



From a Famous Historical Garden to People's Paradise

Landscape Renewal and Enhancement of **Bayi Park**

IFLA AAPME Awards 2024 (Culture and Traditions)

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Landscape Renewal and Enhancement of

Bayi Park

Project Statement

Bayi Park locates on the site of ancient scenic spot "Land of Hundred Flower" in the heart of Nanchang historical city, which is the oldest urban scenic spots in southern China. However, it is currently faced with challenges caused by such problems as water pollution, poor accessibility, aging facilities, and fragmented cultural context. The project begins by improving water quality and biodiversity through building a symbiotic ecological purification system. Then it manages to improve the spatial accessibility through measures such as demolishing walls, increasing the number entrances, and adding boardwalks along the lake; It also renovates the original buildings, laying out the circular walkway to enhance visitors' landscape experience, and continuing the site's cultural heritage by rebuilding landscapes such as "Supochunshu" based on document; In addition, efforts are made to collaborate with community organizations to organize various activities to protect and inherit traditional culture, and enhance the vitality of the venue. After the implementation of the project, the biodiversity of the park has increased by 56%, with an average annual increase of 100% in tourist volume. Tourist satisfaction has grown from 45% before the renovation to 98%, creating a reception hall and historical and cultural exhibition window for Nanchang.

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Project Description

The site of the project is located in the hinterland of the center of Nanchang City, Jiangxi province, China, surrounded by such important historical and cultural resources as Youmin Temple and Apricot Tower in the north, and important traditional commercial and cultural neighborhoods like Zhongshan Road and Nanchang Camp in the south, making it an important city parlor.

Background of the Project

The Bayi Park, founded in 1929, is located in the heart of Nanchang, Jiangxi province. Baihuazhou, or the Hundred Flowers Island, inside it was one of the oldest scenic spots in southern China. Although over 1,800 years has passed, thanks to its unique and irreplaceable historical and cultural value, it still stands as one of Nanchang's cultural landmarks and important recreational venues for local residents.

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This once-renowned scenic spot, famous both domestically and internationally, was losing its vitality and facing the dilemma of decline. Due to limited number of park entrances and scattered distribution of historical attractions, there was a lack of connectivity, which was detrimental to the overall organization of tourism and spatial experience in the area. Visitors mainly engaged in a transit-style tour within the park, lacking attractive spots for them to pause and stay, resulting in a monotonous and weak cultural experience. The fragmented cultural context of the site made it difficult to meet the diverse functional demands of modern citizens and tourists. the quality of the landscape and infrastructure was outdated and lacking in service support; Although the lake water in the park was the most important leisure activities for residents, the landscape and infrastructure quality were outdated, and there existed a lack of supporting facilities. The water quality of the park's lake was polluted, with low visibility and biodiversity.

The design, with full respect to the local culture, activates the urban landscape which is losing its vitality, and creates a meeting place and a new cultural name card for Nanchang. The renovation project integrates various elements including landscape enhancement, architectural renovation, ecological restoration, lighting design and public art design.

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Design Topic

“Intervention and activation”

Design strategy

Strategy 1-- Optimizing and enhancing the traditional functions

01 Enhance the environmental quality of the site

With the development of the city, the self-purification function of the lake in the park has weakened, the water body has begun to stink, the visibility is lower than 0.3 meters, and the biodiversity is poor. The project, by introducing the “algae-eating insect-guided aquatic ecosystem restoration technology” and building the “algae-eating insect - underwater forest - aquatic animals - microbial communities” symbiosis system, implements three-dimensional ecological restoration so that it becomes immune to new sources of pollution, thus improving the ecosystem quality and making the ecosystem stable.

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02 Improve spatial accessibility

The boundary of the park has been broken and the number of entrances to the park increased by removing the original fence; a healthy trail system has been added to smooth the traffic in the park and improve the accessibility of the whole park; a waterfront walkway has been constructed around the lake to enrich visitors' experience in the park. In addition, the barrier-free design of the park has been improved to facilitate visits by the elderly and the handicapped.

03 Improve the cultural function

Based on in-depth research on the needs of the surrounding community, the original single-function Pinnacle Pavilion has been transformed into a Cultural Bookstore open to visitors, which activates a variety of community cultural activities and promotes the interaction of local residents.

Strategy 2 - Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

01 Protection and restoration of existing facilities

Jiuqu Corridor Bridge and other buildings are landmarks in the park, which not only serve as an important space for residents to play chess, relax, and socialize, but also fulfill important transportation and activity functions. Another spot, Nanchang Camp, was a famous historical site built during the Republican period. However, they were both old and dilapidated. Following the project design, protective restoration has been carried out, which has preserved their

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original appearance and maintained their cultural functions and historical memory.

02 Continuing the cultural and historical memory of the site

Research had been carried out in the community to excavate the culture of the imperial examinations, seclusion, and the title scene. The Examination Compound Well was used for drinking by Jiangxi Gongyuan in the Ming Dynasty and has been listed as an immovable cultural relic. The project design has incorporated the well into a pavilion, and also constructed the Gongyuan Dengke Square and the Zhuangyuanbang Screen, highlighting the profound cultural heritage of Jiangxi as a land of literary achievements and righteousness. Supu Spring Vegetables was one of the ten famous scenes in Nanchang, and had been a place of interest in Nanchang since ancient times although the remains no longer exist today. Our design seeks to uncover the historical significance of the poet of Su Yunqing (known as Su Weng), and constructs commemorative buildings such as the Su Weng Thatched Cottage and the Su Weng Pavilion on the island, evoking the memory of the famous figure and reviving the unique reclusive culture of Nanchang.

Strategy 3 -- Creation of cultural atmosphere and sustainable development

01 Organization of thematic activities on traditional festivals

On twenty-four solar terms and traditional festivals, various kinds of historical and cultural activities are organized to enrich the festival experience of both residents and tourists and pass on the local traditional culture.

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02 Community participation in cultural activities

As the project plan is promoted, designers have been engaged in deep communication with the residents to collect opinions in order to optimize and adjust the plan to ensure better reflection of the public's wishes and the memory of the place. The plan has created various cultural and sports activities to meet the needs of the community, promote the "common construction, sharing and governance" of the local community, and strengthen the people's emotional attachment to the urban environment in which they were born and grew up.

03 Technology-enabled cultural heritage display

Combined with participatory interactive devices, the site fully showcases the charm of the local culture. By adopting 3D projection, high-tech sound and light means, popularization and education of the local history and culture are achieved. The water screen movie is set up in the lake area of the park, along with a light show themed "Flower Dance," which combines the water screen movie, music, lights and outdoor performance to vividly display the three major thematic concepts of Nanchang's historical celebrities, the ten scenic spots of Nanchang, and the city's ecological concepts, featuring typical regional culture and rich public participation.

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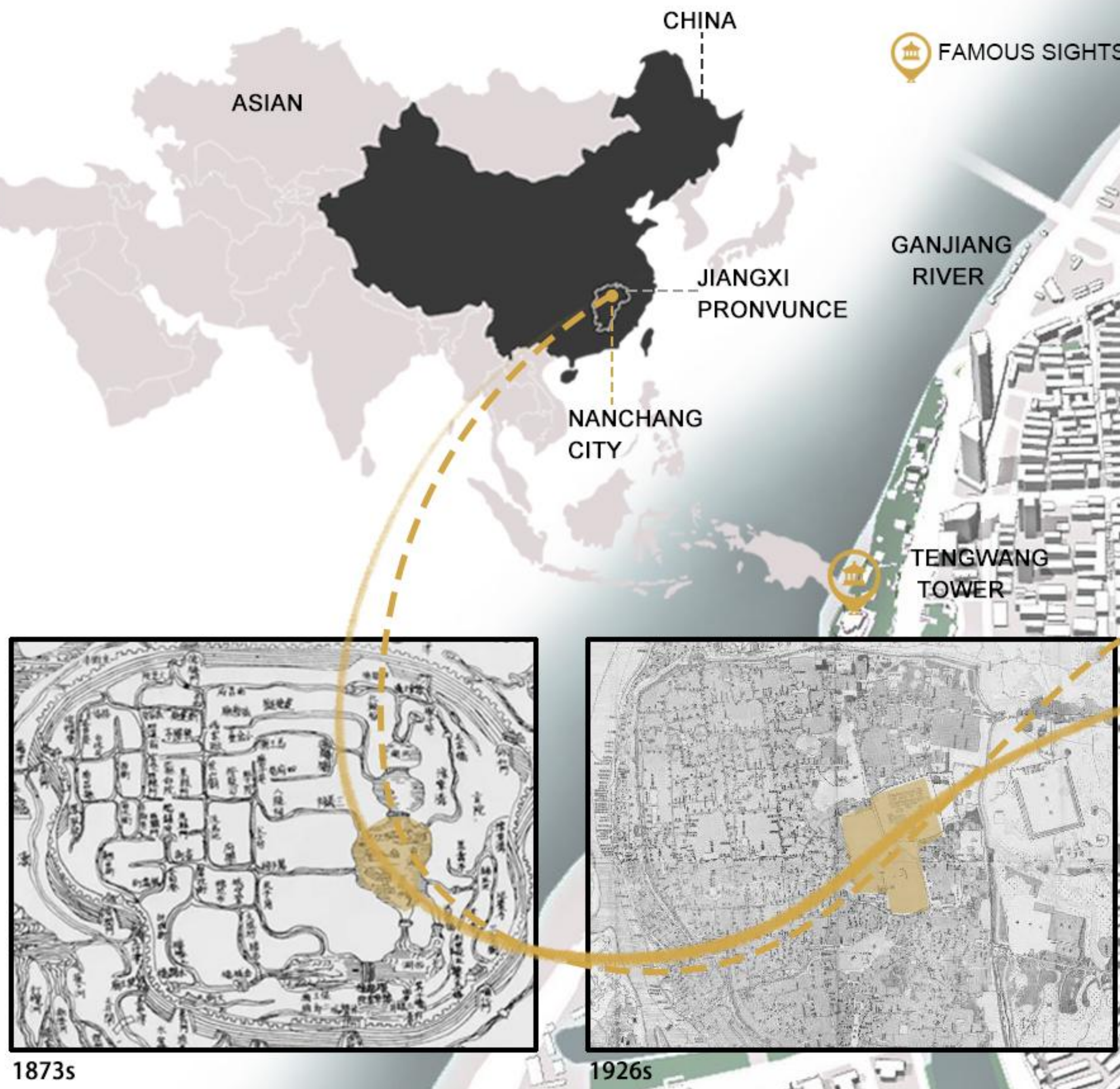
Landscape Renewal and Enhancement of **Bayi Park**

Economic, social and ecological benefits after implementation

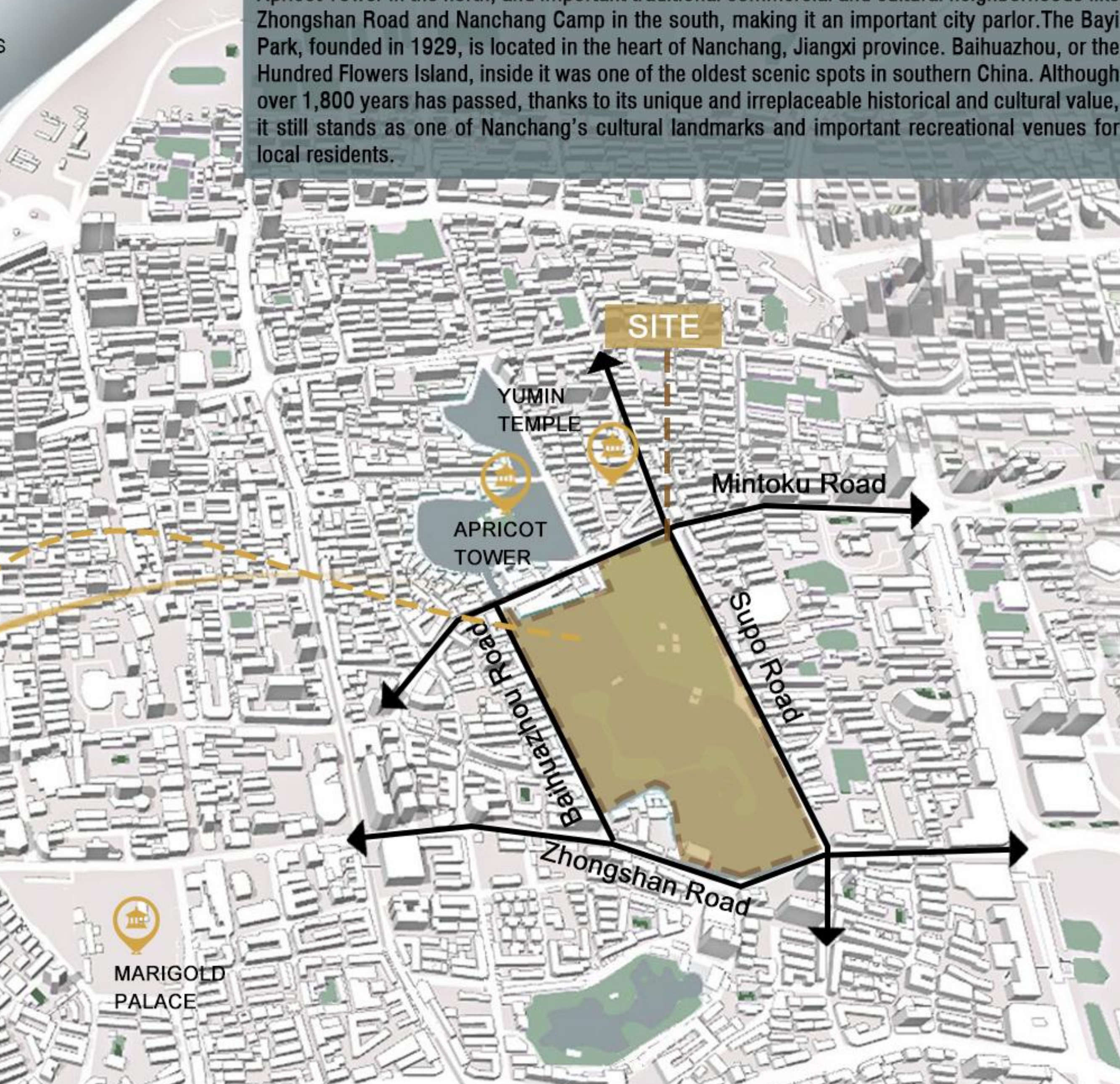
After the transformation of the Bayi Park scenic area, the annual number of tourists has increased from 1.5 million to 3 million, significantly boosting the local tourism industry. At the same time, the business and industry along the line have been revitalized, extending the time tourists spend there. In addition, the cultural light and shadow show in the evening also helps to lengthen the time tourists spend here from 8 hours to more than 12 hours. This has boosted tourism consumption and the region's tourism revenue has increased by about 1.5 times.

The project has succeeded in realizing the coordinated development of ecological, cultural and economic benefits and created an urban meeting room and a window for local residents to display local culture, contributing to the sustainable development of the urban area of Nanchang City.

SITE ANALYSIS

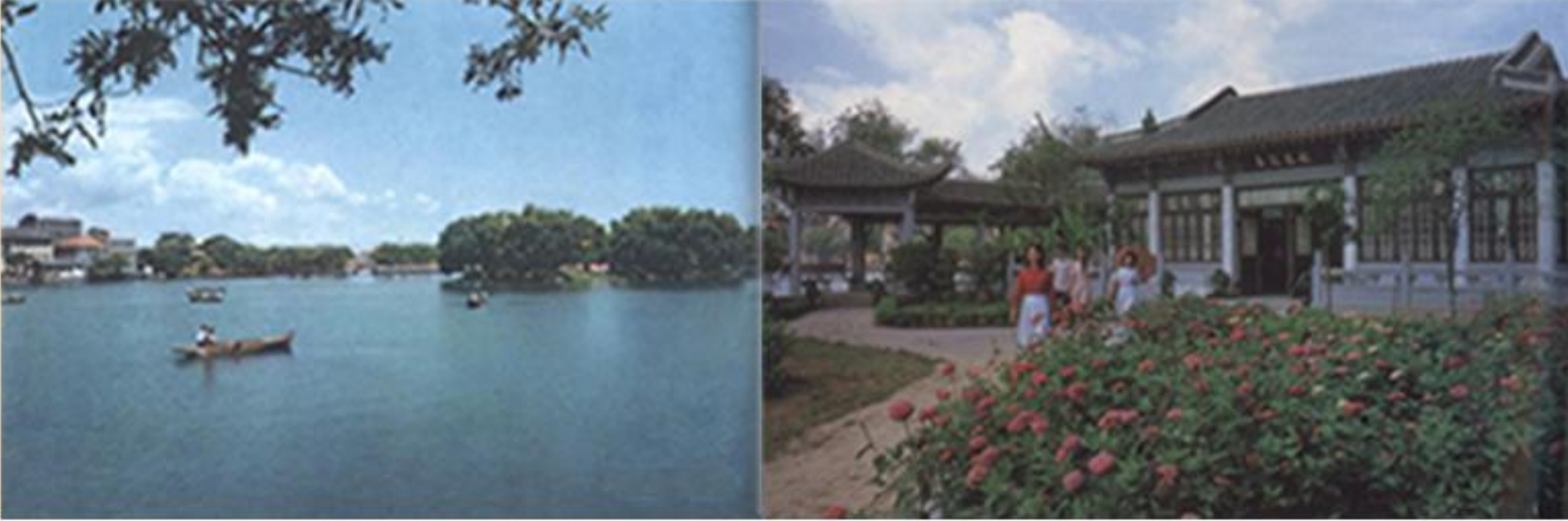


The site of the project is located in the hinterland of the center of Nanchang City, Jiangxi province, surrounded by such important historical and cultural resources as Youmin Temple and Apricot Tower in the north, and important traditional commercial and cultural neighborhoods like Zhongshan Road and Nanchang Camp in the south, making it an important city parlor. The Bayi Park, founded in 1929, is located in the heart of Nanchang, Jiangxi province. Baihuazhou, or the Hundred Flowers Island, inside it was one of the oldest scenic spots in southern China. Although over 1,800 years has passed, thanks to its unique and irreplaceable historical and cultural value, it still stands as one of Nanchang's cultural landmarks and important recreational venues for local residents.



PROBLEM AND STRATEGIES

1980s



pre-conversion



Bayi Park locates on the site of ancient scenic spot "Land of Hundred Flower" in the heart of Nanchang historical city, which is the oldest urban scenic spots in southern China. However, it is currently faced with challenges caused by such problems as water pollution, poor accessibility, aging facilities, and fragmented cultural context.

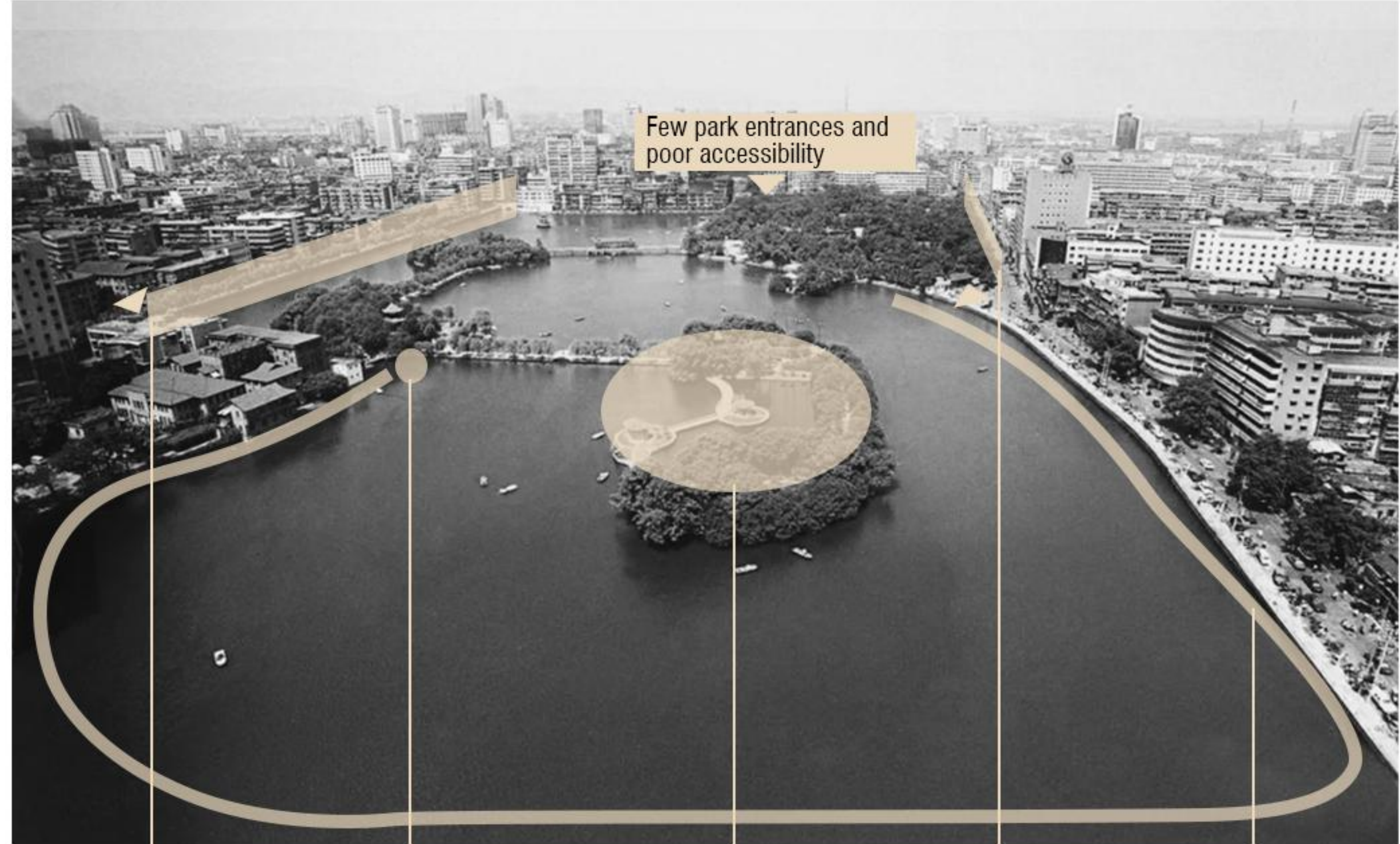


DESIGN STRATEGY

STRATEGY 1 - Optimizing and enhancing the traditional functions

STRATEGY 2 - Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

STRATEGY 3 - Creation of cultural atmosphere and sustainable development



Few park entrances and poor accessibility



Narrow pavements make access difficult.

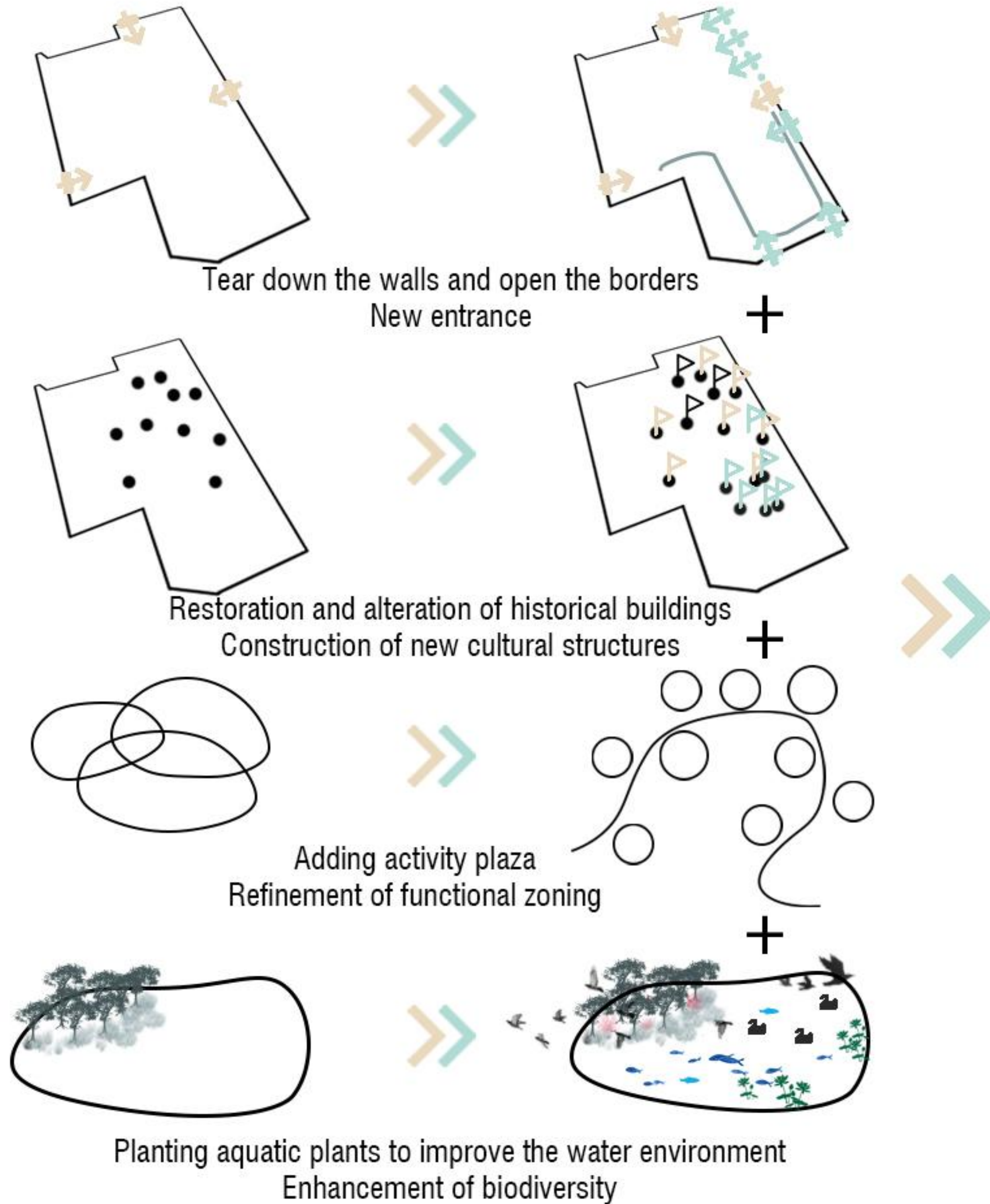
Water pollution, muddy and foul smelling.

fragmented cultural context

Walls impede travel.

Long perimeter shoreline, lack of access.

DESIGN TOPIC—Intervention and activation

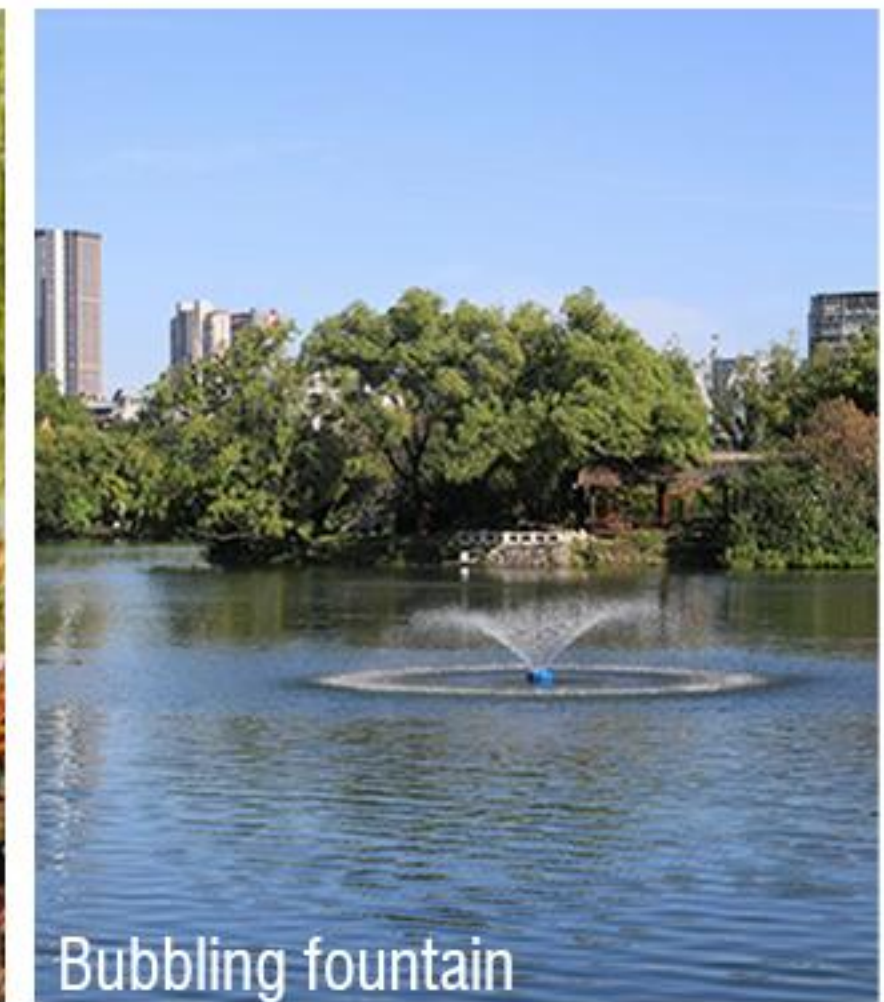
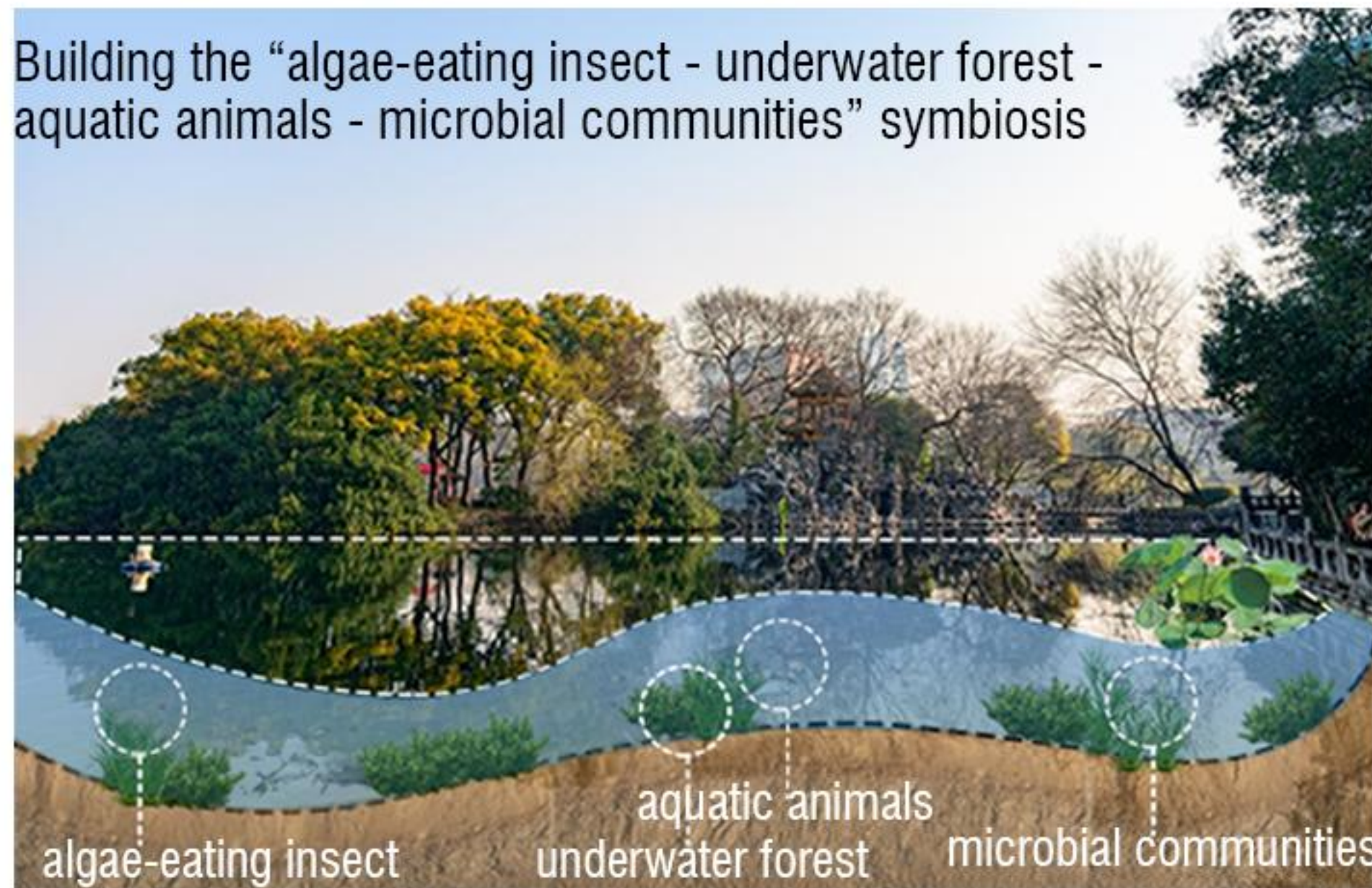


STRATEGY 1 : Optimizing and enhancing the traditional functions

Enhance the environmental quality of the site



Building the “algae-eating insect - underwater forest - aquatic animals - microbial communities” symbiosis



STRATEGY 1 : Optimizing and enhancing the traditional functions

Improve spatial accessibility



Restricted access by the wall.



Removal of the original fence.
Breaking the park boundary.



Large water area and few entrances make it difficult to enter the park.

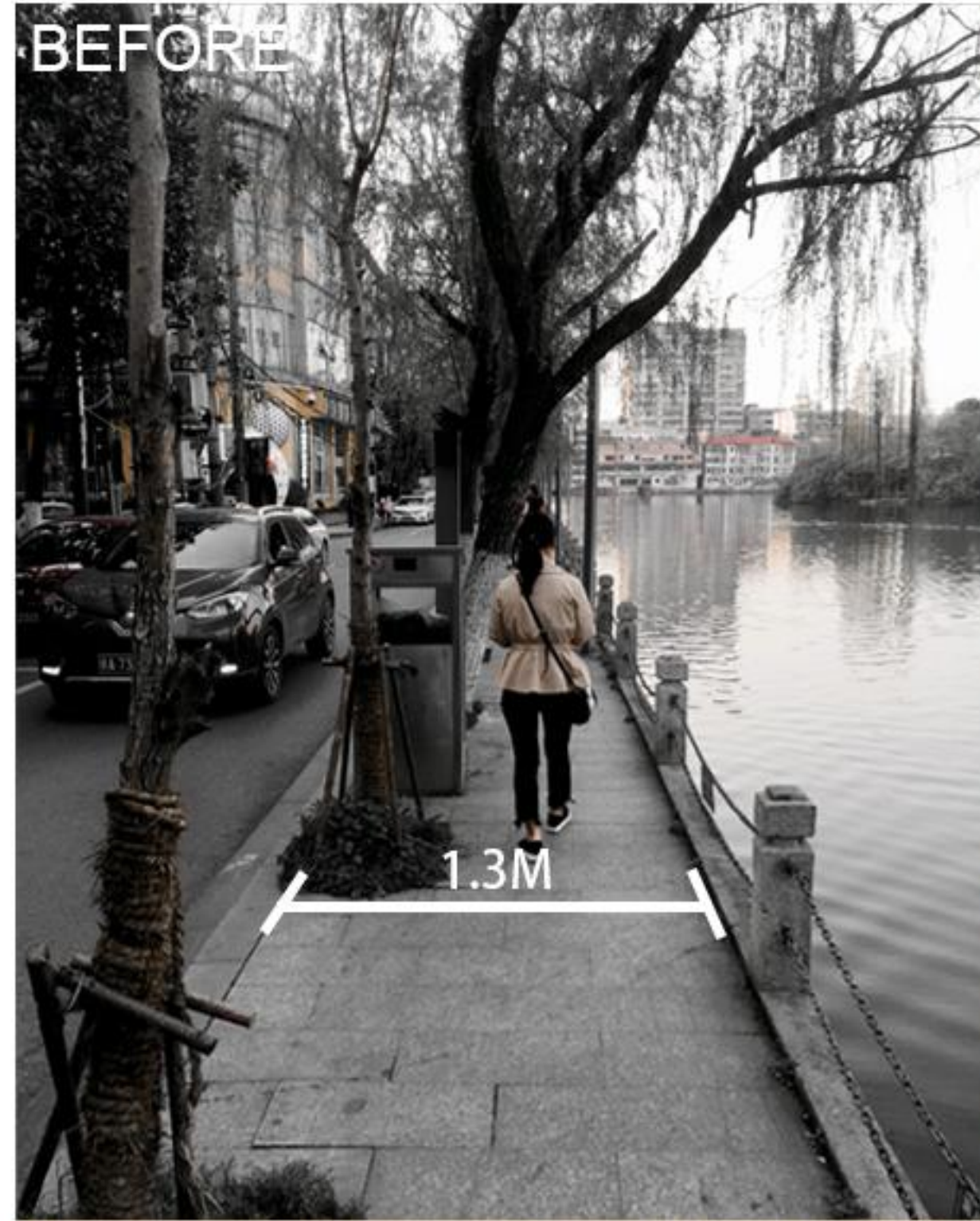


Addition of a waterfront walkway around the lake and three park entrance, to connection between Zhongshan Road and Su Po Road.



STRATEGY 1 : Optimizing and enhancing the traditional functions

Improve spatial accessibility



Narrow pavements make access difficult.



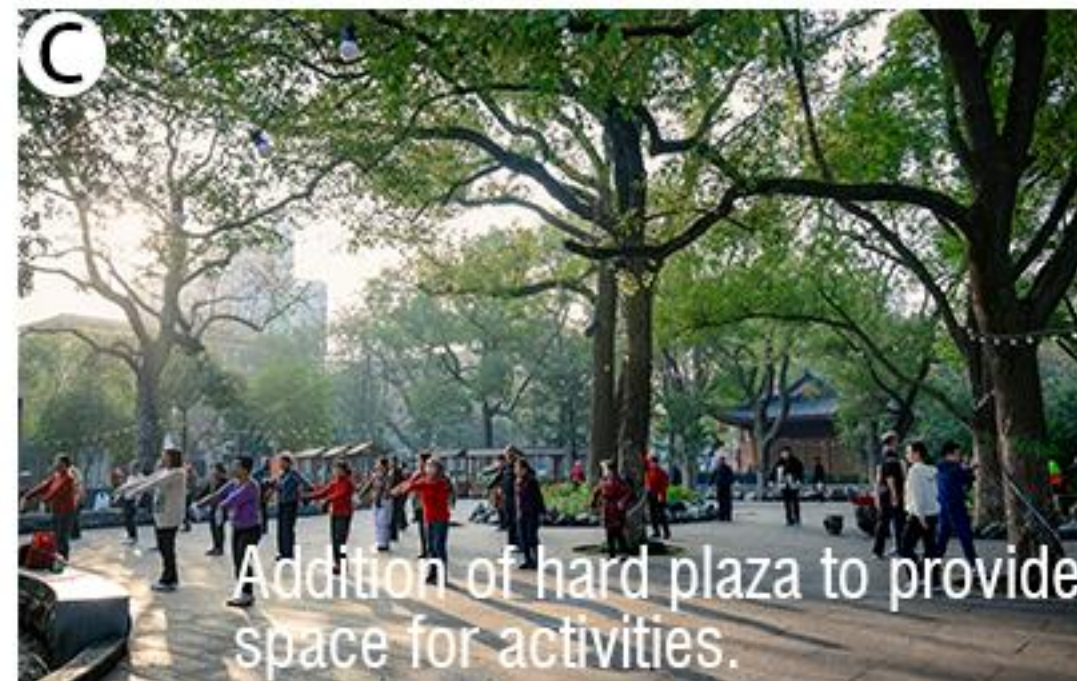
Widen the lake trestle and set up a resting platform.



A healthy trail system has been added to smooth the traffic in the park



Stimulate more active functions of the venue.



Addition of hard plaza to provide space for activities.



Provision of adequate building sites with appropriate activity equipment.



Construction of a circular runway to link the entire campus.



STRATEGY 1 : Optimizing and enhancing the traditional functions

Improve the cultural function



Indoor reading

Based on in-depth research on the needs of the surrounding community, the original single-function Pinnacle Pavilion has been transformed into a Cultural Bookstore open to visitors, which activates a variety of community cultural activities and promotes the interaction of local residents.



Outdoor reading

STRATEGY 2 : Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

Protection and restoration of existing facilities



Nanchang Camp, was a famous historical site built during the Republican period. However, they were both old and dilapidated. Following the project design, protective restoration has been carried out, which has preserved their original appearance and maintained their cultural functions and historical memory.

STRATEGY 2 : Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

Protection and restoration of existing facilities

BEFORE



Jiuqu Corridor Bridge and other buildings are landmarks in the park, which not only serve as an important space for residents to play chess, relax, and socialize, but also fulfill important transportation and activity functions.

AFTER



After the renovation of the building repainting, plaque redesign, bridge paving from anticorrosive wood to cement road not only enriched the landscape details to enhance the landscape effect, but also to improve the landscape level of the whole garden.

STRATEGY 2 : Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

Continuing the cultural and historical memory of the site



Historical photo of the examination compound



Examination compound former site



Square construction process



Research had been carried out in the community to excavate the culture of the imperial examinations and the title scene. The Examination Compound Well was used for drinking by Jiangxi Gongyuan in the Ming Dynasty and has been listed as an immovable cultural relic.

STRATEGY 2 : Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

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The project design has incorporated the well into a pavilion, and also constructed the Gongyuan Dengke Square and the Zhuangyuanbang Screen, highlighting the profound cultural heritage of Jiangxi as a land of literary achievements and righteousness.

STRATEGY 2 : Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

Continuing the cultural and historical memory of the site



Supu Spring Vegetables was one of the ten famous scenes in Nanchang, and had been a place of interest in Nanchang since ancient times although the remains no longer exist today.

Problems:

1. Pavilions and other garden buildings and spaces are relatively modern and do not reflect the local garden and architectural culture.
2. Single biodiversity on the water surface.



Our design seeks to uncover the historical significance of the poet of Su Yuning (known as Su Weng), and constructs commemorative buildings such as the Su Weng Thatched Cottage and the Su Weng Pavilion on the island, evoking the memory of the famous figure and reviving the unique reclusive culture of Nanchang.

STRATEGY 2 : Transmission and Reproduction of Historical Memory

Continuing the cultural and historical memory of the site



Hand-painted historical scene



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STRATEGY 3 : Creation of cultural atmosphere and sustainable development

Organization of thematic activities on traditional festivals



Wrapping rice dumplings



Volunteer photo shoots for family portraits



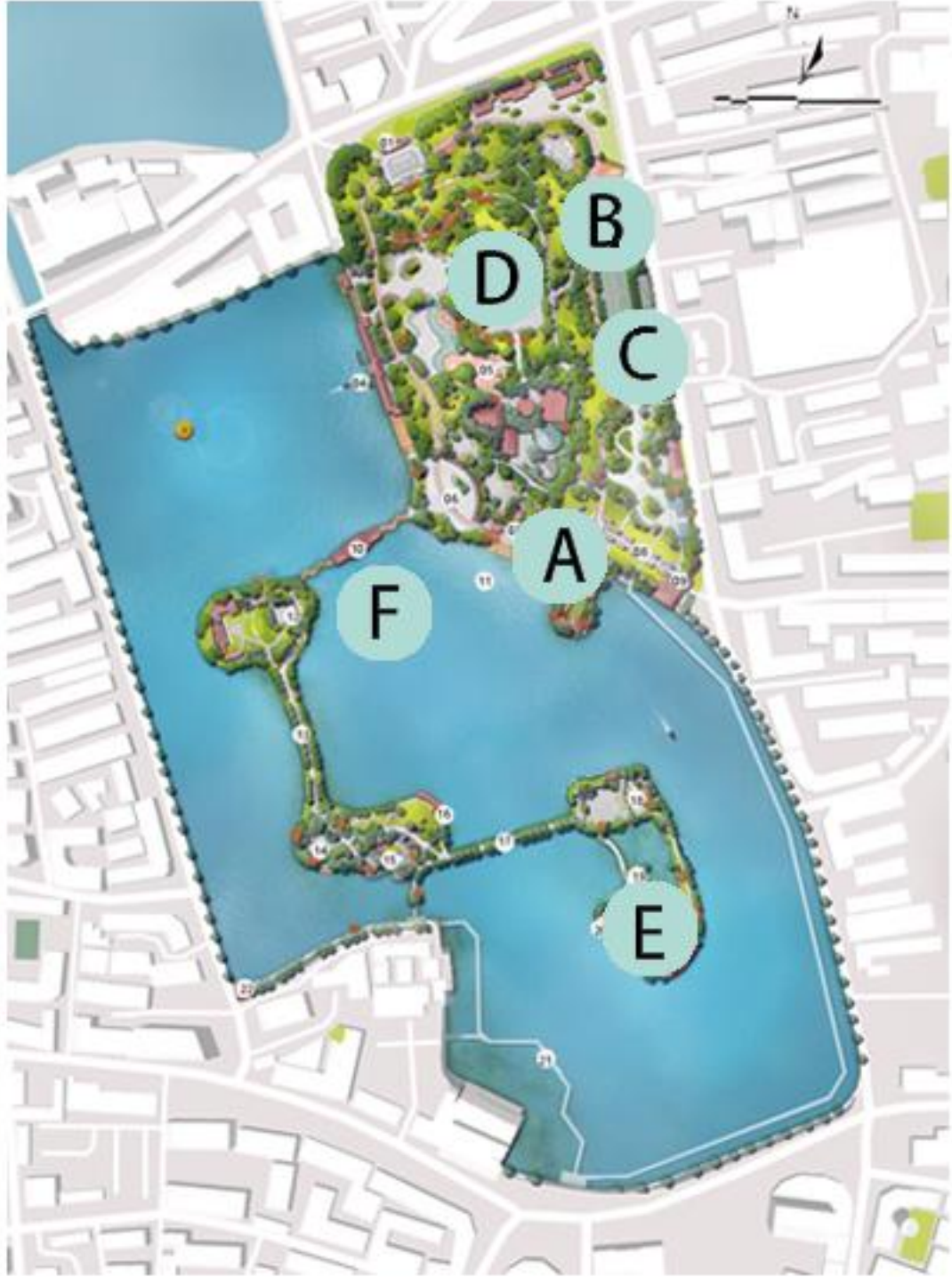
Dragon dance performance



Dragon boat race



Traditional song and dance show



Traditional cultural performances of non-heritage

Spring Festival

Double Ninth or Yang Festival

Content of annual traditional festival activities

Mid-Autumn Festival

Double Seventh Festival

Traditional song and dance show

Matchmaking event

Song and dance party,
Volunteer photo shoots for family portraits,
Writing Chinese New Year couplets

Guess a riddle

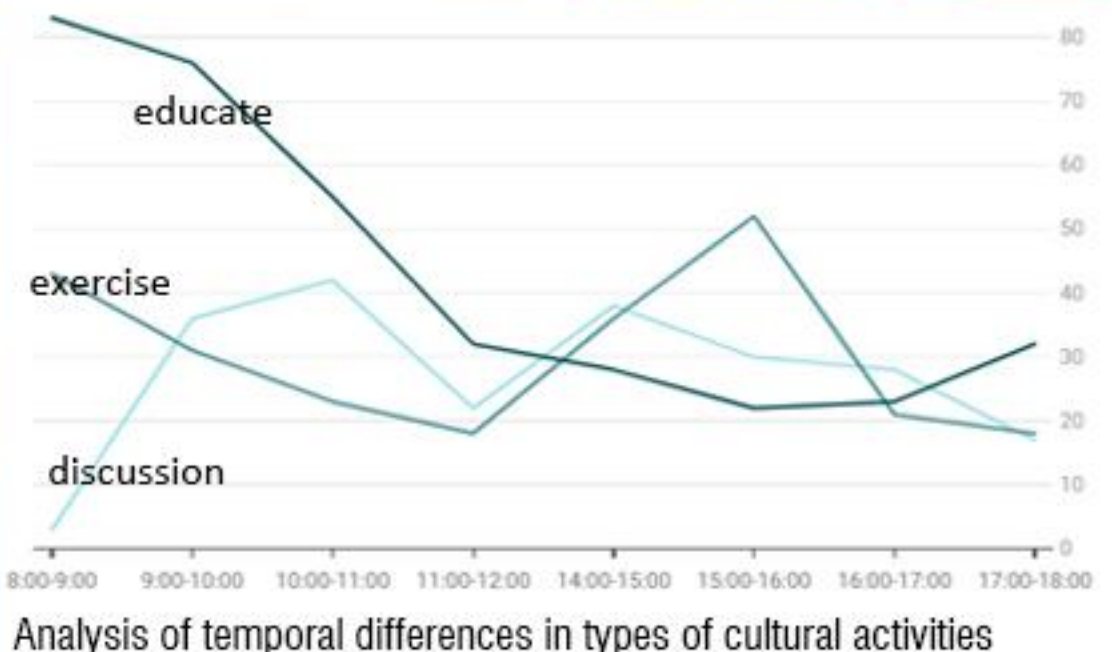
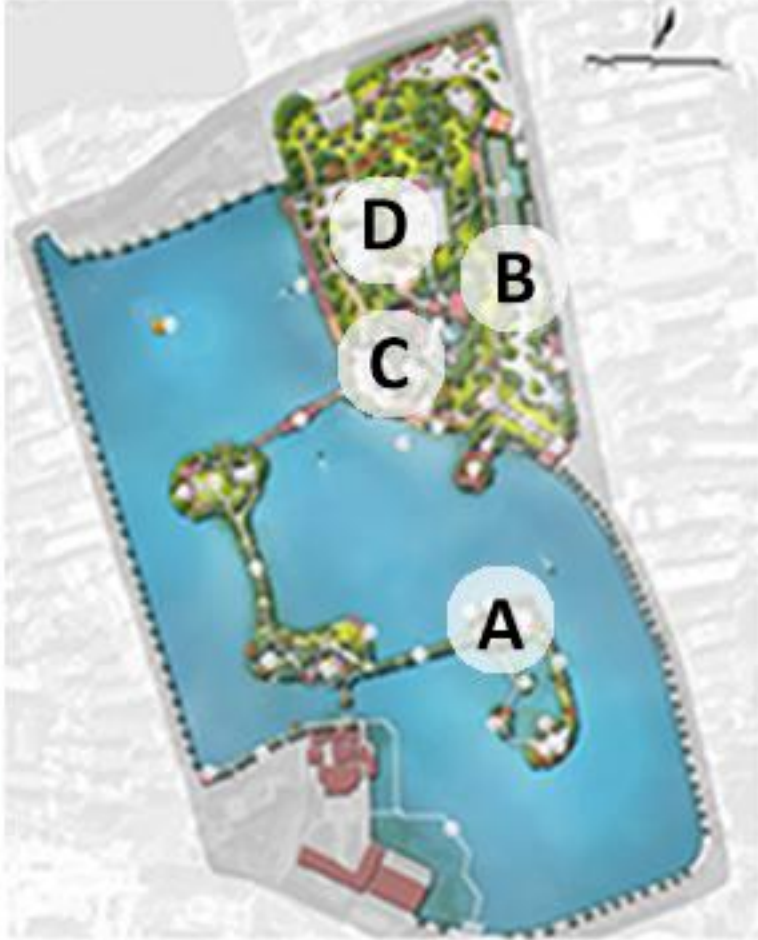
Lantern Festival

Dragon Boat Festival

Wrapping rice dumplings,
Dragon boat race

STRATEGY 3 : Creation of cultural atmosphere and sustainable development

Community participation in cultural activities



STRATEGY 3 : Creation of cultural atmosphere and sustainable development

Technology-enabled cultural heritage display



Water-screen movie



Nine curved corridor bridge



Liang shu art museum



Hundred flowers chau steeple pavilion



Sugong pavilion

PERFORMANCE OF IMPLEMENTATION

3

New main entrances

7

New cultural structures

330M

New open entrance plaza

750M

New Healthy Runway

1000M

New water trestle

↑280%

BEFORE 100%
AFTER 380%
Biodiversity

↑260%

BEFORE 100%
AFTER 360%
Activity Space

↑150%

BEFORE
AFTER
Regional tourism revenue

↑70%

BEFORE 2 million visits
AFTER 3.5 million visits
Annual visitor numbers

↑4 hours

BEFORE 8 hours
AFTER 12 hours
Playing time in the park