



# Wei River Waterfront Park

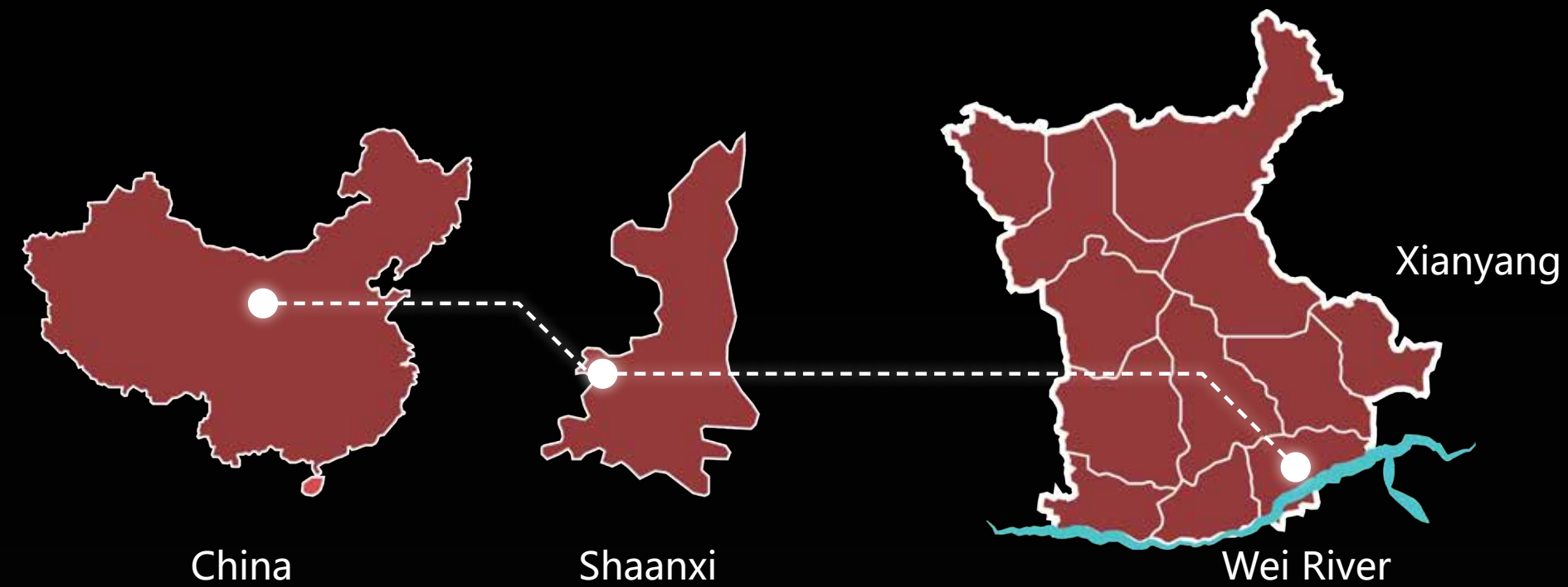
Urban park that brings the past to the future





# Wei River Waterfront Park

## Urban park that brings the past to the future



### PROJECT STATEMENT

The Wei River waterfront park is the first phase of the Wei River Xianyang section landscape design and planning project. This Park stands as a vital urban oasis in Xianyang, nestled in the scenic waterfront area of the Wei River. Serving as a crucial public amenity, it caters to the communal activity requirements of residents in densely populated neighborhoods, while also preserving the memories and sentiments of the people of Xianyang.

Based on the historic urban landscape theory (HUL theory), the design team fully respects the culture and history of the site to refine the existing buildings and plants as a main strategy to bring new energy to the park. The park's renewal focuses on the following aspects.

1. Re-awakening cultural and historical memory
2. Re-introducing the public space
3. Re-connecting people to the water culture.

Nowadays, Wei River waterfront park as a hub of social and recreational activities for the citizens. At the same time, the renovation of Weibin Park has played an important role in promoting the economy of the city, and also as a new symbol to the world.

### PROJECT NARRATIVE

#### Location, size, and scope

The Wei River is the largest tributary of the Yellow River. It originates in Dingxi City, Gansu Province, China, and spans across the eastern part of Gansu and the central part of Shaanxi Province. The water culture of the Wei River has a long history and is closely related to the history of Chinese civilization.

The Xianyang section of the Wei River is a cross-city river that passes through the city and has played an important role in the city's development and historical changes. Wei River waterfront park is the first phase of Wei river Xianyang section. It is situated in the Xianyang section of the Wei River and covers an area of 20,600 hectares.





# Wei River Waterfront Park

## Urban park that brings the past to the future

### Conditions and challenges

#### 1. Fading culture

Xianyang is a historical city located along the Wei River in Shangxi, China. However, the historic relics in Xianyang are now scattered, and the historical significance of the area is fading. From the research, Wei River waterfront park face issues of cultural space and mass use separation, unclear and monotonous historical and cultural expression, and a lack of development of historical relics. As the core waterfront park of Xianyang, Wei River waterfront park not only preserves the city's history and memories of its citizens, but also has the potential to become the city's flagship attraction for tourism, which is of great significance in driving economic development and enhancing the city's competitive edge.

#### 2. Lack of public space

Wei River waterfront park was constructed fifty years ago, the park facilities are outdated. In addition, The park is located in the central area of the city with high density neighborhood. The need of public space is increased. The park facilities are outdated, and there is a significant lack of recreational facilities for the neighborhood. Additionally, the park's connection to the city is inadequate, as it is located in the core area of Xianyang but does not offer adequate space for public movement.

#### 3. Loss of Wei River water culture

The cultural heritage of the Wei River Basin is an essential component of Chinese heritage, deeply intertwined with the lives of its people. However, as time passes and society evolves, the connection between the local community and the Wei River culture has weakened. The lake in park, as a vital ecological asset, should serve as a key guardian of Wei culture. Regrettably, prior to its renovation, the artificial lake in the park suffered from poor water quality and a high number of dead fish, indicating severe ecological issues that hinder its ability to support public water activities.

### Design strategy and approach

#### Re-awakening cultural and historical memory

The park has been renovated to preserve its historical significance. The project fully utilizes the existing historical buildings on the site, categorizing and renovating them. The fountains, pavilions, corridor bridges, and buildings in the park have preserved their historical characteristics while being integrated into modern functional needs. This approach maintains the site's historical and cultural significance while adapting to modern life. By awakening forgotten historical and cultural memories, residents and tourists can re-experience and appreciate these precious historical heritages.

#### Re-introducing the public space

The park was previously relatively closed off, making it difficult for the public to quickly access activity venues. The project team reorganized the transportation system both inside and outside the park, opened up the park's interfaces, created public activity spaces of various scales, and enhanced the park's connectivity.

#### Re-connecting people to the water culture

By connecting the Wei River and the inner lake water network system, we have significantly improved water circulation and enhanced the ecosystem. Through the enrichment of plant species. As a result, the inner lake has been transformed into a thriving habitat for a diverse range of aquatic and wetland organisms. Furthermore, it now serves as an important water education site for children, fostering an understanding of the connection between the Wei River water culture and the environment.

#### Planting and material

The design team conducted a detailed on-site survey and implemented a recycling concept for construction materials and current plants, in addition to saving new material locally.

#### Collaboration with the client and other stakeholders

The successful design was a result of close cooperation between the government, clients, designers, and professional consultants from various fields.

The park officially opened on January 1, 2023, and has become very popular with the local people and tourists, achieving great recognition among local political leaders.





# SITE ANALYSIS

## Historical Narrative Context

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### The Wei River Civilization



The progenitor of the Chinese civilization, Fuxi, was born in Tianshui, a region along the Wei River. He created the Bagua, taught fishing and hunting, and invented writing.



The ancestors of the Zhou dynasty and their descendants gradually expanded their power in the Wei River Valley, taking agriculture as the foundation of the state. They moved from Longdong to Guanzhong, and ultimately established the longest-reigning dynasty in ancient China.



During the Eastern Jin and Sixteen Kingdoms period, the Li clan living in the upper reaches of the Wei River in Longxi rose to prominence amidst chaos. They later migrated to various parts of the country, and among them, the Li Yuan family overthrew the Sui Dynasty and established the Tang Dynasty, laying the foundation for the prosperous era of the Great Tang.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

HUAXIA TRIBE CIVILIZATION

ZHOU DYNASTY (1046 BCE to 256 BC)

THE QIN EMPIRE (221 BCE to 207 BCE)

THE BASE OF THE TANG DYNASTY (618 AD - 907 AD)



The Yellow Emperor was born in Xuanyuan Valley, Qingshui County, along the Wei River. He cultivated the five grains, promoted writing, created the sexagenary cycle, and initiated the Chinese civilization.



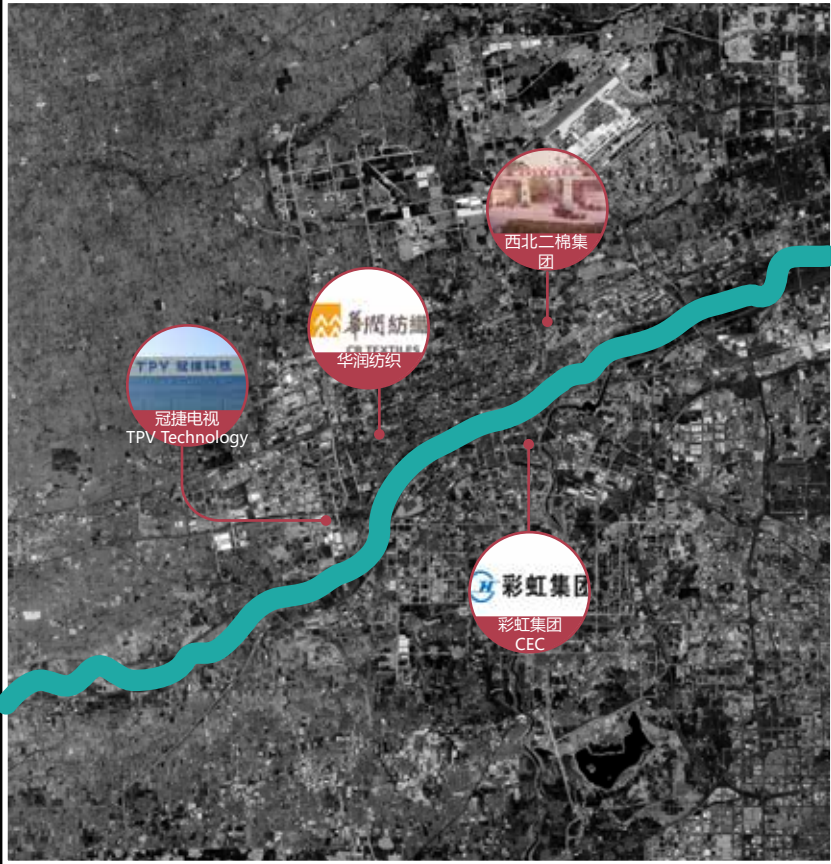
The Qin people, a small tribe of several hundred, moved from west to east along the Wei River Valley, from Qinzhou (today's Tianshui) to Xianyang. Over more than 600 years, they gradually expanded their territory and eventually established the powerful and short-lived Super Qin Empire

### Historical Development of Xianyang City



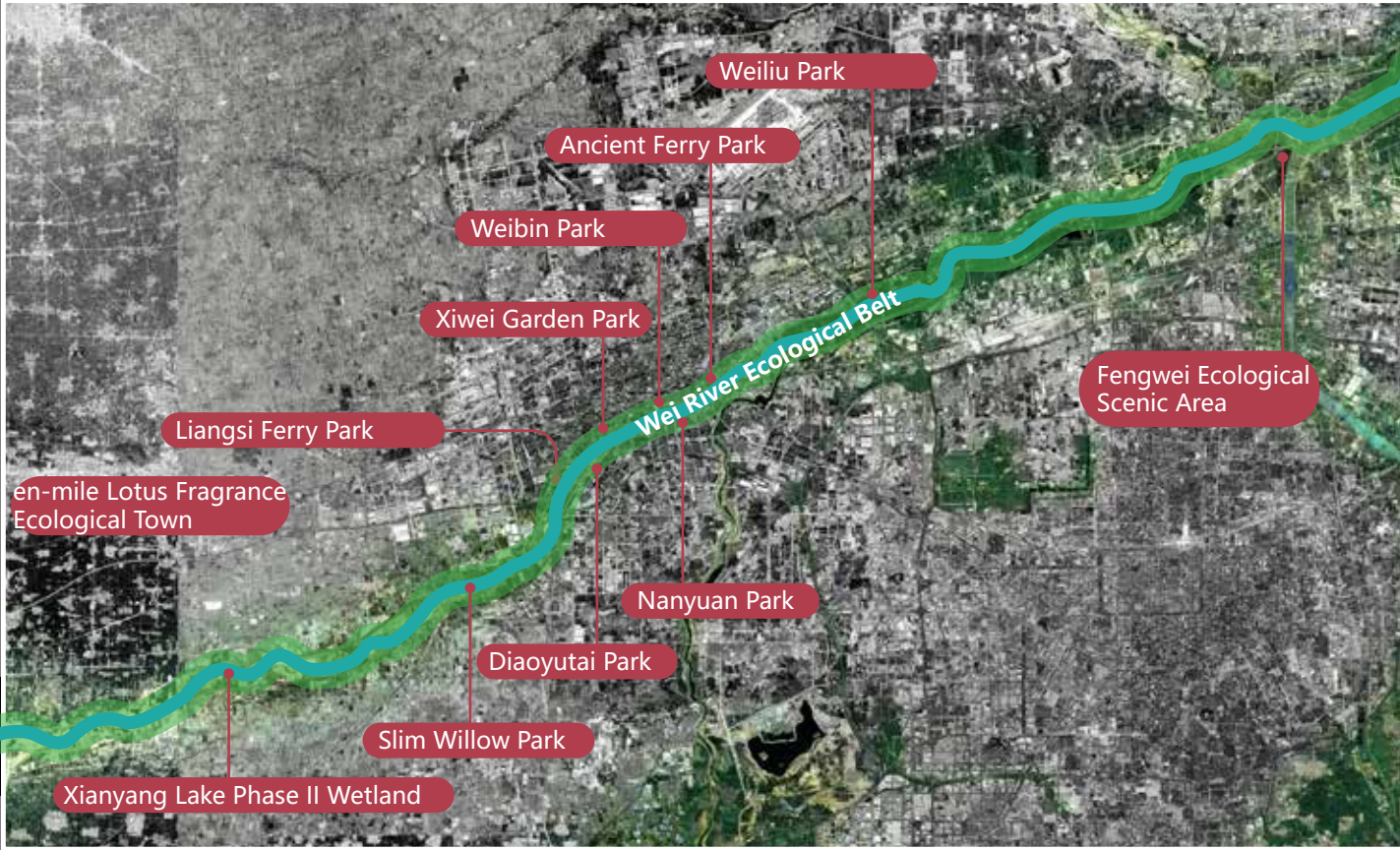
LIFE OF RIVER  
221BC-207BC

During the Qin Dynasty, Xianyang served as the primary capital, witnessing the rise of the first unified feudal dynasty in Chinese history. In this period, the Wei River, as the most important urban river within Xianyang, played a crucial role with its abundant water resources for agricultural irrigation and urban life. It also played a significant role in military aspects, demonstrating the prosperity and power of the Qin Dynasty period.



THE RIVER OF DEVELOPMENT  
1990s-2007

In the 1990s, Xianyang's industrial development saw significant transformation and growth, particularly with the electronics industry booming after the introduction of the first national color picture tube production line. The city also vigorously adjusted its industrial structure and development methods, leading to rapid economic growth and enhanced industrial strength. However, this industrial boom also brought environmental issues, with industrial and domestic sewage polluting the Wei River until regulations improved before 2007.



ECOLOGICAL RIVER  
2008-2020s

In recent modern history, Xianyang has undergone a transformation from an inland hinterland to the forefront of openness, becoming a core area of the "Belt and Road" initiative. The Wei River has shifted its image to become an ecological resource for urban development, with the construction of Xianyang Lake Scenic Area becoming a highlight of the city's ecological civilization construction. The management and utilization of the Wei River pay more attention to the integration of ecological protection and urban landscape, becoming an important factor in enhancing the city's image and the quality of life for residents.



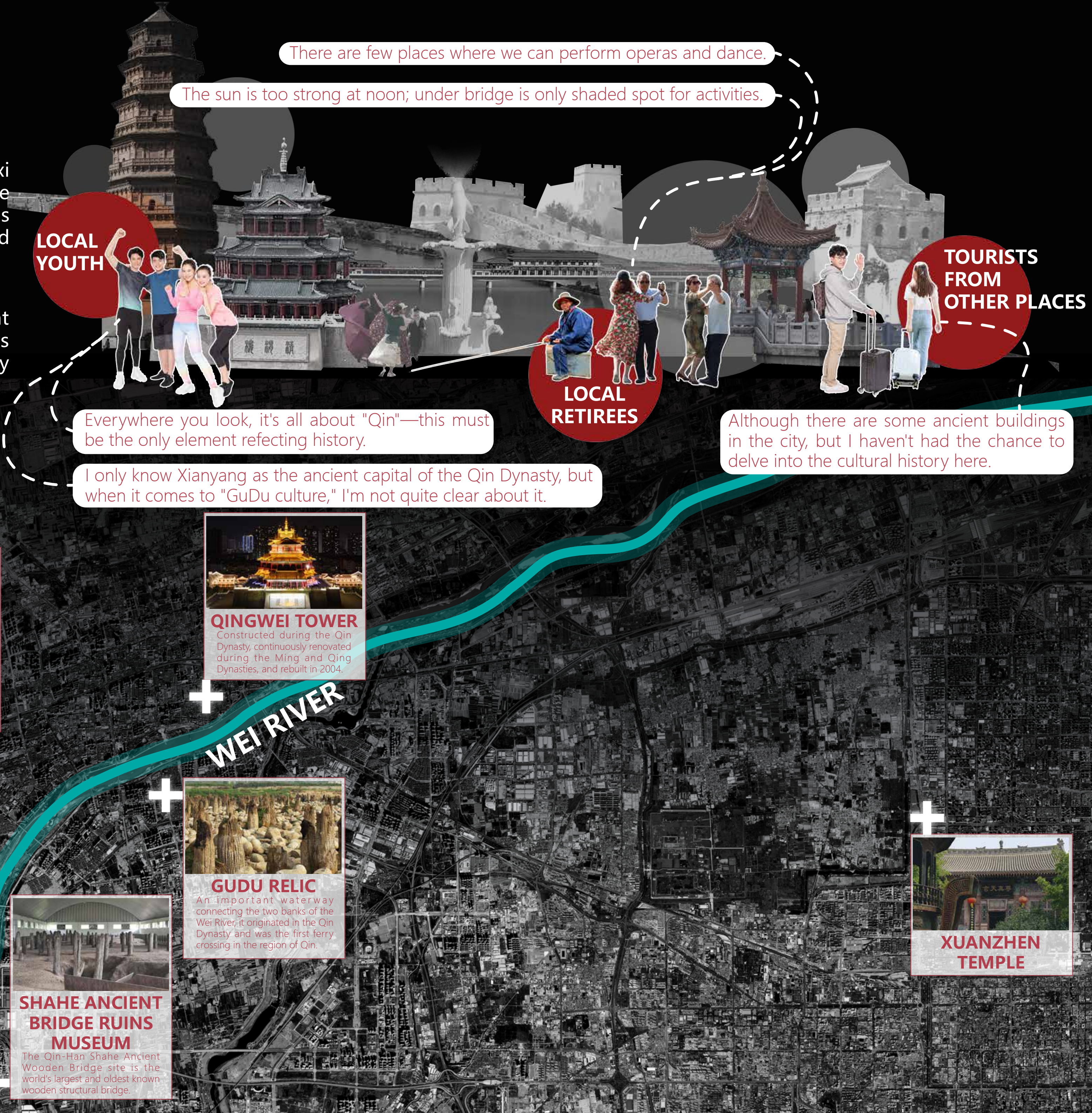
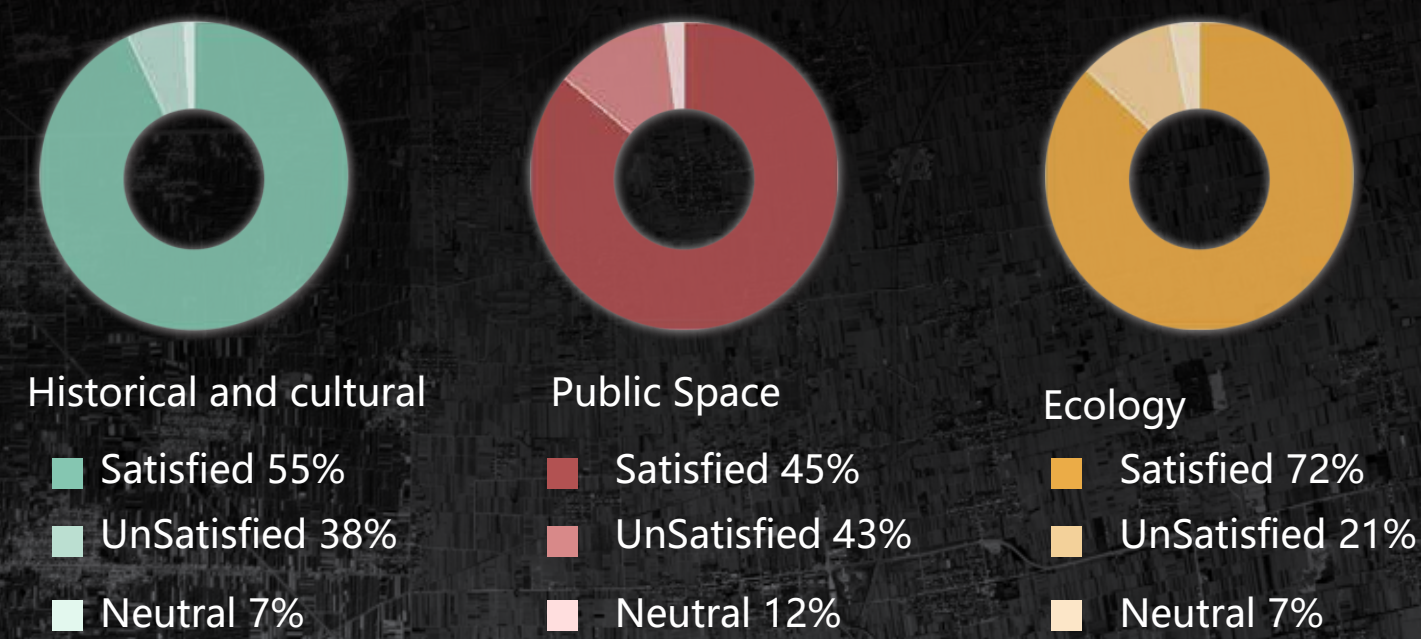
# SITE ANALYSIS

## Fading cultural and historical memory

Xianyang is a historical and cultural ancient city located along the Wei River in Shaanxi Province, China. However, the historical relics in Xianyang are now scattered, and the historical significance of the area is gradually fading. Research has revealed issues such as the separation of cultural spaces from mass use, unclear and monotonous historical and cultural expression, and insufficient development of historical relics at the site.

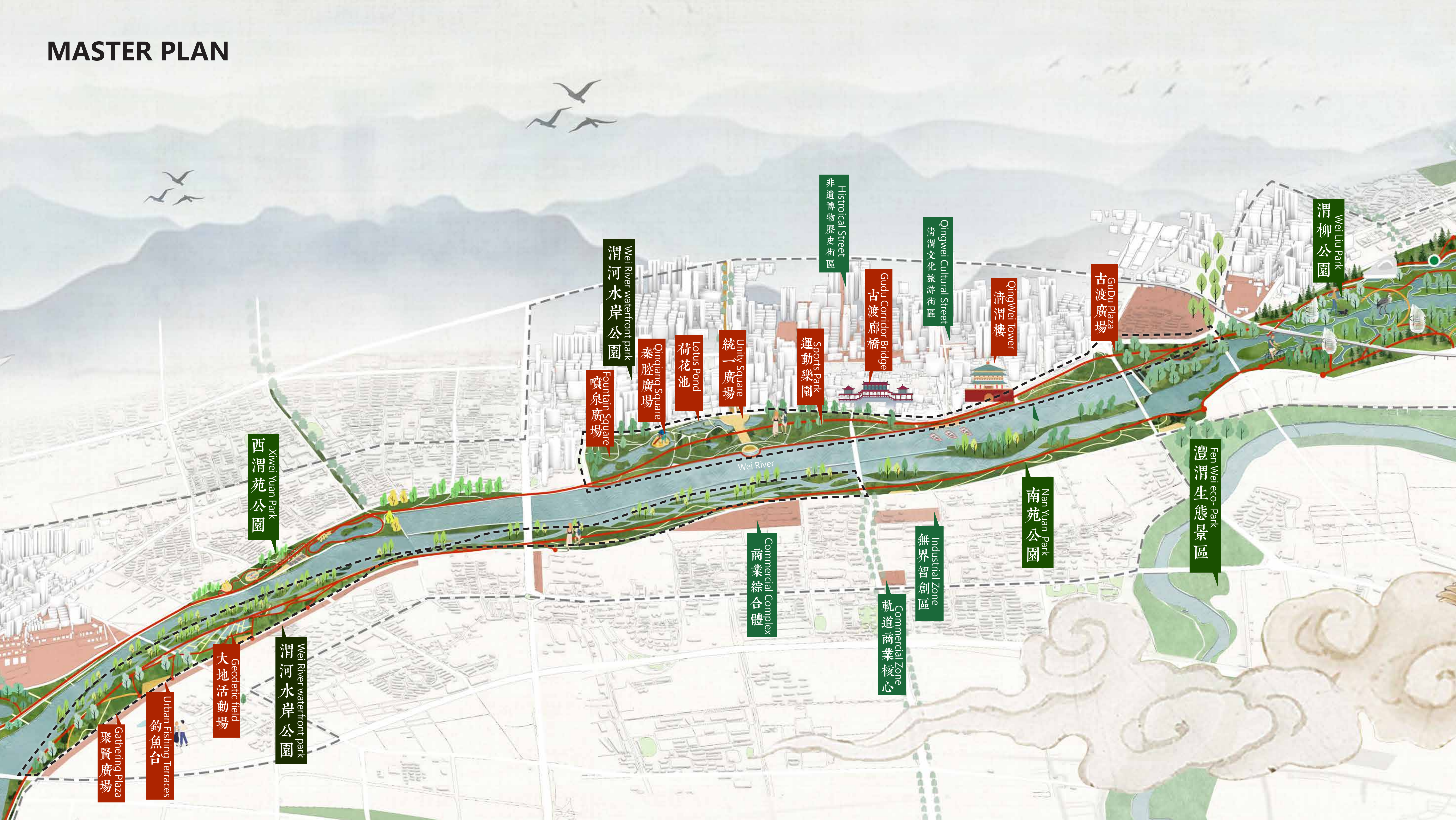
### Survey on Resident Satisfaction Before the Revitalization

The pre-revitalization survey on the satisfaction of surrounding residents indicated that nearly 38% of the residents did not feel the cultural charm of the site, 43% of the residents felt there was a lack of activity spaces, and the majority of the residents were relatively satisfied with the site's ecology





MASTER PLAN



渭柳公園  
Wei Liu Park

豐渭生態景區  
Fen Wei eco-Park

古渡廣場  
Gudu Plaza

清渭樓  
QingWei Tower

清渭文化旅遊街區  
Qingwei Cultural Street

古渡廊橋  
Gudu Corridor Bridge

非遺博物館歷史街區  
Historical Street

運動樂園  
Sports Park

統一廣場  
Unity Square

荷花池  
Lotus Pond

秦腔廣場  
Qinqiang Square

渭河水岸公園  
Wei River waterfront park

噴泉廣場  
Fountain Square

南苑公園  
Nan Yuan Park

無界智創區  
Industrial Zone

軌道商業核心  
Commercial Zone

商業綜合體  
Commercial Complex

西渭苑公園  
Xiwei Yuan Park

渭河水岸公園  
Wei River waterfront park

大地活動場  
Geodetic field

釣魚台  
Urban Fishing Terraces

聚賢廣場  
Gathering Plaza



# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

The approach maintains the site's historical and cultural significance while adapting to modern life. By awakening forgotten historical and cultural memories, residents and tourists can re-experience and appreciate these precious historical heritages.



QinWei Tower ▲

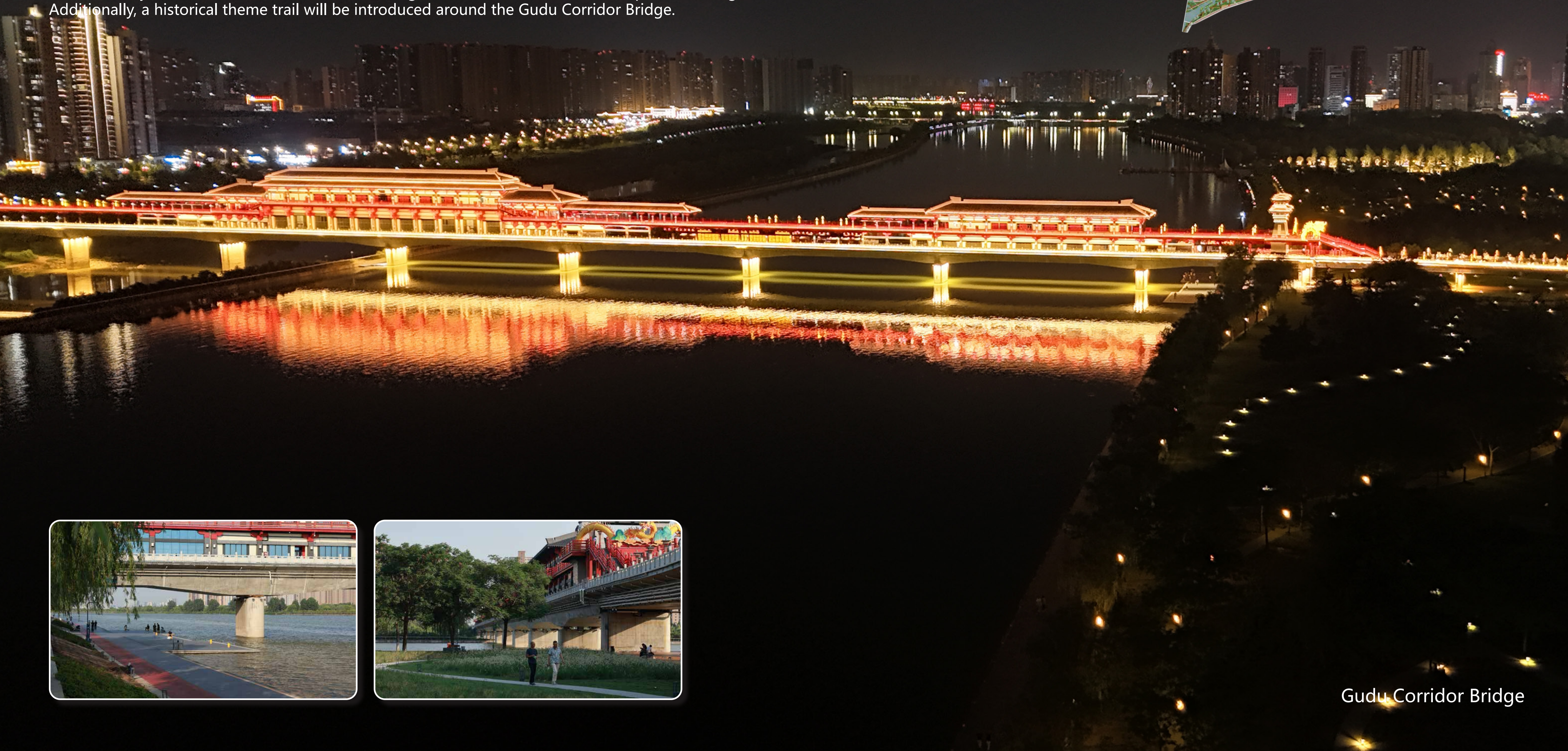
▲ Chinese Garden



# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

## LIGHTING UP THE ICONIC

The walkway beneath the Gudu Corridor Bridge connects to create a complete touring route. Additionally, a historical theme trail will be introduced around the Gudu Corridor Bridge.



Gudu Corridor Bridge



# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

MAKE THE FOUNTAIN ALIVE AGAIN

Preserving the memory of the site while updating the landscape facilities and passing on the cultural memory in a new way



▲ BEFORE



▼ AFTER

Fountain Square



# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

MAKE THE FOUNTAIN ALIVE AGAIN



Fountain Square

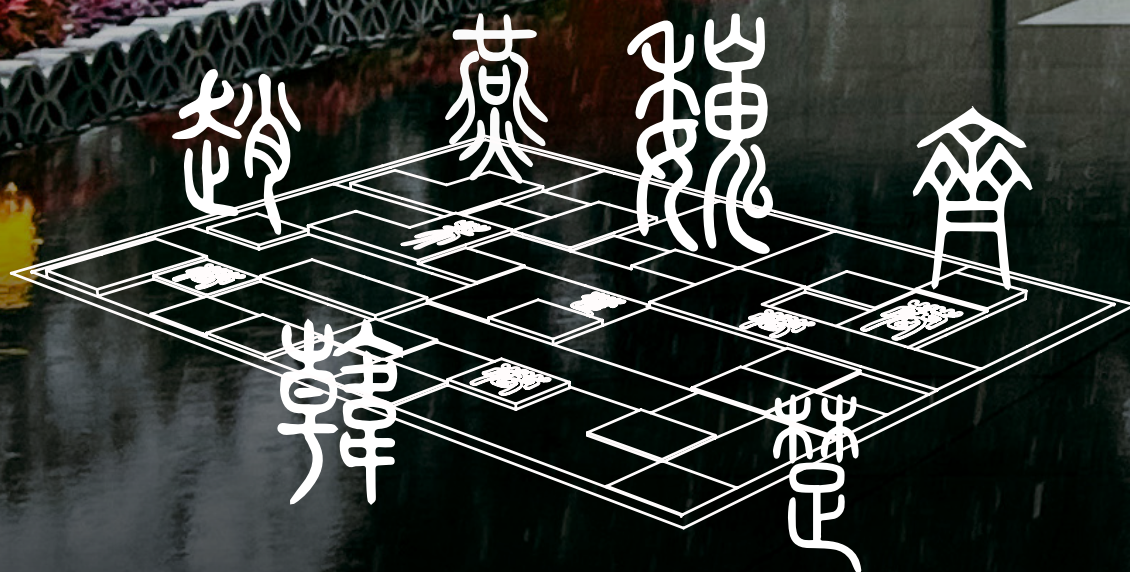
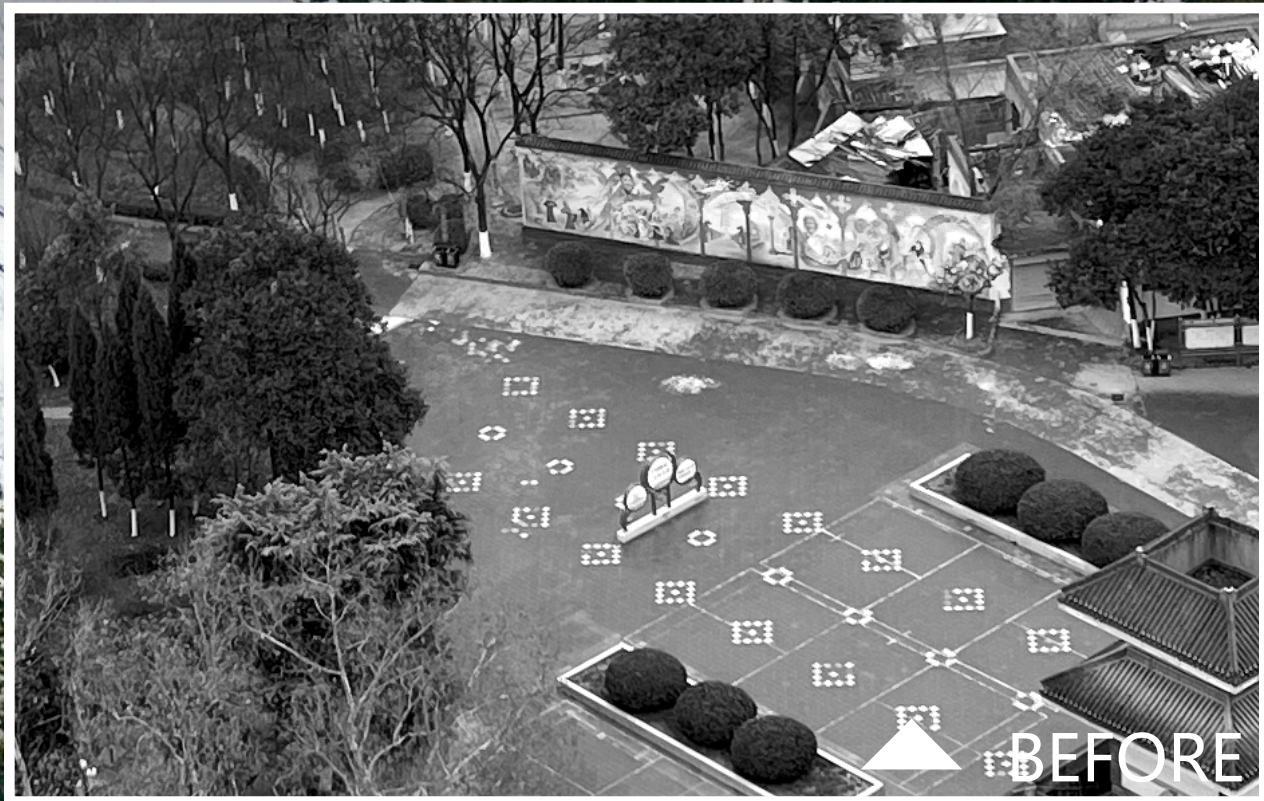




# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

## CLUES TO HERITAGE

Landscape details are intricately intertwined with historical and cultural elements to preserve and perpetuate civilization



Qin Dynasty Unified Six Countries Water Feature

GuDu Plaza



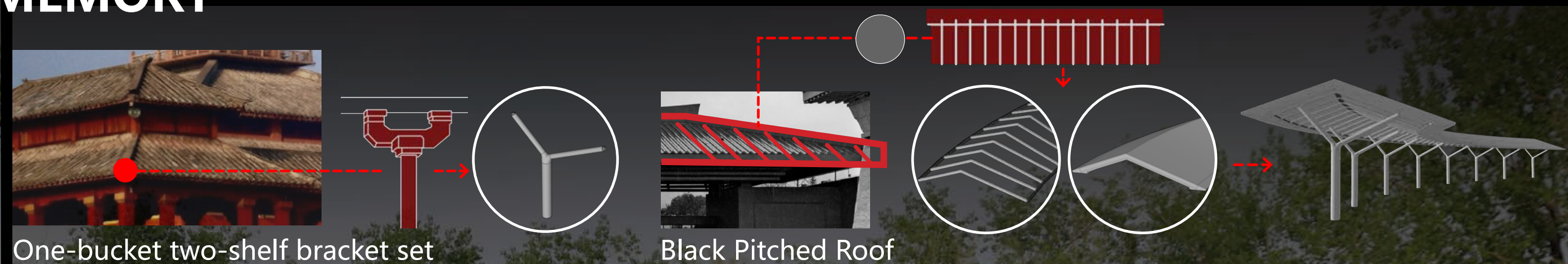
# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

Qin Dynasty architecture emphasized practicality, with an overall style described as "bold and simple." The roofs were large, featuring the "reversed character" fold in the roof slope, typically with a subtle curvature and commonly using the cantilevered beam technique for sloping roofs. Additionally, the wood structural technology was advanced, with the three main large wooden structural systems—namely "chuan dou" (transverse and longitudinal bracing) and "jing gan" (well frame)—reaching a mature stage.

In design, the main characteristics and structural forms are extracted and reinterpreted using modern design language for a contemporary reconfiguration.



Qinqiang Square



One-bucket two-shelf bracket set

Black Pitched Roof



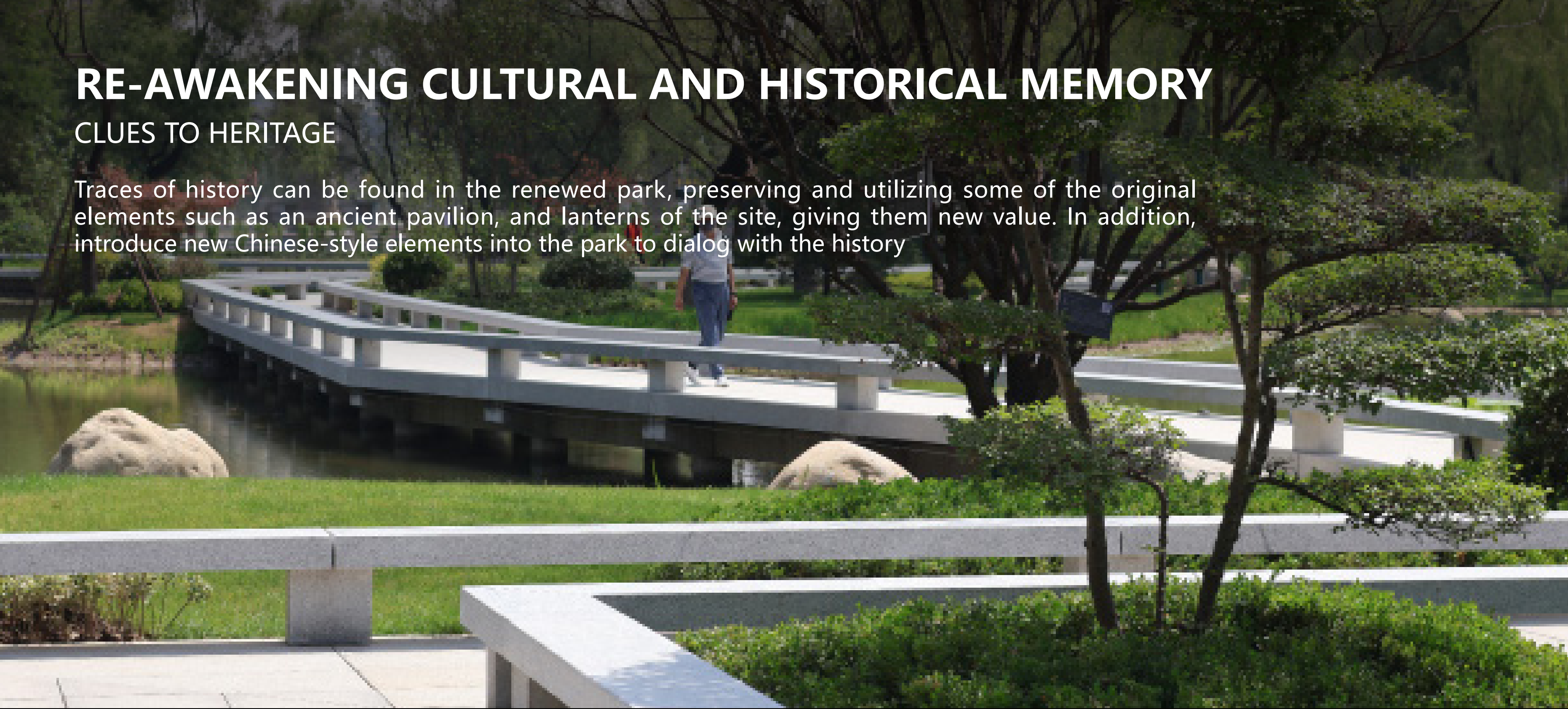
Qinqiang Square



# RE-AWAKENING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

## CLUES TO HERITAGE

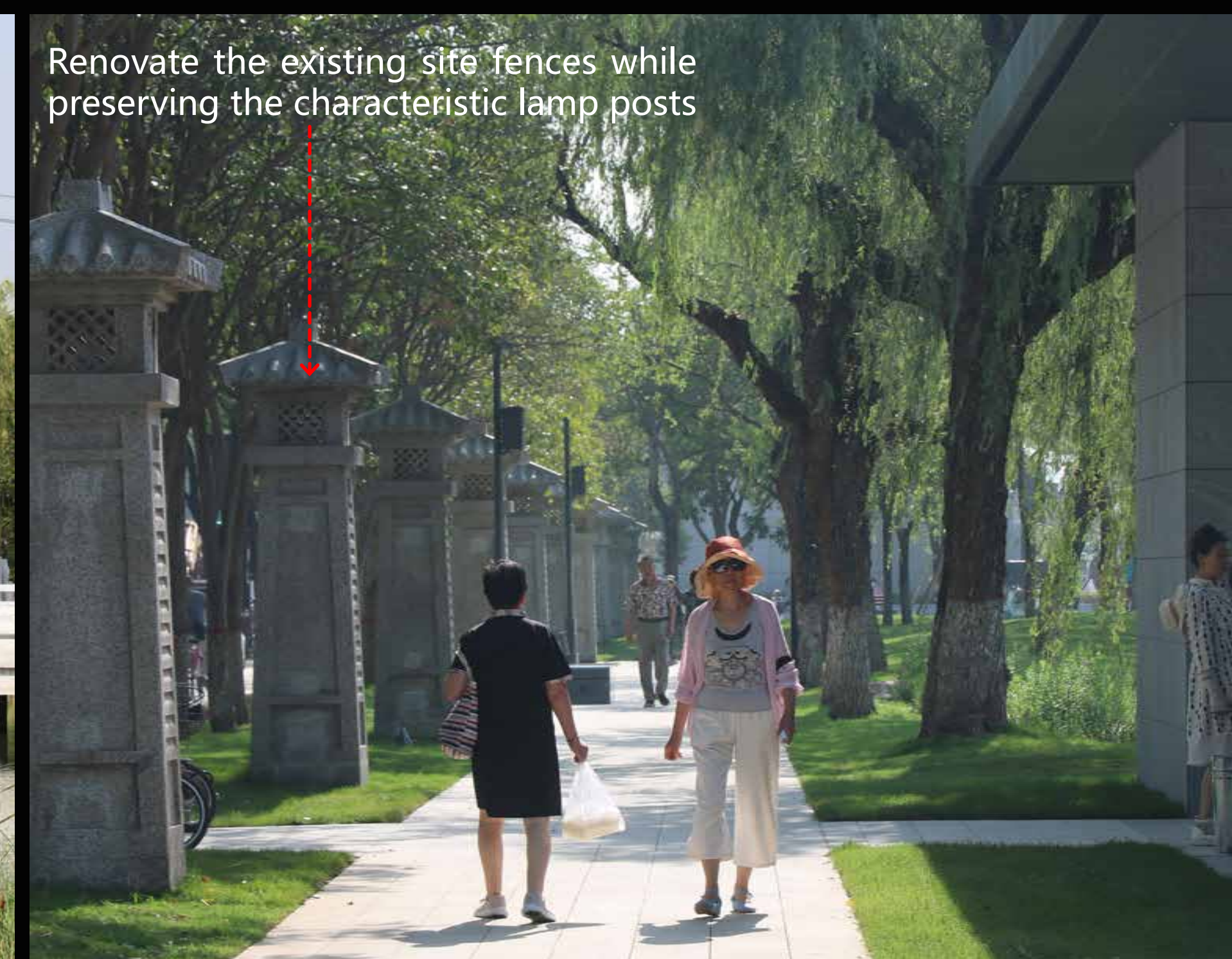
Traces of history can be found in the renewed park, preserving and utilizing some of the original elements such as an ancient pavilion, and lanterns of the site, giving them new value. In addition, introduce new Chinese-style elements into the park to dialog with the history



Qinqiang culture plaza paving



Preserve the site's memory,  
renovate and reinforce



Renovate the existing site fences while  
preserving the characteristic lamp posts



# RE-INTRODUCE PUBLIC SPACE

## PARKS FOR EVERYONE

The central axis of the park has been redesigned, and the waterfront has been revitalized to create a park with a variety of activities for people of all ages.







◀ BEFORE



AFTER ▶



◀ BEFORE



AFTER ▶

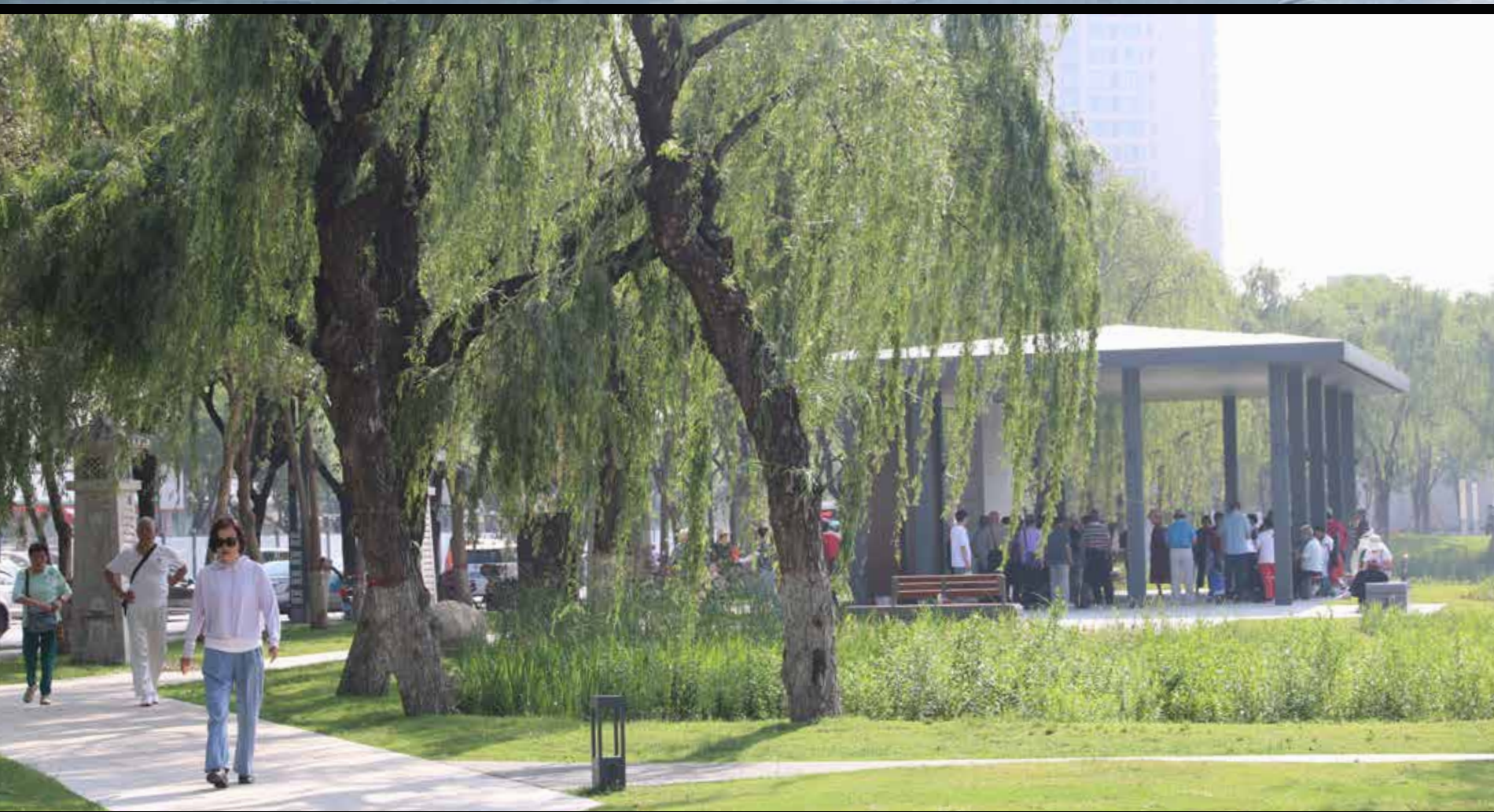


# RE-INTRODUCE PUBLIC SPACE

PARKS FOR EVERYONE



Fountain Square



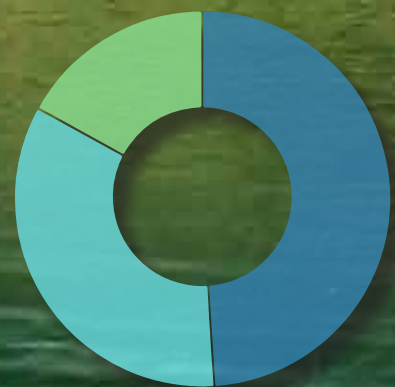


# RE-CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE WATER CULTURE

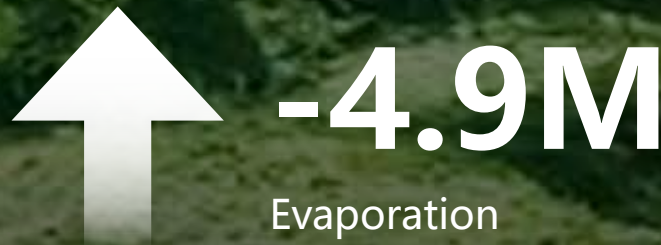
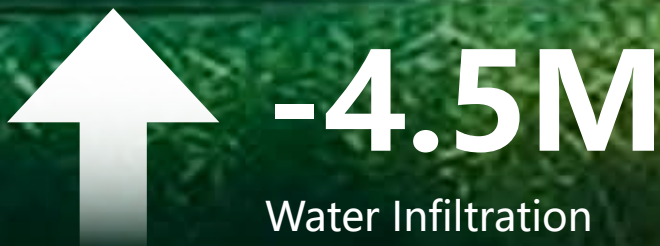
## WATER SYSTEM

By connecting the Wei River with the inner lake's water network, we have significantly improved water circulation and enhanced the ecosystem. Furthermore, we also aim to cultivate children's understanding of aquatic ecology education at the site, through a good grasp of water circulation, water quality protection, and sustainable water resource management. This will enhance children's environmental awareness and help them acquire basic environmental protection skills and behavioral habits.

Water  
exchange rate  
2 times / month



- Rainfall
- City Runoff
- Recharge by WeiRiver



- Ceratophyllum demersum
- Vallisneria
- Myriophyllum
- Verticillium melongena
- Pennisetum orientale
- Dietes bicolor
- Iris
- Lotus



# SURVEY ON LIFE SATISFACTION

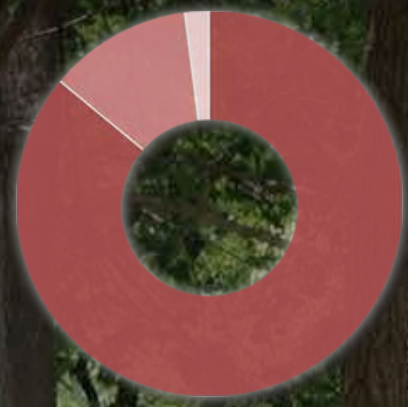
## Survey on Resident Satisfaction After the Revitalization

After the team's revitalization design of the site, the satisfaction of surrounding residents regarding the cultural aspects, public spaces, and the ecosystem has seen a significant increase



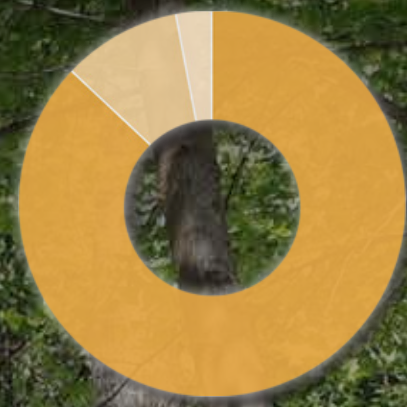
### Historical and cultural

- Satisfied 93%
- UnSatisfied 5%
- Neutral 2%



### Public Space

- Satisfied 91%
- UnSatisfied 7%
- Neutral 2%



### Ecology

- Satisfied 94%
- UnSatisfied 2%
- Neutral 4%