

ENHANCING THE RURAL

The design proposal for a village in the Yanzhou island in China.

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01

introduction

01

introduction

The research background for this thesis starts with an teorical thinking about the confrontation between city and the countryside, on how the urban population is growing lately leaving the rural areas abandoned and ruined. Now the urbanization needs to focus over this propective and think about solutions that can help both sides.

This confrontation becomes very different when is about such a contex like China when the urbanisation is running with the fasted speed. The countryside has been left apart in the late urbanization process but on the other side the rural areas present such potentials and tend to becoma the next territor hwere a New Town can be build.

The second chapter considers the Yanzhou island and its geographic aspect and position nearby the new development of a New Town and how this effects the island. A survey of photographs that illustrate the place together with schemes that illustrate its plans and views.

During a phase of the masterplan for the island the design proposals were about keeping its natural and ecological aspect of it but meanwhile help it develop into a ecotourism destination with new facilities and structures that connect around a ring of infrastructure.

The next chapter zooms into the main project theme for this thesis and that is the Sancun village, on of the villages inside the island where its characters are similar to the other vil-lages presnt into the island.

A lot of aspects of this village were studied in order to understand the right proposals for this project like the street profiles or the buildings hight.

The fourth chapter takes a step back into considering different other case studies collocated in China where archiitects have come to results into recovering abandoned villages into touristic destinations.

This case studies bring the attention on the fact that there are best examples of rural recovery around China. This were examples that i choose to follow nor others around Europe cause i found them following the same guidelines that i want to apply in my project design.

In the next chapter the design proposal for the village comes together with the phases of the design first where it each one is important in the followingg ones. First would be the case for the adaptive reuse of some of the ruined or abandoned buildings presented in the village and their renovation into becoming a shared ground for the residents.

Then in the second phase the extantion of the village with a system of new buildings that are suppose to create a new ecoresort for people to spend their time in a natural habitat.

In the last phase the interconnenction with the infrastructure through this commercial function buildings that can hospitalise other people from the other villages connected to the main road.

Seeing it in the overview makes this phases more near one with the other in seeing the transformation of the vllage as one. The village would become a better place for the resident who have chosen to live there and for future tourist who would like to buy a second house of vacation or rent the villas for a week or two.

In the future the counntryside could be the real destination for the living where people could reconnect with nature and live a slow life.

Starting to reuse the abandoned villages and rennovate them into ecotourism destination is a start towards creating a future for the countryside.

02

background research

2.1_urbanization in china

-city vs. countryside

2.2_Yanzhou island

-rural survey and potentials

-geography

-design proposal

02.1

urbanization in China

city vs. countryside

1_ Rem Koolhaas_ exhibition 'Countryside: Future of the World'

_ www.guggenheim.org_ 2018

2_ Crystal Bennes_2018_ ICON magazine_ 'Museum of mistaken identity'

3_ Zhang Li_2016_ 'Prolusione Inaugurazione a.a.2015/2016' _www.politocomunica.polito.it

"I have long been fascinated by the transformation of the city, but since looking at the countryside more closely in recent years, I have been surprised by the intensity of change taking place there. The story of this transformation is largely untold, and it is particularly meaningful to present it in one of the world's great museums in one of the world's densest cities."⁽¹⁾
On fall 2019 he together with the students of Harvard School of Design is going to open an exhibition at the 'Guggenheim Museum of Art' in New York with the theme of Countryside, Future of the World. This exhibition is interested in taking a look into the future of the countryside by keeping an eye on the current situation of the rural areas today, on how the transformation is taking over vast area in the countryside. For long being kept in the urbanization process as the only changing matter has made architects forget about what future will the countryside have in 50 or 100 years?

In 2011 China passed the United States by becoming the world's biggest producer of manufactured items, extending the production by doubling the country's GDP in this last decade. "According to the McKinsey Global Institute, while only 4% of China's urban households were considered middle class in 2000, by 2012 this figure has increased to 67%. and during the celebrations for the SEZ's 3th anniversary, a common catchphrase lauded the fact that Shenzhen accomplished in 30 years what western society took 300 years to achieve."⁽²⁾

A key component of China's soft power armature is the eco-city - the country claims to be developing nearly 30 such settlements. Rapid industrialization has, after all, contaminated large swaths of farmland. China has helped more than 40% of the poor population living in the rural areas becoming a middle-class urban inhabitants and it is still working in improving the conditions of people living in the countryside. This is part of the great Chinese Bigness where the economic boom it came together with the urban construction boom and "As China is getting richer, it is losing identity. What's worst, its cultural originality and creativity is in crisis."⁽³⁾



Hong Kong. Image
© Bruce Dale/NG/Getty Images

02.1

urbanization in China

city vs. countryside

1_ Rem Koolhaas_ exhibition 'Countryside: Future of the World'

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4_Crystal Bennes_2018_ICON magazine_ 'Ou ning'

The new emerging topics in the rural development comes as a result of the last research which shows how 50% of the population is already living in the cities and in the next decades to come this percentage is going to grow. This brings us to rethink the vast rural areas left behind and regenerating the existing villages into a more comfortable living for the resident population there. "Following decades of urban triumphalism, in which much of architectural production and thinking has focused on development and audiences in metropolitan areas, it is time to recognize the new rapid reorganization of the rural areas all around the world." ⁽²⁾

Living in the countryside with nature has always been important in China and has always been associated with a sense of intellect and spirituality. Before the countryside was self-governed by local scholars in the pre-modern China. Now the modern rural housing in China is dealing with the lack of aestheticism and spatial disposition + quality of the construction.

The rural problem starts from the time of the communist party. After the revolution, agricultural land was distributed in a way that it was collectively owned by the villagers. "Farmers and villagers contribute a lot for the state, but the problem is that when they go to the city, their children can not go to the school there. They don't have any rights in the city because of the hukou system. This is highly unfair as resources accumulate in the city, but rural people are unable to benefit. The countryside in China faces high depopulation which means that no farmers are part of the public life in the countryside." ⁽⁴⁾

Young people in America went back to the countryside land because of the lack of high urban living costs. They ran away to the mountains and set up communes during the 60' and discovered that the shared living could be low-cost. In China, the desire to go back to the countryside doesn't has to do with an economic crisis in the cities, on the contrary.

All this because the life in the Chinese cities has become very unhealthy to live. Air quality is poor and education resources are limited, so is that the middle classes move to the countryside looking for a better and healthier lifestyle. But the problem is that; the middle-class people in China who move to the countryside aren't interested in the larger problems affecting rural communities. They just want to find a healthier place to live with their family.

After the last barricade about the one “no more weird architecture in China” seems like rethinking the identity is part of the new modernity in China. Part of this is going back to the Chinese rural areas because good cities cannot exist without good rural areas and why not this areas can be field of new technological and cultural innovations. This brings us to the new terms of the rural regeneration where different examples lately are giving new hopes for the future. The question is; how do we make the rural regenerations as crucial as the city development? How can they become more appetitable for the tourists and liveable for the people who what to live them?

One good example is the Wencun village by Amateur arch.studio where the intervention included 14 new residential buildings and several other small public pavilions. The architect Wang who has received the Pritzker Prize was invited to create a cultural complex. The idea was not only to build the new housing but also proposing a new alternative way of rural life together with the new development. They proposed 2 or 3 variants of housing using the local materials as a result of a long research in the area.

Another example is the “Bishan project” where Ou Ning has given the idea of proposing functions and rethinking spaces in the rural area of Bishan where people can gather and use the common spaces better. “Chinese people are more interested in books than art. Art is useless to them”⁽⁴⁾ based on the fact that from this he had the idea of an 7/11 kind of library where the villagers can find one on every corner.

02.2

Yanzhou island

rural survey and potentials

“WHILE THIS TRANSFORMATION IS GOING ON, THERE IS STILL AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE COURSE OF URBANISATION ON A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE PATH”

Yanzhou is the biggest island of the Pearl River with an area of 6 square kilometres and maximum dimensions of 3.5 kilometres long per 1.5 kilometres wide. It is positioned in the south of the Dinghu mountains and represents a great ecological and landscape potential. It is 18 km apart from the Zhaoqing City Centre and 80 km apart from the city of Guangzhou, connected with a network of naval transport, highways (Zhujiang Outer Ring Freeway) and railways (The Pearl River Delta Intercity Light Rail Transit). Until now this island has remained a rural based landscape inside the administration boundary of the Zhaoqing New Area situated inside this new urban development, a place on the process of urbanization.



Zhaoqing New Area, Masterplan Zoning and Yanzhou Island
©Astrid Safina

02.2

Yanzhou island

rural survey and potentials

5_2017_ <http://thechinesenews.net>
_ 'Zhaoqing New District urban development'

Yanzhou island is part of the Zhaoqing New area administration, one of the provinces part of the new megacity of the Pearl River Delta Zone in the Guangdong Province. In this province there is new working site for the Zhaoqing New Town, a project that is going on and will be concluded soon with a complete new transformation part of the urbanisation process moving in the area. The district and construction land is about 80 square kilometres and the population size of about 80-95 million people.

“The project of the new district of Zhaoqing includes an underground pipe gallery of 5 km and the construction of 38 km of municipal roads with a total investment of more than 8 billion yuan. Currently this project is the largest single project in Cina. Along the road engineering, bridge engineering, pipe gallery system construction other corresponding ancillary facilities planning water supply and drainage engineering will be settled.”⁽⁵⁾

This major project marking the development of Zhaoqing New District has entered a new stage of development. From the beginning of 2016, Zhaoqing New District in eight years will be a New Town after five years of investment and development. At the moment, the new district is under construction with a total investment of 35 billion yuan. By 2020, the area will be fully able to meet the requirements of the different areas like; administrative offices, business exhibition, business innovation, livable industry.

The new green public transport system of “grid and cluster” will be set up based on the principle of public transit system, “Relying on inter city rail corridor construction of rapid transit lines, with public transport pilot development (TOD) model to guide the layout and development of functional groups. Based on urban rail transit and bus rapid transit system (BRT), the bus station is set up to achieve the “zero distance” transfer.”⁽⁵⁾



Zhaoqing New Area masterplan
©Zhaoqing New Area Administration.



Zhaoqing New Area visualization
©Zhaoqing New Area Administration.

02.2

Yanzhou island

geography



Yanzhou Island earth view

©Google maps

In this new master plan the island is conceived as a natural place, dedicated to the leisure, tourism and wellness. This sustainable proposal can be promoted considering the current appearance and its characteristic aspect of the place. A place where urbanization could strengthen dialogue with the existing environment operating in a sustainable way.

This island is characterised by a rich agriculture system and the goods that the locals profit from the cultivation make their only source for the living. The infrastructure inside the island is very poor and a part of the houses are abandoned from the locals and a part from the rest of them are destructed.

Yanzhou Island has an extremely rich ecosystem that presents a great ecological and natural potential for Zhaoqing New Area. Inside of it are located; ancient villages, temples, rural areas, farms and wetlands as a few of the elements that compose this reach habitat. Although the existing villages are mostly abandoned: 3,000 inhabitants are registered as residents but only 1,000 inhabitants actually live there to perform their everyday activities in the city of Zhaoqing.

Considering the current situation of the island is possible to identify three main layers that compose the island: a river bank that surrounds the island, secondly the riverside characterized by fields, small woods and wetlands and last the core that is composed by villages, agricultural areas and fish farming.

The heart of this island is taken by a system of fields and ponds for fish farming together with a second internal ring completely occupied by agriculture fields, where the principal crops are banana, papaya, mango trees, among other plants commonly used in Chinese cuisine.

The urban form of the villages and the architectural characteristics of the existing buildings can still be used for the redevelopment of them.

02.2

Yanzhou island

geography



The Pearl river side of Yanzhou island
©South China–Torino Collaboration Lab



Yanzhou island rural areas
©South China–Torino Collaboration Lab

02.2

Yanzhou island

geography



Yanzhou island agricultural fields
©South China–Torino Collaboration Lab



Pearl river bank
©Google Earth pictures

02.2

Yanzhou island

geography



The Pearl river side of Yanzhou island*****
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab



Yanzhou island, budist temple
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

02.2

Yanzhou island

geography



Yanzhou island typical village main street
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab



Yanzhou island residential buildings
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

02.2

Yanzhou island

design proposal

"THIS PROPOSAL CAN MAKE THE
YANGHZOU ISLAND A WELL-KNOWN
MODEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN CHINA."

“Between the 26th and the 27th of September 2016 a delegation of the South-China Collaboration Lab visited the Administration of the Zhaoqing New Town in Guangdong Province. The delegation had the possibility to have a meeting together with Miss Liu Yan (Chief Planner of the Zhaoqing New Town Planning Bureau) along the many construction siteworks occurring in the area.”⁽⁶⁾

Thanks to this collaboration the part of the Zhaoqing New Area Administration asked for a design strategy for the redevelopment of the Yangzhou Island in the Zhaoqing New Area, Guangdong Province. A team from Politecnico di Torino (South China-Torino Collaboration Lab and CeNTO Project) was putted together in order to create a masterplan proposal for the future of the Yangzhou Island. General Coordinators were: Michele Bonino, Francesca Governa, Angelo Sampieri; Project Manager: Francesco Carota; Designers: Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina and Collaborators: Ina Sefgjini, Wenwei Yu, Maria Paola Repellino, Edoardo Bruno, Duong Nguyen.

This Concept Plan focusses on the existing elements that can be found on the island: great potentials in the landscape and the natural recourses that balance together with the social life in the villages. They can make the Yangzhou Island a well-known model of environmental and social sustainability. Through this design interventions every element can become a strong detail for an ecological future of the island. The strategy has been applied to three macro systems of the island which make the fundamentals elements of the concept plan: the river bank, the villages, the agricultural system and the soft perimeter.

02.2

Yanzhou island

design proposal



Yanzhou island existing plan

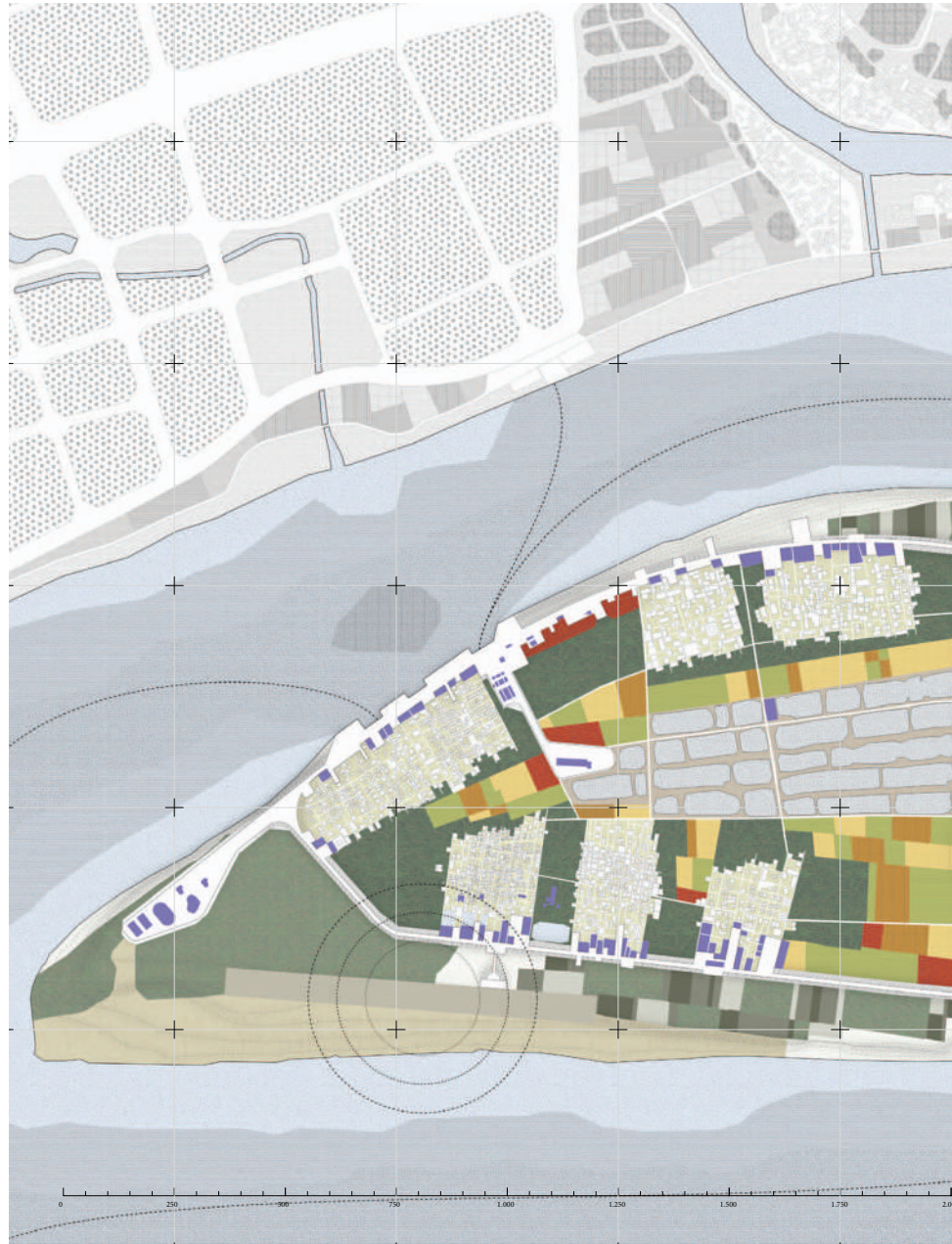
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab



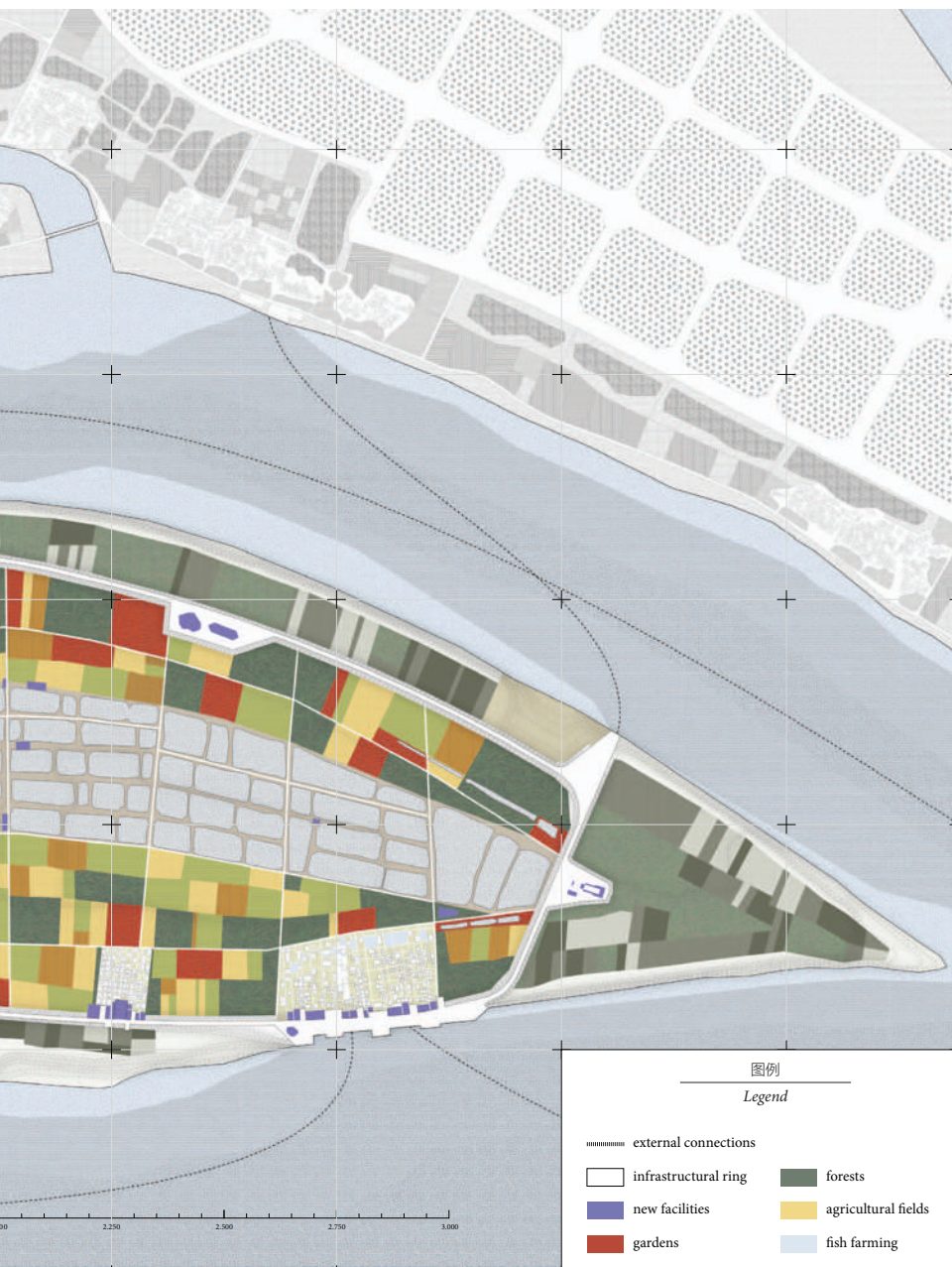
02.2

Yanzhou island

design proposal



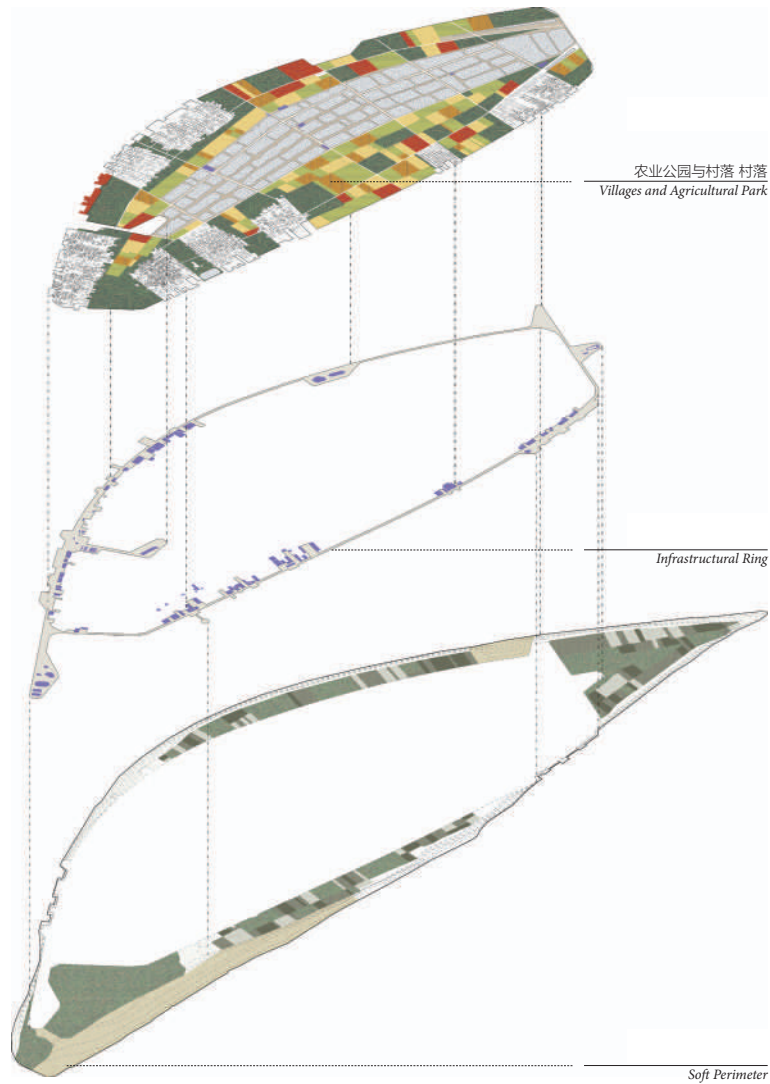
Yanzhou island concept plan proposal
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab



02.2

Yanzhou island

design proposal



Yanzhou island concept proposal
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

***NOTE:**

From this design proposal I have kept a series of guidelines to help me in the process of design for the Sancun village. the main one is the infrastructure ring that's suppose to connect the villages together and so is the idea for Sancun. Expanding and connecting with the new infrastructure. One other aspect is the green, sustainable character of the island itself with its fields and water ponds.

Is very important for the village to follow the idea of maintaining the village street distribution following the plots and creating new housing spaces. Valuating the potentials present inside the territory and bringing them into new tourist attractions.

For Sancun the design will help it grow its potentials and create new opportunities for the people who leave it.

From the first layer the idea is to keep the village as it is with its rustic character and the agricultural fields around.

From the second layer it would be right to keep the idea of interconnecting the village with the other ones through the new infrastructure.

The soft perimeter it doesn't touch the Sancun village.

03

Sancun village

3.1_introduction on Sancun

3.2_architecture

-catalogue of the buildings and materials

-street profile

-photographic summary

03.1

introduction on Sancun

The Sancun village is located in the south of the island in between two other villages and surrounded by the agricultural fields on all sides. It covers a total area of 70.500 sqm and its population is around 200 habitants. Is a very small village characterized by its inner streets, some relevant storical buildings and green overviews. The buildings inside of the village tend to

orientate around the main roads and densify inside of the inner roads. Around the residential settlements stand the agricultural fields and two water surfaces. The buildings are characterized by a typical chinese architectural influence in materials and in morfology. Up to a maximum of three floors and all of them used only for residential usage.



The distribution of the uninhabited and ruined houses is mostly concentrated in the centre of the village meanwhile leaving the perimeter of the village habited. This is due to the presence of the agricultural fields where most of the population works and takes the profits of their own.

There is not a main entrance of the village or an open welcoming space but a serie of relevant buildings stand on one side of it creating a frontline nearby the ring.
This building have a historical relevance in the village and in the island in general.

The idea for this village, considering its natural character, would be to dedicate it to the tourism, wellness and leisure with an sustainable approach. A place where the new urbanization could dialog with the existing one and open a new way of sharing the spaces in a sustainable way.

This place is characterised by a rich agriculture system and the goods that the locals profit from the cultivation make their only source for the living. The infrastructure inside the village is very poor and a part of the houses are abandoned from the locals and a part from the rest of them are destructed.



Sancun village ,
Zhaoqing



Superkilen
urban park,
Copenhagen



Piazza Vittorio
Veneto, Turin



1/5 of Jardin
des Tuileries,
Paris

03.2 architecture

catalogue of the buildings and materials



View on the Sancun village.

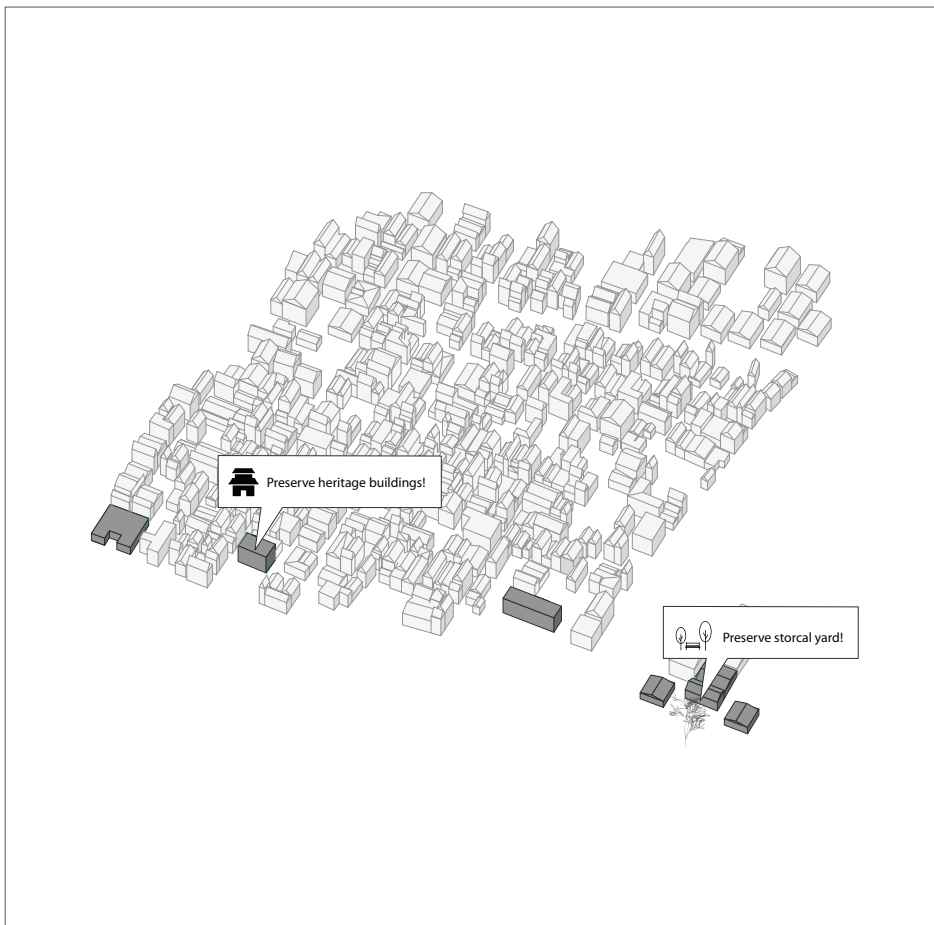


Existing plan of the Sancun village

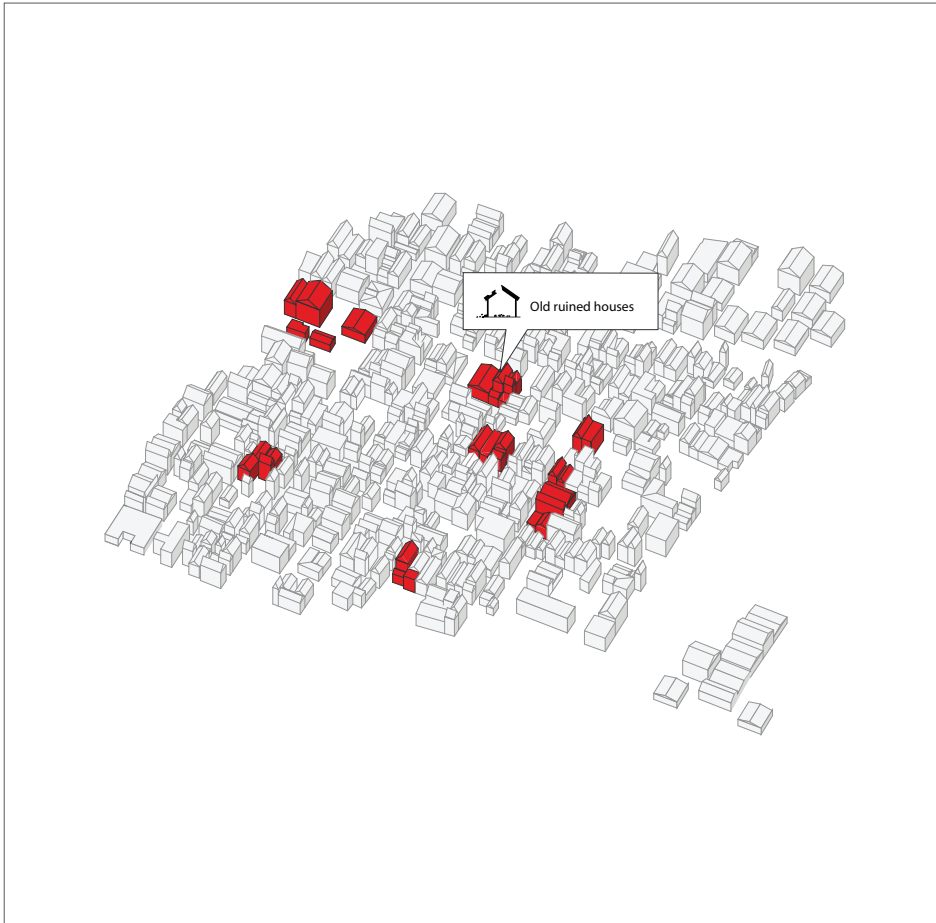
03.2

architecture

catalogue of the buildings and materials



Yanzhou island relevant buildings

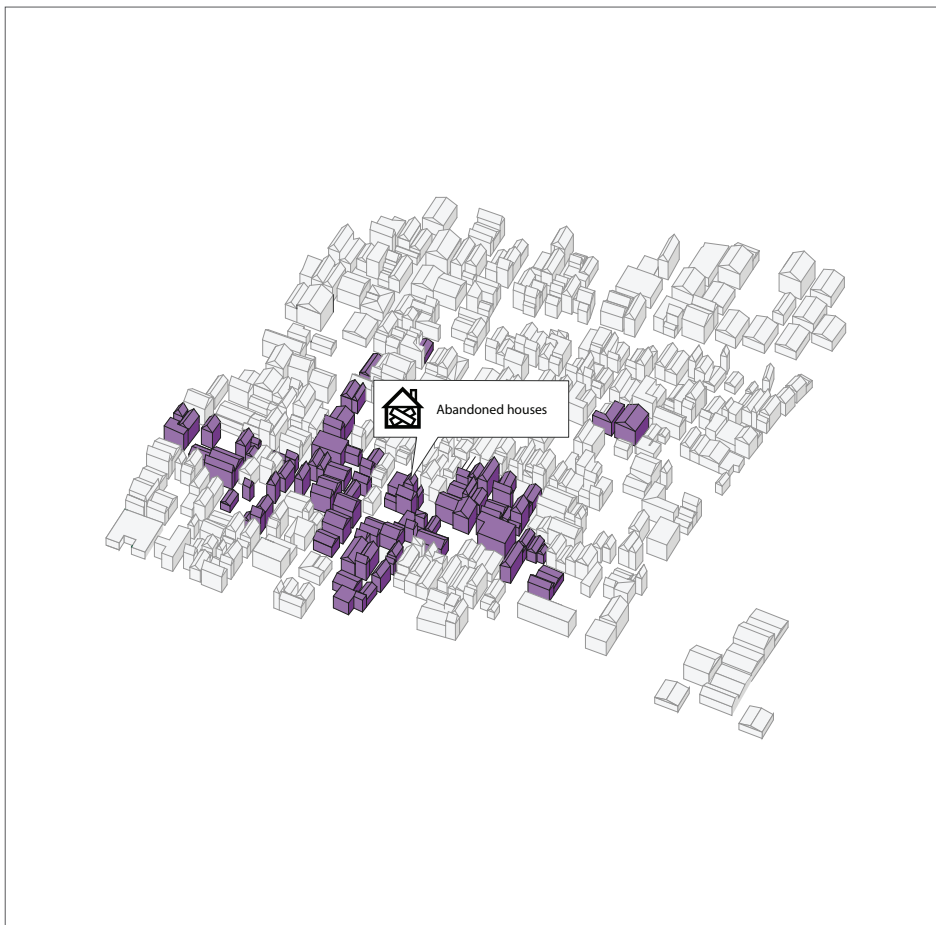


Yanzhou island ruined housing

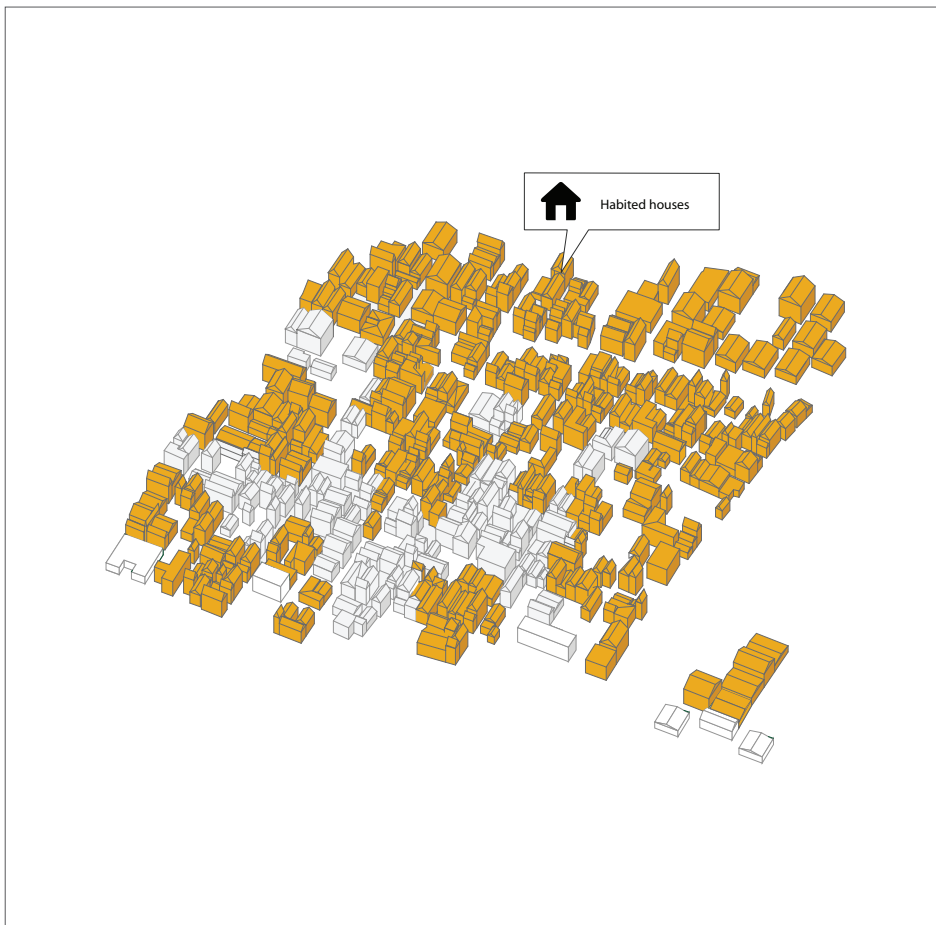
03.2

architecture

catalogue of the buildings and materials



Yanzhou island abandoned housing



Yanzhou island habited housing

03.2 architecture

photographic summary



Sancun village typical residential housing
©Google Earth pictures



One of the relevant buildings inside of the village of Sancun.
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

03.2 architecture

photographic summary



Sancun village typical street profile
©Google Earth pictures



Details of local traditional pitched roof system
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

03.2 architecture

photographic summary



The habitants of the village carrying their goods on a bike.
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab



Chinese communist propaganda on a wall.
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

03.2

architecture

photographic summary



The entrance house of the Sancun village.
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab



A view of the fields surrounding the village.
©South China-Torino Collaboration Lab

04

case studies

case studies on village recovery

04

case studies on village recovery

1_ 'Will Wang Shu's village be nothing but an imagined form of rural life for urbanites?'

_ YIPING DONG

_ <https://www.architectural-review.com>

Photographs:
Wencun Village, China
@ IWAN BAAN

WENCUN VILLAGE AMATEUR ARCHITECTURE STUDIO

Wencun Village, made by Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu's Amateur Architecture Office, is a new way to an alternative Chinese rural design and housing. Wencun includes 14 new buildings, a new-made bridge and several other public pavilions, the remake of some houses and the refurbishment of existing brick houses. 'To live in the countryside with nature has always been an important theme in Chinese culture,' says Wang Shu.⁽¹⁾ After winning his Putzier prize he decided to accept the invitation from the municipality for the transformation of the village of Wencun. For him it is time to reconsider the importance of the countryside as they were regarded before as a source of cultural spirit for the bigger cities.

"The countryside was quite self-governed by local intellectuals in pre-modern China, and the settlements were generally in perfect order through the government of tradition."⁽¹⁾ Amateur Architecture Studio has been doing site research on the traditional architecture of rural Zhejiang for a very long time before starting to work on the project. Like many other architects, the architect Wang is concerned about the lost social traditions in rural China, because of the growing urbanisation and its issues in the late days. For him the vision for this project is to transform and adapt the choices in order to invite the young rural population back into the countryside life. The 'new village' by Wang reconnects the original field between the downhill village and the two ancient typical trees that stand at the end of the historic building.



04

case studies
on village recovery

‘regeneration or gentrification?’

The target for this project from the architect was to invite the young population to stay or be part again of the rural life. Fundamental for the project the site study and research made for years before starting working on it which ended up in being the most important part of the process. The aim for the architects was to convince the people leaving the place and the heads of the village that the new volumes added and the things were made in a very accurate connection with the existing ones. The new spaces created were destined for workshop areas or common shared ones for the people living in it. Besides all this the villagers didn't find the new homes as their expectations for them. They wanted more opened yard in front and more bedrooms. The idea of sharing the space for and bed&breakfast was more welcoming and convincing for them. Still the involvement of Wang made a huge attraction for possible investors to take the Wencun example further.



04

case studies on village recovery

2_ Shangping Village Regeneration - Tai Fu Tai
Mansion Area / 3sandwich Design / He Wei Studio
_mini clubman
_ <https://www.archdaily.com>

Photographs:
Shangping Village, China
@ MENG ZHOU

SHANGPING VILLAGE_ Tai Fu Tai Mansion Area 3ANDWICH DESIGN /HE WEI STUDIO

Mentioned as one of the “historical and cultural villages” in Fujian Province, Shangping Village has been sustained by its agricultural system and Hakka culture. Stories tell that here there was a great scholar who left a great treasure of calligraphy. The village is surrounded by water and the Tai Fu Tai Mansion area is located in the heart of the village. Special location and culture of Tai Fu Tai mansion make it a perfect attraction for people to come and visit it. However, lack of public realms like restaurants and visitors' centre impact the tourism aspect and their local economy. The design team renovated unused spaces by plugging in new programs, transforming previous production spaces into cultural/commercial use.

A series of cultural products and activities attached to these spaces also have a strong attraction to travellers who pass by the village and are interesting in discovering the rural areas. “It makes more sense to combine cultural industry and spatial design together for rural renovation.”⁽²⁾ The ‘Pigsty Bistro’ is a new building in this area. The exterior of the building is very original by keeping previous materials like; rubbles and wooden roof. Each divided space is infilled with new bar, coffee tables and Kang table (a heatable brick bed). The design would like to create a cosy and relaxing atmosphere by placing colorful and floral elements. Instead the ‘Lotus Chamber’ is a teahouse transformed from an existing utility room. The design kept the old rubble wall and only replaced the non-recyclable wood structure on the next floor level in order to make it a teahouse. Users can stand on the platform and live the spaces over the water pond with lotus flowers, referring to the name ‘Lotus Chamber’. that was given to it.

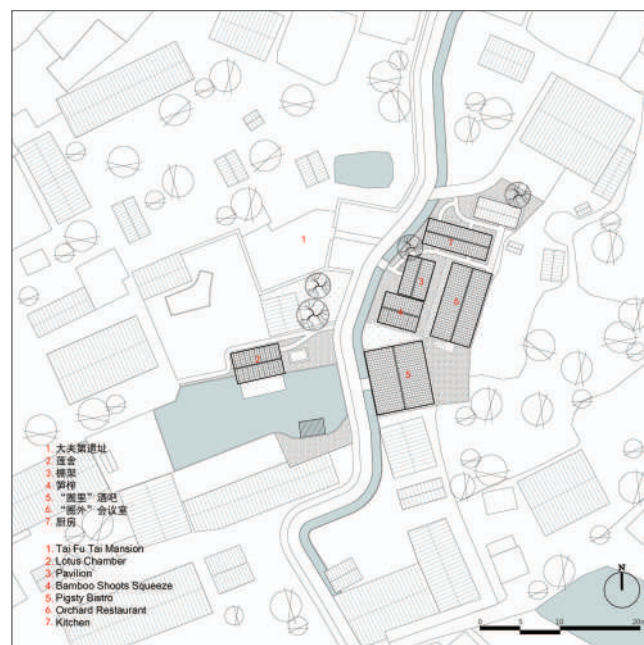


04

case studies
on village recovery

‘being incorruptness’

Small installation and very curated interventions in the Shangping village make this adaptive reuse of a design project very interesting and referable. By keeping the possible existing structures the architect aims to keep the memory of the old buildings and reuse the spaces left to create relaxing and enjoyable areas for the residents and specially the youngsters. The way how the contemporary interior are located in the ‘Bistro’ for example has changed completely the aspect of the old pig room. The ‘Lotus chambre’ is a perfect oasis for people who enjoy take the tea around a in-door lotus pond area. The last bamboo installation in open-air aims to create a space to be shared by the villagers in order to create a shared ground for them. This village is a great recovery example made the 3andwich design studio which expands in 3 fases and in which this is the first one to start.



04

case studies on village recovery

3_ Shangping Village Regeneration / 3andwich
Design / He Wei Studio
_mini clubman
_ <https://www.archdaily.com>

Photographs:
Shangping Village, China
@ MENG ZHOU

SHANGPING VILLAGE _the gallery pavillion 3ANDWICH DESIGN /HE WEI STUDIO

“Under the premise of protection, the design team has neither used the common way of “repairing old as old”, nor created the trendy mode of vernacular bed & breakfast.”⁽³⁾ The design team has chosen and transformed a series of left agricultural structures and infrastructures, which were complementing tourism service and giving a new economical system for the village. Based on the principles of traditional and contemporaries at the same time, the design team has also designed different cultural and creative products and at the same time provided promotions which could be described as an integral service from conceptual designing to real construction, and to tourism results and promotion.

The designers wish to put together an legacy with the respect of the original and enable the locals to accept the new pavilion where the statue of worship for the local people is well kept and re-placed to the original position of the added building. By the pavilion, the Cloud Cafe' tries to introduce a dramatic “contrast” to the ancient village with the different addition of colours. Is a very important tourism attraction for the residents to learn about local tobacco-making craftsmanship, as a left of traditional agriculture structure, the ‘tobacco-curing house’. The sunlight can be multiply in colored lights from the roof window. Designers hope it becomes a spiritual space for people to consider the relationship between the man and the nature through this artistic installation.

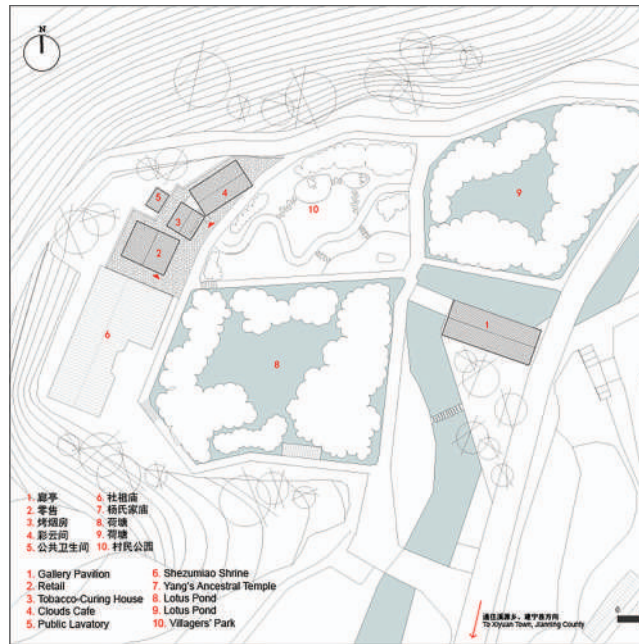


04

case studies
on village recovery

‘locality and contemporariness’

Here the architect has tried to give back to the resident but not only to them, also to the tourists; the originality of some local functions lie the tobacco-making craftsmanship and others. Is a way to attract the tourism world in learning new things in the rural areas lie the Shangping village but also to rebring the old traditional facilities back to the residents. The addition of this playful clourful facade adds a touch of contemporarily and a sample of the new volumes added. The space isndie the Cloud cafe is very relaxing and inspiring with the new materials and the different interios. eeping the old functions in the original position but elaborating everything with a touch of contemporariness. The residents enhoy the new areas created and the tourism find it intriguing to explore the new volumes which inside welcome the old fuctions used in the past.



04

case studies on village recovery

4_ Shangping Village Regeneration_Yang's School Area
/ 3andwich Design / He Wei Studio
_mini clubman
_ <https://www.archdaily.com>

Photographs:
Shangping Village, China
@ MENG ZHOU

SHANGPING VILLAGE _Yang's School Area 3ANDWICH DESIGN /HE WEI STUDIO

Yang's School Area is located in the intersection of the two streams in the Shang Ping Village where two main streams disconnect from the start and this makes the village important geographically. According to a historical legend, Mr. Zhu Xi, a national historian has given lessons in the Yang's School and made very beautiful poems also worked on calligraphy. The idea for the design of this fragment inside the village was to transform the historical site of the school into a tourist spot but at the same time rediscover the importance of the history of Shang Ping Village. The design team hopes to transform the existing buildings to a library in order to create a area for visitors to learn about the history of the village.

"The identity of this space, connected but separated from top to bottom, is special to be kept." ⁽⁴⁾ The part in the lower level used to be a living storage for the cows while the other level was used before as a forage. Two levels are separated in the entrances (entrance are separated) but connected in their functions. Maintaining this spatial aspect, it turns out to be a new place for readers since first floor is higher and gets more natural light. to be turned into a bookstore. The forage room is thought to be lower in height and has to be entered from the out by a ladder. "This kind of 'incompressibility' is intentionally emphasized, creating a sense of slow and primitivity." ⁽⁴⁾ A full-height glass window is positioned in the other side of the facade in order to create a new relationship with the neighbour, the village and to provide a great solution for better light.

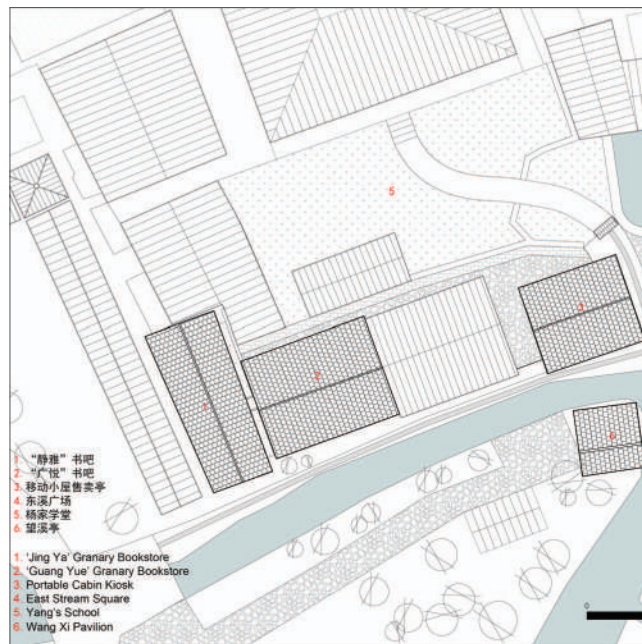


04

case studies
on village recovery

‘creating indentity’

The intervention for the Yang school is connected very strongly with the old history of the location. The history tells about this very important poet that worked a lot of great calligraphy so the idea of the architect is to turn this place into a space for readers where in the lower level of the old structure where the height is better and the light comes lighter and the upper level where the ceiling is lower you can still access as in the past from the outside with a ladder. This is a way to keep the old way of access in the new building, is slow and original. It is supposed to be local and an iconic place that reminds the past but still is made in the present. In fact, the large glazed window that opens towards the landscape and the mountains view is a perfect example of the contemporariness of the design choices



04

case studies on village recovery

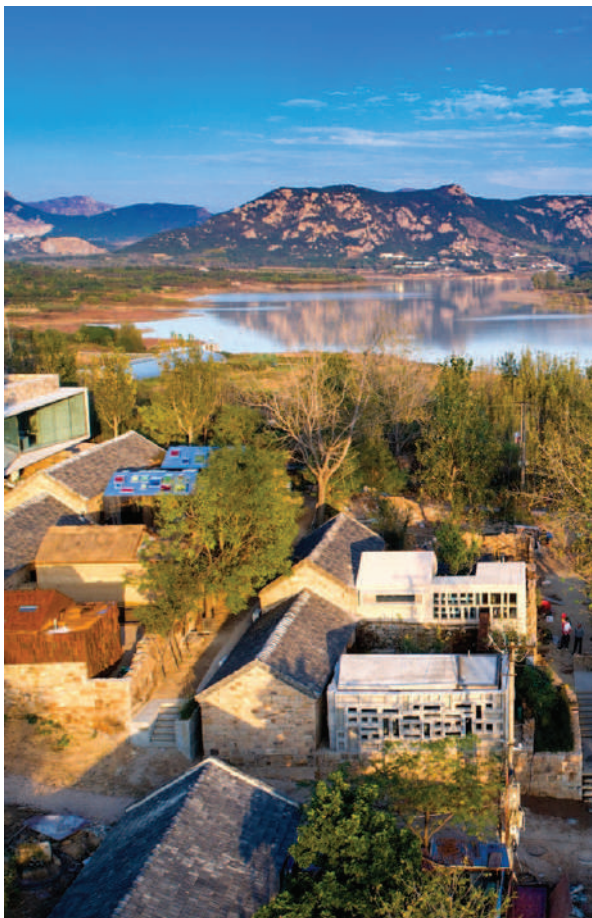
4_ Phoenix Village / Guanzhuscape Planning and
Design Institute
_mini clubman
_ <https://www.archdaily.com>

Photographs:
Shandong Sheng, China
@ Xiangwei Kong, Xuefeng Cheng, Ziyi Wang

PHOENIX VILLAGE GUANZHUSCAPE PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE

The village was originally called Du Jiaping, which was a typical stone-made village in the southeastern of the city of Shandong. During the urbanization, the village was completely abandoned, most of the old houses got collapsed and other a dozen old houses were left. In this design proposal, Phoenix villages include B&B hotels and artist studios, and contain cultural areas such as the forest art gallery, water theater, hilltop church, hillside garden, library and a museum. It has also recreational creative areas such as teahouse, café, restaurant, and children's commune, and an extra one to create an old-house museum in the memory of the old ones."The design concept includes the combination of protection and regeneration."⁽⁵⁾

Keeping the old elements, some of old buildings and the trees but adding new elements into them and keeping the grid of the streets and the yard in front of the houses. Regarding the use of the materials, they reuse the left elements that were collapsed from the old houses in yellow old stones, concrete and steel in order to keep the originality of the materials; as for the landscape, they use old materials, and plant trees". Designers work in the field, and participate in the specific construction process, called "design at home."⁽⁵⁾ The design work together with the local life during the term of construction in the field, and during this period there was poetry, prose and painting produced. The first phase lasted for three years. They finished the entrance, a part of the artist studio, on of the B&B hotel reception centre, restaurant and old courtyard hostel during the time.



04

case studies
on village recovery

‘protection and regeneration’

This is a unique work of recovery done for the Phoenix village with the attempt of transforming an abandoned village due to the urbanisation in the late years. The vision for it is to create an artistic place for artist to come and feel creative in between workshop and studios area together with the new B&B rooms where tourist and the new residents can stay. They left one some of the houses as home-museum and made new recreational- leisure areas like café, restaurant and shops. The reuse of the old materials like the warm yellow stone together with the new cold materials integrated like the concrete or the steel makes it very unique as an intervention of adaptive reuse in a rural transformation. The whole transformation is particular and the designers and artist were working in site during the whole time and creating the new spaces for them and feel creative in the same time.



04

case studies on village recovery

5_ trace architecture office constructs a concrete factory for bamboo rafts in china
_TAO
_ <https://www.designboom.com>

Photographs:
Xingcun Village, China
@ SU SHENGLIANG

WUYISHAN BAMBOO RAFT FACTORY TAO - TRACE ARCHITECTURE OFFICE

Located in the rural Xingcun village, the building structure itself is a storage facility of bamboo, then used to sail the nearby river in Wuyi Mountain as a touristic method. This architecture respects many aspects of the place like the climatic requirements and the topographical together with a distinct programmatic. "The "L" shaped manufacturing workshop accommodates six fire areas for the bending of the bamboo and the assembling of rafts. They have chosen to reinterpret the traditional building techniques."⁽⁶⁾ The materials used for this are all traditional; only the concrete is used for the structure, hollow concrete blocks for the exterior wall, cement tile for the roofing system, and bamboo and wood for the sun shading, the doors, windows.

They strongly present the originality of the village and speaks well with the surrounding landscape. The project reconciles simplicity with the local economy of the place by which the architecture can show its qualities regarding the form and the function. Aside from the working areas there are the workshop houses with the resting spaces, storage rooms, some restrooms, courtyards, and service functions. The office and dormitory building retake a open-air layout, with offices taking the ground floor, and dormitory and café occupying the second floor. Bamboo sticks are positioned along the balcony to form a shading system, which also provide a ventilated insulation method very important for the building. Natural light is filtered through skylights, which are oriented versus the north in order to get softer and all directions light.



04

case studies
on village recovery

‘reinterpretation of tradition’

This is one of the nowadays building where the contemporary way of designing it makes it very unique and useful. The materials are local and readable into the context with the rest of the buildings surrounding it. It is very simple in the structure and in the material choices beside the function it takes in. This is a factory where bamboo is flexed and produced to make boats later to sail the nearby river. And in fact the bamboo is used to shade and create a ventilation system inside the building. The concrete is the main material, for the structure up to the roof, in blocks of bricks. The spatial height is very well organized and useful for the entrance of the light in all ways. Thereby the light finds all ways to enlighten the inner space in the factory.



05

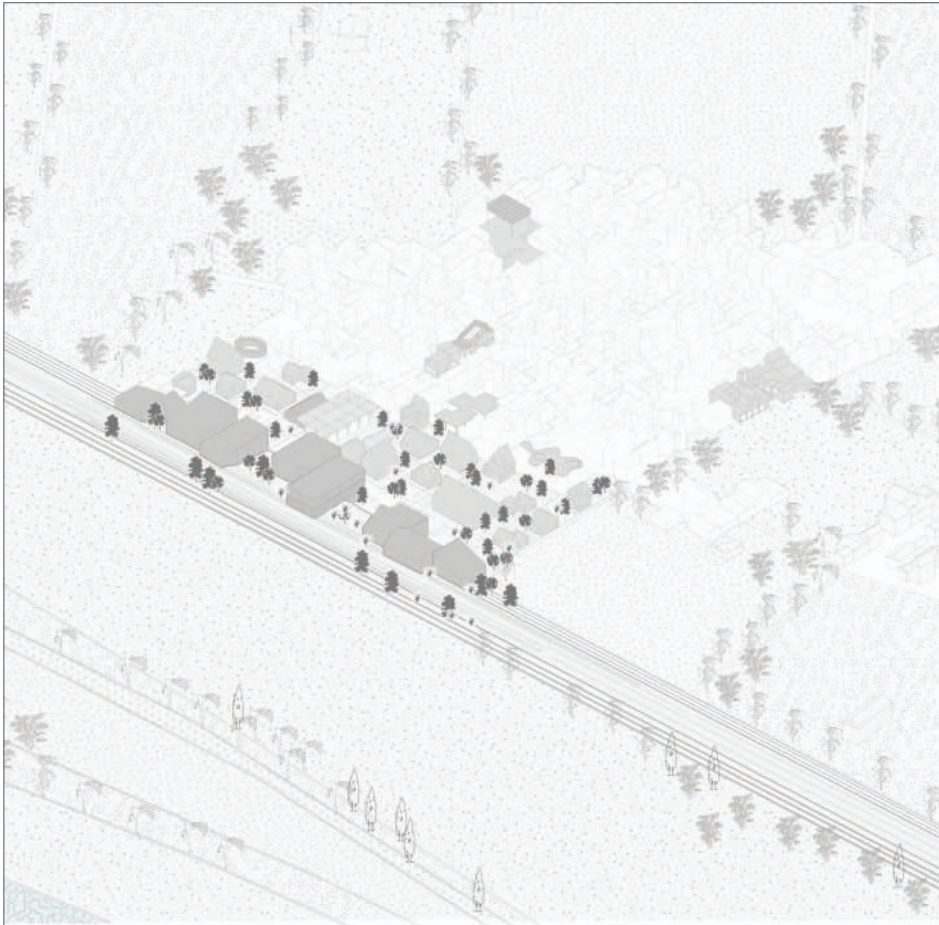
design proposal for Sancun

- 5.1_design proposal
 - phases of the new design
 - strategy on renovation
 - expansion of the village
 - connection with the new infrastructure

05.1

design proposal

phases of the new design



View of the village of Sancun

A PLACE WHERE THE NEW URBANIZATION COULD DIALOG WITH THE EXISTING ONE AND OPEN A NEW WAY OF SHARING THE SPACES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

Between the 26th and the 27th of September 2016 a delegation of the South-China Collaboration Lab visited the Administration of the Zhaoqing New Town in Guangdong Province. The delegation had the possibility to have a meeting together with Miss Liu Yan (Chief Planner of the Zhaoqing New Town Planning Bureau) along the many construction siteworks occurring in the area.

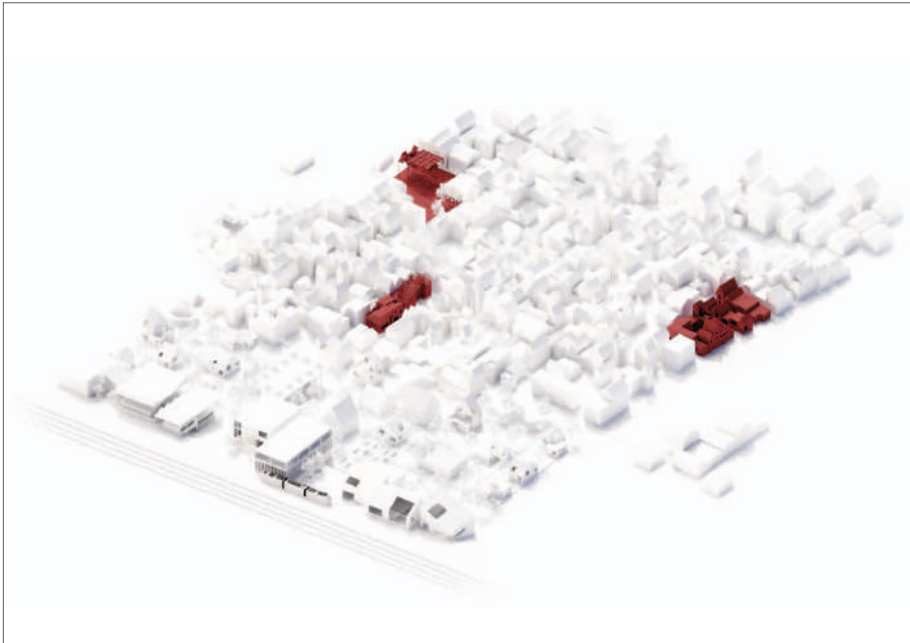
Thanks to this collaboration the part of the Zhaoqing New Area Administration asked for a design strategy for the redevelopment of the Yangzhou Island in the Zhaoqing New Area, Guangdong Province. A team from Politecnico di Torino (South China-Torino Collaboration Lab and CeNTO Project) was built up in order to put down a masterplan proposal for the future of the Yangzhou Island. General Coordinators were: Michele Bonino, Francesca Governa, Angelo Sampieri; Project Manager: Francesco Carota; Designers: Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina and Collaborators: Ina Sefgjini, Wenwei Yu, Maria Paola Repellino, Edoardo Bruno, Duong Nguyen.

This Concept Plan focusses on the existing elements that can be found on the island: great potentials in the landscape and the natural recourses that balance together with the social life in the villages. They can make the Yangzhou Island a well-known model of environmental and social sustainability. Through this design interventions every element can become a strong detail for an ecological future. The strategy has been applied to three macro systems of the island which make the fundamentals elements of the concept plan: the river bank, the villages and the agricultural system, the soft perimeter.

05.1

design proposal

phases of the new design



1/ strategies on renovation



2/ expansion of the village



3/ connection with the new infrastructure

05.1

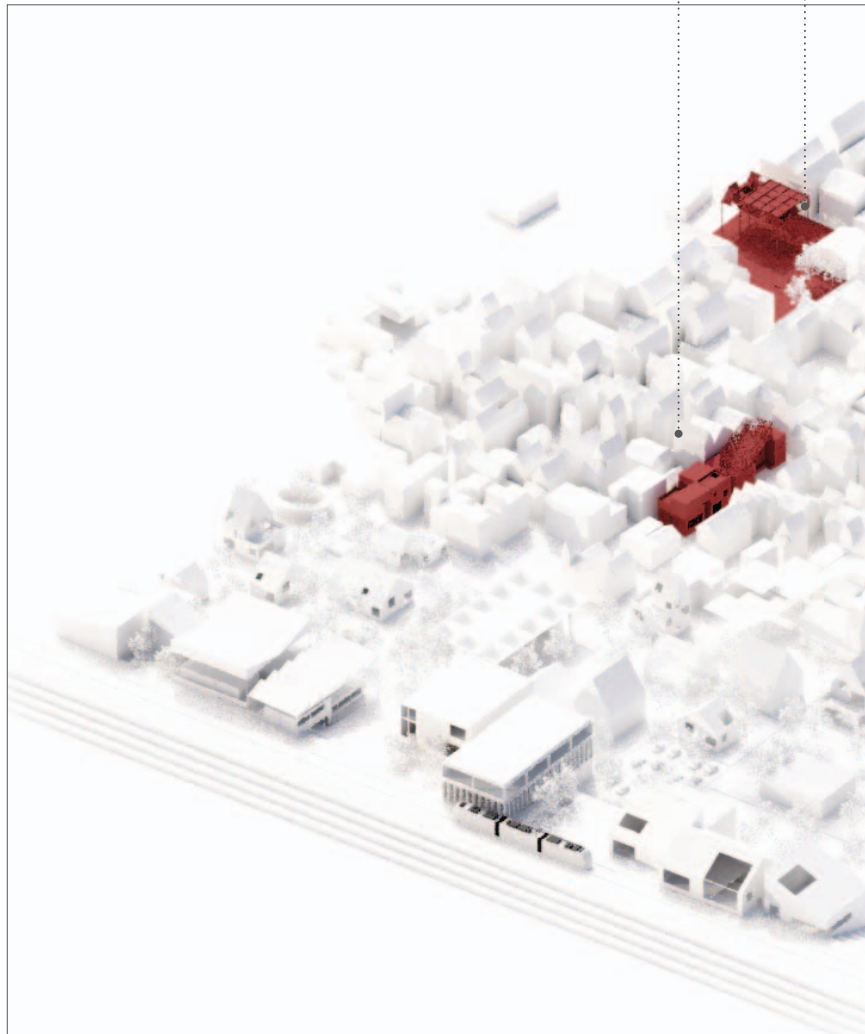
design proposal

phases of the new design

rennovation of existing
buildings into a library
and a childrean area

3

1



transforming two
ruined buildings into a
shared public space

2

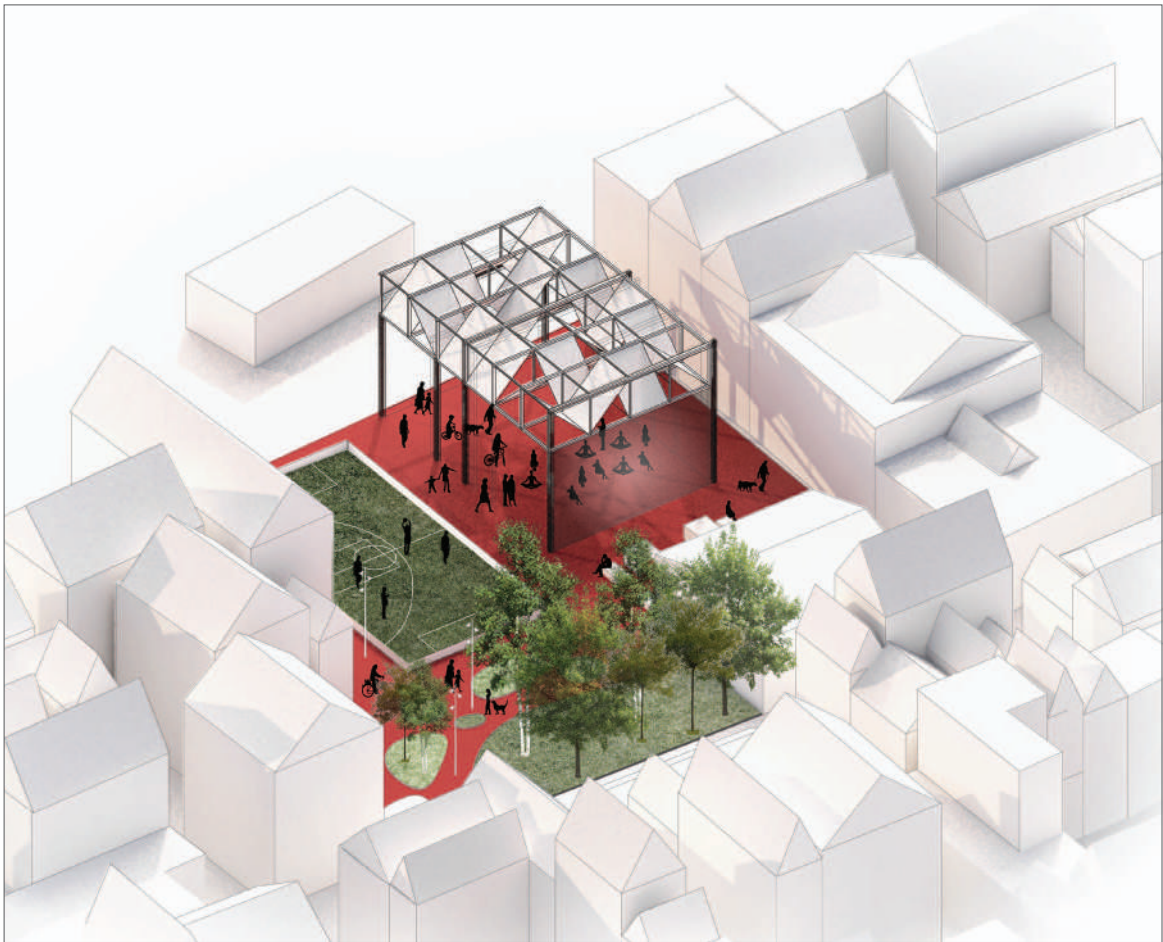
readaption of aban-
doned buildings into a
teahouse retreat



05.1

design proposal

1/ strategies on renovation



transforming three ruined existing buildings into a open-air cinema, a street soccer and green garden.

This transformation is about turning an area with three buildings in ruins and other spare space around into a common ground for activities and green.

The proposal is about turning down the buildings by just keeping their main structure as memory and marking the ground with a red coloured material. Then creating space for a street soccer field (8x16m) for young people to play. In the corner where the space meets the street an emerging green spot comes on by creating an interesting profile for the street.

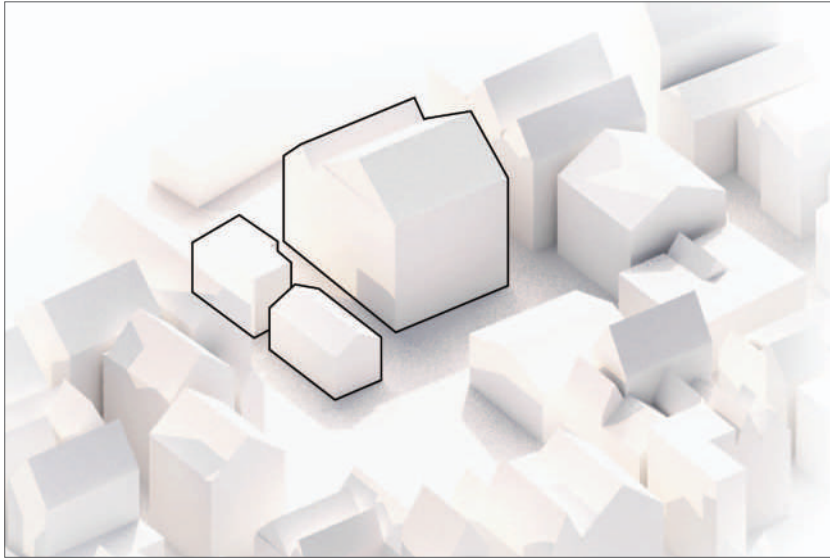
The structure gets covered by a system of pitched surfaces that dwell together in an artistic mode by creating a covered space underneath where projections can be made and turning the area into an open-air cinema.

The idea for this intervention is to create one open-shared spot for the residents who want to bring their kids in a green and playground area or just watch a movie in open-air. These are functional proposals that I believe can match in such context. They don't have not even one small sport field in the island or an artistic installation that people can even actually use it (cinema) or a gathering place for them to sit and enjoy a green common spot.

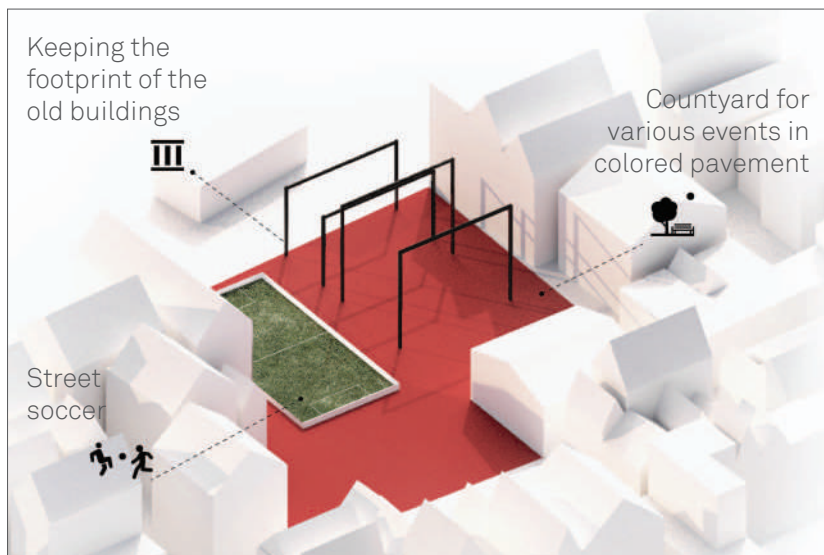
05.1

design proposal

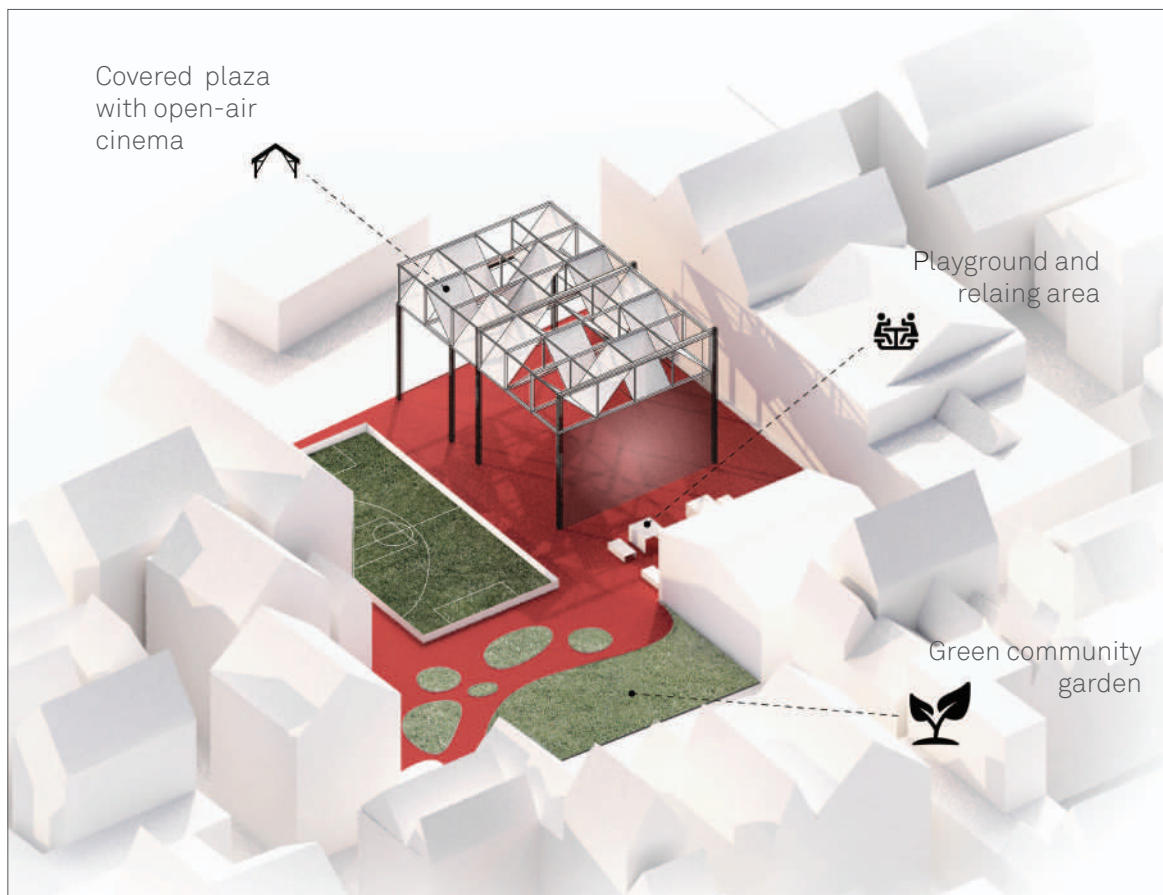
1/ strategies on renovation



1_the existing ruined buildings in the existing shape



2_keeping the structure to reuse it in the covered cinema + adding a street soccer field instead of the other two small volumes.



3_adding a covering artistic roof to the structure together with a green garden on an side of the street in order to inclose the street. Other relaxing spots like benches and picnic sits are added on the side.

05.1

design proposal

2/ strategies on renovation



Adapteeve use of the abandoned volumes into a tea+yoga room for tourist and locals who want to live rural

The second transformation is about giving to some of the existing abandoned building a new touristic function where people can come and spend time inside a rural area inverse in the green where they can sleep in B&B structures and during day enjoy tearoom, yoga and medical treatment workshops.

The idea to complete the existing structures with new ones in order to create a courtyard type building where the small common courtyard remains private. The other two sides of the buildings get completed to create new structures for the B&B rooms and shared spaces for the visitors.

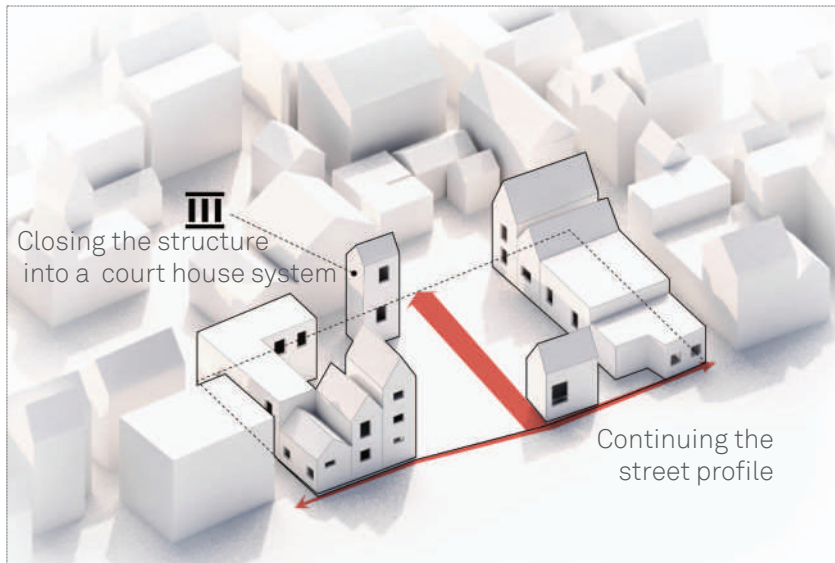
The new functions proposed are thought for visitors who enjoy spending time into an green inverse and experiment new local experiences. From the tearooms to the cafe bookshop later to the yoga space with a belvedere sight over the agricultural fields.

Green rooftops and tree spots enrich the area into becoming a new fresh spot that can be seen as an example of turning abandoned buildings into structures that can bring visitors in and possible jobs for the locals.

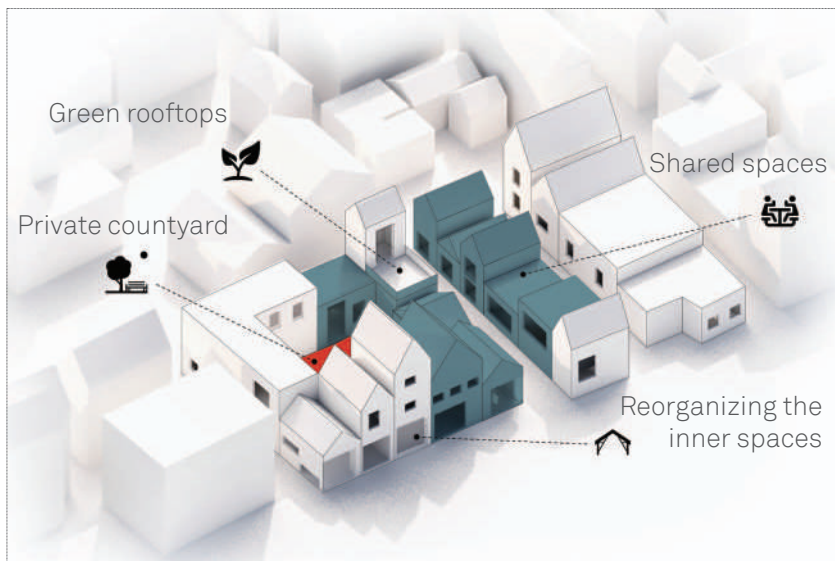
05.1

design proposal

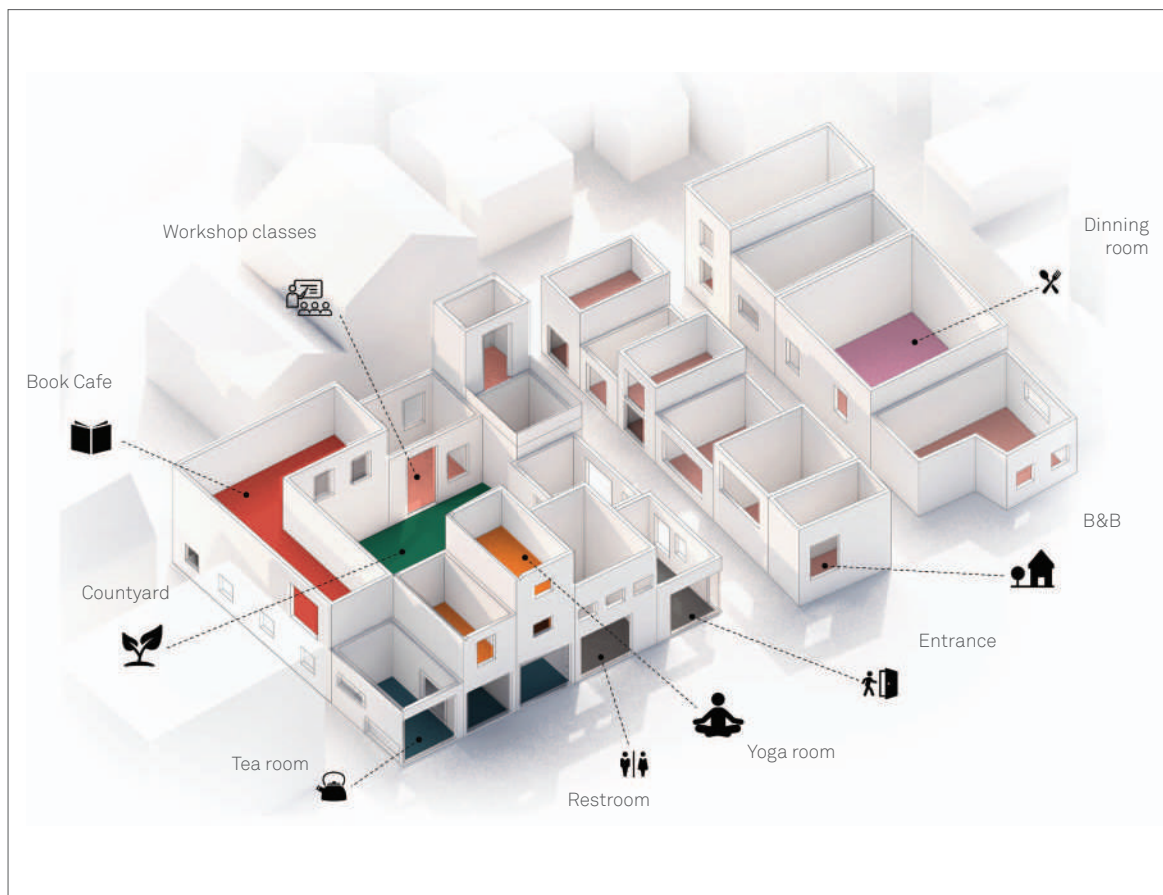
2/ strategies on renovation



1_the existing abandoned buildings in the existing shape



2_keeping the structure to reuse it in a court tea house+reusing the other volumes for B&B service.



3_Adapteve use of the abandoned volumes into a tea+yoga room for tourist and locals who want to live rura and enjoy traditional activities in a renovative structure.

05.1

design proposal

3/ strategies on renovation



Adaptee use of the abandoned volumes into a tea+yoga room for tourist and locals who want to live rural

The third intervention case is turning existing structures into a public space for the residents and not only... Two of the abandoned houses are thought to be turned into a small library with a cafe bar on a green rooftop while the other three buildings aside turned into a kindergarden for the children of the village with a playground on top.

This transformation is about using the abandoned buildings to create spaces for the community and the people who want to visit it.

The space disposition is very narrow and the volumes come one next to the other but the inner space distribution should be organized and used in the best way.

The playground has a playful facade that goes along with the rooftop playground for the children and creates an inner green garden underneath. The other green rooftops are to create a new disposition of green inside the new structures in the village.

The materials proposed to be used like the concrete brick or the stone dwell together and with the other existing materials inside the village.

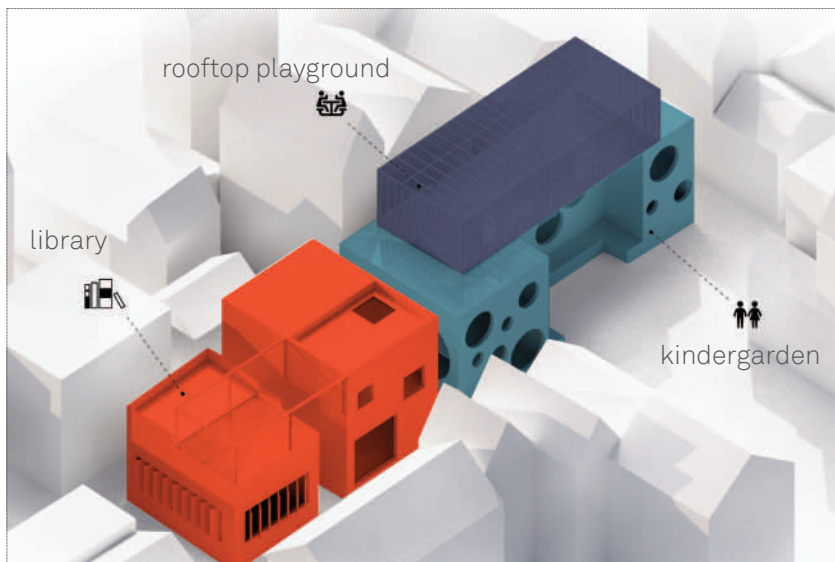
05.1

design proposal

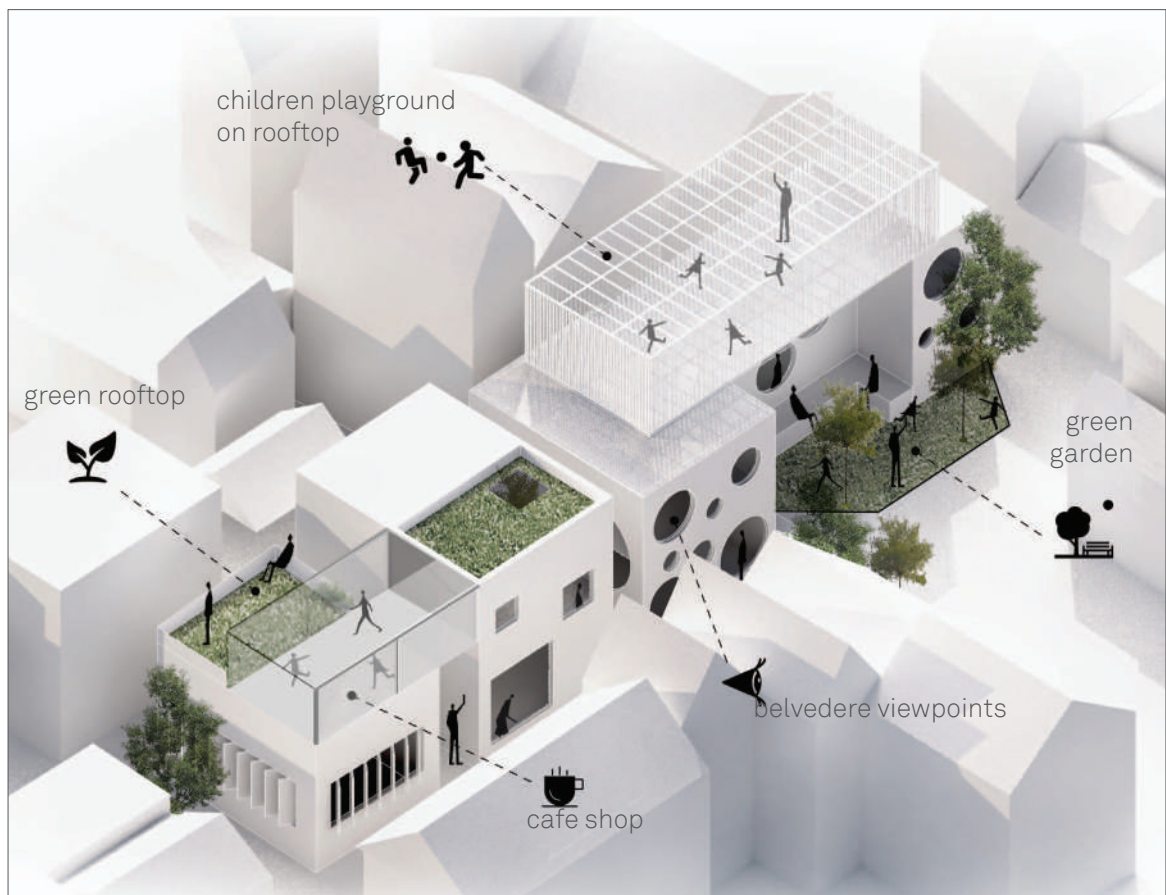
3/ strategies on renovation



1_the existing abandoned buildings in their existing form



2_reusing the existing structures to be turned into new facilities like the library, the kindergarden and the rooftop playground



Adaptive transformation into new functions and spaces like the small green rooftops or the shared garden.

05.1

design proposal

expansion of the village



4

recreational area



05.1 design proposal

expansion of the village

CONNECTING THE EXISTING
WITH THE NEW

SHARED GROUND



The expansion of the village with the new developments.

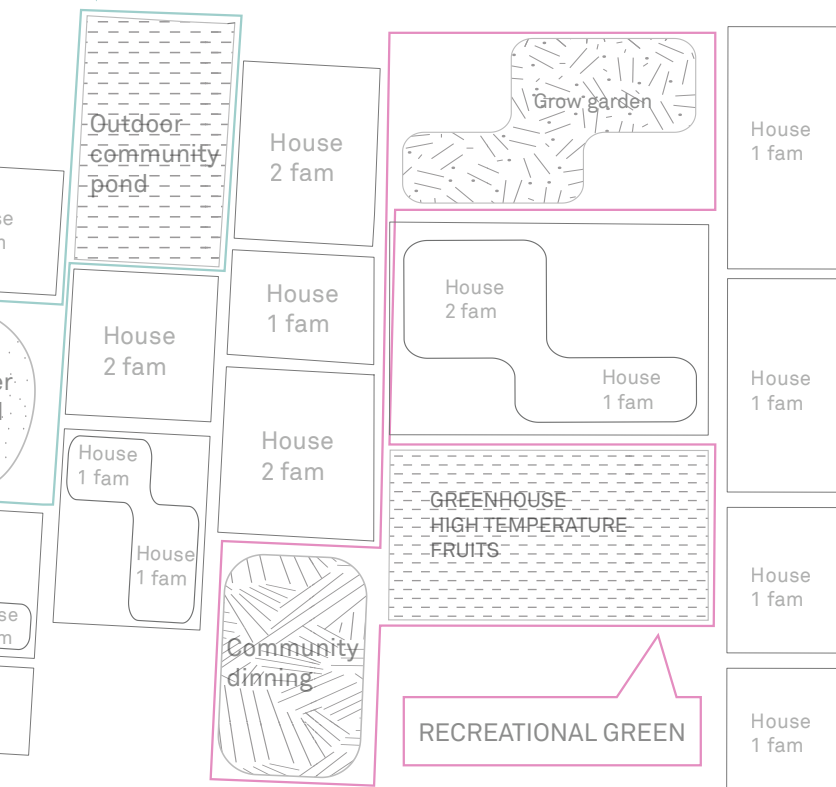
ENHANCE THE EXISTING

VARIOUS SHARED FUNCTIONS

MODULARITY



SPACES

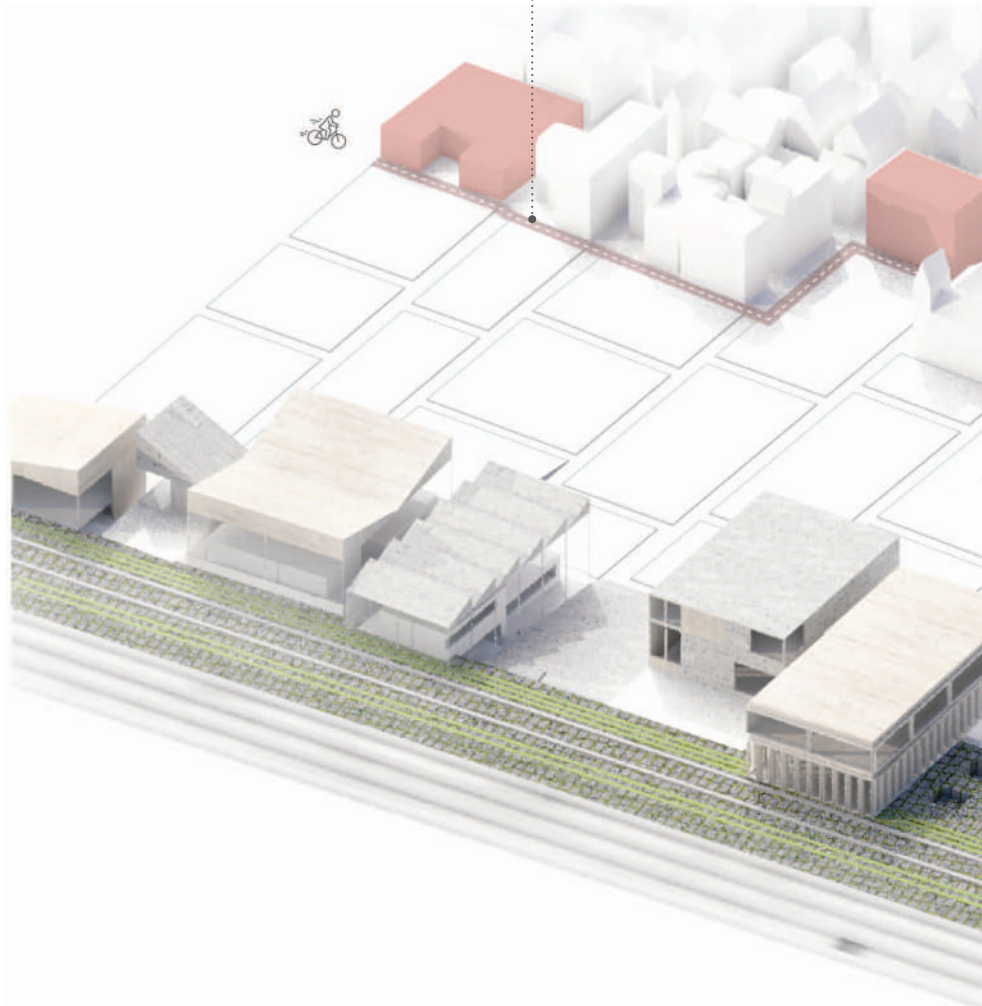


05.1

design proposal

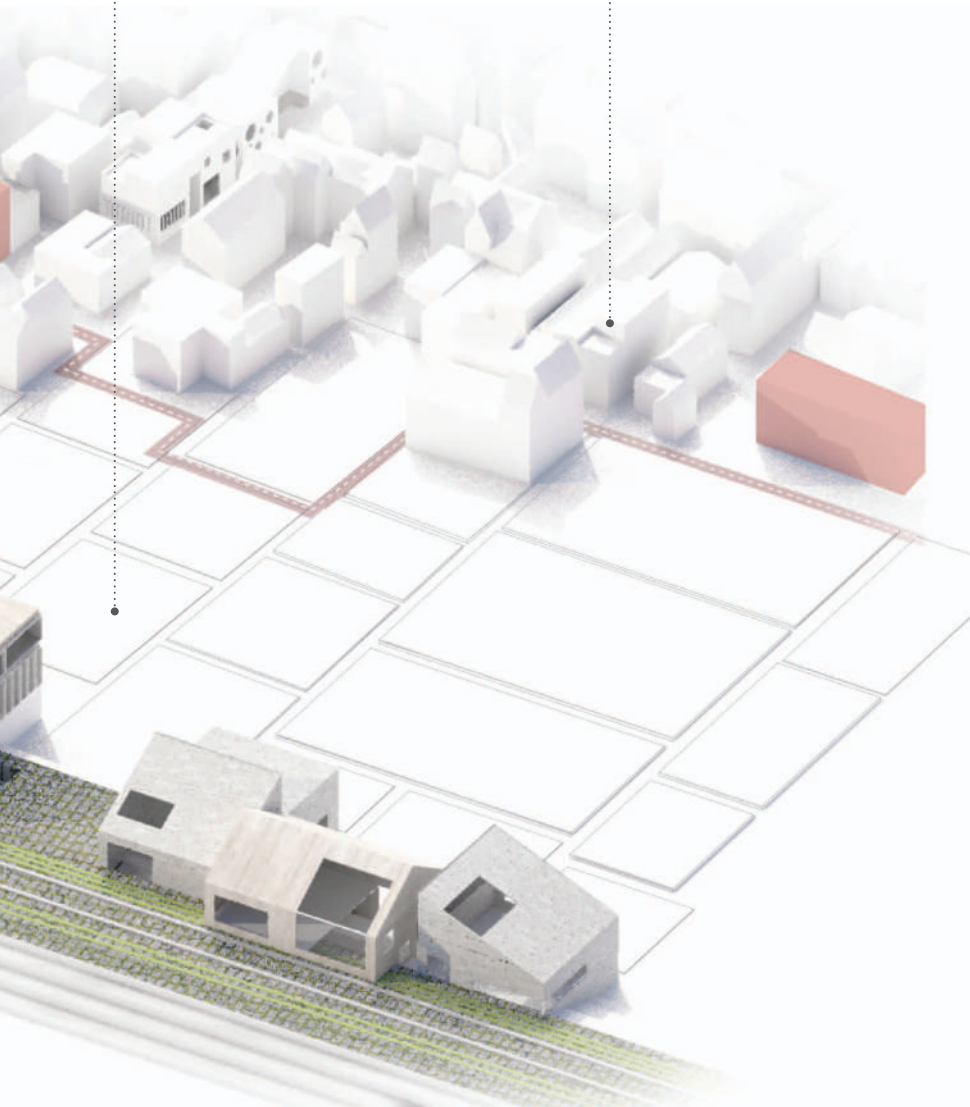
expansion of the village

cycling line as a sightseeing
tour through the relevant
buildings in the village



plots of 400-3000 sqm for
the new developments

the existing buildings

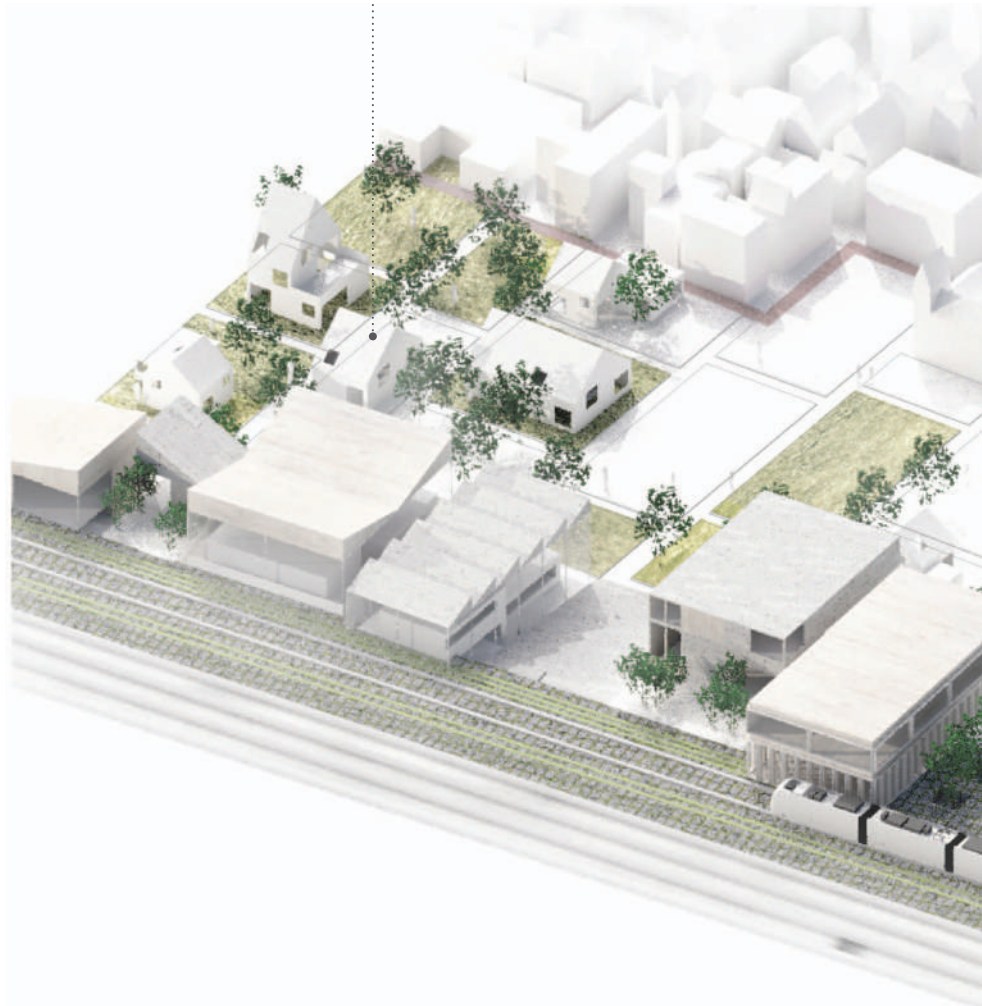


05.1

design proposal

expansion of the village

house1 fam model



house 2 fam model

house1 fam model



05.1

design proposal

expansion of the village

playground

community
garden

flower bed



The leisure area with the playground, community garden and flower bed.

green garden

aquohonic left
beens

covered market



The community areas with the green garden, auaphonics left beens and the covered market.

05.1

design proposal

expansion of the village

street soccer

outdoor commu-
nity pond

water pond
swimming area



Sports area with the street soccer field, water pond swimming area and the outdoor community pond.

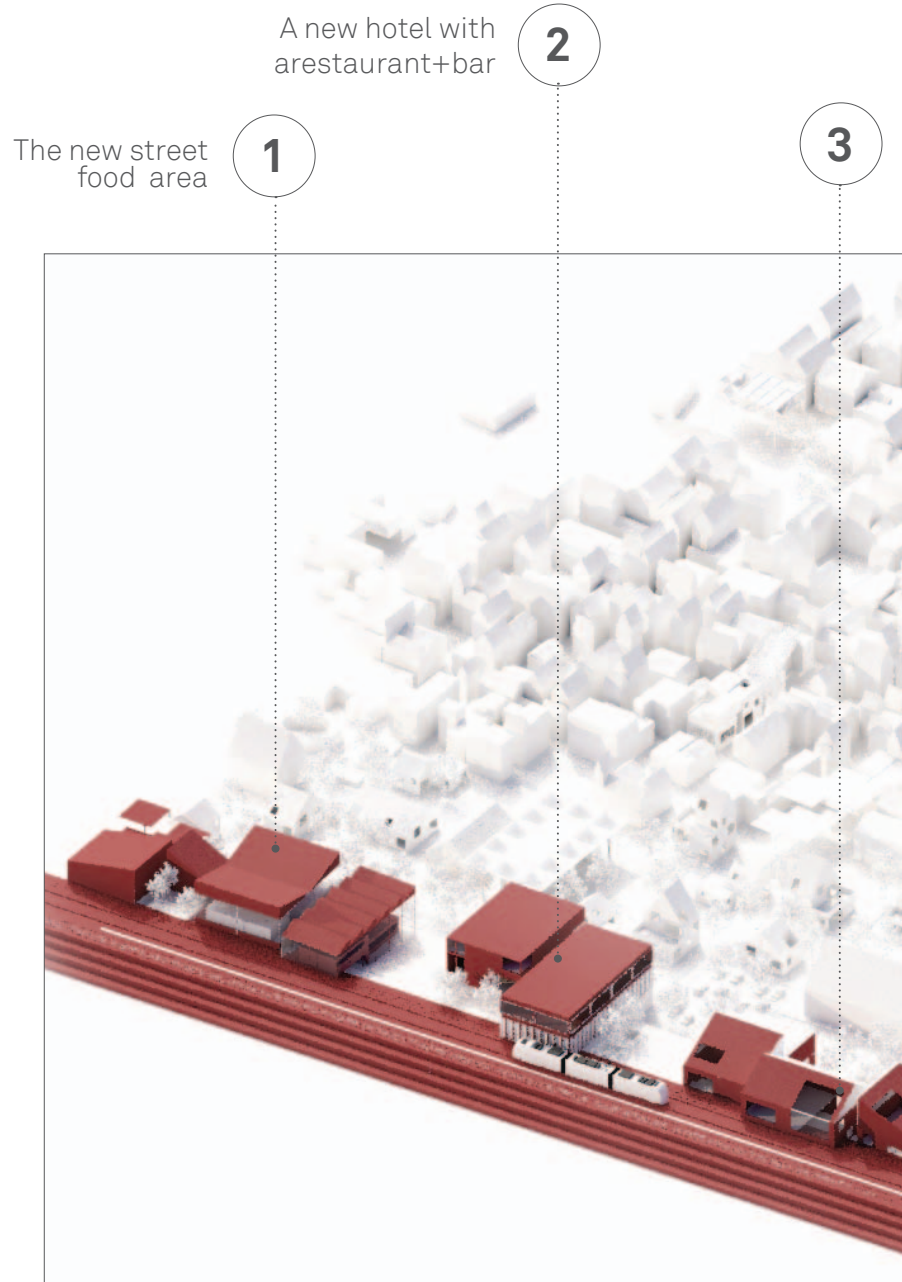


The recreational area with the community dinning, Greenhouse high temperature fruits and the grow fruits.

05.1

design proposal

connection with the new infrastructure



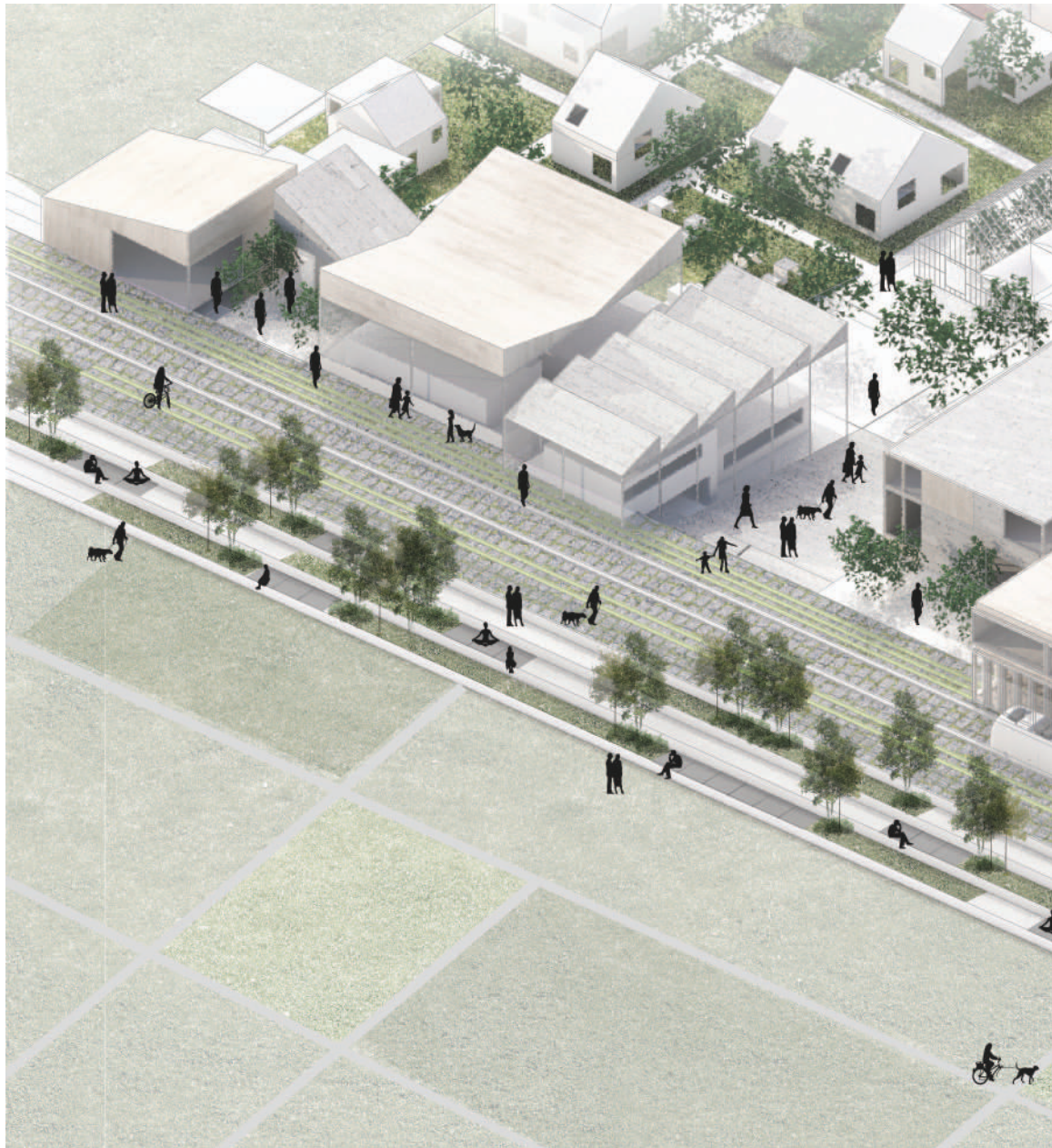
A new wellness centre



05.1

design proposal

connection with the new infrastructure



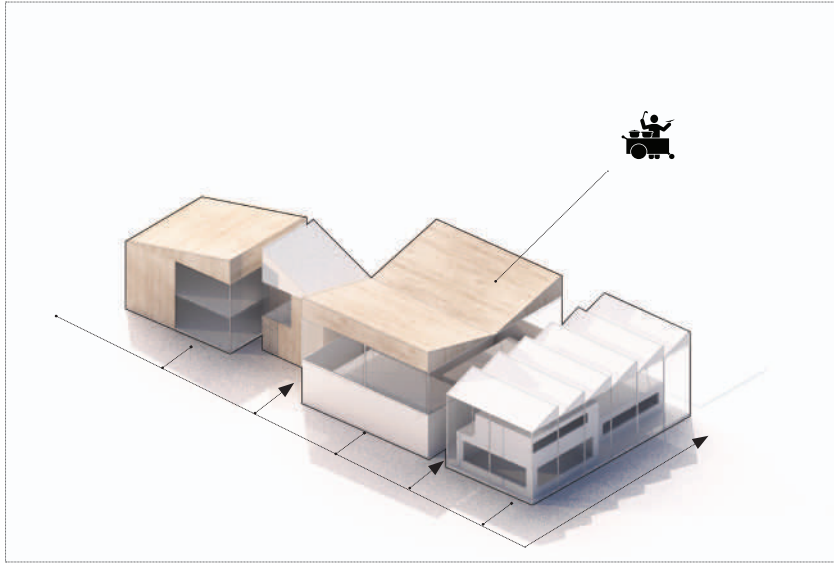
Sancun village proposal view



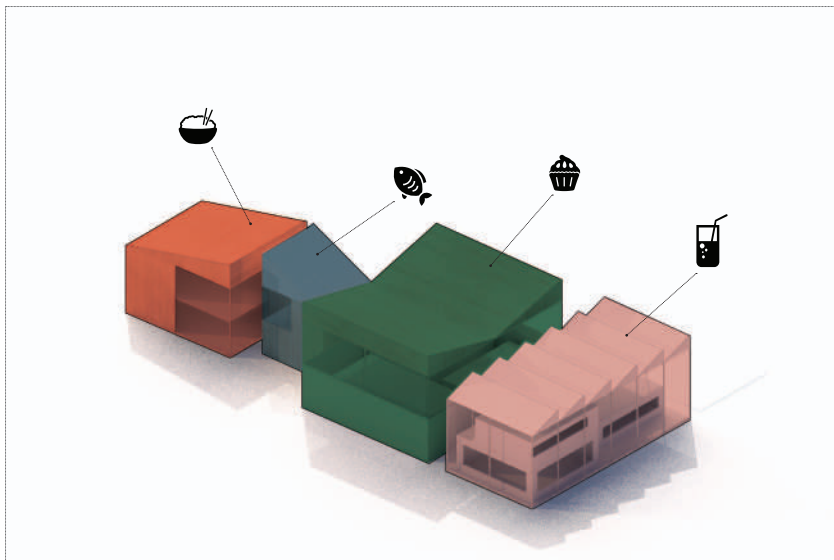
05.1

design proposal

1/ connection with the new infrastructure



1_The buildings are adjacent to the main street where the new transport and cycling line passes and there are many accesses to the village through them.



2_The street food is organised in four different areas, ones where you can enjoy all the salty traditional cuisine, local grilled fill, take-away desserts and last fresh drinks.

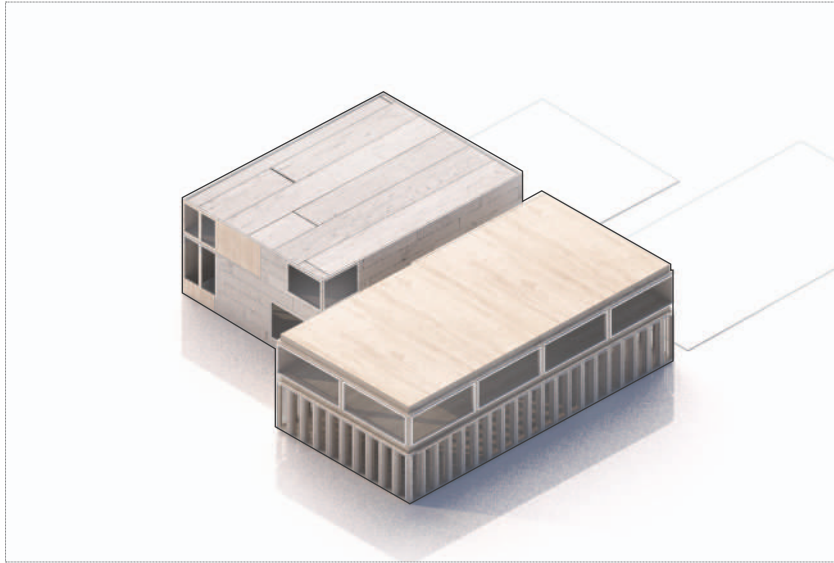


Four new buildings are placed together to create an organized space for a small street food to extract not only the residents of the village but even for the rest of the island. The idea is to create a space where different chinese traditional regional food can be made and serve to the visitors but not only.

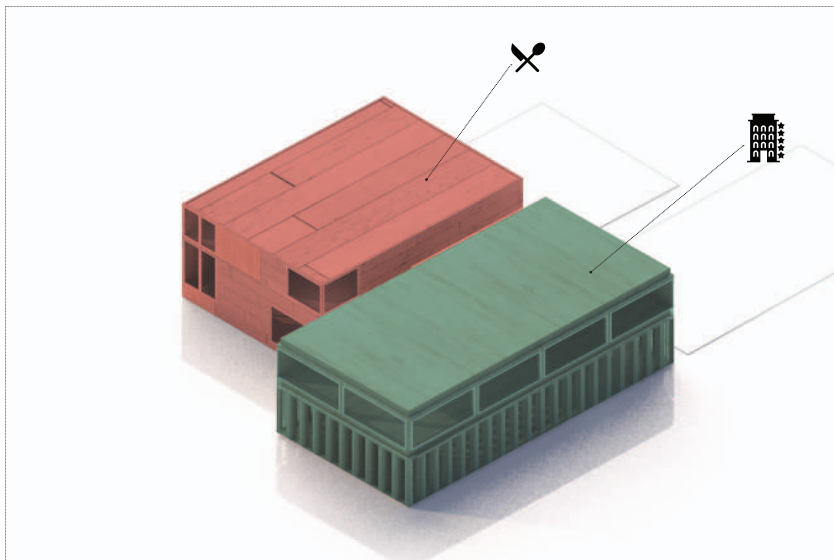
05.1

design proposal

2/ connection with the new infrastructure



1_A hotel and an restaurant-bar are placed together to offer the possibility to people who want to visit the place and enjoy it for some days.



2_The hotel has a few three star rooms and on the ground floor you can find the bar service while on the side there is an restaurant-bar.

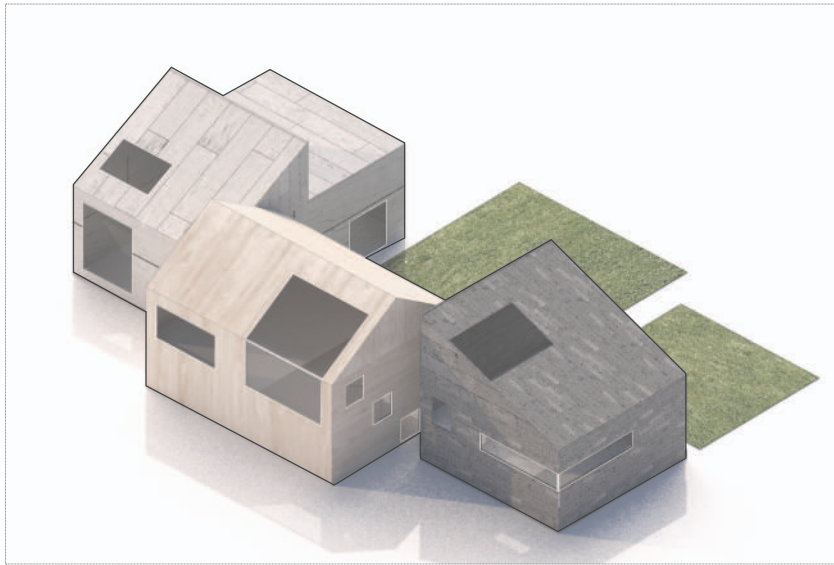


The two volumes are adjacent in order to meet the two functions together as they dwell better. The hotel has the two floors for a few number of three star hotel rooms with a bar on the ground floor and the restaurant on the side.

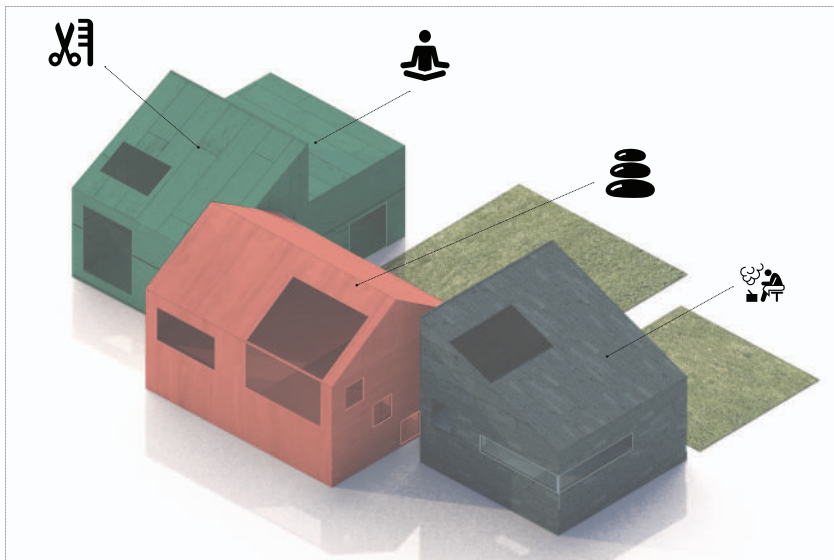
05.1

design proposal

3/ connection with the new infrastructure



1_The volumes create a cozy place for a wellness centre where visitors can find different kind of areas around wellness services.



2_ Inside this wellness centre are gathered different small areas like; the massage therapy, springs, meditation area, sauna and beauty centre.



The idea is to create a small wellness retreat where you can find all-inclusive services from springs and sauna on one side, massege therapy on the other and the meditation together with a beauty treat. Together they form an area where you can stop and enjoy traditional related treatments .

06

conclusions