

# Urban Liminal Spaces: Shanghai

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## BACKGROUND OF URBAN SPACE

Modern Shanghai was originally in the form of an out-of-city city. On a piece of open space outside the old city, it built a city that was different from the traditional form of China, while other cities accepted the modernization is to carry out partial transformation, or even most of the transformation, on the basis of the original city.

In addition to the traditional city, a city is built in the form of concession city, which is a Europeanized city, so some Westerners call it a European city.

After the establishment of the new city, the administrative management has also changed. That is, the Shanghai county authorities can no longer manage the affairs within the concession. After the opening of the port in 1843, all the affairs related to the concession were managed by Susong Tai Dao. The opening of the port in Shanghai dealt with foreigners not by Shanghai County but by Susong Tai Dao. This official position is probably equivalent to that of foreign consuls.

After the establishment of the concession, the inner and outer suburbs of the county seat of Shanghai were also transformed, and also separated from the old appearance. This transformation of Shanghai's urban form, on the one hand, changes the downtown area of the city from the old urban and rural areas of Shanghai County and the southeast outside the city to the northern and western suburbs of the city. On the other hand, the lifestyle of the city has changed from pure Chinese style to a combination of Chinese and Western styles, and some aspects are completely Westernized.

The urban planning of Shanghai nowadays has formed a city-wide urban-rural system consisting of "main urban area - new town - new town - village", and the urban circle has been taken as the basic unit of suburban spatial organization and resource allocation, creating an intensive, efficient, open and compact spatial pattern of a megacity.

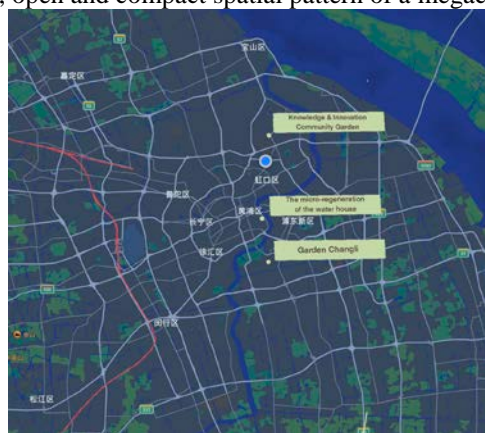
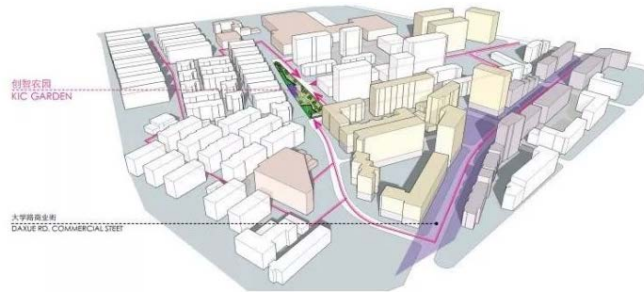


Fig. 1: Site selection of research base

## LIST OF URBAN LIMINAL SPACES IN SHANGHAI

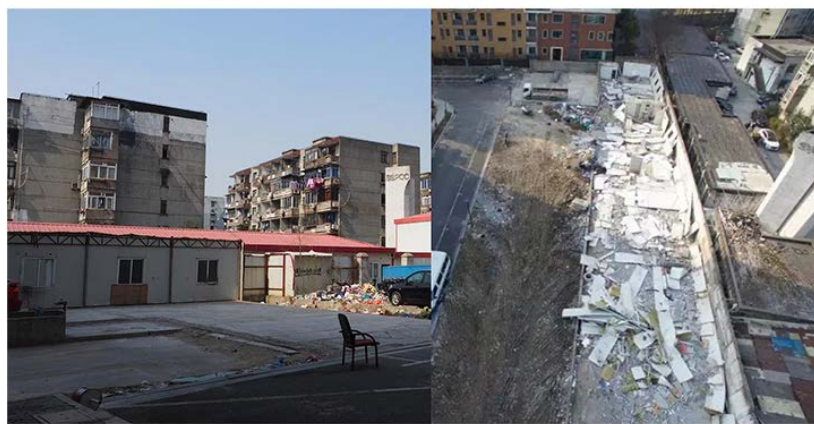
### 1. Knowledge & Innovation Community Garden

The base is located in Chuangzhi Tiandi Park, Daxue Road, Yangpu District, Shanghai. It covers an area of 2200 m<sup>2</sup>, and the nature of the land is greenbelt beside the street.



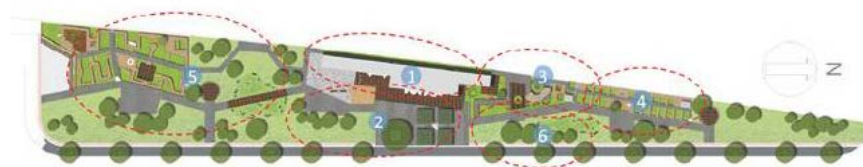
**Fig.1 Base location**

From the perspective of space formation, it is a typical gap in urban development. Because of the complex business forms and the difficulties in health management around it, it is forced to become a garbage dump. After renovation in 2016, the public space became the first community garden in Shanghai in an open block.



**Fig.2 original appearance**

Its overall layout is divided into facility service area, public activity area, vegetable garden area, public farming area, interactive gardening area, etc.



**Fig.3 Master Plan**

Facility service area is a mobile building transformed from containers, with kitchen, bathroom, bar and public dining space. Public activity area is a public space that integrates bicycle parking, education and other functions. Through parent-child participation, people are mobilized to participate in community construction and maintenance. Vegetable garden area is the core planting supply area of the agricultural garden and an important outdoor place for community training. Public farming area provides farming areas for citizens to participate in, mainly planting suitable vegetables and traditional crops in Shanghai to restore the natural style of rural areas. In the form of community activities, interactive gardening area recruits community and non-community personnel to participate in the layout, planting and maintenance activities, so that citizens can build and share the "public garden".



**Fig.4 Refuse dump becomes a hub community garden**

How to make the residents more autonomous and spontaneous to establish contact with the neighborhood and surrounding society? The implantation of Liminal Spaces provides the possibility. The regional community established by the residents themselves helps to improve the residents' sense of belonging and the vitality and continuity of regional culture.

**2. THE WATER HOUSE**

The Water House is located in the new planning area of the Old Wharf on the South Bund of Shanghai. The original three-story building was the war armed forces Department in the 1930s. Ten years ago, the fourth floor was added and transformed into a boutique hotel. Last June, the water house closed and began its transformation, creating an urban liminal space of fluid and closed real-time transformation, a transition between the water house and the future public green space, and the introduction to "social landscape".



**Fig.1 Base location**

The micro-transformation is located at the end of the street. The facade connected with the original building forms a closed ground floor and continues the sense of closure. However, at the same time, the height of the building is far lower than the height of the surroundings, and the sense of closure continues to weaken. Along with the pedestrian walkway, the atmosphere of the industrial site "flows" into the public and open site atmosphere.



**Fig.2 original appearance**

In the open site facing the city park, cultural and tourism exhibition Windows are added, and the facade is embedde

d with integrated modern modeling awning, lights and rest seats to strengthen the open interaction after flow. The small public space in the building is connected with the large public green space in the site, forming an urban outdoor theater or public market.



**Fig.3 Present situation**

Thus, the relatively private space in the building can also create the urban liminal space.

### 3. Community boundary transformation— ChangLi Park

The project is located on Zhoujiadu Street Neighborhood South Pier Road, Pudong New Area, Shanghai.



**Fig.1 Base location**

The original site was demolished and cleaned up in the demolition project, leaving a 350-meter-long circular arc-shaped wall green space, forming a monotonous and lengthy interface facing the city, and leaving several deserted, closed and narrow spaces inside the community. At the same time, because in high-density residential areas, the usual green space and inter-building space are used to solve parking problems, there is insufficient space for community public activities.



**Fig.2 original appearance**

The boundary status of Changli Park is further adjusted according to the specific conditions of the site, and thus developed into a walking route, and the reimagined zigzag boundary combines the site with the space of the internal community and the external street to become a linear garden full of life.

It will transform the gap zone of 6 to 8 meters wide and narrow from the edge of the community to the central garden of the community, and become an urban liminal space for people to carry out public activities.

**Fig.3 Present situation**

This semi-open urban liminal space serves as a street inside and outside the walls, as well as expandable



pocket space. As a kind of Liminal Space, semi-open public space not only integrates various factors into a landscape, but also stimulates community participation, which lays a solid foundation for the further development of social integration in the future.



**Fig.4 Grey space**