



Xianfeng District

市桥
复兴

Reviving Core Area of (Confidence in) Shiqiao:
Project Planning and Detailed Design of Micro-renovation in
Xianfeng Community, Guangzhou

PROJECT SUMMARY

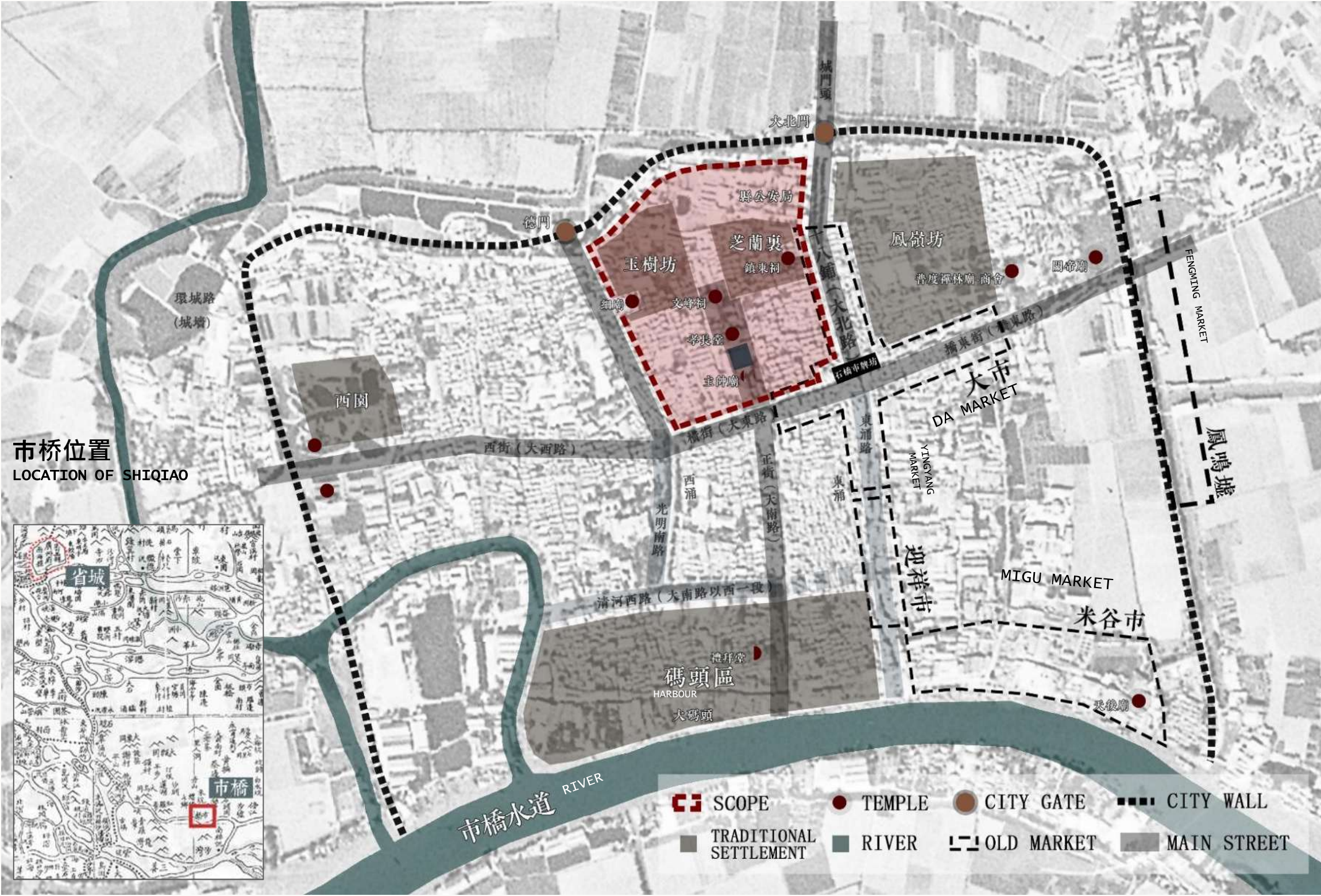
Xianfeng Community is located in the center of Shiqiao Sub-district, Panyu, Guangzhou. It has been the political and commercial center of Panyu since ancient times, and it is a microcosm of the millennia-old history and culture of Panyu. The building clusters from the Qing dynasty to modern times in Xianfeng community have witnessed the evolution of Shiqiao. Aimed at protecting history and culture and recreating collective memories, the project adopts a new approach to work on the micro-renovation of the old community.

The master plan covers the 16-hectare area of Xianfeng Community. Learning from oral history from the residents, the design team incorporates local cultural context, local residents' memories and characteristic businesses into the buildings of corresponding eras, keeps the integrity and continuity of historical spaces, and creates a holistic spatial experience.

A new micro-renovation approach is proposed, which leverages architectural styles of different eras as the catalyst. This approach has provided theoretical guidance and experience for other similar projects in the Greater Bay Area. As a catalyst, the project has motivated nearby old communities to start micro-renovation. It has contributed to dealing with the decline of old communities and speeding up the rejuvenation of Shiqiao Sub-district.



LOCATION&TIMELINE



宋代
Song Dynasty

Panyu became an important port for foreign exchanges and saw a booming ceramics industry. In late Southern Song Dynasty, the Wu family started to develop the area and build villages in Shiqiao.

元代
Yuan Dynasty

The five families of Han(Hon), Zhang (Cheung), Li (Lee), Xie (Tse), and Li(Lai) moved to Shiqiao to escape the war. The head of the Eighth generation of Xie Family named Lisou led the development of Xiedi (a street named after the family name)

明代
Ming Dynasty

At the end of the Yuan Dynasty and the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, the Shawan Inspection Department moved from Baisha Fort to Shiqiao, and in the early Ming Dynasty, the east and west canals were excavated and city gates built up.

清代
Qing Dynasty

While the river channel near Shaxu were silted up, Shiqiao flourished since the waterway nearby connected it to many other cities and towns in the Pearl River Delta.

民國
The Republic of China

During the Japanese occupation, Li Fuqun relied on Japanese forces to rule over Shiqiao which enjoyed artificial prosperity since its population surged.

建國
The People's Republic of China

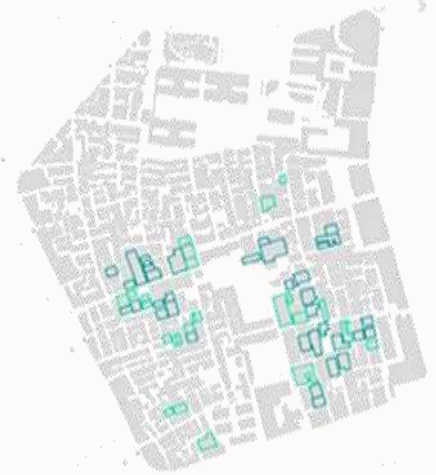
In the last years of the Republic of China, when Yan Boqiu was the county mayor, roads were paved and docks built in Shiqiao and its street market began to take shape. The prefectural government was located in the present-day Xianfeng Elementary School.

當代
Contemporary

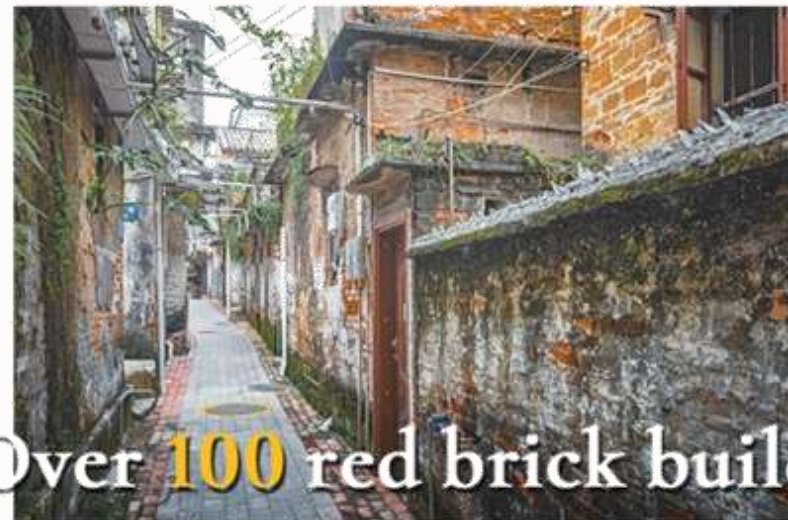
At the end of 1950, the Shiqiao Town Government was established, and its seat was at the Li Clan Ancestral Hall on Danan Road. In the next year, it moved to the neighboring area of the Commander Temple on Daxi Road.

Since the Reform and Opening up in 1978, commercial buildings mushroomed in the neighborhood, and Xianfeng Community saw replacement of old buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF DIFFERENT ERAS



Over **60** buildings with wok-eared gables and black brick walls which can be dated back to the Ming and Qing dynasties



Over **100** red brick buildings with sloped roof of modern times



Over **600** contemporary public buildings, private houses and collective residential buildings

PROJECT POSITIONING



COMMUNITY

Habitable community
with the old Panyu lifestyle



"MUSEUM"

"Community history museum"
where the public can enjoy the
history, culture and sound of Panyu

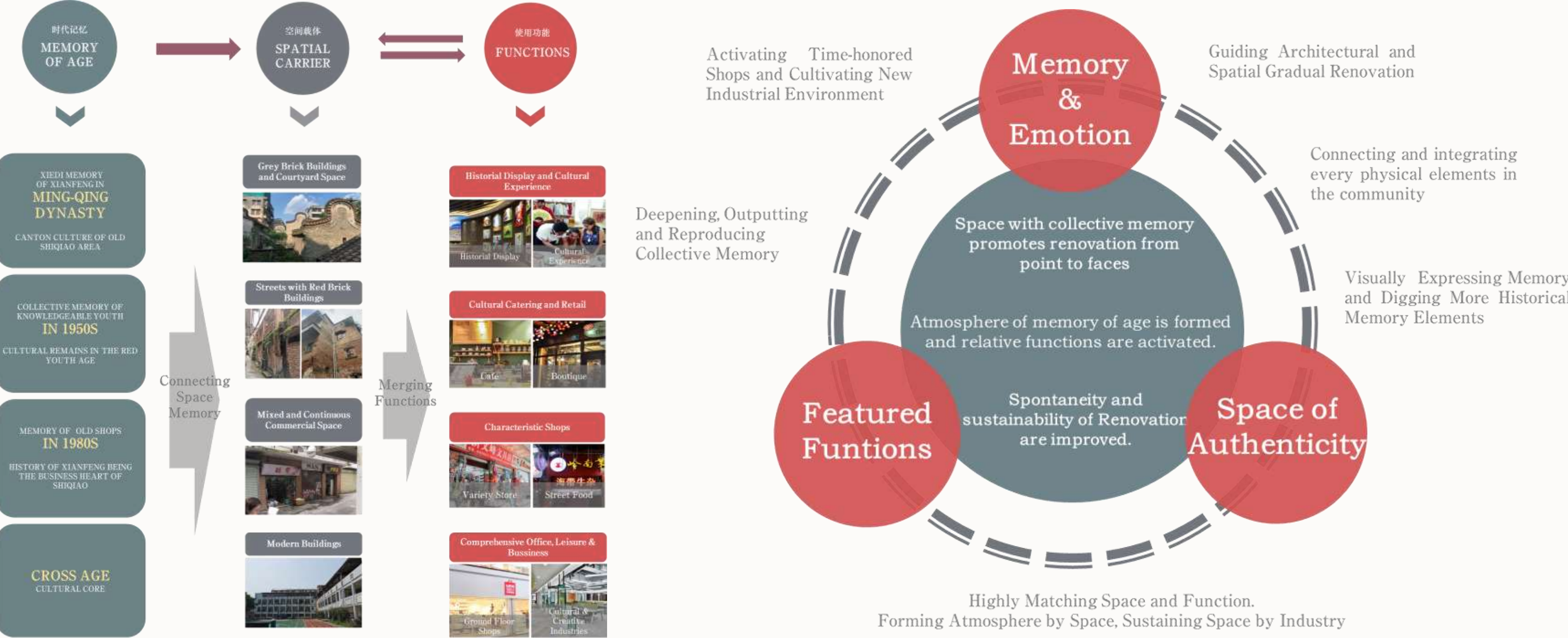


NEIGHBORHOOD

Open, inclusive neighborhood for
experiencing Cantonese culture,
which integrates old and new elements

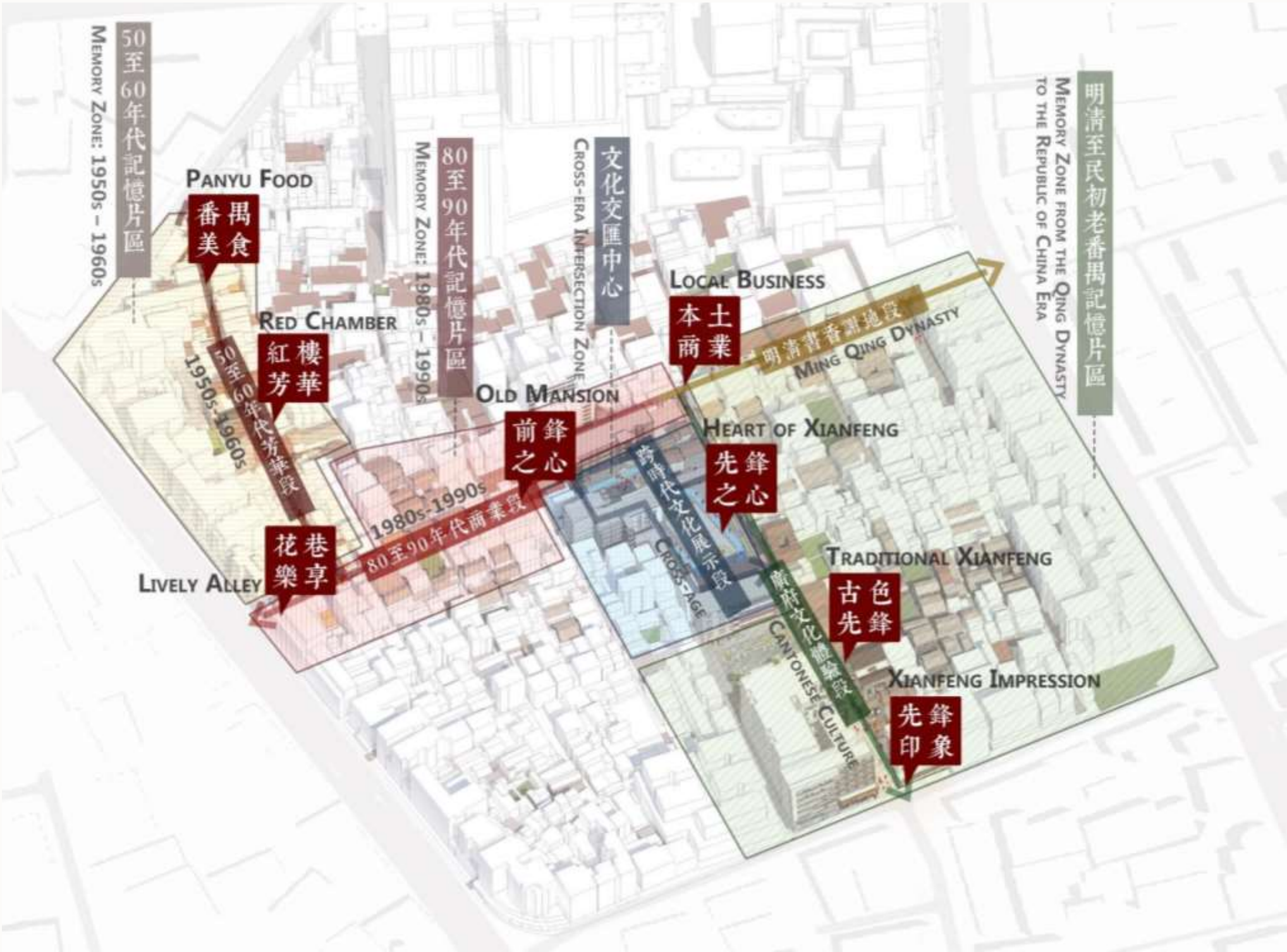
INNOVATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The project utilizes the heritage management method of Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), which recognizes and confirms the hierarchical value of any historical town in planning and design. It seeks to reconstruct the connections between historical urban areas and new towns, urban protection and development, different cultural traditions, and socio-economic development. Therefore, the project creatively proposes a "memory – space - functions" fusion system, which can integrate and reproduce the "memory – space - functions" of multiple eras, reflect the complete historical context of community development and the corresponding functional formats and spaces, and form a mutually promoting and integrating relationship between these three elements.



PLANNING STRUCTURE OF TIME AND SPACE COMBINATION

With four memory zones, five memory paths, as well as eight elaborately designed key memory nodes and 34 state-owned houses, the planning reproduces integral and continuous historical spaces, making the local residents' memories an organic part of the authentic spaces and featured business formats, and offering an experience of place where time and space become a seamless whole.



Memory Zone: 1950s – 1960s



Cross-era Intersection Zone



Memory Zone: 1980s – 1990s

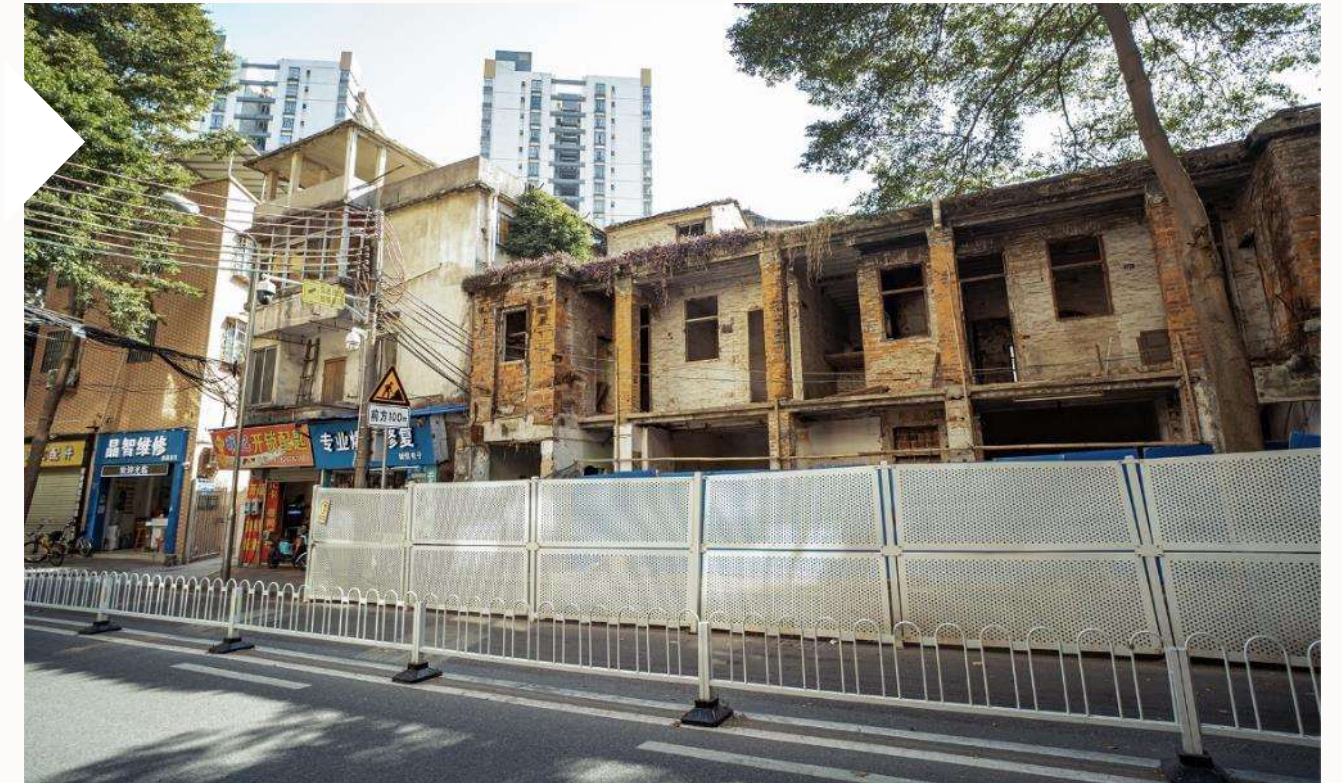


Memory Zone from the Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China Era

BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

PANYU FOOD

BEFORE



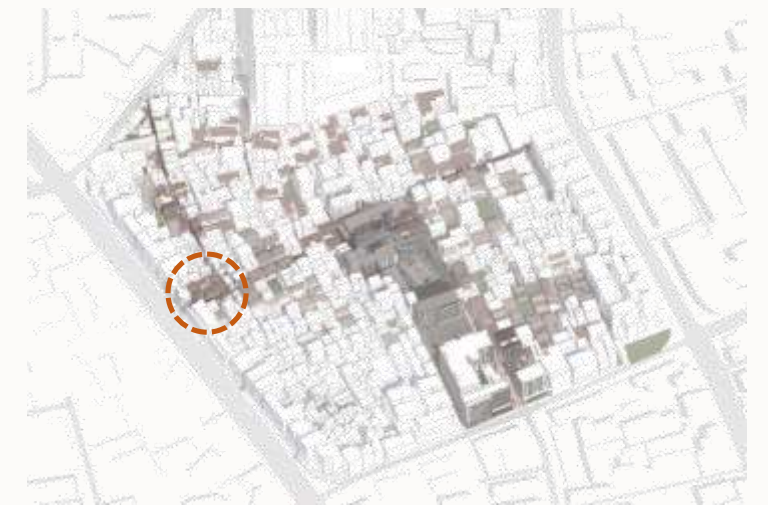
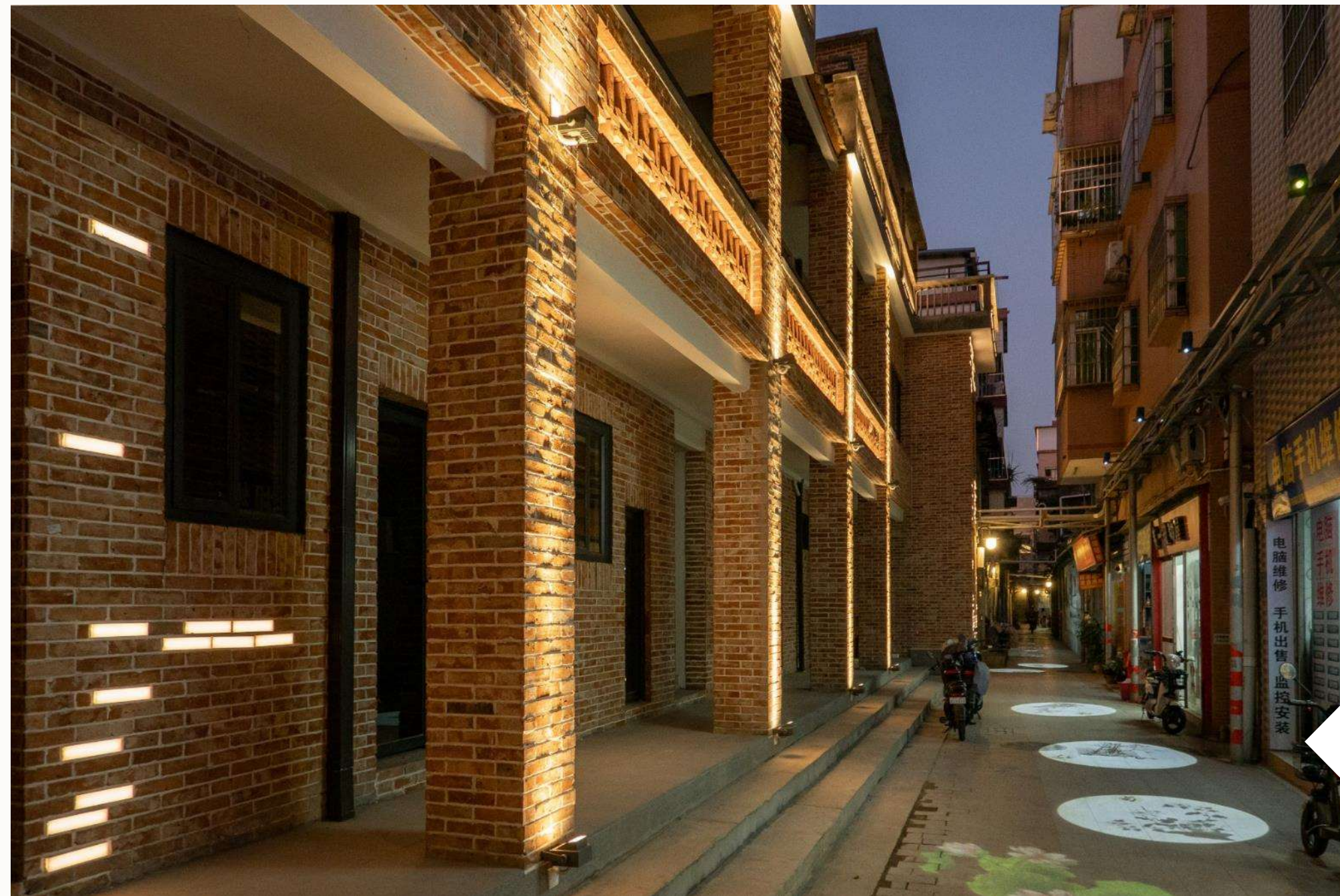
AFTER

New formal and pattern changes are applied to the existing unique red-brick buildings in the community, to enhance appeal and uniqueness.

BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

LIVELY ALLEY

BEFORE



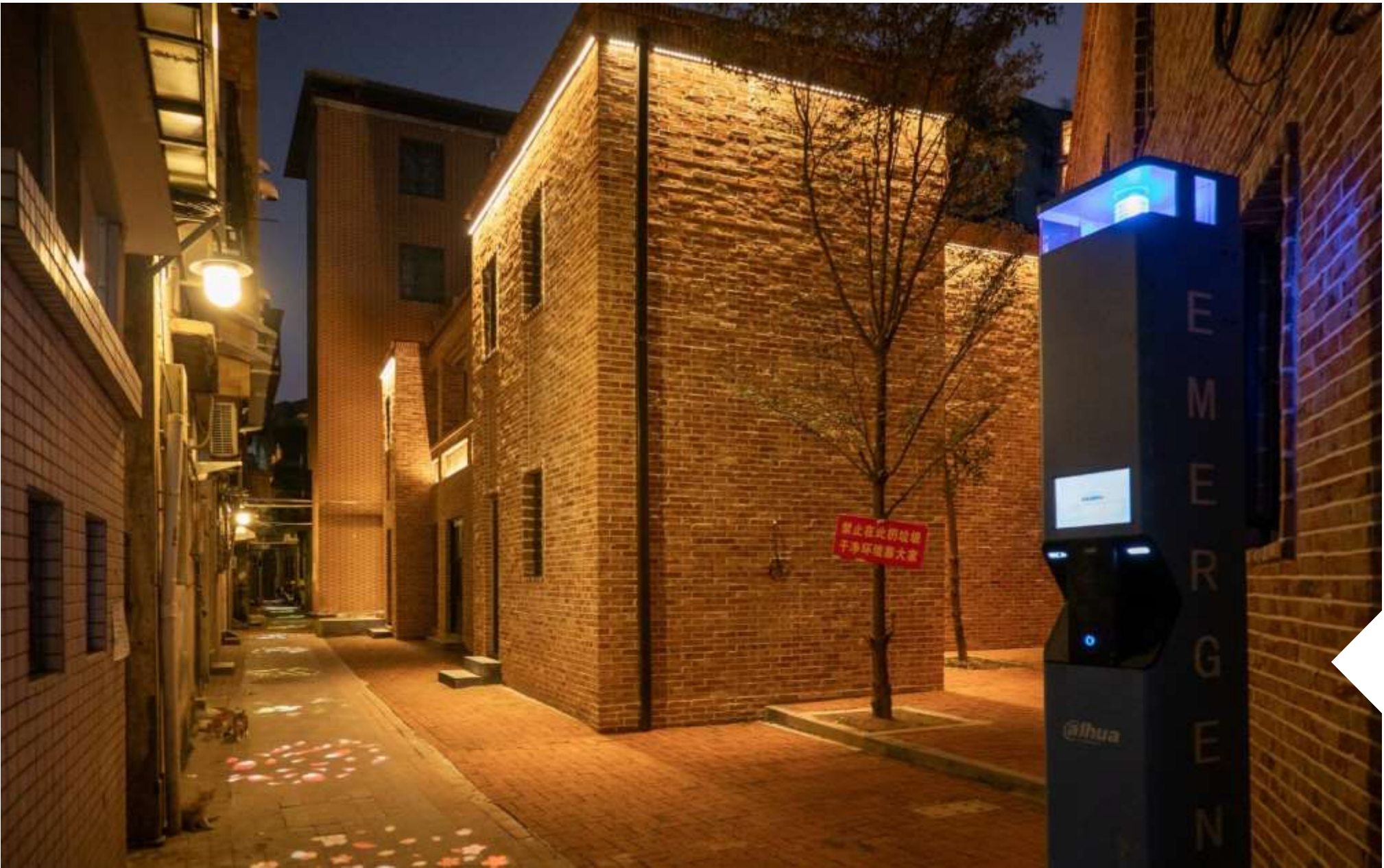
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BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

RED CHAMBER

BEFORE



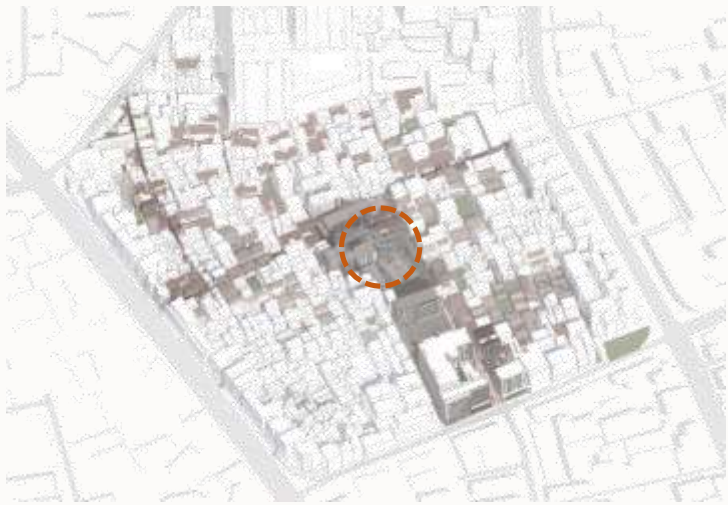
AFTER

New businesses which feature a sense of art and a slow-paced lifestyle are inserted into the existing modern red-brick buildings, streets and lanes, to create an atmosphere that evokes the memory of the "Youth Age".

BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

HEART OF XIANFENG

BEFORE



AFTER

New public services that are open and interactive are introduced to the area to extend the memories.

BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

HEART OF XIANFENG

BEFORE



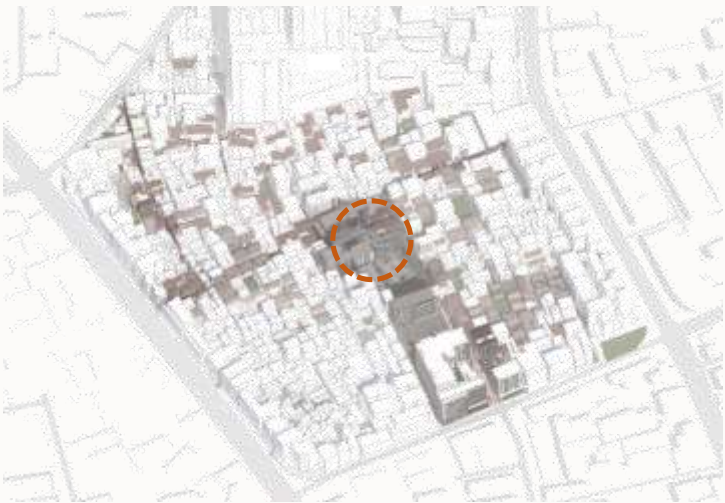
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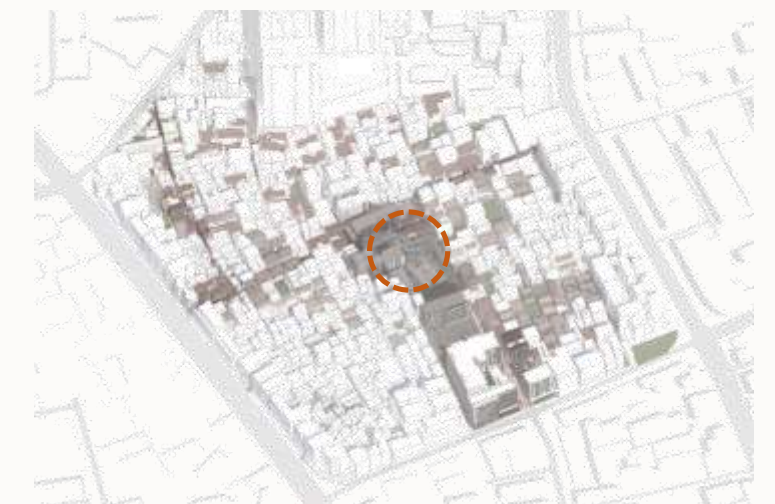
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BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

SPINSTER HOUSES

BEFORE



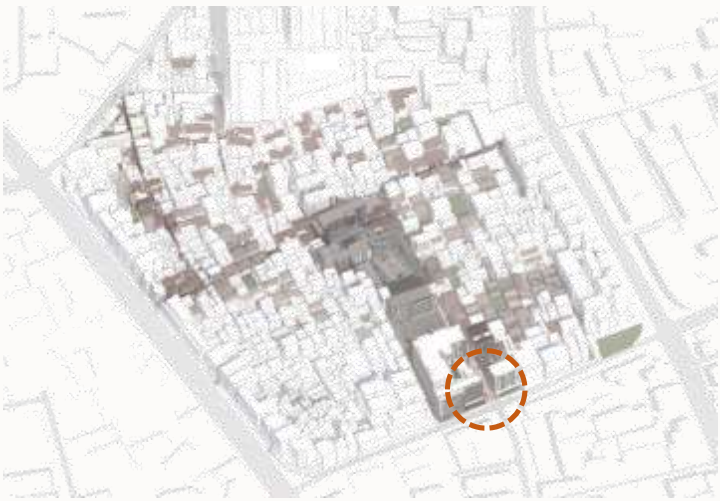
AFTER

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BEFORE AND AFTER RENOVATION

IMPRESSION OF XIANFENG

BEFORE



AFTER

The Wok-ear houses built with gray bricks carries Xiedi Memories in this period. Through restoring those traditional houses, improving the street view, the design "visualizes" past memories.

PUBLIC SPACE OPTIMAZATION

XIANFENG STREET

The master plan keeps each old street and alley, and fully respects the existing built environment of the old community. The design creates a uniform, harmonious and continuous historical block by applying local elements such as grey bricks and by changing the rough facade style of the existing modern buildings.



PUBLIC SPACE OPTIMAZATION

Window of Shiqiao

The design reshapes the original pattern of the buildings. Through measures like reinforcing structures and removing floor slabs, large-scale public spaces are inserted into Xianfeng Elementary School. The spatial scale becomes more open and attractive by connecting the scattered building blocks and creating stilted floors to increase accessibility. Traditional architectural elements are applied to the design of the building cluster for community services, enabling local residents to experience the traditional features of old Panyu. To showcase the culture and history of the Xianfeng community and Panyu District, the design team envelopes the museum cluster in a big white box named the "Window of Shiqiao" and in the corner, two display surfaces made of curved glass of different forms are embedded in the window to highlight the historical and cultural uniqueness of the site.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT

Conservation and Revitalization of Architecture

Some houses with Lingnan characteristics are partially demolished, repurposed and renovated, to maintain the integrity and continuity of historical spaces. The building surface facing the external environment was negative as the red bricks were too old and wrecked. For that reason, the existing enclosure walls are demolished and the new building entrances are set close to the Huancheng West Road, which is more accessible. New formal and pattern changes are applied to the existing unique red-brick buildings in the community, to enhance appeal and uniqueness.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

This project creatively proposes a micro-renovation methodology that take historical memories of multiple eras as the catalyst, and in doing so provides theoretical basis and a precedent for micro-renovations of historical and cultural communities in GBA. It also serves as a catalyst to activate the enthusiasm of renovation in similar communities in shiqiao, which will help tackle the natural declination of old city quarters and revive the core area of (confidence in) shiqiao.

Along with the smooth implementation of the renovation project with the guidance of the renovation plan, the environment of the community has been significantly improved with enhanced attractiveness, which effectively enhances and revitalizes the community's characteristic industries and restores its economic vitality.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

Result 1: building spiritual home of GBA

Public participation regarding historical memories has made the community a spiritual home which exerts a magnetic effect on and rebuilds the emotional ties with former community members all around GBA, joining strong spiritual support for the long-term development

Residents celebrated the start of Xian Feng Community renovation



collection of collective memories



Consultation on Adding Public Facilities



Voting for design proposals



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

Result 2: spontaneously fostered cultural creative industries

As result of the increasingly improved community environment, cultural creative industries have been spontaneously fostered in recent one year, which has attracted former Panyu residents to move back and artists and start-ups to move in. The mechanism to integrate historical memory, historical space and industrial development has started to generate positive results.



INFLUENCE

Since the completion and acceptance of the project in November 2022, it has been fully recognized by community residents and people from all walks of life, and has been widely reported in multiple mainstream media. After renovation and restoration, the Pioneer Community is deeply loved by the people due to its profound historical temperament, multi era architectural style and characteristics, as well as carefully crafted landscape environment and night light show.



Report from multiple mainstream media, including *xuexi.cn*, *Toutiao*, *Guangzhou Daily*, *ect.*

Report from *www.GDTV.cn*