

# Exploration of Planning and Design Strategies for Residential Historical Communities based on Protecting Cultural Stability

Jiaxu Zhang

## Abstract

In urban design and urban renewal, preserving communities and rural heritage that are not included in the protection list has always been controversial. The main difficulties they face are often investment restrictions and low returns. However, perhaps considering it solely based on economic factors may not be rigorous enough; heritage is crucial to the inheritance of community spirit and cultural sensitivity of the community. This article will explore the important value of community heritage and rural heritage that have not been included in the protection list for residents and take Xuanyuandian Community in Changsha City, Hunan Province, and Yanxia Village in Zhejiang Province as examples to discuss the use of urban heritage in the process of urban renewal and design. Planning and design strategies for residential historic communities with the main purpose of protecting community cultural stability.

**Keywords:** urban design, controversial, community heritage, Zhejiang Province

## Introduction

Economic returns from heritage conservation and culturally sensitive inheritance in communities:

In the process of urban design and renewal, the restoration and maintenance of heritage is a very expensive project. Many small cities and communities face a shortage of investment funds, often leading to the gradual deterioration and destruction of cultural heritage within their territories. From an economic perspective, many projects that invest in heritage conservation have limited returns. The fate of community heritage that has not been included in the protection list has always been a problem that troubles planners.

Cultural heritage can play an important role in local and regional development and generate economic and social impacts. The European Union has promulgated a specific measure to protect and develop rural heritage in its rural development policy for the planning period 2007-2013. According to Jana Kouřilová and Martin Pělucha's assessment of the economic and social impact of EU rural policy-supported projects in the Czech Republic between 2007 and 2013, the implemented projects were mainly located in peripheral rural areas, both close to the border and in the inner periphery, which means This means that the measures are geographically well targeted. The results of this measure contribute to the restoration and reconstruction of historical monuments, churches, cemeteries, and small relic monuments, creating an environment for rural settlements. This environment is important for community life and strengthening local identity. However, in the area of economic development,

the results of this measure indicate limited returns for villages supported by the project. Kouřilová and Pělucha's assessment suggests that investments in heritage conservation may yield significant cultural benefits rather than financial returns. This may not be the outcome most investors want to see because such expenditures are more like a great community charity than a worthwhile investment project. In fact, the same obstacles have been encountered in the implementation of heritage protection projects in the Czech Republic.

According to the survey completed by Kouřilová and Pělucha, respondents believe that the impact on tourism development and related new economic activities will be limited. The impact of supported projects on municipal budget revenues is minimal. The implementation of these projects does not create new employment opportunities. 0.12 jobs were created and maintained per maintenance project. Additional jobs created outside maintenance projects (0.22 jobs per project). Furthermore, according to the interviewees' assessment, only in some supported cities did the number of tourists increase due to the improvement of the appearance of the monuments and the overall aesthetic refinement of the villages. Most projects cannot be implemented without public support. The overall probability of project implementation is only 16.2%. Viewed this way, perhaps heritage conservation is an investment with limited economic returns. However, the inheritance of community spirit brought about by heritage conservation cannot be measured in terms of financial returns.

Diane Vaughan writes that "cultural rules" influence all actors, from individuals to organizations and states,

“defining the legitimate goals they are to pursue and thereby influencing local actions and meanings.” She draws on Granovetter’s analysis of economic behavior in society. The concept of embeddedness indicates the relative dependence between economic actions and “the institutionalized cultural belief systems in which they are embedded.” Organizations like developers, businesses, municipalities, and other growth constituents, operate within a socially embedded “culture of production” where “institutionalized cultural belief systems shape interpretations, meanings, and actions at the local level.” Developing heritage conservation projects in townships and communities is important because changes in a place’s built environment, consumption opportunities, or public image can pose real challenges to existing cultural identity. Therefore, in this case, in addition to complying with any regulations, the new project must also meet local social history criteria to be recognized.

Citizens, on the other hand, can demand and evaluate developers’ sensitivity to local expectations. Douglas believes that design culturally sensitive to a community can expand local support and positively contribute to residents’ sense of identity. In some cases, cultural expectations may also have a real impact on program participants and community residents. Communities as diverse as Chicago, Illinois, and Cooper, Virginia, have benefited from having a say in the development process through a unified land use review process as they negotiate with major retail giants. At the same time, of course, are the benefits developers gain from understanding and demonstrating cultural sensitivity. In these communities, whether by designing bicycles, parking lots, bars, or preserving community heritage, “culturally inclusive communities” are formed with developers’ efforts to demonstrate community cultural sensitivity and cooperation with community residents.

The social impact of heritage conservation projects is to strengthen residents’ sense of identity and social cohesion. This includes, among other things, positively impacting the community through interest in project implementation and participation in projects through volunteer work. In the Czech Republic, projects that received financial support began to develop social and cultural activities in restored buildings that became centers of community life. It is mainly about the revival of old traditions or the creation of new ones and the development of leisure activities for children. A particular benefit for some religious believers is repurposing eucharistic monuments for religious rituals (improving the availability of religious services). Between 2007 and 2013, cultural heritage protection became an important soft tool in EU rural development policy. Thus, in the Czech Republic, cultural heritage support

contributes to “living in cultural heritage.” Heritage protection is inseparable from community culture and spirit. Most communities are not heritage-listed, and the cultural value that rural heritage conservation brings is of great importance to local communities.

### **Problem statement:**

After understanding the importance of communities and rural heritage, even if they are not included in the government’s heritage protection list, this article will take the Xuanyuandian residential historical community in Changsha, Hunan, China, and the rural heritage in Yanxia Village, Zhejiang Province as examples to explore the protection of Heritage-based planning and design strategies. In addition to the loss of historical heritage and culture, Xuanyuandian Community and the rural community of Yanxia Village in Zhejiang Province still face other problems, such as aging facilities, new functional needs of community residents, and space requirements. The design and planning strategies discussed in this article will protect the stability of the heritage as a primary purpose.

### **Literature Review**

Judging from the transformation case of Prague in the twentieth century, perhaps post-socialism cannot realize heritage protection planning. During Prague’s post-war urban planning period, the newly established Office of the Chief Architect designed a master plan in 1961 that embodied the optimism and radicalism of National Socialist urban modernism. The plan reproduces the Athens Charter’s disdain for traditional corridor streets. The plan argued that Prague should be free of “closed, poorly ventilated blocks of houses.” The plan foresees residential areas with low population density, clear structures, and protected green areas. The plan singles out the “over-aged” district of Žižkov, which has a density of up to 2,000 inhabitants per hectare (planned construction envisages 350 inhabitants per hectare), and claims that its redevelopment “will mean clearing an ulcer in the city.” Plans envisaged the destruction of all housing estates built before World War I, including the complete reconstruction of Joseph’s housing estate. Joseph’s residential complex was only completely rebuilt about 60 years ago on the ruins of the former Jewish quarter.

However, from a heritage conservation perspective, such planning and design seem unreasonable. This kind of planning and design seems to be based only on the personal ideas of Prague’s superiors. The debate over neoliberal aesthetics and its relationship to heritage conservation may also have been one of the driving forces for the planners of the Prague project. Roubal believes

a shared aesthetic distaste among modernist architects largely drove the attack on nineteenth-century apartment houses. However, from a pragmatic perspective of the Communist Party's policy goals, demolishing these dormitories does not make much sense. After all, it was extremely efficient housing for the working class, with relatively equal conditions and a palpable community spirit. Rebuilding these plans directly ran counter to some of the most important pragmatic policies of the Prague Communist Party. This also shows that the Communist Party's rule in Prague was an elite project, easily influenced by the incumbents (project planners) and the artistic elite. For Prague, at least theoretically, the question under communism was never whether the city's heritage should be protected but rather what constituted heritage. The problem with Žižkov is that they are not considered part of the heritage but rather the product of speculative capital and aesthetic decay.

So, achieving a balance between heritage protection and liberal aesthetic planning is extremely important for Prague, which is located in a post-socialist context and urgently needs post-war re-planning. Fortunately, Prague found a solution: the planning office, composed of superiors, was eventually forced to disband, and the work of planning fell into the hands of planning companies composed of many citizens. Roubal writes that citizens and planners reached a consensus to define "heritage stabilization zones" as primarily residential areas, leaving large swaths of the city open to future urban decisions. The plan states that "we cannot expect any radical new urbanism concepts to emerge in Prague" and that the role of urban intervention should be to "harmoniously augment the city, emphasizing the protection of its historical and natural values and determinants." The combined impact of the 2008 economic crisis and the Constitutional Court's decision to end rent control in 2012 significantly boosted the Prague City Council's ambition to "become an integral part of Prague's city center and provide housing for the middle and upper classes." The architects who protested against the redevelopment of Žižkov were successful in preserving the area's heritage values.

It can be seen from the case that Prague's post-socialist planning may not be able to solve the problem of heritage protection. The spirit of planners, government, and the power class plays a leading role in the direction of planning. For Prague in the 19th century and Western capitalist countries, the government could increase public participation to decentralize huge planning tasks to local planning companies. This approach weakens the planning concepts of elites and enhances people's sense of participation. The result is that the social heritage is preserved and maintained, the traditional lifestyle of the

people is continued, and ultimately, the cultural sensitivity and spirit of the community are inherited. An interesting aspect of this is that the cost of planning in Prague has also been reduced.

Heritage protection is not a multiple-choice question with only demolition or preservation. Whether due to natural, quasi-natural, or anthropogenic processes, land-use change around the world is an ongoing cyclical process (Chrastina, Hronček, Gregorová, & Žoncová). Heritage stability will always depend on the magnitude of the drivers of land use in historic landscapes during the early stages of development, i.e., the intensity of cover over older layers and the extent to which the oldest historic landscapes within a given area will be protected. If human factors influence the driving forces, the cultural landscape is created within a given time frame. Therefore, if the earlier driving forces are weaker, less intense, or even almost non-existent, we can consider the historical cultural landscape stable or relatively stable.

Mumford believes human life is divided into living, working, entertainment, and transportation. This unnatural separation of activities continues in the city today and is reflected in traffic jams between settlements, administrative complexes, shopping malls, and centers with theaters and cafeterias. According to the case of Czech rural heritage protection, if the urban planning system is extended to towns, it will greatly affect the stability of township heritage. Filip Landa proposed studying the case of heritage protection in Czech towns.

Proposal 1: It is necessary to support the biodiversity of the watershed (as an element of ecotourism) by delineating temporary grassland, restoring floodplain wetlands and non-forest woody vegetation, and increasing the area of permanent grassland to maintain the integrity of the local landscape. Ecological stability.

Proposal 2: Ensure social and cultural diversity of the local landscape by restoring and maintaining the traditional way of life of the village's "original" Slovak inhabitants. In terms of ecotourism development, the main thing is to get the experience of learning traditional tangible and intangible culture and local cuisine.

Proposal 3: Ensure that local communities actively participate in the development of ecotourism in the form of the provision of local services and products (especially the production of traditional souvenirs, the preparation of local cuisine, the preparation of traditional cultural and social events, and the provision of guided tours).

These recommendations can stabilize and protect the heritage of cultural landscapes as a main source for the development of ecotourism, which will show the interaction and sustainability of cultural landscapes and their tangible and intangible elements themselves and lead

to the sustainability of ecotourism sex.

Regarding selecting research methods, the article refers to relevant literature in the context of urban renewal and design. Urban renewal mainly refers to the areas in specific urban built-up areas (including old industrial areas, old commercial areas, old residential areas, urban villages, and old housing villages, etc.) where infrastructure is in urgent need of improvement, the environment is poor, and the utilize of existing land and building function do not meet the requirements of social and economic development. Urban planning and prescribed procedures to conduct comprehensive renovation, organic renewal, and demolition and reconstruction are the main modes of activities. "The Report on the Work of the Government in 2021" and "The Outline of the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan" jointly put forward the urban renewal action plan, which is a major strategic decision and plan made by the CPC Central Committee (2021). It is also an important guideline and approach for promoting high-quality urban development in the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan and sometime in the future. The series of articles on urban renewal mainly includes research topics on policy, implementation and operation, investment and financing, and how to participate in urban investment companies. Another study (Mehdipanah et al., 2015) provides evidence from two neighborhood law health assessment studies while drawing on recent urban renewal literature to follow a four-step process to develop a procedural theory. Wang et al. (2017) selected the government, residents, and developers as the core stakeholders of urban renewal. During the whole life cycle of urban renewal construction, they can influence the realization of urban renewal goals.

Originally widely used as a teaching method, the graphic analysis method was expanded by architect Peter Eisenman. He defined the site and the nature of the building as the basic form and the final building and used the scene as the concrete form. This deductive tool defines a theoretical baseline of architectural autonomy for architectural criticism (Zhang & Li, 2019). The graphic analysis method has also been extended in transforming community green space. The fluid landscape element Analysis method (FIEA) is based on the graphic analysis method. The hilly greening project in Yingjiasha County, Xinjiang, was simulated using graphical analysis to obtain images of the blocking effect of different types of vegetation on wind-blown sand (Zhao & Chen, 2014). Graphic analysis is the basic method of analyzing the site at the beginning of design. Graphic thinking based on the site can explore the elements that hinder the optimization of the specific form of the site.

Field counting survey is one of the methods of PSPL survey, which is widely used in community renewal.

In the evaluation of the Chengdu music visit, Li (2023) uses the PSPL survey method to score the venue and obtain its service quality. In the evaluation of public space in old communities, the author's team scored the space quality of the playground space of the Wuchang Car Factory Community using the PSPL method (Zheng et al., 2022). In the spatial optimization survey of Chongqing Road Street in Changchun City, Wang and Zhao (2018) investigated the use and quality of the street space of Chongqing Road by using field counting, map marking, and other methods. The field technology method in PSPL can estimate the commuting condition of the Xuanyuandian community road by recording the traffic flow of the Xuanyuandian community during the investigation period.

The interview method is a type of qualitative research through questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews. Taking the Tiexi Workers' Village in Shenyang as a case study (Dong et al., 2020), it analyzes the characteristics and driving forces of community renewal in rebuilding shanty towns in old industrial cities. In the renewal study of the Jiujiang Community in Changchun City, Hu (2022) supplemented the questionnaire through in-depth interviews.

Historical study, proposed by Saussure, is widely used in studying literary and artistic phenomena. Along with the advance of urban renewal, this research method has shown its effect in many residential historical areas. In Anismar et al.'s (2021) study on the MAPESA community (Masyarakat Peduli Sejarah Aceh), he introduced the strategies used in Aceh history to the community and the obstacles faced by MAPESA in protecting Aceh's historical heritage. His purpose is to understand the strategies used by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific community in educating the community about Aceh's history, as well as the obstacles that the Commission will face if it only protects Aceh's historical sites, especially those in Banda Aceh and Besar Aceh. In addition, based on the urban acupuncture and moxibustion theory (Ding et al., 2021), take the reconstruction of the Sereus Hualin community in Wuhan as an example. From a multi-level and multi-dimensional perspective, his team explored how to solve the planning strategies for renovating public spaces in old communities of historical and cultural blocks.

## Method

### PSPL analysis method:

This is an analysis method that combines quantitative and qualitative analysis. Specifically, it includes the map marking, on-site counting, field investigation, and



interview methods. This method is commonly used in the urban planning research stage. This article will quantify and analyze the case area maps, on-site pictures, and other information.

### **Case study:**

A sustainable analysis method that obtains overall knowledge by studying representative cases. This article uses a representative urban residential historical area case and a rural case to illustrate the design and planning strategies of China's community historical heritage.

Source of data and pictures:

Data and maps are obtained from actual on-site surveys or drawings.

## **Result**

### **Case Study 1:**

Background Introduction to Xuanyuandian Community

The Jixiang Street area is located in Changsha, Hunan province. It's an area surrounded by four streets: Zhongshan West Road in the north, Wuyi Avenue in the south, Huangxing Road in the east, and Xichang Street in the west. It is adjacent to Wuyi Square in the southeast.

Changsha is located in central China and holds an important historical position in history. It has experienced significant historical events and once became a major center of political activity, exerting significant influence. Changsha has had a profound impact on the country's historical process. Xuanyuandian Community is located in the Jixiang Lane area, where there is the first Western-style travel agency and one of the earliest cinemas in Changsha. Jixiang Lane reflects the most important part of Changsha's history, preserving a relatively complete historical form that has not been destroyed over time. As a witness to history and the evolution of urban architectural forms in central China, Jixiang Lane holds significant historical significance.

The xuanyuandian community has witnessed the prosperous history of Changsha, but it has gradually

separated from modern life. Its streets are tortuous, with numerous alleys, diverse business formats, and profound historical heritage. However, precisely because it is immune to the invasion of modern life and culture, it retains its neighbors' most authentic daily life and the rich culture of the ancient city of Changsha. The area, which is approximately 3 hectares, bears the diverse residential functions, unique industrial structure, and historical significance of the community.

Xuanyuandian Community has the characteristics of a "large floating population, many operating stores, and many renting houses." The area has a dense population and a high concentration of residential areas. It has a population of 5,135 people in 2,057 households, with 113 disabled people, 211 people over 80, and 26 people over 90. In addition, there are 2345 floating population in the area and more than 350 operating stores. Two large farmers' markets—indoor and outdoor farmers' markets. It is a famous shanty old area of Changsha City and a former position of the commercial function circle of Kaifu District, where there is a history of business competition.

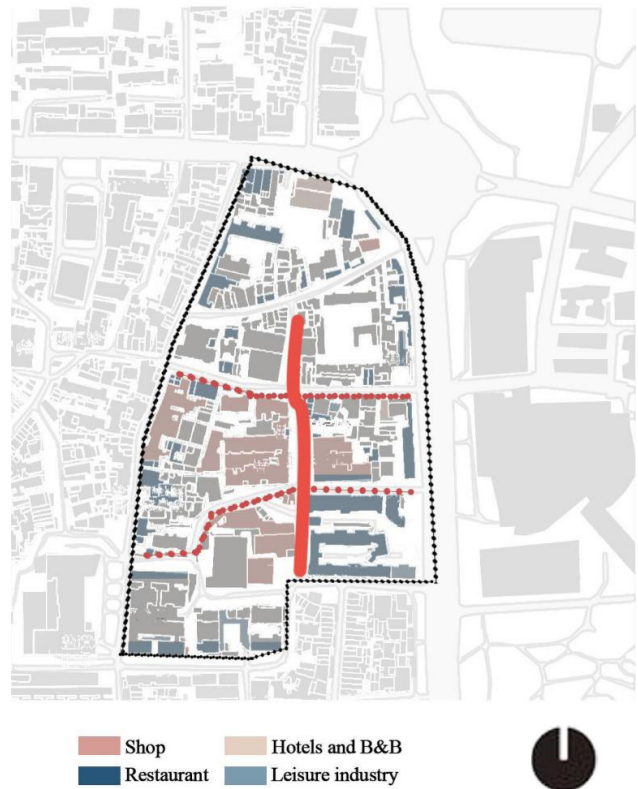
### **Commercial Activity**

Changsha Xuanyuandian community mainly has two commercial groups. It consists of three comprehensive commercial buildings distributed along Wuyi Avenue and Huangxing Road on the south side of the community and a commercial group integrating leisure, entertainment, accommodation, and catering. The retail commercial group is located in the community. The auspicious section of No. 1 Road in the central part of the country is dominated by a fresh food market. Both business associations have relatively complete business development and management. The comprehensive commercial group located south of Chunfeng Street - Zijing Street, Xuanyuandian Community, and surrounding residential areas has complete supporting facilities and is commercialized. This area is not included in this article's design and transformation scope.



**Figure1. Industry Type and Distribution in Xuanyuandian Community**

Most of the commercial businesses in the Xuanyuandian community serve local community residents. In contrast, the street-side catering and business associations located at Wuyi Avenue and Huangxing Middle Road mainly serve tourists and Changsha citizens. Within the design scope, regional businesses are distributed along the Xuanyuandian Community Center Street and radiate to surrounding streets to form a linear commercial space.



**Figure2. Xuanyuandian Community Commerical Geographical Development Direction**

Xuanyuandian community has a large number of restaurants and small businesses. Small restaurants are located in blocks along the street, and most are self-employed. Other convenience stores, delicatessens, and fruit shops line the streets to serve local residents. This also means that the Xuanyuandian community lacks overall commercial development and integration: the individual industrial and commercial households spontaneously formed by residents have not formed a complete system, nor have they served the formation of traditional historical and cultural-related industrial forms in the Xuanyuandian community. The following data were obtained through field research:

**Figure3. Xuanyuandian Community Individual Merchant Service Bias Type and Proportion**

Type/Name	Quantity	Proportion
Prefer to serve community residents	99	50.5%
Minimart	19	9.7%
Delicatessen	12	6.1%
Greengrocery	14	7.1%

Lottery Shop	3	1.5%
Daily Necessities Store	10	5.1%
Barber Shop	7	3.6%
Laundry	1	0.5%
Cybercafe	1	0.5%
Drugstore	3	1.5%
Flats	3	1.5%
Electrical Maintenance	7	3.6%
Mahjong	8	4.1%
Hardware Store	5	2.6%
Tailor Shop	1	0.5%
Unlock	1	0.5%
Printing Shop	2	1%
Express Shop	2	1%
Prefer to serve outsiders	7	3.6%
Hotels	5	2.6%
Letting Agent	2	1%
Serving all groups	90	45.9%
Luncheonette	64	32.7%
Drink Shop	1	0.5%
Ballroom	1	0.5%
Coffee	3	1.5%
Tableware Wholesale Store	1	0.5%
Jewelry Store	2	1%
Shoe Store	2	1%
Couture	6	3.1%
Bookstore	1	0.5%
Tea Shop	3	1.5%
Alcoholic Drink Shop	2	1%
Florist's Shop	1	0.5%
Massage Parlour	3	1.5%
Sum	196	100%

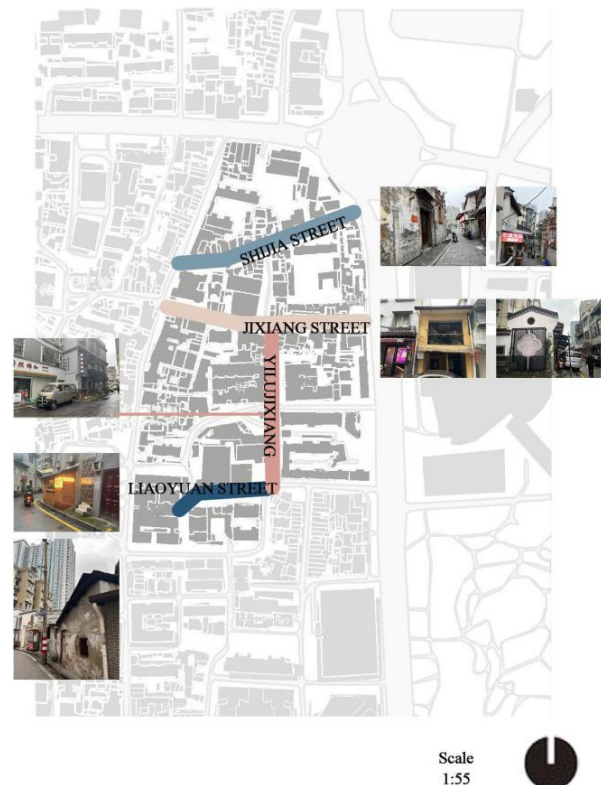
It can be seen from the field survey data that merchants who prefer to serve residents account for 50.5% of the total number of small merchants, merchants who prefer to serve groups other than community residents account for 3.6%, and merchants who serve both groups account for 3.6%. Accounting for 45.9%. It also means that over 95% of self-employed people serve their local community. Most of these individual companies operate in silos and lack industry integration. Individual industrial and commercial households are mostly founded voluntarily by community residents, forming commercial groups

mainly serving residents. This also means that, except for the comprehensive commercial cluster in the south, the Xuanyuandian community lacks cultural industries, leisure facilities, and other service industries that attract tourists from groups outside the community.

From this point of view, the commercial group in Xuanyuandian Central Community is more like a “self-sufficient” resident service and community business.

#### *The present situation of Xuanyuandian Community Internal Architecture*

The internal building facades in Xuanyuandian Community are mainly gray-white, with some buildings in earthy yellow. Most buildings along the street are 1 to 2 shops, and the merchants themselves decorate most shop fronts. The walls of the small restaurant have been painted, keeping with the traditional street vendor facade style with eye-catching signs. In blocks such as Shijia Street and Liaoyuan Street that lack commercial commerce, some buildings still have not yet been designed and renovated. The facades of these buildings retain traces of history. But at present, the “scars” of these buildings do not give pedestrians a good sense of historical sedimentation but more of a sense of dilapidation.



**Figure4. Xuanyuandian Community Architecture Diagram**

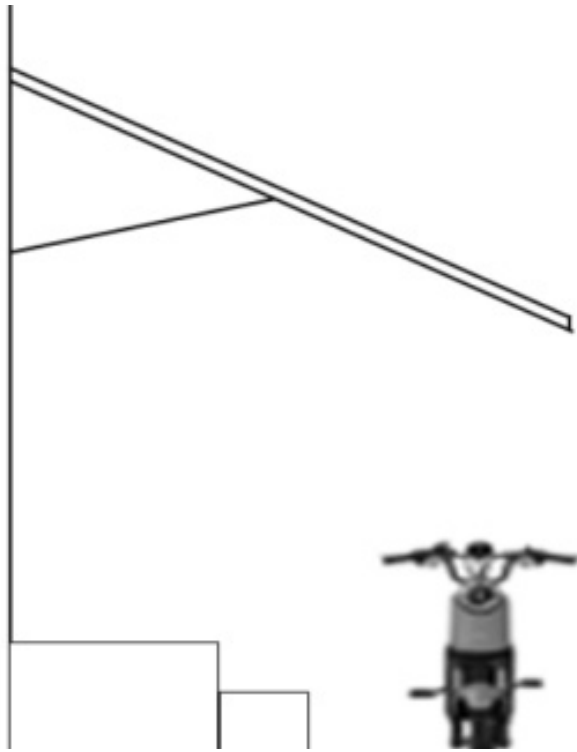


Figure5. Setback

**Traffic Condition**

The width of the motor vehicle lane on the site is 2-3 meters. The width of most trails is 1-2 meters, and some trails are narrower than 0.5 meters. The streets in the community are relatively narrow, and some streets are difficult for two cars to pass. All road sections are occupied by motor vehicles, occupying 25%-50% of the road space, and the road width is deprived. The available space for motor vehicle lanes generally does not exceed 2.5 meters. Therefore, when walking, special attention should be paid to pedestrians and electric vehicles.

FANCHENGDI STREET			Width: Motorway 3.0m Footwalk 0.5m Available: Motorway 2.55m Footwalk 0-0.5m
JIEGUI STREET			Width: Motorway 3.0m Footwalk 1.3m Available: Motorway 2.35m Footwalk 0-1.3m
SHUIA STREET			Width: Motorway 2.0m Footwalk 1.0m Available: Motorway 2.0m Footwalk 0.55-1.0m
JIXIANG STREET			Width: Motorway 2.5m Footwalk 1.0m Available: Motorway 2.0-2.5m Footwalk 0-1.0m
JIXIANG BY STREET			Width: Motor vehicles are not allowed to pass Footwalk 2.8m Available: Footwalk 2.0-2.8m
TONGRENLI			Width: Motor vehicles are not allowed to pass Footwalk 1.5m Available: Footwalk 1.05-1.5m
LIAOYUAN STREET			There is no distinction between sidewalks and motorways Width: 2.0m Available: 1.3-2.0m
YILUIXIANG			Width: Motorway 2.5m Footwalk 2.0m Available: Motorway 2.3-2.5m Footwalk 0-2.0m

Figure6. Diagram of Traffic in Xuanyuandian Community

**Summary**

From the above analysis, it can be seen that the biggest problem facing the Xuanyuan Point community is the uneven distribution of small shops, such as the takeout industry, and the lack of unified design guidance and commercial rectification, which challenges the stability of the community's heritage. These challenges are mainly reflected in two aspects: interfering with the normal lifestyle of community residents and losing the original style of the overall building.

First, the takeout industry's rise has brought many delivery workers and couriers into the entire community. The originally narrow street space of the community has posed new challenges, as residents have to commute on the same road as motor vehicles and electric delivery trucks. This phenomenon creates chaos in street parking of vehicles and electric vehicles and increases traffic safety risks. At the same time, this phenomenon also interferes with the normal life of community residents. The impact

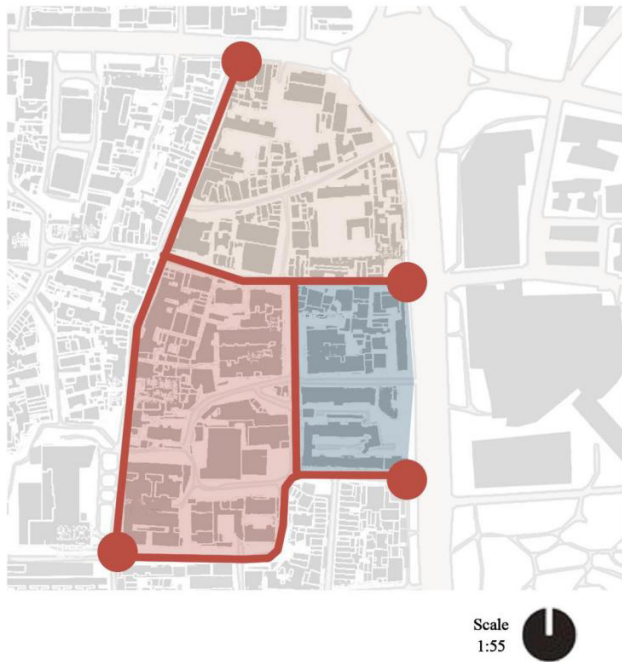


and changes in residents' lifestyles have impacted the life stability of community residents, negatively impacting community culture and heritage.

Secondly, due to the lack of unified business guidance in the community, the facade styles of merchant buildings on both sides of the community streets are not uniform, and the scattered distribution of merchants also leads to incomplete renovation of community street buildings. This also resulted in the loss of the original architectural style of the overall community, and the renovated street buildings did not form a coordinated architectural style. This phenomenon directly affects the stability of community heritage.

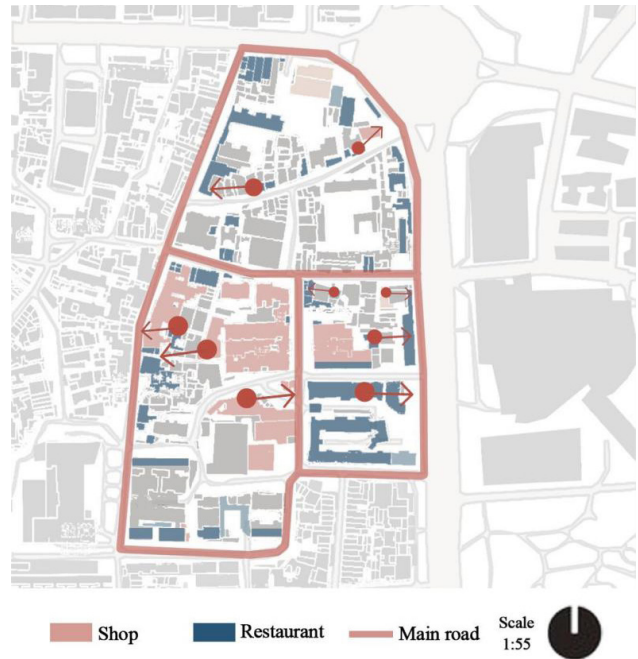
Xuanyuanduan Community Planning and Design Strategy Discussion

In terms of planning and design, Xuanyuan Point Community, based on the stability of heritage protection, may be able to divide the main planning area into three residential areas based on its main roads.



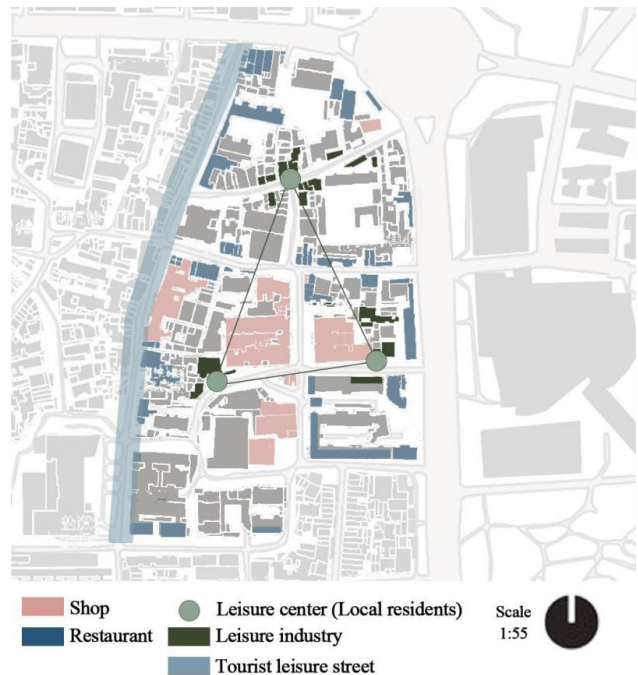
**Figure7. The Three Areas of Xuanyuandian Community**

In the three areas, the markets, small restaurants, and other industries have been moved to the community's main roads. The plan will prevent the courier industry and other groups outside the community from infiltrating residential and congregate areas.



**Figure8. Transformation in Xuanyuandian Community**

The inner streets of the three areas are planned with green spaces, public activity spaces, and leisure facilities that community residents need. The community needs to attract new investment to the west of the Design District and create a commercial street to attract outside community groups. At the same time, through historical tourism planning, communities should attract external community groups.



**Figure9. Design Plan of Xuanyuandian Community**

Through the different focuses of leisure, green space, and public activity spaces in the three areas, residents can achieve “regional splicing” at the level of daily activities.  
Case Study 2:

Background introduction to Yanxia Village Community  
Yanxia Village is located on the mountainside of Cangling Mountain at the west end of Kuocang Mountain in the northeast of Huzhen Town, Jinyun County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province. It is 15km from Huzhen Township and 40km from Jinyun County. The village was moved by the surname Zhu and was founded in the third year of Emperor Jianwen of the Ming Dynasty (1401). It has lasted for more than 20 generations and more than 600 years.

Yanxia Village is located in a deep mountain valley. The ancestors of the Zhu family used local materials and selected stones from bamboo forests and streams to pave roads and build houses. They lived in clusters along the stream banks on the valley slopes with limited space. To save land, most residential buildings are two-story. However, some of the residential buildings that have been newly built or renovated in the village in recent years have a large difference in volume, height, and appearance style from the mountain village landscape. Even if stone flakes are used for exterior wall cladding, they will still affect the overall style and should be reasonably guided and controlled.

With the development of tourism, the community heritage of Yanxia Village is facing external impacts. The existing community-scale makes it difficult to meet the space needs of the tourism industry, and the villages are showing a tendency to expand.



**Figure10. Map of Yanxia Village and Photos of the Current Situation**

Yanxia Village is located in a deep mountain canyon. The ancestors of the Zhu family used local materials, selected stones from the Zhuxi River to pave roads, built houses.

They lived together along the river bank on the valley slope with limited space. To save land, most residential buildings are two-story. A few attached sheds have only one floor, with a simple and low space, for stacking farm tools, grain, etc. Ancestral halls and temples are only built on one floor, and the space is tall and open.

Judging from the distribution pattern of rural buildings, natural rivers cut the entire countryside into three building groups. There is no trace of planning in the entire village, and the buildings are distributed along the river to form a primitive and natural architectural distribution.



**Figure11. Yanxia Village Transportation Routes and Tourist Routes**

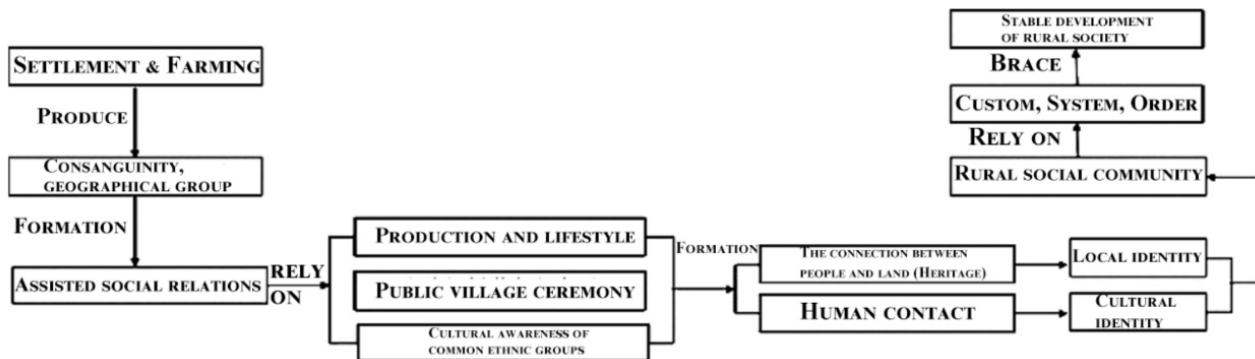
Village roads are naturally distributed, consisting of the main ring road in the center of the village and secondary roads that connect the villages. With the development of tourism, there are many tourist routes within the main road area of the village. These tourist routes coincide with the

roads in the main activity areas of villagers' lives. Such a situation may change the original building functions and residents' living areas.



**Figure12. Diagrams and Photos of Discordant Tall Buildings in Yanxia Village**

The village's heritage buildings face new challenges from tourism with the growth of tourists. Some of the residential buildings that have been newly built or renovated in the village in recent years have a large gap between their height and appearance and the mountain village landscape. Even if the exterior wall is covered with stone flakes, it still affects the overall style.



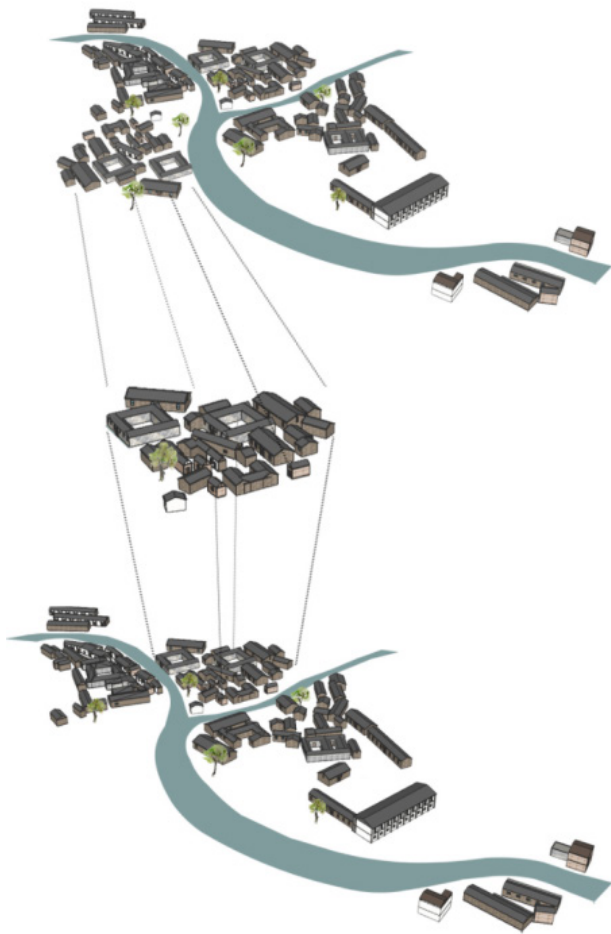
**Figure13. The social culture of Yanxia Village is formed from the development intention**

Traditional farming is the origin of the formation of the countryside, and the original primitive communities and social relationships based on kinship and geographical relationships have been formed in the countryside. The formation of rural social relations depends on the original rural production and lifestyle, the original rural public sacrificial activities, and the common cultural awareness of the countryside. The connection between the rural community public and the land, built heritage, and community residents forms the community identity and cultural identity of the countryside. Under the joint influence of rural community identity and cultural identity, rural communities' original customs, systems, and order have been formed in the countryside. This ensures the stable social development of rural communities, tourism, and tourist participation. The original social structure of rural communities has changed. This has also led to changes in some rural residents' original production and life, which has also led to new functional and spatial demands for rural buildings by the original residents. This demand has led to the renewal of some rural buildings and the need for rural land expansion. Ultimately, this may have affected the stability of the overall rural heritage.

Yanxia Village Community Planning and Design Strategy Discussion

Perhaps replicating measures can achieve the greatest protection for the stability of rural heritage. By replicating the original rural architectural style and naturally formed planning methods, the purpose of the expansion is ultimately achieved while ensuring the relative stability of the rural heritage. Replicating the original planning model ensures minimal impact and changes to existing lifestyles in rural communities. The stability of rural social lifestyle can ensure the stability of the functions of heritage buildings. Planning based on the stability of villages and towns does not make the functional zoning more reasonable or redesign the village and town transportation systems. Still, it improves and replicates the natural layout of existing villages and towns. That is, facilities and functions should be improved for towns that do not need expansion. The original layout should be replicated in the expansion area for towns that need expansion. For planners, these measures may be countermeasures before looking for new and reasonable methods of township planning.





**Figure 14. Schematic diagram of Yanxia Village design strategy**

Secondly, it may be possible to divert tourists by improving tourist routes and facilities around the countryside. There are rich natural resources and traditional farmland around the countryside. These areas may be difficult for some urban tourists to access in urban life. This may allow some tourists to choose more travel routes than just within Yanxia Village. This may divert tourists who are only within rural communities to the countryside, thereby reducing the interference of tourism behavior on the lives of rural community residents and the stability of rural heritage.

**Discussion:**

Some similarities can be seen in the planning and design aspects of the above two case studies. Reduce the interference of external factors in the community through planning. These measures include re-planning the location of community industries and building new tourist routes around the community. The purpose is to

reduce the impact of external factors on the lifestyle of the community's original residents and reduce the negative impact of external factors on the stability of community heritage. Secondly, perhaps the historic community where the community heritage is located does not need complete modernization. Instead, the stability of the community heritage can be protected by improving the infrastructure of the original buildings and updating the original buildings. For a historical rural community like Yanxia Village that needs to be expanded, modern planning may not be required in the city to build a new area. Instead, the community's original architectural form and road form should be copied to the new area. In addition, residential historic neighborhoods in the city preserve the memory of the city's original formation. It can be seen from the Xuanyuandian community's shape that this community's building density is high, and the building scale is smaller than that of other modern areas in the city. Of course, the architectural style of this community is also different from the modern buildings in the city. When people step into such a historical community from a loose and large-scale urban area, they will have completely different feelings. This feeling may be that of "finding the starting point of the city's origin," or it may be that of the traditional and low-level historical community. Looking up at the tall modern buildings among the short houses, one laments the "rapid development of the city."

To sum up, whether it is urban or rural, the historical heritage preserved by many communities has not received the attention of the government or community agencies, resulting in a lack of repair and maintenance within the community and its decline due to the influence of external factors. These legacies may not benefit the community economically beyond the cost of repairs. Still, they tell the community's original way of life and maintain the inheritance and stability of the community's culture. With the urban process and the demand for economic development, many communities' historical heritage faces the risk of extinction. Perhaps a gentler approach to these "litigators of community history" can be found in urban planning and design.

**Reference**

Anismar, Ibrahim, M. Y. B., Muhammad, Z. B., & Saputra, J. (2021). MAPESA'S Role in Protecting Aceh Historical Site: (Study at Historical sites in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar). *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*, 10, 974-983. <https://doi.org/10.6000/1929-4409.2021.10.115>

Chrastina, Hronček, P., Gregorová, B., & Žoncová, M. (2020). Land-Use Changes of Historical Rural Landscape—Heritage, Protection, and Sustainable Ecotourism: Case Study of Slovak Exclave Čív (Pilisescév) in Komárom-Esztergom County



- (Hungary). *Sustainability* (Basel, Switzerland), 12(15), 6048–. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12156048>
- Ding, R., Xu, H., & Huang, J. (2021). Research on the Public Space Reconstruction of the Old Community in the Historical and Cultural District. In *Hydraulic and Civil Engineering Technology VI* (pp. 177-183). IOS Press. <https://doi.org/10.3233/ATDE210165>
- Dong, L., Wang, Y., Lin, J., & Zhu, E. (2020). The community renewal of Shantytown transformation in old industrial cities: evidence from Tiexi worker village in Shenyang, China. *Chinese Geographical Science*, 30(6), 1022-1038.
- Douglas. (2012). Cultural Expectations and Urban Development: The Role of “Cultural Sensitivity” and “Cultural Sincerity” in Local Growth Politics. *Sociological Perspectives*, 55(1), 213–236. <https://doi.org/10.1525/sop.2012.55.1.213>
- Filip Landa. (2016). Actual changes in the system of urban planning in the post-socialist city: the case of Prague. *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism*, 40(4). <https://doi.org/10.3846/20297955.2016.1246986>
- Hu, Y. (2022). *Research updating old communities based on population activity analysis* [Master’s Thesis, Jilin Agricultural University]. <https://kns.cnki.net/kcms2/article/abstract?v=pbgqCeizVJPGxpDSAHOOnURNN4Kc-nFSCIw2O7fSFzbrWuDtQ4WcEYR-Dfkc9R1BxTi6pDO3teJ3bCi6vpf1wchWuDX7WGAdVKmWcTbICQ0rTA1hc-4EGSA=&uniplatform=NZKPT&language=CHS>
- Kouřilová, & Pělucha, M. (2017). Economic and Social Impacts of Promoting Cultural Heritage Protection by the Czech Rural Development Programme 2007–2013. *European Countryside*, 9(3), 486–503. <https://doi.org/10.1515/euco-2017-0029>
- Li, M. H. (2023). Optimization strategy of public space in characteristic neighborhoods based on PSPL research method: A case study of Chengdu music community. *Intelligent Building & Smart City*(1), 11-13. <https://doi.org/10.13655/j.cnki.ibci.2023.01.002>
- Mehdipanah, R., Manzano, A., Borrell, C., Malmusi, D., Rodriguez-Sanz, M., Greenhalgh, J., Muntaner, C., & Pawson, R. (2015). Exploring complex causal pathways between urban renewal, health, and health inequality using a theory-driven realist approach. *Social science & medicine*, 124, 266-274. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.11.050>
- Roubal. (2021). The Battle of Žižkov: Urban Planners’ Transition from Heritage Protection to Neoliberal Discursive Planning. *Journal of Urban History*, 47(3), 495–510. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144220908881>
- The Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China. (2021a). *The 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China and the Outline of the Long Range Goals for 2035*. The Xinhua News Agency. [https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/13/content\\_5592681.htm](https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/13/content_5592681.htm)
- The Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China. (2021b). *The Report on the Work of the Government in 2021*. The State Council. <https://www.gov.cn/guowuyuan/zfgzbg.htm>
- Wang, L., & Zhao, Y. (2018). Study on optimization strategy for street spaces in cold region based on the public space & public life (PSPL) survey method—a case of investigation on Chongqing road in changchun city. *Journal of Jilin Jianzhu University*, 35(2), 60-66. <https://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1009-0185.2018.02.014>
- Wang, Y., Li, J., Zhang, G., Li, Y., & Asare, M. H. (2017). Fuzzy evaluation of comprehensive benefit in urban renewal based on the perspective of core stakeholders. *Habitat International*, 66, 163-170. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2017.06.003>
- Zhang, J., & Li, W. (2019). The value of graphical analysis in architectural criticism—a case of Peter Eisenman’s Graphic Analysis. *Urbanism and Architecture*, 16(27), 87-89. <https://doi.org/10.19892/j.cnki.csjz.2019.27.028>
- Zhao, L., & Chen, W. (2014). Graphic wind and water: Application of fluid landscape elements simulation and analysis in landscape planning and design. *Chinese Landscape Architecture*(11), 23-27.
- Zheng, S., Tang, Y., Shang, W., & An, Q. (2022). Research on the evaluation and optimization strategy of public space in old communities based on PSPL research method: A case study of Wuchang Vehicle Factory Community Playground Space. *Construction Economy*, 43(S01), 659-665. <https://doi.org/10.14181/j.cnki.1002-851x2022S10659>