

Project Title:

Shanghai Caoyang Centennial Park

Project Statement:

Shanghai Caoyang Centennial Park, a pioneering urban renewal endeavor in Putuo District, Shanghai, transforms a 1000m long linear space into a high line park, exemplifying innovation, harmony, and greenery.

Retaining the historical memories and the emotional significance for the residents, landscape design integrates ecology, lifestyle, and landscape elements, revitalizing a 1000m long-unused ribbon space.

Given the site's current long and narrow spatial structure and its fragmented condition. Our team intends to utilize the three-dimensional topography to create a multidimensional and continuous open space, aiming to break away from the existing spatial limitations and enhance the functional possibilities of the open space.

We aim to rebuild the abandoned area which will provide the community and recreational space for surrounding residents and citizens. We try to add vitality and energy into the 70 years-old community area.

The park sets a precedent for urban renewal projects, offering functional versatility and promoting community engagement. Despite challenges in designing activity spaces, our approach emphasizes multi-dimensionality, showcasing the project's pioneering role in spatial design. Shanghai Caoyang Centennial Park is deserving of recognition for its transformative impact, fostering inclusivity, sustainability, and a renewed sense of communal pride.

Project Narrative and Contents

■ BACKGROUND, LOCATION, SIZE

Caoyang Centennial Park is located in Caoyang Xincun, Putuo District, Shanghai. Caoyang Xincun was the earliest planned workers' community by the PRC's government, bears special collective memories and historical processes of that age. The site of the current project was originally the Zhenru freight railway branch line, which later became the Caoyang Railway local Market. The market officially ceased operations in 2019.

The project site is a long and narrow space, approximately 1,000m in length and covering an area of about approximately 10,165 square meters. An existing municipal road cuts through the center of the site, dividing it into northern and southern sections. The site is surrounded by several old residential areas. Following the cessation of its market operations, the site transitioned into a neglected and disjointed space within the urban fabric.

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Caoyang Xincun, the 2021 Shanghai Urban Space Art Season presents an opportunity for revitalization. Embracing the principle of "cultivating culture, constructing art", the PUTUO District government aims to transform a 1,000-meter-long vacant space. This initiative seeks to inject new vitality into the aging residential community.

■ EXISTING SITUATION OF SITE

The special linear site, having served as a railway-land and then a market for over 20 years, is a typical left-over space in megacities. We realize at first sight that even in a familiar city there are unexpected and surprising offcut spaces, and we must consider how to recycle them in the time of urban redevelopment.

Considering the current long and narrow spatial structure of the site and its fragmented condition. Our team intends to utilize the three-dimensional topography to create a multidimensional and continuous open space, aiming to break away from the existing spatial limitations and enhance the functional possibilities of the open space. Through a multilevel strategy the narrow site expands itself threefold for different use by different people in nearby residences, schools and offices.

■ DESIGN CONCEPT, STRATEGY, FEATURE

Guided by the principles of "innovation, harmony, greenery, openness, and sharing", the project aims to enhance the fluidity and interactivity of the space. It shapes the spatial layout as a green network structure in the Caoyang area, fostering connectivity and interaction among its users."

The old Caoyang railway market can be seen as a lost fragment of the urban DNA. The design of Caoyang Centennial Park can be considered as the process of revitalizing the urban DNA, encompassing three aspects: Memory, Stitching, and Reborn.

1.Memory: In order to preserve the historical memory of the railway and market, our team plans to retain the existing market nameplates and the old walls that reflect the layout of market stalls. Additionally, we will reinterpret the memory of the railway by designing "platforms" at certain nodes. Some environmental elements of Caoyang Xincun that no longer exist will also be recreated in the form of pavement patterns using mosaic tiles.

2.Stitching: Integrating the three elements of "Ecology, Life, and Landscape":

2.1 Ecology: Establishing close connections between the site and the green space of the surrounding residential areas; facilitating the ecological flow through the project site and surrounding neighborhoods, optimizing the ecological network of localized area, and thereby enhancing regional environmental resilience. Additionally, employing techniques such as three-dimensional greening to maximize the introduction of greenery to the entire site, providing more opportunities for insects and birds to inhabit the area, and enhancing biodiversity.

2.2 Life: Our approach involves introducing various activities and integrating a slow transportation system to establish a high-quality greenway space spanning nearly 1,000m. This initiative aims to enhance residents' opportunities, fostering a neighborly and sociable living environment that contributes positively to the community's overall well-being. Furthermore, the park will be designed to ensure accessibility throughout the entire area, enabling elderly individuals and those with mobility impairments to freely engage in activities. Lastly, by introducing activities such as markets, we aim to attract residents and provide services that inject vitality and vibrancy into the community.

2.3 Landscape: We're creating a fresh look for the community with fun shapes, lively colors, and diverse spaces. Our aim is to give the old area a new vibe and improve the overall landscape of the region.

3.Reborn: By integrating new technologies and innovative thinking, we'll achieve 5G network coverage and implement the concept of digital twin cities. This involves digitizing park guides, public services, community announcements, and more, all accessible through a virtual digital twin park. This initiative aims to create a dynamic and multifunctional technology-driven residential service area.

■ LANDSCAPE-INFRASTRUCTURE

The project transforms a 1,000m long strip of linear space into a "multi-dimensional elevated line form. This development will create a spatial layout comprising " One Bridge, Two Wings, Six Blocks, and Multiple Viewpoints.

1.One Bridge: a three-dimensional corridor with versatile functions. It transforms the flat site into a multi-dimensional space, allowing for the inclusion of various activities such as exhibitions, performances, and recreational pursuits.

2.Two Wings: the space extending north and south from the central junction of the site with Lanxi Road. The northern section towards cultural displays and park imagery, serving as an exhibition space for performances. Meanwhile, the southern section offers more recreational functions and shaded green spaces for residents to enjoy.

3.Six Blocks: Caoyang Centennial Park is divided into six blocks, each with its own unique features and functions: HISTORICAL MEMORY CORE, CITIZEN GARDEN, RESIDENTS' SERVICE EXPERIENCE AREA, ALL-AGE COMPREHENSIVE ACTIVITY AREA, URBAN ART GALLERY, AND URBAN T STAGE. These blocks offer a variety of recreational experiences to meet different needs and interests.

4.Multiple Viewpoints: Multiple scenic spots arranged throughout the site to meet the needs of residents, enhance the visibility of the three-dimensional high line, showcase creative lifestyles, and connect the vitality of the community.

■ Social Impact

Caoyang Centennial Park opened on September 25, 2021, serving as the main venue for the 2021 Shanghai Urban Space Art Season. Since its opening, it has garnered attention and praise from local residents, various sectors of society, and the media. The park's completion has brought positive changes to the ecological and social environment of the Caoyang Xincun, which has a history of more than 70 years.

The park's success can be attributed to its comprehensive approach to urban renewal, which balances site's historical memory with modern innovation. By addressing the needs and preferences of the community, the park has become a beloved public space that enhances the quality of life for its residents. The integration of ecological principles, community engagement, and technological advancements sets a benchmark for future urban park projects.

Caoyang Centennial Park exemplifies how thoughtful design and community involvement can transform urban spaces. The park's multifaceted approach, which includes historical memory interpretation, ecological integration, and technological innovation, has created a dynamic and sustainable public space. The project's success highlights the importance of considering social, environmental, and technological factors in urban development. As a model for future projects, Caoyang Centennial Park demonstrates the potential for urban parks to foster community, enhance biodiversity, and promote a healthy and vibrant urban environment.

The project's implementation represents a new exploration of urban conservation and renewal in Shanghai, and it provides a thoughtful direction for park and green space development in large cities where land is scarce. By establishing mechanisms for urban renewal, the Centennial Park is poised to become a legacy for future generations.

Images with Captions:



Project Background & Location

Shanghai Caoyang Xincun, the earliest planned worker's community by the PRC's government, bears special collective memories and historical processes of that age.



Project Background & Location

The location of Shanghai Caoyang Centennial Park was a railway branch line of Zhenru Railway, it became to a local farmer market for the last two decades until its inevitable closure during the pandemics in 2019. Once the market shut down, the area had been underutilized use as a free space. The whole area was separated into North Wing and South Wing by a traffic road, and several communities surround it .



Existing situation of site

The special linear site, having served as a railway-land and then a market for over 20 years, is a typical left-over space in megacities.



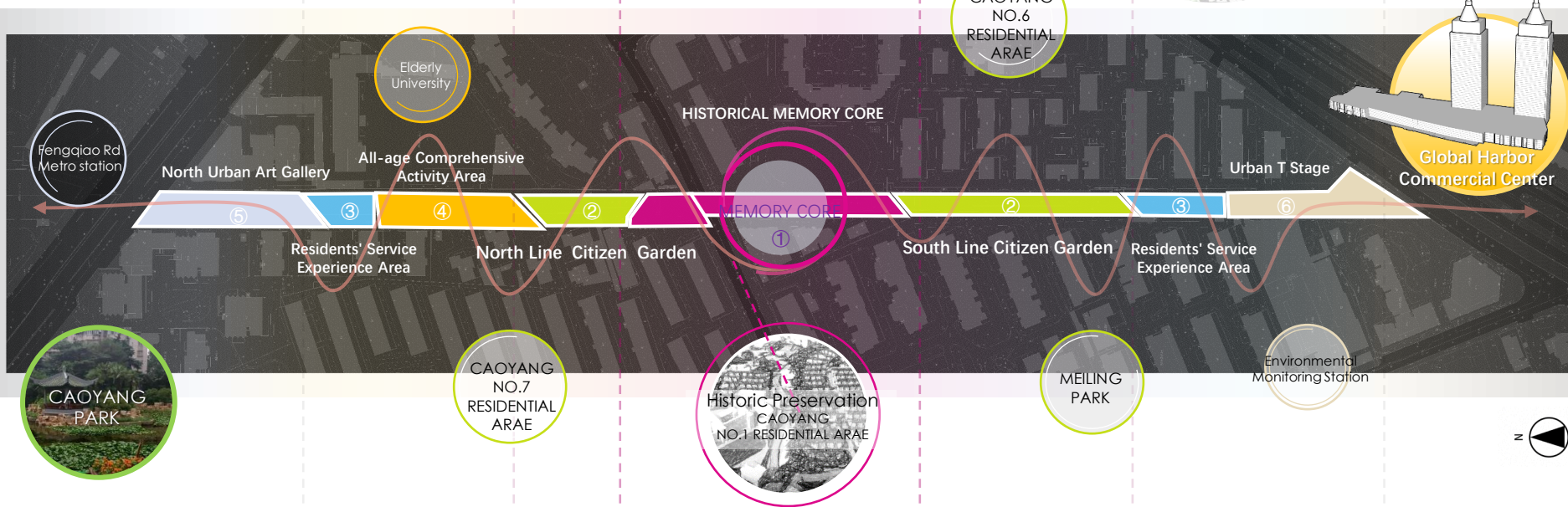
Design Concept

DESIGN VISION: Growing, Interacting, Infinite Green

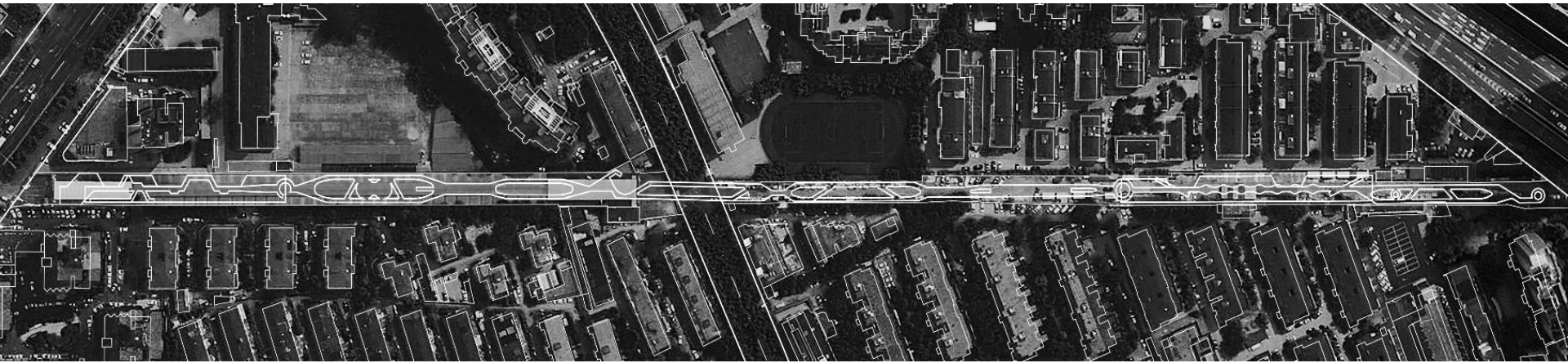
LANDSCAPE-INFRASTRUCTURE: One bridge, Two wings, Six blocks, Multiple viewpoints.

DESIGN STRATEGY: Memory, Stitch, Reborn

The design team started with the site context exploration and created daily scenarios at the park. Re-designed the landscape context of the communities, finally shaping and planting a “Growing” Liner park from the North to the South.



Master Plan



- 1 Entrance Hall of Caoyang

2 Stage

3 Community Square

4 Atypical Playing Field

5 Pedestrian Overpass

6 Shatian Platform

7 Community Art Gallery

8 Bridge of Love

9 tree loop

10 Digital Square
-

Project Promotion Process



Design Strategy: **Memory**, Stitch, Reborn

We reserved the historical characters of the railway and the market: the existing market signage, the old walls; and recreated them as a platform of public arts. The photos showed one area which eventually regenerated into an art wall with light installations.



Design Strategy: **Memory**, Stitch, Reborn

We will reinterpret the memory of the railway by designing "platforms" at certain nodes. These platforms can also provide additional space for the nearby primary school to expand. Some environmental elements of Caoyang Xincun that no longer exist will also be recreated in the form of pavement patterns using mosaic tiles.



Design Strategy: Memory, **Stitch**, Reborn

The combination of “**ECOLOGY, LIFE, LANDSCAPE**”.

ECOLOGY: Connection between the site and landscape context surroundings.

LIFE: Creating a resident-friendly environment by community events and systemic promenades.

LANDSCAPE: The development of a new landscape environment could promote the regional landscape.



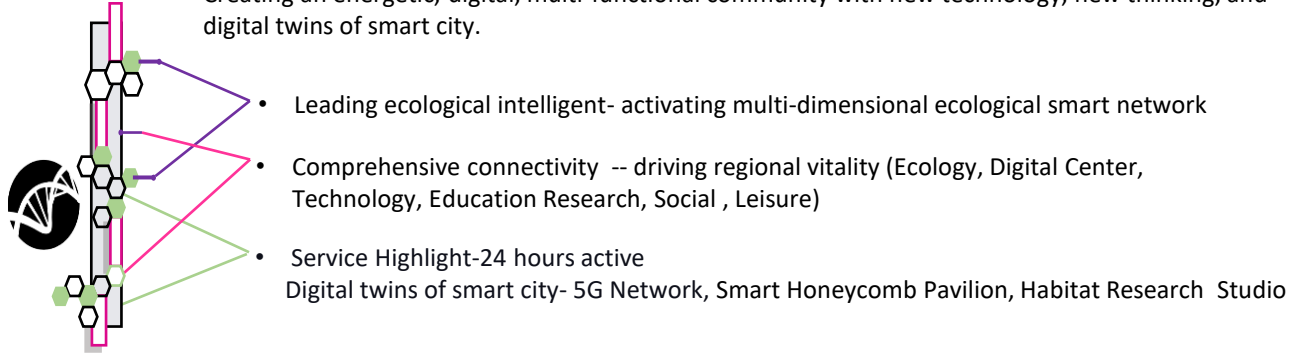
Design Strategy: Memory, **Stitch**, Reborn

Create spaces where people with disabilities can move freely and provide gathering places for people to interact through design.



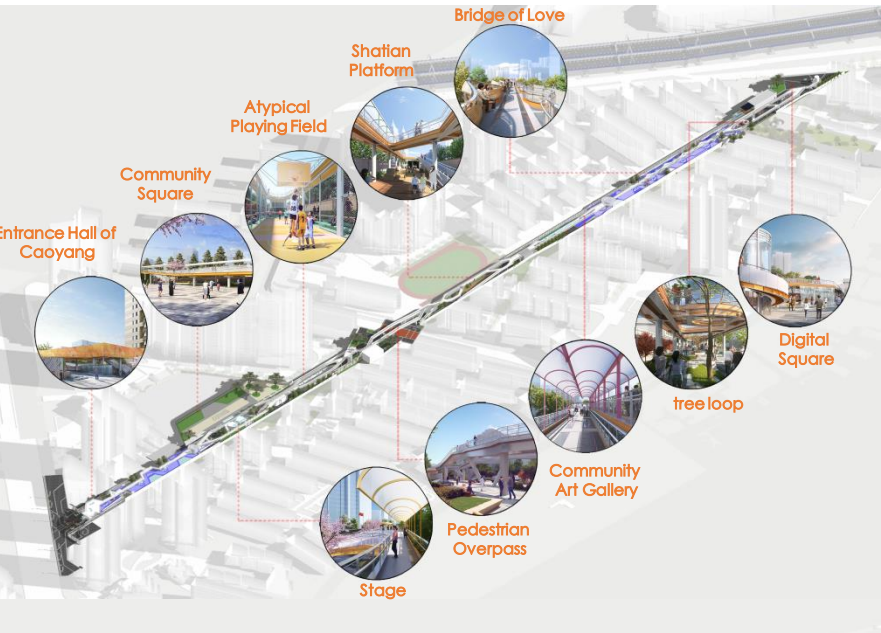
Design Strategy: Memory, Stitch, **Reborn**

Creating an energetic, digital, multi-functional community with new technology, new thinking, and digital twins of smart city.



Centennial Park Scenes

The linear park is 1km long, including the North and the South wing. It provides enough open space for entertainment, sports, culture, and arts. Also, its multi-dimensional space could gather communities with energy and convenience.

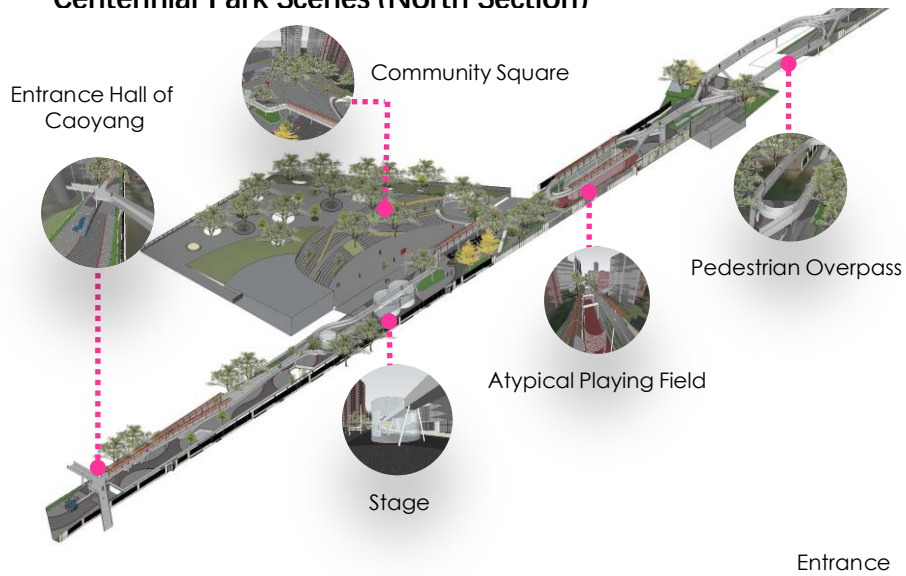


AXO Drawing of the Park

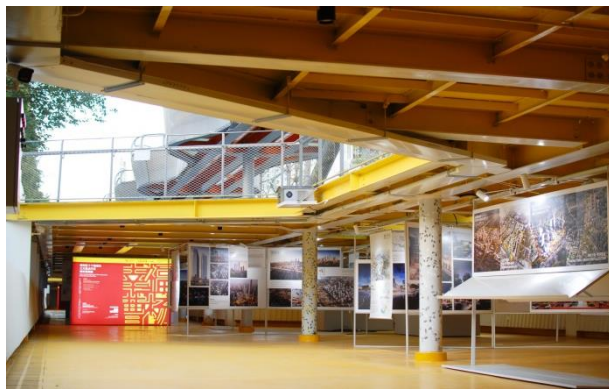


Aerial View of North Entrance

Centennial Park Scenes (North Section)



Three Level Bridge



Three Level Space



The Land Tells First

Community Square & Stage



Night View of Landscape



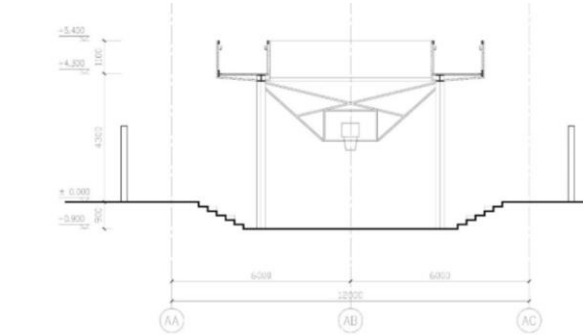
Stage Continuous Terraces



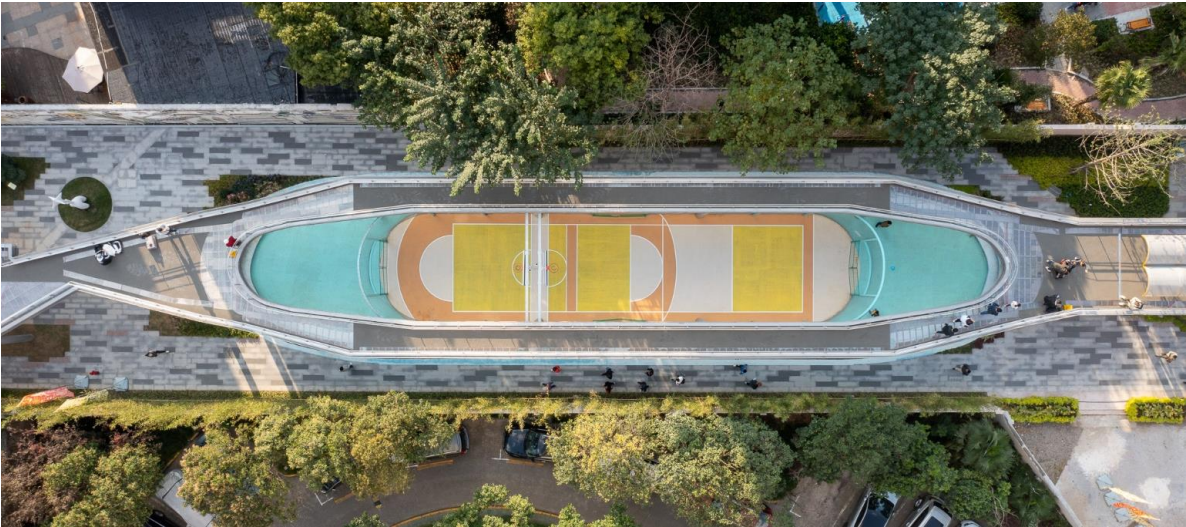
Stage Night View



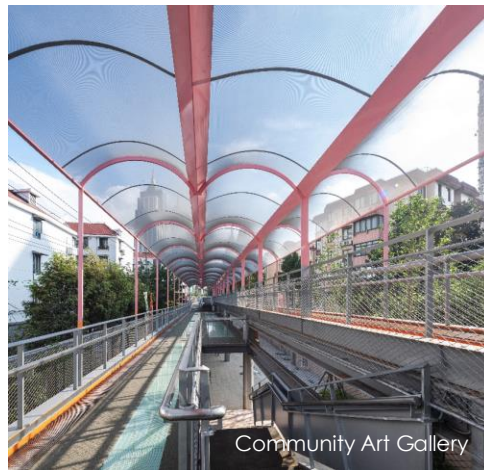
Atypical Playing Field



Playground Section

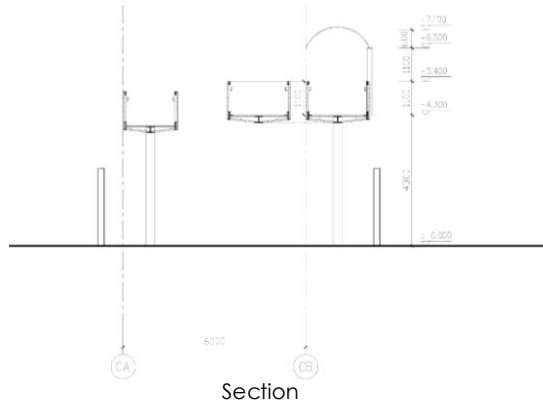


Centennial Park Scenes (South Section)



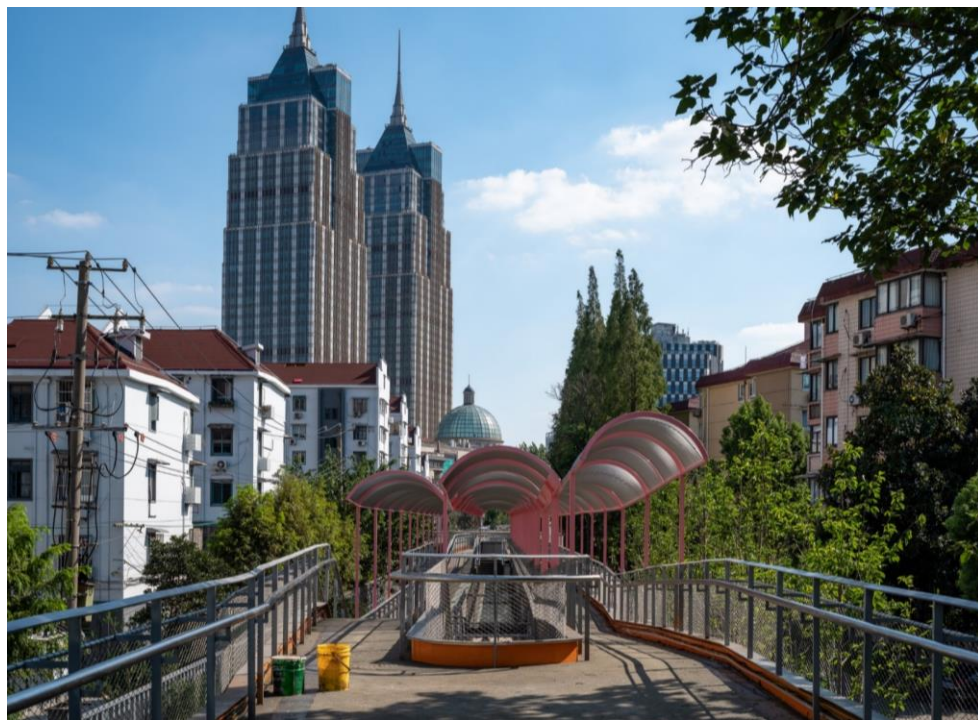
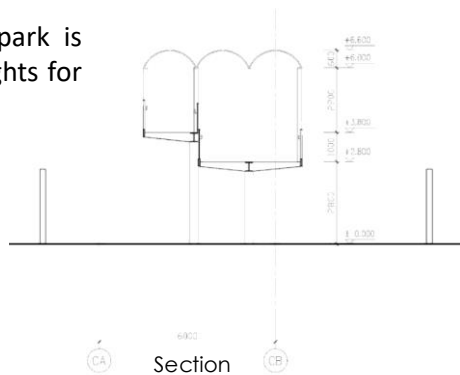
Shatian Platform

It besides the Shatian Primary School Playground. In order to release the traffic during after-school time, parents could wait children from the Platform while they go through the area under the Platform. Also, the name "Platform" is a trace of history of the railway station as a metaphor.



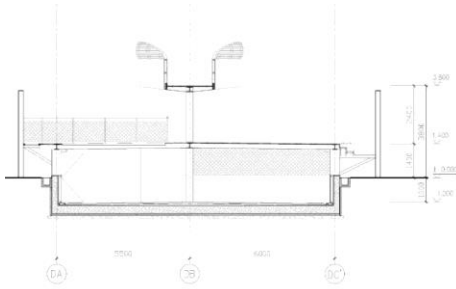
Community Art Gallery

In the middle South wing, the park is narrowed in to two different heights for a 50-meter art gallery.



Bridge of Love

Bridge of Love was designed with limited site area and heights, therefore, the design team transferred the rectangle shape into “wave”, the expanded seats definitely brought more interesting to the area .



Section



Chinese Parasol Garden

Chinese Parasol Garden was a free space at the end of the South Wing, but currently it is a great place for workout and social.



Chinese Parasol Garden - Construction Process



Mini Garden

There are also 8 mini Gardens inside of it.



Sunken space

A sunken space one meter below ground level in the park can serve as a community cultural exhibition center



Activity Import

After the project is completed, the park regularly hosts markets and other events, providing convenience for local residents and boosting overall park popularity.



Activity Import

