



Guiding Principles

- Create a networked system of Links and Nodes
- Accommodate a variety of scales and uses
- Promote a distinctive image and identity for Foshan

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The river becomes the heart of the city... water flows through the city, like blood,

Foshan is a city on the cusp of momentous change. The development of a new downtown provides a great opportunity to enhance its historical, natural and commercial resources through the building of vibrant public spaces flavored by Foshan's unique cultural heritage. We would like to propose a public space plan that:

- 1) Is a system of links and nodes, in which key areas are connected through networks of public space.
- 2) Accommodates a variety of scales and uses, from small neighborhood parks inviting rest and reflection to grand plazas where the people of Foshan might gather for holidays, festivals, and revolutions!
- 3) Helps Foshan stand out not just as an economic city, but as a distinctive, attractive, and environmentally healthy city as well.
- 4) Offers design suggestions that we hope will be helpful to you as you plan for Foshan's future.***

空间网络联系

Linkages and Networks



Encourage visual and physical connections to the waterfront

Enhance accessibility and coherence by connecting...

- North & South Banks
- Neighborhoods & Districts
- Destinations with Transit
- Urban Fabric & Waterfront
- Local Attractions

Connect New Attractions With Old

Singapore Park Connector Network

Continuous public access to riverfront edge

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Making the city more legible by having a coherent and logical system and network
Creating a legible civic structure, backbone of the city... "genetic" makeup or DNA of a city...

CHINESE HAVE A MUCH MORE INTEGRATED NOTION OF CITY AND WATER AND ACTIVITY (BRIDGES BRING THIS TOGETHER!); MUCH RICHNESS TO CAPITALIZE ON, TRADITIONS OF FESTIVALS, ETC. A VERY JOYFUL THING. WAY OF MAKING WATER--AND PASSAGE OVER WATER--A CELEBRATION, AN ACTIVE THING, NOT PASSIVE.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE—IMPORTANT!—ESPECIALLY FOR FESTIVALS. DON'T HAVE TO DO A LOT WITH THIS, BUT RECOGNIZE IT.

多种规模和用途

Variety of Scales and Use



Oasis in the
Commercial
District



Space
for
Exercise



Formal and
Informal
Commerce

Existing and Proposed Public Spaces

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Places for...

- Gatherings, celebrations, and cultural happenings
- Rest, pause and reflection
- Connecting commerce, housing, industry and culture

A Network of...

- Grand civic spaces
- Neighborhood parks of varying sizes
- Recreation areas

Industrial spaces along north east bank will go, become fancy residential areas with new school

Wetland preservation along
New tunnel under the river,

GREEN = connector

Restaurants on the water?

Guideline for waterfront park - north side vs. south side - what is the meaning of the central park?

DON'T SQUEEZE THE WATERFRONT

Respect the tradition of using public space for many uses

Integrating:

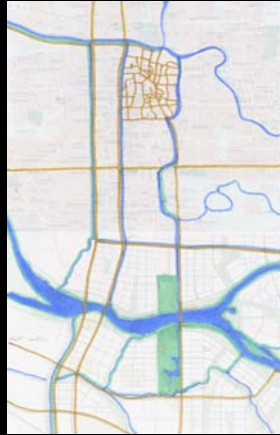
A variety of scale – spaces and places that range from the grand to the intimate, depending on the context

Variety of Uses – spaces that are multi-functional; a broader definition of ‘open space’ – not just parks, but any kind of public space, plaza, etc.

Emphasizing the importance of integrating cultural elements == this is an opportunity to allow culture to play a significant role in their design and function

城市形象

Image and identity-building



Extension of canal network as a connector through Foshan's public spaces, from Old City Center to new Central Park to South Bank.



Distinctive Nodes (Macau)



Public Spaces Defined by Cultural Elements (Suzhou)

- Capitalizing on Foshan's unique history, natural features and cultural heritage
- Developing Foshan's cultural economy
- Distinguishing Foshan from neighboring cities in the PRD and Guangdong Province



Building on a Rich Cultural Heritage



Integration of Historic Design (Panyu)

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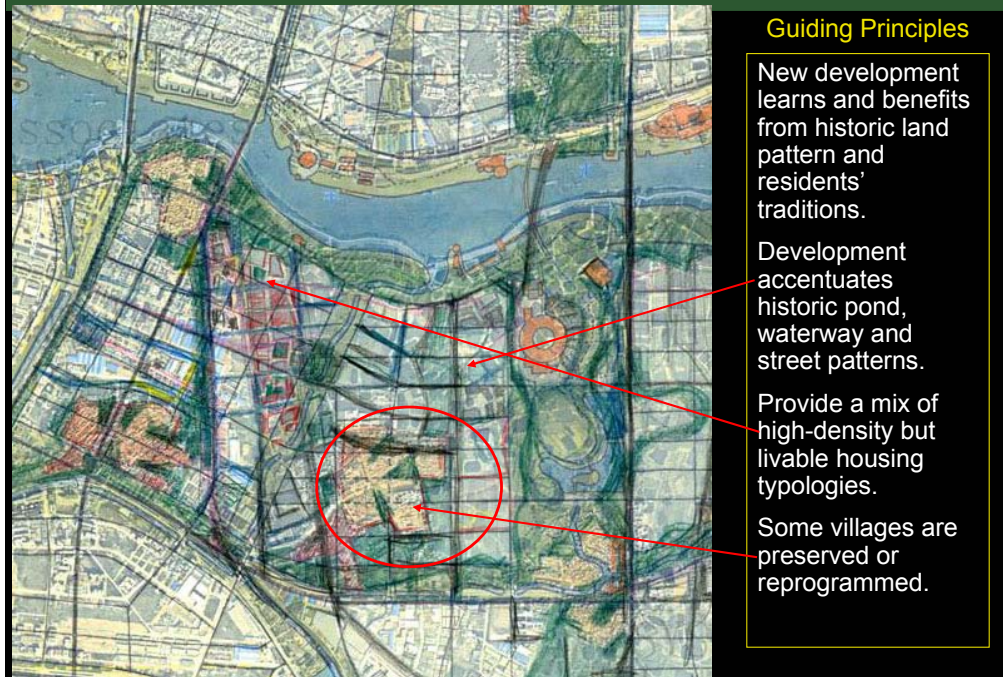
Shipyard park:

It has created a great impact on the local people and national wide. It is a self explanation showing how we can turn a wreck site into an aesthetic, meaningful and functional places, and what an important role professionals can play in urban renovation.

Starting to build cultural economy, think about opportunities for increased tourism
Thinking holistically about development of strong cultural economy.

城市设计

Urban Design & Housing



Overall goals of our work on urban design and housing:

We do not want Foshan to develop according to “universal” western principles that ignore important physical and cultural features of the site.

Given the new directive from Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, this is an issue that is quickly gaining prominence within the Chinese government and something Foshan should be sure to pay attention to as it thinks about developing the new center.

1. Promote new development that does not follow western typologies that ignore the culture and history inherent in Chinese land patterns. Instead pay attention to strategies learned in South China and honor Foshan’s past as a way to set it apart from other Chinese cities that are blindly following western models of development.
2. Take advantage of the existing pattern of waterways, ponds, streets, and open spaces in developing the new center. Those ponds could be used as public features within new developments.
3. Provide a range of housing typologies, both new and rehabbed, that are dense but pleasant and livable.
4. Preserve some villages (if they have historical and architectural value, part or whole). Do so through outright preservation tactics that would allow a village to continue functioning exactly as it does now with improvements, or preserve only the built environment but reprogram the associated uses.

We feel it is extremely important to receive feedback from you on these issues so we will focus on only them today. However, as you can see in the maps, we are considering options for a network of greenways which could envelope and/or connect the preserved or reprogrammed villages. We also want to consider how the existing land pattern can help to define the size and boundaries of the central park. We’ve also been working on a set of design guidelines. We will present to you information on these and other issues following our next 7 weeks of work, but for today we will focus on a general attitude about urban design and housing.

地态

Historic Land Pattern

Create spatial identity, keep cultural layers

- Use fish ponds and street pattern to inform pattern of new development
- Reuse fish ponds as public gardens, green spaces, or water-cleansing resources



Potsdamer Platz before WWII



Potsdamer Platz redesign today

Case: Potsdamer Platz, Berlin, Germany

- response to the traditional city block
- Keep consistency without uniformity

Goal: Preserve character of South China city in new development

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Land pattern of the south bank should be reinterpreted. It is not white paper. The land pattern shows the local history.

Potsdamer Platz, Berlin, Germany

response to the traditional city block and Keep consistency without uniformity.

Our goal is to create an Shan-shui city (mountain-water city). We do not want the grid extends relentlessly over irregular wetland terrain which is valuable historic sediment. The rectangular blocks obliterate the agricultural fields, hills, rivers, and woods. These changes eradicate genius-loci geographic spirit and stamp the “universal” mark. There is a close connection between space identity, economic development, and Foshan city’s plan. We intend to take advantage of existing land texture and spatial uniqueness recoded in wetland and several villages. Thus, we are establishing meaningful city fabric form which informs the future growth pattern of the downtown area.

Prior to WWII, Potsdamer Platz was a vibrant unique section of Berlin. During the war it was completely leveled by bombings and remained largely vacant and underutilized until recently when a new plan for redevelopment began. Today, this area of Berlin has been rebuilt with new structures on the historic street pattern giving the area a special character. Signs and pictures tell about the history of the area. This case study provides an example of how totally new development can reflect the unique character of a site.

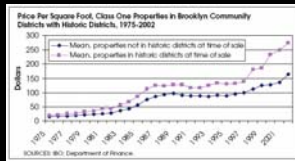
古村保护

Village Preservation



Case study #1: Greenwich Village, Manhattan

- Faced intense redevelopment pressure
- Preserved historic residential character
- Extremely high land values today



Extremely high residential land value

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Case study #2: Pingyao, Shanxi, China

- Current preservation dilemma:
 - Preservation can be profitable
 - Can historic Chinese cities be livable?
- Planning to provide villagers option



Goal: Provide the opportunity to preserve villages as they currently exist

Many cultures, including the Chinese, have worked to preserve the cultural heritage that lies in their historic villages. However, this is often difficult to do because of monetary constraints. It is important to realize that since now is the only chance the city of Foshan has to preserve some of its fishing and farming village heritage, pure economics should not play the only role in making a determination of what to protect.

Case #1: Greenwich Village

As the urban renewal push was gaining steam in the 1940s, Greenwich Village began to come under intense redevelopment pressure from both downtown Manhattan to the south and burgeoning midtown to the north. However, residents of the village continually fought to preserve their neighborhood's character, and in the 1960s, controls began to be put in place protecting the village. In 1969, it received a historic district designation and is protected against redevelopment. Today, the village sports some of the very highest residential prices in the world. It provides contrast against the skyscrapers of downtown and midtown Manhattan.

Case #2: Pingyao, Shanxi province, China

China has experience in designating historic villages as culturally valuable and protecting them against redevelopment. The ancient village of Pingyao is one such example. In parts, it is both a live, working village with residents who love inhabiting the traditional spaces, and also an abandoned and preserved museum for tourists where villagers no longer live. Pingyao's designation as a historic site has greatly improved its economic condition through tourism dollars, most of which has come from Chinese tourists (RMB actually). Prior to designation as a historic site, Pingyao was a very poor economically deprived city. For this reason, it was never redeveloped – the city could not put together the necessary funding. Today, it is doing quite well financially.

However, Pingyao illustrates an important point about Chinese village preservation: because of their tight street paths, and other inconveniences, they are difficult to rehabilitate and upgrade with new plumbing, sewers, etc. Many villagers would rather the Chinese government spend its time building new housing outside of the city's ancient walls so they could move out of their old homes. As a result, the Chinese government plans to soon test giving half of Pingyao's population the opportunity to move out. This is a precedent that Foshan should follow. Giving villagers the option to stay or leave the old village housing on the south bank is a way to equitably deal with residents of the villages. Villagers who wish to leave give up the right to their home but should be provided with new housing near the old village. This gives the government to use a set of former villager's homes for reprogramming or as space for new development.

Case Study #1: Xintiandi, Shanghai



**Food/
Restaurant
Village**

**Shopping
Village**



Case Study #2: Dongmen, Shenzhen

Case Study #3: Tate Modern, UK



**Village
as
Museum**

**Water
Village**



Case Study #4: Hongcun, Anhui

Goal: Provide the opportunity to preserve village structures and boosting Foshan's economy

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Reprogram Villages as city service hubs (or backyards)

There are a number of options for reuse of historic structures and spaces in Foshan's villages. Some of these reprogramming options could only take place in a village whose residents chose to move to new housing. However, they all provide ways of thinking about reusing the physical form of Foshan's villages. This is a better way of thinking about these case studies than considering them "models" for redevelopment.

Food and restaurant village

Case study 1 : Xintiandi, Shanghai. Buildings reused as restaurants.

Shopping village

Case Study 2: Dongmen, Shenzhen. Buildings reused to create a shopping district.

Willage as a Museum

Case study 3: Tate Modern, London, England. This museum used to be a large Power Station. Just an idea showing that through adaptive reuse, we could convert a village to a local art museum.

Water Village

Case study 4: Like the villages of Foshan, Hongcun is very dense. However, Hongcun has waterways running throughout making the village feel more open and providing an additional transportation option. We would like to investigate ways of bringing water and green spaces into villages as a way of making them feel more open, improving their appearance, and using this water as a cleansing tool.

高密度低层住房

High Density, Low Rise Housing

Case Study #1: Seidlung Halen, Switzerland (1959-1961)



Case Study #2: Adaption to Asia: Mixed housing in Singapore



Housing Density	Low	Medium	High
Existing Mix	9%	13%	78%
Concept Plan 2001	8%	13%	79%

Goal: Provide Foshan's residents with a number of dense but livable housing options

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Collective ecological housing, particularly low-rise, high-density housing is not a new concept. It has been built in many isolated locations over 30 years and there are many fine examples. One, the Siedlung Halen by Atelier 5 in Switzerland was built in the 60s and is still one of the most famous examples. Its low-rise design creates a pleasant, livable environment for residents. It is of ecologically sensitive planning. In every way it prevents urban degradation. Buildings with smaller footprints will also adhere more easily to aspects of the existing land pattern than large high rise developments which require a more standard grid pattern.

Considering the population expected to live in the new Foshan center, we know low rise developments cannot be the only housing type, nor would we want that to be the case. Foshan's new housing should include a mix of typologies and densities. The Singapore experience in mixed housing could be thought-provoking to the Foshan planners. With 6173 persons per square kilometer, land use in

Singapore is among the most intensive in the world, still they incorporate ecologically sound, high density low rise housing into their plan.