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砚洲岛：肇庆新区内的宜居保护区

Yanzhou Island, A Well-being Reserve Inside the Zhaoqing New Area

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摘　要
本文展示了肇庆鼎湖区砚洲岛的发展情况。伴随珠江三角洲城市化进程中肇庆的发展，肇庆新区投入建设，当中涵盖了珠江最大的岛屿——砚洲岛。目前，该岛是一个由丰富而复杂生态系统构成的自然保护区，对整个肇庆新区具有巨大的生态和景观价值。近年来，中国推行了几项政策以激励替代性城市化模式的发展，目的是保护现有地方要素并创造与休闲和宜居理念相关的可持续经济。本文介绍的设计方案就是这种方式的一次探索，旨在重组并加强现有要素，将农业园、基础设施环和柔性外沿 3 个内部系统组合为宏观体系。这种城市设计展示出一个能够在城市化进程中产生巨大社会和经济效益的愿景。

Abstract
This article presents a scenario for Yanzhou Island in Dinghu District, Zhaoqing. Taking advantage of the momentum generated in Zhaoqing as a result of the ongoing urbanization process in the Pearl River Delta, the city of Zhaoqing has begun the construction of Zhaoqing New Area, a new town that encompasses the largest island of the Pearl River: Yanzhou Island. The island nowadays present itself as a natural reserve formed by a rich and complex ecosystem that represents a great ecological and landscape value for the area. During the recent years in China, several policies have been promoted in order to stimulate an alternative model of urbanization that aims to preserve the existing local elements, generating a sustainable economy related to the concepts of leisure and well-being. The design proposal acts in this way. The project aims to reorganize and enhance the existing elements recomposing them in a macrosystem formed by three internal systems: the agricultural park, the infrastructural ring and the soft perimeter. This urban design represents a scenario able to generate large social and economic benefits within the process of urbanization.

关键词
砚洲岛；肇庆；乡村再发展；宜居保护区

Keywords
Yanzhou Island; Zhaoqing; Rural villages redevelopment; Well-being reserve

1 肇庆新区与进程中的珠三角城市化

在过去的 20 年中，中国的城市化进程主要集中在东部沿海地区，其中珠江三角洲经济区占有很大比重，地理学家布赖通（Breitung）和甘瑟（Gunthner）在 2006 年将这一区域界定为新兴的全球化城市群[1]。自 1978 年实施经济改革和开放政策以来，珠三角经历了快速的城市扩张过程，并达到了中国最高的城市化水平[2]。这一城市增长产生了对基础设施、建筑材料、食品、娱乐、休闲、交通设施、住房以及多种其他商品和服务的需求。着眼于未来，多种不同策略已在珠三角地区付诸实施。

“广佛肇庆经济圈发展规划 2010—2020”是当中的一项重要内容。广东省计划在广州、佛山及肇庆的行政区域内创建替代性生活的可持续生态系统，发展一个融合经济、生活和生态的新型城市圈，以实现世界级的经济系统化整合。

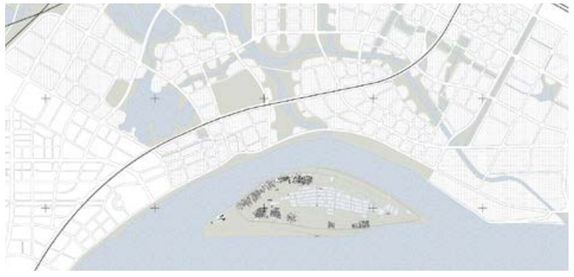

图1 / Figure 1
肇庆新区总平面与砚洲岛 / Zhaoqing New Area, Masterplan Zoning and Yanzhou Island
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

图2 / Figure 2
砚洲岛村落现状 / Yanzhou Island rural areas
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

从 2010 年开始，肇庆的发展势头不断增强。肇庆提出了“向东看，往东赶”的发展口号[3]，旨在通过端州区和现有肇庆市中心的城市转型，实现真正的区域整合。与此同时，地方政府的目标是发展鼎湖区，特别是肇庆新区，充分发挥自身资源、生态和自然优势，发展宜居环境、生态旅游和初创企业，创造一个新的城市副中心。

新的城市发展中，砚洲岛以往一直被城市化进程所忽略。它是珠江最大的江心岛，长约 3.5km，宽约 1.5km，面积为 6km^2，是鼎湖山南部生态和景观价值所在。砚洲岛距肇庆市中心 18km，距广州市 80km，与外部在海运、公路（珠江外环线）和轨道（珠三角城际轻轨）方面均有良好的交通网络连接。到目前为止，砚洲岛还保持着肇庆新区辖区内的乡村形态。

砚洲岛身处肇庆新区范围内之内，这座乡村岛屿的城市化似乎已不可避免。那么，它与这一城市化进程达成一致的条件是什么呢？

肇庆新区位于珠江北岸，是一座规模达 115km^2 的新城，预计将容纳 60 万居民。目前，砚洲岛仍未受到新区建设的触及（图 1—图 2）。新城的目标是发展为宜居之所，使居民能够亲近自然并获得高品质生活。城市项目似乎将改写现有的景观，其形态和变化将取代既有的城市肌理。新的总平面将采用一个农业格网来覆盖岛屿，包括目前主要位于滨水区域的村庄。这一格网以新建水道和湖泊所构成的中轴线为基础，并在这一区域设置体育、文化和商业建筑。这一强有力的南北轴线还被辅以两条东西方向的绿色走廊：一条位于新区的北侧边缘，作为自然和城市之间的过渡空间；另一条位于珠江北侧，作为一个大型线性公园与砚洲岛相连。

岛屿内街区被设计为一种自然性场所，专注于休闲、旅游、健康等方面的发展。根据现有的情况，应采取可持续性策略。在这里，城市化须加强与既有环境的对话，并以可持续的方式运作。

2 一次城市发展范式的转变？

近年来，不同的城市项目和战略逐步引入中国，以培育一种新的城市化模式，考虑当地现有条件，提高生活质量，并在尊重文化和地方认同的过程中使农村人口获益[4-5]。这秉持的是以人为本的发展理念，而非以土地为中心的发展方式[6]。

2014 年以前，随着中国国民经济和社会发展第十个五年计划在 2001 年开始实施，城市化成为中国农村地区问题的一种解决方式。在这一时期，农民数量的减少被认为是提高他们生活水平的一个关键点。为实施这项政策，很短时间内出现了众多不同的新城。在 15 年中，中国的城市人口以 1.26 的年增长率激增[5]，据世界银行报告显示，中国日均收入在 1.90 美元以下的贫困人口数量从 1999 年的 5.079 亿减少到 2013 年的 2,516 万。

在这一快速城市化阶段，许多位于城市边缘的乡村在多数情况下都对既有建筑物进行了整体重建[7]。事实上，乡村原有的肌理已被完全破坏，其历史形态及文化遗产也几乎完全消失。村庄被毁，农民搬入了多层房地产住宅，住进了所谓“高品质”街区。其结果是，像挖掘地方内在潜力这样的替代性做法被人们忽视[8-9]。

然而，在 2014 年后，国家发改委推动的《国家新型城镇化规划（2014—2020 年）》标志着城市政策由强调城市化进程的数量和速度向强调质量的转变。这意味着对质量的评判同样需要观察农村人口在城市化过程中所能获得的收益[4-5]。

其结果是，设计文化的发展更加注重社会价值和文化遗产，景观的再造过程是以地方群体价值为基础的[10]。这一现象再次影响了城市边缘的乡村地区，如厦门的院前村、

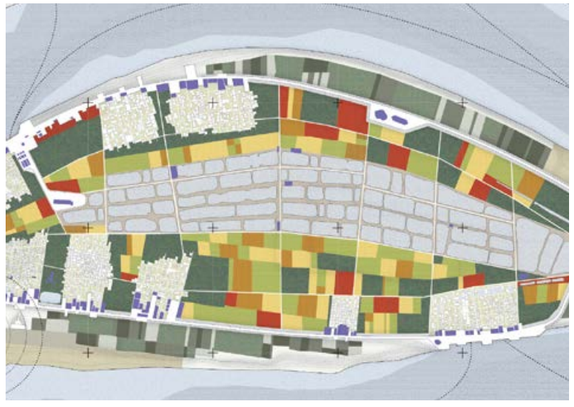

图3 / Figure 3
砚洲岛总平面，宏观系统构成
Yanzhou Island Materplan, macro-system composition
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

图4 / Figure 4
砚洲岛空间组织轴测图
Yanzhou Island, axonometric view of the urban organization
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

江苏的周庄和东莞的下坝坊。在这些地方，休闲和宜居是促进地方文化及乡村景观发展的关键词。

例如，2014 年厦门附近的院前村再生项目以当地农民的积极参与为基础，其小规模干预措施将重点放在公共服务和设施上，迅速激活了与生态旅游概念相关的小型企业。城市农场的建立是保护农业活动的关键，并将这里转型为生态教育实验室。这一举措使众多居民接受了一种农业生产与城市设施相结合的新生活方式 [10]。院前村的经验表明，以本地活动和幸福旅游为基础的微经济系统可以成为后生产主义时期的成功模式，即经济系统以高品质生态生产为基础，取代以往的密集型生产方式，同时与文化和环境景观保护相关联 [11-12]。

位于深圳滨海区域的较场尾村在 2014 年进行了类似的再生过程，其生活方式吸引了越来越多的人群。与前一个案例的不同之处在于，村庄再生项目由当地政府提供支持，目的是促进以物质环境稳定为基础的旅游计划 [10]。

这两个案例说明，农业旅游和生态旅游可以保持农业及乡村景观，为乡村发展提供新的途径 [13]。这提供了一个重要契机，为砚洲岛的城市设计实践思考提供了可借鉴的发展模式。

3 砚洲岛，新城市发展中保护的生态系统

砚洲岛可被视为一个极其丰富和复杂的生态系统，它为肇庆新区带来了巨大的生态和景观价值。古村、寺庙、郊野、农田及湿地还只是构成这一栖息地的部分元素。现有村落大多已弃之不用，在籍的 3,000 名居民中只有 1,000 人还实际在肇庆市生活。因此，设计方案期望从保留至今的现有元素中寻找形态，而不是对这里的宝贵环境再做侵蚀。

根据目前状况，岛屿可以划分为 3 个主要区域：第一个是主要由村庄、农业区和渔业养殖场构成的核心区；第二个是环绕核心区的碎片化的河岸区域；第三个是河岸外围区域，以田野、小树林和湿地为特征元素。设计方案将这 3 部分拆解并重组为 3 个系统，以期将每一个系统都界定为一个特定的功能结构。设计最终的目标是建立一个由农业园组成的宏观系统，当中承载了现有的聚居点以及未来的“基础设施环”（infrastructural ring）和“柔性外沿”（soft perimeter）（图 3—图 5）。

3.1 村庄和农业园

砚洲岛目前的中心是一个由农田和养鱼池塘组成的广阔农业区。这一区域受岛内第二个内环保护，严格界定为农业用地，主要农作物是香蕉、木瓜、芒果以及其他中国菜中经常使用的蔬菜。在这个大型自然区域的边缘有 6 个村庄，彼此由广泛分布的步行路径网络连接。这种模式创造了一种“渗透性区域”（porous ground）[14]，保证了连续性和混合使用的并存。

设计方案以在鼎湖新城旁创建一个健康低密度岛屿的计划为依据，旨在保护和升级以两种不同方式运行的农业结构，一是将该岛的核心改造为农业园，二是对老旧村庄进行更新，以吸引新的居民和游客。

方案力求维护现有的生态系统，思考与生态旅游相关的多种可持续经济形式，探讨其所必需的农业支撑活动。由池塘和水道构成的水体系统具有很高的景观价值，它和果树以及多种植被均需要保护。农业活动可以通过生产技术的创新来实现，以达到“零食物里程”（zero food mile）的目标，并为当地的旅店和餐馆提供生态产品。方案的目标是将干预措施最小化，并在这个已经非常多样化的生态系统中再加入水池的体育活动功能和植物园的药用植物栽种用途。方案还设计了步行路径、自行车路线和体育设施，以建立农业园、村庄和基础设施环之间的联系。

现有农业活动由位于河岸旁的聚居点所环绕。这些村庄的肌理和现有建筑的质量似乎对该岛的发展仍然具有价值。鉴于这种情况，设计方案将恢复和改善现有的建筑物。它们可以为可持续旅游提供设施，比如住宿加早餐旅馆、酒店和度假场所。设计的最终目标是在聚落的更新中将传统与创新相结合，使生活、娱乐、休闲和商业活动可以共享相同的空间。

图5 / Figure 5
砚洲岛的3个构成系统
Yanzhou Island, three systems composition
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

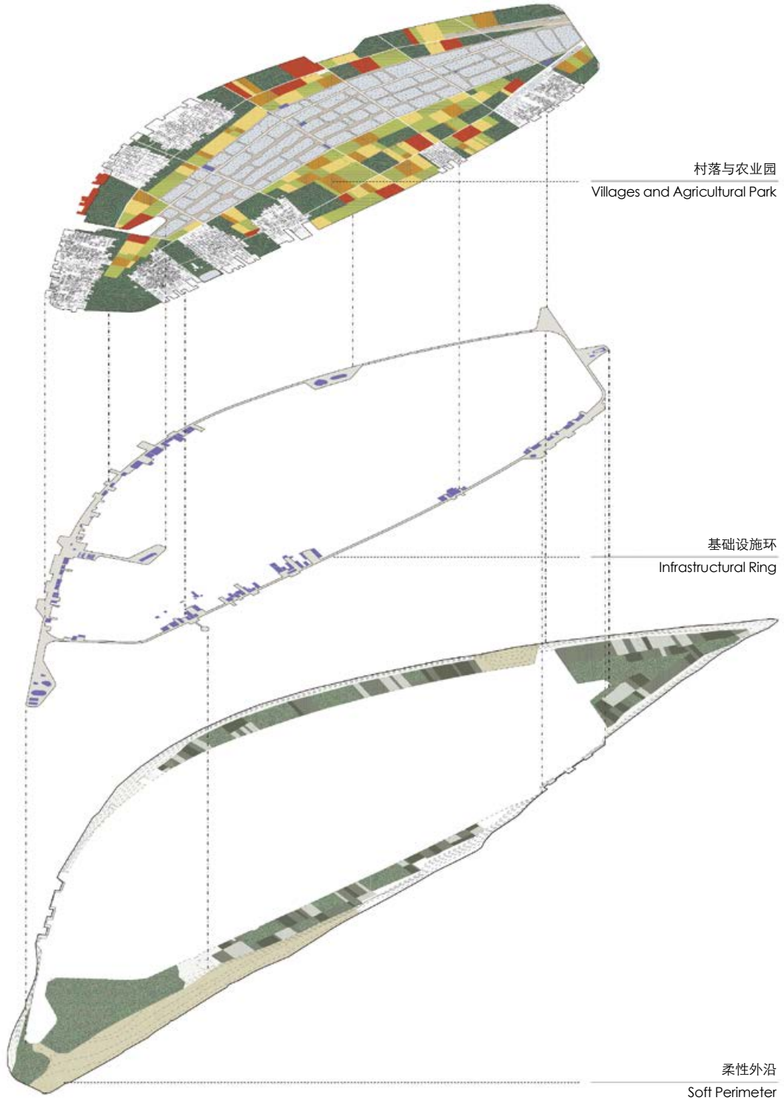

图6 / Figure 6
基础设施环意象
Visualization of the Infrastructural Ring
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

图7 / Figure 7
码头意象
Visualization of Marinas
来源 / Source: 作者提供 / Provided by the authors

3.2 基础设施环

目前砚洲岛的中心覆盖有一条很薄且不连续的堤坝。这一原本用于防水固土的基础设施现在还作为连接各个村庄的主要道路使用。而同样明显的是，这种保护也将村庄与水道隔离开来。

项目准备对这一堤坝进行加固，并将其改造为一个连续的基础设施环，形成防洪环路，建立公共流线系统的连接，同时承载技术基础设施和设备。

同时，设计也将这一基础设施环作为共享的公共空间，在现有聚居点之外创造新的场所。由于这个原因，设计将酒店、餐馆、商业区等新的旅游设施设置在河岸的内侧。通过这种方式，它们在旧的村庄和新的活动之间创造了一种“薄膜空间”（membrane space），将主要街道的顶层连接到砚洲岛的内部（图 6）。

但是，这些设施并非都是均匀分布的。当中一些会集中在特定区域，以创建不同的主题活动区。岛的西端设有一个体育中心，现有的沙滩将得以利用；东北部的健康中心则计划与周围的花园相连。这两个“中心”将与岛东侧现有寺庙共同构成居住区外围的 3 处核心场所。

基础设施环还承载了该岛与陆地连接的主要基础设施。事实上，为了保持环境质量并促进交通的可持续性，砚洲岛与肇庆新区的交通往来只能通过由该环路出发的船只。两个主要码头将来可停靠公共和私人船只，并成为砚洲岛的入口大门（图 7）。

3.3 柔性外沿

柔性外沿是指砚洲岛外部的堤坝部分。这里是一种农田和湿地的混合状态，会阶段性发生洪涝。在这一区域，不可能进行任何持久性的建设，但可以通过设计最大限度发挥其环境价值；需要细致选择植被种类，以免被河水冲走。目前，鉴于河道洪水过后景观再生的必要性要求，这一区域布置了许多农田和树木。这为营造与岛上静止的内部景观不同的可变景观提供了条件。

项目通过反思，将柔性外沿设计为环绕基础设施环的绿带，同时创造了一个连接岛内与河道的不同的自然走廊。

4 结 语

城市设计和城市更新的实践应当在乡村景观发展中发挥重要作用，以呈现新的情境。从 2014 年开始，可持续的城市设计实践在中国已经付诸实施，在强调保留现有空间条件必要性的同时，推进了非密集型城市发展策略。

砚洲岛方案正是基于宜居这一对乡村未来的愿景进行设计的，旨在强化既有空间要素，并以慢行及生态旅游为基础，促进当地经济发展。正如近年来在中国所发生的一样，这种做法似乎是在城市化进程中可以产生巨大的经济和社会效益的有效途径之一。

2010 年，《南方周刊》曾发表了题为《消除村庄？关注中国新城市化问题》的专题评论。今天，中国比过去更有可能对这一问题作出回答，即将场所视为资源，并予以审慎对待、强化提高。

ORIGINAL TEXTS IN ENGLISH

Yanzhou Island, A Well-being Reserve inside the Zhaoqing New Area

Leonardo Ramondetti, Astrid Safina, Francesco Carota

1 Zhaoqing New Area and the Ongoing Process of Urbanization of Pearl River Delta

In the past twenty years the urbanization process in China has been mainly concentrated in the East Coast and in a very important proportion in the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone (PRDEZ), zone that has been recognized in 2006 by geographers Breitung and Gunthner among others as an emerging global city region[1]. Starting from the economic reform and the opening up policy instigated in 1978, PRDEZ has undergone a process of rapid urban expansion reaching a level of urbanization ranked first in China[2]. This urban growth has generated demand for infrastructures, building materials, food, entertainments, leisure, transportation facilities, housing and a variety of other goods and services. With eyes in the future, different strategies have been operating in PRDEZ.

One of the most important is the Development Plan of Guangzhou-Foshan-Zhaoqing Economic Circle 2010-2020. According to Guangdong Province the aim is to create a sustainable ecosystem for an alternative life in the administrative regions under the jurisdiction of Guangzhou, Foshan and Zhaoqing. A new economic, living and ecological circle is in development in order to bring into fruition systematic integration of a world-class economy.

Starting from this in 2010 an increasing development momentum has been generated in Zhaoqing. According to the slogan “looking east and catching up with cities in the east”[3], the goal is to achieve a real regional integration through the urban transformation of the inner district of Duanzhou and the existing Zhaoqing City Centre. At the same time the local government aims to develop Dinghu District, and in particular Zhaoqing New Area, creating a new town capable of assuming the role of new city’s sub-centre suitable as a place for living, eco-tourism and business start-ups, ready to bring into full play its resources, ecological and natural advantages.

Yanzhou Island is situated inside this new urban development, as a place until now overlooked by the process of urbanization. It is the biggest island of the Pearl River with an area of 6 square kilometres and maximum dimensions of 3.5 km long and 1.5 km wide, it represents an ecological and landscape value in the southern part of the Dinghu Mountains. It is 18 km apart from the Zhaoqing City Centre and 80 km apart from the city of Guangzhou, connected with good 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 reservoir inside the administration boundary of the Zhaoqing New Area.

Due to the inclusion of Yanzhou Island inside the administration boundary of the Zhaoqing New Town, urbanization is right at the door of this rural island, however, under what conditions it is willing to negotiate this process of urbanization?

For now, Yanzhou Island remains untouched by the construction of Zhaoqing New Area, a new town of 115 square kilometres for an estimated population of 600,000 inhabitants located on the north shore of the Pearl River (Figure 1-2). The New Town presents itself as a place for the well-being, in which the inhabitants could live in proximity to nature and have high quality of life. The urban project seems to rewrite the existing landscape, its morphology and its dynamics replacing the existing urban pattern. The masterplan overlays an agricultural grid that currently contains different rural villages mostly located in close proximity to the river. This grid is based on a central axis enforced by the creation of brand new water canals and lakes that accommodate the buildings destined to sport, cultural and commercial activities. This strong north-south axis is complemented by two green corridors in east-west direction. The first one is located in the north edge of the new area as a transition space between the nature and the city; while the second one is located on the north side of the Pearl River as a large linear park that serves as link to the Yanzhou Island.

In the new district masterplan the island is conceived as a natural place, dedicated to leisure, tourism and wellness. A sustainable approach should be promoted according to the current conditions of the place. A place where urbanization could strengthen dialogue with the existing environment operating in a sustainable way.

2 A shift in the urban development paradigm?

In recent years different urban projects and strategies have been gradually introduced in order to foster a new type of Chinese urbanization which takes care of the existing local conditions, promoting the quality of living and looking at the benefits that rural population can get from a process that respects culture and local identities[4-5]. It means, promoting a people-oriented vision rather than a land-centred one[6].

Before 2014, with the Tenth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of China (2001), urbanization was issued as a solution to the problems of rural areas in China. At that period reducing the number of farmers was considered a key-point to improve their standard of living. In order to implement this policy different new cities were created in a very short period of time, and within fifteen years urban population in China abruptly grew with an average annual rate of 1.26[5], while the number of poor at $1.90 a day (2011 PPP) decrease from 507.9 millions in 1999 to 25.16 millions in 2013 (World Bank).

During this phase of high speed urbanization many rural villages situated in the fringe of urban areas were most of the time interested by overall redevelopment of their existing buildings[7]. In fact their urban pattern was totally torn down and their ancient morphology as well as their cultural heritage completely disappeared. Villages were destroyed and farmers moved to storied apartments of real estates buildings considered as “High Quality” neighbourhoods (Suzhi). As consequence alternative practices, such as the improvement of the intrinsic potential of places, were not taken into consideration[8-9].

However, after 2014, the National New-Type Urbanization Plan (2014-2020) promoted by the China’s National Development and Reform Commission has been marking a shift in urban policies emphasizing the quality instead of the quantity and the speed of urbanization processes. It means to judge the quality by looking also at the benefits that rural populations can get from the urbanization process[4-5].

The result has been the development of a design culture more focused on social values and cultural heritage, that leads to a landscape regeneration process based on local community values[10]. This phenomenon is again affecting rural villages situated in the fringe of urban areas, such as Yuanqian in Xiamen, Zhouzhuang in Hangzhou and Xiaba in Donguang. In these places the concepts of leisure and well-being have been used as keywords in order to promote the development of local culture and rural landscape.

For instance in 2014 the regeneration of Yuanqian village, near Xiamen, was based on active participation of local farmers and small interventions focused on public services and facilities that rapidly activated small enterprises connected to the concept of ecotourism. The creation of urban-farms was a key point to preserve farming activities, transforming the place into an educational lab of ecology. This solution drove many inhabitants to embrace a new life-style that combines agriculture production with urban amenities[10]. The success of Yuanqian village shows how the creation of a micro-economical system based on the implementations of local activities and well-being tourism could be a successful post-productivism model: an economic system based on high quality and ecological production related to the preservation of the cultural and environmental landscape, instead of an intensive one[11-12].

Jiaochangwei village, situated in the coastal area of Shenzhen, in 2014 undertook a similar regeneration process due to a growing number of people attracted by its life-style. Differently from the previous case, the regeneration of the village was supported by the local government with the aim of promoting a tourism plan based on physical environment valorization[10].

These two cases show how agricultural tourism and ecotourism are emerging approaches that should be proposed for villages development with the goal of maintaining their agricultural and rural landscape[13]. It seems so an important opportunity to consider those approaches as possible development models to support urban-design practices as in the case of Yanzhou Island.

3 Yanzhou Island as a preserved ecosystem inside the new urban development

Yanzhou Island could be considered an extremely rich and complex ecosystem that presents a great ecological and landscape value for Zhaoqing New Area. Ancient villages, temples, rural areas, farms and wetlands are only 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 performing their daily activities in the city of Zhaoqing. For this reason, instead of working on the erosion of this valuable context, the design proposal tries to take shape from the existing elements that have been preserved until today.

Taking into consideration the current status of the island it is possible to identify three main areas: a core mostly composed by villages, agricultural areas and fish farming; a fragmented river bank that surrounds it and an external riverside characterized by fields, small woods and wetlands. The design proposal deconstructs and reorganizes these three parts into three systems in order to define for each one of them a peculiar functional structure. The final goal is the creation of a macro-system composed by an agricultural park, which includes also the existing settlements, an infrastructural ring and a soft perimeter (Figure 3-5).

3.1 Villages and agricultural park

The heart of Yanzhou Island is currently occupied by a vast agricultural area made up of fields and ponds for fish farming. This area is protected by a second internal ring completely dedicated to agriculture, where the principal crops are banana, papaya, mango trees, among other plants commonly used in Chinese cuisine. The edges of this vast nature reserve are marked by the presence of 6 villages that are connected among them thanks to a widespread network of pedestrian paths. This pattern create a porous ground[14] ensuring at the same time continuity and mixed uses.

According to the program of creating a wellness and low density island close to the Dinghu New Town, the proposal aims to preserve and upgrade the agricultural structure acting in two different ways: transforming the island's core into an agricultural park and renewing the old villages in order to attract new inhabitants and tourists .

The design proposal aims to maintain the existing ecosystem, considering the agricultural activities necessary to support multiple forms of sustainable economy related to ecotourism. The water system, formed by ponds and waterways, defines a high valuable landscape that needs to be preserved as well as the fruit trees and the wide vegetation variety. The agricultural activities could be pursued by forms of innovation in production techniques in order to provide 'zero food mile' and bio-products for local hotels and restaurants. The design proposal aims to make minimal interventions in order to implement water pools for sport activities and gardens for medical herbs in this already diversified ecosystem. Walking paths, cycling routes and sport facilities are also designed in order to create a link between the park, the villages and the infrastructural ring.

The agricultural activities are surrounded by existing settlements located beside the river bank. The urban pattern of the villages and the architectural qualities of the existing buildings seem to be still valuable for the development of the island. Due to this conditions the design proposal aims to restore and improve the existing buildings. They could host facilities for sustainable tourism such as bed and breakfast, hotels and residences for vacations. The final goal is to combine tradition and innovation in renewed settlements where life and recreation, leisure and commercial activities can share the same spaces.

3.2 Infrastructural ring

The core of Yanzhou Island is nowadays wrapped by a thin and discontinuous embankment. This infrastructure, that was made to protect the land from the water of the river, still host the main road to move from one village to another. Nevertheless, as obvious, this protection also separates the villages from the river.

The project aims to strengthen the embankment transforming this element in a continuous infrastructural ring: a loop that provides flooding protection, allowing connections through a public mobility system and hosting technical infrastructures and facilities.

At the same time this infrastructural ring has also been designed as a shared public space in order to create new places besides the existing settlements. For this reason, the new tourist facilities (such as hotels, restaurant and commercial areas) are designed leaning against the inner side of the river bank. In this way, they create a sort of membrane space between the old villages and the new activities, connecting the top level of the main street to the inner part of the island.

However not all of these facilities have a homogeneous distribution. Some of them are concentrated in specific areas in order to create thematic poles: a sport center is design on the western tip of the island in relation to the existing beach, while in the north-east side a wellness center is planned to link the surrounding gardens. These two 'cores' will join the existing Shinto temple located in the eastern side of the island in order to create three main central places outside of the residential settlements (Figure 6).

The infrastructural ring hosts also the main infrastructures to connect the island and the mainland. In fact, in order to preserve the environmental quality and to promote a sustainable mobility, the connections between the island and Zhaoqing New Area will be carried out only by boats departing from the ring. Two main 'marinas' are proposed as the entrance gates of the island. Here it will be possible to dock public and private boats (Figure 7).

3.3 Soft Perimeter

The soft perimeter is the part of the island external to the embankment. It is a mix of agricultural fields and wetlands periodically flooded. It is not possible to build anything durable in this area, however it could be designed in order to maximize its environmental value. Vegetation will be carefully selected so that it will not be washed away by the river. At present, many fields and trees are planted in this area according to the necessity of ensuring the landscape regeneration after the river flood. A condition that provides a variable landscape to the relatively static internal landscape of the island.

The project rethinks this soft perimeter as a green belt that runs around the infrastructural ring while creating a different natural corridor between the inner side of the island and the river.

4 Conclusion

Urban design and regeneration practices should play an important role in visualizing new scenarios of rural landscape redevelopment. Starting from 2014 in China it seems that sustainable urban design practices have been implemented. On one hand they highlight the necessity of preserving the existing spatial conditions, while on the other they promote a non-intensive urban development.

The proposal for Yanzhou Island has been designed according to this visions of rural future, reinforcing the existing spatial elements and promoting a local economy based on a slow and eco-tourism. As already happened in the recent years in China, this practices seem to be one of the ways of generating great economical and social benefits inside the urbanization process.

Already in 2010 the Southern Weekly published the critique "Eliminating villages? Concerns on New Urbanization in China". Today, more than in the past, China could answer to this issue by looking at places as resources that need to be carefully enhanced.

作者注
Author's Notes

The masterplan for the redevelopment of Yanzhou Island in Dinghu District, Zhaoqing, was born within the frame of a collaboration established between the Politecnico di Torino (Italy) and the Zhaoqing New Area Administration. The Politecnico di Torino was involved in the creation of a masterplan for the island that was able to respond to the rural character of the area and enhance its social, economical and environmental value. The project represents an evidence of the collaboration between the two institutions to bring new elements of design quality and strategic visions in the Chinese city making.

基本信息
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