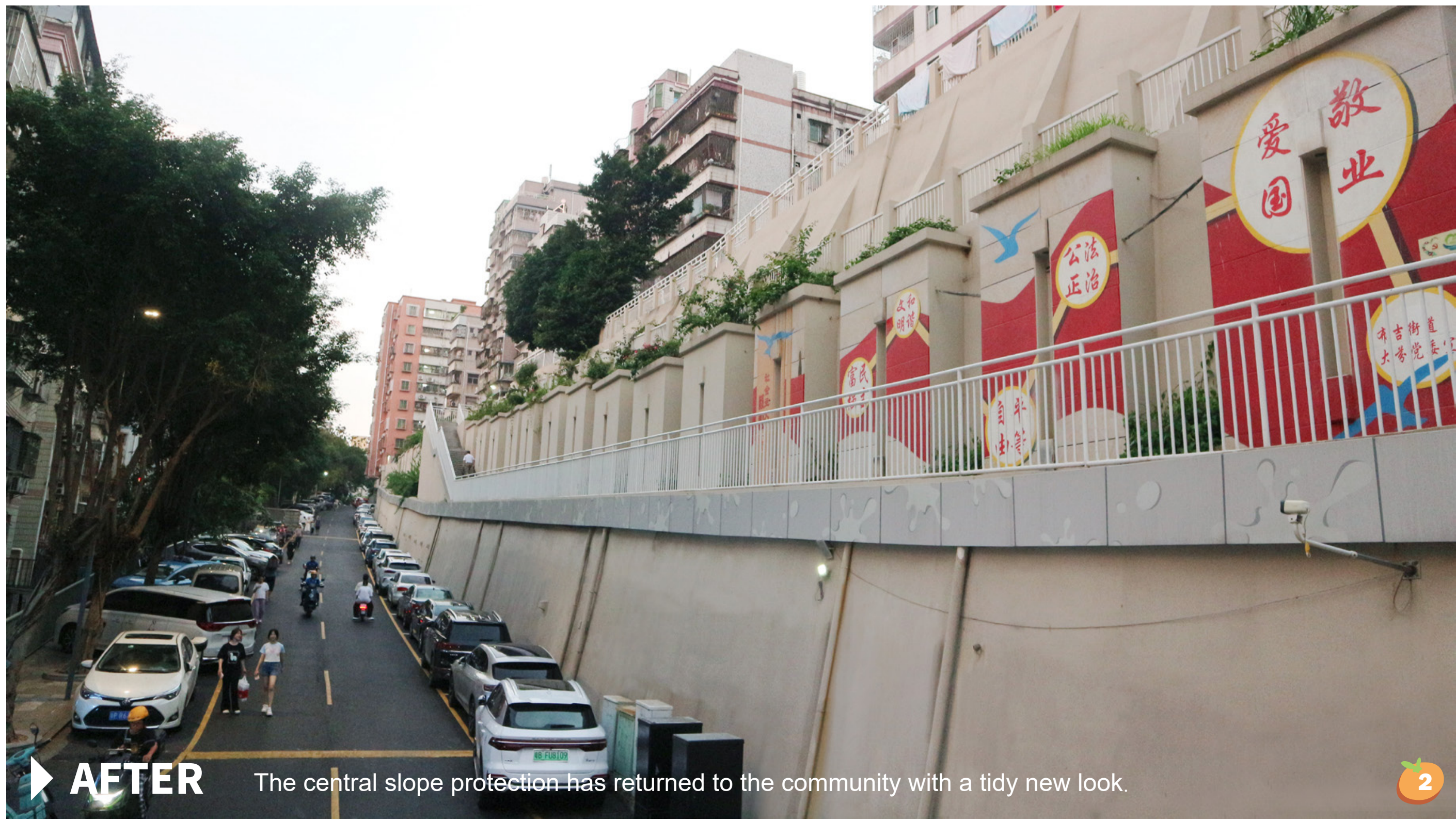
The orderly reorganization of the drainage facilities is hidden behind the new façade.

1



The original slope surface was severely peeled off due to erosion by runoff from the top of the slope.

BEFORE ◀



▶ **AFTER**

The central slope protection has returned to the community with a tidy new look.

2



BEAUTIFIED STREET MAIN STREET & COMMERCIAL STREET

The south entrance of Juzikeng is adjacent to the Shenzhen Metro Line 3 Dafen Station and opposite to the Dafen Oil Painting Village, making it an important gateway of the whole community. The design has renovated the vertical interface of the commercial street and the main street, including guardhouse facade, store signboard design that incorporates Lingnan arcade elements, unifying the original cluttered colors of the street facade, and the renovation of the garbage station on the main street.



Commercial Street Length: 138 m

Main Street Of Lower Juzikeng Length: 213 m



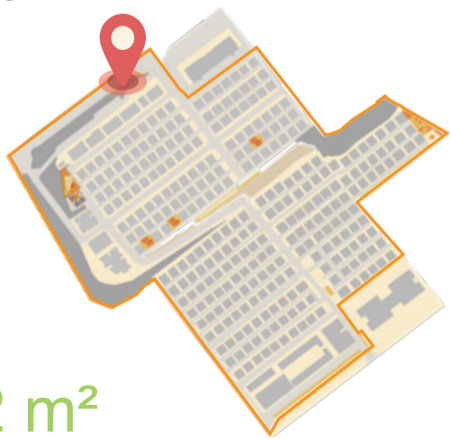




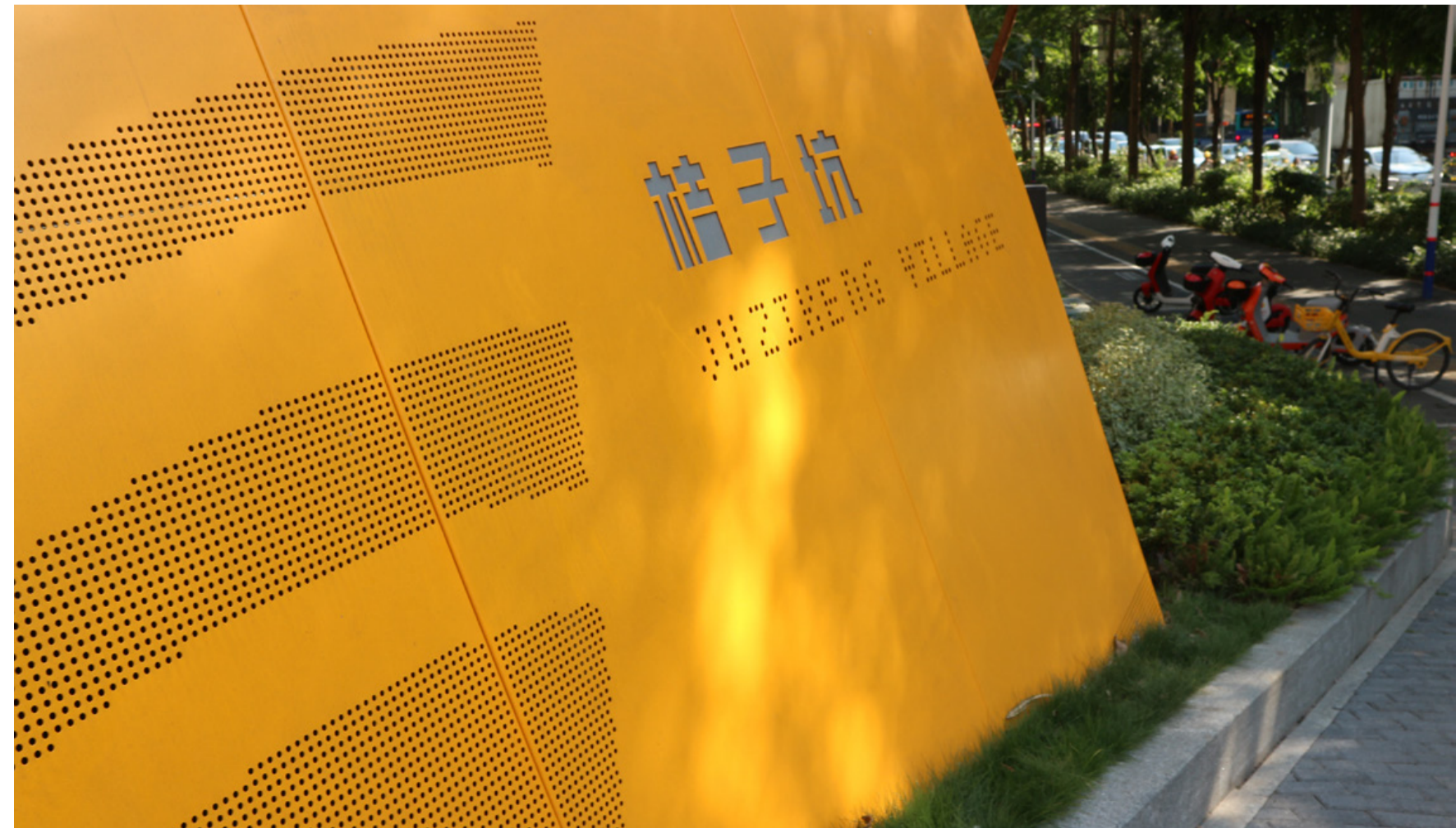
IDENTIFIABLE IMAGES

NORTHERN ENTRANCE LANDSCAPE

There was a low retaining wall at the north entrance of Juzikeng that cannot be removed, which has a negative impact on the landscape interface of the community entrance. Without occupying any public parking spaces, the design strives to shield the retaining wall and outdoor water tank facilities by constructing a feature welcoming interface, while retaining the existing three mango trees. In addition, a community-specific logo has been added to increase the community's recognizability for enhancing community belonging.



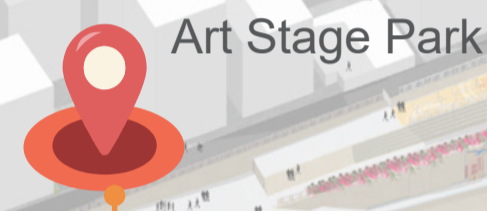
Northern entrance landscape size: 52 m²





INDUSTRY PLANNING

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT | EVERLASTING VITALITY |



SAMLL BUT MEANINGFUL

