



AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE AREA

Project Statement:

The Suzhou Sericulture College Former Site Cultural Park (Xiling Hall Park) at XuShuGuan Town Section of the Grand Canal is located along the riverbank of Xushuguan, which is one of the "Ten Scenic Spots of the Grand Canal" in Suzhou City. Situated on the site of the original Suzhou Sericulture College, which dates back a century, it has been transformed into an urban cultural park spanning an area of around 32700 square meters. The completion of this project meets the high-quality environmental needs of the citizens while simultaneously reviving the time-honored memories of the Sericulture College. This is not only a return from a site to a place, but also a relay of life from educational venue to civic stage. Once opened, residents will be able to host small bazaars for recreational and fitness purposes, cultural exhibitions, and other events here. Additionally, the park serves as a venue for the telling of new stories and a model for cultural revitalization in the Grand Canal National Cultural Park's middle grounds.

Project Location and Background
The Suzhou Sericulture College Former Site Cultural Park (Xiling Hall Park) at XuShuGuan Town Section of the Grand Canal is located along the riverbank of Xushuguan, one of the "Ten Scenic Spots of the Grand Canal" in Suzhou, namely on the banks of the Grand Canal of Beijing and Hangzhou. Covering a total area of approximately 32700 square meters, it was formerly the site of Suzhou Sericulture Specialized School (1903~1995).

The XuShuGuan Town began in Qin Dynasty, flourished in the canal, and became one of the seven major banknote gates along the canal since the Ming Dynasty. With its favorable geographical position, it has formed three major cultures, namely, banknote pass culture, sericulture culture and mat weaving culture, and has become a major town in the northern gateway--Wuzhi Town. In 1903, Shi Liangcai founded the Shanghai Private Women's Sericulture School, which was merged into Soochow University in 1995. In the meantime, patriots such as Zheng Pijiang and Fei Dasheng devoted their lives here, writing a glorious chapter for the development of education and silk industry in China. With the gradual launch of the Suzhou section of the Grand Canal Cultural Belt, the Sericulture Park has a chance for rebirth.

Project Analysis and Research

After a large number of site exploration and research, visits of alumni of Sericulture College and the public in the surrounding area, the 1957 survey map has been chosen as the basis for identifying key locations that embody the catalytic green building, Xiling Hall and other places with the unique cultural characteristics and memories of the campus, and for recreating the campus layout, and taking the "spatial and temporal inheritance of local culture" as the entry point, building an open city park on the basis of preserving the site's historical memories. On the basis of preserving the historical memory of the site, an open-type city park is constructed.

Design Strategy and Design Framework

(1) Focusing on scenic narratives and planning urban parks

Qin & the Grand Canal of Beijing and Hangzhou & Sericulture School & Suzhou Science and Technology New City & Urban Park

②Jointing professional team to plan and design urban parks

Jointly with architecture, heritage preservation, cultural curation, landscape design, lighting design and other design units, the park's planning and design is a full professional, full-cycle, full-process participation. The choice of design solutions pays special attention to a symbiotic scenario between people's activities and the diffuse plants. Through a variety of design strategies, the park is enriched with changes that allow visitors to immerse themselves, slow down and linger.

3 Telling the story of spreading the sericulture park scene through a variety of scenic activities Once the park is open, a variety of ongoing activities allow everyone involved to feel and experience the colorful and scenic story of Sericulture Park.

Project Introduction

(1) In the process of transforming from a closed campus to an urban open space, the dialogue between the canal and the park is reconstructed through adaptive use, spatial as well as functional integration. Connected to Guabu on the upper side, connected to the Yangtze River in the middle, and converged with Wu Hui's Great Baptism on the lower side to enter the sea, the XuShuGuan Town is a prosperous and diversified commercial and travel town since ancient times. The design starts from the urban space, removes the boundary street trees, opens up the view of the canal to a large area of continuous open lawn, shapes the open place through the topography of grass slopes, and the visitors lying on the grass slopes can look out at the beautiful scenery of the canal, listen to the roar of the passing freight ships, reminisce the past of sericulture school and experience the canal culture. The site has been designed as an open space through the terrain of the grass slope.

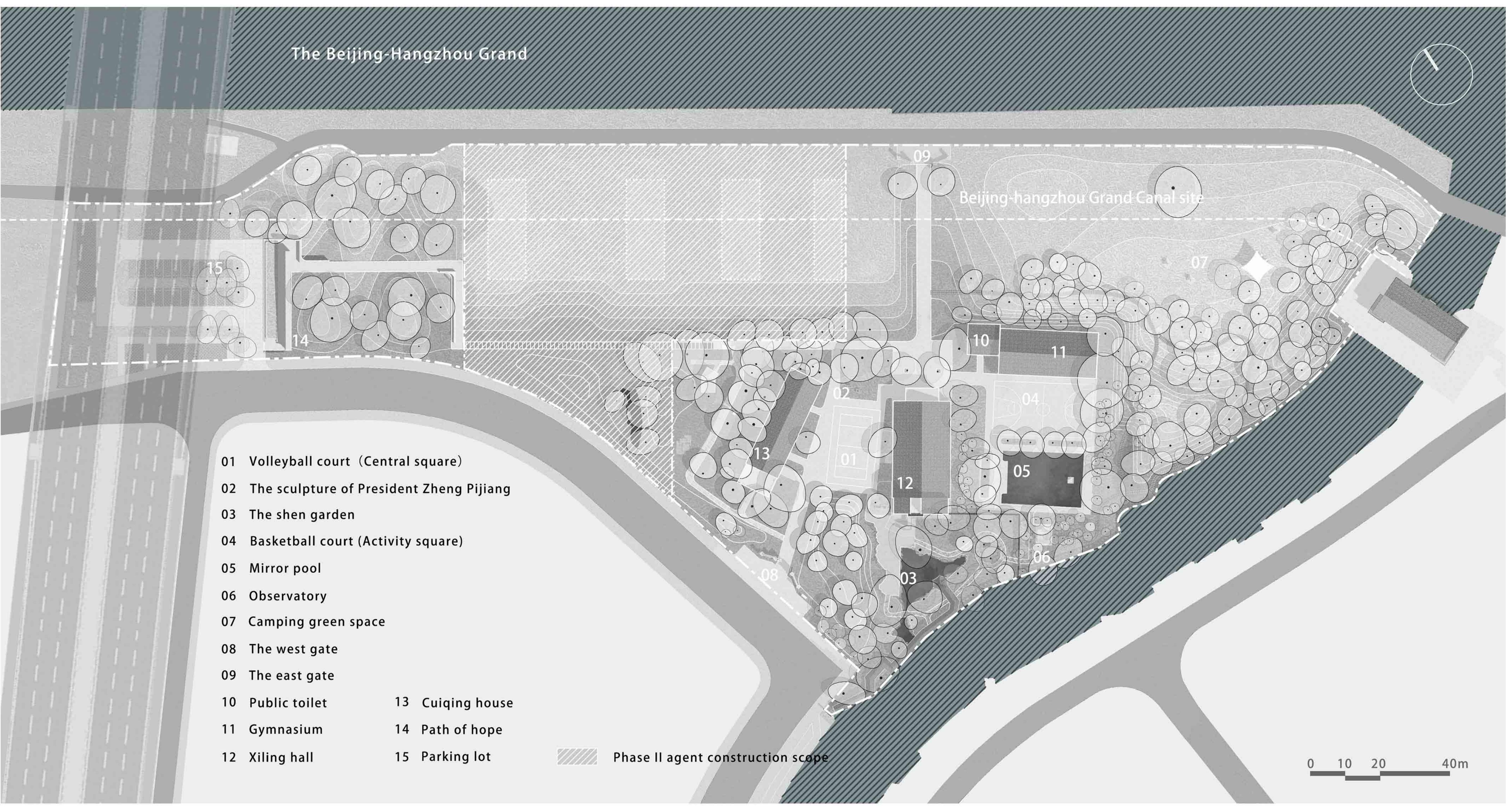
②Through the redesign of the northern entrance interface, the historical evolution of the campus is showcased, guiding visitors through a transition that unfolds the site's narrative along the "Road of Hope," marked by a rainwater floating bridge. The arched fair-faced concrete landscape wall, with its heavy and rustic sense of volume not far away from the catalytic building echo—the former sericulture school and today's park across the time dimension, so that the spirit of sericulture continuesly extending; engraved on the wall of the copper slats is telling the vicissitudes of a century of sericulture school, tourists also will be introduced to the history of modern China under the historical changes in the south of the Jiangnan Sericulture Planting Narrative.

③Crossing the "Road of Hope" to the south, the old sericulture school site in the old days came into view, this carries the construction and development of modern sericulture discipline of Jiangnan century-old school is now in another capacity for the Chinese sericulture culture to inject new vitality. The campus gate embodies deep memories for generations of students at the Suzhou Sericulture College. Following the old photographs, the original styled campus gate has been faithfully restored in a 1:1 ratio, shaping the entrance interface to recreate the scenes of campus life from bygone days. In 1918, Zheng Pijiang elevating the vocational education function of the sericulture college to its zenith. The design project aims to meticulously restore and relocate the commemorative sculpture of Zheng Pijiang beneath the ancient fragrant camphor tree at the central square, oriented towards the west gate, serving as the focal point for the square's spatial sequence.

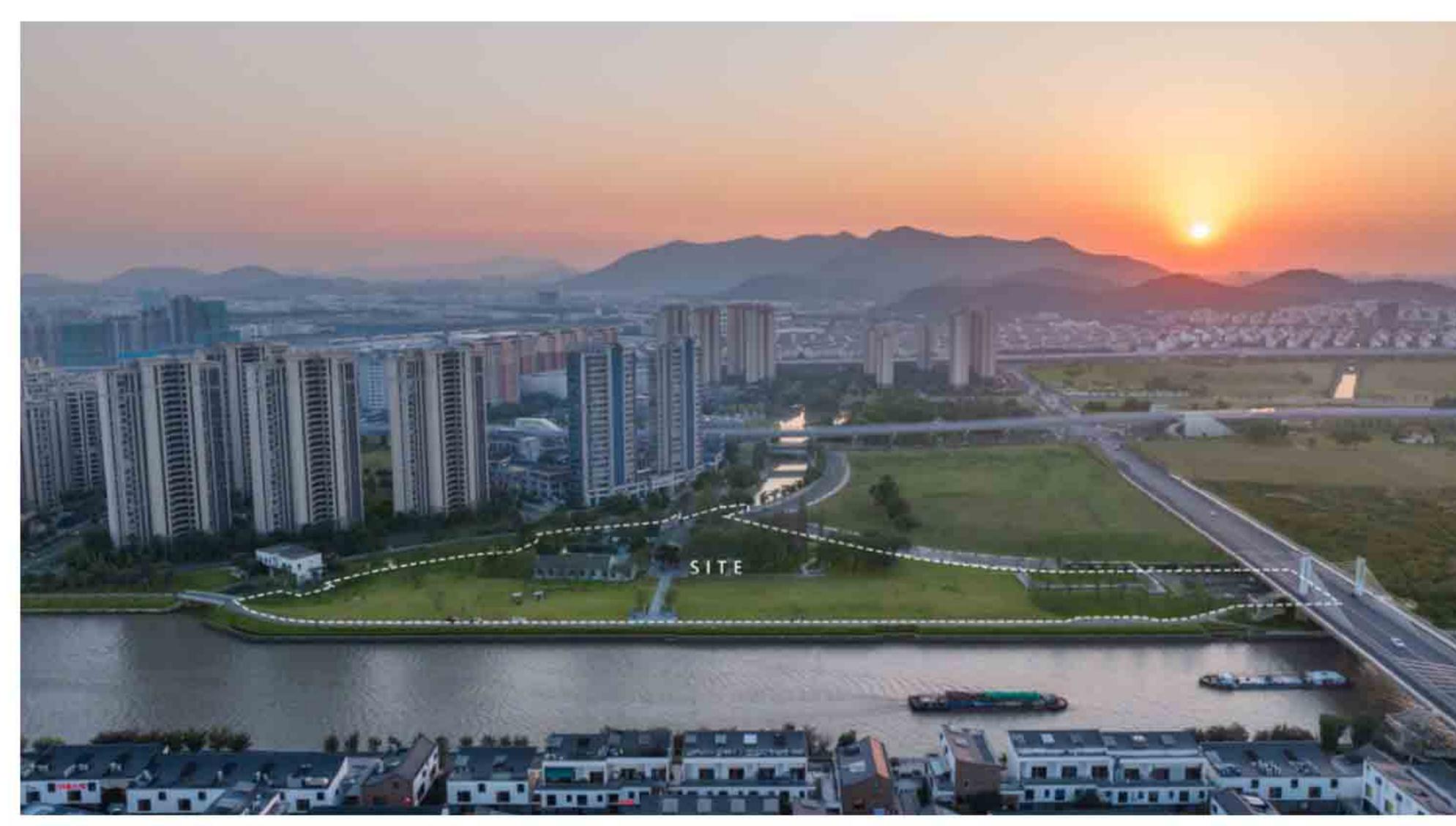
(4) The Cuiqing Building, also known as the Luye Building and situated to the north of the square, served as a silkworm rearing facility from 1912 to 1937, representing the sole surviving pre-war educational building. Guided by the original building's photograph and in harmony with the architectural style of the Republic of China, the design project renovates and enhances it to function as an indoor exhibition space within the park. Around 1947, the alumnus from this school contributed funds to erect a small auditorium for the sericulture school, naming it Xiling Hall in homage to the legendary figure Xiling Shi, credited with the invention of sericulture, silk reeling, and clothing making. The design project revitalizes the original site to maintain its role as a public lecture hall. Shen Garden, a small Suzhou-style garden funded by the Year of 1976 graduates, has undergone a comprehensive facelift. The design perpetuating the simple and elegant, refreshing and tranquil garden ambiance of the sericulture school.

(5) The former site of Suzhou Sericulture College has seen significant deterioration in its meteorological observatory, swimming pool, and gymnasium, rendering them unsuitable for park usage. To address these areas, a distinctive transformation plan has been devised to revitalize the park while maintaining continuity with the existing functional nodes, thus creating extensive interaction between the old and the new, and fostering a cultural experience that transcends time and space. The severely dilapidated and abandoned swimming pool on the west side of the stadium was transformed into a mirrored pool, so that the surrounding historical buildings can be reflected in it, creating a new interpretation and a dialog with the surrounding site. The old campus sculpture has been placed atop a water feature, and the "Goddess of Hope" statue, holding a white dove, stands atop the water, establishing a new order of the water landscape. Surrounding the water feature, Chinese Snowball trees are planted, evoking memories of the campus when silkworm rearing began with the blooming of the Snowball flowers.

- ©Hope" statue, holding a white dove, stands atop the water, establishing a new order of the water landscape. Surrounding the water feature, Chinese Snowball trees are planted, evoking memories of the campus when silkworm rearing began with the blooming of the Snowball flowers.
- The completed Xiling Hall Park carries the historical mission of promoting China's intangible cultural heritage. As an indoor exhibition space, Xiling Hall Park and The Cuiqing Building host a series of local cultural exhibitions related to silk weaving, such as cheongsam culture and silk techniques. The park provides an excellent venue for dialog between experts and scholars in the industry and the public, hosting diverse urban activities and responding to the free and open cultural character of the city.
- ®The Suzhou Sericulture College's Cultural Park embodies the goal of "tracing back and rejuvenation", implementing design strategies based on functional continuation, site reshaping, and ecological revitalization. It translates and reconstructs the memories of the former sericulture campus, weaving an ecological and harmonious living space along the Grand Canal. The park preserves the memories of the sericulture campus while leading the revival of urban culture, having become a new cultural landmark for the Suzhou section of the Grand Canal.



DESIGN GENERAL PLAN



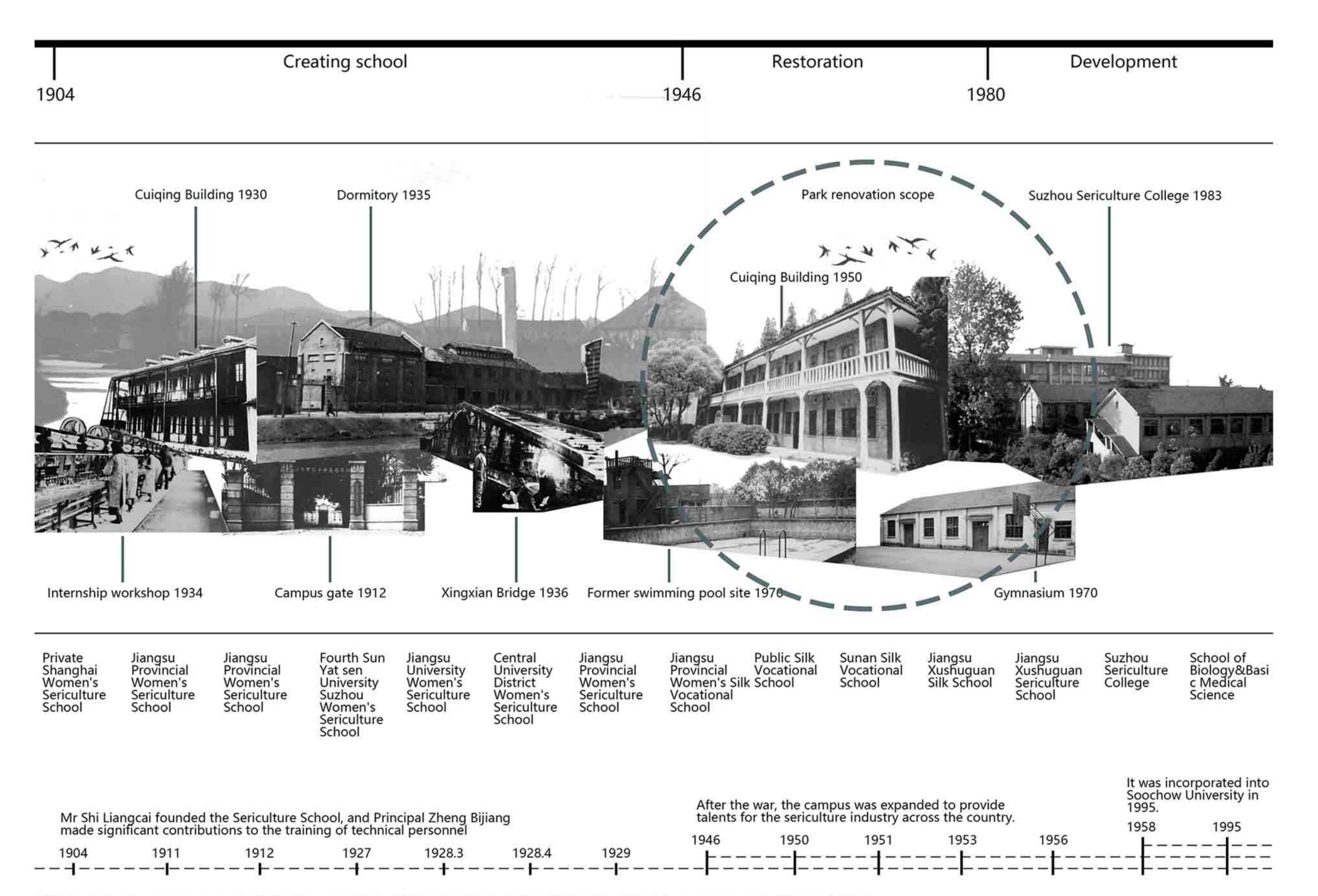
AERIAL VIEW OF THE PROJECT

Project Location and Background

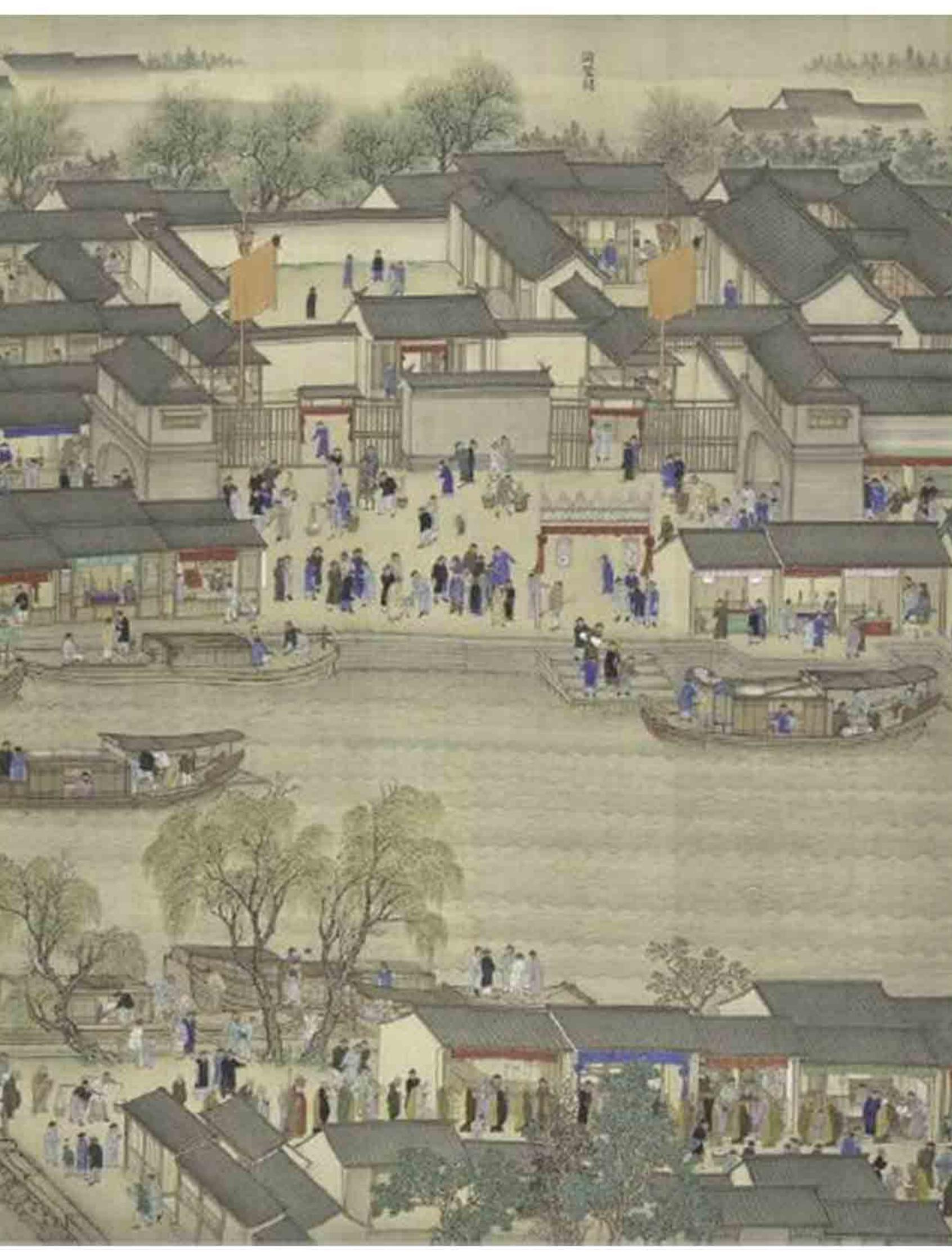
The Cultural Park of the Former Suzhou Sericulture College Site (Xiling Hall Park) is located along the riverbank of Xushuguan, one of the "Ten Scenic Spots of the Grand Canal" in Suzhou, namely on the banks of the Grand Canal of Beijing and Hangzhou. Covering a total area of approximately 3.27 hectares, it was formerly the site of Suzhou Sericulture Specialized School (1903~1995).



HISTORICAL CONTEXTUALANALYSIS

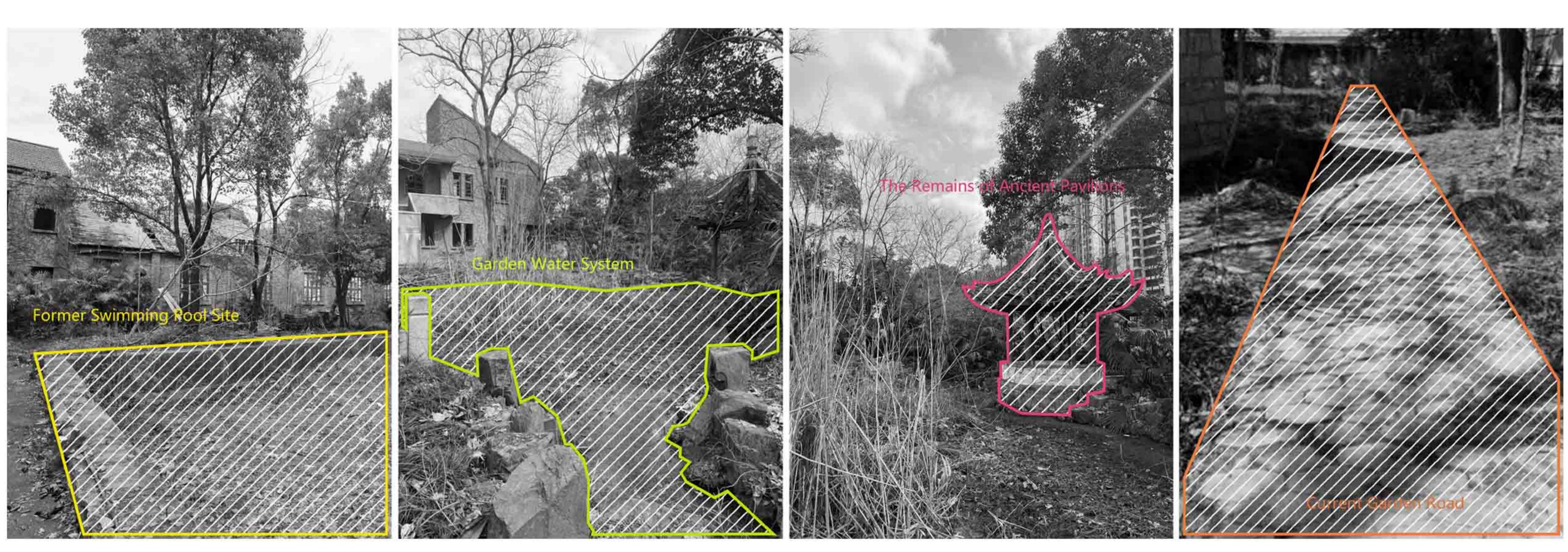


OVER A CENTURY OF HISTORICAL CHANGES OF THE SCHOOL



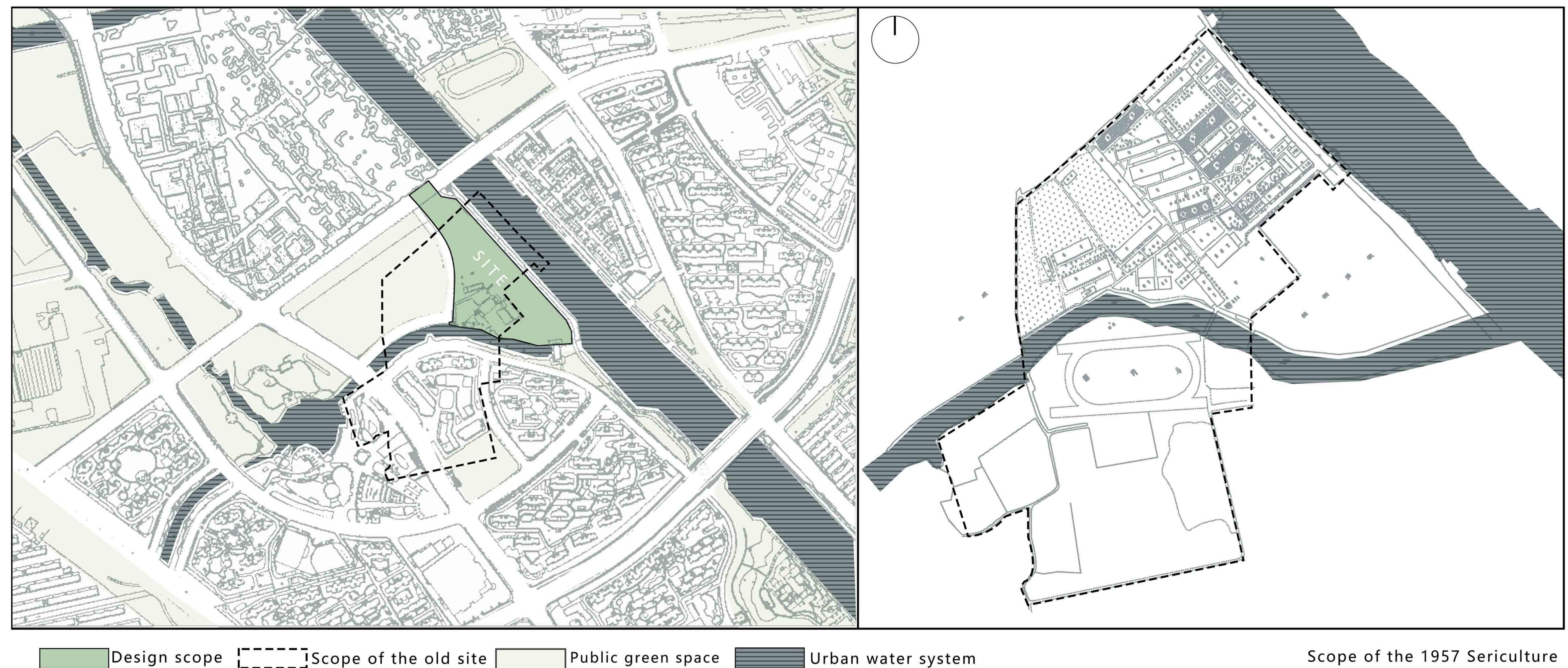
KANGXI'S SOUTHERN TOUR--XUSHUGUAN SECTION

The town of Xushuguan began in Qin Dynasty, flourished in the canal, and became one of the seven major banknote gates along the canal since the Ming Dynasty. With its favorable geographical position, it has formed three major cultures, namely, banknote pass culture, sericulture culture and mat weaving culture, and has become a major town in the northern gateway--Wuzhi Town.



TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT OF THE FORMER SITE

In 1903, Shi Liangcai founded the Shanghai Private Women's Sericulture School, which was merged into Soochow University in 1995. In the meantime, patriots such as Zheng Peijiang and Fei Dasheng devoted their lives here, writing a glorious chapter for the development of education and silk industry in China. With the gradual launch of the Suzhou section of the Grand Canal Cultural Belt, the Sericulture Park has a chance for rebirth.

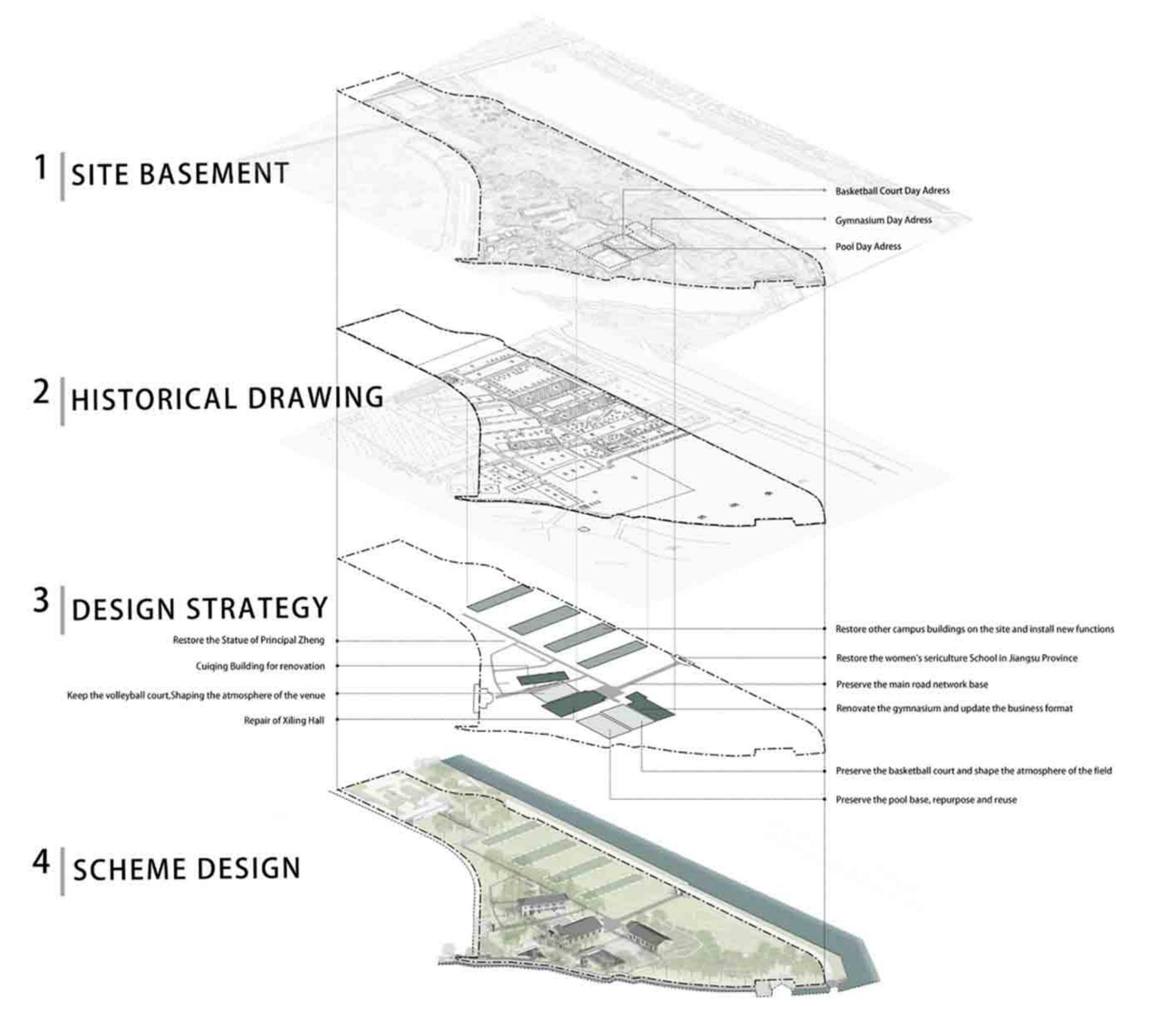


CURRENT URBAN AND SITE TEXTURE OF SERICULTURE SCHOOL IN 1957

Project Analysis and Research

After a large number of site exploration and research, visits of alumni of Sericulture College and the public in the surrounding area, the 1957 survey map has been chosen as the basis for identifying key locations that embody the catalytic green building, Xiling Hall and other places with the unique cultural characteristics and memories of the campus, and for recreating the campus layout, and taking the "spatial and temporal inheritance of local culture" as the entry point, building an open city park on the basis of preserving the site's historical memories. On the basis of preserving the historical memory of the site, an open-type city park is constructed.

Scope of the 1957 Sericulture



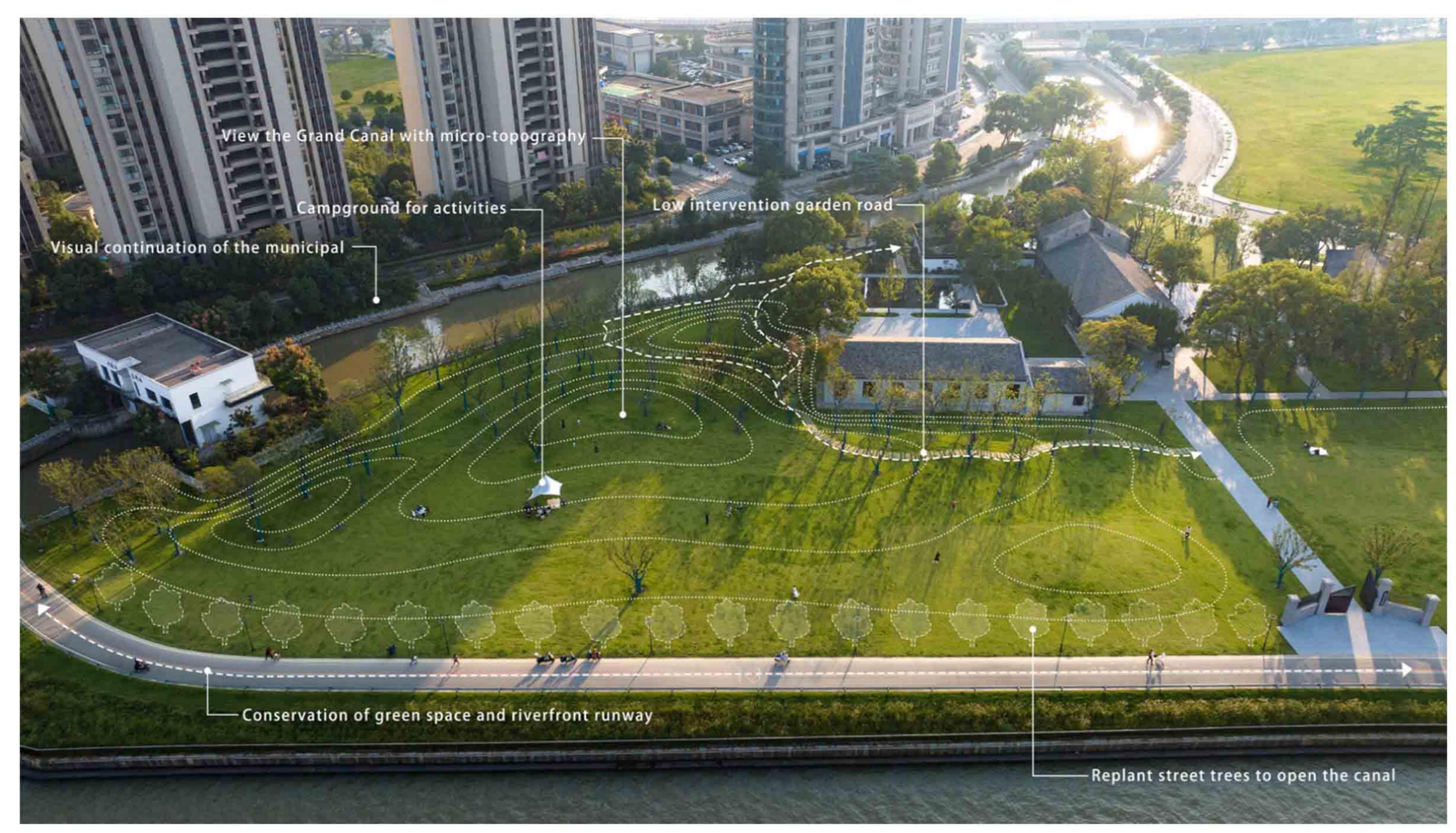
REAPPEARANCE OF CAMPUS TEXTURE BASED ON SITE STATUS



SITE PLAN AFTER RECONSTRUCTION

Project Introduction

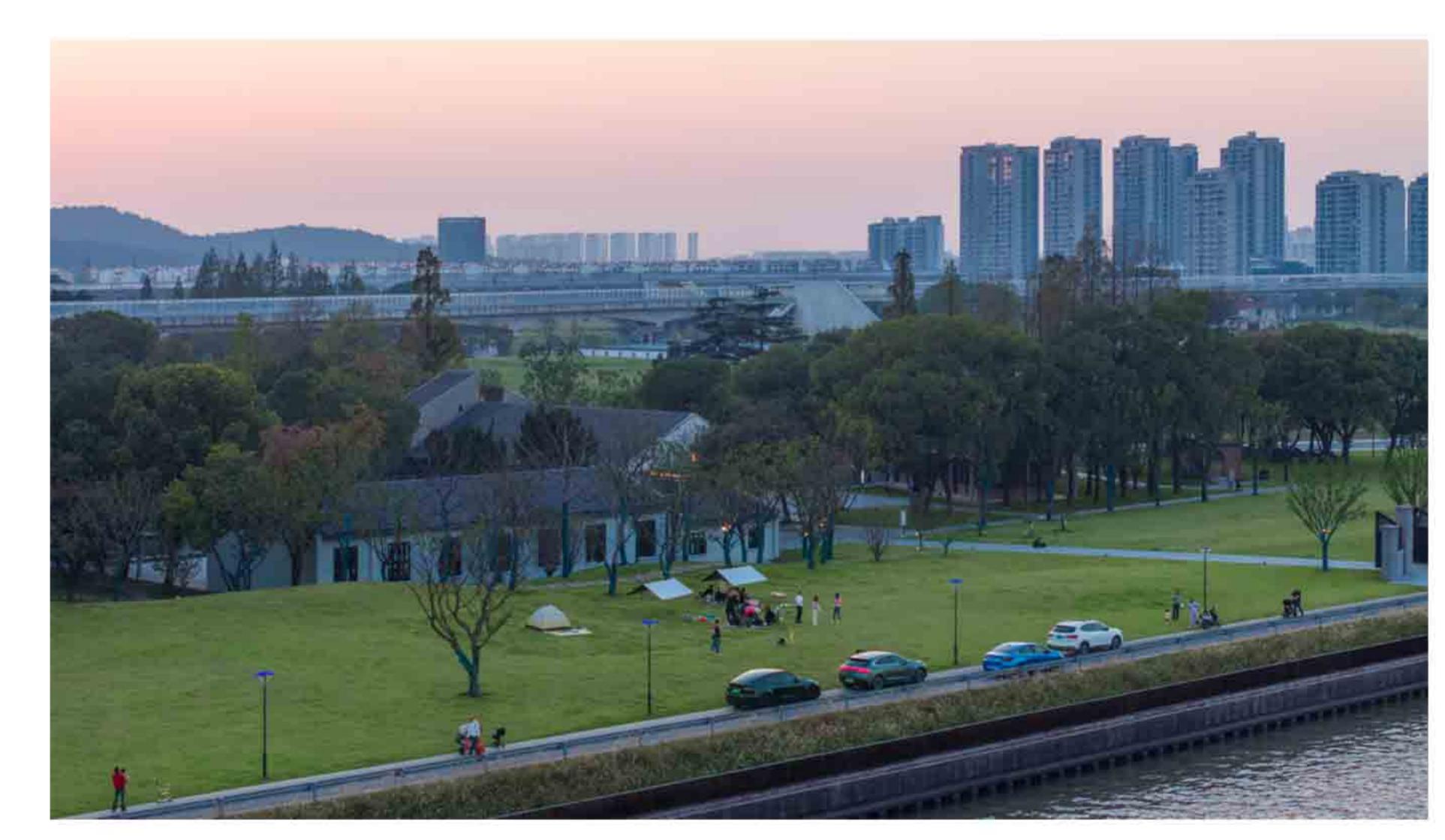
In the process of transforming from a closed campus to an urban open space, the dialogue between the canal and the park is reconstructed through adaptive use, spatial as well as functional integration. Connected to Guabu on the upper side, connected to the Yangtze River in the middle, and converged with Wu Hui's Great Baptism on the lower side to enter the sea, Hushuguan is a prosperous and diversified commercial and travel town since ancient times. The design starts from the urban space, removes the boundary street trees, opens up the view of the canal to a large area of continuous open lawn, shapes the open place through the topography of grass slopes, and the visitors lying on the grass slopes can look out at the beautiful scenery of the canal, listen to the roar of the passing freight ships, reminisce the past of sericulture school and experience the canal culture. The site has been designed as an open space through the terrain of the grass slope.



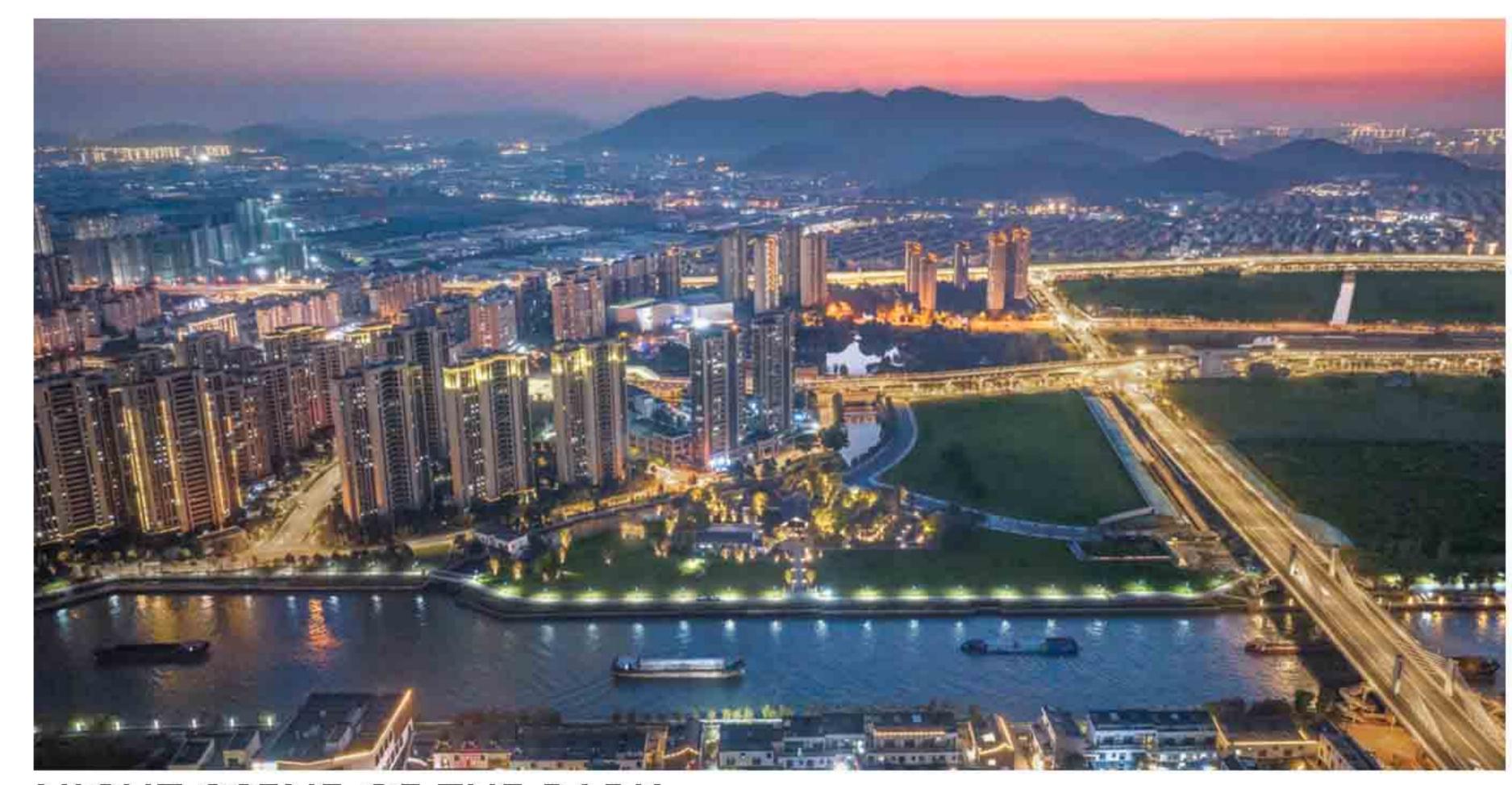
During the transformation from a closed campus to an open park, the relationship between the canal and the park is redefined. Embracing its historical significance as a bustling trade town, the park removes boundary trees, opens up the canal's view with vast contiguous lawns, and accommodates diverse urban activities, echoing the city's free and open cultural character.

It is a transition from a site to a place, from an educational venue to a civic stage. Once opened, the park becomes a gathering place for citizens to engage in activities, leisure, fitness, and even small markets. It serves as a setting for new narratives, allowing people to stroll, reminisce the sericulture school, and experience the canal culture.

THE URBAN STAGE WHERE THE TWO RIVERS CONVERGE

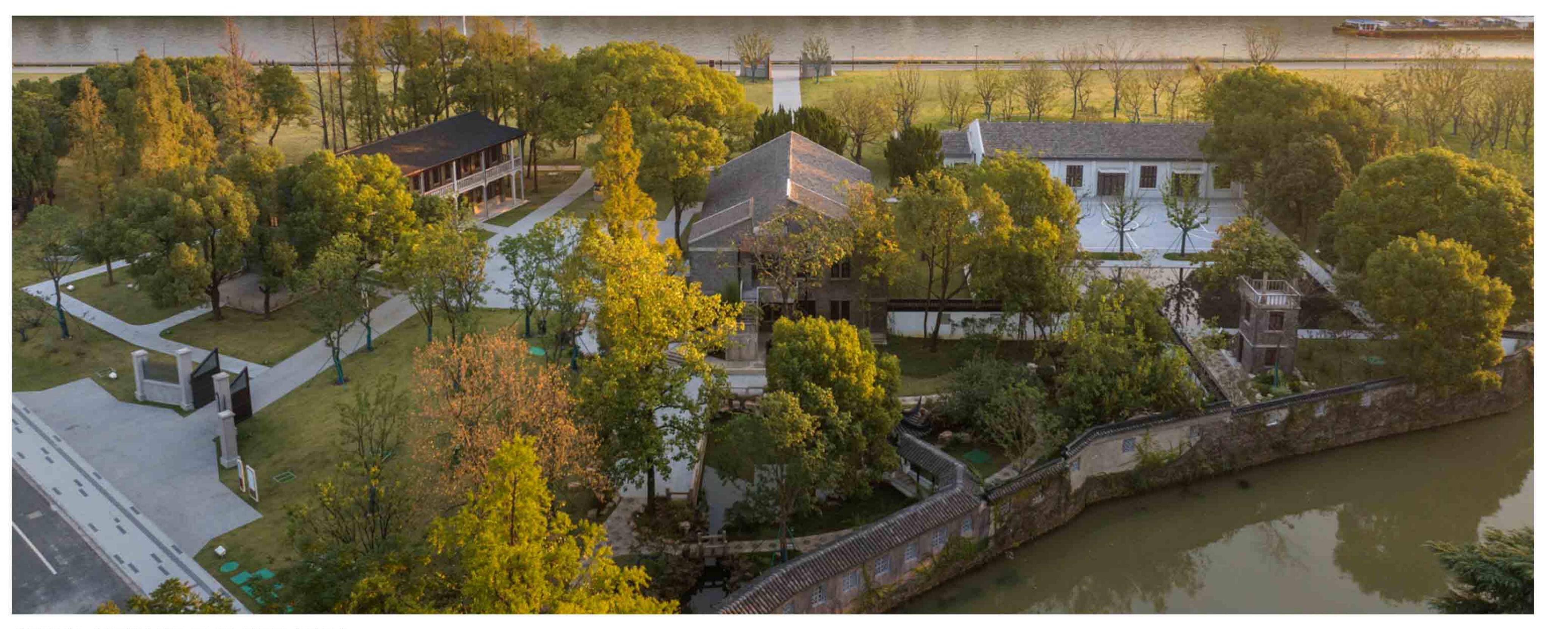


VERLOOKING THE ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GREEN SPACE OF THE GRAND CANAL



NIGHT SCENE OF THE PARK

The Suzhou Sericulture College's Cultural Park embodies the goal of "tracing back and rejuvenation", implementing design strategies based on functional continuation, site reshaping, and ecological revitalization. It translates and reconstructs the memories of the former sericulture campus, weaving an ecological and harmonious living space along the Grand Canal. The park preserves the memories of the sericulture campus while leading the revival of urban culture, having become a new cultural landmark for the Suzhou section of the Grand Canal.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE AREA



AERIAL VIEW OF THE "ROAD OF HOPE" ENTRANCE



LOOKING TO THE PARK FROM THE NANJIN BRIDGE

Through the redesign of the northern entrance interface, the historical evolution of the campus is showcased, guiding visitors through a transition that unfolds the site's narrative along the "Road of Hope," marked by a rainwater floating bridge.

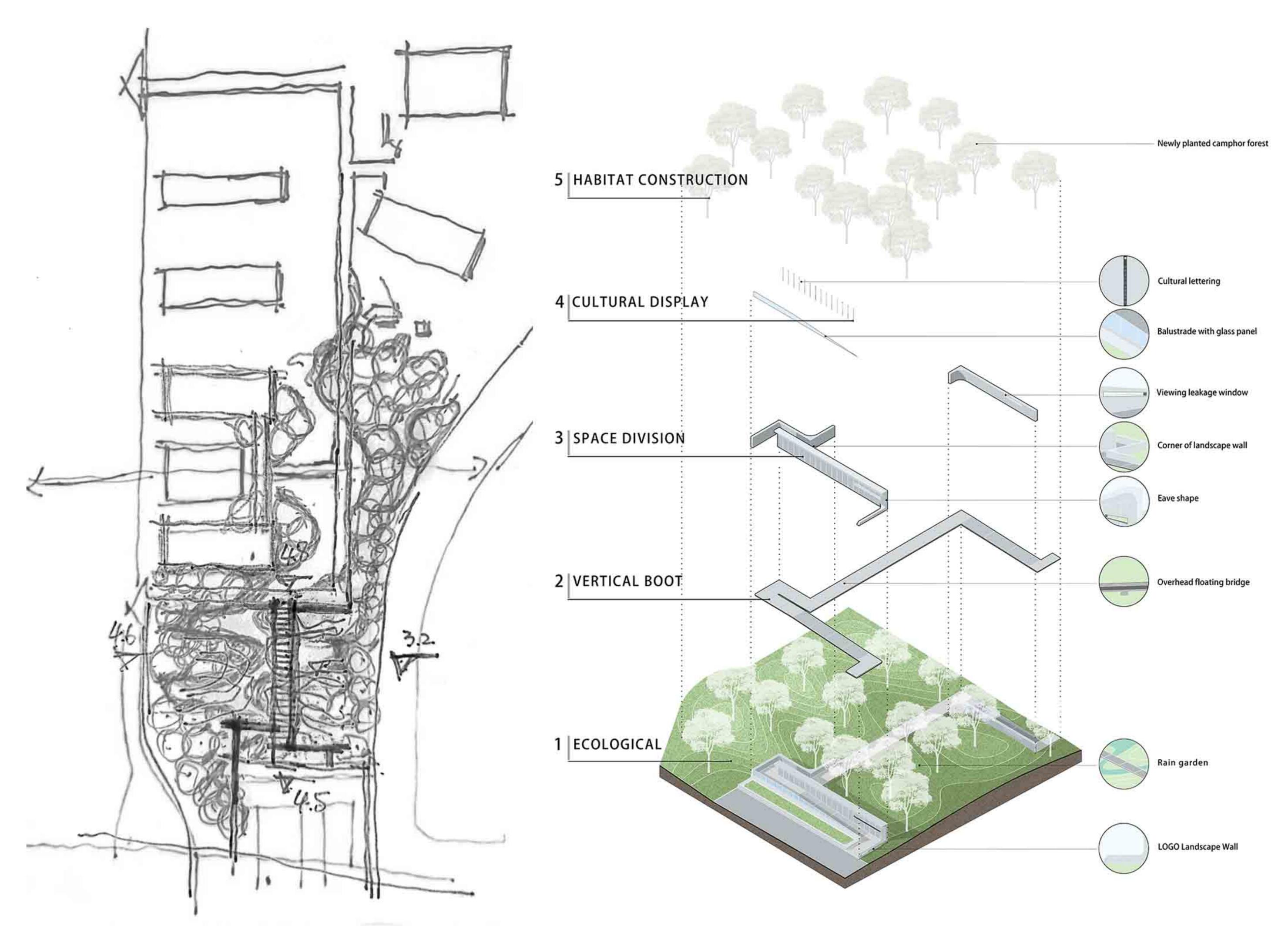


USING FAIR-FACED CONCREATE LANDSCAPE WALLS TO EXHIBIT THE HISTORY OF THE CAMPUS



THE NORTH ENTRANCE IS NOW THE PARK'S NEWICONIC SPOT

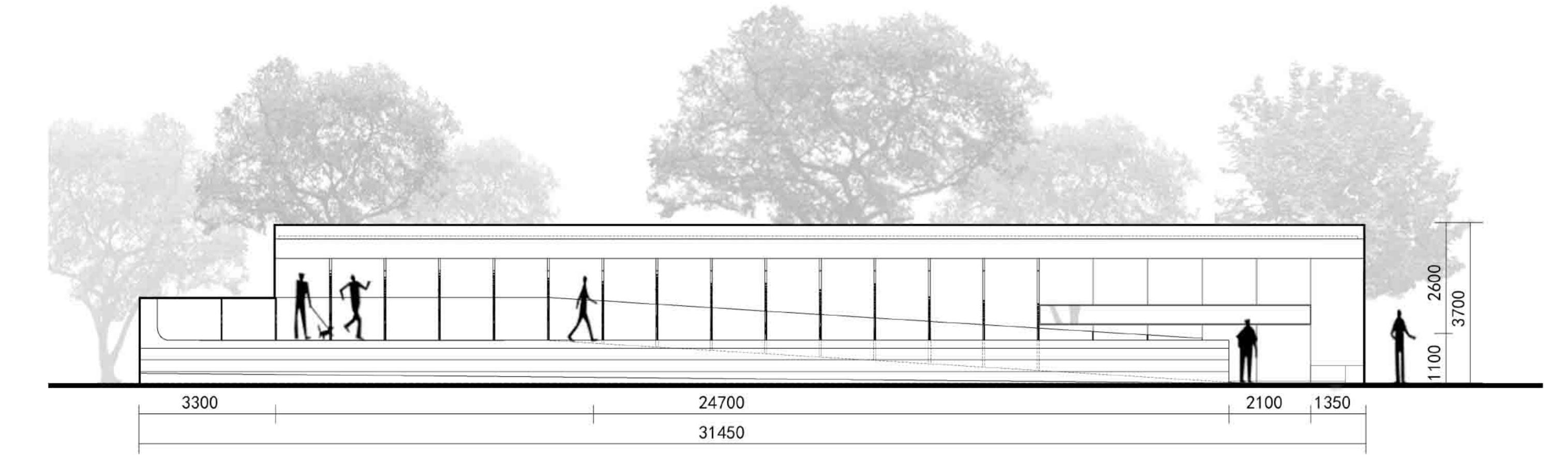
The arched fair-faced concrete landscape wall, with its heavy and rustic sense of volume not far away from the catalytic building echo - the former sericulture school and today's park across the time dimension, so that the spirit of sericulture continuesly extending; engraved on the wall of the copper slats is telling the vicissitudes of a century of sericulture school, tourists also will be introduced to the history of modern China under the historical changes in the south of the Jiangnan sericulture Planting Narrative.



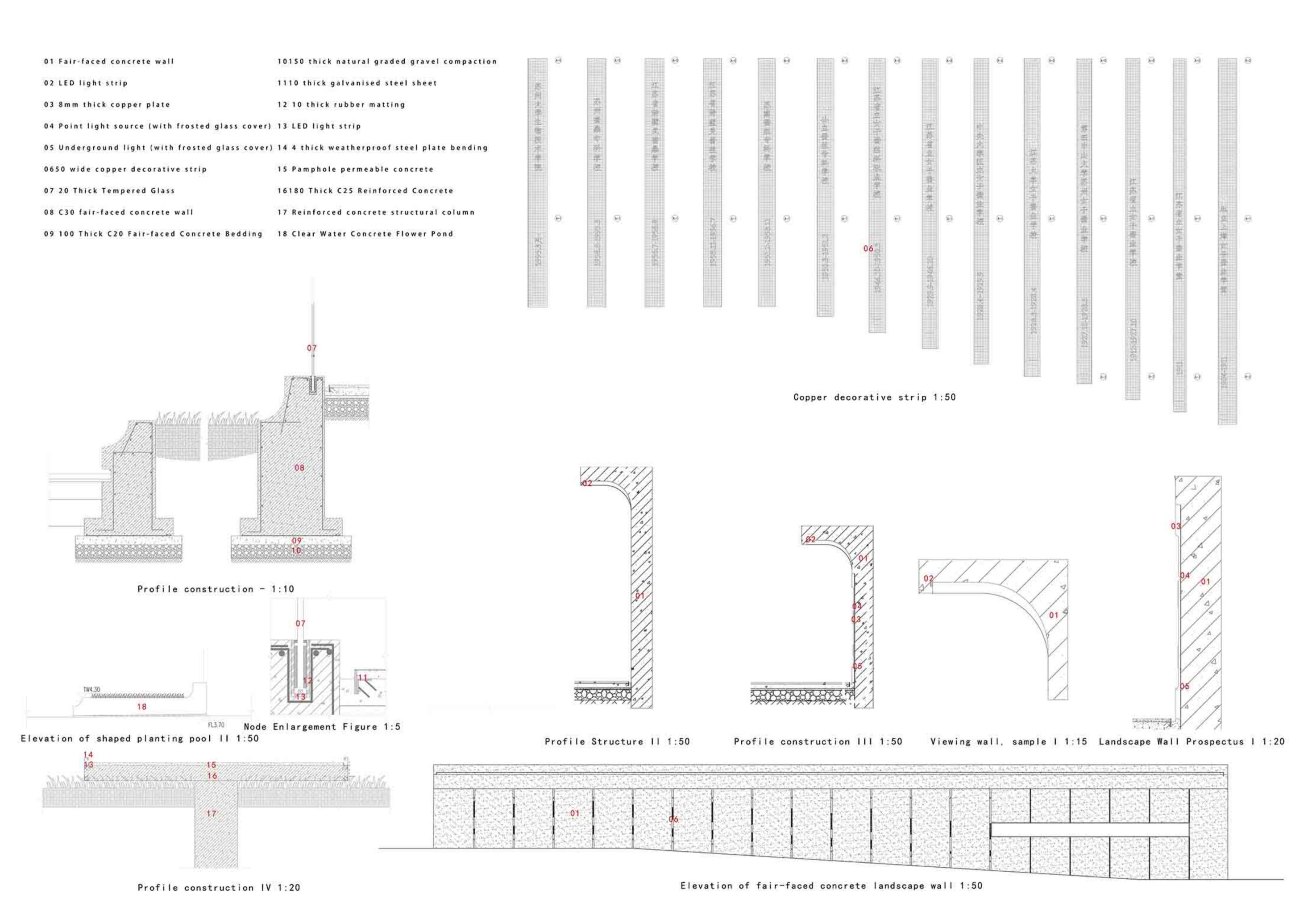
DESIGN DEDUCTION OF THE "ROAD OF HOPE"



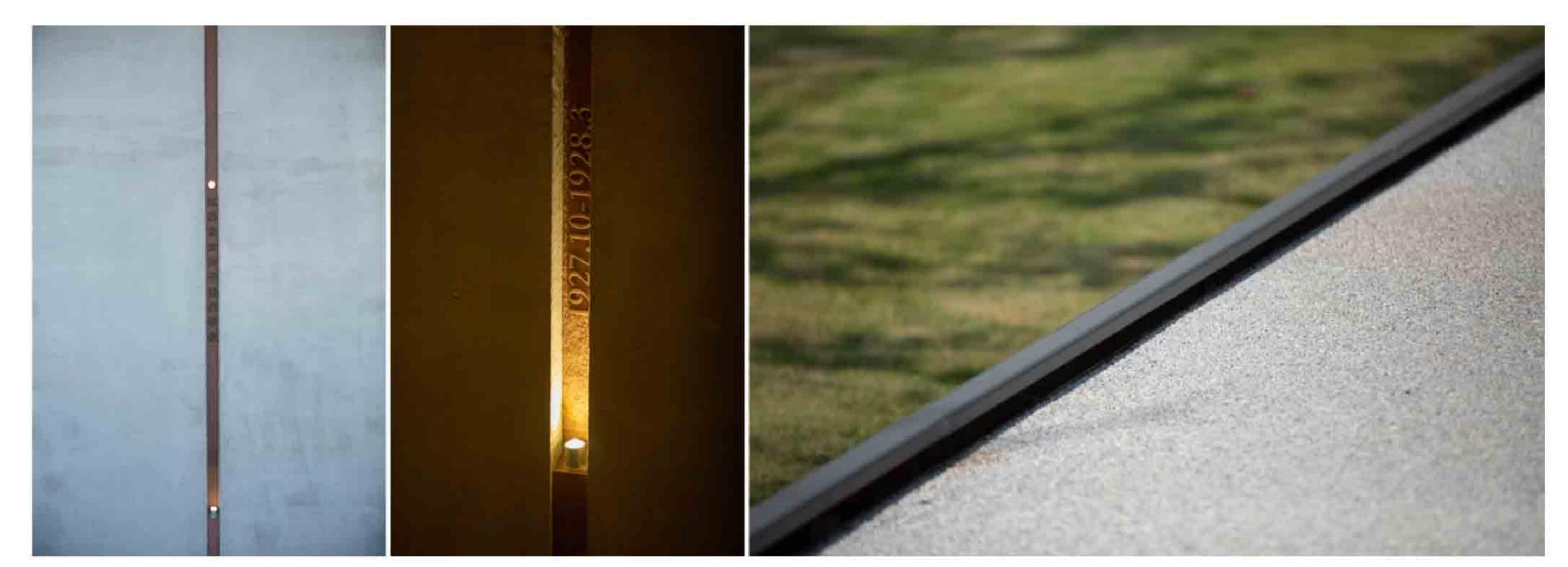
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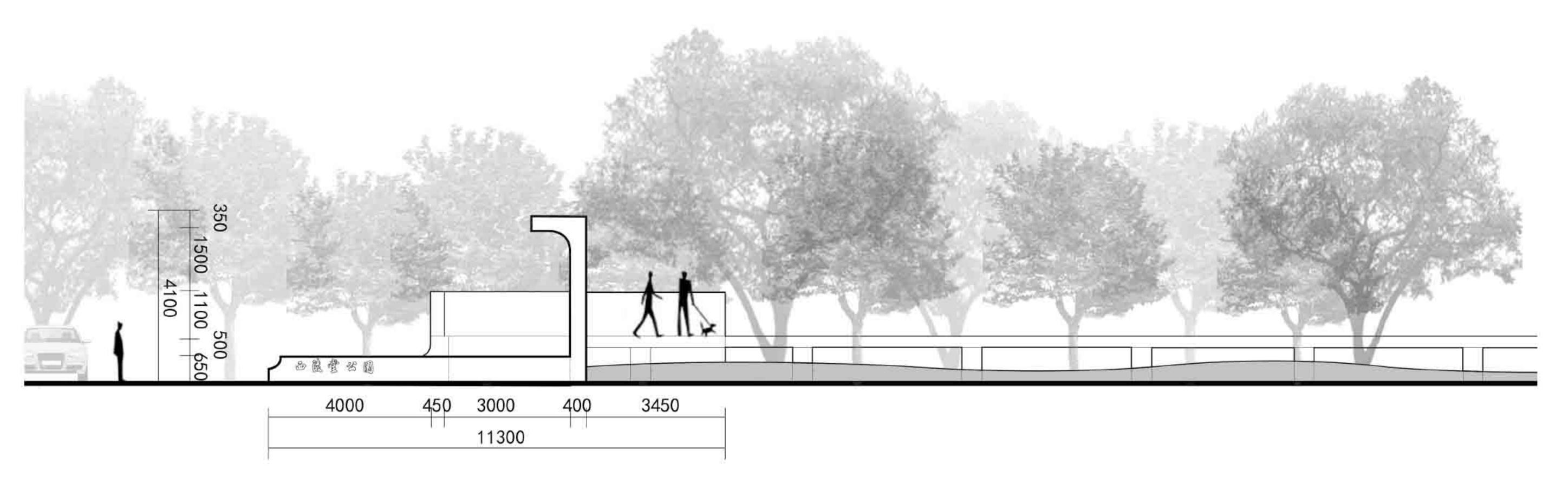
NORTH ELEVATION OF THE "ROAD OF HOPE"



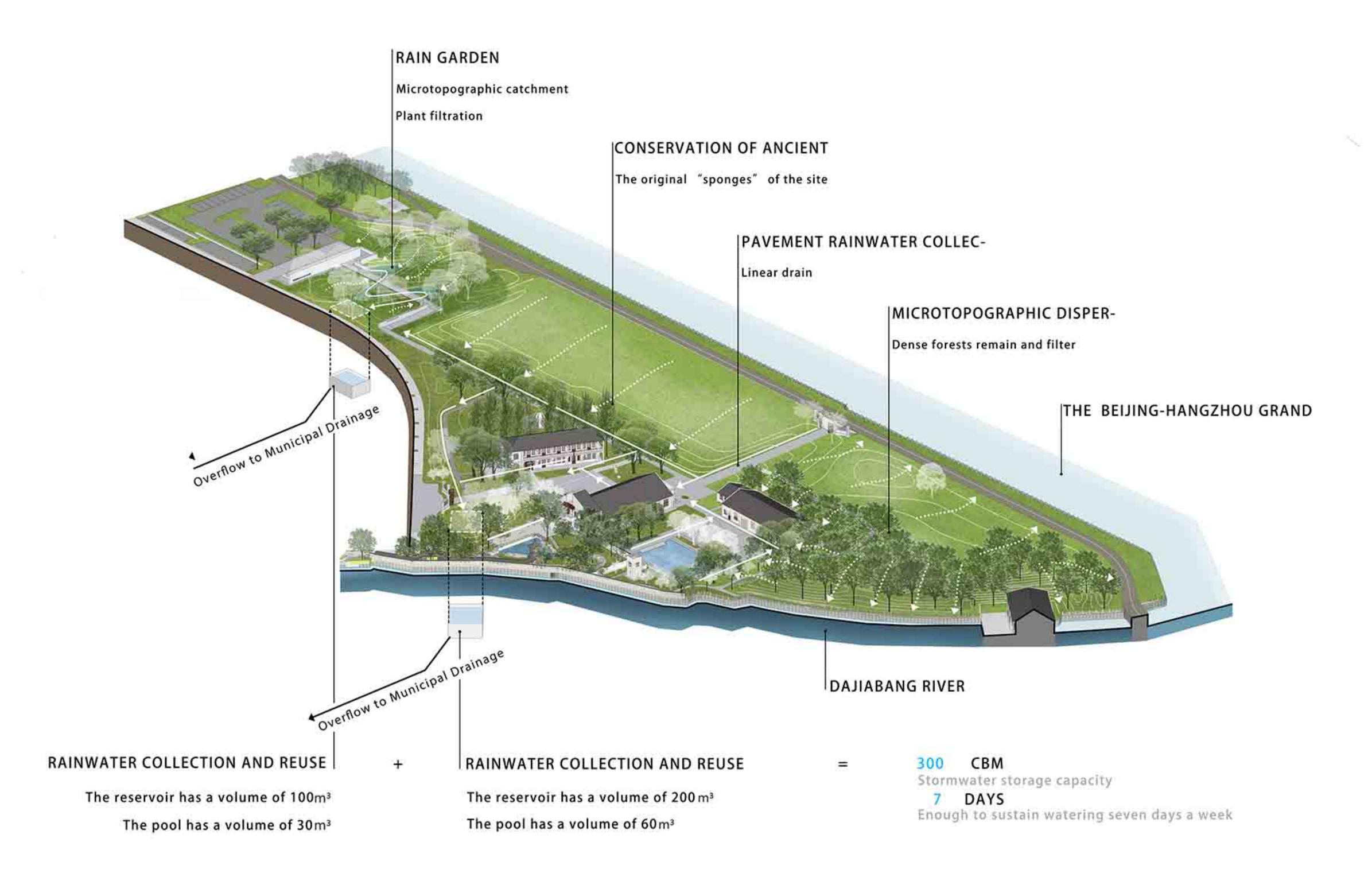
CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS OF THE "ROAD OF HOPE"



TRACES OF TIME



WEST ELEVATION OF THE "ROAD OF HOPE"



SPONGE CITY SYSTEM OF THE PARK

The project aims to maximize the preservation of previous native trees on the campus and transform the park into a "sponge" that can absorb rainwater and reduce rainwater runoff while protecting natural resources.

The design principles of low-carbon and environmental protection are integrated throughout the process, maintaining the original site's texture, transforming historical landmarks, and expanding green spaces. By fully utilizing the original ecological foundation and construction area, the project minimizes construction impact, production input, and operation costs. It is achieved by refurbishing and reusing the original building materials and spaces, employing high-quality, low-cost construction techniques, preserving local plant species, and enhancing carbon sequestration per unit area.

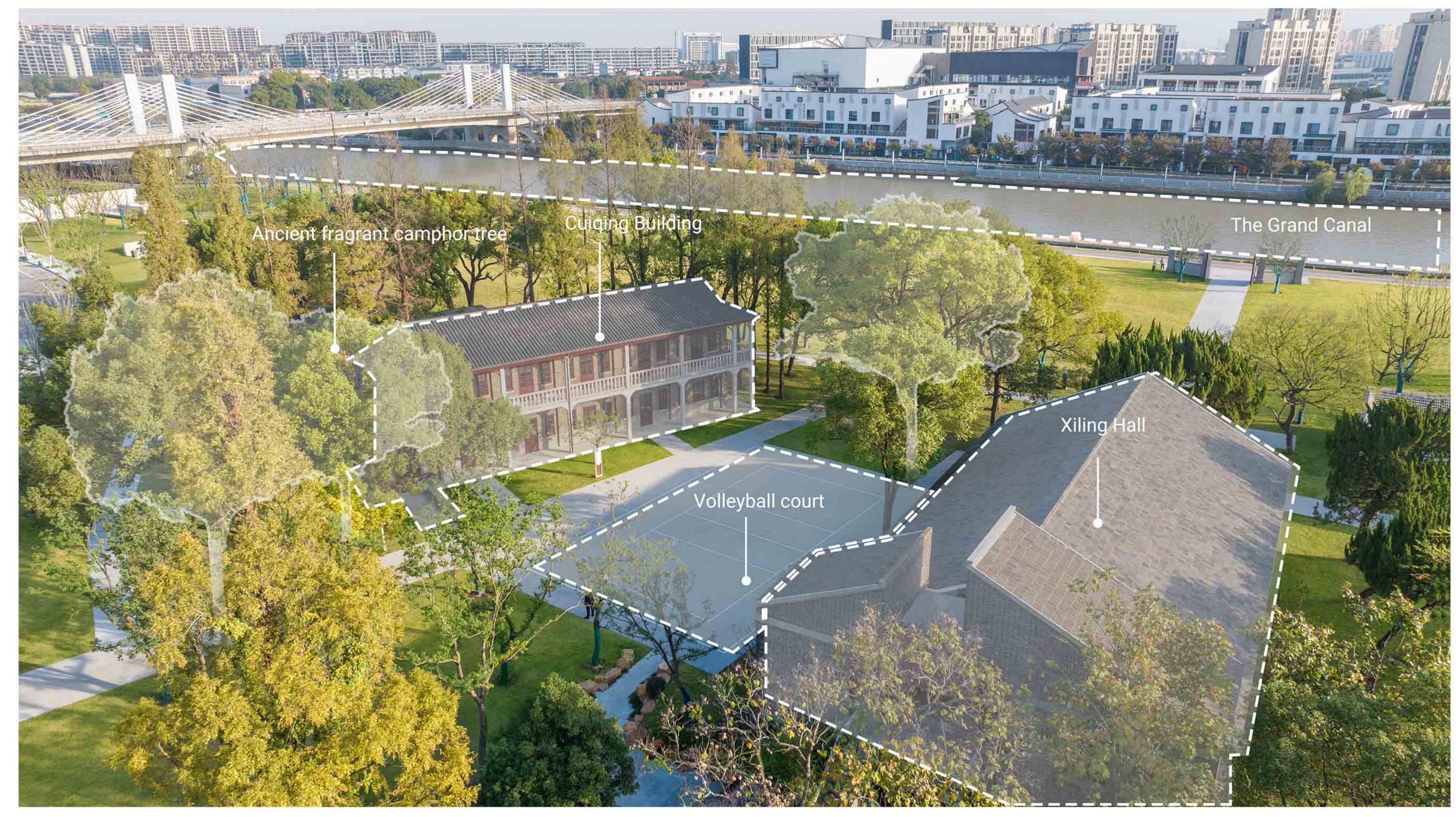


TECHNICAL DETAILS AND MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

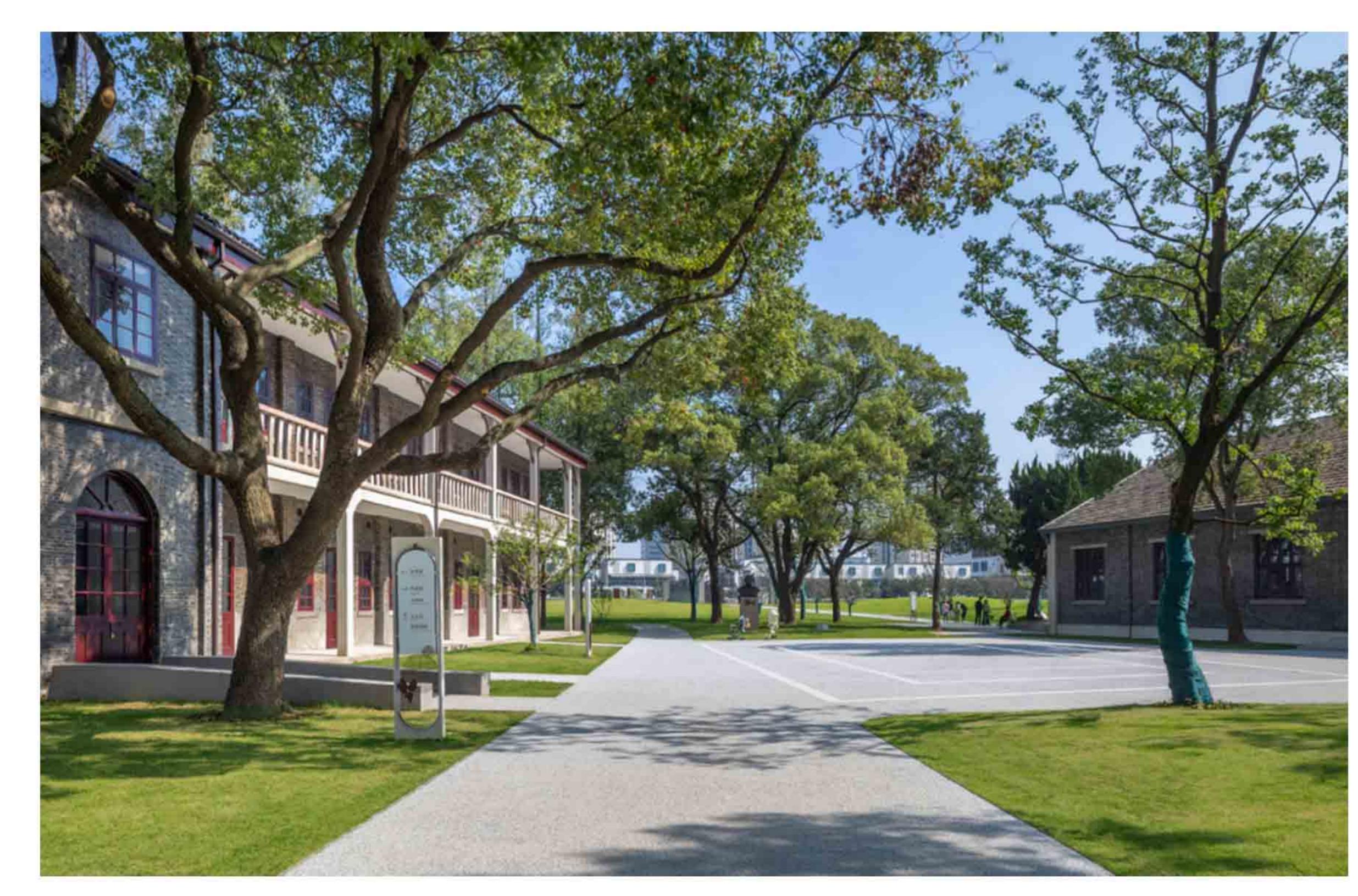


REVITALIZED ANCIENT TREES

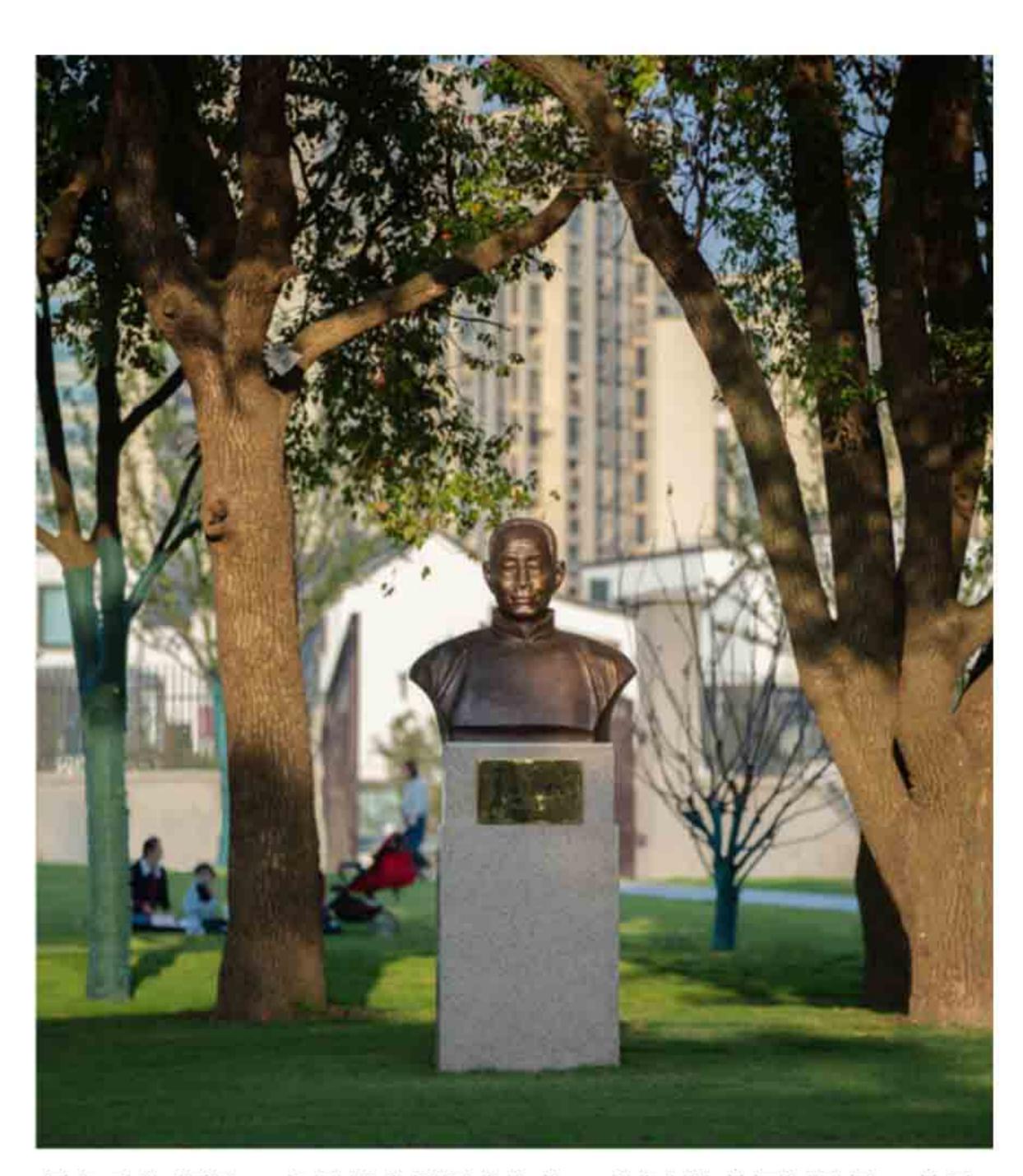
As the main gathering space of the former campus, the volleyball court retains its historical trace in this renovation, emphasizing its assembly function. Through the restoration of campus pathways, it becomes the central square of the park, intersecting the east-west thoroughfare.



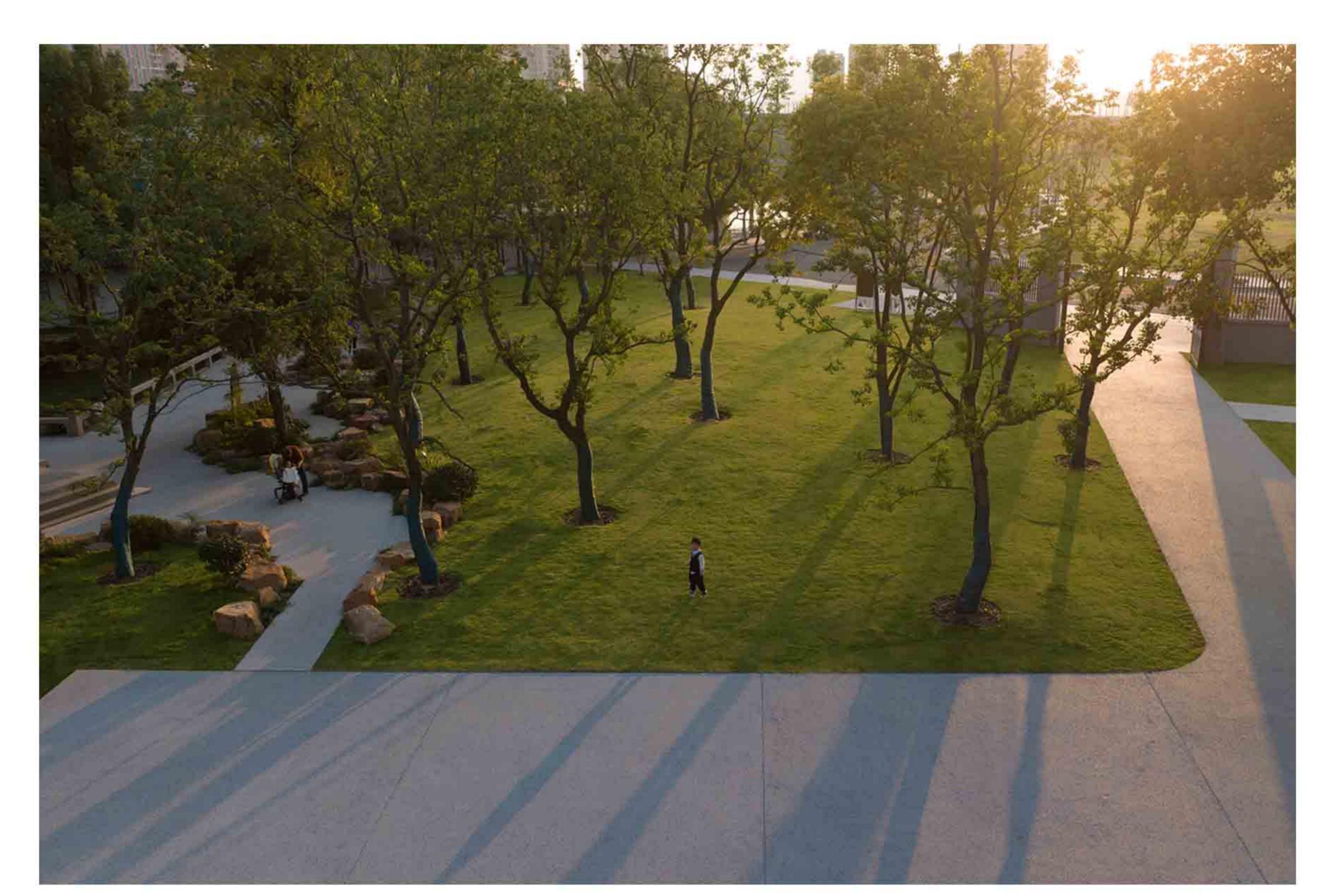
VOLLEYBALL COURT AS THE CENTRAL JOINT OF THE SITE



THROUGH THE WEST GATE TO THE CENTRAL SQUARE



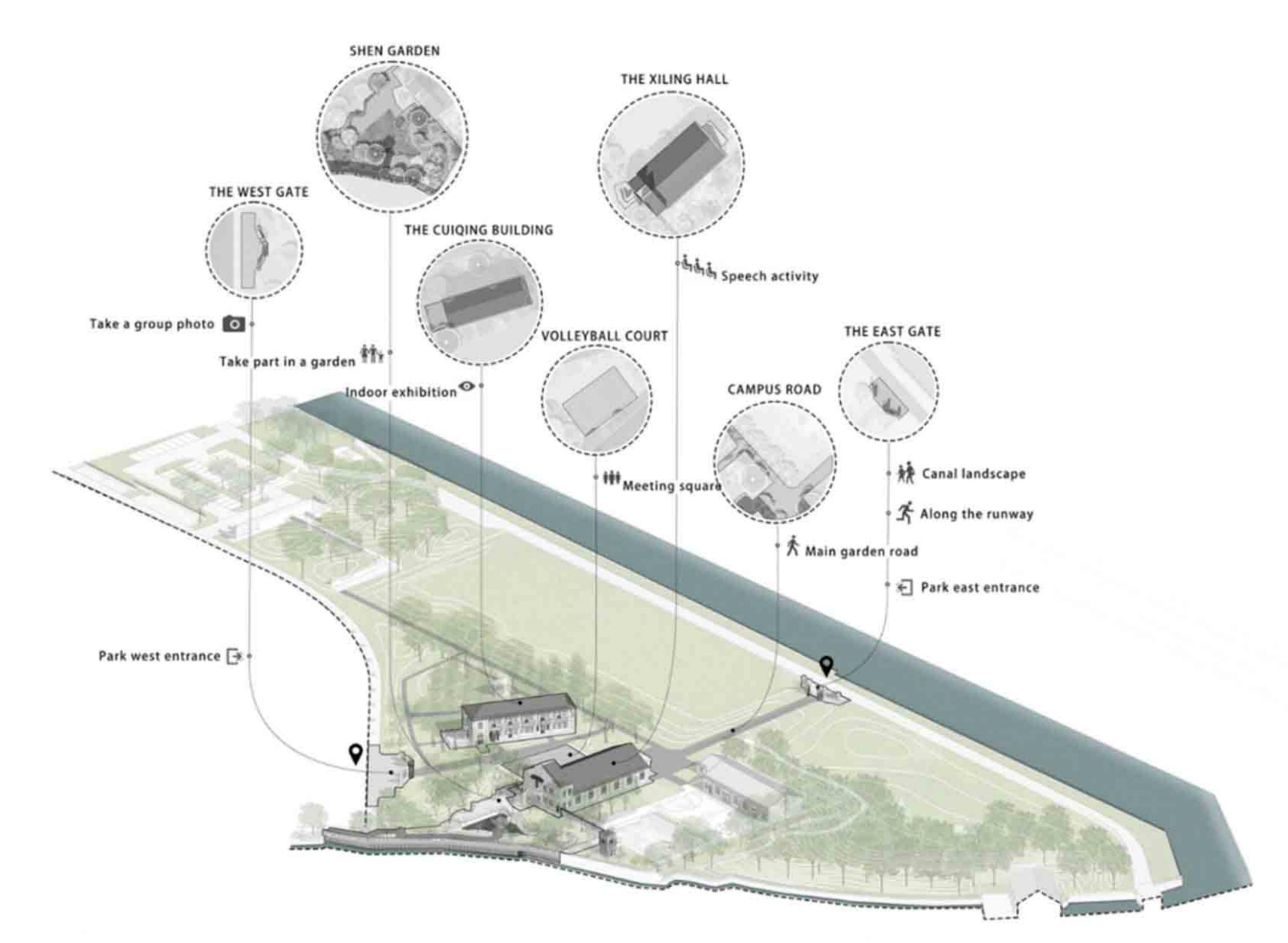
FORMER PRINCIPALS SCULPTURE BE-NEATHTHE ANCIENT FRAGRANT CAM-PHOR TREE



THE NEWLY PLANTED CHINESE TALLOW FOREST RESHAPED THE WEST ENTRANCE IN-TERFACE

Crossing the "Road of Hope" to the south, the old sericulture school site in the old days came into view, this carries the construction and development of modern sericulture discipline of Jiangnan century-old school is now in another capacity for the Chinese sericulture culture to inject new vitality. The campus gate embodies deep memories for generations of students at the Suzhou Sericulture College. Following the old photographs, the original styled campus gate has been faithfully restored in a 1:1 ratio, shaping the entrance interface to recreate the scenes of campus life from bygone days.

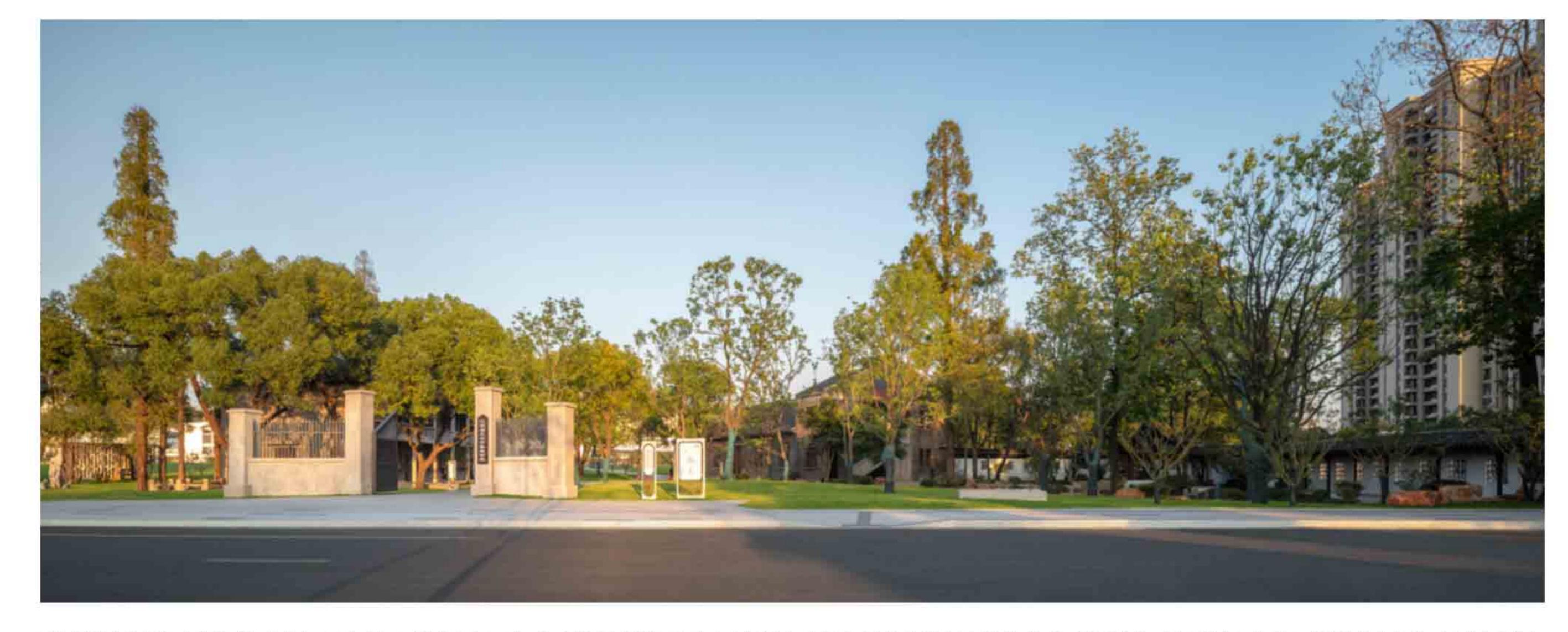
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THE CAMPUS GATE, VOLLEYBALL COURT, ACADEMIC BUILDINGSTREE-LINED PATH, AND SHEN GARDEN RETAIN THEIR ORIGINALLANDSCAPE FUNCTIONS, SEAMLESSLY BLENDING



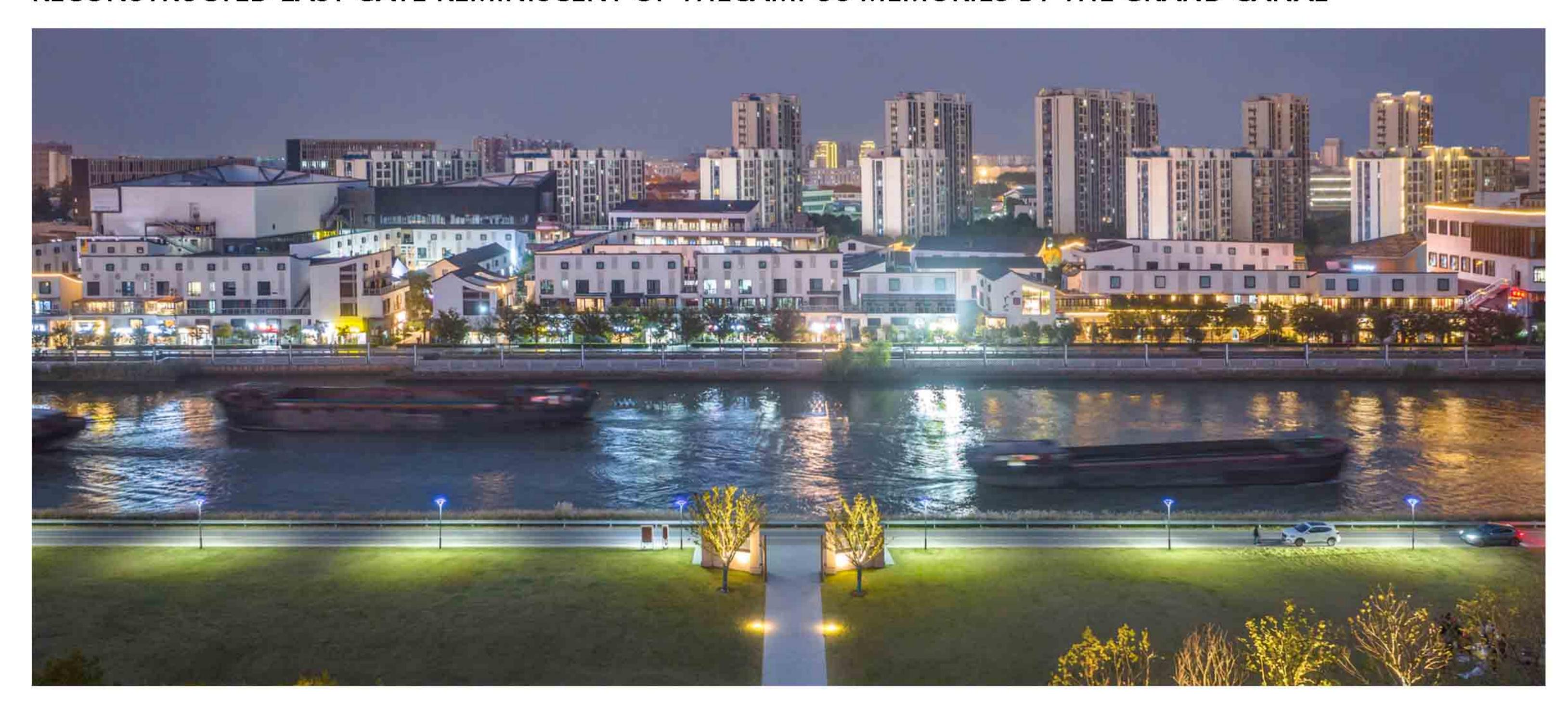
HISTORICAL PHOTOS OF THE GATES



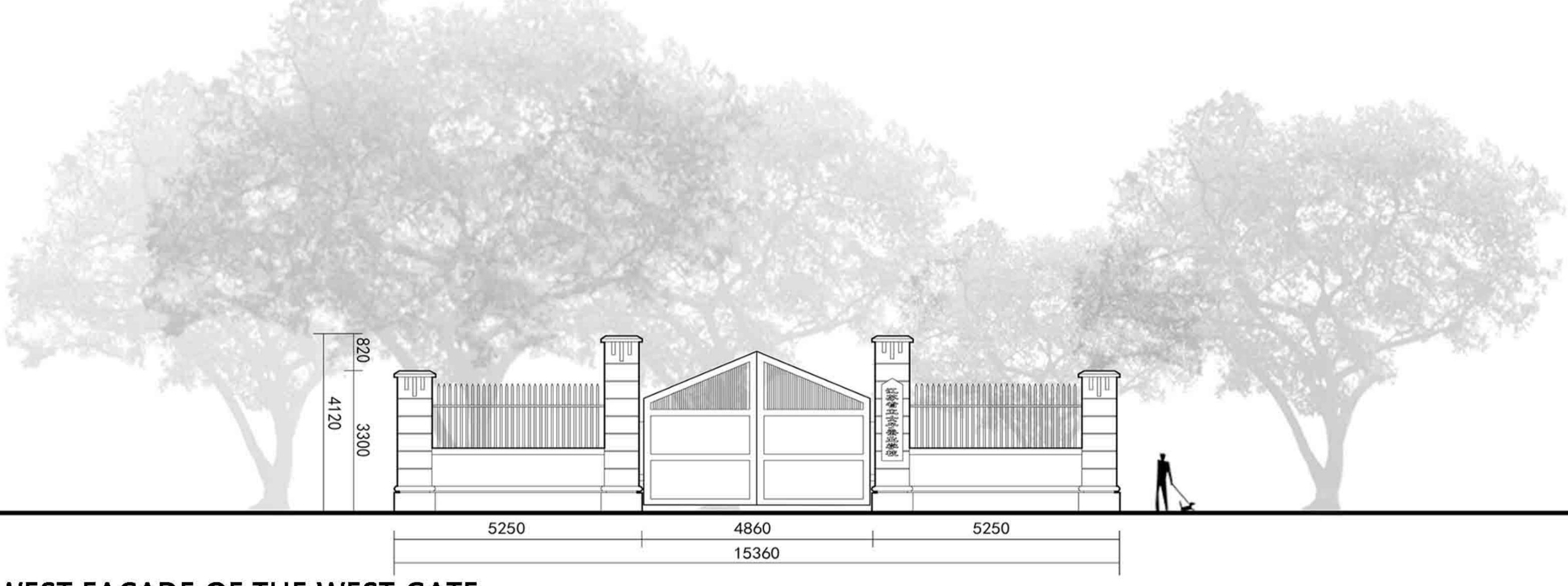
RECONSTRUCTED EAST GATE REMINISCENT OG THE CAMPUS MEMORIES BY THE GRAND CANAL



RECONSTRUCTED EAST GATE REMINISCENT OF THECAMPUS MEMORIES BY THE GRAND CANAL



EAST GATE OF THE PARK AT NIGHT



WEST FACADE OF THE WEST GATE

The campus gate carries the deep memories of several generations of students to the silkworm school. The design restores the old school gate according to historical photos, thus shaping the west entrance interface and realizing the transformation of the scene of the old campus life.







The Cuiqing Building, also known as the Luye Building and situated to the north of the square, served as a silkworm rearing facility from 1912 to 1937, representing the sole surviving pre-war educational building. Guided by the original building's photograph and in harmony with the architectural style of the Republic of China, the design project renovates and enhances it to function as an indoor exhibition space within the park.

REVAMPED CUIQING BUILDING







Around 1947, the alumnus from this school contributed funds to erect a small auditorium for the sericulture school, naming it Xiling Hall in homage to the legendary figure Xiling Shi, credited with the invention of sericulture, silk reeling, and clothing making. The design project revitalizes the original site to maintain its role as a public lecture hall.



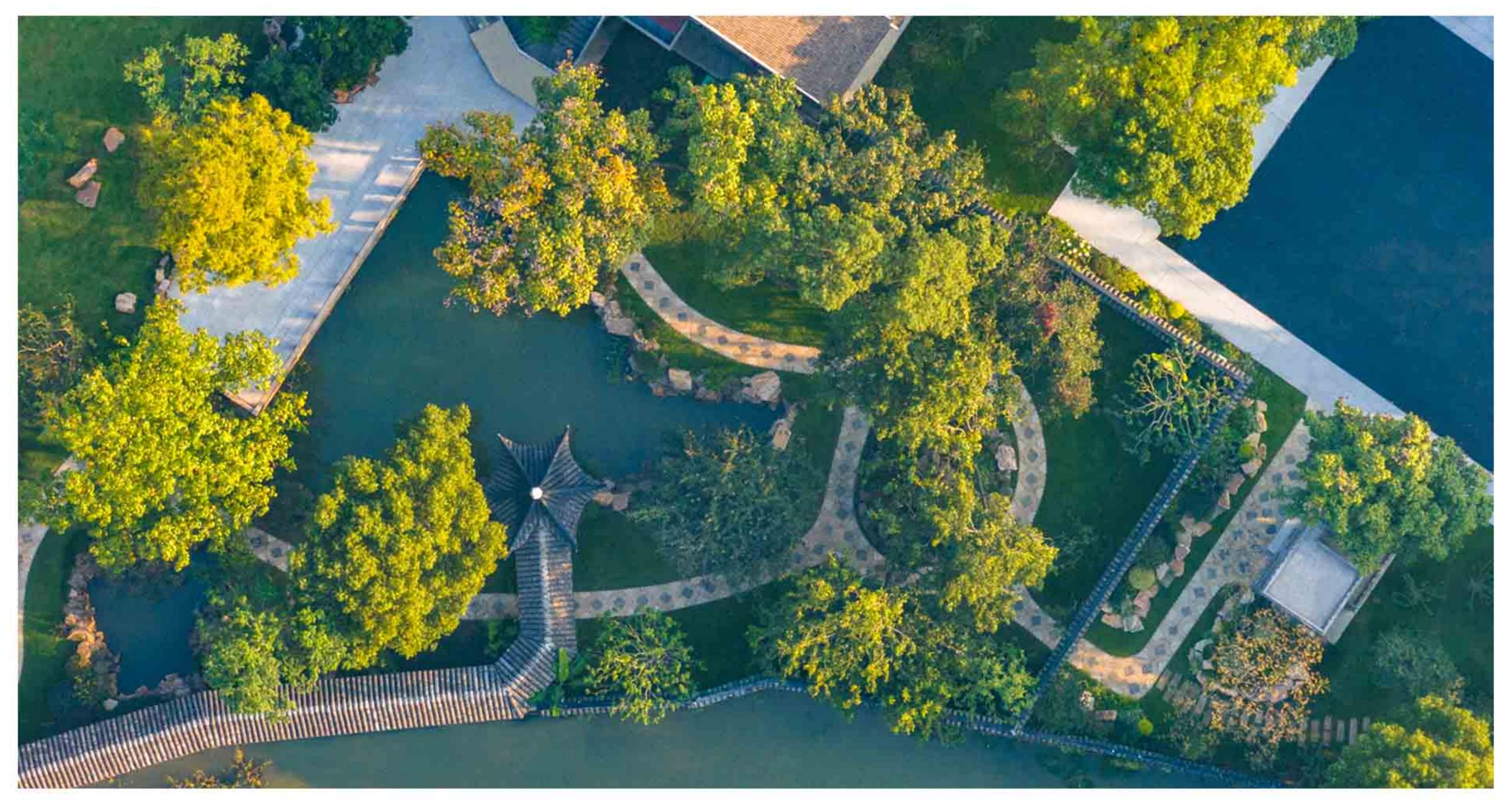
THE CAMPUS TREE LINED WALKWAYS NOW SERVE AS THE MAIN PATHWAY OF THE PARK

The tree-lined path of the old campus, serving as the backbone road connecting the park's north and south, is to be extended.



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AERIAL VIEW OF THE SHEN GARDEN



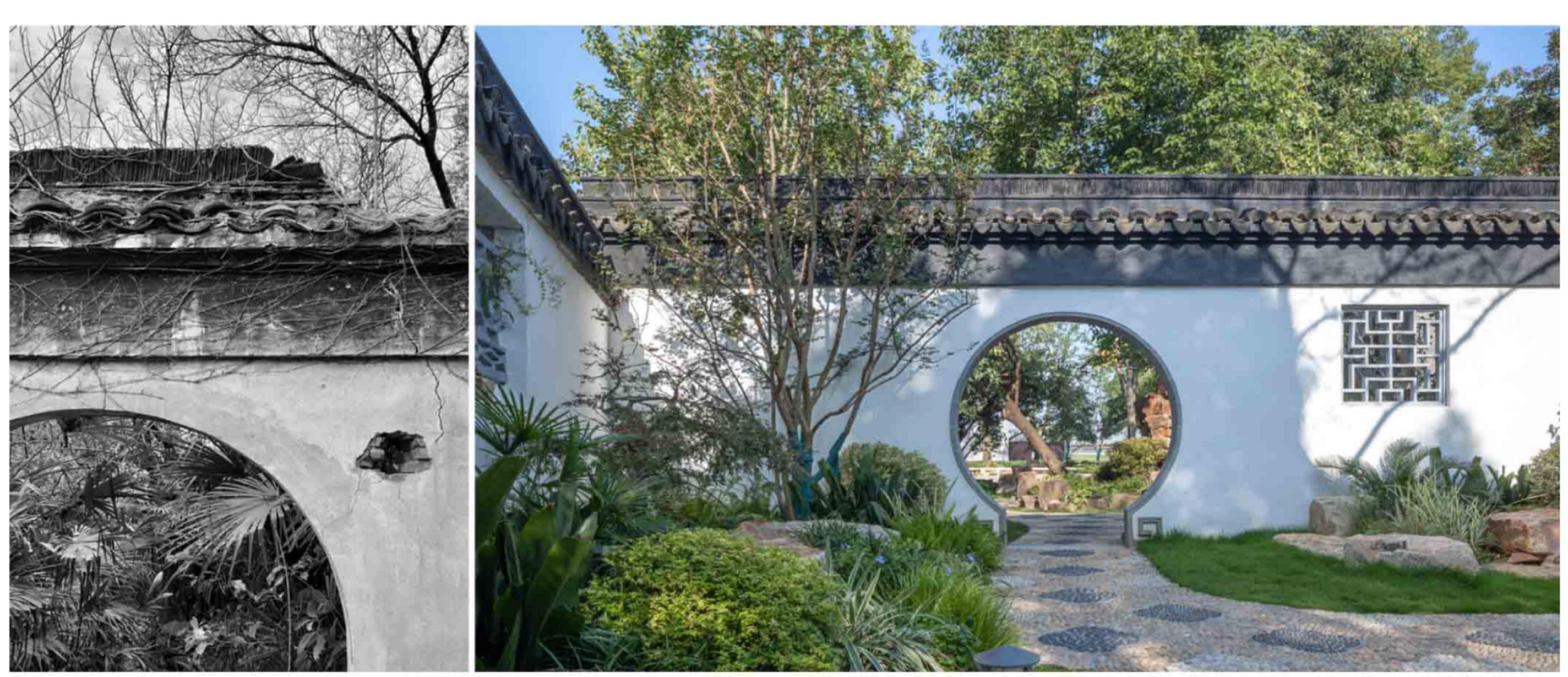
OUTER WALL OF THE SHEN GARDEN IS REPAIREDAND INTENTIONALLY MADE TO LOOK WEATHERED



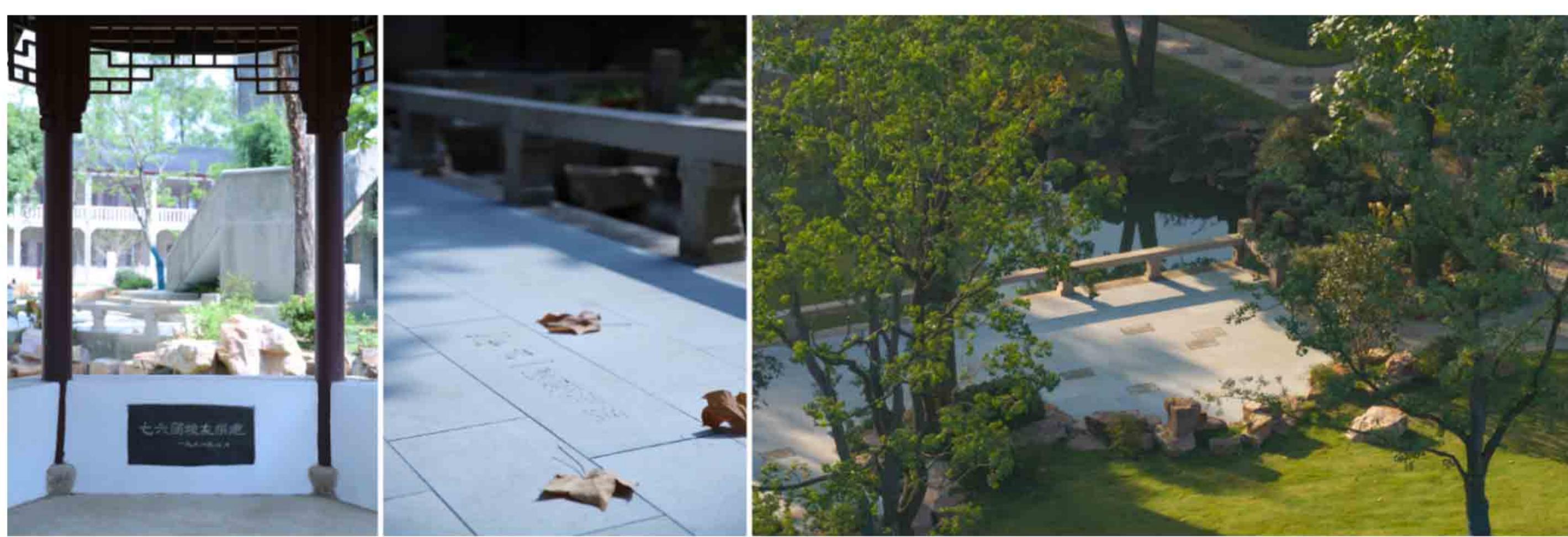
THE YELLOW STONE PEAK "COEXISTS" WITH THE ANCIENT MULBERRY TREES



INTERPLAY BETWEEN REPUBLICAN ARCHITECTURE AN SUZHOU-STYLE GARDENS

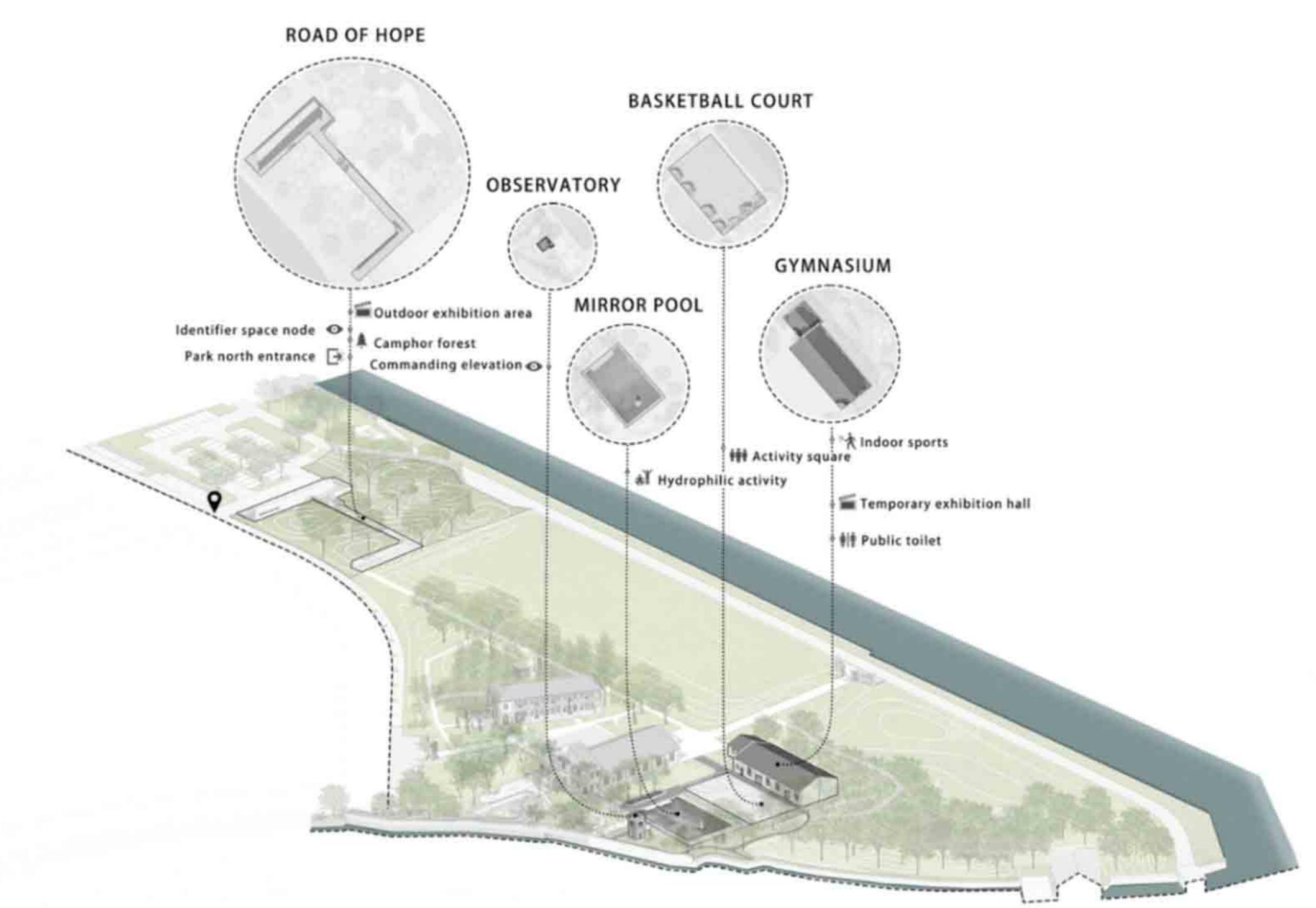


LOOKING INTO THE GARDEN THROUGH THE MOON GATE



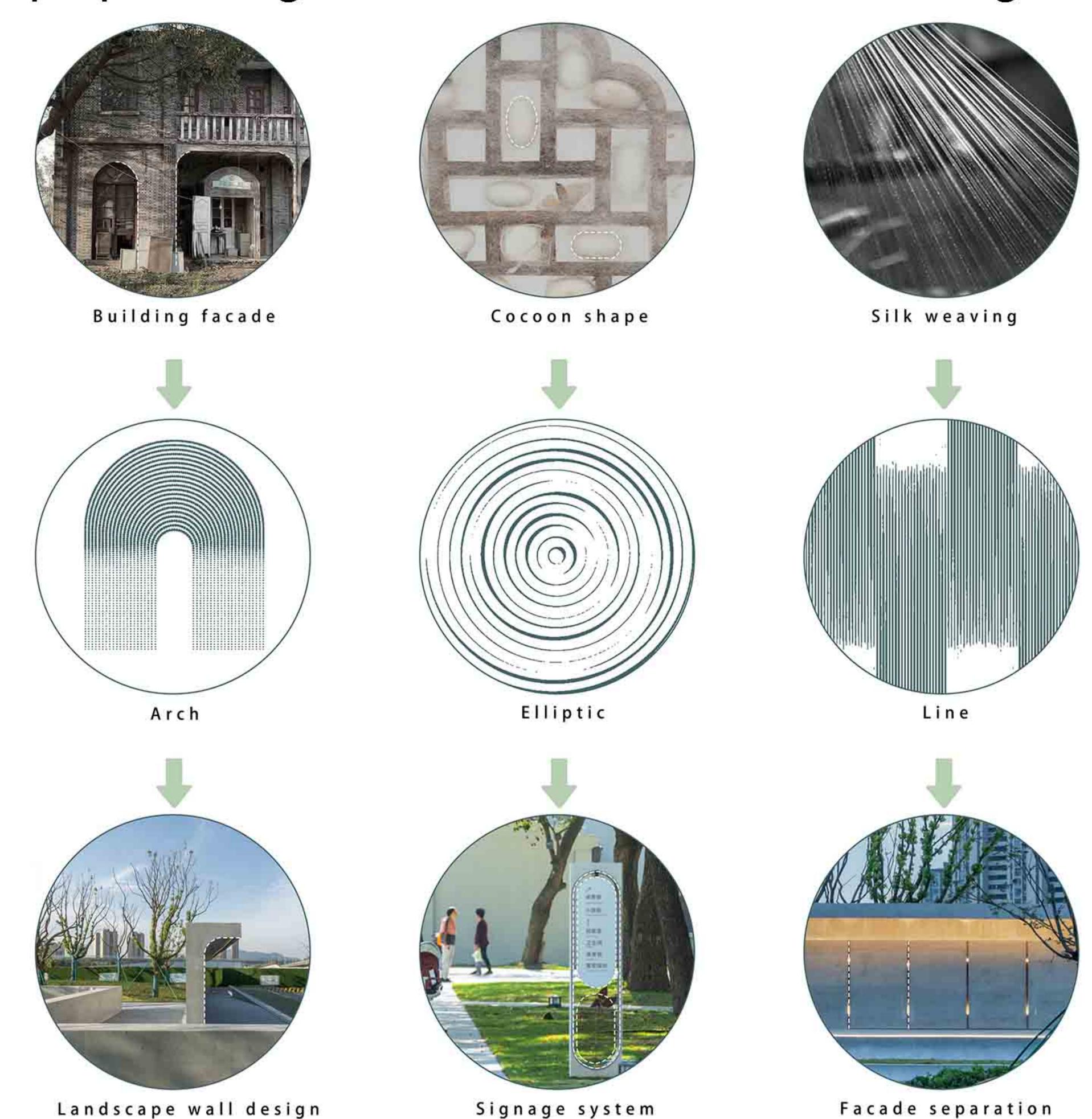
ETCHING OF TIME

Shen Garden, a small Suzhou-style garden funded by the Year of 1976 graduates, has undergone a comprehensive facelift. The design perpetuating the simple and elegant, refreshing and tranquil garden ambiance of the sericulture school.

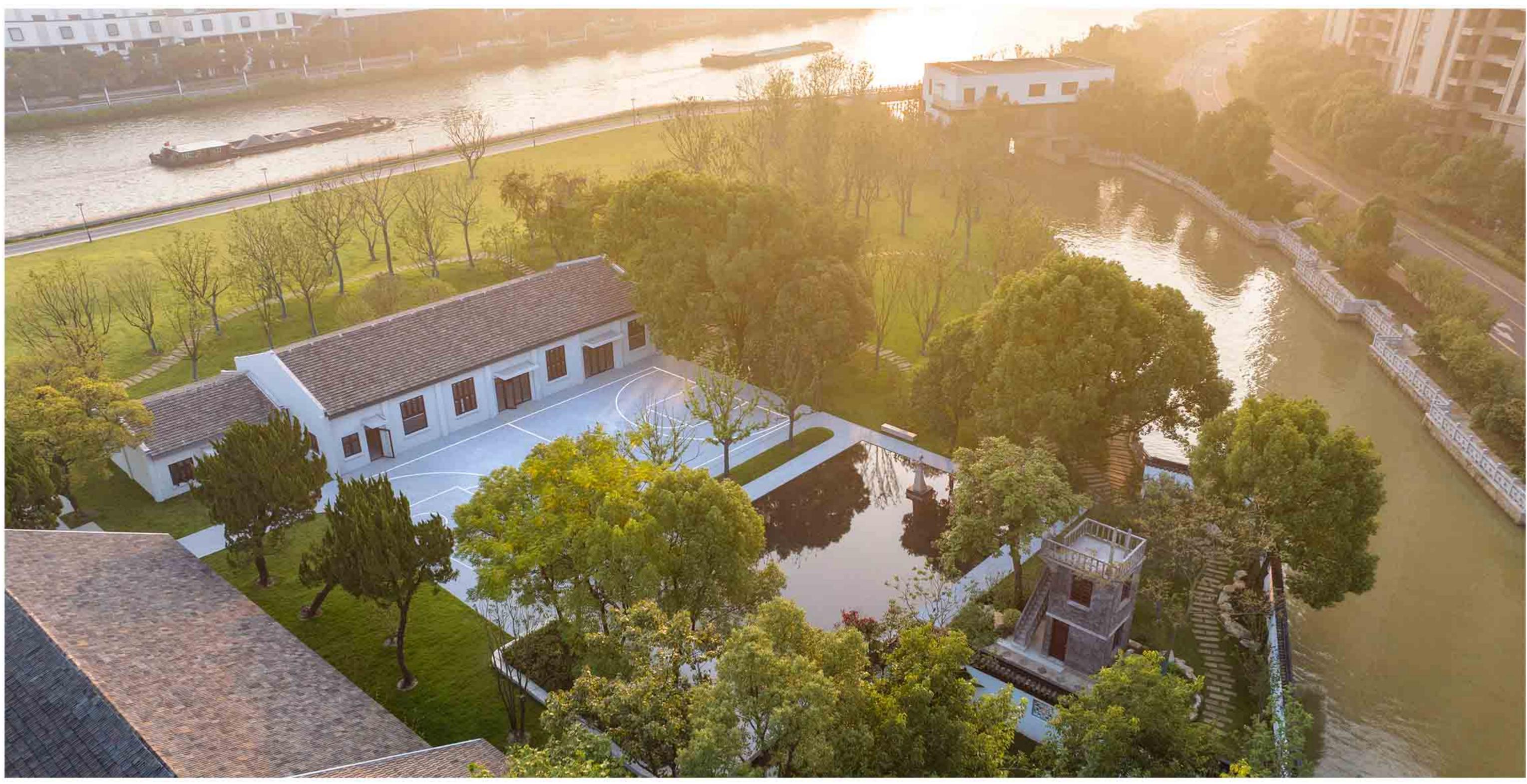


RESHAPED METEOROLOGICAL STATION, SWIMMING POOL, GYMNASIUM, AND NORTHERN ENTRANCE

Much like the silkworm's cacoon-break, the shift of the site's attributes has rendered some of its former spaces devoid of their original functions. Through the modern reinterpretation of site elements and the dual empowerment of canal culture and campus culture, the design reshapes the site to meet the park's usage needs, perpetuating the site's memories and fostering new vitality.



SITE ELEMENT EXTRADITION



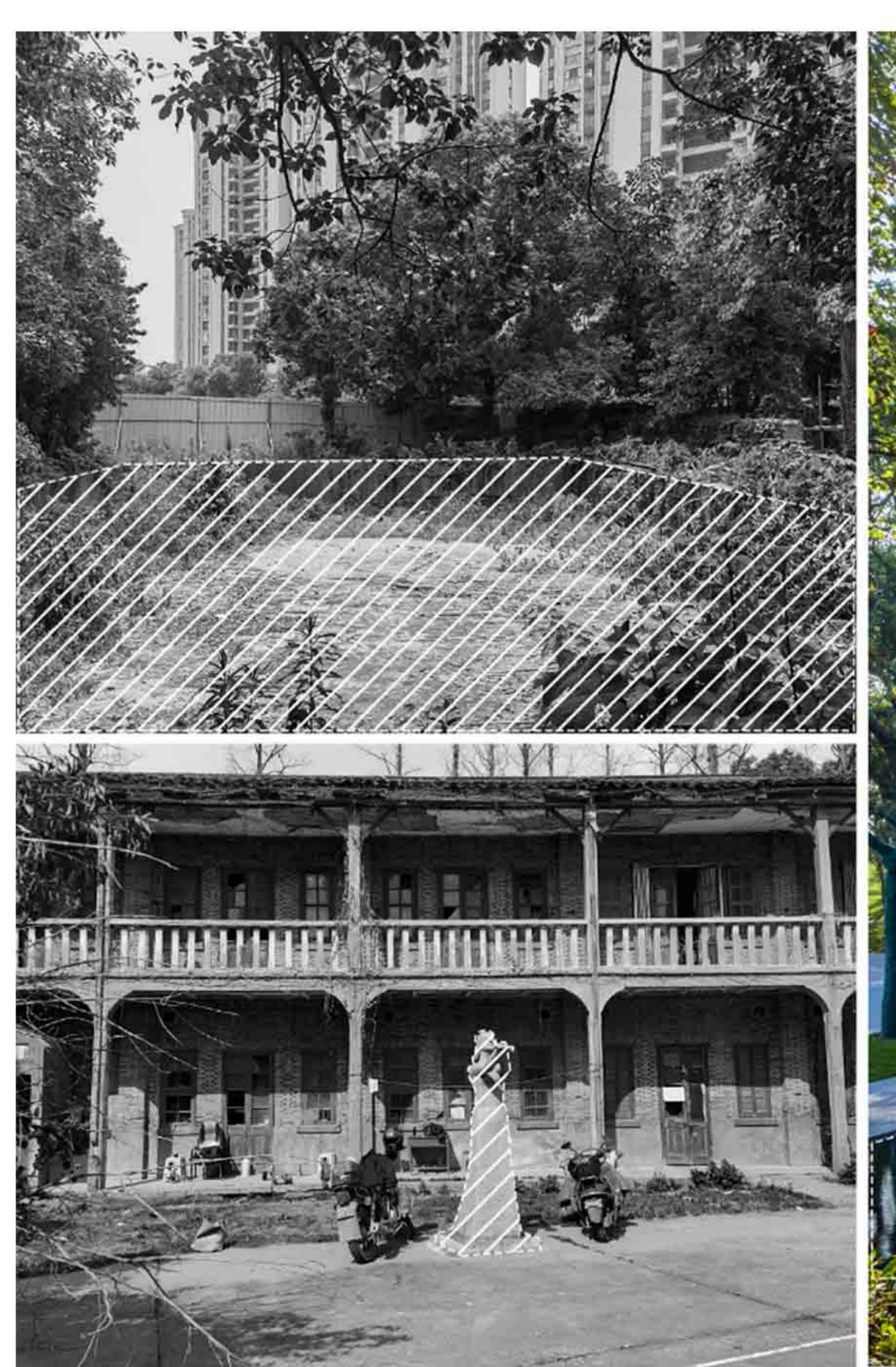
AERIAL VIEW OF THE REGION

The former site of Suzhou Sericulture College has seen significant deterioration in its meteorological observatory, swimming pool, and gymnasium, rendering them unsuitable for park usage. Additionally, the northern entrance area needs to be re-defined. To address these areas, a distinctive transformation plan has been devised to revitalize the park while maintaining continuity with the existing functional nodes, thus creating extensive interaction between the old and the new, and fostering a cultural experience that transcends time and space.



RECONSTRUCTED GYMNASIUM

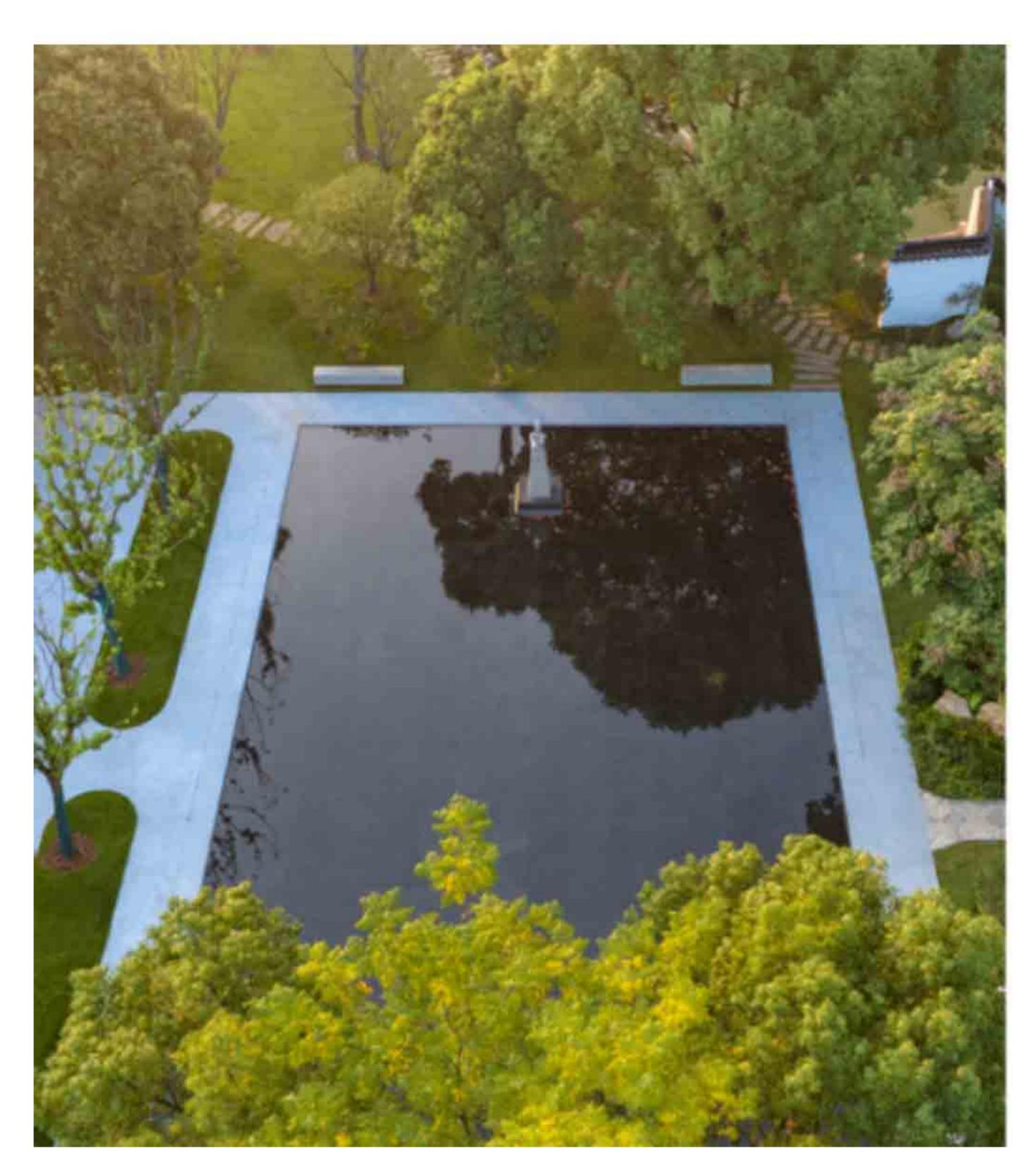
Referencing historical photographs, the severely dilapidated gymnasium is reconstructed in its original location and repurposed as a venue for park activities. The former basketball court in front of the gymnasium is preserved to retain its historical significance and serves as an event plaza.



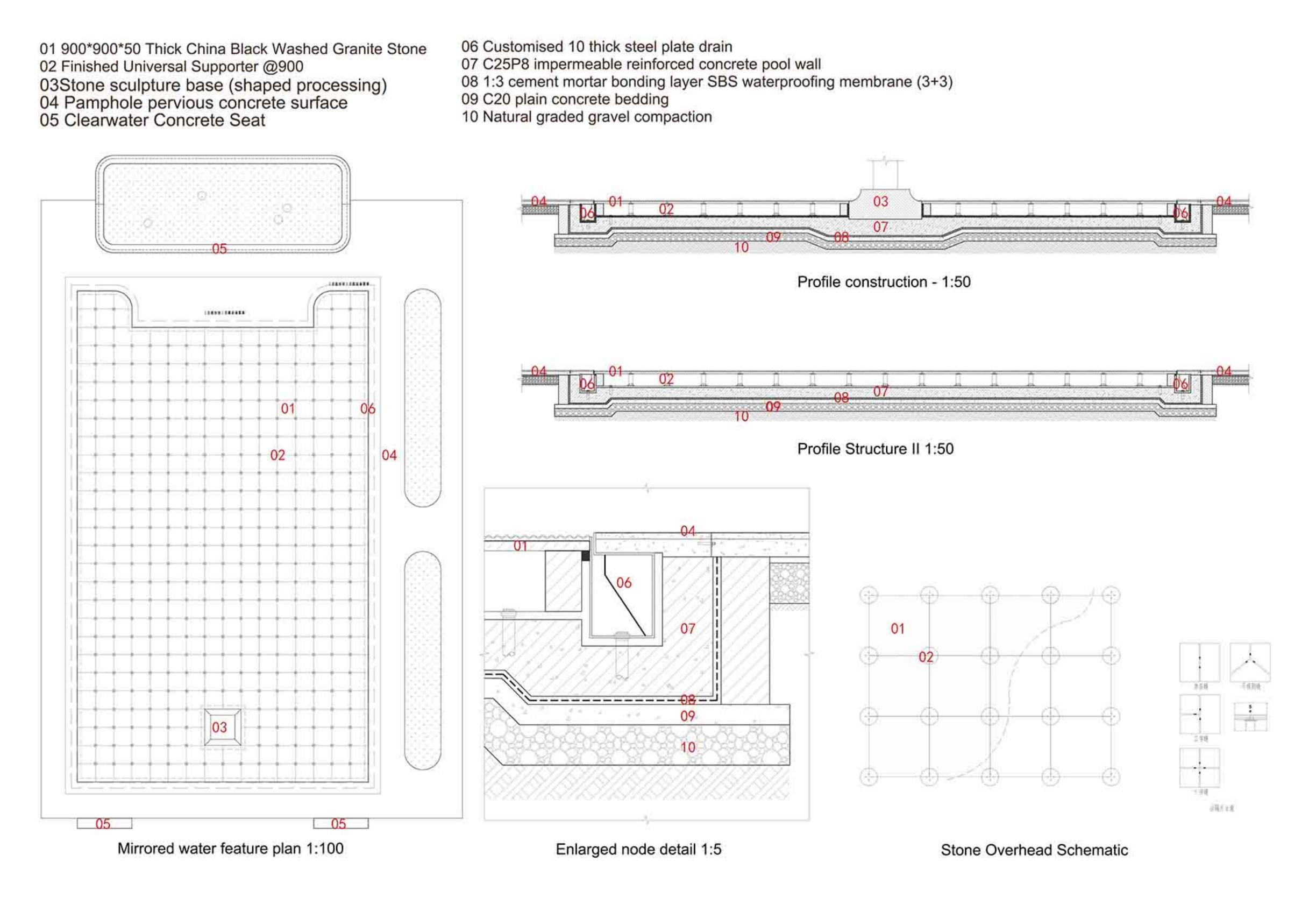


TRANSFORMED MIRROR WATER POOL

The gymnasium faces the meteorological observatory on the west, while the dilapidated former swimming pool lies in between. It is to be transformed into a mirror water pool, allowing the historical buildings such as the gymnasium on the east, Xiling Hall to the north, and the meteorological observatory to the west to be reflected within it. This expression approaches stronger interactions with the surrounding areas.



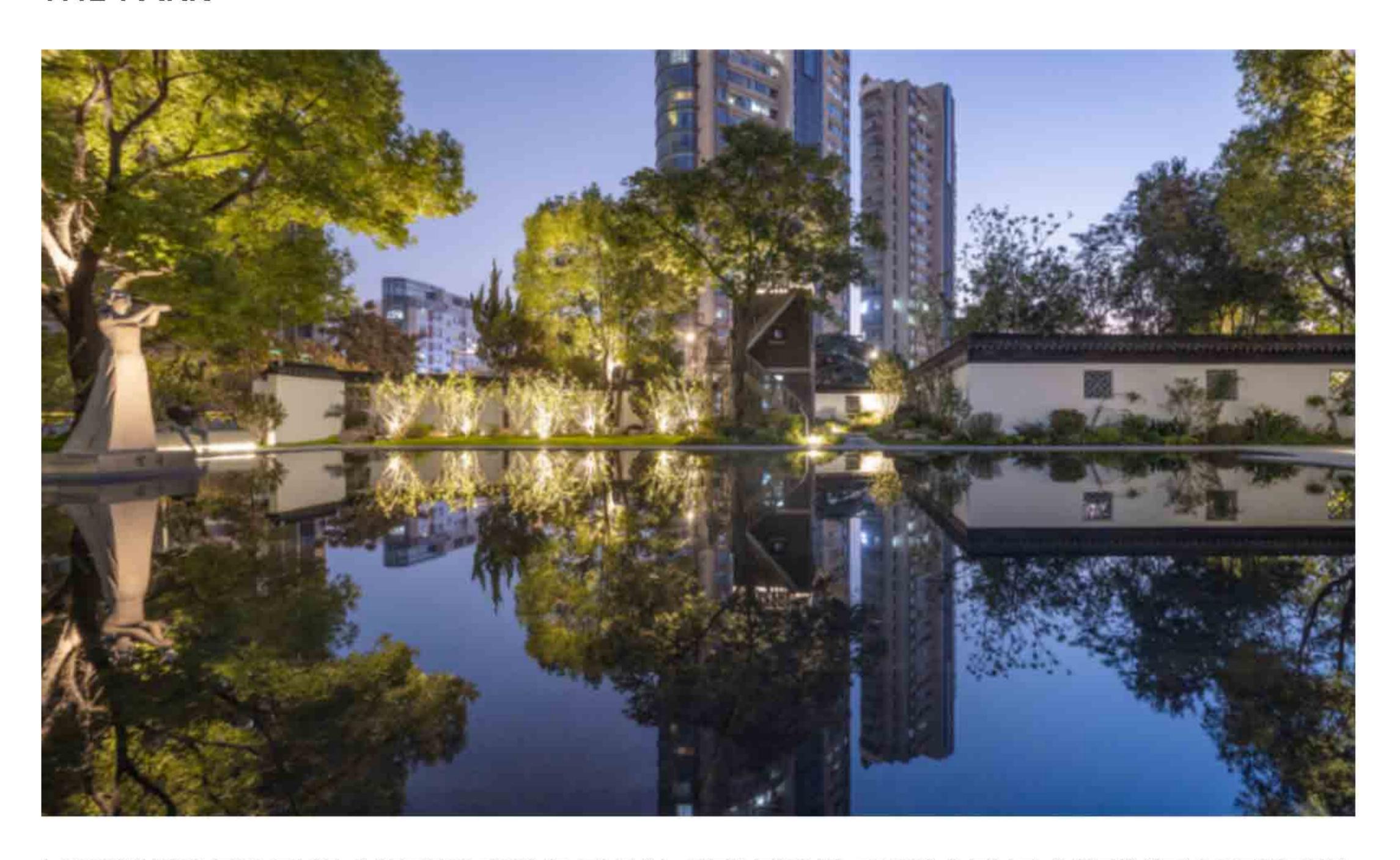
THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE WATER LANDSCAPE



CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS OF THE MIRROR WATER POOL



REVAMPED METEOROLOGICAL STATION IS NOW THE HIGHTEST POINT OF THE PARK



LOOKING TO THE METEOROLOGICAL STATION FROM THE ACTIVITY CENTER

Running perpendicular to the architectural axis in the north-south direction, a series of campus sculptures are installed. The "Goddess of Hope" statue, holding a white dove, stands atop the water, establishing a new order of the water landscape. Surrounding the water feature, Chinese Snowball trees are planted, evoking memories of the campus when silkworm rearing began with the blooming of the Snowball flowers.