

THE RING OF RIVERS

—REVITALIZING THE LUJIAZUI WATERFRONT

SHANGHAI CITY, CHINA

PROJECT TITLE

THE RING OF RIVERS-REVITALIZING THE LUJIAZUI WATERFRONT, SHANGHAI CITY, CHINA

PROJECT STATEMENT

The Ring of Rivers Project represents a waterfront revitalization effort completed in Lujiazui, a world-class urban core in Shanghai. The project leverages the waterfront spaces of the Zhangjia River and Yangjing River to create a continuous loop, connecting with the already developed Huangpu River East Bank waterfront, thus forming a complete "O" shaped ring. Given the project's location in a densely built urban area, the project was designed to minimize disruption to the community while maximizing public value. This effort has contributed to making Pudong, Shanghai, a more satisfying place to live and has established the Ring of Rivers as a new iconic waterfront lifestyle destination in the city. The project spans a length of 12.5 kilometers, involving 4 neighborhoods, 17 enterprises and institutions, 22 residential communities, and affecting 660,000 residents. Throughout the construction process, the design team actively engaged the community, citizens, government, and non-profit organizations, setting a successful example of comprehensive public participation in urban renewal.

12.5km

LENGTH OF THE RIVERBANKS

22

COMMUNITIES ARE INVOLVED

660,000

CITIZENS ARE POSITIVELY AFFECTED

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PROJECT NARRATIVE AND CONTENTS

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH Category

Pudong New District of serves as a model for modern urban development in China, with the Lujiazui area being the most dynamic and densely populated urban core of Shanghai. Over more than 30 years of large-scale construction in Pudong, most urban spaces have been developed, and supporting infrastructure has been completed, marking the transition of urban development into an era of renewal. In the 2010s, the development of Huangpu River waterfront released high-quality public space, transforming it into a world-class waterfront living room. Within the Lujiazui area, a network of green spaces has been established, including Century Park, Jinqiao Park, and Youyou Park. However, in previous urban development efforts, the waterfront spaces of the Lujiazui area, primarily along Yangjing River and Zhangjia River, were neglected. A significant amount of public land along the rivers was occupied, diverging from the prosperous development of the city. Consequently, Shanghai initiated a renewal plan for the waterfront spaces in Lujiazui. By leveraging the release and connection of the waterfront spaces along these two rivers, the plan aims to link the major green spaces within the area and connect them with the Huangpu River waterfront, creating a complete "O" shaped loop. It will achieve the continuous 12.5 km connection of the Yangjing River and Zhangjia River, giving rise to the Ring of Rivers project.

The primary objective of the project is to reconnect the waterfront with the communities by integrating the previously unsystematic public spaces along the rivers into a distinctive and diverse slow-walking system. However, achieving this vision is no easy task. Some segments already have established walkways, which the project integrates into the city's greenway system with a unified visual identity. Due to original planning issues, communities' boundaries closely hugging the riverbanks, resulting the inaccessibility to rivers. The design team build floating walkways above rivers, ensuring continuity and providing more convenient access for residents. There are 21 municipal bridges crossing the river, and since these bridges are not originally designed to accommodate pedestrian pass underneath, some are too low for passage. The design team collaborates with engineers to excavate and increase the height of these underpasses, while also incorporating sports facilities beneath the bridges. This transformation attracts many citizens to these areas for recreation, converting previously inaccessible spaces into activity hotspots. To strengthen the connection between the two banks of the river and achieve complete connectivity, the project includes the construction of a cable-stayed bridge named "Shuiwu Bridge" at the intersection of Yangjing River and Zhangjia River. The bridge spans 277 meters and serves as a landmark for the Ring of Rivers project. According to statistics, the project team resolved 16 complex interruptions and a total of 2.34 kilometers of discontinuities, transforming 10 bridge-underpass spaces, ultimately enabling the full connectivity of the Ring of Rivers project.



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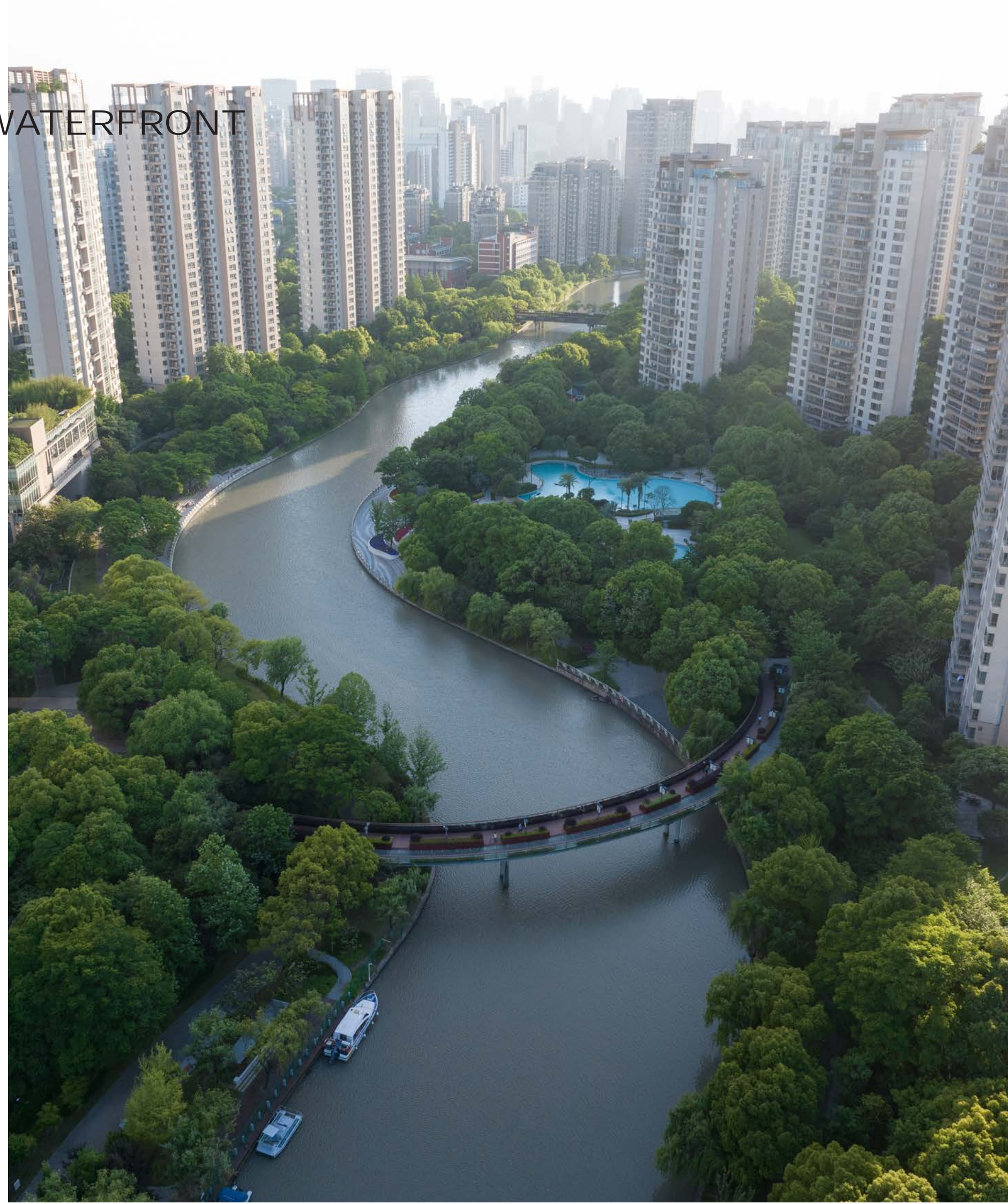
PROJECT NARRATIVE AND CONTENTS

Building on the foundation of connectivity, the Ring of Rivers Project revitalizes the waterfront space by introducing programs and enhancing supporting facilities to attract people back to the rivers. The project transforms leftover construction sites and waterfront spaces into a 20-hectare landscape belt and 7 pocket parks, each with unique function to meet the needs of residents along the rivers. The Project emphasizes fulfilling urban public responsibilities by constructing 9 citizen service stations and 42 care relay spots equipped with vending machines, hot water, AEDs, and restrooms. These stations cater to outdoor urban workers, including cleaners, couriers, food deliverymen, and security guards, reflecting the warmth and care characteristic of Shanghai. With the completion and opening of the Ring of Rivers Project, the area has attracted an increasing number of people engaging in various activities such as reading, fishing, swimming, kayaking, skateboarding, picnicking, playing musical instruments, singing, dancing, walking dogs, and running. Consequently, the vibrancy and popularity of the waterfront have significantly increased, making the Ring of Rivers a new iconic waterfront lifestyle destination in Shanghai.

The project goes beyond merely organizing the linear river space, extending to the integration of urban area. This approach merges riverfront with adjacent commercial zones, transforming the commercial development model from “backing onto the river” to “embracing the river.” This not only attracts people and revitalizes the area but also creates opportunities for upgrading business as well as fostering economic development.

The project team adheres to the governance philosophy of “consultation, co-governance, co-construction, co-management, sharing, and mutual benefits.” They actively organized discussions with government bodies, local enterprises and communities, widely soliciting opinions and needs from all stakeholders. During the design process, the team engaged with over 70 enterprises along the river and conducted more than 200 visits to nearby communities to gather residents' feedback. This inclusive approach ensured that the project's governance and benefits were shared by the whole society, truly embodying public participation in Shanghai's urban development.

Throughout the construction of the Ring of Rivers Project, the design team upheld a logic based on environmental quality as the foundation, economic development as the driving force, and social governance as the guarantee. This approach has provided a successful model and paradigm for contemporary urban and community renewal projects. Today, the communities along the Ring of Rivers has transformed into the most dynamic riverside area that integrates waterfront ecology, residential activities, social well-being, and commercial synergy, achieving multidimensional mutual benefits.



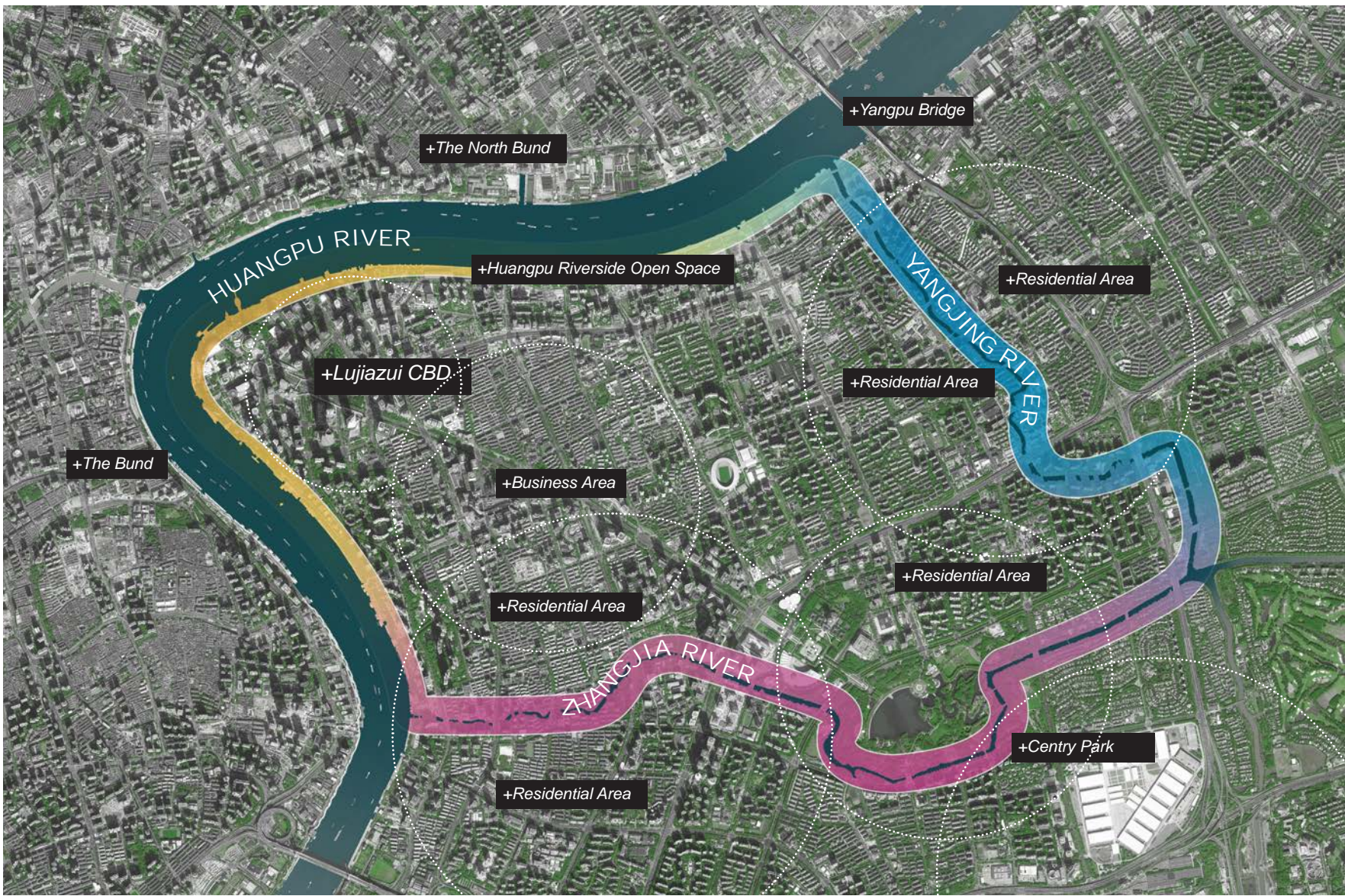
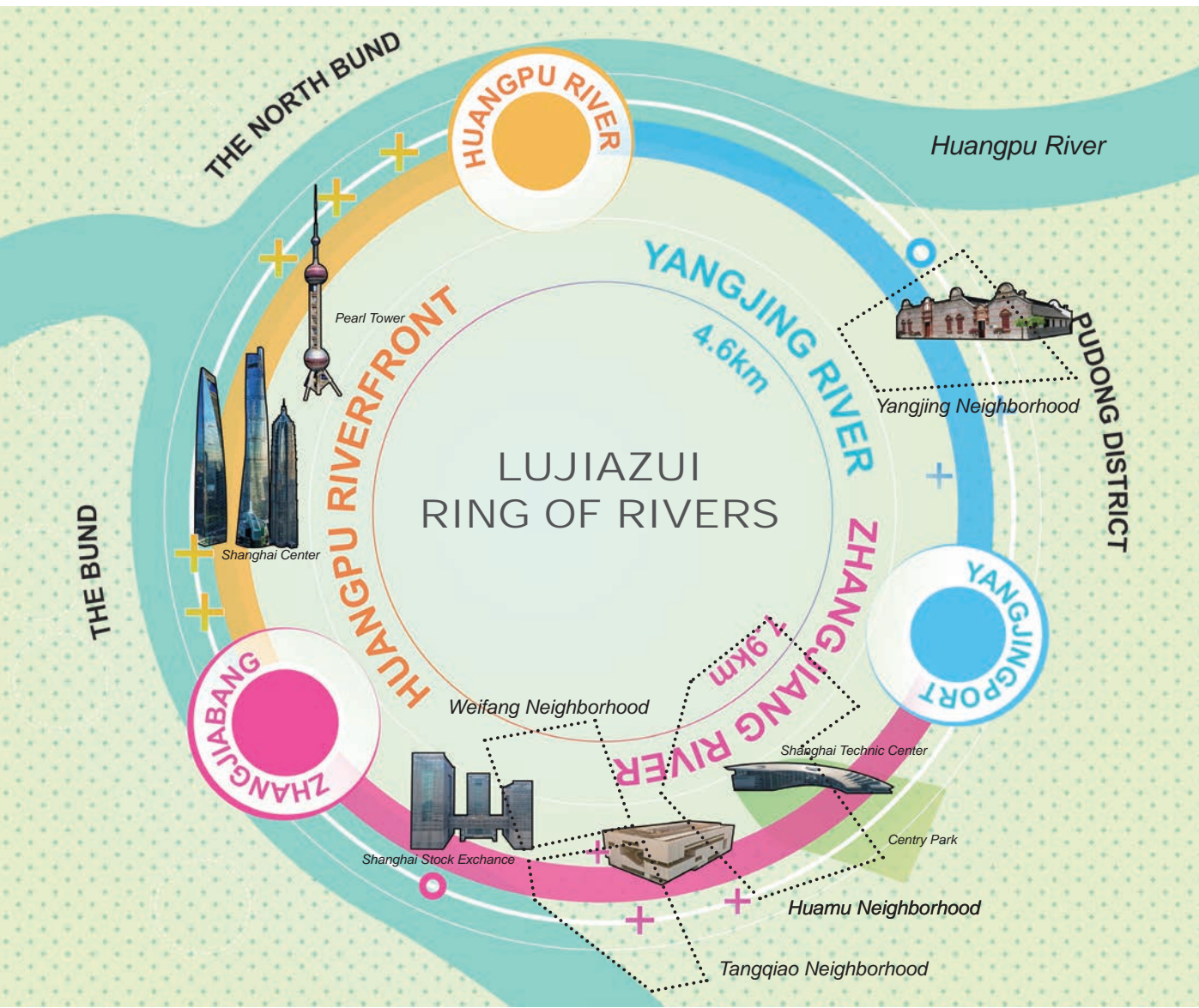
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THE EXISTING URBAN CONTEXT OF LUJIAZUI

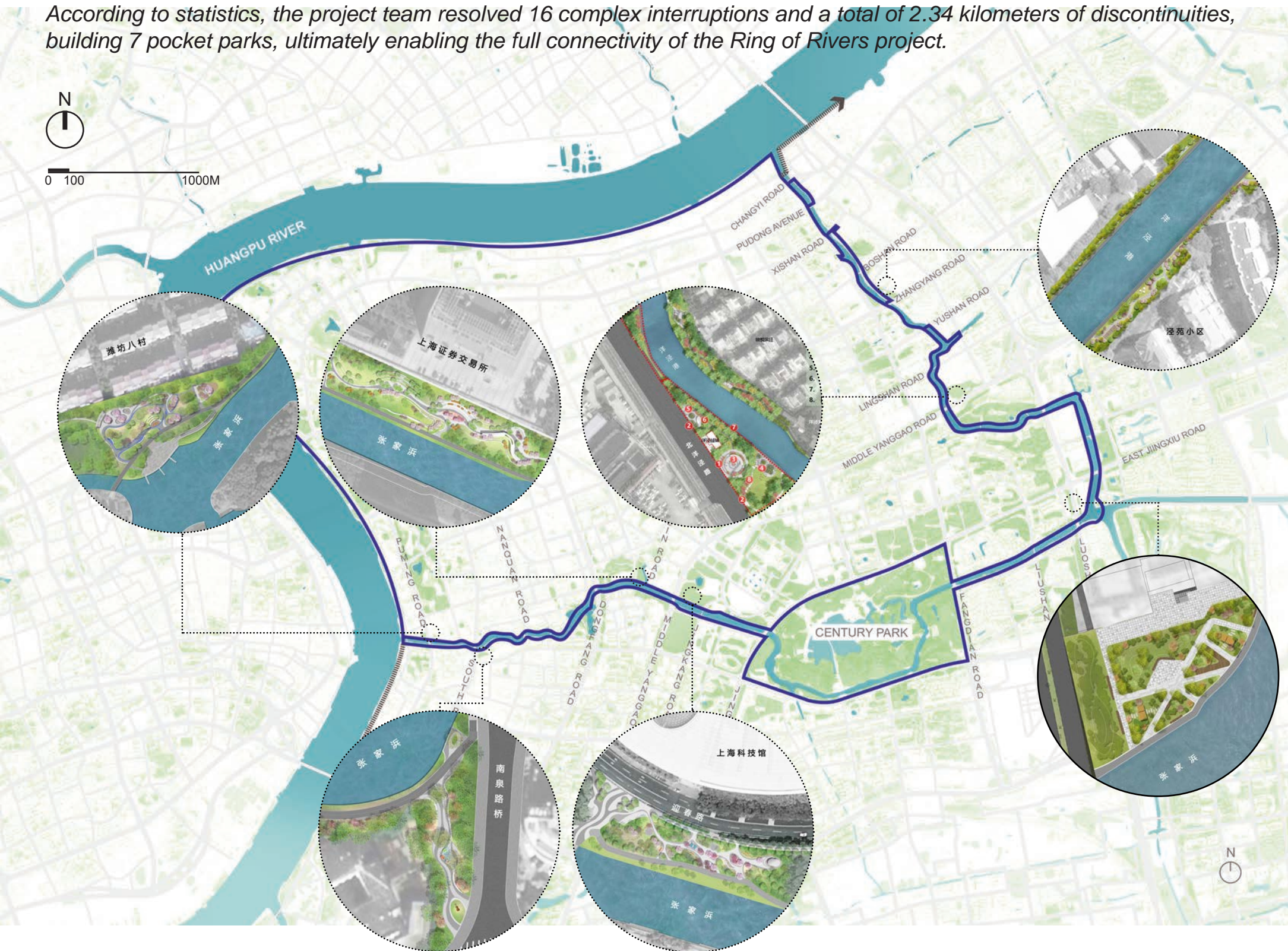
By leveraging the release and connection of the waterfront spaces along Yangjing River and Zhangjia River, the plan aims to link the major green spaces within the area and connect them with the Huangpu River waterfront, creating a complete "O" shaped loop.



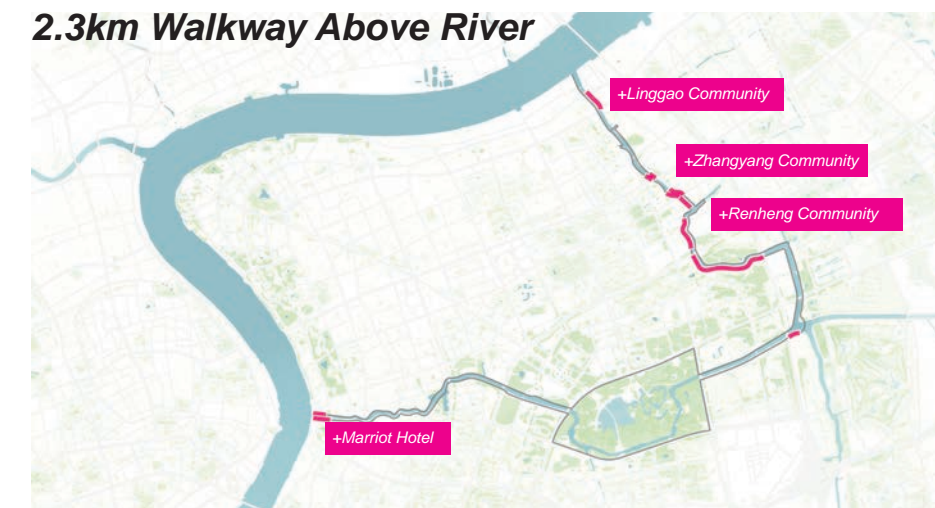
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MASTER PLAN

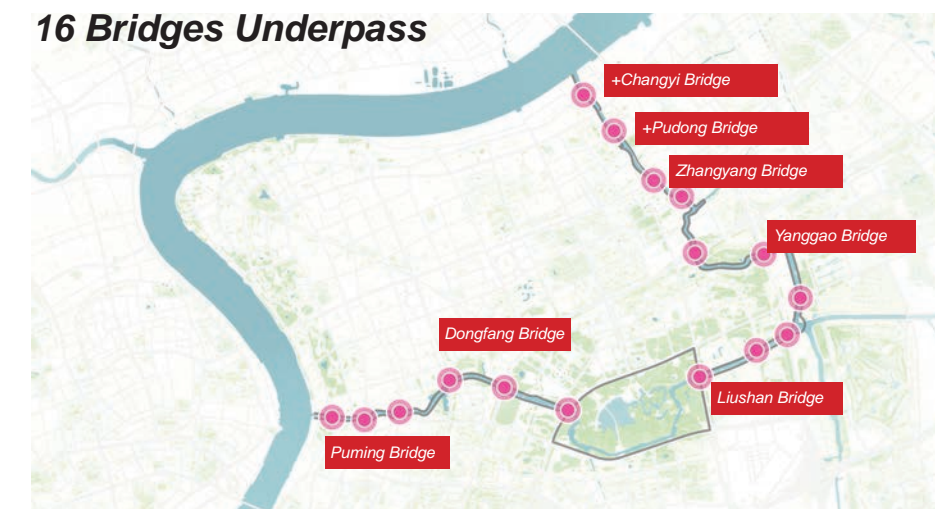
According to statistics, the project team resolved 16 complex interruptions and a total of 2.34 kilometers of discontinuities, building 7 pocket parks, ultimately enabling the full connectivity of the Ring of Rivers project.



2.3km Walkway Above River



16 Bridges Underpass



4 New Pedestrian Bridges

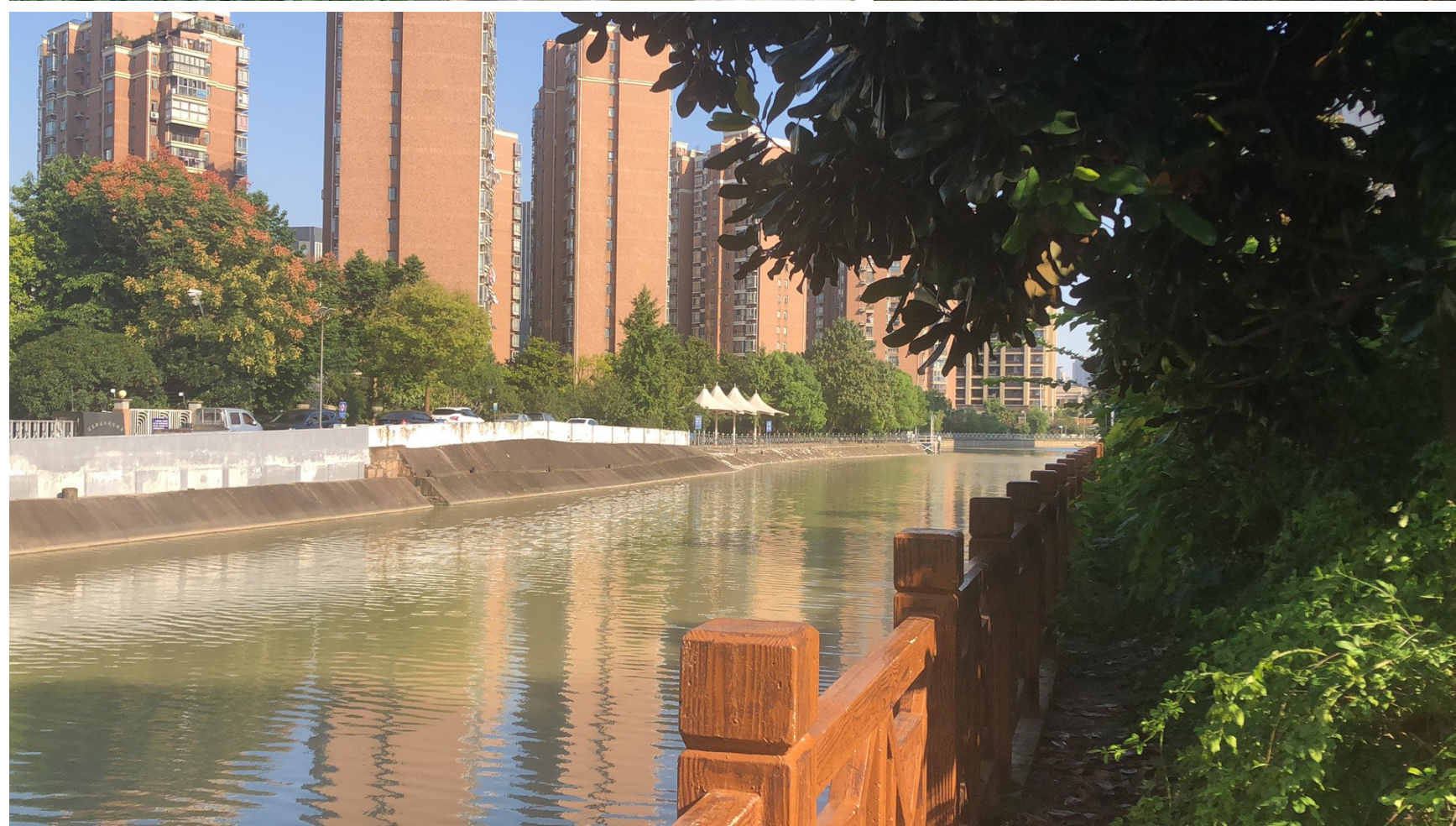
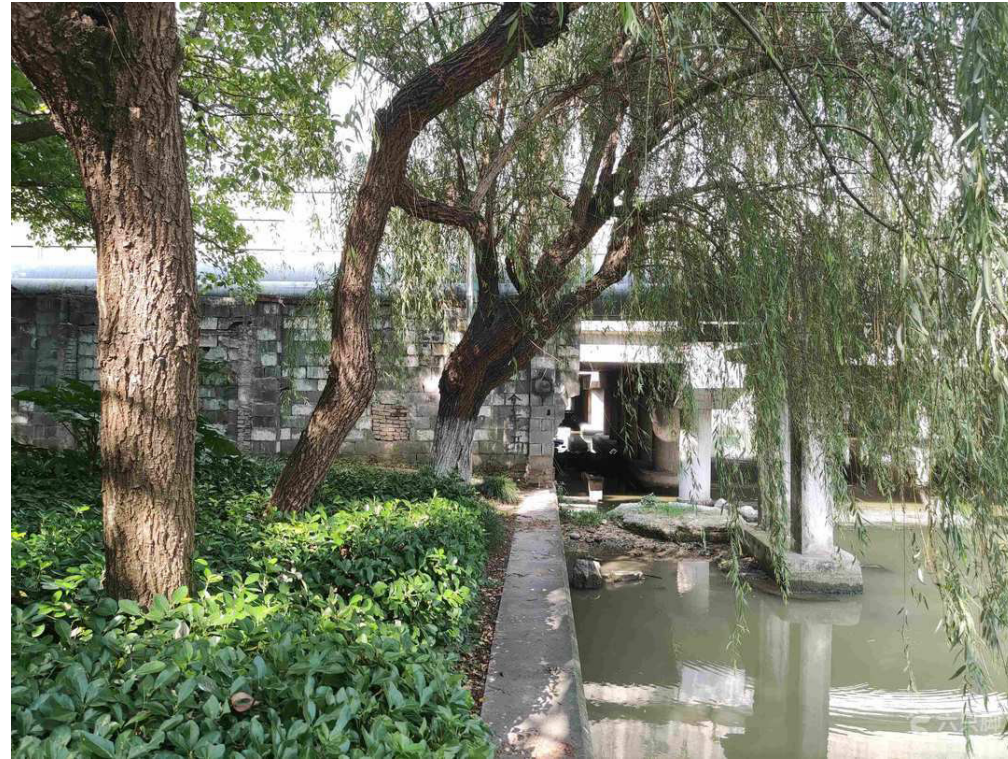


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ORIGINAL SITE- *UNSAFE\ INCONVENIENT\ UNFUNCTIONAL\ UNFRIENDLY WATERFRONT NEGATIVELY AFFECTING COMMUNITIES*



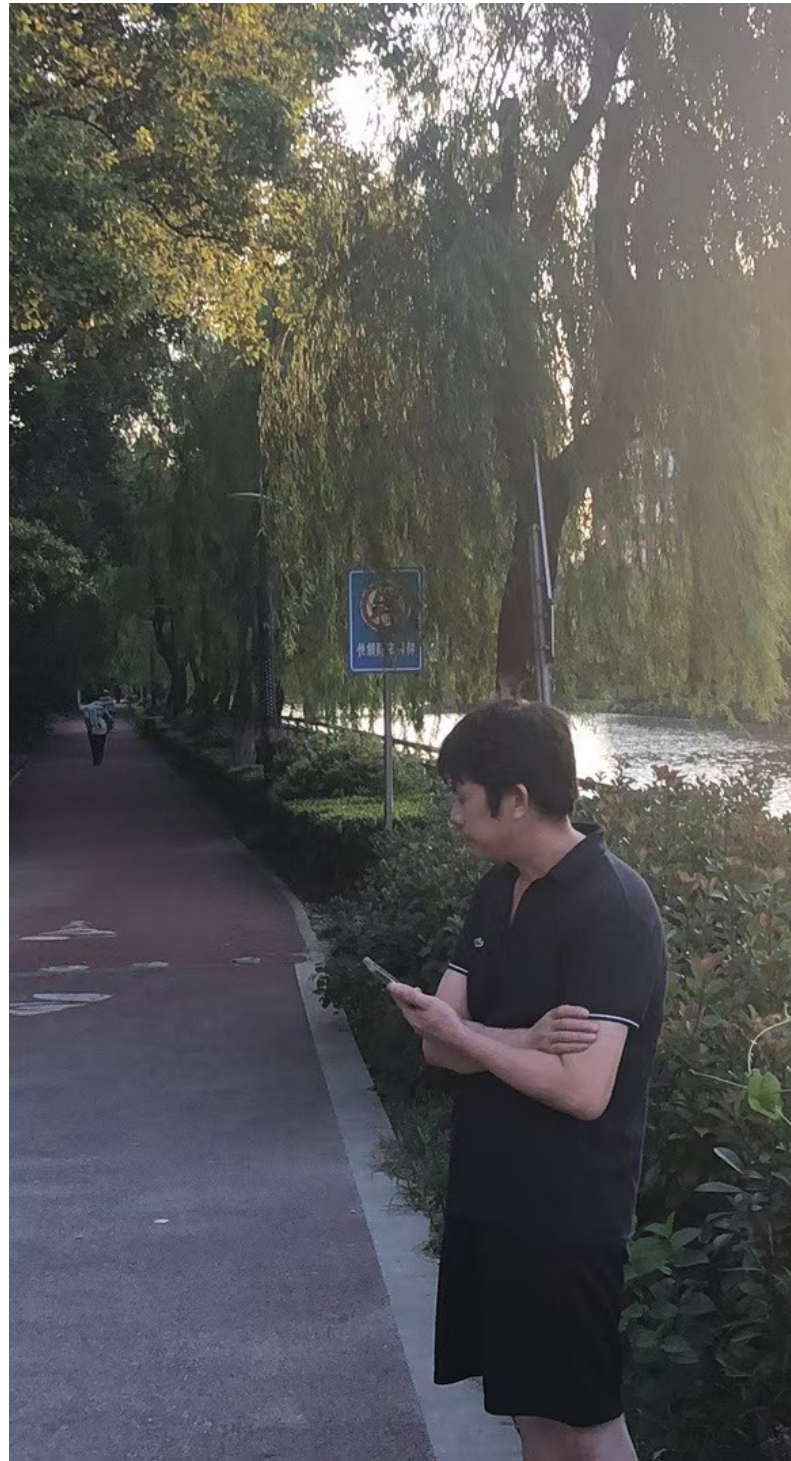
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RENEWAL OF EXISTING PATH

The primary objective of the project is to reconnect the waterfront with the communities by integrating the previously unsystematic public spaces along the rivers into a distinctive and diverse slow-walking system.



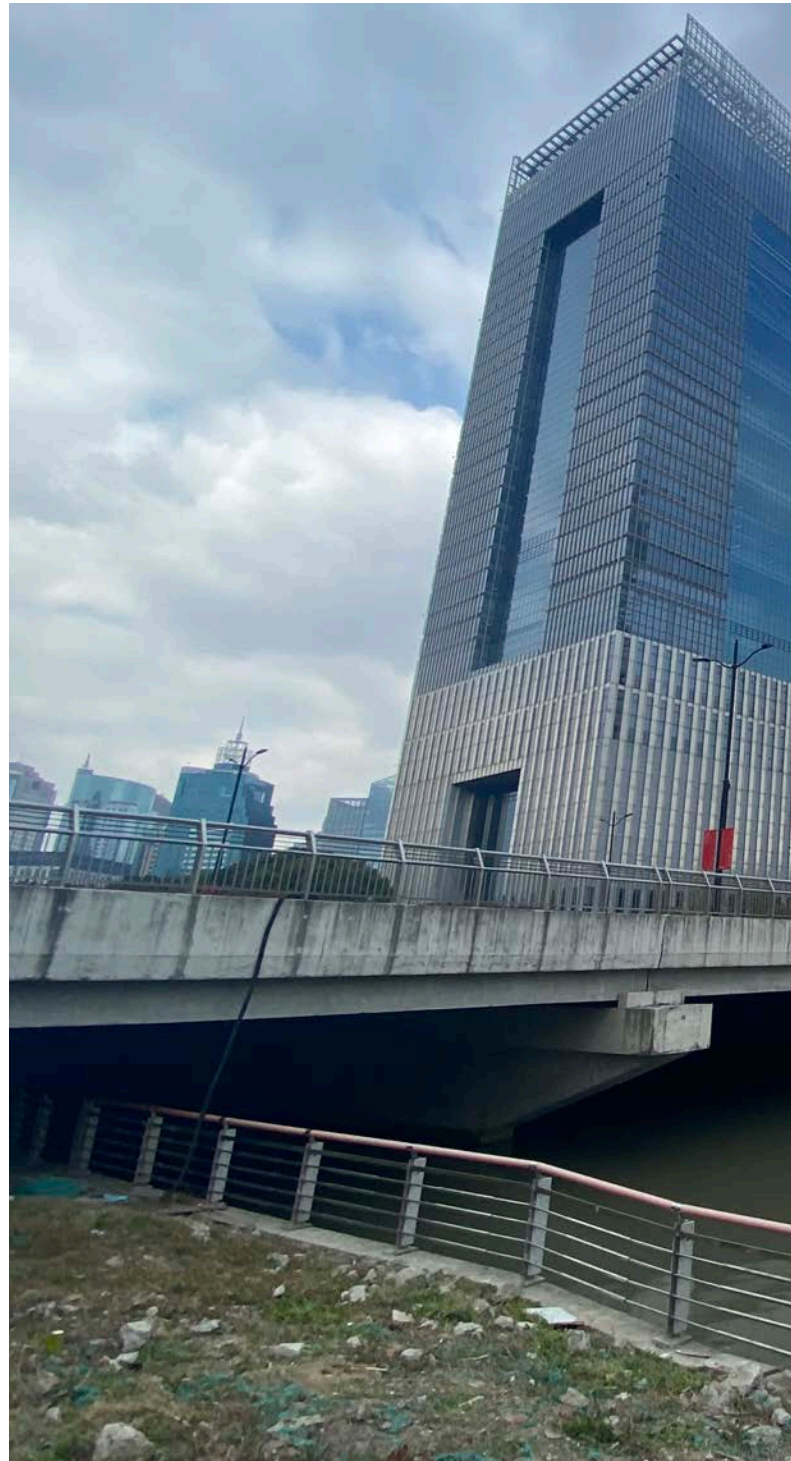
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SAFE AND VIBRANT UNDERBRIDGE SPACE

The design team collaborates with engineers to excavate and increase the height of these underpasses, while also incorporating sports facilities beneath the bridges.



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WALKWAY ABOVE RIVER

Due to original planning issues, communities' boundaries closely hugging the riverbanks, resulting the inaccessibility to rivers. The design team build floating walkways above rivers, ensuring continuity and providing more convenient access for residents.



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FLOATING BRIDGES



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THE NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



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A LANDMARK AT NIGHT



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MULTI-FUNCTIONAL WATERFRONT WALKWAY

People will be able to walk, cycle or jog along 12.5 km of the Yangjing River and Zhangjia River, with previously disjointed areas and communities being connected up.



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ALTERNATING TEXTURE OF URBAN AND WATER INTERFACES





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GREEN, ACTIVE RIVERSIDE SPACES

a site-wide strategy of event programming within the design response for the riverfront focused on using the new range of green riverside spaces as community amenities for cultural and entertainment activities throughout the year.

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DIVERSE WATER ACTIVITIES



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THE RIVER FULL OF ENERGIES

With the completion and opening of the Ring of Rivers Project, the area has attracted an increasing number of people engaging in various activities



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7 POCKET PARKS ALONG RIVERFRONT- ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY, AS PLACES TO COME TOGETHER



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CHILDREN FRIENDLY SPACE



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DISABLE AND ELD PEOPLE FRIENDLY- ATTRACTIVE AND CONVENIENT OUTDOOR SPACE



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WELL-EQUIPPED FACILITIES ENHANCE THE SENSE OF HAPPINESS



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ONE OF THE NINE CITIZEN SERVICE STATIONS

The project emphasizes fulfilling urban public responsibilities by constructing 9 citizen service stations and 42 care relay spots equipped with vending machines, hot water, AEDs, and restrooms. These stations cater to outdoor urban workers, including cleaners, couriers, food deliverymen, and security guards



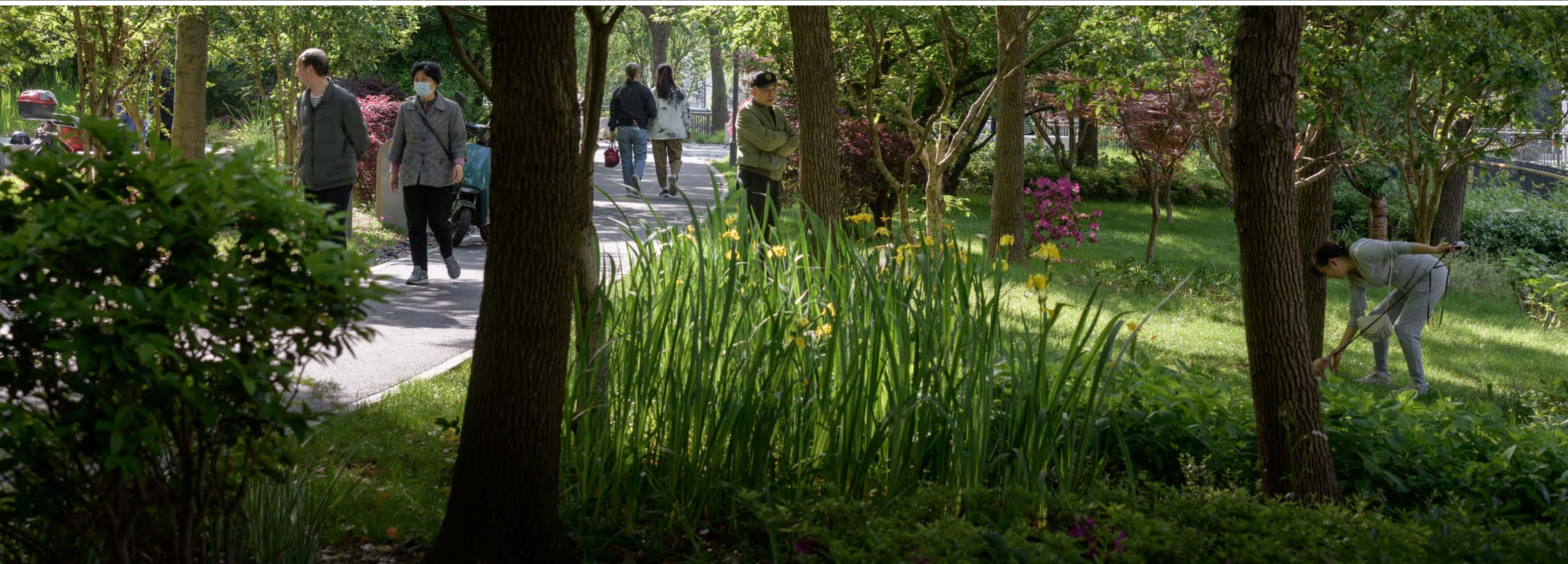
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EVERY BIG TREES INSITE HAS BEEN CAREFULLY PRESERVED



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A SERIES OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT METHODS HAVE BEEN APPLIED



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THE ORIGINAL CULTURAL ELEMENTS ALONG THE RIVER WERE RECORDED AND PRESERVED



The history of the community is recorded on the wall.



The exsiting pavilion is reserved

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WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL SPACE IS ACTIVATED

This approach merges riverfront with adjacent commercial zones, transforming the commercial development model from “backing onto the river” to “embracing the river.”

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project team adheres to the governance philosophy of “consultation, co-governance, co-construction, co-management, sharing, and mutual benefits.”



70

ENTERPRISES ALONG THE
RIVER ARE ENGAGED

200

VISITS TO COMMUNITIES TO
GATHER FEEDBACK

90

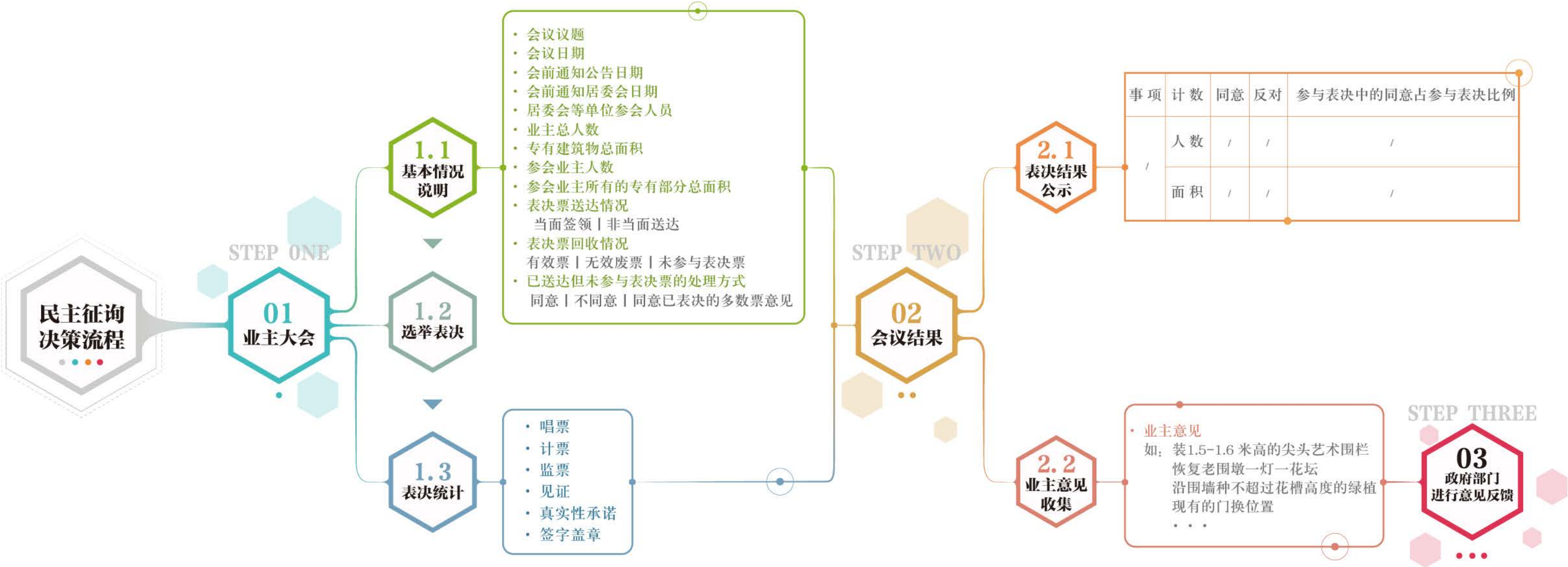
WORKSHOPS WITH
RESIDENTS

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THE WORK FOLW OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



Step1: convene a community meeting➡ Step2: pass/ deny design proposal➡ Step3: feedback from government or contractors

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THE RIVER OF HAPPINESS

Today, the area along the Ring of Rivers has transformed into a space that integrates waterfront ecology, residential activities, social well-being, and commercial synergy, achieving multidimensional mutual benefits.

