



Deep Forms: Nature Based Solutions

Kongjian Yu
Peking University College of Architecture and Landscape
and Turenscape

How can we survive?



Over 80% of the Chinese cities suffer air pollution, kills 1.2 million people each year



Flood: annual flood damage cost 100 billion US \$



Draught: 400 of 662 cities in shortage of water



Pollution: 75% of the nation's surface water is polluted, 64% of cities' underground water is polluted



Habitat loss: 50% wetland disappeared in the past 50 years

Conventional solutions of single-minded engineering are not sustainable



Alternative---

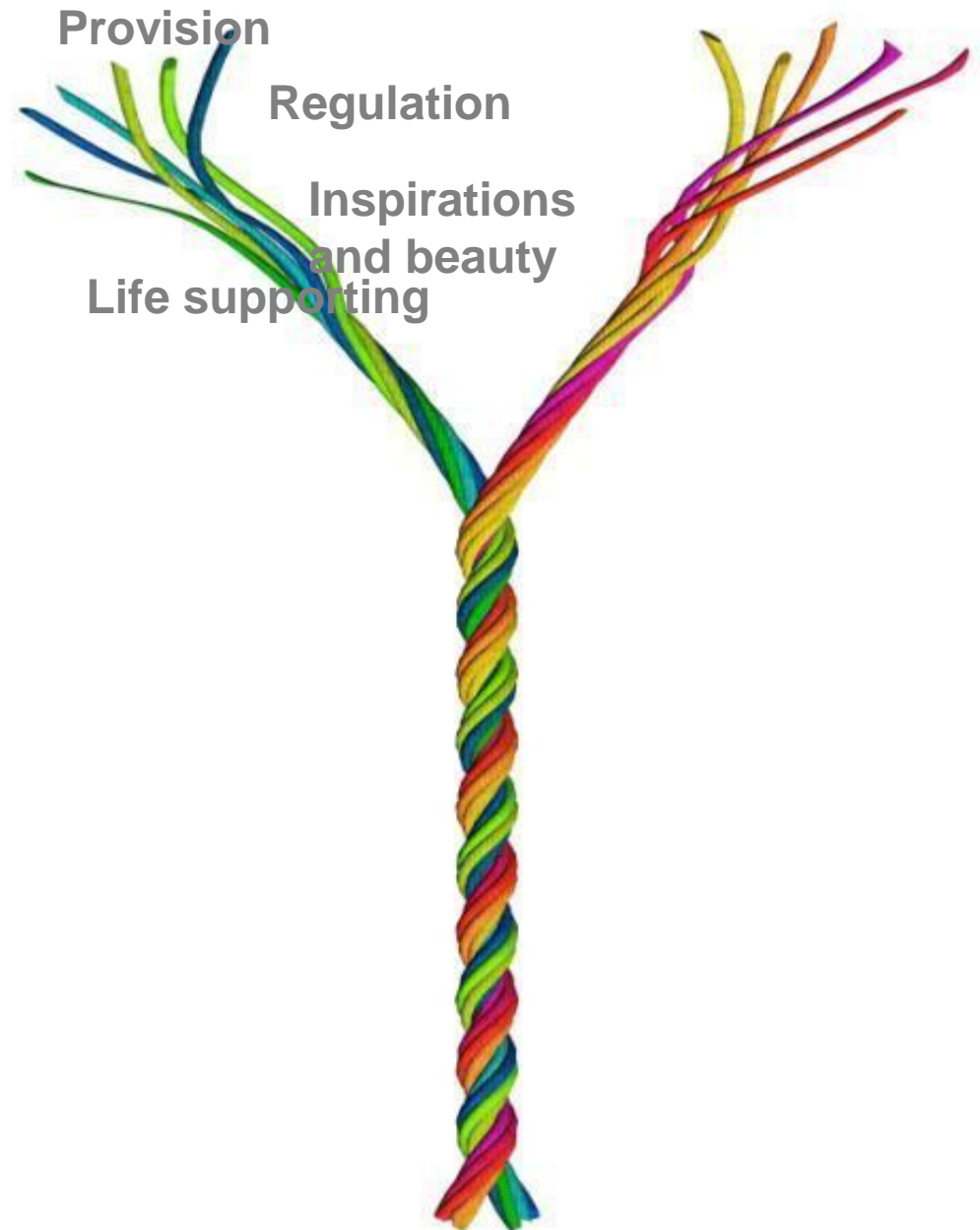
**Nature based solutions:
by planning and
designing landscape as
ecological infrastructures
(Green Infrastructure) to
provide multiple eco-
services:**

Provision

Regulation

Life supporting

**Cultural and spiritual
services**



- **Such solutions result in deep forms that stands in contrast to shallow form, “which has only the surface perceptual order and lacks the solidity of coherent process beneath the surface” (Lyle, 1985).**



Deep form

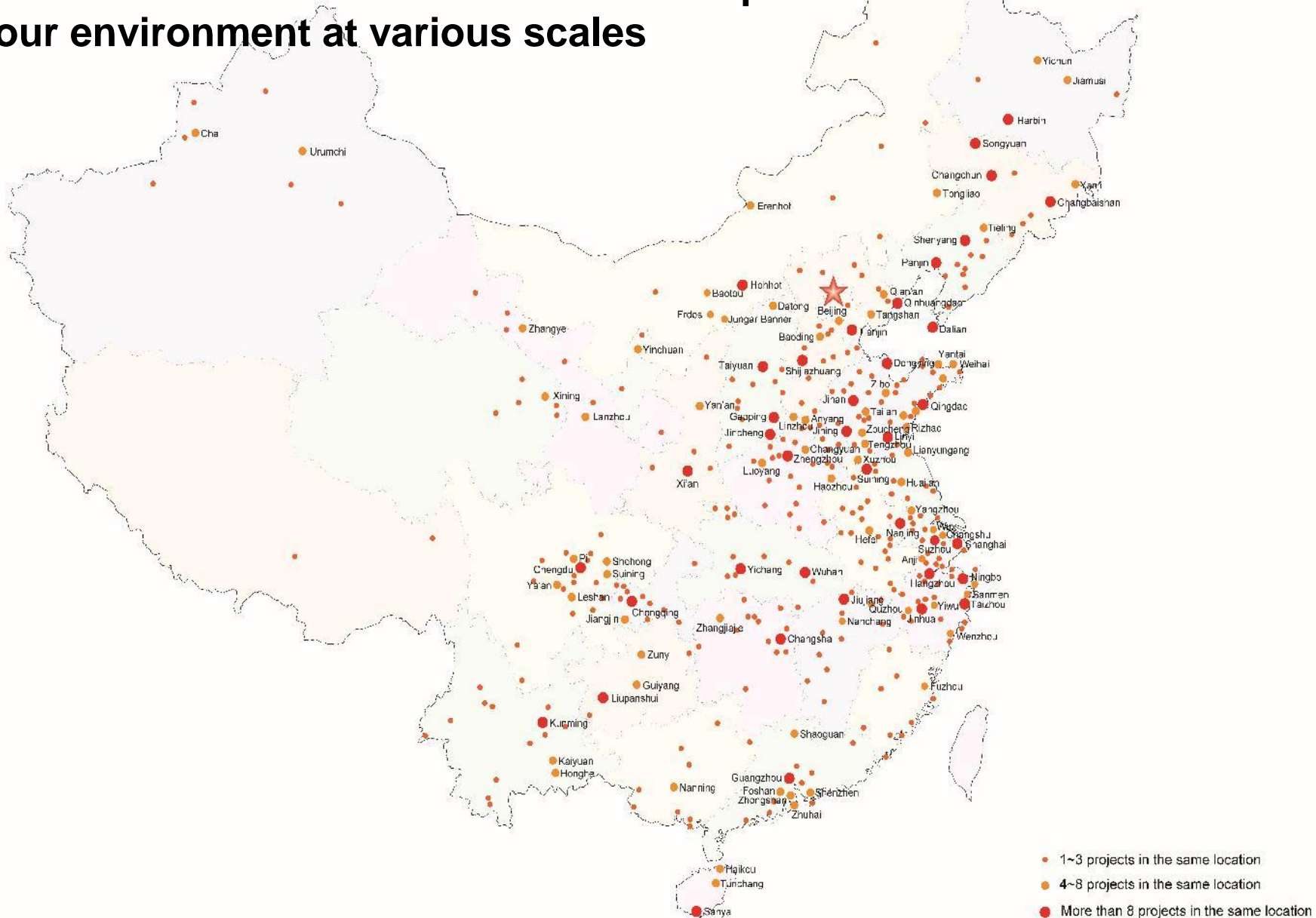


Shallow form and fake

Two strategies to create the ecological infrastructure, thus deep forms

- 1. Planning to create configurative deep forms**
- 2. Design and engineering to create transformative deep forms**

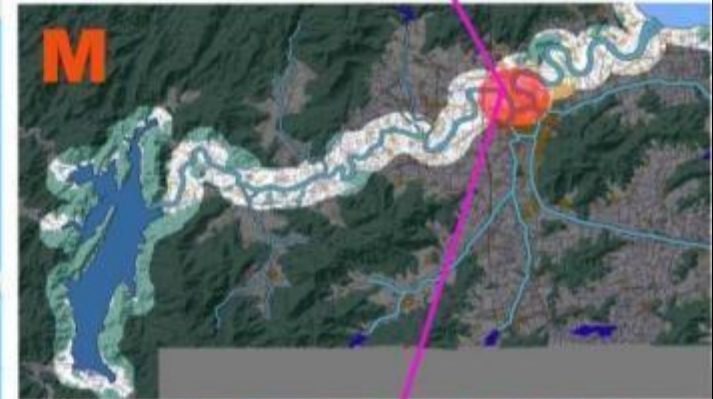
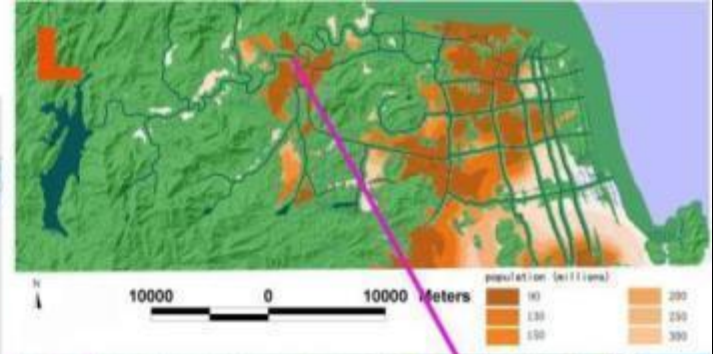
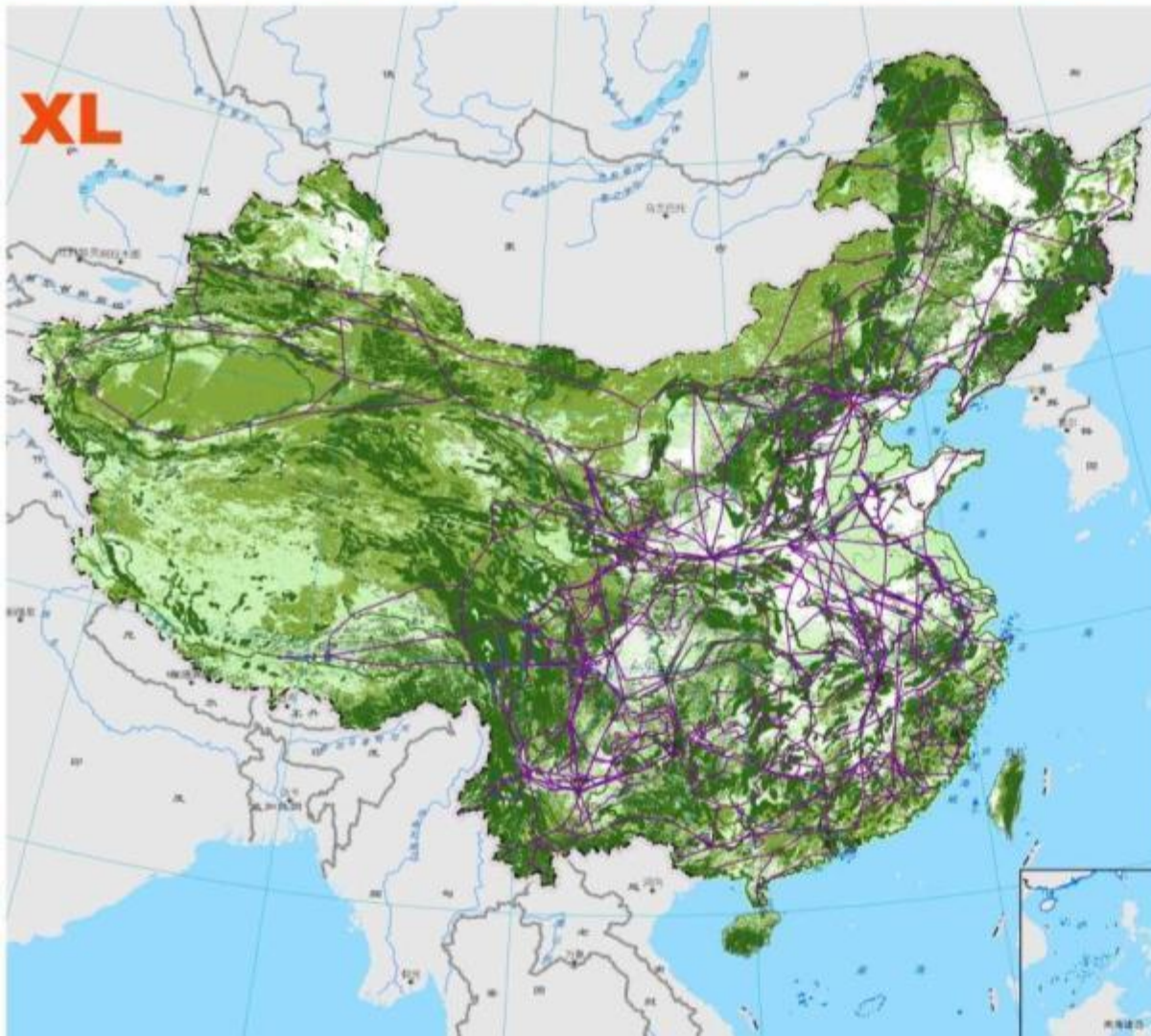
For about 20 years, my team have being testing such solutions in over 200 cities and showcased numerous replicable models for transforming our environment at various scales

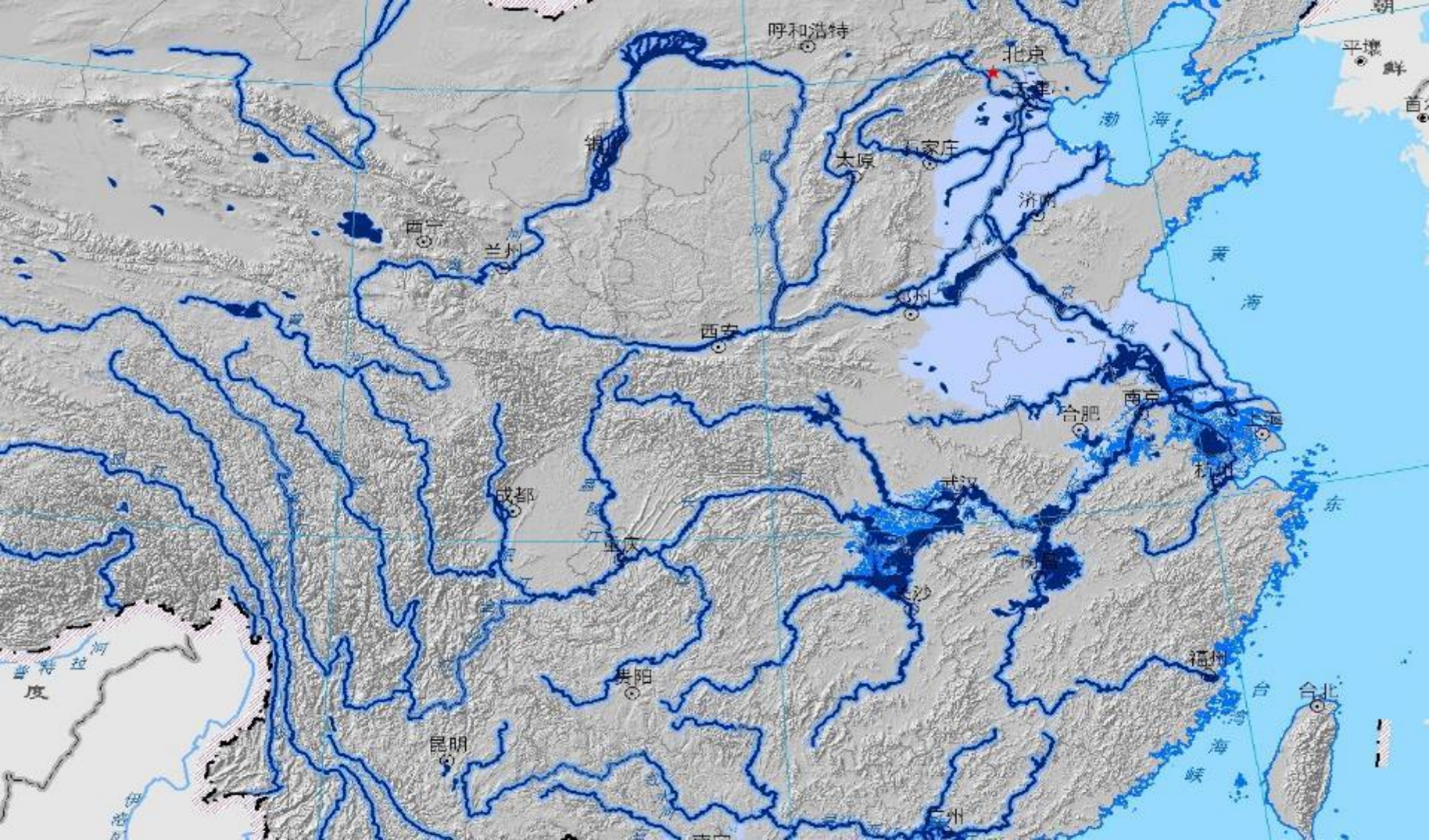


Planning to create configurative deep forms

Ecological Infrastructure across scales

Across The Scales: Building An Ecological Infrastructure





National water security pattern

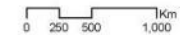
- 1- year flood, 0.8% of the national land;
- 10 -year flood, 2.2% of the national land;
- 50-year-flood , 6.2% of the national land;

洪水淹没区内GDP分布

图例

- ★ 首都
 - ⊙ 城市
 - 国界
 - 省界
 - 海岸线
 - 河流
 - 湖泊
- GDP
- 小于150元/平方公里
 - 150 - 300元/平方公里
 - 大于300元/平方公里

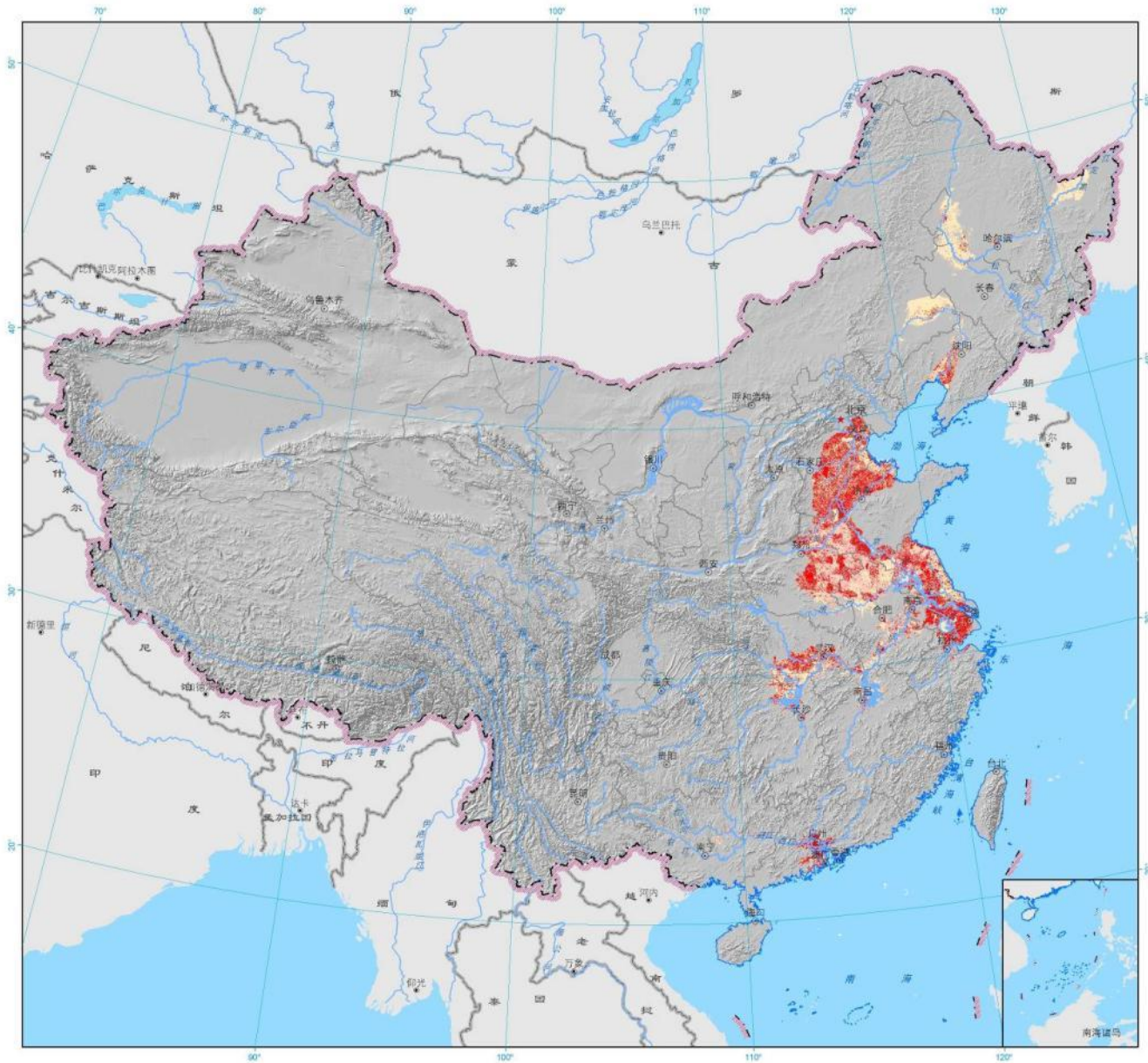
比例尺:



坐标系:
Krasovsky_1940_Albers

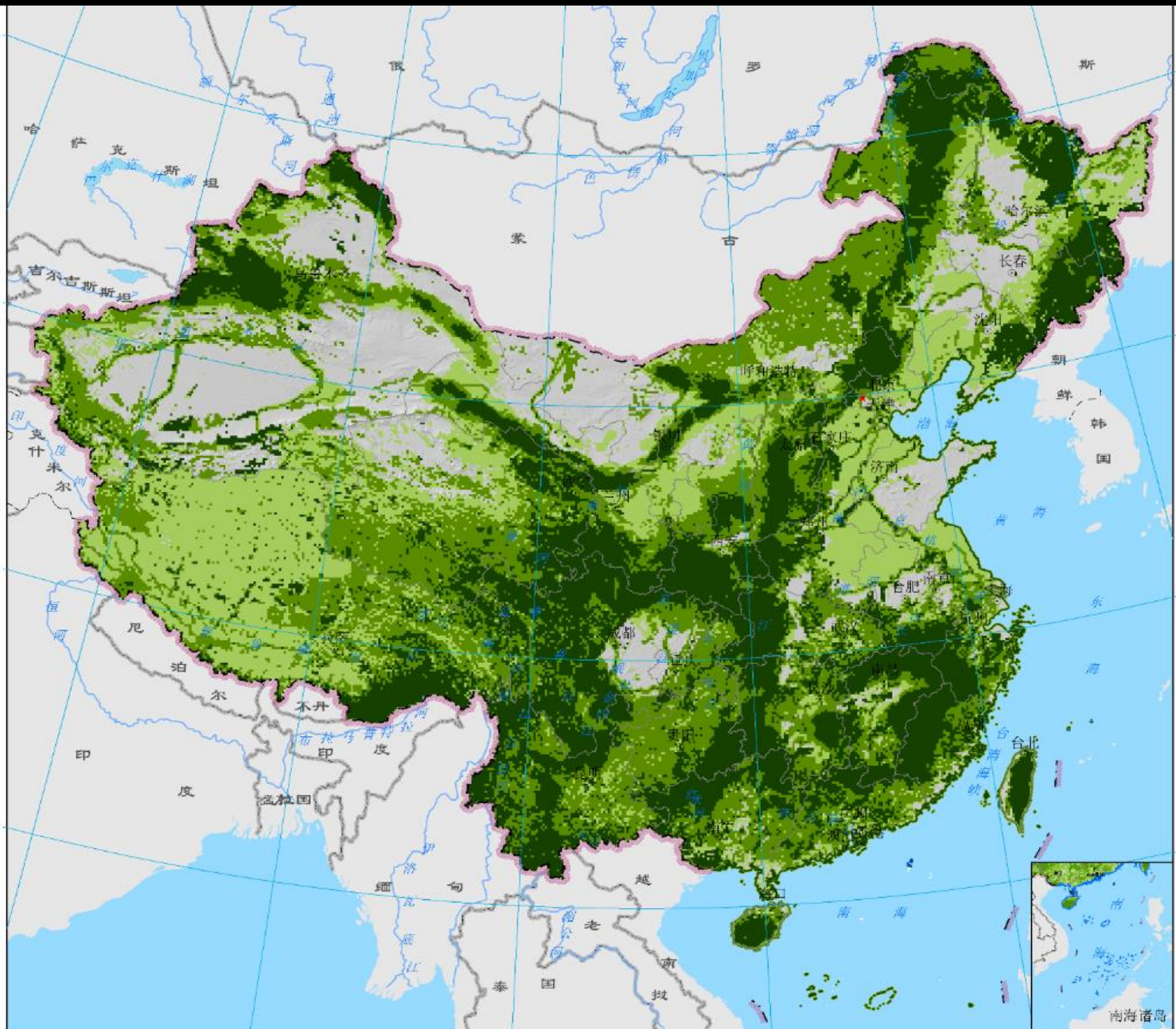
制图单位:
国家环境保护总局
北京大学景观设计学研究院

制图时间:
2007年11月



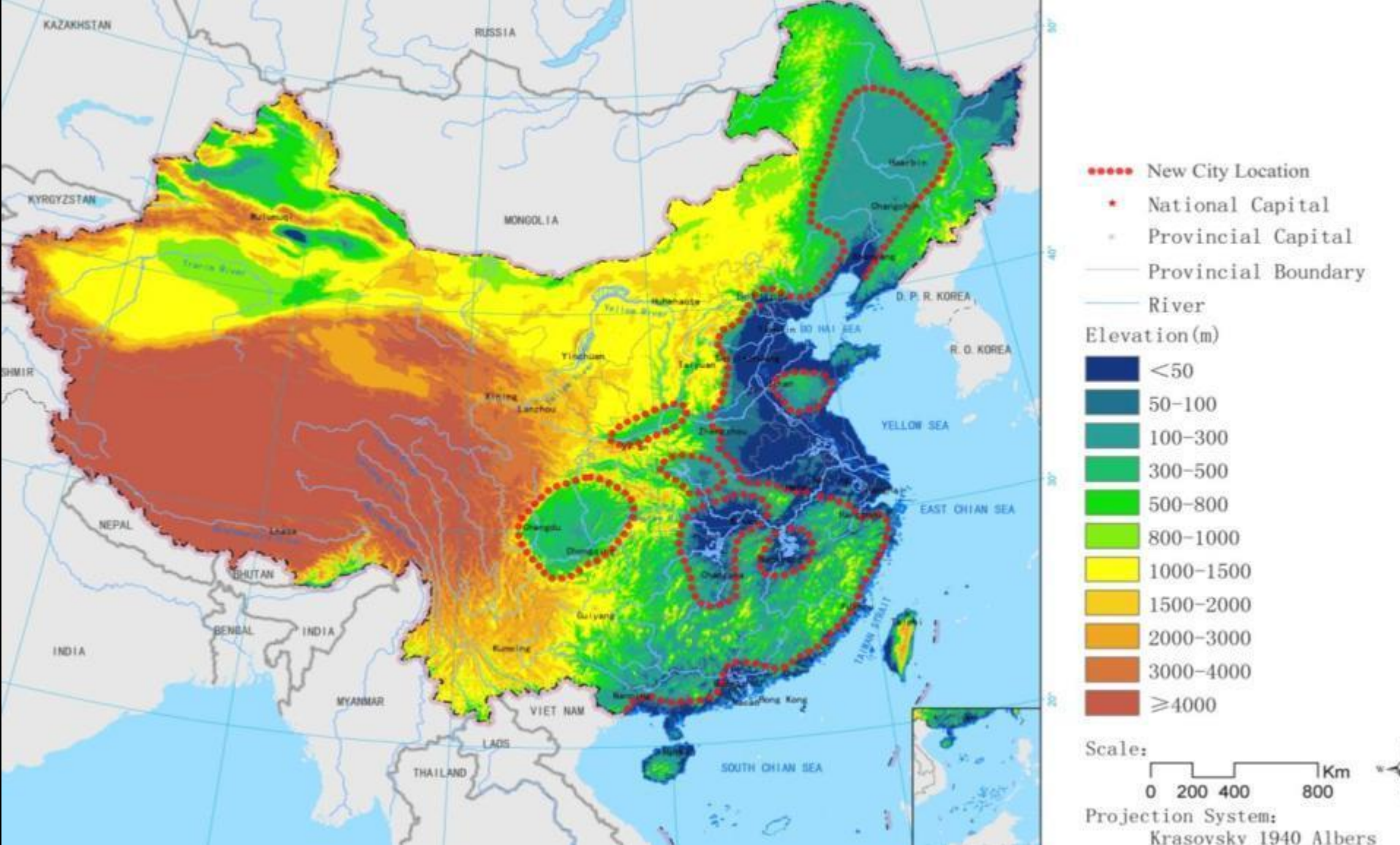
the national Ecological Infrastructure

以为生态安全为核心的
中国国土生态安全格局



- ★ 首都 Capital
- ⊙ 省会城市 Provincial
- 省界 Provincial Bou
- 理想格局 Ideal SP
- 满意格局 Satisfied
- 底线格局 Minimum SP

比例尺 Scale:
0 205 410 820 Km
坐标系统 Projection System
Krasovsky_1940_Alber



The Foothills Strategy: where to build another 500 cities for 0.5 billion new immigrants (Kongjian Yu, Capitalizing on foothills: restoring the relationship between people and land. Harvard International Review; Summer 2012, Vol. 34 (1); 40-45)

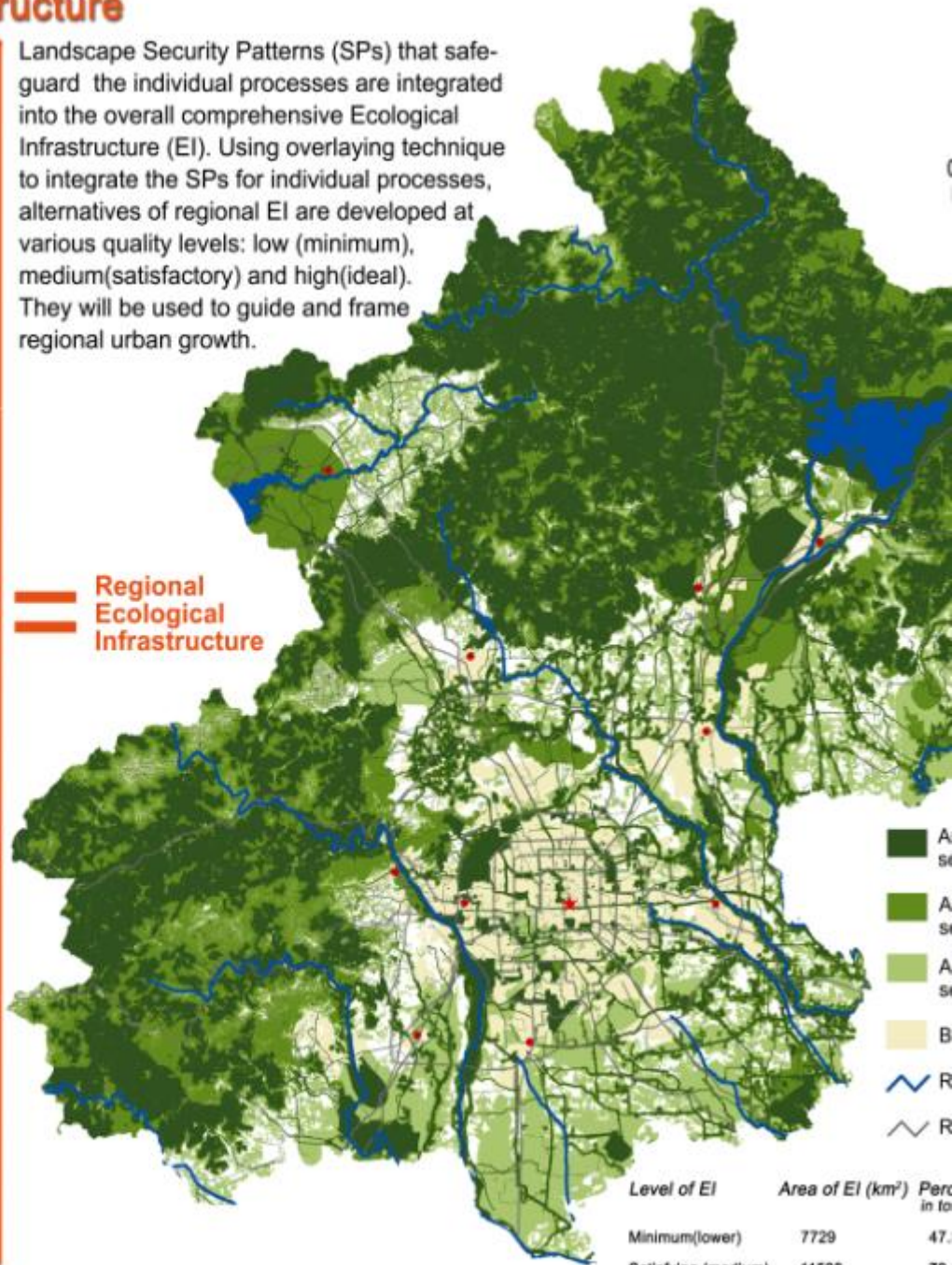
Regional Ecological Infrastructure

Ecological infrastructure

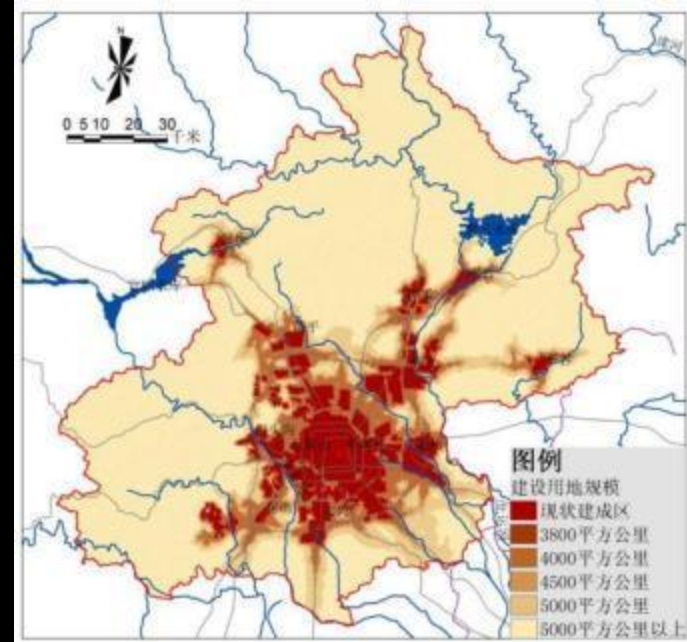


Landscape Security Patterns (SPs) that safeguard the individual processes are integrated into the overall comprehensive Ecological Infrastructure (EI). Using overlaying technique to integrate the SPs for individual processes, alternatives of regional EI are developed at various quality levels: low (minimum), medium (satisfactory) and high (ideal). They will be used to guide and frame regional urban growth.

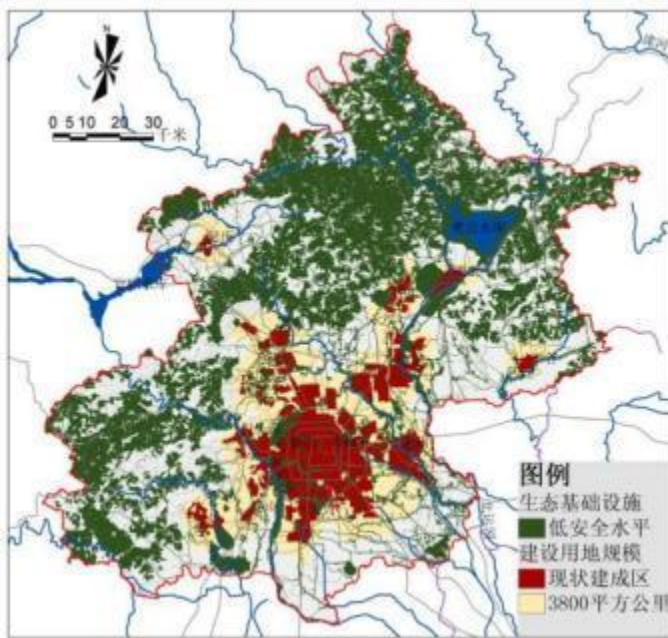
Regional Ecological Infrastructure



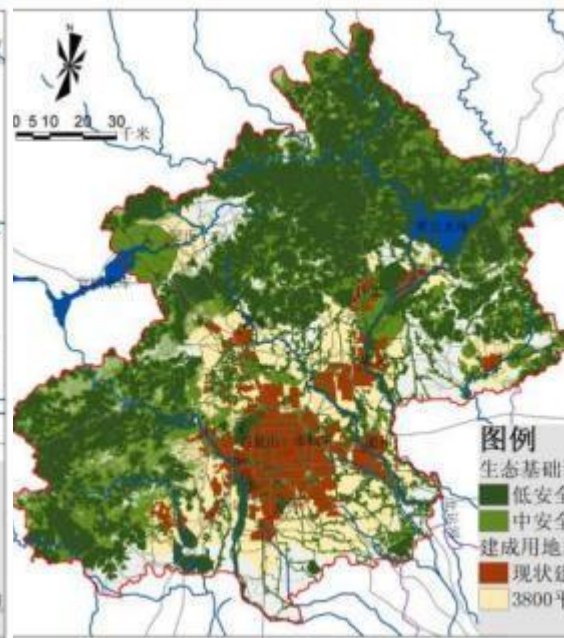
Landscape leads the way: Urban growth based on EI



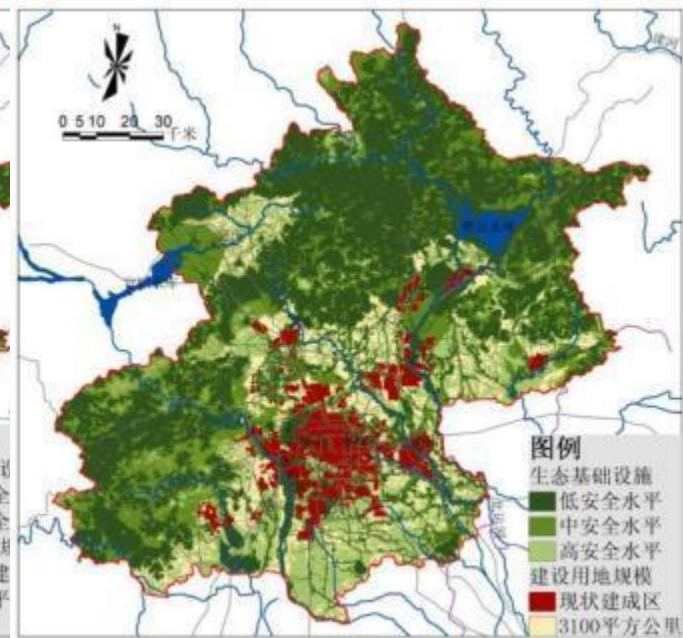
Scenario-1 Sprawl as usual



Scenario-3

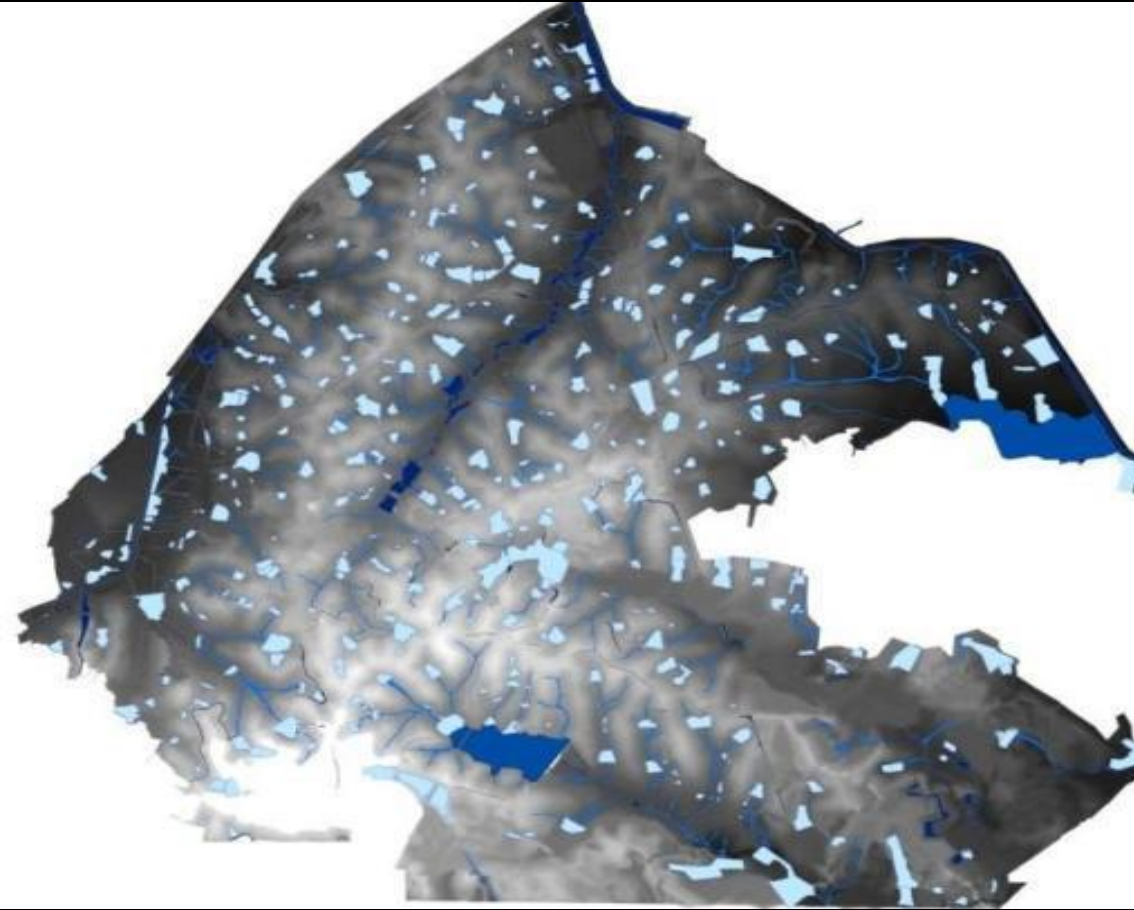


Scenario-4



Scenario-5

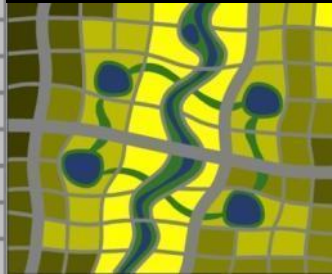
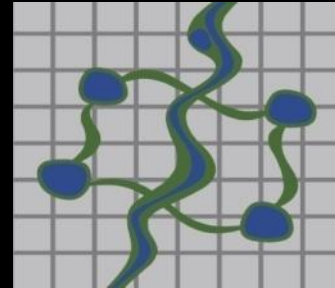
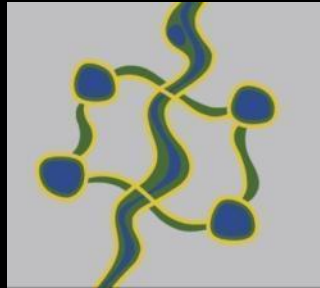
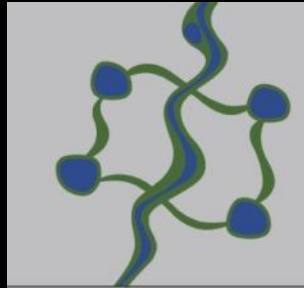
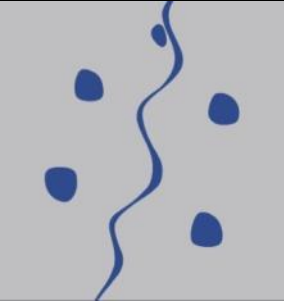
M: urban design based on EI



The subtle elevation change on the rolling terrain gives character to the existing water system,



Conventional way of city building



Existing water

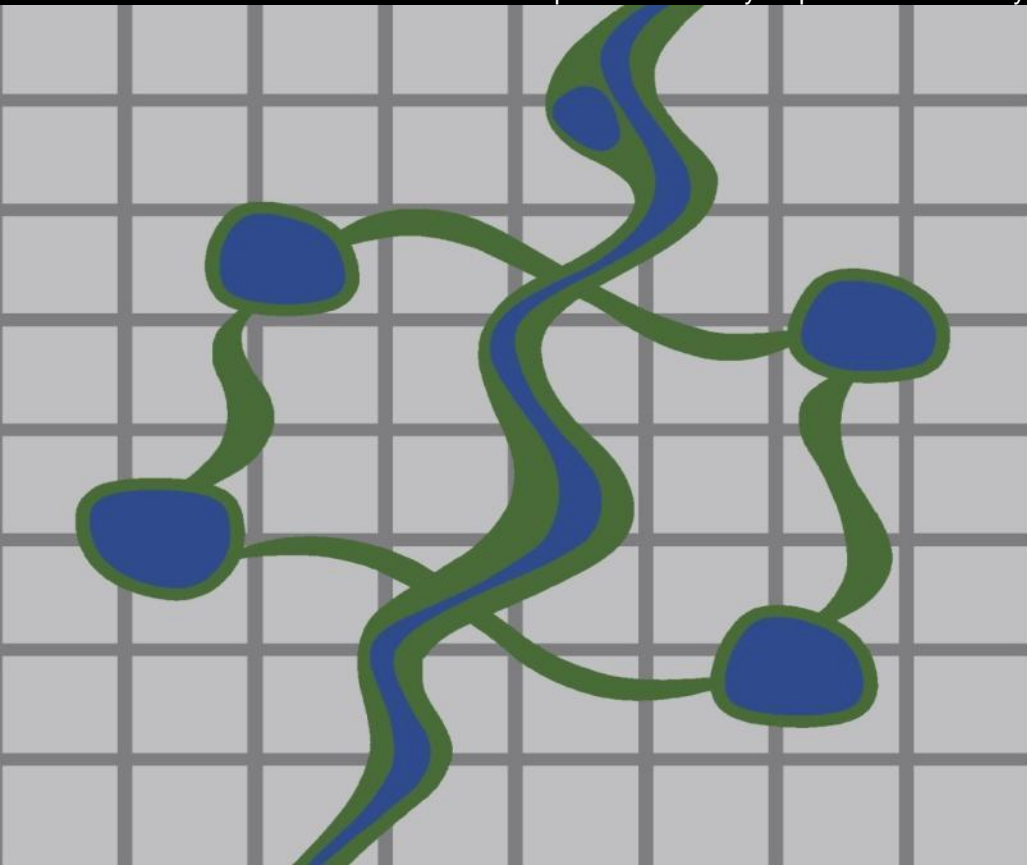
Water based EI based

EI integrated with pedestrian & bicycle paths

EI based circulation City deign based on EI

EI based land

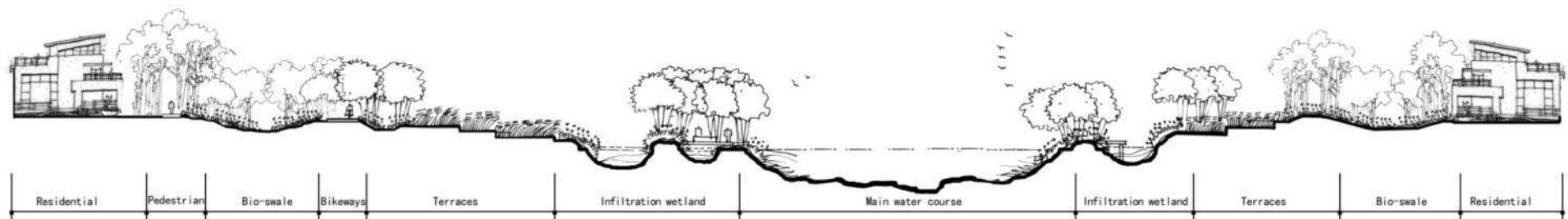
City based on EI



Landscape as infrastructure leading urban development



The stormwater collecting and filtering system is the core for the ecological infrastructure of the new town. Three levels of green corridors were developed based that make up an



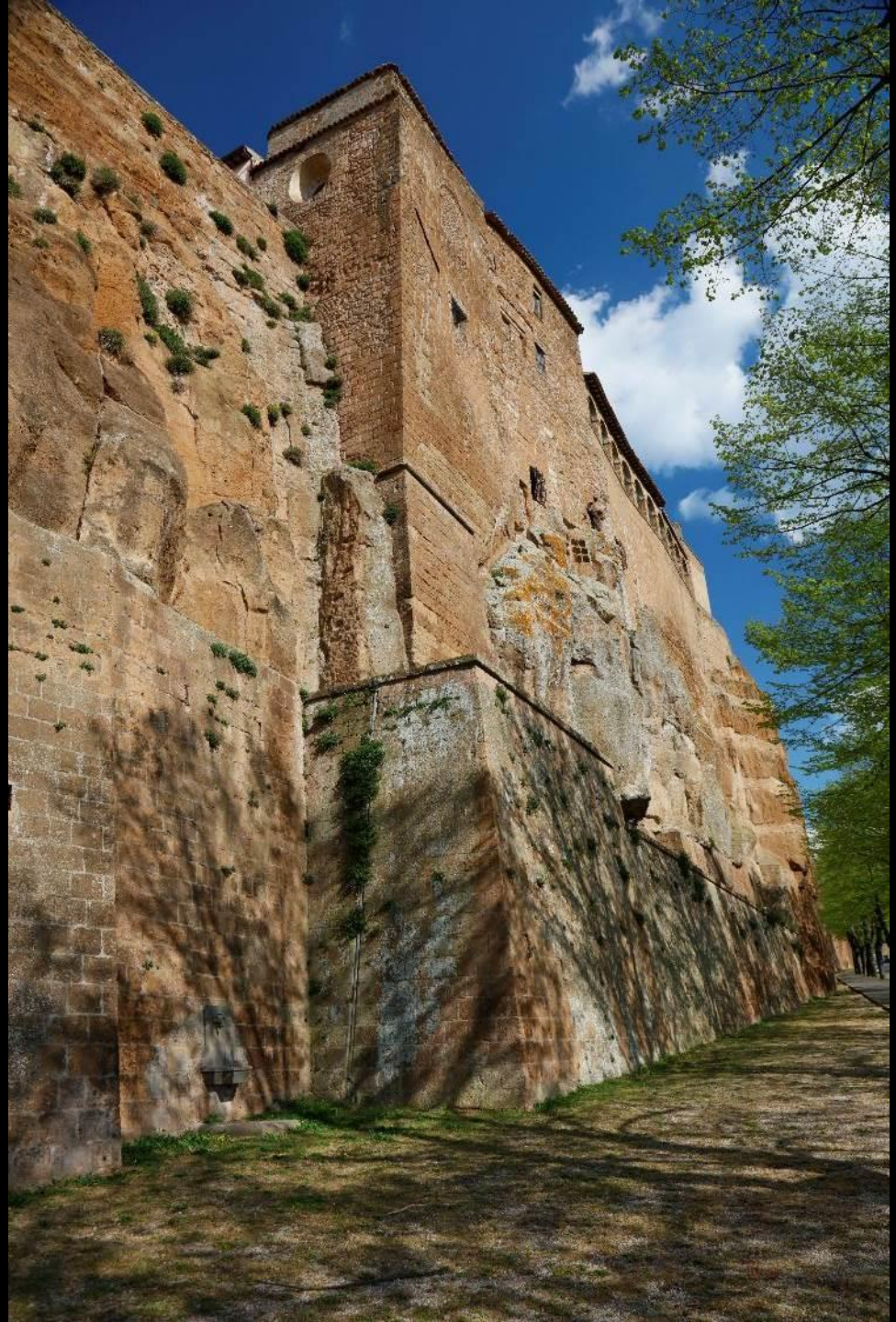








**Design and
engineering to
create
transformative
deep forms**



• #1 Make Friends with Floods

- *Annual flood damage cost 100 billion US \$, 10 million people live in flood plain.*
- *All Rivers in China are dammed and channelized with concrete flood walls, What can you*



Number of dams (height>15m)

World total: 49,697

China: 25,800

USA: 8,724

浙江金华，与洪水为友：燕尾洲公园



海拔 Elevation (M)

- 34.00-34.99
- 35.00-35.99
- 36.00-36.99
- 37.00-37.99
- 38.00-38.99
- 39.00-39.99
- 40.00-45.99



• *Before*



• *After*





100 Year Flood



20 Year Flood



Dry season



An aerial view of the park during the dry season, note the lush tall grasses covering the terraces on the embankment. The terraces are enriched by silt deposited during the flood season (view is toward the west, photo, September, 2016)



Dry season



Flood season

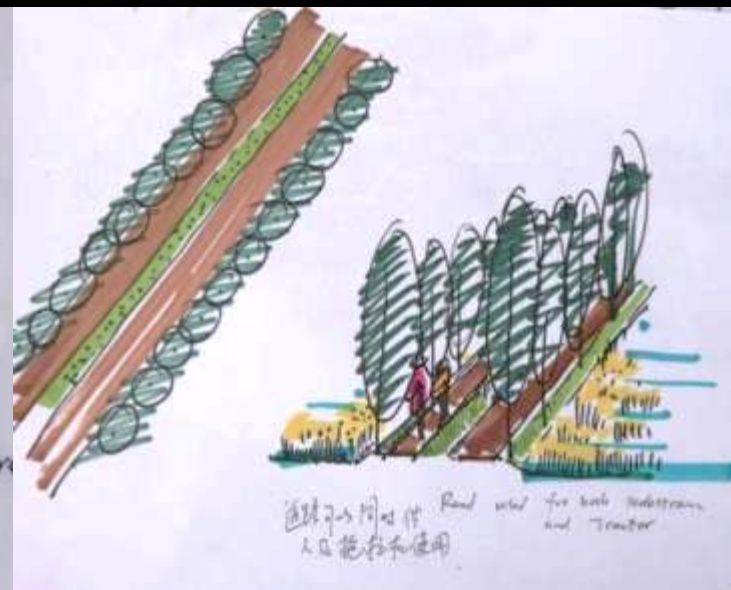
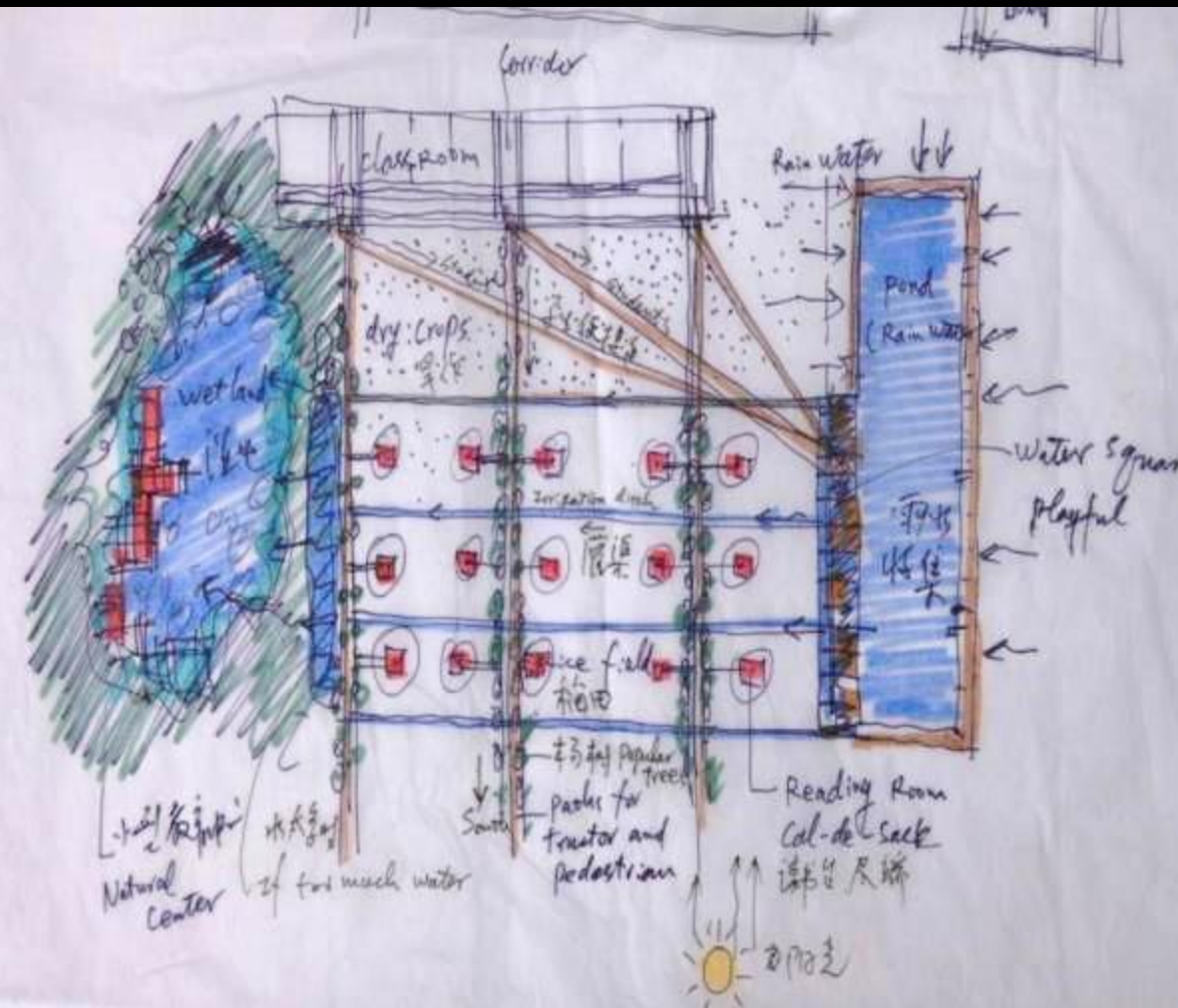
2 Go Productive

China has 20% of the world's population, but only 8% of world's arable land, 10% of which was lost in the past 30 years due to urban development.





Shenyang Jianzhu University



Water is harvested, crops (rice and buckwheat) are used for the landscape









Rice fields are made penetrable using concrete narrow paths, that allow students and faculty to touch and feel the rice.



A professor on his way to class



The Rice Planting Day

19 5 2003



稻香親校園

育米如育人

袁隆平
二〇〇三.元.

贈品

Paddy-rice scenery area of Shenyang
Architectural and Civil Engineering University.

Golden Rice becomes an icon: the rice produced on the campus is harvested and distributed as “Golden Rice,” serving both as a keepsake for visitors of the school, and also as a source of identity for the newly established, urban campus.

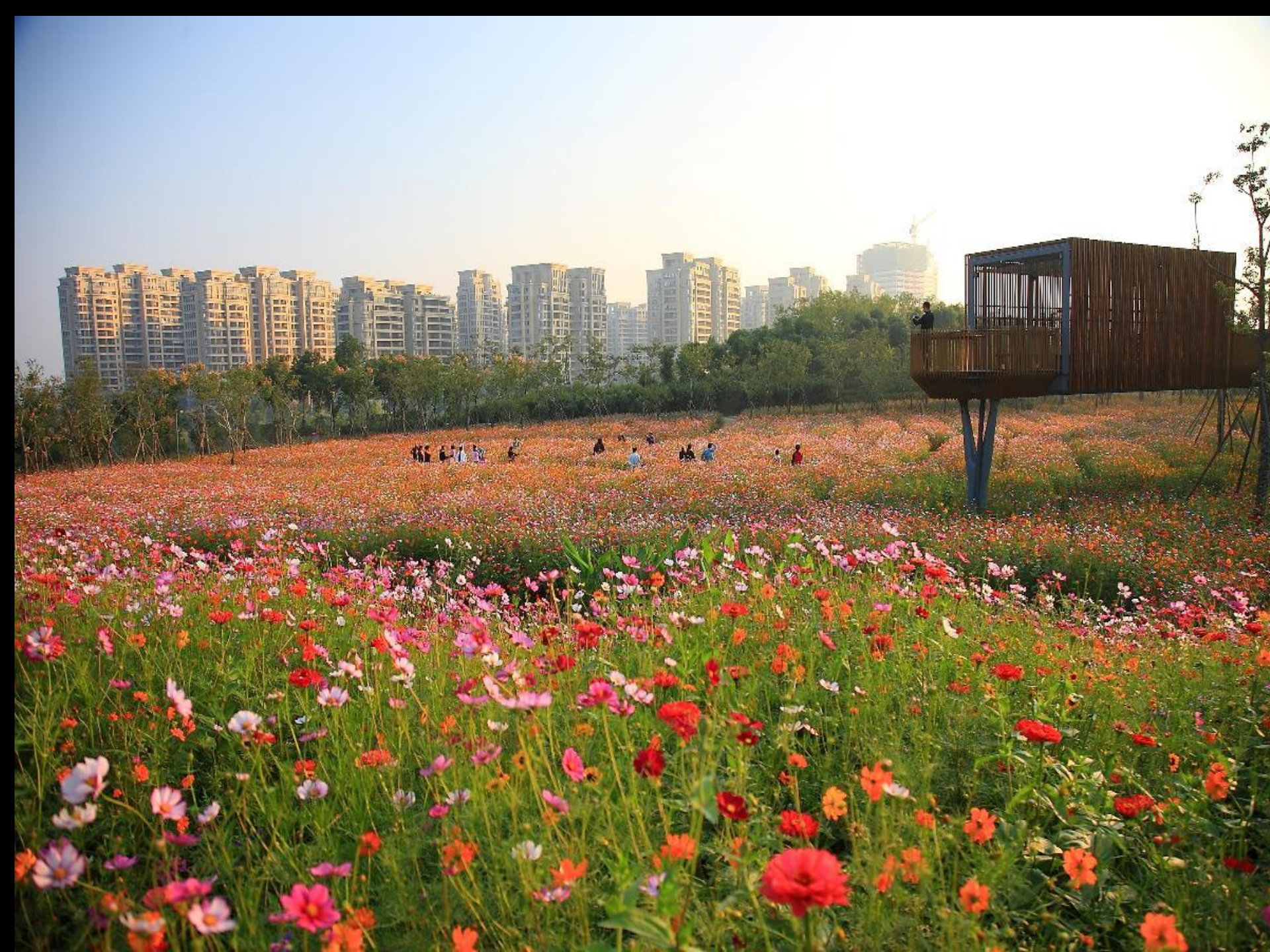
Quzhou Luming Park, Zhejiang Province











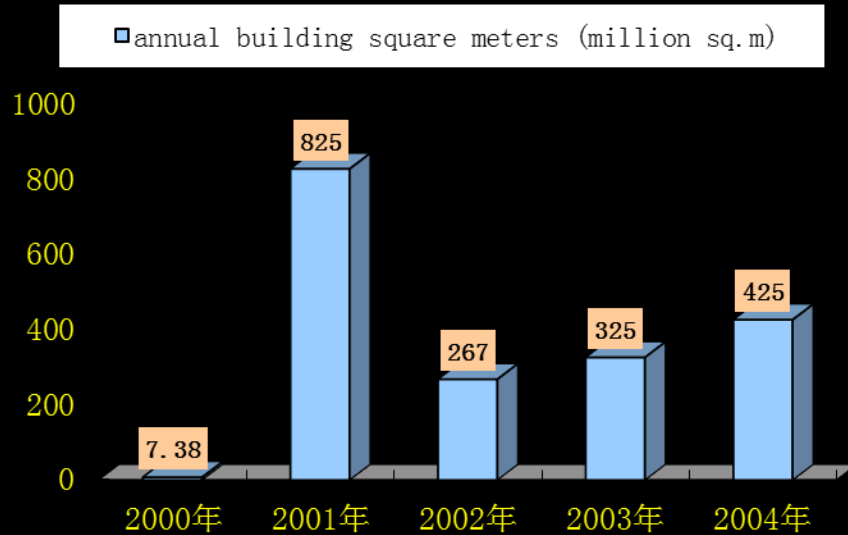






#3 Value the Ordinary

Hundreds of millions of square meters were built, and significant amount had been torn down. Thousands of villages and factories wiped out. What can you do?

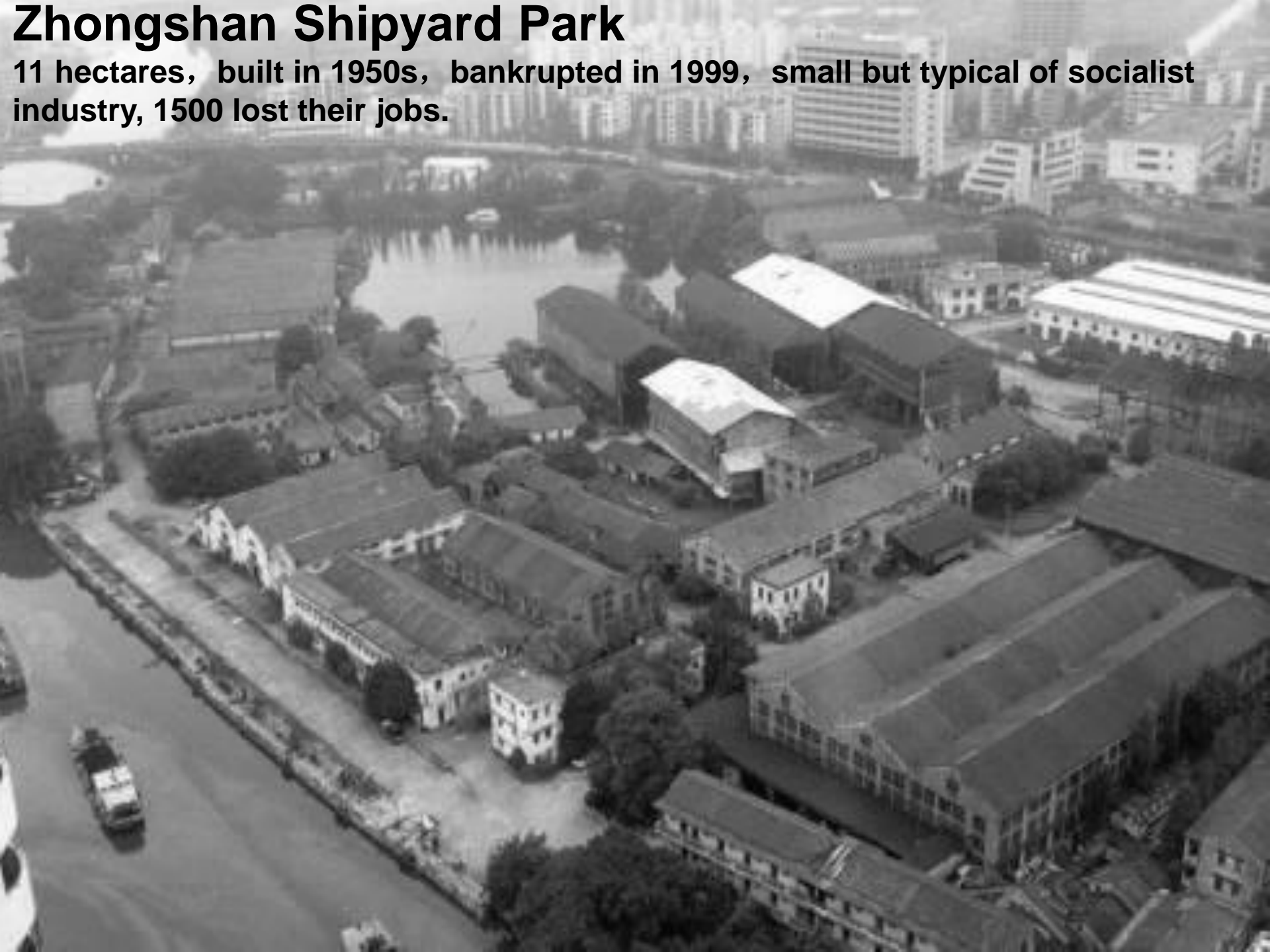


**Destroyed:
156 million square meters (2003)**



Zhongshan Shipyard Park

11 hectares, built in 1950s, bankrupted in 1999, small but typical of socialist industry, 1500 lost their jobs.



Reserve, Reuse, Recycle















钓鱼区
Fishing Area

#4 Minimize Intervention and Maximize Return

Billions of dollars have been spent to turn nature into expensive urban landscapes. What could be the alternatives?

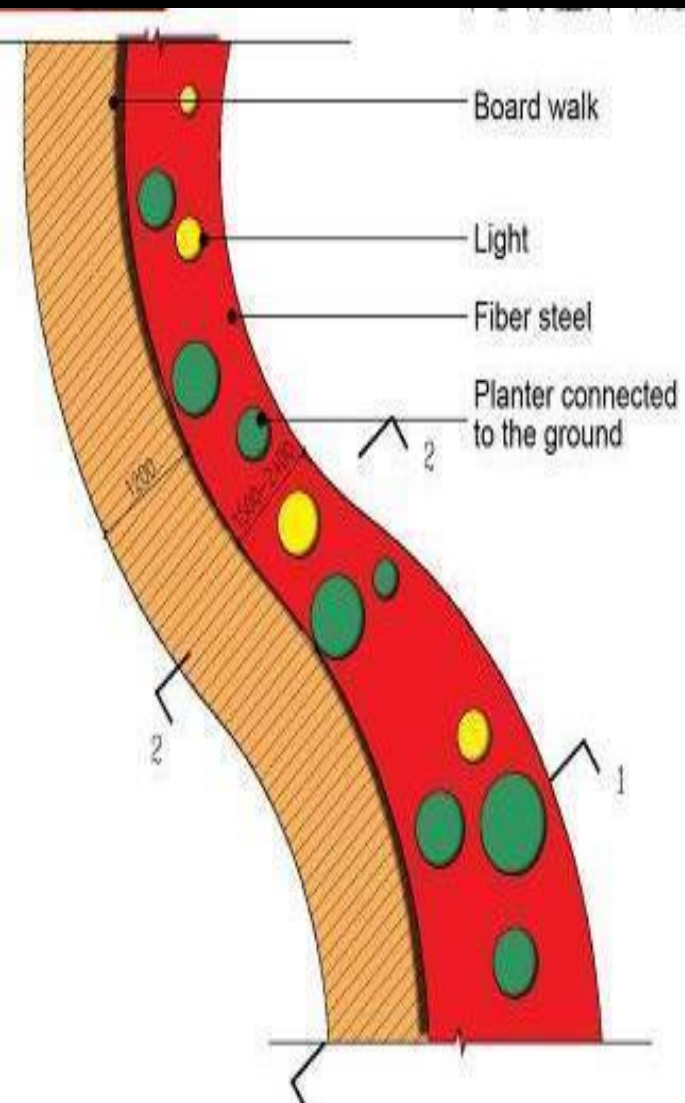


Under the name of safety and “beauty,” we created shallow form or fake forms



The Red Ribbon park, Qinghuangdao City, Hebei Province

Google earth





A Beautiful Mess









• *Before*

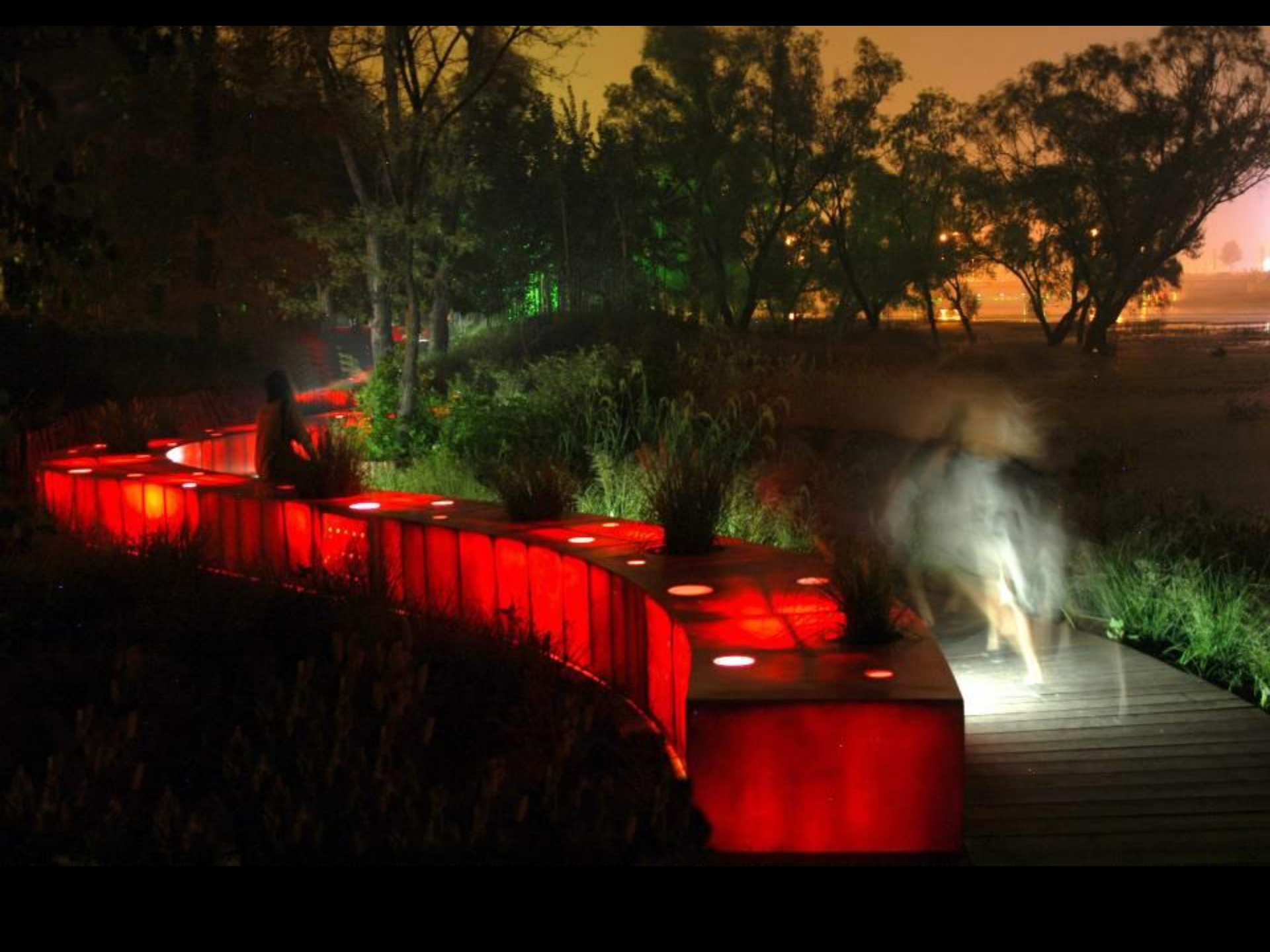


• *After*









#5 Sponge City: Green Infrastructure for A Water Resilient City

Almost all Chinese cities suffered the storm water inundation due to the monsoon climate, hundreds of people dies on street annually.

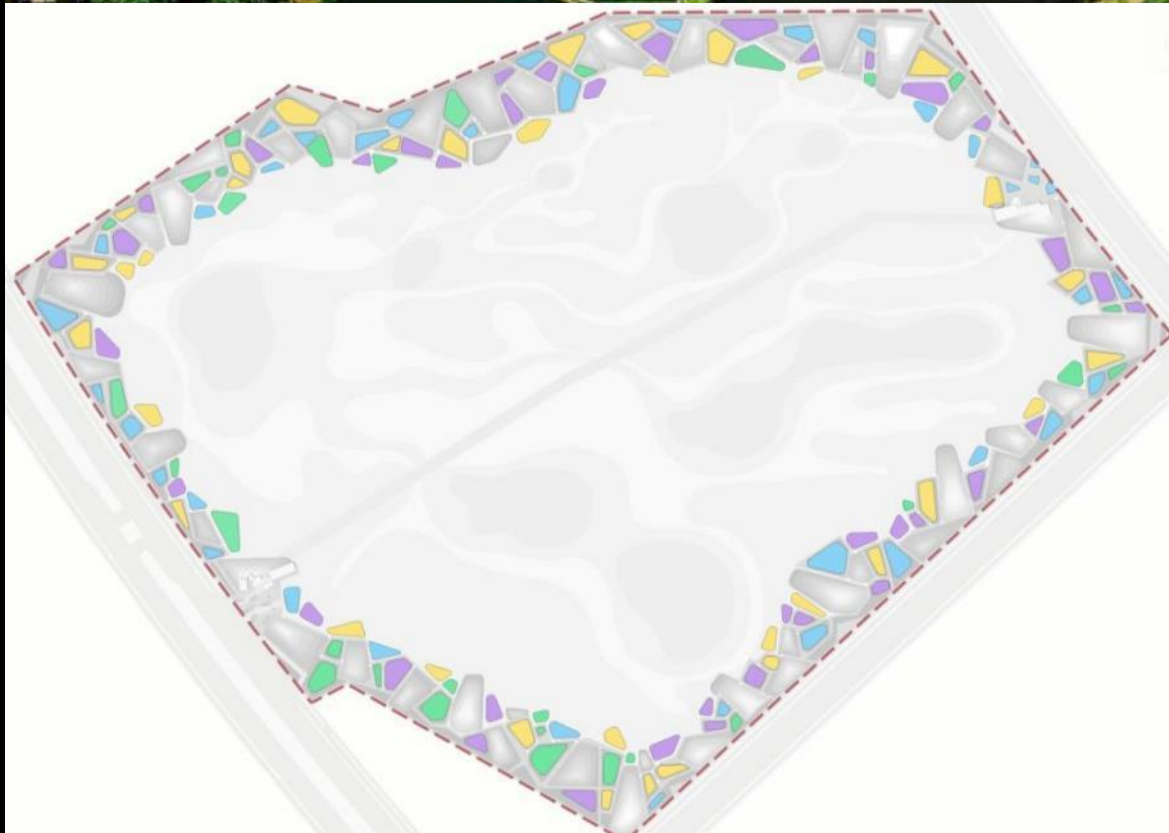
How to solve the problem in a wise way?



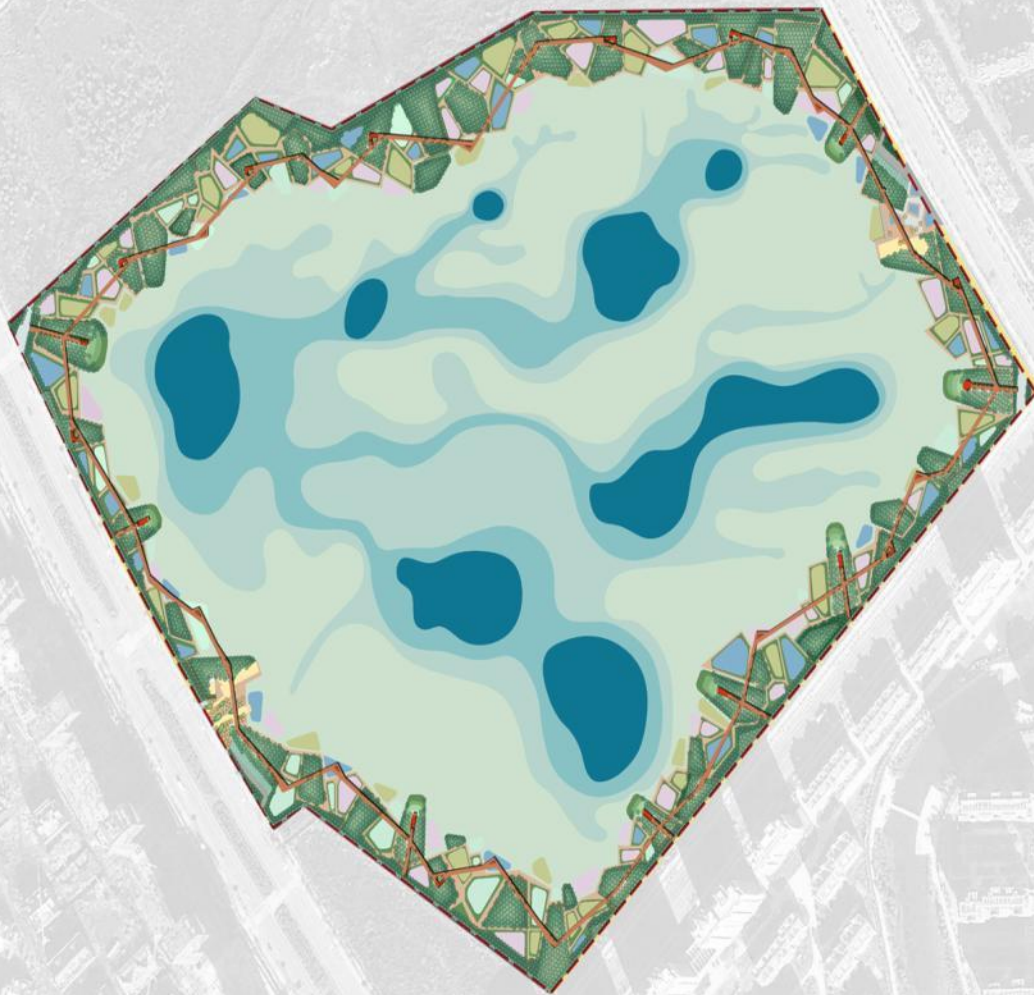
新华网
WWW.NEWS.CN

新华网
WWW.NEWS.CN

新华网
WWW.NEWS.CN



Inspired by the
pond-and-dyke
system



Qunli Stormwater Park Ha'erbin, 33 ha

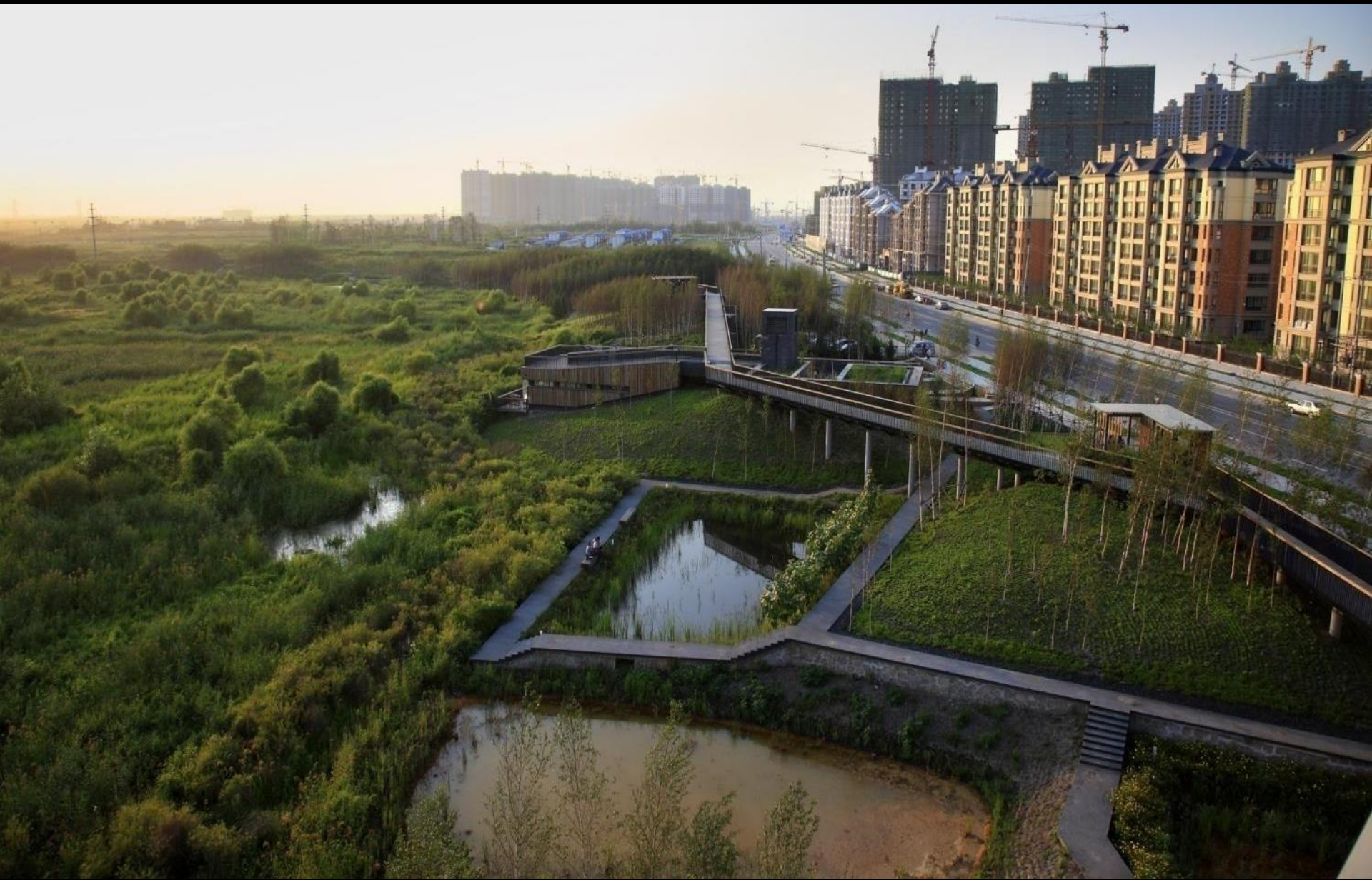


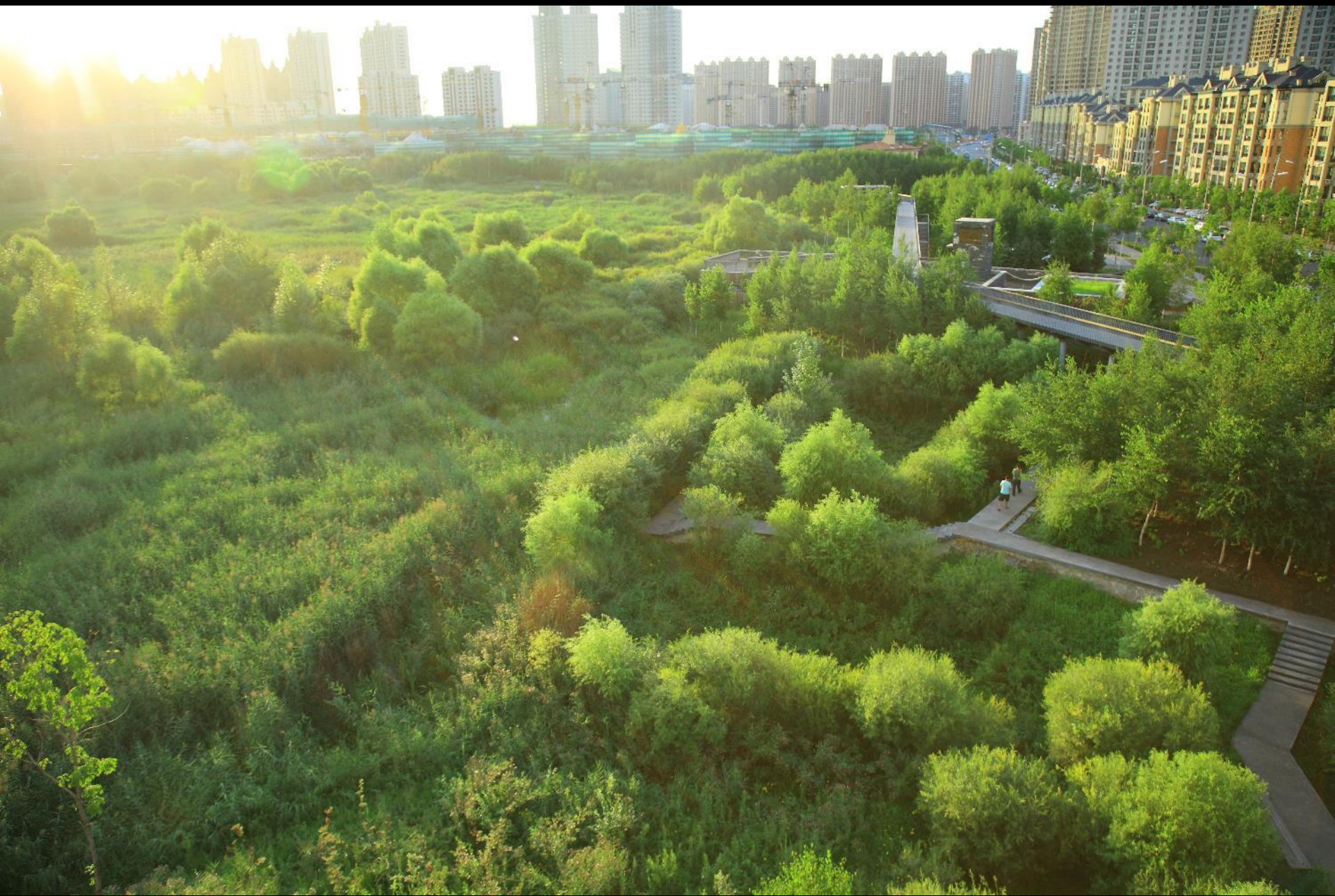


• *Before*



• *After*









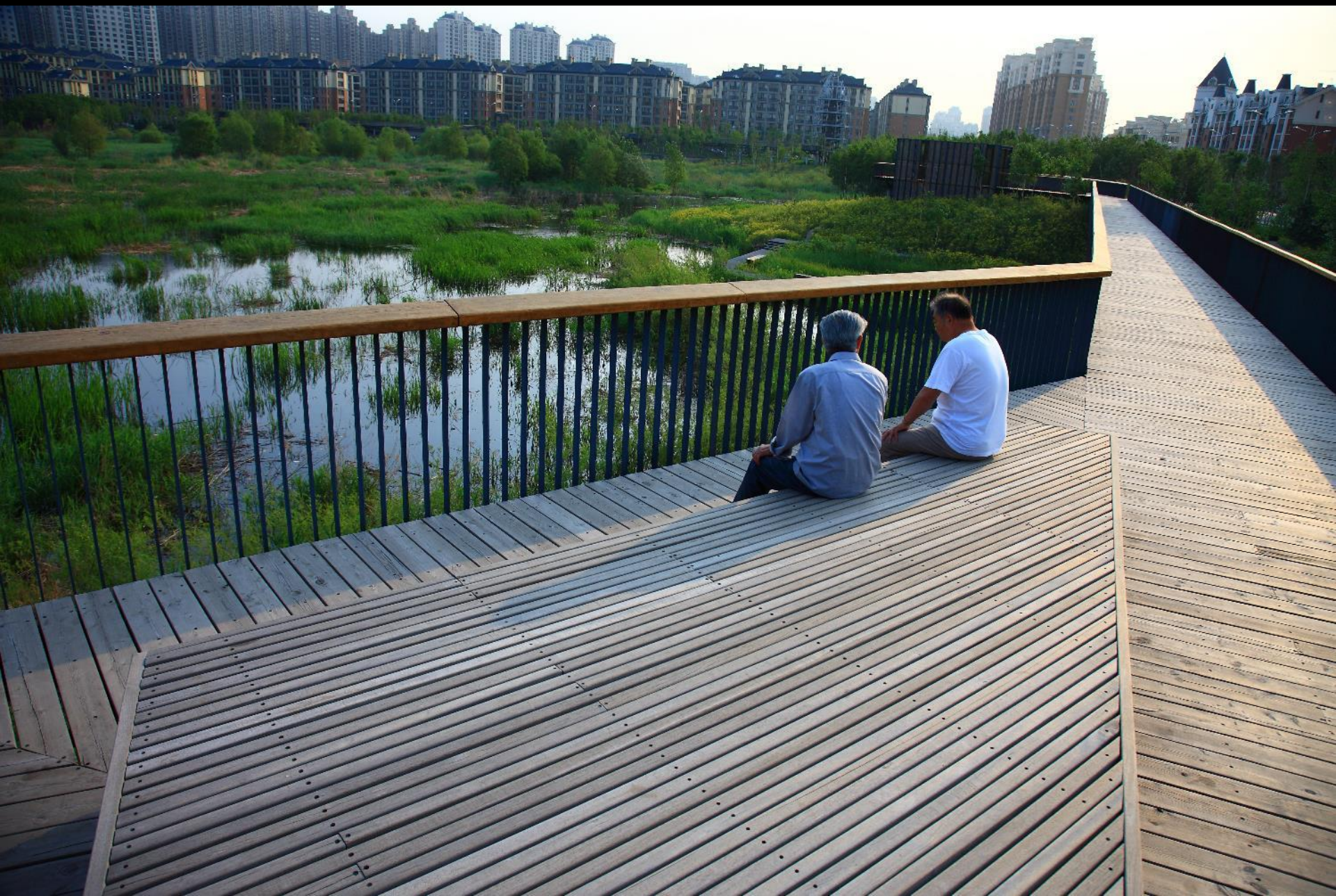


2012



2014





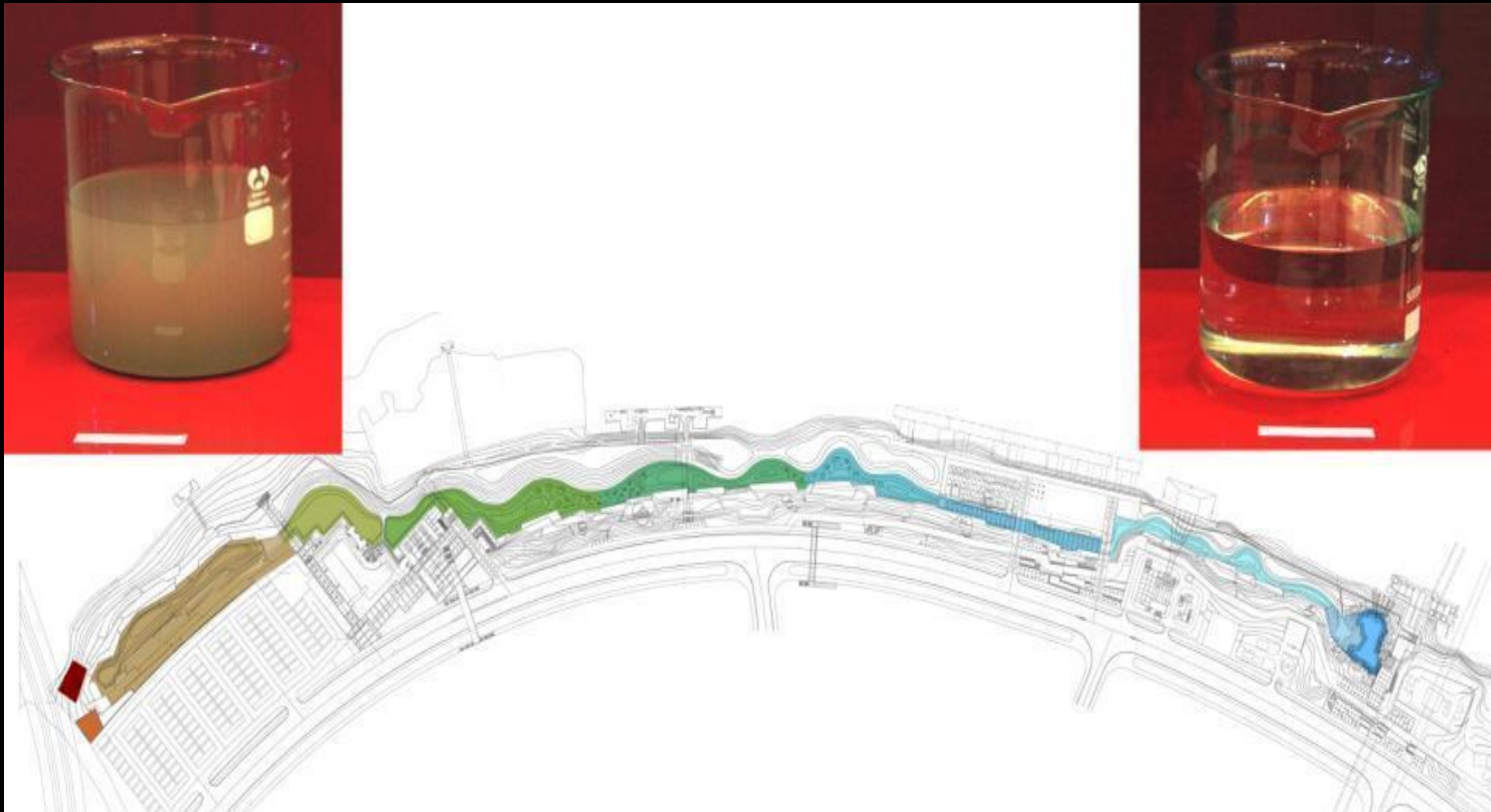


10% green sponge can solve the urban inundation problem

#6 Landscape as living system to cleanse polluted water

75% of the nation's surface water is polluted, 64 % of cities' underground water is polluted, 1/3 of the national population are under the threat of drinking water pollution, what can we do?

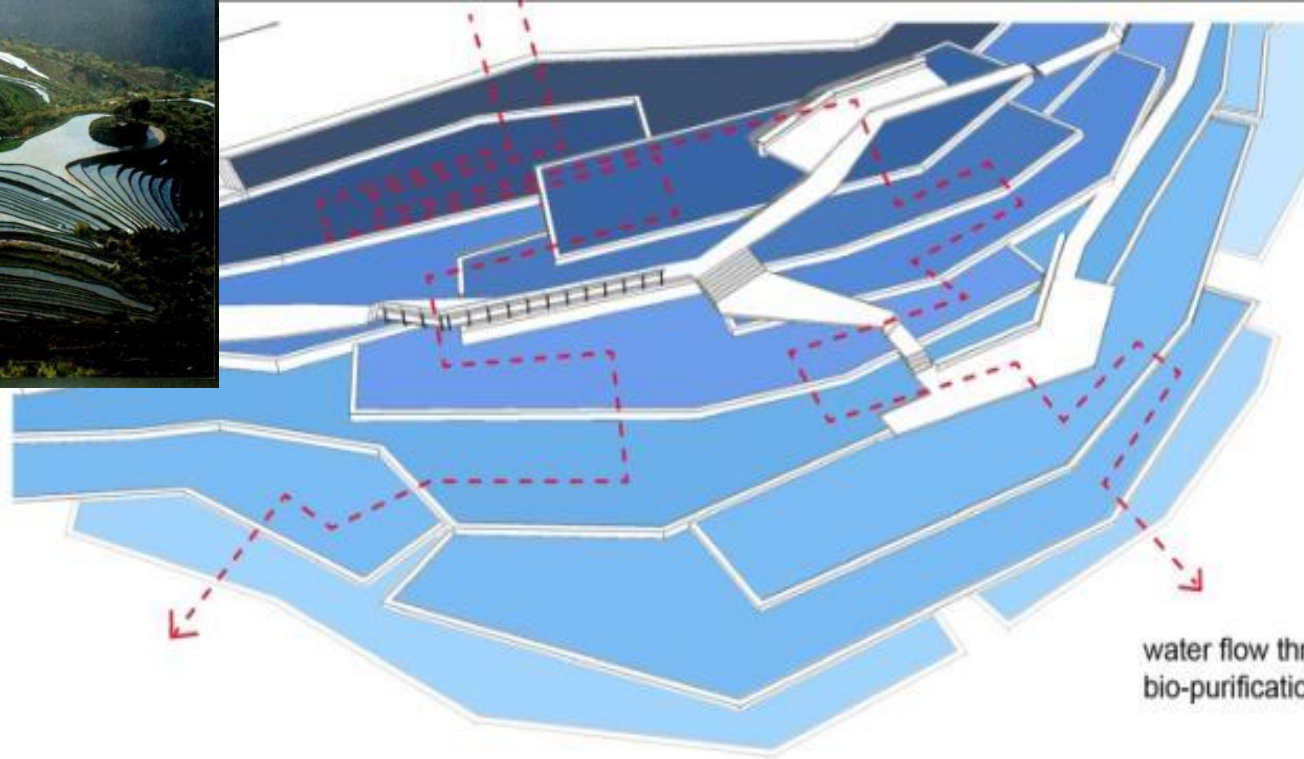




Shanghai Houtan Park

10 hectares., 1700 m long, producing 2400 cubic meter of water per day





water flow through
bio-purification terraces



Aeriation and filtration processes



Aeriation



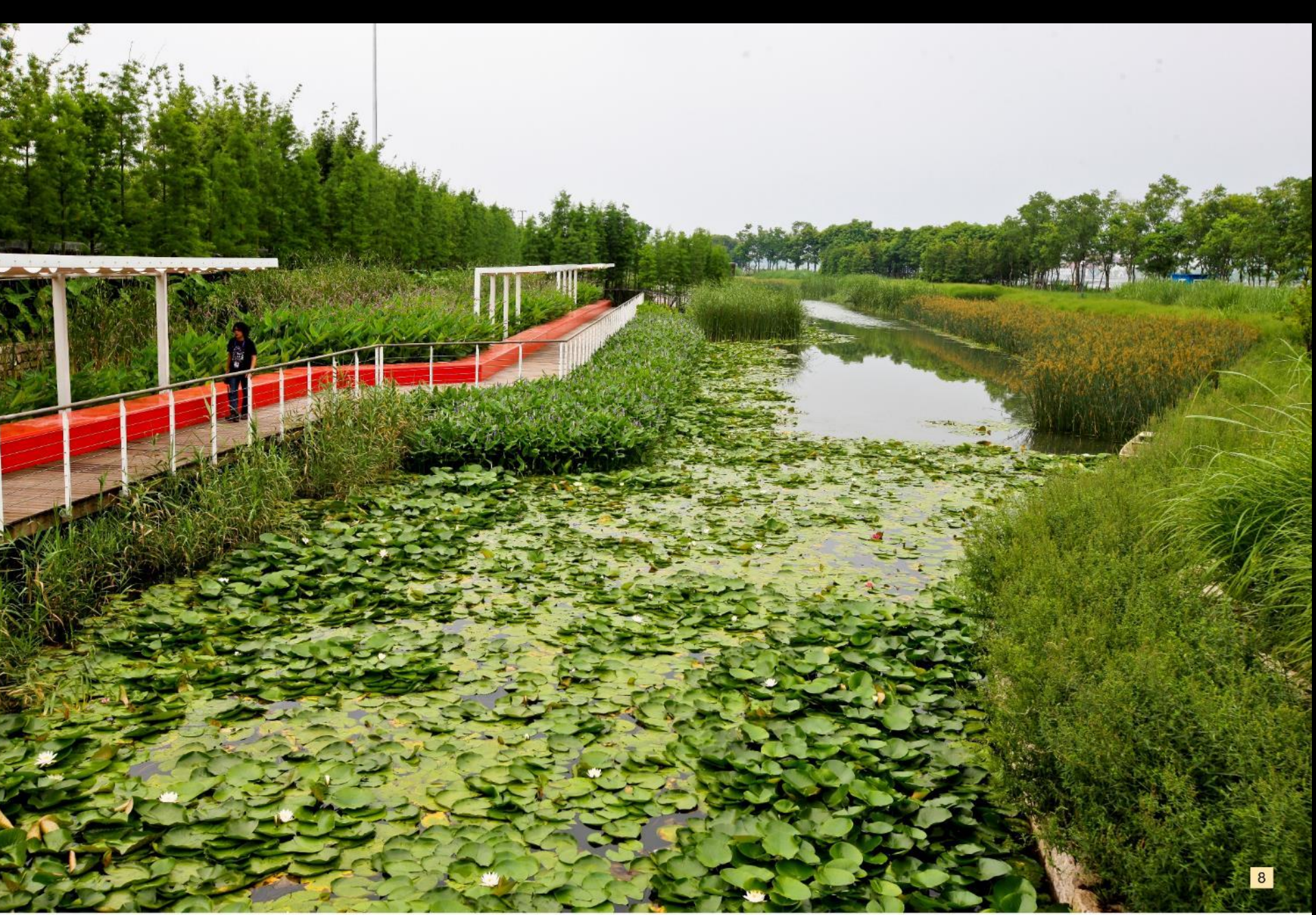












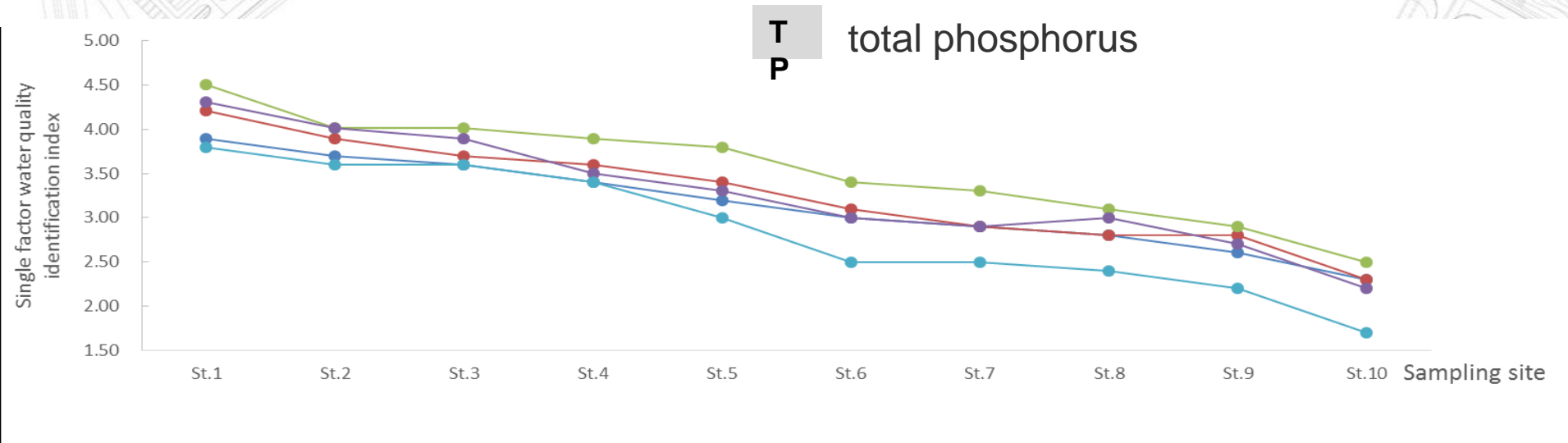
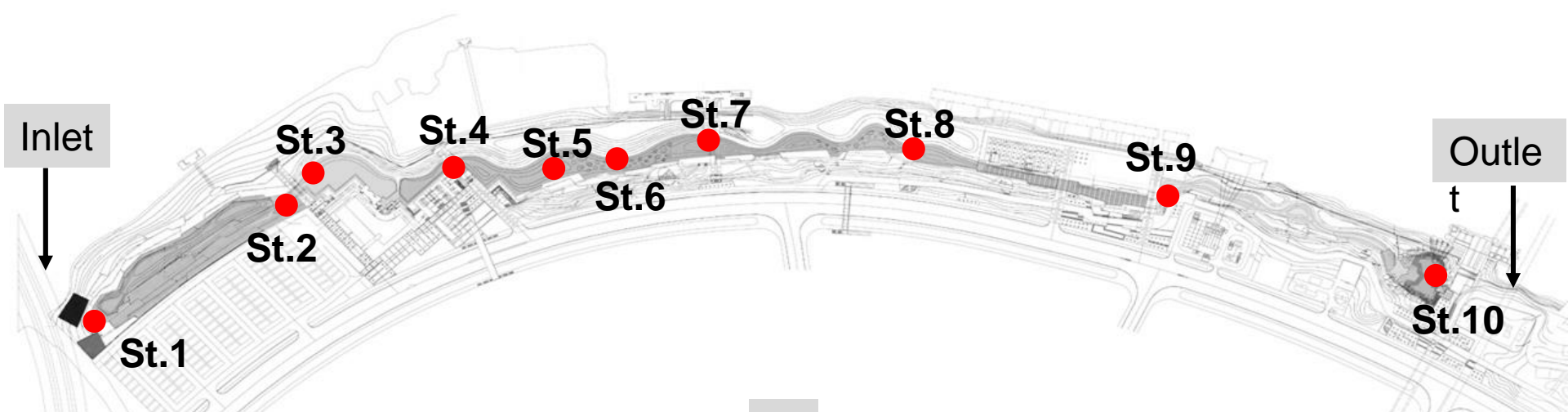


Created a life supporting system for biodiversity and low maintenance









10 hectares., 1700 m long, producing 2400 cubic meter of water per day, water for 5000 people

#7 “Green sponge” to remediate the soil contamination

60% of the urban soil is contaminated

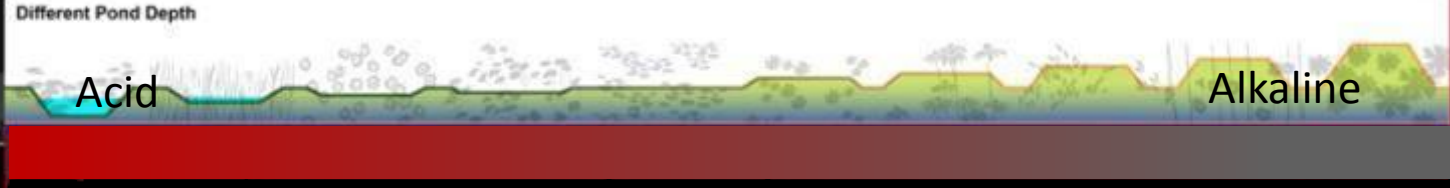
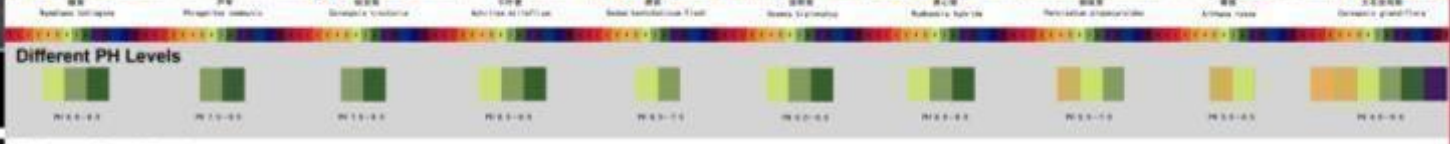
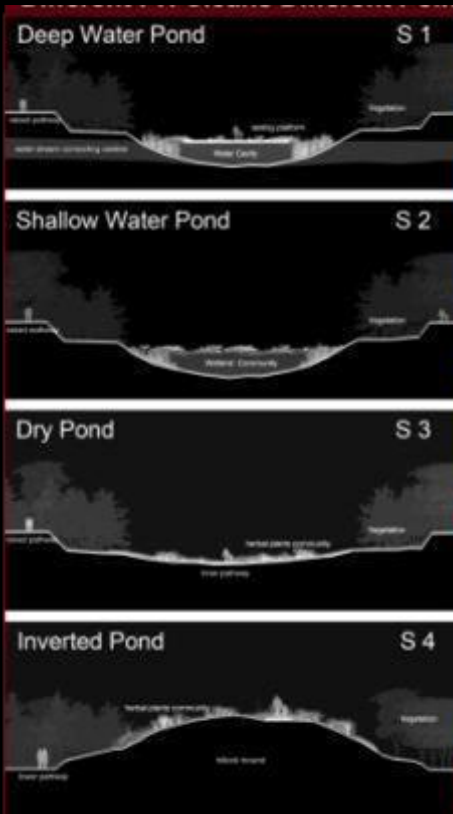


Qiaoyuan Park, Tianjin City

• *Before*



• *After*



PH value management

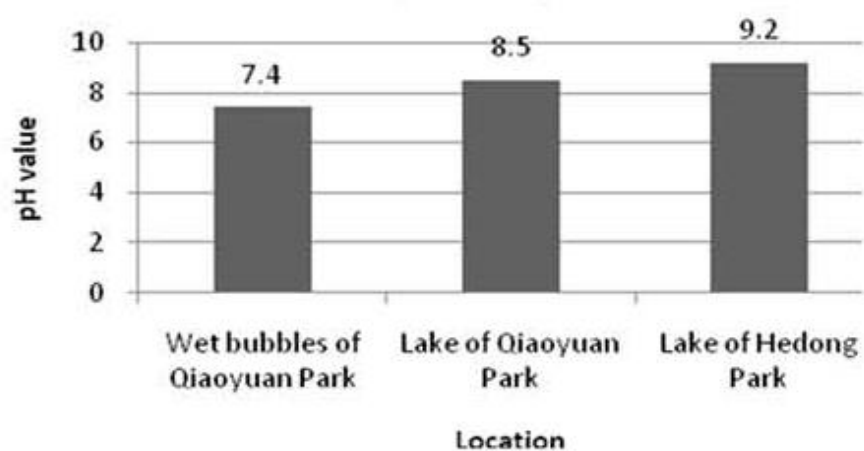




Shallow pond

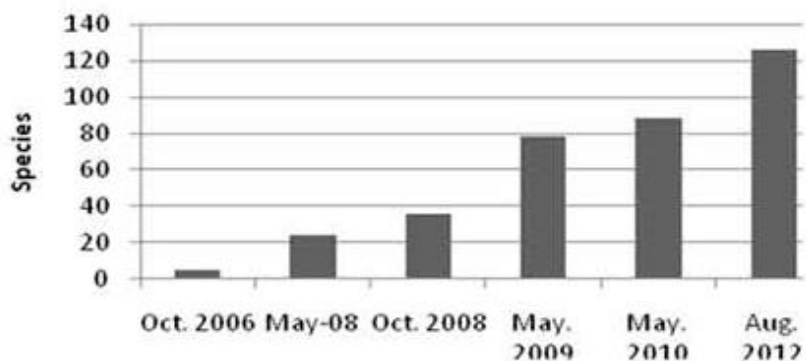
3 雨水流

Average water pH



5 与其他水体对比，生态服务仿生技术对场地盐碱度明显改善

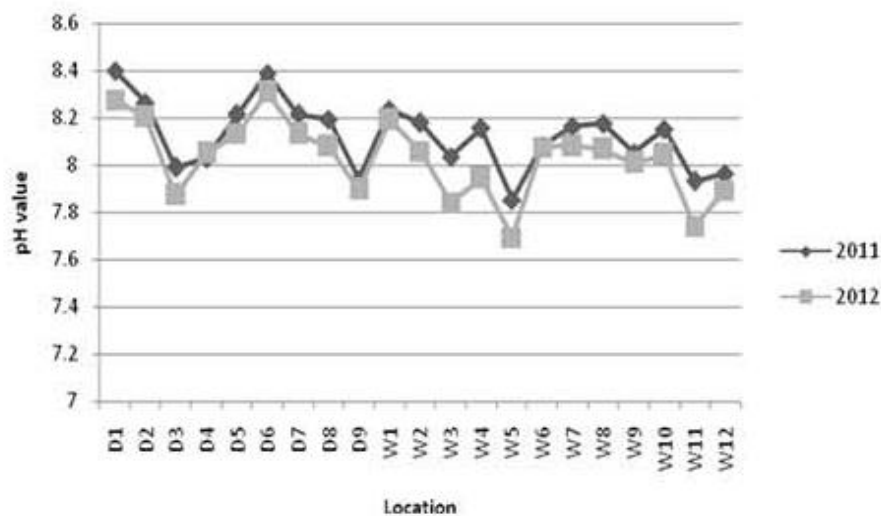
Biodiversity trends



7 恢复后的生境，生物多样性逐年提高

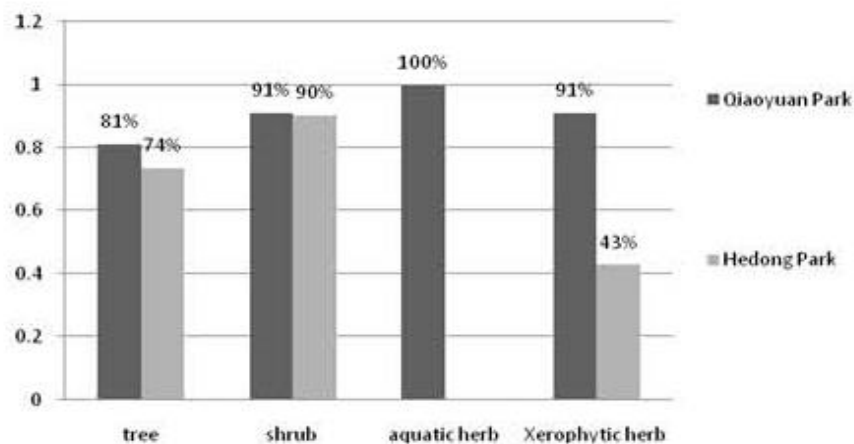
4 土壤 PH 值变化

Trends of soil pH



6 2011-2012 对每个水泡测定的 PH 值的变化结果碱性明显下降

Percentage of native species



#8 Green Solutions to Recover Mother Rivers

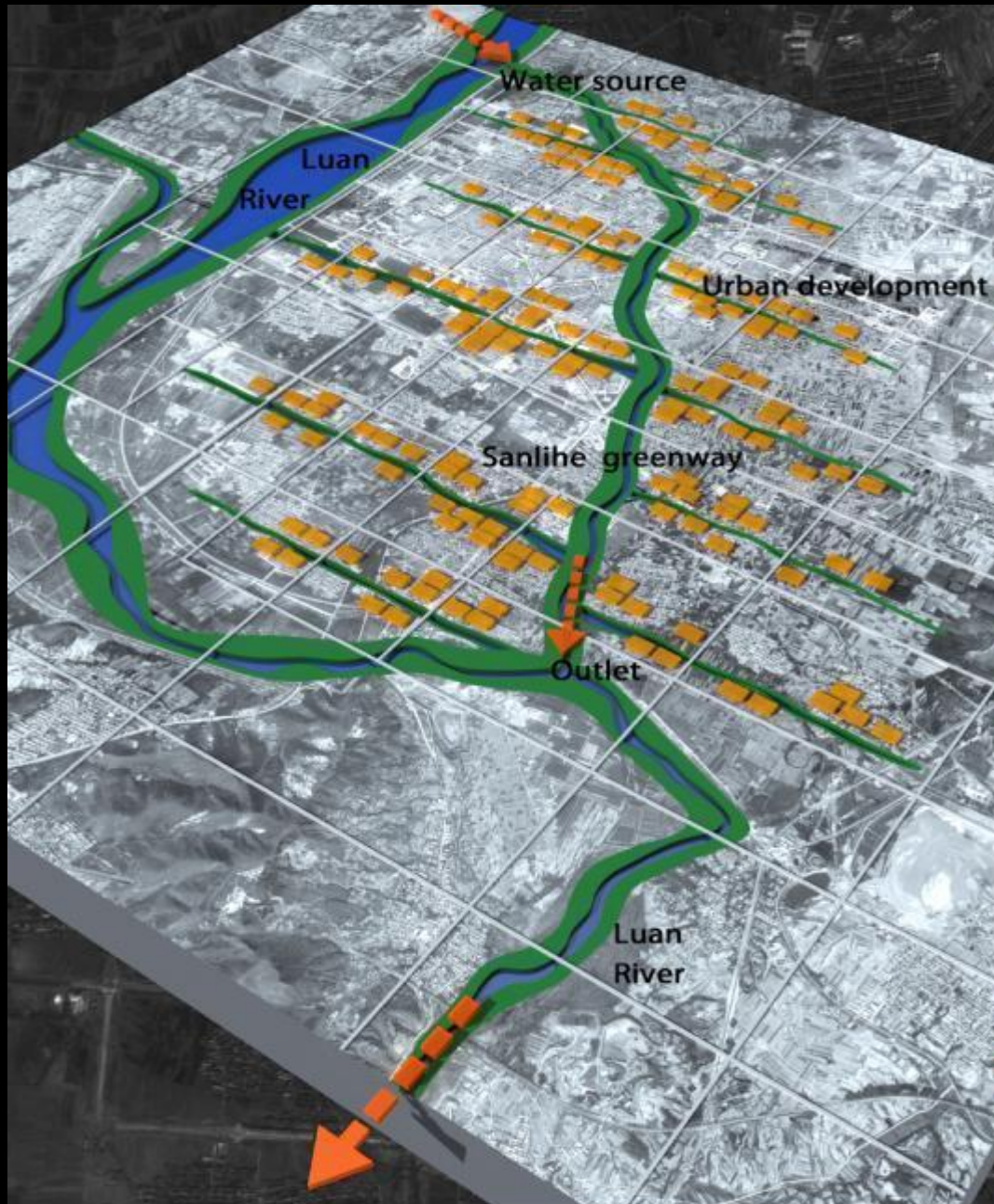
Thousands of rivers are mistreated , how can they be recovered



*The Sanlihe River, 11 Kilometers long, Qian'an City,
Hebei Province*

• ***Before***











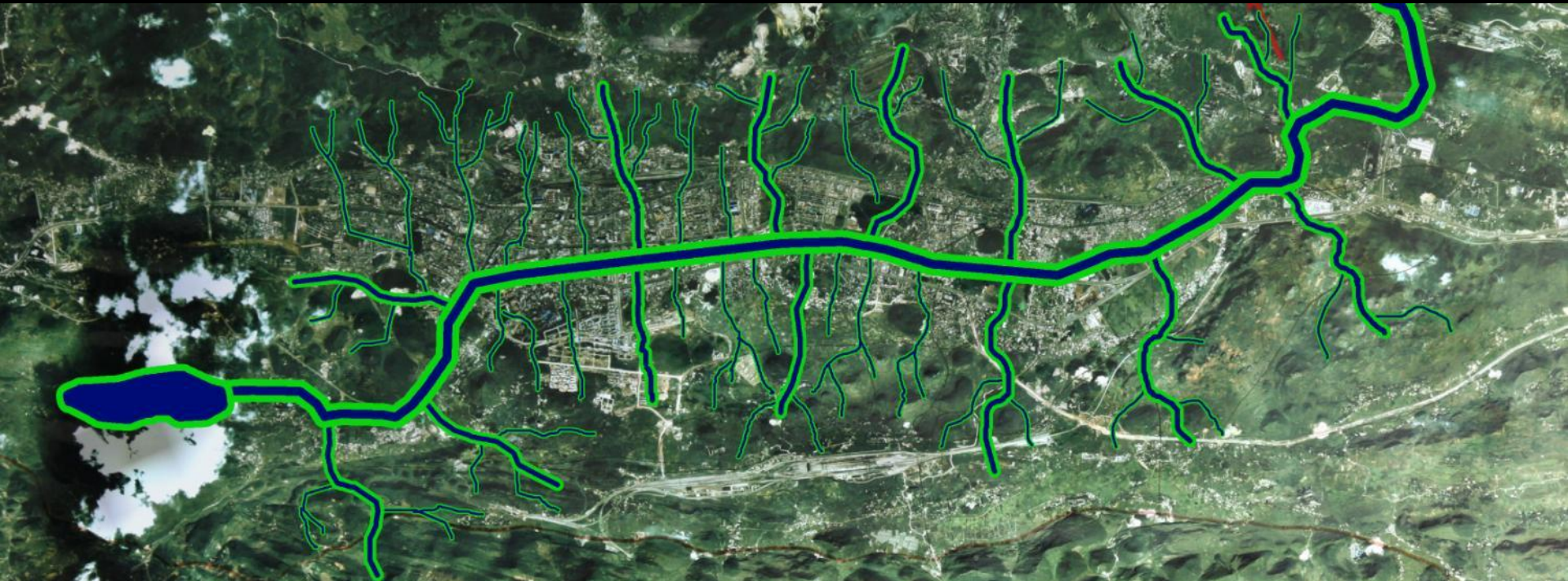
#9 Green Solutions to Transform A City

Liupanhsui City, *Guizhou*



























#10 Begin From my home: Small solution to big problem

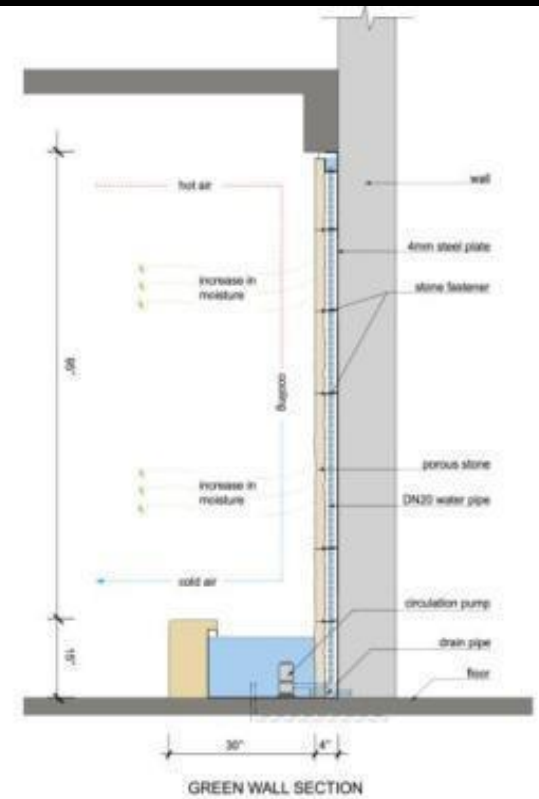
40 billion square meters of building, 2 billions increase every year, 99% of them are energy inefficient, how can we help?



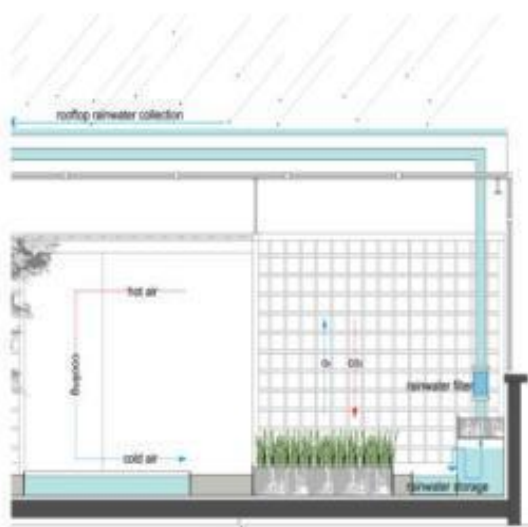


- 1 wooden platform
- 2 water feature
- 3 water feature
- 4 planting bed
- 5 trellis
- 6 trellis
- 7 bedroom
- 8 living room
- 9 green wall

MASTER PLAN



GREEN WALL SECTION



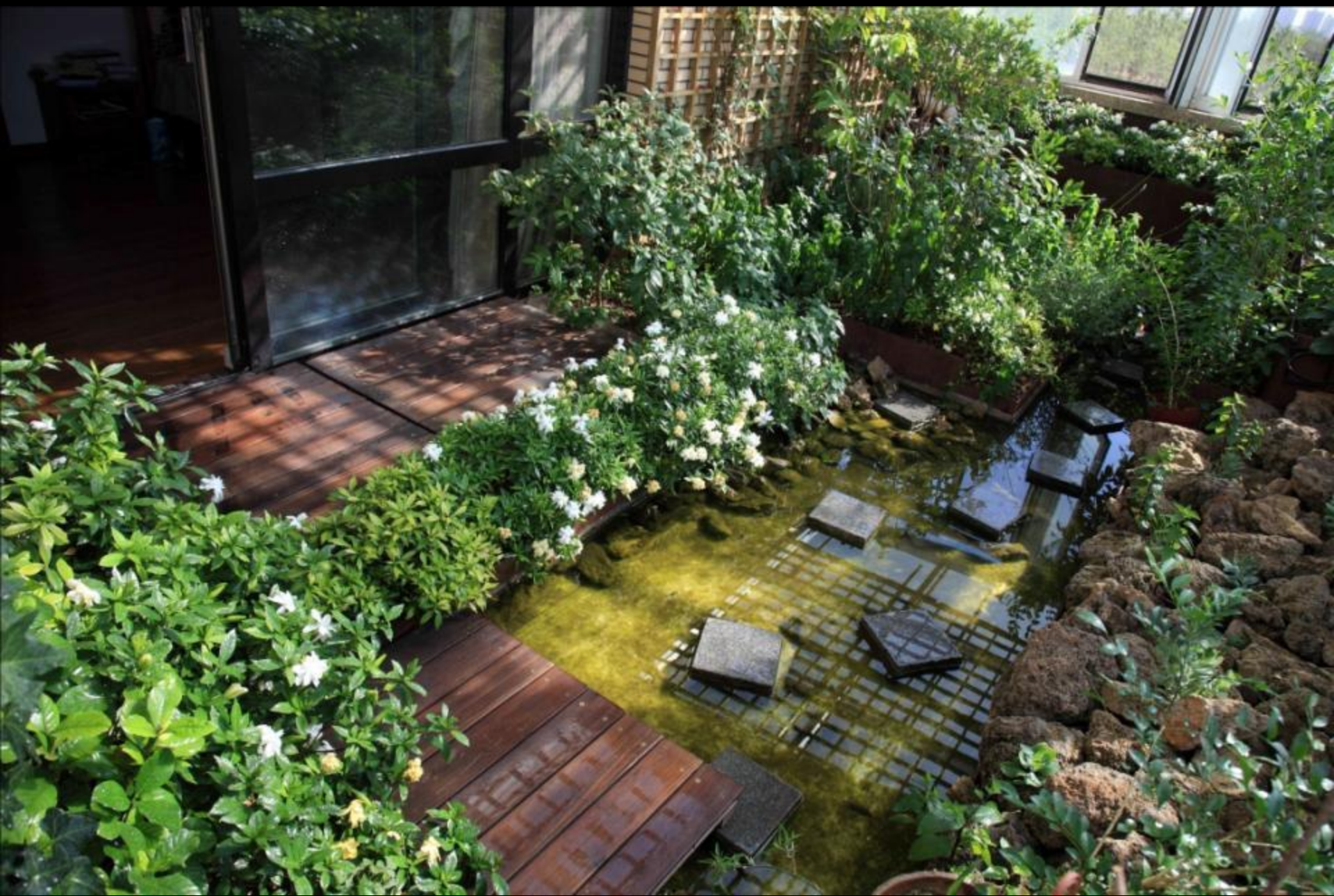
A-A



B-B



08 The vegetable garden: productive ecosystems that provide fresh fruits and vegetables for the kitchen







2010



2013



2014





Community education: Small solution to big problem



**Small solution to big problem
This home
collects 52 tons of rain water
saves 2000 KW of electricity
produces 32kg of vegetable**

**If every building is green, we
can save the energy equivalent
to 10 Three Gorge Dams, 30% of
national energy consumption**

We think like a king, but act like peasants



Peasants who change the national landscape

Turescape Group Photo



Landscape Architecture is an art of survival that creates deep forms

**Through
Planning,
Design and Engineering and
management**

Thank you!