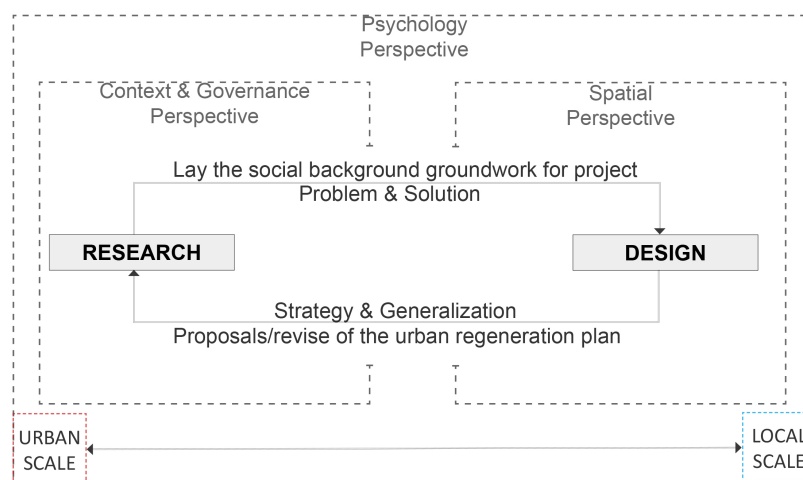


REFLECTION

PART I DESCRIPTION OF RELATIONSHIP

The Graduation project is aiming to promote the life quality and living conditions of elderly people who “Aging in place” in the old city center of Beijing, through regeneration and reconstruction of public spaces in diverse scales. This graduation is under the theme of “Transforming Chinese Cities” in research group studio “Complex Cities”. We try to study the urban strategies and policies to integrate aging group in Beijing city center, a highly important issue related to the urgent problem in upcoming years, which is allied with critical perspective focus of the Complex Cities studio, such as: socio-spatial design principles in Chinese cities in respond to aging of cities and citizens, reflect on the on-going urban planning and design process in China in relation to the issue of aging cities and citizens. It fits exactly in what the project in the thesis. “Aging in Place” should emphasis more on the construction of “spiritual supply”, which means supporting senior citizens with cultural activities and entertainments. As the vital carrier of the elderly “spiritual supply”, perfect public space is the main guarantee for “Aging in Place”.

The background of the studio is beneficial to lay a comprehensive basis in beginning of the project exploration, besides, more support can be provided in the research group. Some basic knowledge of the psychology of space can be provided in the beginning, and more professionals with this knowledge can be included in the research group.



Research and Design Relationship Diagram

Diagram by author

PART II EVALUATION OF METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The methods and approaches are organized by different process during the whole graduation project.

In the previous research procedure, literature review and best practices study (including the public space, elderly group demands and social-spatial relationship) help me to build the theoretical framework of the whole project, indicate the possible future development direction. Besides, policy interpretation and data analysis help me to find the way of understanding the current background and governance intention in my study area and even in bigger scale (Subdistrict scale in Beijing), all of these methods help me to lay the solid previous research groundwork for my later design and intervention process. The key attributes and related indicators of public spaces for elderly group are also concluded from different literature and policy interpretation.

However, my study area is smaller than the Subdistrict scale, more detailed problems are emerged when we zoom out, at the same time, more concrete data cannot be found in the official statistics website, some policy and related planning documents are too vague to practice in the smaller scale, so we try to change the research and investigate methods. During the fieldtrip, the questionnaires for survey were given in different age group of local residents in diverse scale of public spaces, through the questionnaires and interviews from local residents, retailers, tourists and directors from local government and administration office, we also gathered the demands from the bottom-up. At the same time, combing all the information top-down in the previous research procedure, we try to bring up some revise goals or proposals of urban and local regeneration plan, it also regarded as the design principles in the later spatial design and intervention chapter.

In the design and intervention procedure, five different strategic actions aiming at different spaces located in the study area are building up, each of them have their own self-system, also the general system in the whole programme. Thorough multiple public space scales of foundation, we emphasis not only the importance of public space itself, also the meaning of perfect and walkable connections network among them, besides, we

can strengthen the interaction influence among these actions, in order to enhance better public space network in the study area and even in a bigger scale.

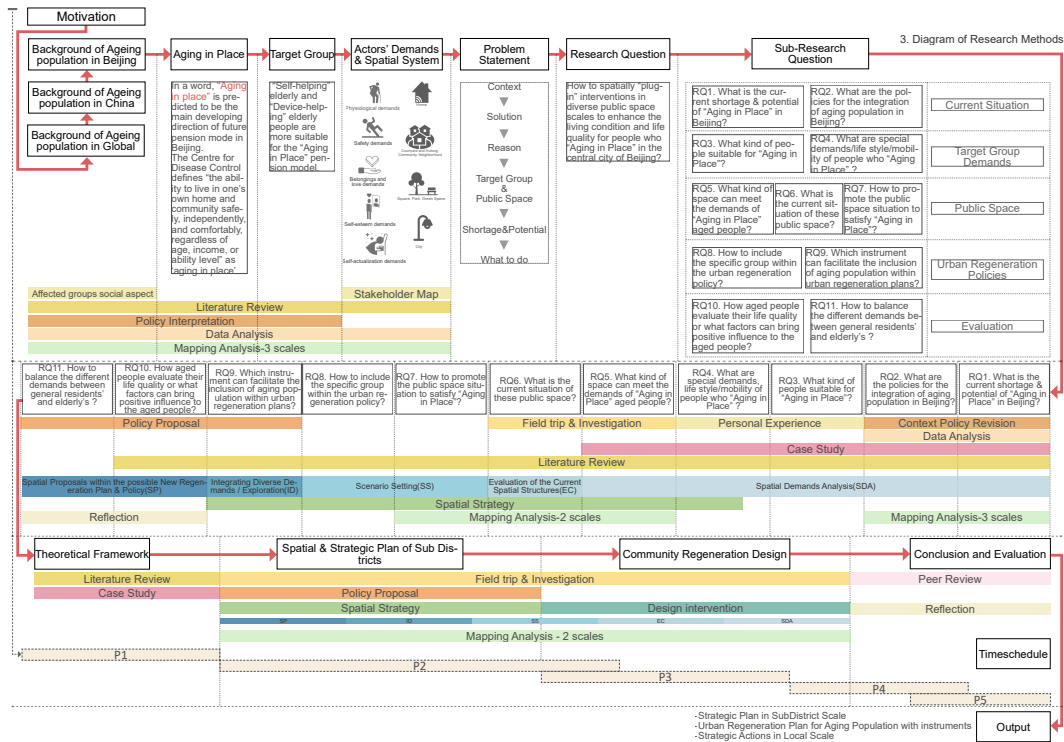


Diagram of Research Methods Diagram by author

INTEGRATED REGENERATION PLAN

Strategic Action 1: Through the protection of history landscape on the Gulouxi West Street, we can achieve the silver business value by creating more institutions related the aged people making better use of the pedestrian stage as a historical icon, for example, the senior activity centers, etc.

At the same time, the historical pedestrian stage itself can attract more tourist industry, through the industry upgrading, we can bring more interest to this area as well as providing more convenient and comfortable entertainment places both to the local residents and tourists.

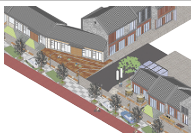
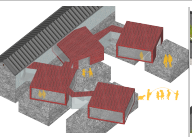
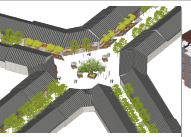

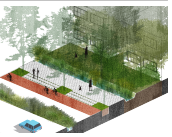




















Strategic Action 2: Implanting new or more needed functions in the historical and old courtyards plays an important role in the process of courtyards reinterpretation. Public participation during the process of the regeneration remaining the personality and diversity of each courtyard compare to the volume production. Besides, the owners of the courtyards can get funded from government once their proposals are agreed with the government as well as the designers, during the take-gain stage, they have the

chance to take part in “Courtyards reinterpretation Foundation”, helping other owners creating more interesting places, at the meantime they can get more profits or awards owing to the participation of the Foundation, such as higher frequency of organizing the activities or more chances of applying for other courtyards reinterpretation. Some courtyards are also transformed as the micro-clinic for the aged people, they will get funded from nearby hospitals and government, in order to relieve the pressure of the difficulty of getting medical service for some aged group.

Strategic Action 3: Spontaneously gathered public spaces are needed especially for the aged people, some of them are near the local convenience stores or retail shops, some of them are near the transformed courtyards in the strategic action two. The government can upgrade these public spaces by applying the reward and incentive system, such as cheaper rents, at the meantime, public investments from some charitable organization or some foundation can also accelerate the perfection of the spontaneously gathered public spaces. The interests from the tourism industry and silver business industry in the first two strategic actions can also support the upgrading of the public space in this strategic action.

Strategic Action 4: Government begin to take some actions and introduced relevant policy helping to find out the resolutions to improve the current traffic situation in Danwei Compound Unit, as well as increasing the public life on the more human-scale streets.

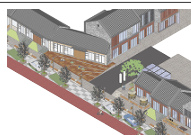
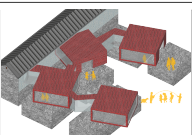
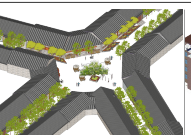








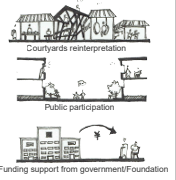

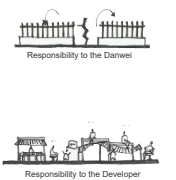

Strategic Action 5: In the capital city of China, the land is expensive, especially in the city center, the conflicts that must be traded between commercial interests and public space often occur. To some extent, re-partitioning the space in the original open green space, helping us take better advantage of the precious area, instead of passively waiting for businesses to enter, it's better to transform it into a high-quality, intergenerational public space for all the citizens. In this way, naturally brings crowds to the surrounding areas, as well as the commercial interests. Surrounding supporting facilities are also should be taken into consideration during the upgrading of the green open spaces.

INTEGRATED REGENERATION PLAN I					
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	 Strategic Action 1: Gulouxi West Street Reconstruction	 Strategic Action 2: Give Back the Courtyards to Residents, Make history Reintegrate Into the Daily Life	 Strategic Action 3: Spontaneously Gathered Public Spaces Regeneration	 Strategic Action 4: Activate the Gated Danwei Wall	 Strategic Action 5: Make Intergenerational Open Green Spaces
MAIN ACTORS	 Elderly people Tourists	 Elderly people Local residents	 Elderly people	 Elderly people Local residents	 Elderly people Tourists Citizens
EXISTING PLANS/RULES INVOLVED	- Beijing Regulatory Plan - Site Plan	- Beijing Urban Master Plan - Plans for Protection of the Famous Historical Cultural Metropolis of Beijing	- Beijing Regulatory Plan - Site Plan	- Beijing Regulatory Plan - Site Plan	- Beijing Urban Greenland System Plan - Site Plan
PROPOSED PLANS/RULES	- Plans for Protection of the Famous Historical Cultural Metropolis of Beijing - Guidelines for accessibility facilities construction and renovation planning - Beijing Xicheng District Urban Design Guidelines - Urban road planning and design guidelines	- Regulations on the protection and planning of historical buildings - Beijing Xicheng District Urban Design Guidelines Cultural Metropolis of Beijing	- Rules for illegal construction in Beijing - Beijing Xicheng District Urban Design Guidelines Cultural Metropolis of Beijing	- Share street planning and design guidelines - Beijing Xicheng District Urban Design Guidelines Cultural Metropolis of Beijing	- Green space planning for famous historical and cultural cities - Beijing Xicheng District Urban Design Guidelines Cultural Metropolis of Beijing
EXISTING MAIN DECISION MAKERS	 Government officials Developers	 Government officials Designers Developers	 Designers	 Government officials	 Government officials
PROPOSED DECISION MAKERS	 Elderly People Tourists	 Residents	 Elderly People	 Residents Designers	 Residents Elderly People Tourists Designers
STAKEHOLDERS					
VALUES	- Tourism Value - Silver business Value	- Tourism Value - Reactivation historical block Value (Bring new function in old courtyards)	- Reactivation of aged group-dominant public space Value	- Sharing Value - Anti-urban fragmentation Value (Smooth the city traffic)	- Creating Intergenerational Public Space Value - Diversity of the public space Value
REVISE GOALS	Environmental health promotion Recomposition of public space and basic facility				
OPERATING STAGE	SHORT-TERM GOALS	MEDIUM-TERM GOALS			LONG-TERM GOALS Urban regeneration through upgrading public space Consolidating the public space network

542 543

Diagram of Integrated Regeneration Plan I

Diagram by author

INTEGRATED REGENERATION PLAN II					
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	 Strategic Action 1: Gulouxi West Street Reconstruction	 Strategic Action 2: Give Back the Courtyards to Residents, Make history Reintegrate Into the Daily Life	 Strategic Action 3: Spontaneously Gathered Public Spaces Regeneration	 Strategic Action 4: Activate the Gated Danwei Wall	 Strategic Action 5: Make Intergenerational Open Green Spaces
MAIN ACTORS	 Elderly people Tourists	 Elderly people Local residents	 Elderly people	 Elderly people Local residents	 Elderly people Tourists Citizens
VALUES/POTENTIALITIES	- Tourism Value - Silver business Value	- Tourism Value - Reactivation historical block Value (Bring new function in old courtyards)	- Reactivation of aged group-dominant public space Value	- Sharing Value - Anti-urban fragmentation Value (Smooth the city traffic)	- Creating Intergenerational Public Space Value - Diversity of the public space Value
PLATFORMS/WAYS OF IMPLEMENTATION	 Development of tourism industry Development of silver business institutions Development of residents leisure centers	 Courtyards reinterpretation Public participation Funding support from government/Foundation	 Reward system/Public investments	 Responsibility to the Danwei Responsibility to the Developer	 Bring the economical development in surrounding area
	Through the protection of history landscape on the Gulouxi West Street, we can achieve the silver business value by creating more institutions related the aged people making better use of the pedestrian stage as a historical icon, for example, the senior activity centers, etc. At the same time, the historical pedestrian stage itself can attract more tourists industry, through the industry upgrading, we can bring more interest to this area as well as providing more convenient and comfortable entertainment places both to the local residents and tourists.	Implanting new or more needed functions in the historical and old courtyards plays an important role in the process of courtyards reinterpretation. Public participation during the process of the regeneration remaining the personality and diversity of each courtyard compare to the volume production. Besides, the owners of the courtyards can get funded from government once their proposals are agreed with the government as well as the designers, during the take-gain stage, they have the chance to take part in "Courtyards reinterpretation Foundation", helping silver owners creating more interesting places, at the meantime they can get more profits or awards owing to the participation of the Foundation, such as higher frequency of organizing the activities or more chances of applying for other courtyards reinterpretation. Some courtyards are also transformed as the micro-clinic for the aged people, they will get funded from nearby hospitals and government, in order to relieve the pressure of the difficulty of getting medical service for some aged group.	Spontaneously gathered public spaces are needed especially for the aged people, some of them are near the local convenience stores or retail shops, some of them are near the transformed courtyards in the strategic action two. The government can upgrade these public spaces by applying the reward and incentive system, such as cheaper rents, at the meantime, public investments from some charitable organization or some foundation can also accelerate the perfection of the spontaneously gathered public spaces. The interests from the tourism industry and silver business industry in the first two strategic actions can also support the upgrading of the public space in this strategic action.	Government begin to take some actions and introduced relevant policy helping to find out the resolutions to improve the current traffic situation in Danwei Compound Unit, as well as increasing the public life on the more human-scale streets. Each Danwei should take the responsibility for wall transformation in their own area, they also should collect or donate money for maintaining the basic facility on the streets, operating the daily life of these share street. As for the residential walls, the developers are supposed to make more interesting proposals of the wall transformation with the local residents' participation.	In the capital city of China, the land is expensive, especially in the city center, the conflicts that must be traded between commercial interests and public space often occur. To some extent, reorganizing the space in the original open green space, helping us take better advantage of the precious area, instead of passively waiting for businesses to enter, it's better to transform it into a high-quality, intergenerational public space for all the citizens. In this way, naturally brings crowds to the surrounding areas, as well as the commercial interests. Surrounding supporting facilities are also should be taken into consideration during the upgrading of the green open spaces.

544 545

Diagram of Integrated Regeneration Plan II

Diagram by author

PART III POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFORMABILITY

Aging population is an urgent problem that China, and even the whole world has to face, with the aging population increasing, the special demands from elderly group are supposed to be more concerned. The background of this project is based on the old city of Beijing, we focused on how to promote the sustained and healthy life quality and living condition for aged people through the renewal and reconstruction of diverse scale of public space. In China, there are two main trends of elderly group concentration spatially: centralization and suburbanization, because of the urban sprawl in megacity like Beijing, lots of newly-built residential area with higher standard basic facilities are located in the suburb area, elderly people sometimes have higher living qualities than the people who living in the city center, historical city center area regeneration sometimes regarded as the most challenging process during the urban development, because it always involves lots of complex and interdisciplinary topics, such as the contradiction between high density of traditional houses and the low average per capita of public space and elderly facilities, low satisfaction of the living quality, etc. The way of strategic actions pattern can be reused in the similar historical and old city center background, the methods like urban acupuncture way can help us reactive the public space in the city center slightly and smoothly. On one hand, we can respect the history of the city, remain the original urban fabric, and on the other hand, we can also revitalize the places through some micro-transformation way, such as: retail formats reorganization helps us upgrade the industry formats and enhance the life convenience of the local residents, meet their new demands in the current life. Make history reintegrate into our daily life, historical architecture and courtyards can be regarded as part of the life not only the landmark or the scenic attractions of the city. Some spontaneously gathered public spaces which are not specially for public life also be seen as supplement recourses as public space especially for elderly group, making best use of them to create more chances for public life. Provision of more intergenerational facilities are also should be considered during the upgrading of the public spaces.

PART IV RELEVANCE ISSUES DESCRIPTION

1. Urban Planning Relevance

The world population is aging. While western developed countries have entered aging society for decades, which make them begun to deal with the aging problems earlier, and now they have accumulated a wealth of experience especially in the elderly service facilities and elderly community development. Compare to China, we entered aging society relatively late, so the research started relatively late. The present study mainly concentrated in the building design for aged people, research on elderly public service facilities, etc. However, there still relatively lack of research on the distribution of recreation and public spaces for aged people, as well as the relationship between the needs of the aged and public space system. Therefore, the study of public space layout, the elderly leisure behaviour, demands and their connections has a positive effect and improvement on urban public space planning and design theories.

2. Social Relevance

With the arrival of aging society, aged people gradually become the main group of leisure activities. Compared with many developed countries, however, at the initial phase of aging society, China still has a lot of unprepared work needed to be solved, which result in a lot of social contradictions, including the increasing demands of elderly people with uneven distribution and shortage supply of material and space, and the contradiction between the elderly and other age groups, as well as deficient elderly-care policy with growing unsatisfied elderly group, etc. This graduation project based on the special needs of "Aging in Place" aged people, from the humanistic perspective, putting forward space planning strategy and design interventions. "Aging in Place" firstly reduces the burden of government, saves money and resources to adapt to the objective requirement of social and economic development; Secondly, reducing the burden of the children, aging in place is conflict mitigation method for the contradiction between career and their

obligation to look after their parents; Moreover, there are more opportunities for aged people to re-employ for more choices and occupation. These all can promote the development of the social spiritual civilization, maintain the stability of the society harmony, improve the management level of public space, which has a significant value of building the elegant, comfortable, pleasant and stable aging society.

3. Ethical Relevance

For thousands of years, people have always considered it a social responsibility and behavioural norm to respect the aged and care for the young in China. However, since China gradually entered into aging society in rapidly developing cities, sometimes we often ignore the needs of the elderly, especially the spiritual demands. The activities of the elderly population in China for a long time after retirement are mainly concentrated in health care, entertainment, taking care of their grandchildren, etc. To certain extent, these activities can only help aged people to kill time, they cannot fundamentally solve the loneliness, as well as psychological sub health problem, especially the empty-nesters and elderly people living alone, who are easier to have those problems, because of the loneliness, they gradually become the edge group of the society. Living alone for a long-time can lead to decline of cognitive function, which may even result in doubting themselves the value of their existence. Along with the continuous development of social economy, the only supply of material life cannot meet the current increasing needs of the elderly care, spiritual and cultural demands, as well as the psychological comfort demands. The “spiritual supply” plays a more and more important role in the aging society, and public space as a vital carrier of “spiritual supply”, positive public space system planning and regeneration plan can inspire the enthusiasm of the elderly to participate in social activities, expand their social network, so as to dissolve the loneliness, at the meantime to improve their physical and mental health. Active participation in the social development in order to fill in their later life, receiving social respects, realizing their value and achieving the high-level of elderly life.