



# INHERITANCE AND INNOVATION

Campus landscape planning and design of Luzhou Vocational and Technical College  
Sichuan, China





---

# • PROJECT STATEMENT

---

Luzhou Vocational and Technical College covers an area of 1 square kilometer and is located in Luzhou City, Sichuan Province, China, on the banks of the Yangtze River and the Tuo River. Founded in 1868, the university is the oldest and largest vocational institution in southern Sichuan, with a campus that boasts over 1.5 kilometers of riverfront, a superior landscape pattern, and a blend of excellent and diverse cultural, historical, natural and urban landscapes.

This project is the first landscape-focused master plan for this campus. The plan fully integrates the school's schooling characteristics and combines the campus landscape with the modern practice-oriented landscape education concept.

After recognizing the coexistence between the campus and the natural context in terms of future education and ecological sustainability, this innovative planning scheme has built a landscape network with profound history and culture and diverse educational and practical functions, which has significantly improved the campus landscape and enhanced the ecological quality, creating a new learning and living environment for the entire campus of about 16,700 students and faculty.faculty.



---

# • PROJECT GOALS AND CONCEPTS

---

As a practice-based school, the Luzhou Vocational and Technical College Campus Landscape and Green Infrastructure Master Plan was developed to meet a challenging range of institutional goals:

- 1.** Strengthen the connection between the campus and Longjian Creek. Preserve the land around the riverbank and the Crescent Lake and make these areas as a combination of artificial and natural areas to support teaching, research and practice of the school.
- 2.** Based on the principles of campus open space design, restore and improve un-revitalized facilities and grounds to create new gathering spaces. Provide a campus environment that promotes the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of students and faculty.
- 3.** The landscape being a vehicle for school education and practice, improving its integrated capacity as an active learning, research and vocational-technical training.
- 4.** Excavate the historical lineage of the campus, build a new cultural landscape, and enhance the cultural identity of teachers and students.



---

**Faced with the contradiction between site construction and nature, and the needs of campus life and educational practice, how can a comprehensive landscape framework be established so that it can continue the historical lineage of the campus, connect the natural context of the Crescent Lake and Longjian Creek, create a flexible landscape educational space, and enhance the quality and characteristics of the entire campus?**

**The answer to the problem lies in the creative integration of landscape and multiple functions to create a comprehensive system of approaches for improving the quality of the campus's vast outdoor spaces and refining its educational functions. The performance of the landscape is no longer limited to mere enjoyment, but it establishes a series of spatial improvement means interrelated with ecology, culture and education, taking the basic needs of the campus and the new educational concept as the benchmark.**



---

## Collaboration and Design

With the collaboration of students, faculty, and interdisciplinary professionals, the design results fully reflect the group values of the university's faculty and students. The new landscape is now deeply integrated into the campus life of students and faculty. After the renovation, the natural environment of the Crescent Lake is integrated with the cultural background. A landscape of sparse forest-ed meadows with intersecting grass slopes and flower belts has been formed around the lake. The edge of the Crescent Lake was equipped with a gallery, a viewing platform and a sunken courtyard, and the design of each node was based on the intention of astrology and the changing phases of the moon, so that people can clearly perceive the intersection of natural science and life. Through a series of comfortable and accessible spatial nodes linking the Crescent Lake and Longjian Creek, the beautiful terrace garden around Longjian Creek was shaped as an extension of the main axis of the campus by using the height difference of the site, providing a picturesque leisure place for the whole campus.

There is no doubt that the purpose of this plan is not only to improve the quality of the natural landscape, but also to establish a relationship between the natural landscape and the school's educational philosophy of nurturing talents through the warp and weft.



---

## Dialogue between nature and artificiality

The planning of the project focused on designing artificial landscapes to connect the campus with the natural environment in ways that maximize its potential use

as a space for resilient ecological education and nature education. The landscape design solved the issue of campus rainwater drainage and created a place for dialogue and learn between people and nature. It displayed the beautiful natural features of the campus and revealed the symbiotic relationship between people and nature.

Crescent Lake was able to collect about 6.4 hectares of surface rainwater runoff from the surrounding area, which covers the most densely built and socially active area of the campus. The lake could effectively purify rainwater and then slowly release it into the Longjian Creek. To support the college's teaching and research, Crescent Lake was transformed into an outdoor classroom for students and researchers. The landscape design team worked closely with teachers from Luzhou Vocational and Technical College, and discussed together to introduce a series of native plants around the Crescent Lake, including more than 30 species of emergent and wetland plants, etc. With the creation of new animal habitats, the once desolate Lake is now a remarkable model of biodiversity, providing space for a wide range of birds, insects, fish and small animals.



---

## Integration of landscape and practice

The aim of the landscape design was to create a comfortable learning environment compatible with the Luzhou Vocational and Technical College curriculum. The college encourages phenomenon-based learning, where students explore the natural phenomena of the world. This new way of learning needs to be equipped with multifunctional outdoor spaces that become an extension of the learning environment.

Students and teachers sometimes work in small groups for conducting scientific research, sometimes all gather together for outdoor classroom and community activities, and sometimes take time for themselves to immerse in learning or playing in their own preferred method. The space needs to be flexible: the same site that used to have a single function is now divided into different functional spaces through the installation of facilities such as a lawn amphitheater with seating, a viewing platform, and a bridge across the water. An open, non-hierarchical space can truly stimulate creative interactions between students, researchers, and teachers.

Today, the area around Crescent Lake and Longjian Creek has become a favorite study and resting place for teachers and students, where can provide a peaceful and comfortable outdoor time. A large number of students and teachers use the water samples collected from Moon Lake for various research projects, and the pond has become an important hands-on tool for learning about environmental management for different groups of students within the school.

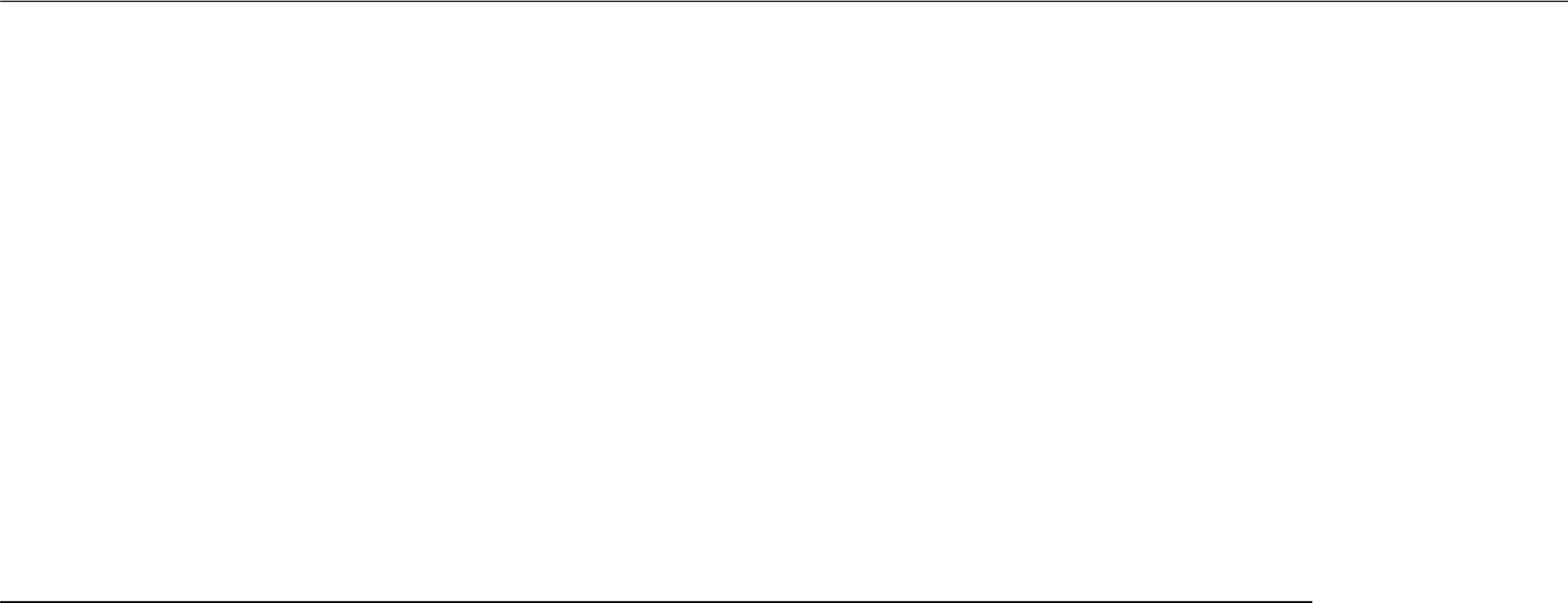
---

## Extension of history and culture

The project design strategy fully respects the heritage of the campus and documents, analyzes, and interprets the long history of Luzhou Vocational and Technical College.

How to make teachers, students and first-time visitors experience the sense of ritual brought by the school's culture and the educational philosophy of nurturing talents through wrap and weft? How to let teachers and students appreciate the changing stars and the flow of the seasons in their daily lives? How to guide teachers and students to think about science and dialogue with nature? These are the original thinking points for the design of this work. Based on this, we interpreted the historical lineage in detail and identified five landmark landscapes that represent the characteristics of the campus: Wrap and Weft Plaza, Lingyun Slope, Waiting for the Moon Gallery, Star Spring Pond, and Enlightenment Plaza. Together, they demonstrate the unique and profound history and culture of the campus.







Ultimately, the master plan provides a practical approach for campus development, establishing a sustainable, interconnected, and subjective campus public open space. Also, it creates a positive impact on students' learning and lives while showcasing the history of the campus, which in turn promotes the development of place-based learning and experiential models. The plan is to make the campus become a ‘fertile ground’ for the cultivation of the mind and body, where students can freely communicate, think and imagine in a quality environment with both traditional and modern characteristics.



# BACKGROUND OVERVIEW

## LOCATION ANALYSIS

- Project Location**  


China   Sichuan Province   Luzhou City   Longmatan District   Luzhou Vocational and Technical College
- Project Type**  
Campus landscape renewal and transformation  


Landscape renewal   Teaching practice   Student activities
- Project Scale**  
247-acre (1,000,000sqm)

## ADVANTAGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Natural Resources**
  - Superior landscape pattern**  
The site is located along the Tuojiang River waterfront Green Belt, with Longjian Creek running through the campus from northeast to southwest.  


  - Rich variety of plants**  

- History and culture**  
Luzhou Vocational and Technical College was founded in 1901 in Southern Sichuan Jingwei School with a history of 122 years.  
South Sichuan Academy   Southern Sichuan Jingwei School   +   Luzhou University   +   Vibin special area hydropower vocational school  


1868   1901   1958   1964   2002   Hitherto

## PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

A questionnaire survey on the satisfaction of the current landscape and the collection of opinions on the direction of landscape improvement were conducted within the campus, and the results were analyzed and summarized, resulting in four main questions.



**90%**

**Single function of the venue**  
Seriously inadequate site facilities, lack of space to carry the functions of stay and rest, cultural display, leisure activities, etc.



**92%**

**Single landscape style**  
Rich in natural resources, but lacking systematic organization, making the campus landscape single and unattractive.



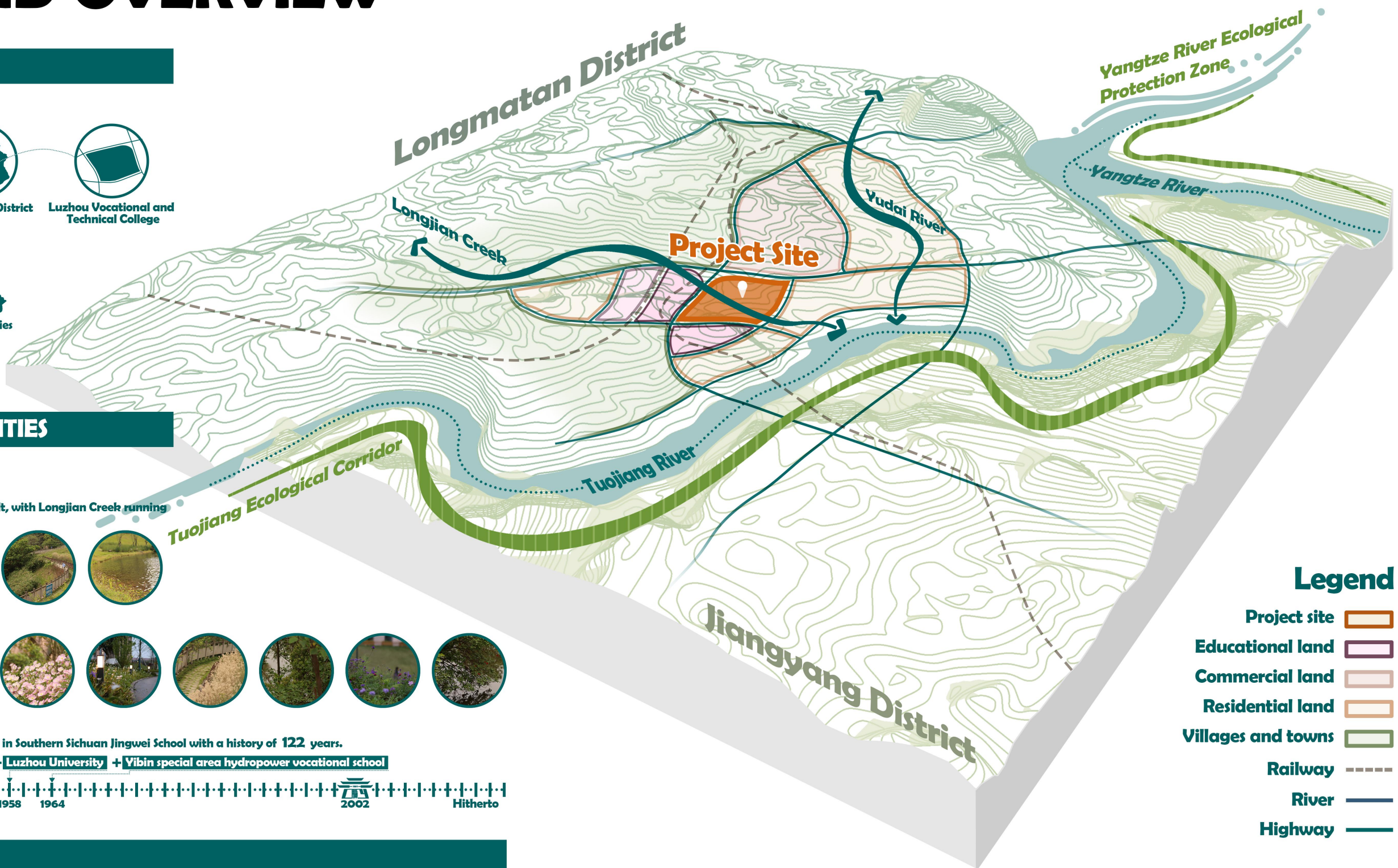
**85%**

**Lack of landscape features**  
The overall architectural style is uniform, but the landscape lacks regional characteristics and cultural expression.



**79%**

**Loss of spatial scale**  
The scale of the plaza space is generally too large, lacking a sense of enclosure and small spaces for people to stay and rest.



Campus Context: With over 1.5 kilometers of river frontage and a superior landscape pattern, Luzhou Vocational and Technical College covers an area of 1 square kilometer, and between the institution's long history and enduring legacy.



# CORE CONCEPT

- Dialogue between nature and artificiality
- Integration of landscape and practice
- Extension of history and culture



## Extension of history and culture:

Multifunctional outdoor spaces are incorporated to make the open space on campus an extension of the learning environment



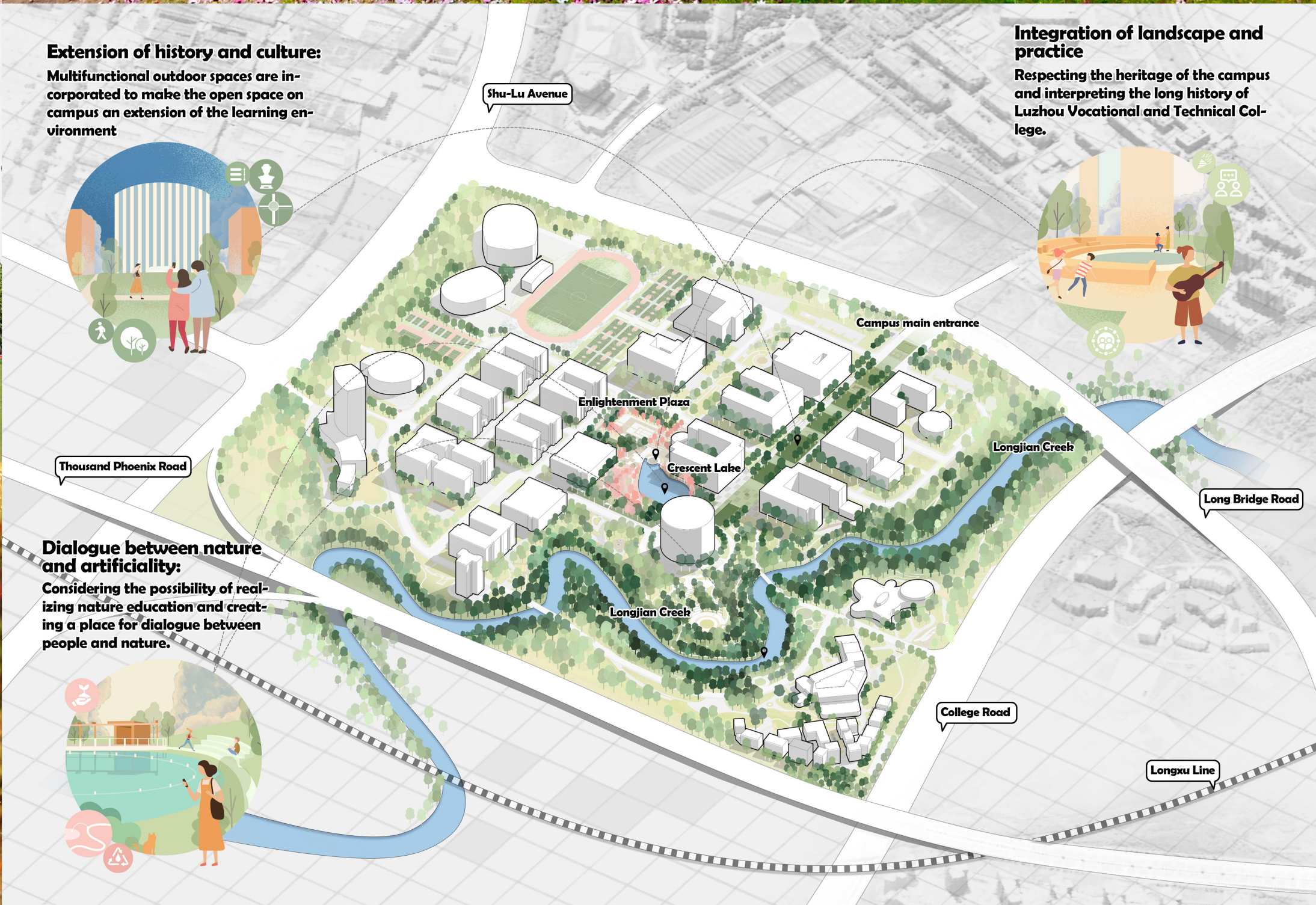
## Integration of landscape and practice

Respecting the heritage of the campus and interpreting the long history of Luzhou Vocational and Technical College.



## Dialogue between nature and artificiality:

Considering the possibility of realizing nature education and creating a place for dialogue between people and nature.



**Integrated Planning Vision:** The performance of the landscape is not limited to mere enjoyment, it establishes a series of ecological, cultural and educational interrelated spatial improvement means based on the functional needs of the campus and the new educational concept.



# MASTER PLAN



0 50 100 150m

- 1 Campus main entrance
- 2 School Motto Plaza
- 3 Lawn Theatre
- 4 Warp and Weft Plaza
- 5 Waiting for the Moon Gallery
- 6 Crescent Lake
- 7 Star Spring Pond
- 8 Cool Breeze Terrace
- 9 Flower Slope
- 10 Enlightenment Plaza
- 11 Pinsi Garden
- 12 Longjian Creek
- 13 Lingyun Slope
- 14 Library
- 15 Qiushi Garden
- 16 Hongren Garden
- 17 Yuzhang Garden
- 18 Hongzhi Garden
- 19 Hongli Garden
- 20 Hongxin Garden
- 21 Hongyi Garden
- 22 Bosi Garden
- 23 Ruisi Garden
- 24 Yasi Garden
- 25 Meditation Garden
- 26 Yisi Garden
- 27 Jinsi Garden
- 28 Sports Field
- 29 Luzhou Jianguo Hotel
- 30 White Wine Academy
- 31 Jacaranda-lined Avenue
- 32 East secondary entrance of the school
- 33 West secondary entrance of the school

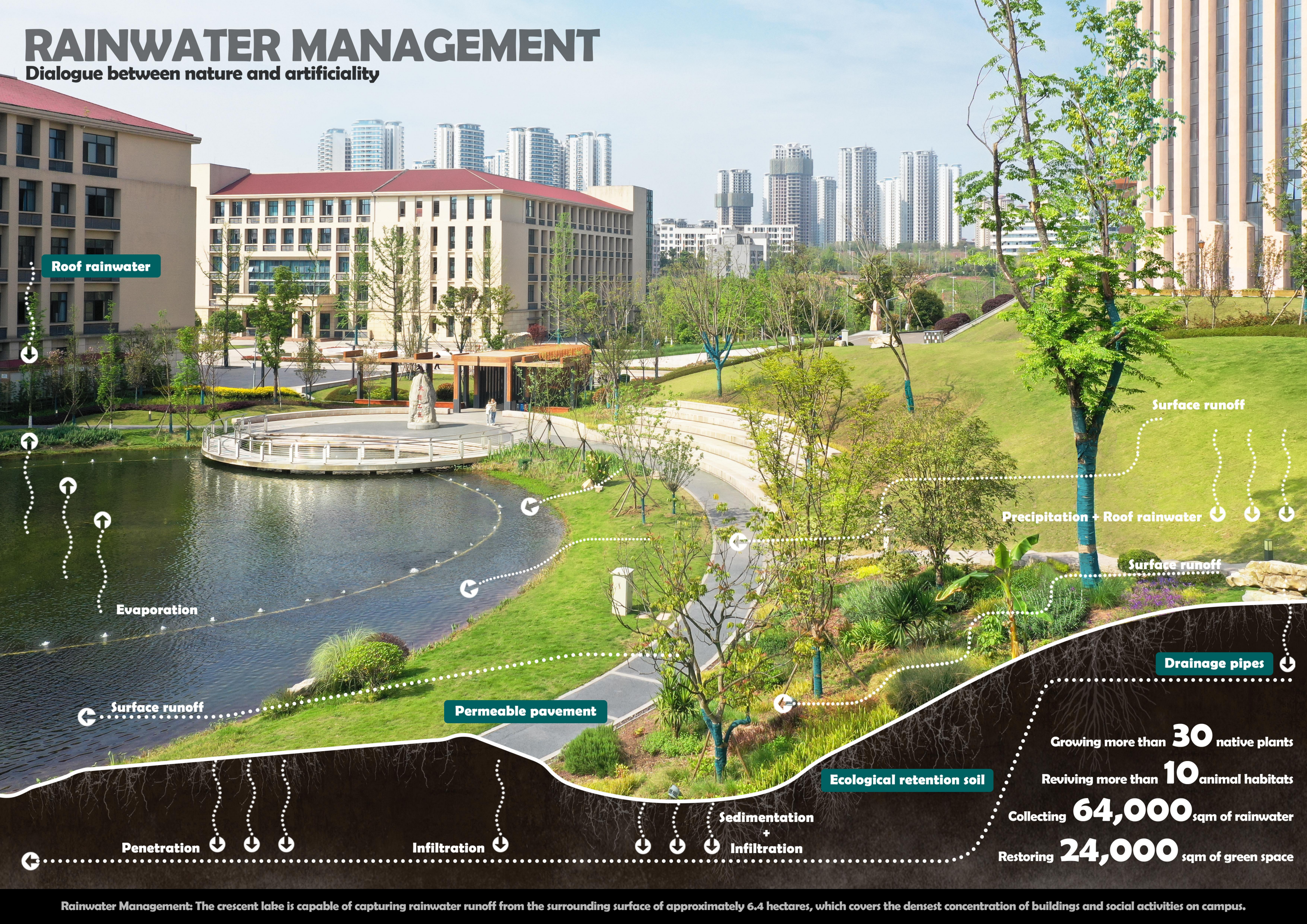


Master plan: The purpose of the plan is not only to improve the natural landscape, but also to establish the relationship between the natural landscape and the school's educational philosophy of 'nurturing talents through the warp and weft'.



# RAINWATER MANAGEMENT

Dialogue between nature and artificiality



Rainwater Management: The crescent lake is capable of capturing rainwater runoff from the surrounding surface of approximately 6.4 hectares, which covers the densest concentration of buildings and social activities on campus.



# RESILIENT LANDSCAPE

Dialogue between nature and artificiality



Resilient Landscape: Strengthening the connection between the campus and Longjian Creek, connecting the natural substrate of the crescent lake and Longjian Creek, and creating a resilient landscape educational space.



# FUNCTIONAL GUIDENCE

Integration of landscape and practice

## Cool Breeze Terrace



A viewing pavilion is set at the high point of the site, where teachers and students can overlook the lake and enjoy quiet and comfortable outdoor time.

## Star Spring Pond



The star spring pond designed the scene of viewing the star at night, guiding teachers and students to look up at the stars and indulge in curious and scientific thinking.

## Strip Stone Staircase



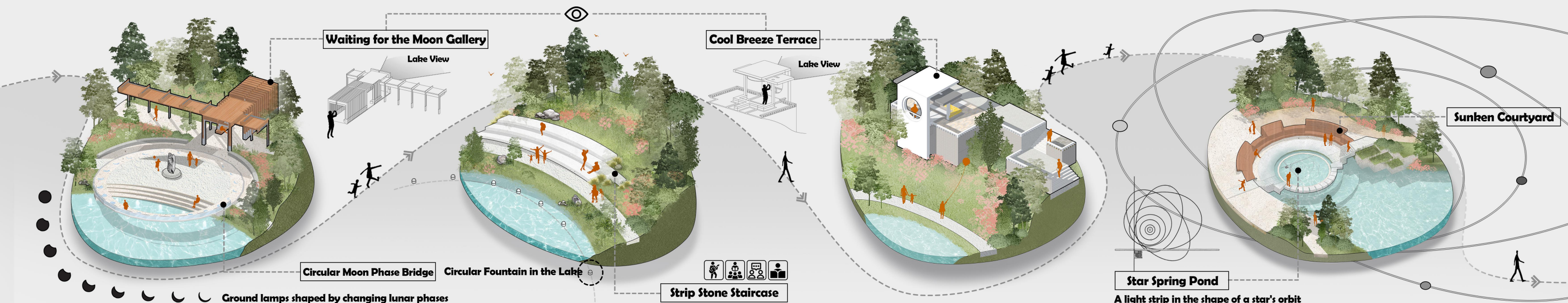
The lawn amphitheater with seating provides a place for campus students and faculty to conduct outdoor classes and exchange ideas.

## Waiting for the Moon Gallery



Through paving and lighting design, the phases of the moon change. The gallery provides a space for conversation and communication.

## Activity Tour Around the Lake



Functional guidance: The design aims to create a learning environment that is compatible with the school curriculum. Through the placement of facilities, the formerly single-function venue is divided into different functional spaces to facilitate roaming and communication between students and faculty.



# COURSE PRACTICE

Integration of landscape and practice

The College offers **46** specialized programs

Serving about **16,700** students and teachers in Luzhou Vocational and Technical College

Carring various kinds of social practice training more than **40,000** people every year

Guided teachers and students to carry out **156** gardening experiences in 2022

About **16** activities take place every day in the diverse outdoor space created by the design

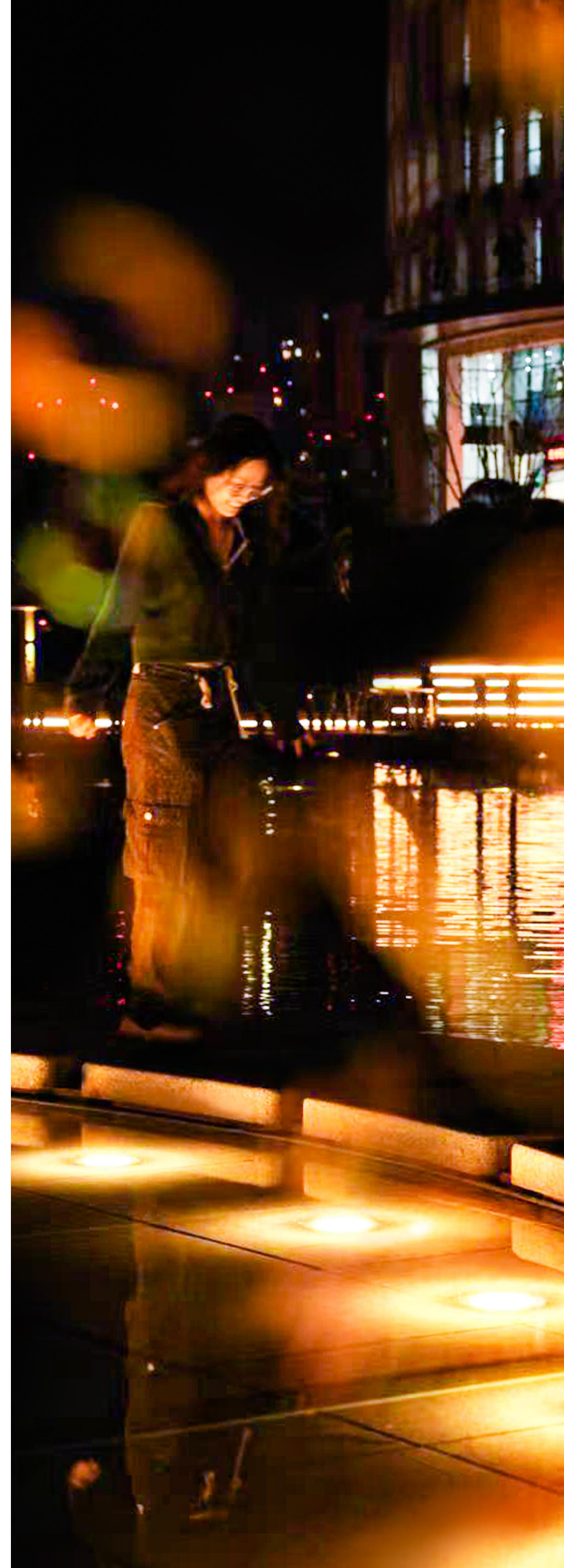


Course practice : The plan enhances the integrated capacity of the campus landscape as a vehicle for active education, learning and research practices, encouraging students to learn and explore the natural phenomena of the world based on practice and observation.



# DIVERSE ACTIVITIES

Integration of landscape and practice



Diverse activities: To restore and improve unrevitalized facilities and spaces based on the principles of campus open space design, and create new gathering spaces. Provide a campus environment that promotes the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of both students and faculty.



# SCIENTIFIC MEDITATION

Extension of history and culture



## Crescent Lake —“Reflecting the Moon”

The landscape design of Crescent Lake takes the moon as the intention and integrates the cultural knowledge of moon phase changes and astrological signs to shape the romantic mood of reflecting the moon in Chinese traditional culture.



How can teachers and students experience the changing stars and the flow of the seasons in their daily lives? How to guide teachers and students to think about science and dialogue with nature? These are the original thinking points for the design of this work.



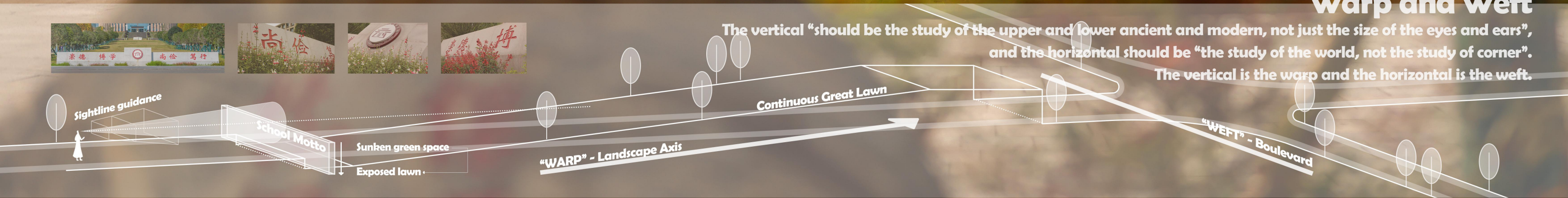
# CULTURAL PRECIPITATION

Extension of history and culture



## Warp and Weft

The vertical “should be the study of the upper and lower ancient and modern, not just the size of the eyes and ears”, and the horizontal should be “the study of the world, not the study of corner”.  
The vertical is the warp and the horizontal is the weft.



The project design strategy respects the heritage of the campus. Let teachers, students and first-time visitors feel the sense of ritual brought by the school's culture and show the educational philosophy of educating talents through warp and weft.