

SPONGE POLDER

The revival of traditional polder wisdom in the Taihu Lake Basin

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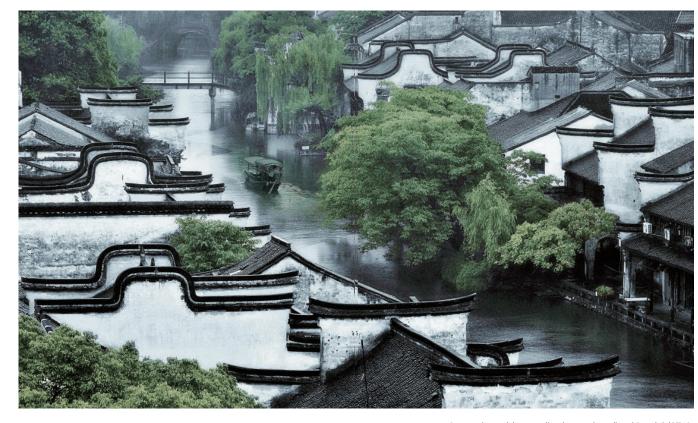
01 Introduction

- -Fascination
- -Location
- -Problem statement
- -Research objective
- -Research question



Fascination--Water town

"land of fish and rice" "home of the silk"



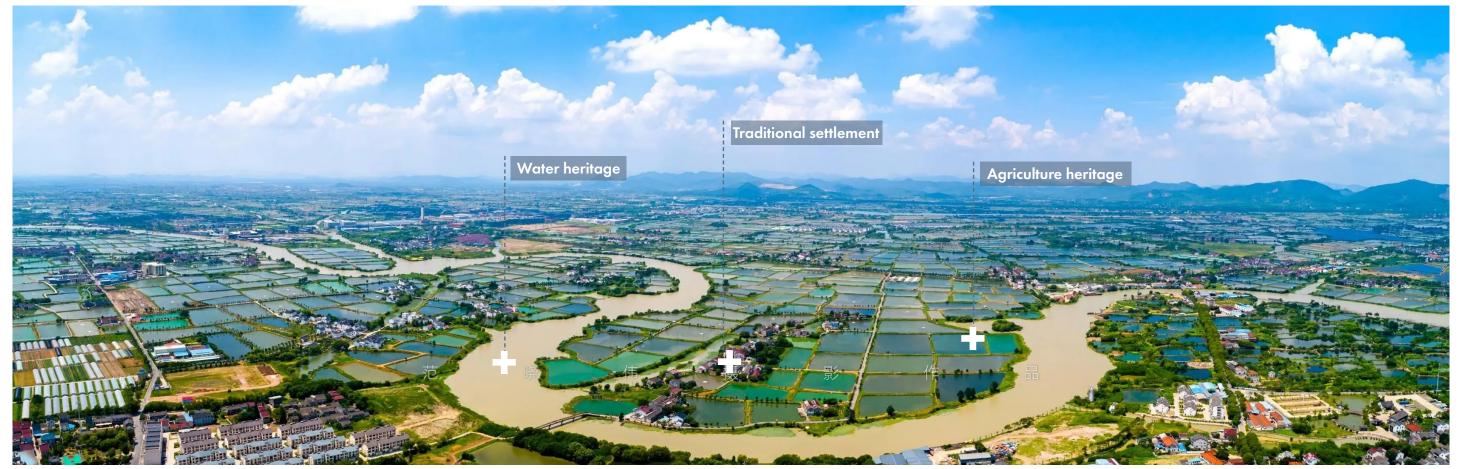
Source: https://zggjrwdl.xml-journal.net/bookPart/id/9743



Source: https://www.intrepidtravel.com/adventures/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/resized-xingtan-credit-Xianyi-Shen.jpg

Fascination--Polder landscape

"Harvest in Su (zhou) and Hu (zhou) provides a year of prosperity"



Source: https://ishare.ifeng.com/c/s/7qTtlRdCKnH

Background--Location



Water as resource Agriculture heritage Source: https://fashion.sina.cn/l/ds/2022-04-28/detail-imcwipii6764679.d.html Source: http://iyantian.sznews.com/yantian-zt/contents/2017-06/15/content_16474284. Source: http://www.lvmama.com/trip/show/338350





Water as threat Drought Eutrophication Source: https://img.sinchew.com.my/2019-11/07/31e76c36-7a1f-4dd3-a2ae-8cef0cff75d4.jpg Source: http://discovery.cctv. com/20080125/102623.shtml Source: https://news.ltn.com.tw/news/world/breakingnews/3231247







Research objective and questions

To identify design strategies and principles for water-resilient polder landscapes in the Taihu Lake basin while protecting cultural heritage through learning from history.

Understanding

What is the traditional polder system and how is the polder system connected to Taihu lake?

Principles

What are the design principles of polder landscape systems from the perspective of water, settlement, ecology, and agriculture systems?

Application

How to apply the design strategies and principles in Lougang polder in the Taihu lake basin?

Reflection

To what degree do the strategies and principles increase resilience in polder landscapes?

02 Methodology

- -Theoretical background -Methodology framework

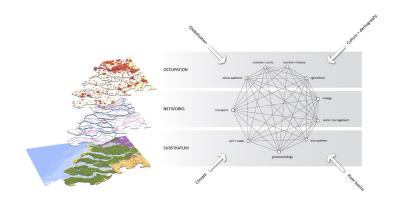


Theoretical background

Cultural landscape

Theory to understand polder landscape and cultural heritage

Combined works of nature and by humans, and they express a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment. (UNESCO)



Layered entity

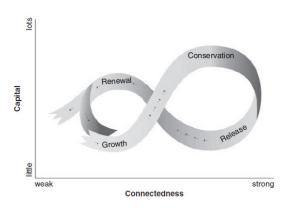
- 1) underlying natural landscape,
- 2) hydraulic interventions,
- 3) the organization imposed by the agricultural development of the land

Source: Understanding the urban landscape as a layered and complex system (image: Steffen Nijhuis).

Resilience capacity

Theory to design resilience

Resilience is defined as the capacity of system to respond to change or disturbance without changing its basic state (Walker and Salt, 2006).



Source: A stylized representation of the four ecosystem functions (r, K, Qf, a) and the flow of events among them. From Gunderson and Holling 2001 with permission of Island Pres

- Mutifunctionality
- · Redundancy and modularization
- · (Bio and social) diversity
- \cdot Multi-scale networks and connectivity
- · Adaptive planning and design

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03 Polder landscape of Taihu lake basin

- -Structure map
- -Historical development
- -Challenges in Taihu lake basin
- -Polder development
- -Polder typology



Structure map of Taihu lake basin



-Traditional water town



-Polder



-Tea mountain



Challenges in Taihu lake basin

Salination&Cyanobacterial bloom



Source: https://scenariojournal.com/article/yangtze-river-delta-project/

City expansion&Water town



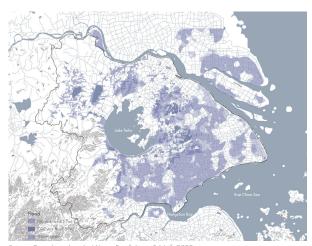
Science Data Sharing Infrastructure, National Science & Technology Infrastructure of China (http://lake.geodata.cn)

Water quality



Source: Water resources report of Taihu Lake

Waterlogging &Flood

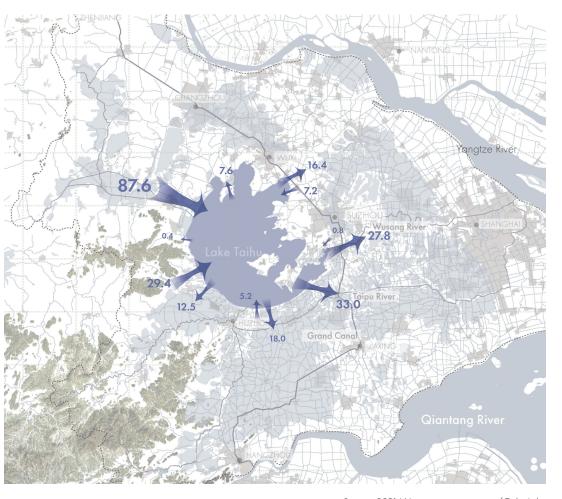


Source: Draw based on the Wang, Pendlebury, & Nolf, 2022

Challenges in Taihu lake basin

Water exchange in key areas of Taihu Basin in 2021

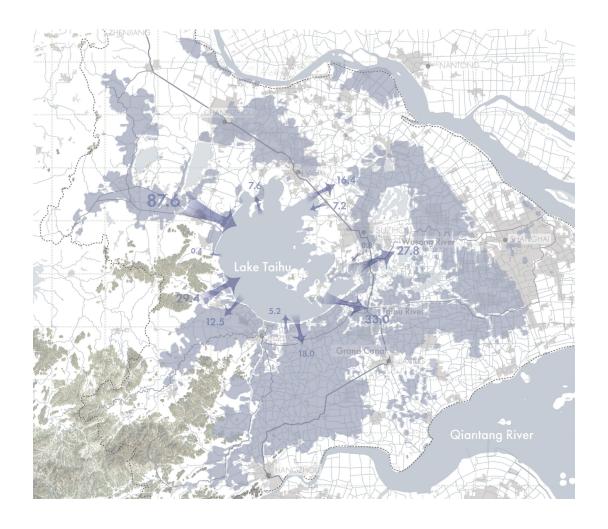
Easy to rise, difficult to fall



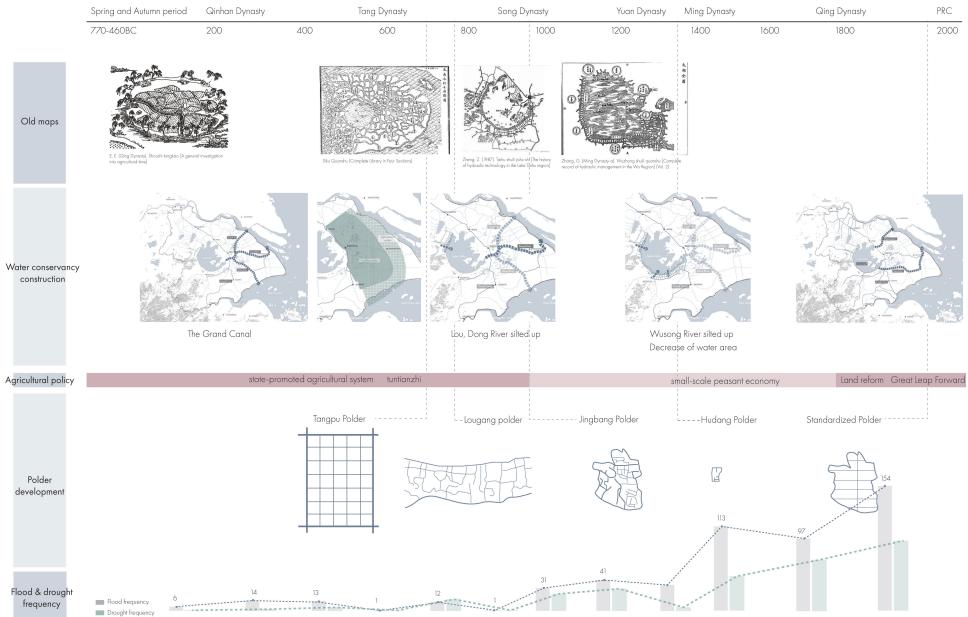
Source: 2021 Water resources report of Taihu Lake

Challenges in Taihu lake basin

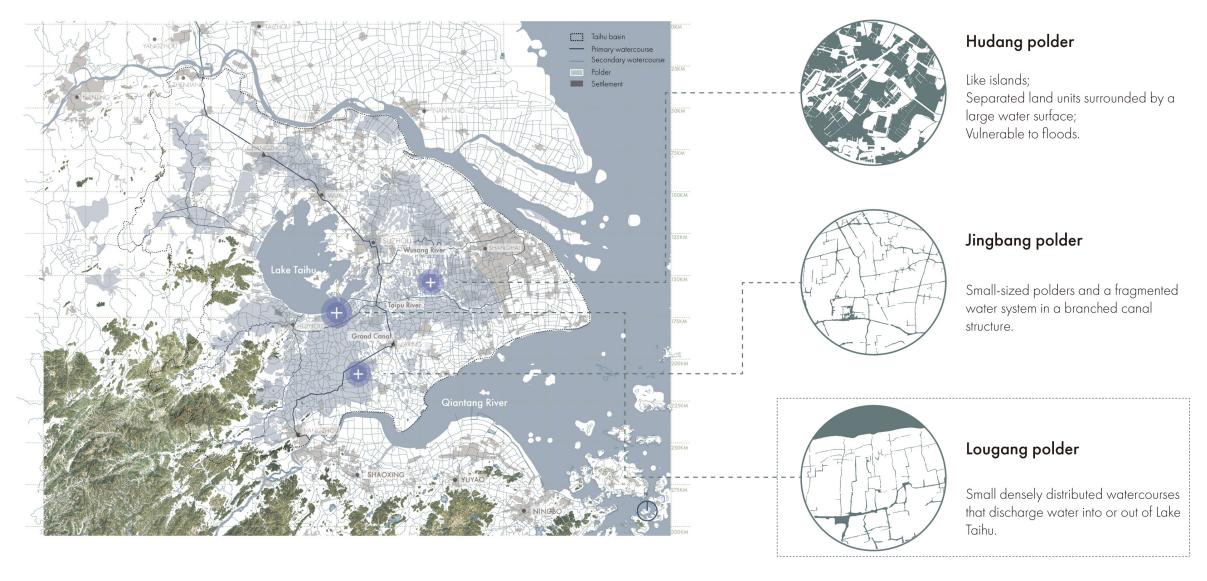
Water exchange in key areas of Taihu Basin in 2021



Polder development



Polder typology



04 Lougang Polder

- -Historical development of Lougang polder
- -Understanding Lougang polder(Water infrastructure/water culture)
- -Learning historical experience
- -Current challenges
- -Principles



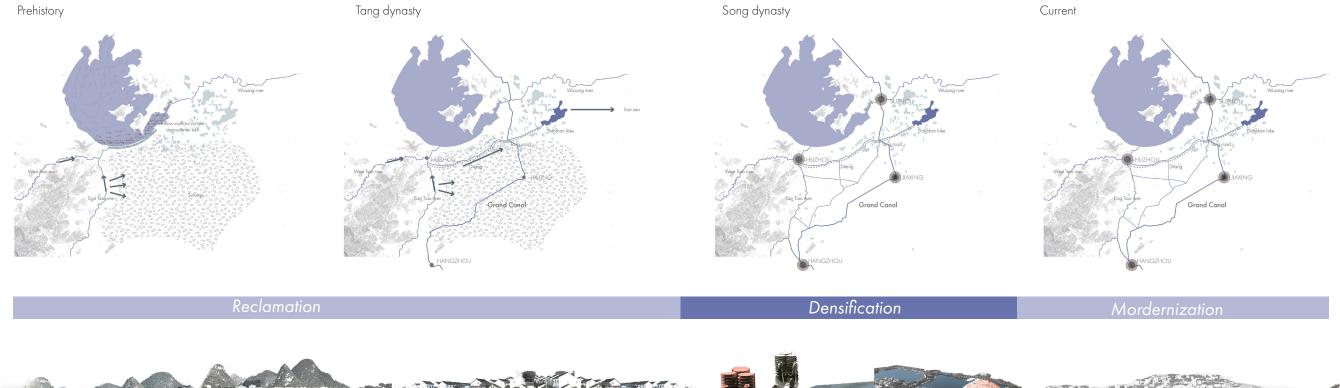
Glimpse of Lougang polder



Fragmented polder landscape

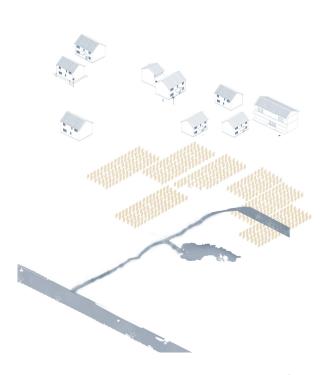


Historical development of Lougang polder

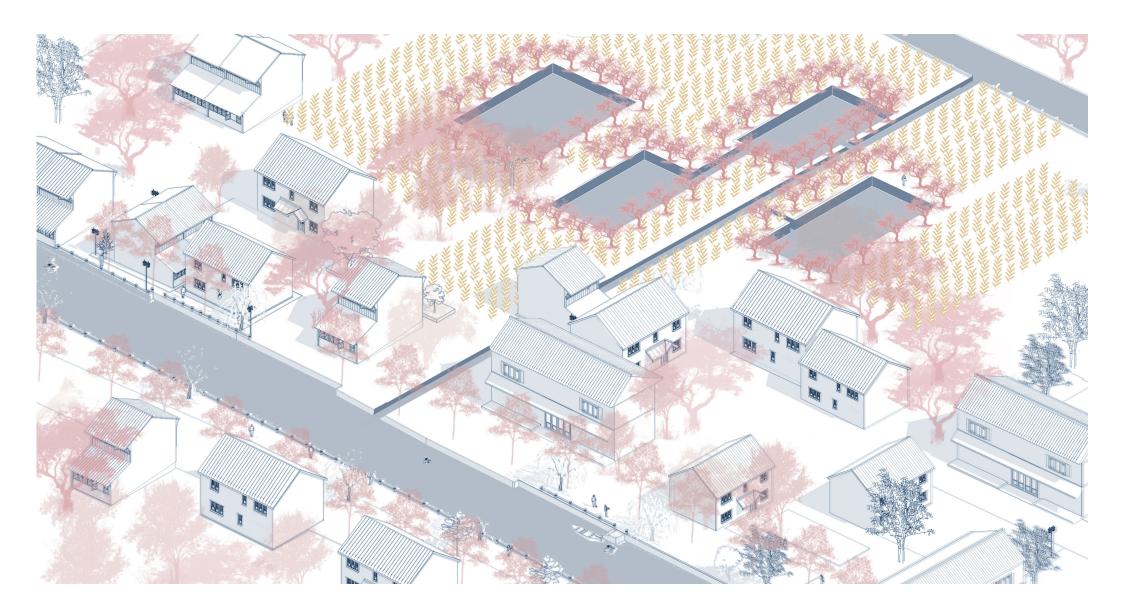


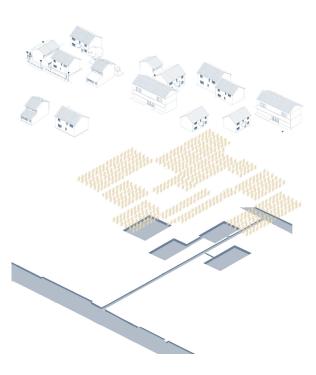
Reclamation: Agricultural landscape--Rice



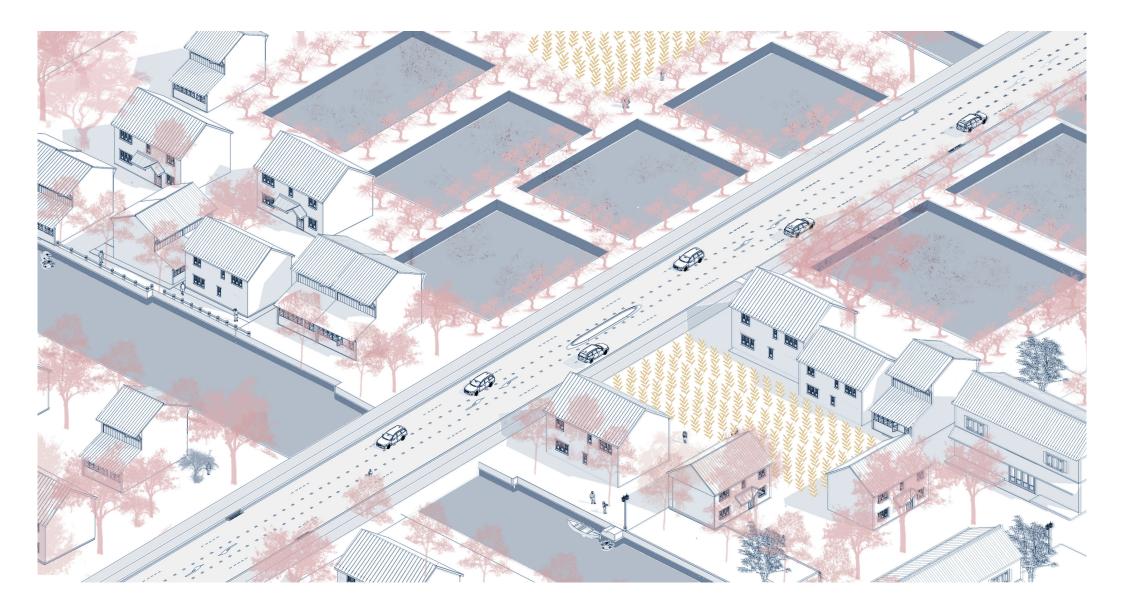


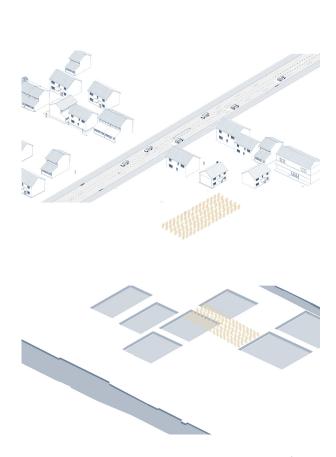
Densification: Agricultural landscape--Dike pond



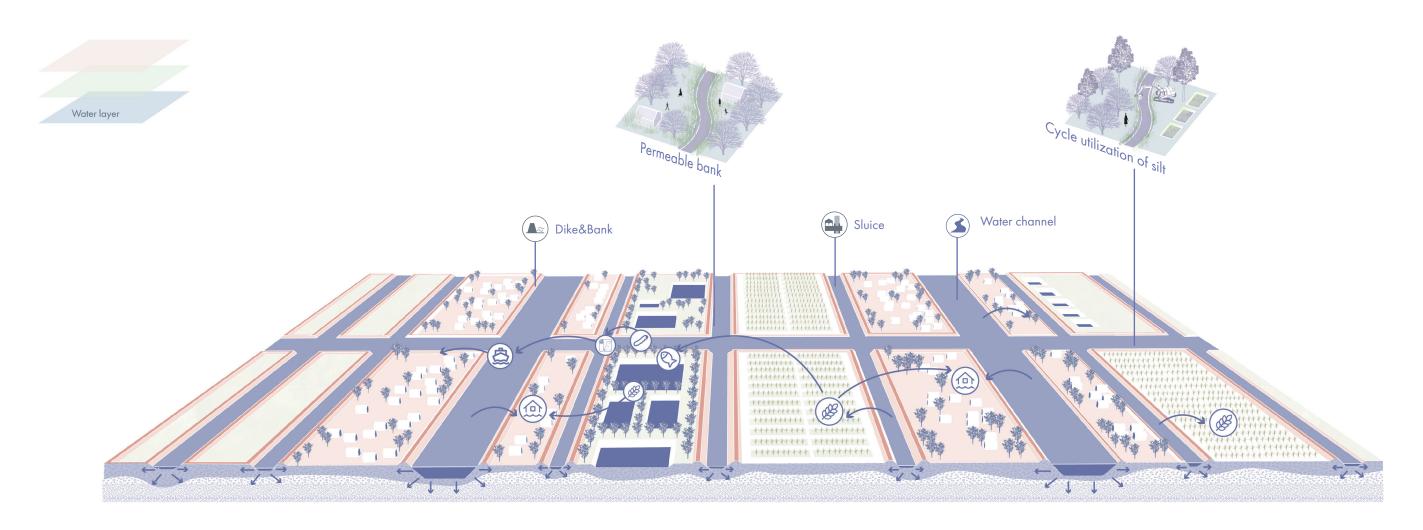


Modernization: Fragmented landscape



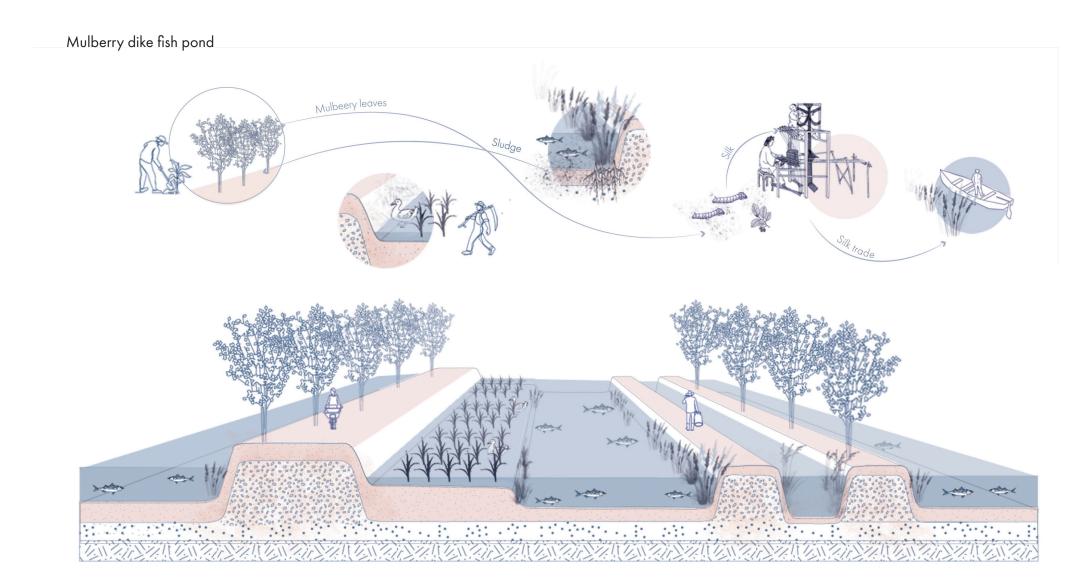


Flexible allocation of water resources



Efficient land use--Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture layer



Traditional settlement



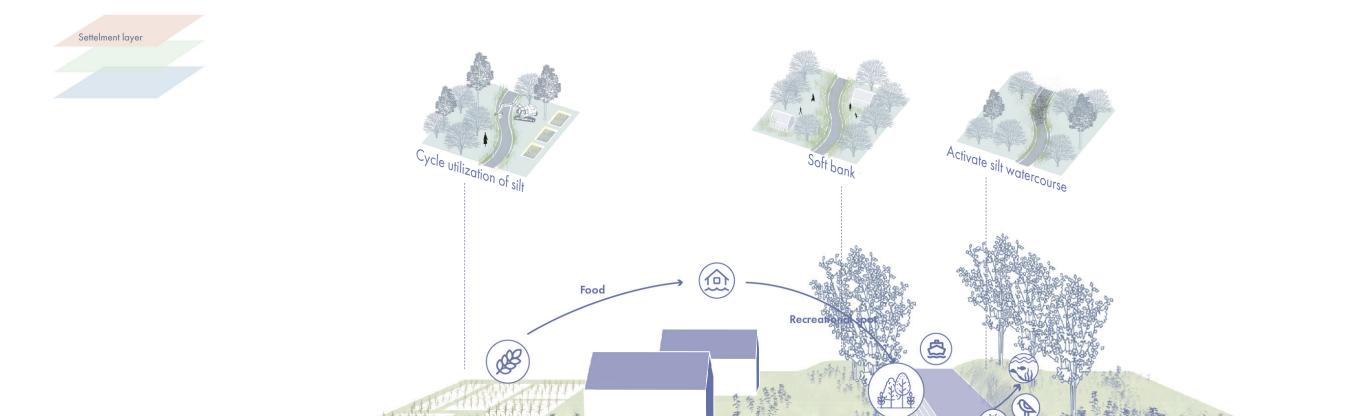




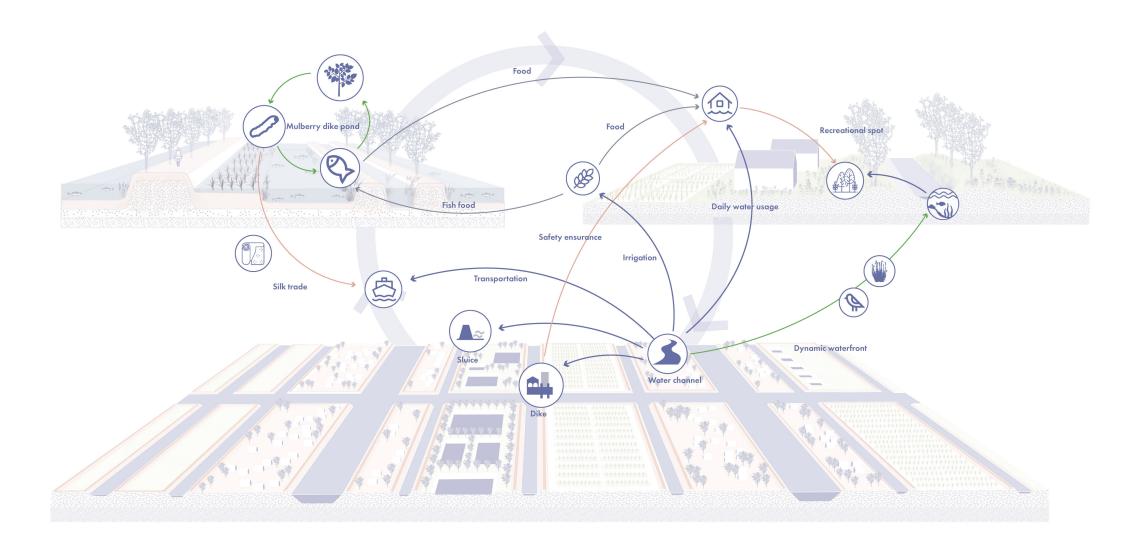


Source: https://fashion.sina.cn/l/ds/2022-04-28/detail-imcwipii6764679.d.html

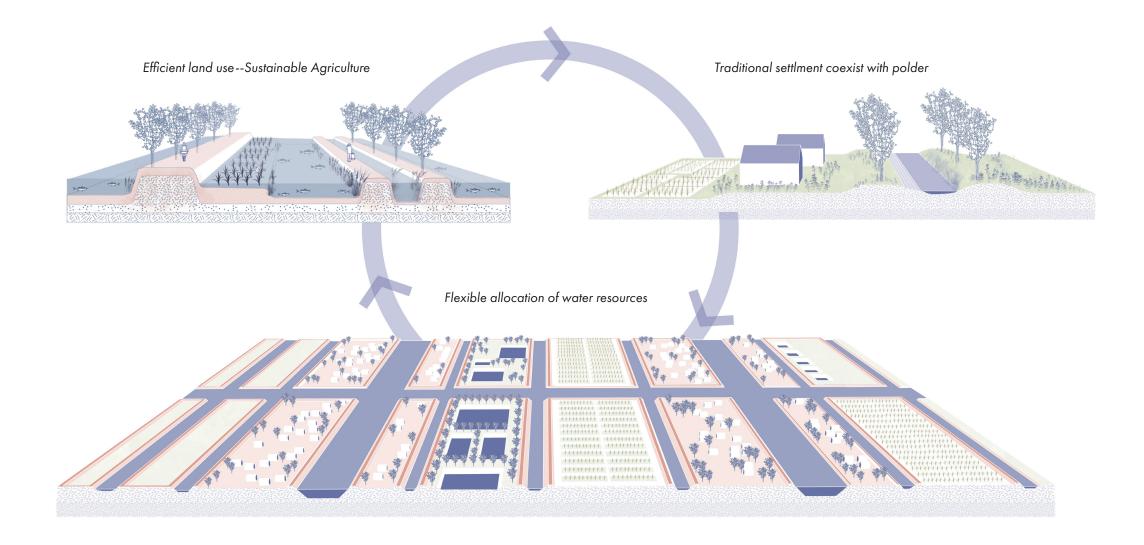
Traditional community co-existing with polders



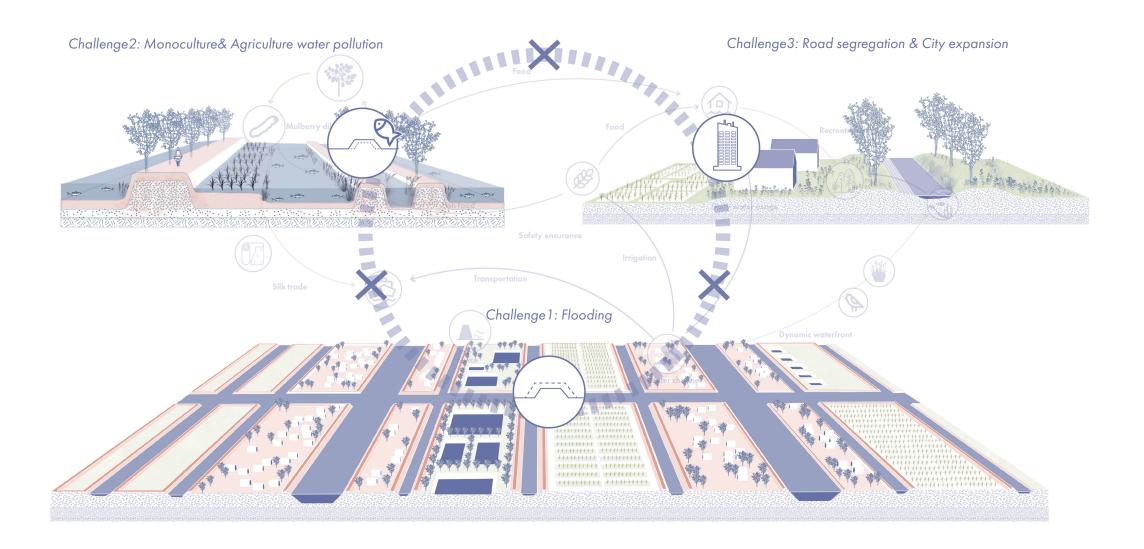
Interdependent relationship among three systems



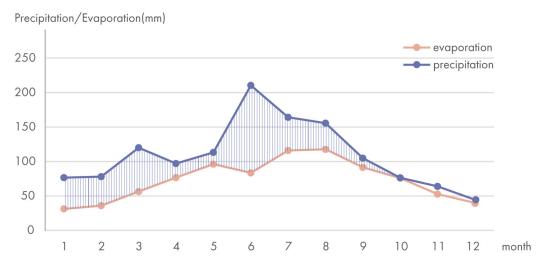
Interdependent relationship among three systems



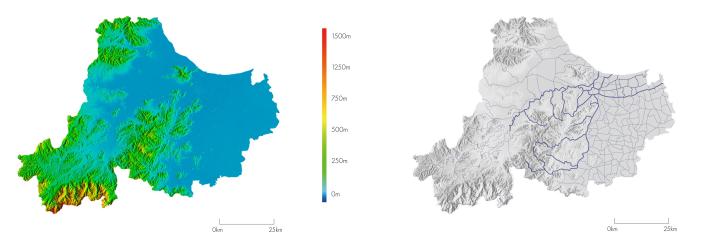
Challenges in Lougang polder



Challenge 1: Flooding



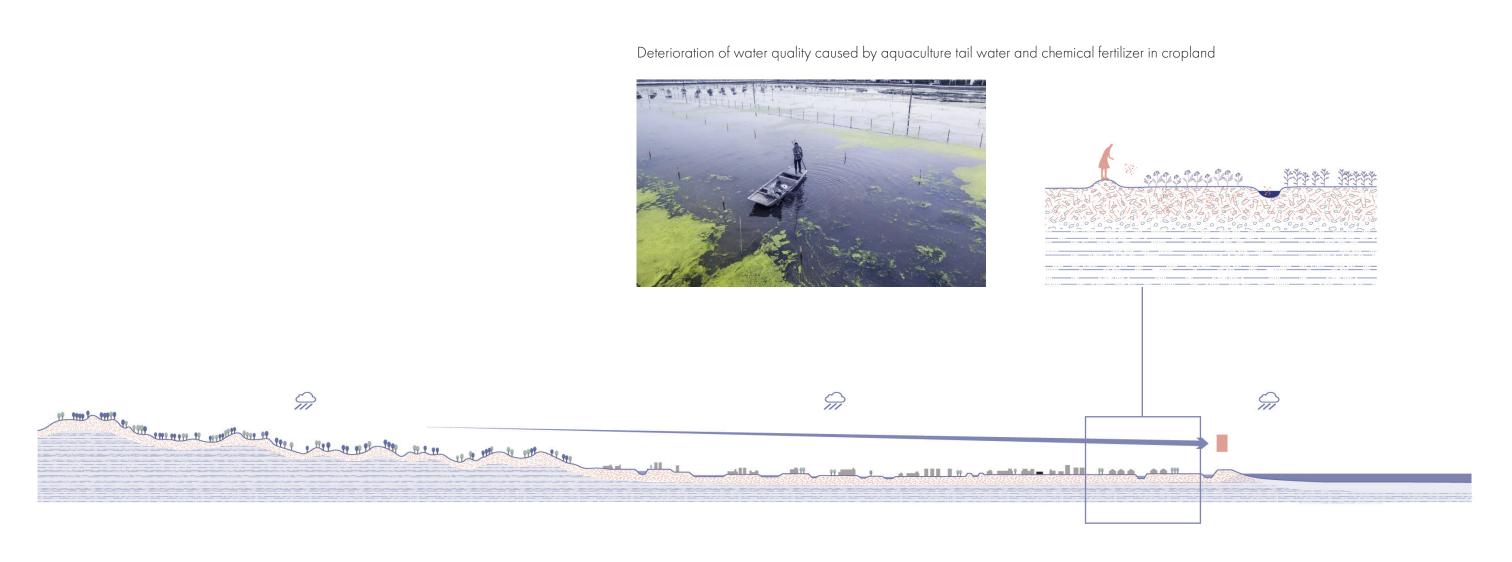




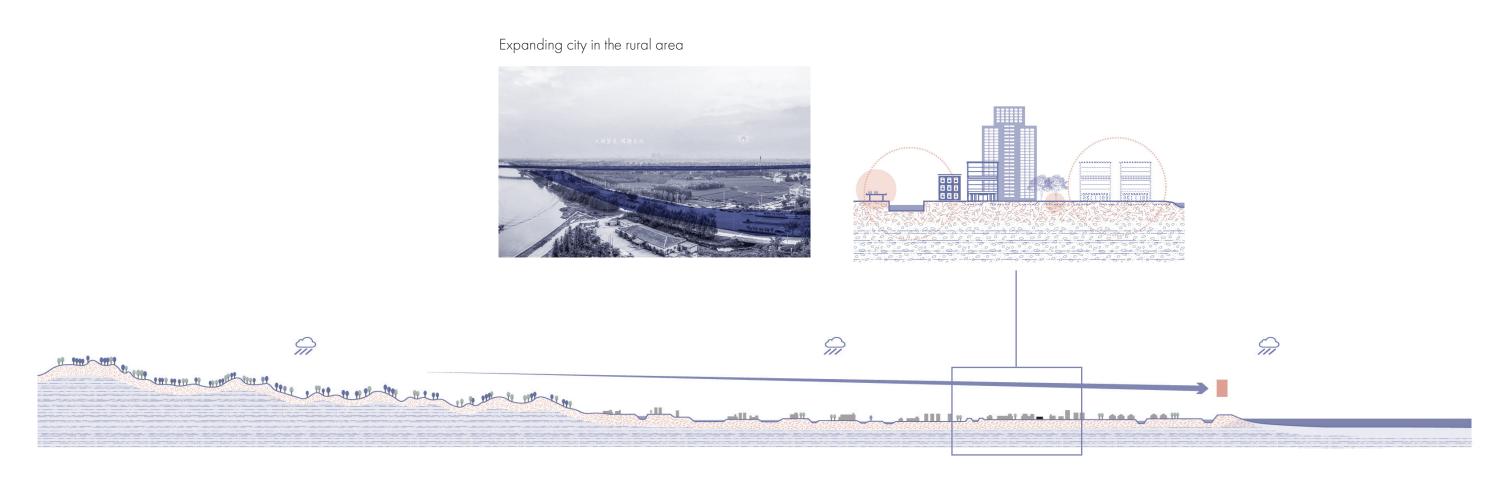
Challenge 1: Flooding



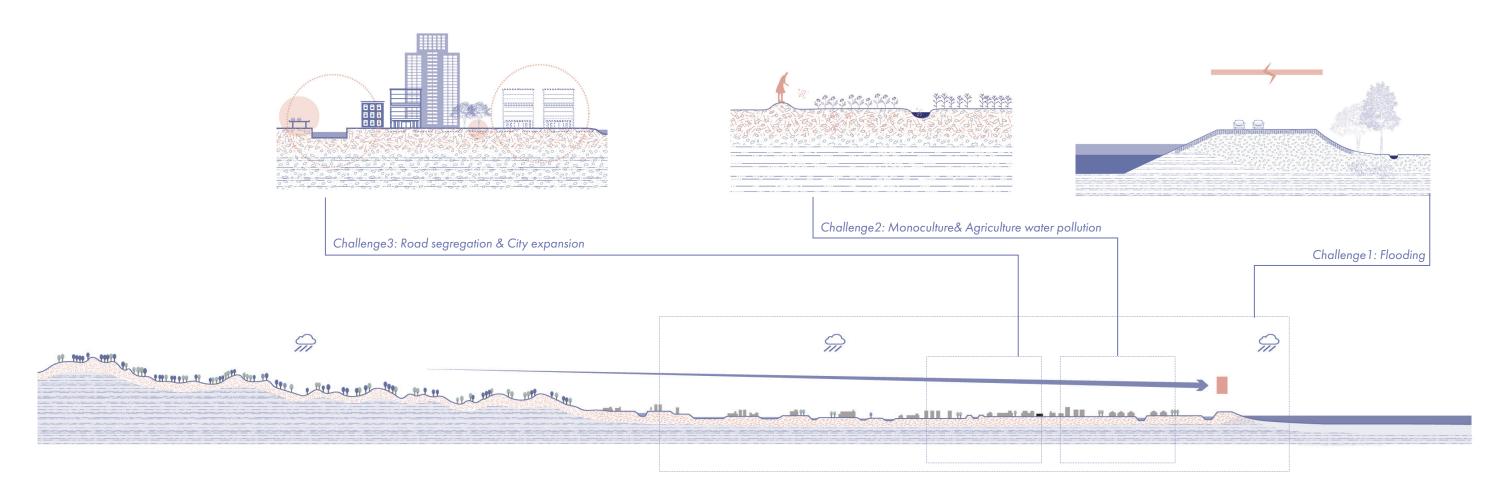
Challenge2: Monoculture& Agriculture water pollution



Challenge3: Road segregation & City expansion



Challenges



Challenges in Lougang polder

Flooding

Flooding zone

Agriculture water pollution

Polluted water

Dike pond

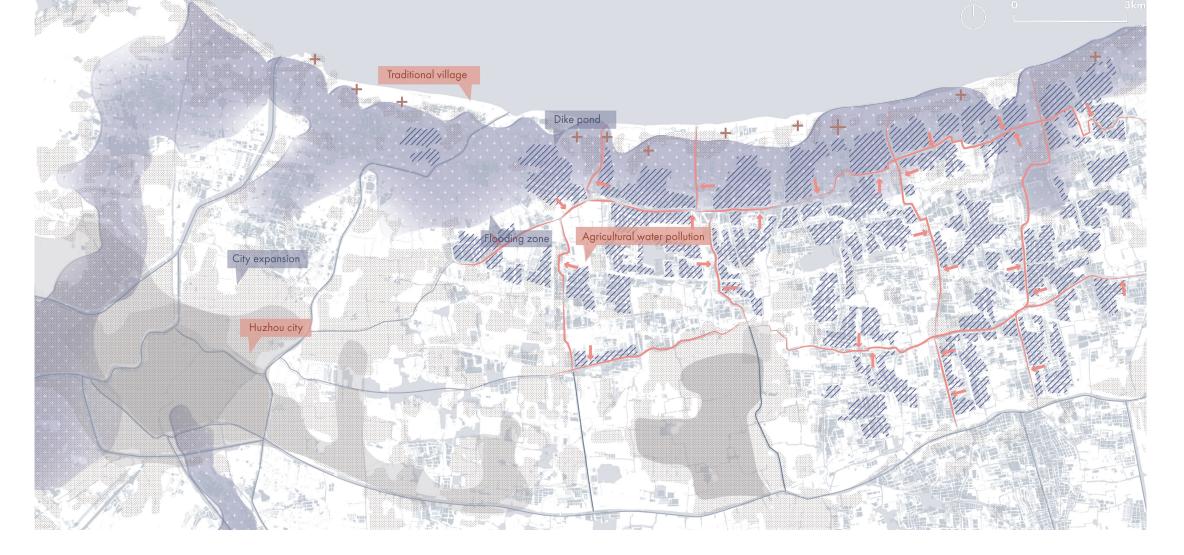
City expansion

1975

199

2003

202



Understanding

What is the traditional polder system and how is the polder system connect to Taihu lake?

Principles

What are the design principles of resilient polder landscape systems from the perspective of water, ecology, agriculture, and settlement systems?

Application

How to apply the design strategies and principles in Lougang polder in the Taihu lake basin?

Reflection

To what degree do the strategies and principles increase resilience in polder landscapes?

05 Design principle

- -Design Principle
- -Water&ecology principles
- -Agriculture&settlement principles
- -Design strategy
- -Stakeholder
- -Vision map



Case study

Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

Bishan, Singapore | Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl





Floodplain

The Oostvaardersplassen

Flevoland, Netherlands | Feddes/Olthof Landscape Architects





Jianyang lake wetland park

Zhejiang,China | AECOM



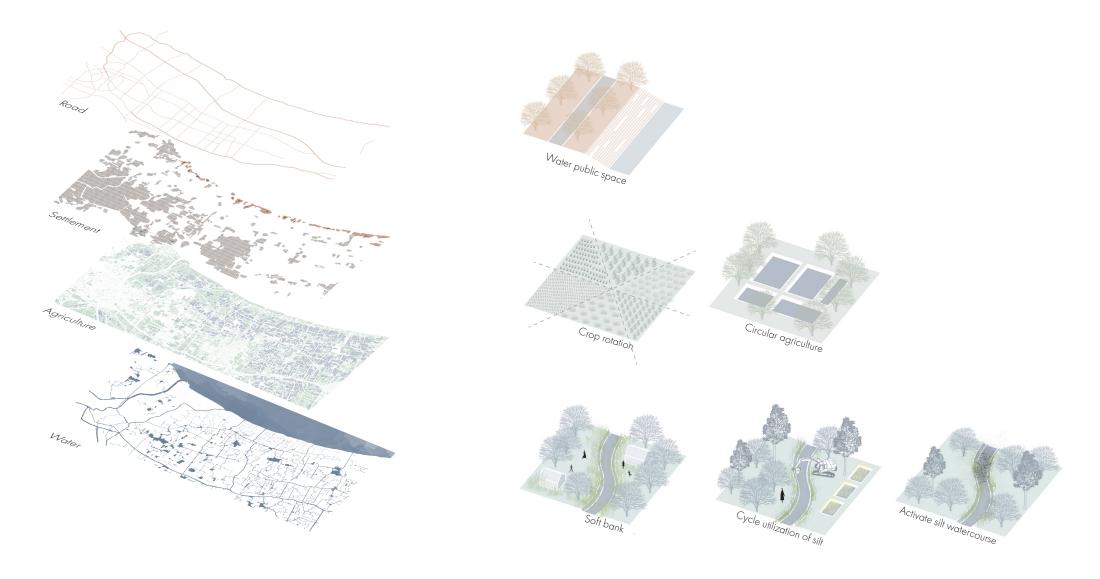




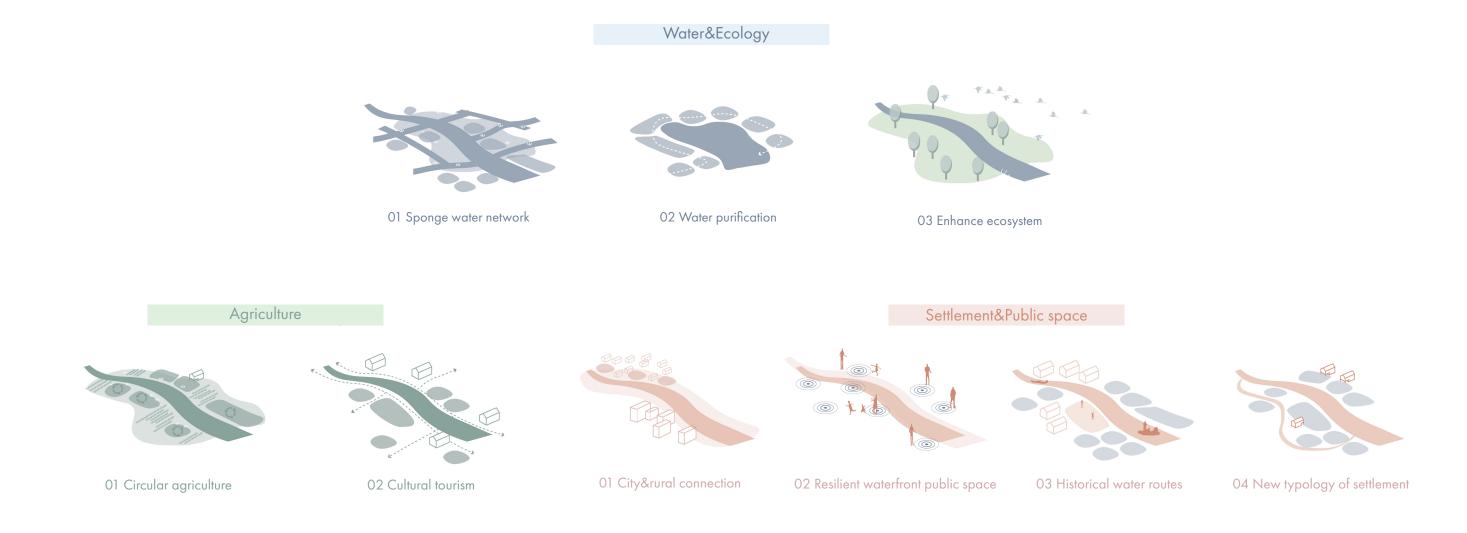
Fish pond circulation

Wetland purification

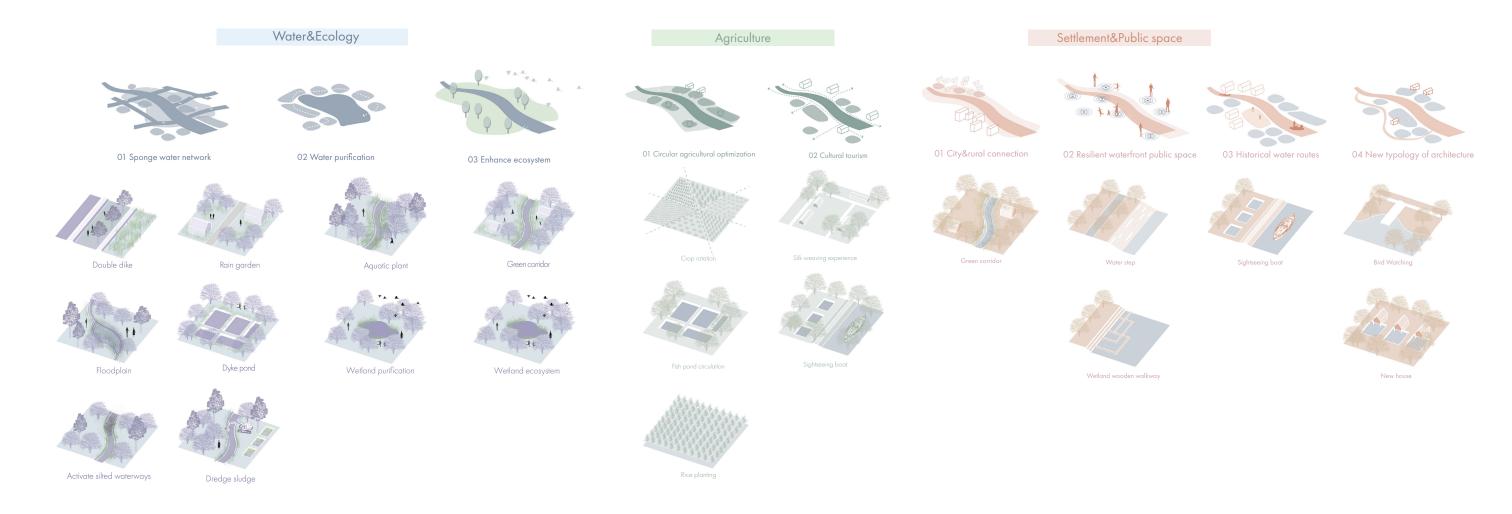
Historical experience--traditional polder wisdom



Design principle



Tool kits of principle



Understanding

What is the traditional polder system and how is the polder system connect to Taihu lake?

Principles

What are the design principles of polder landscape systems from the perspective of water, ecology, settlement, and agriculture systems?

Application

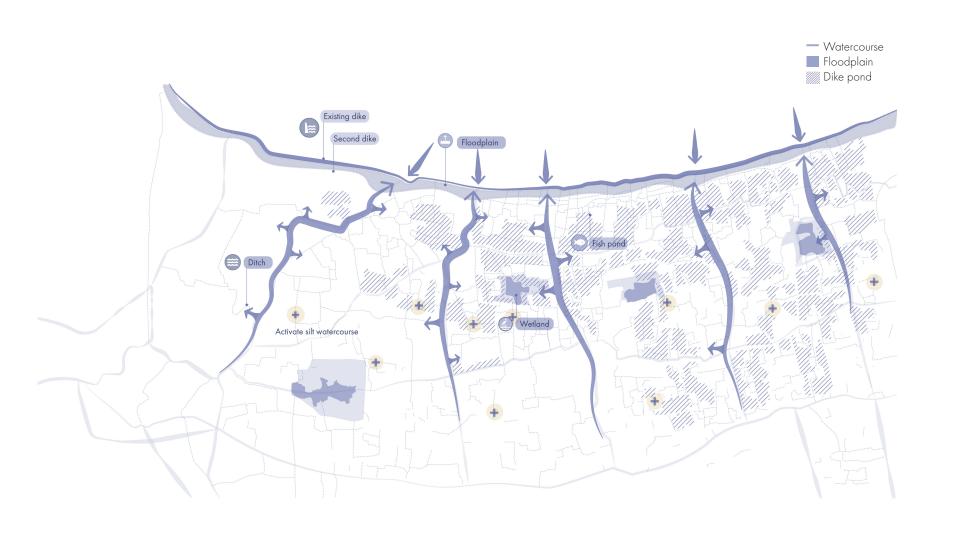
How to apply the design principles in Lougang polder in the Taihu lake basin?

Reflection

To what degree do the strategies and principles increase resilience in polder landscapes?

Sponge water network

Enlarge water storage capacity



Strategy 01

Activate silt watercourse and complete water network



Strategy 02

More space for water



Strategy 03

Slow down the runoff (ecological floating islands, aquatic plant)



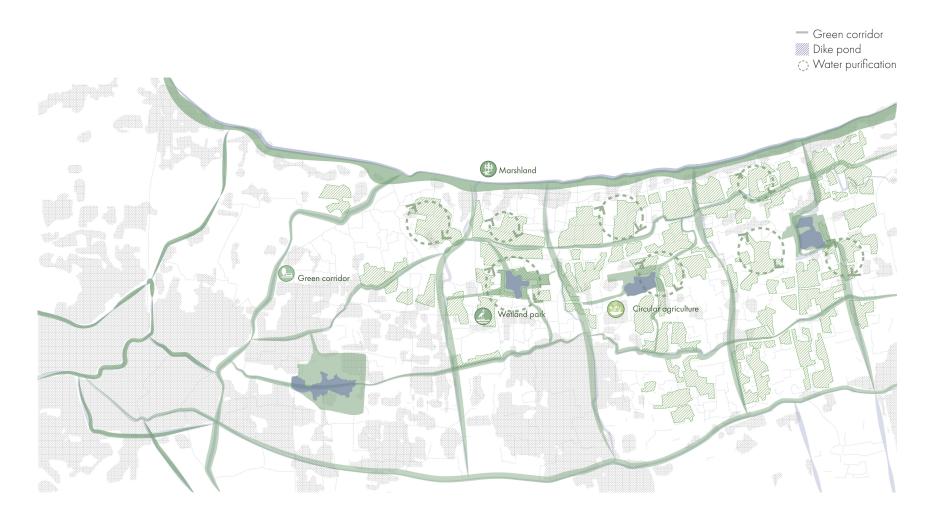
Strategy 04

Ecological water purification (dike pond, wetland)



Sustainable agri/aquaculture

Improve water quality



Strategy 05

Make use of vegetation, and sludge to build circular agriculture



Slow waterfront space

Improve spatial quality

Protect cultural heritage



Strategy 06

More waterfront public space

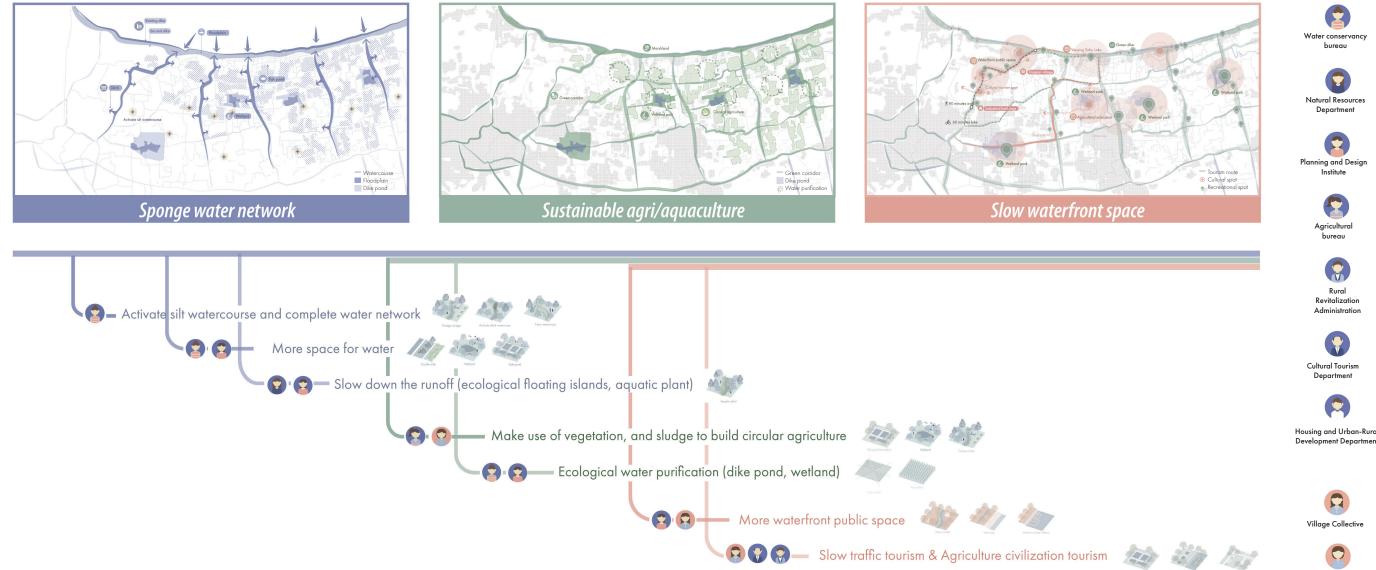


Strategy 07

Slow traffic tourism, agriculture civilization tourism



Strategy&Stakeholder



Housing and Urban-Rural



Design assignment

Enlarge water storage capacity

- -Second defence of water infrastructure
- -Dike pond as water retention

Improve water quality

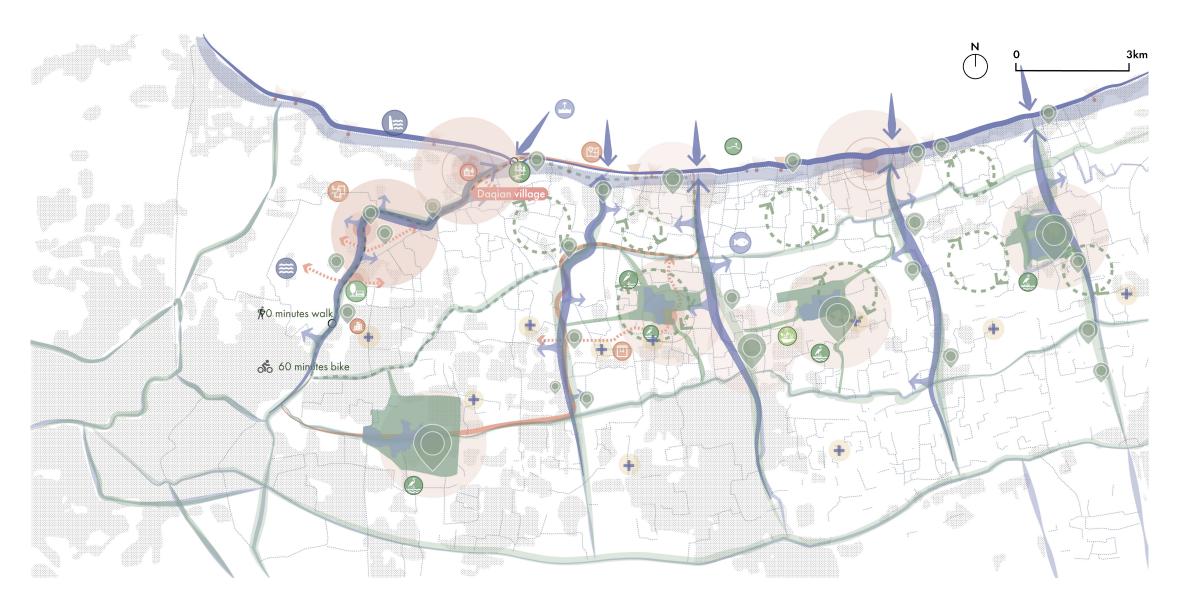
- -Green corridor
- -Agriculture optimization
- -Wetland purification center

Improve spatial quality

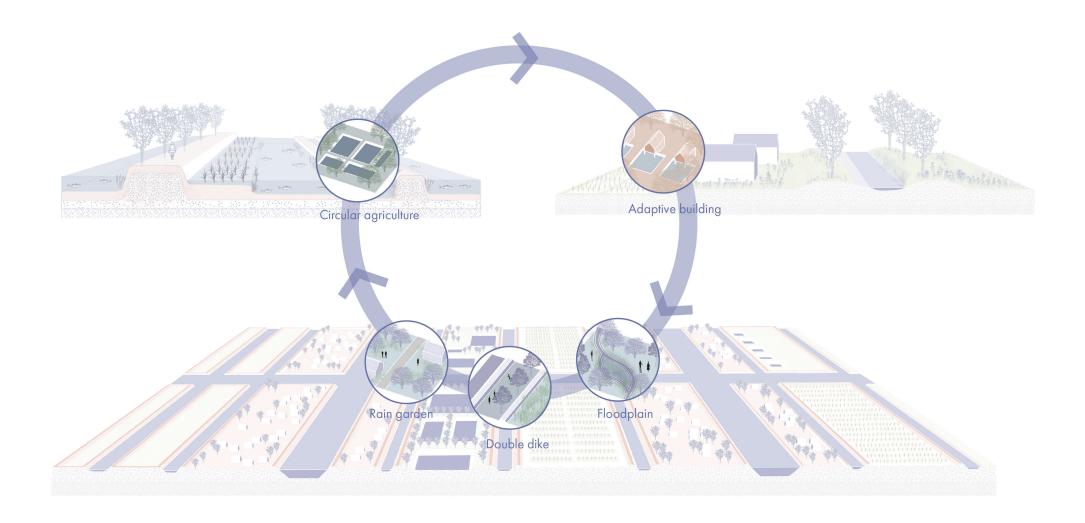
- -City&rural edge
- -More waterfront public space

Protect cultural heritage

- -Tourism(Water route/ water culture)
- -New possibilities of dike pond



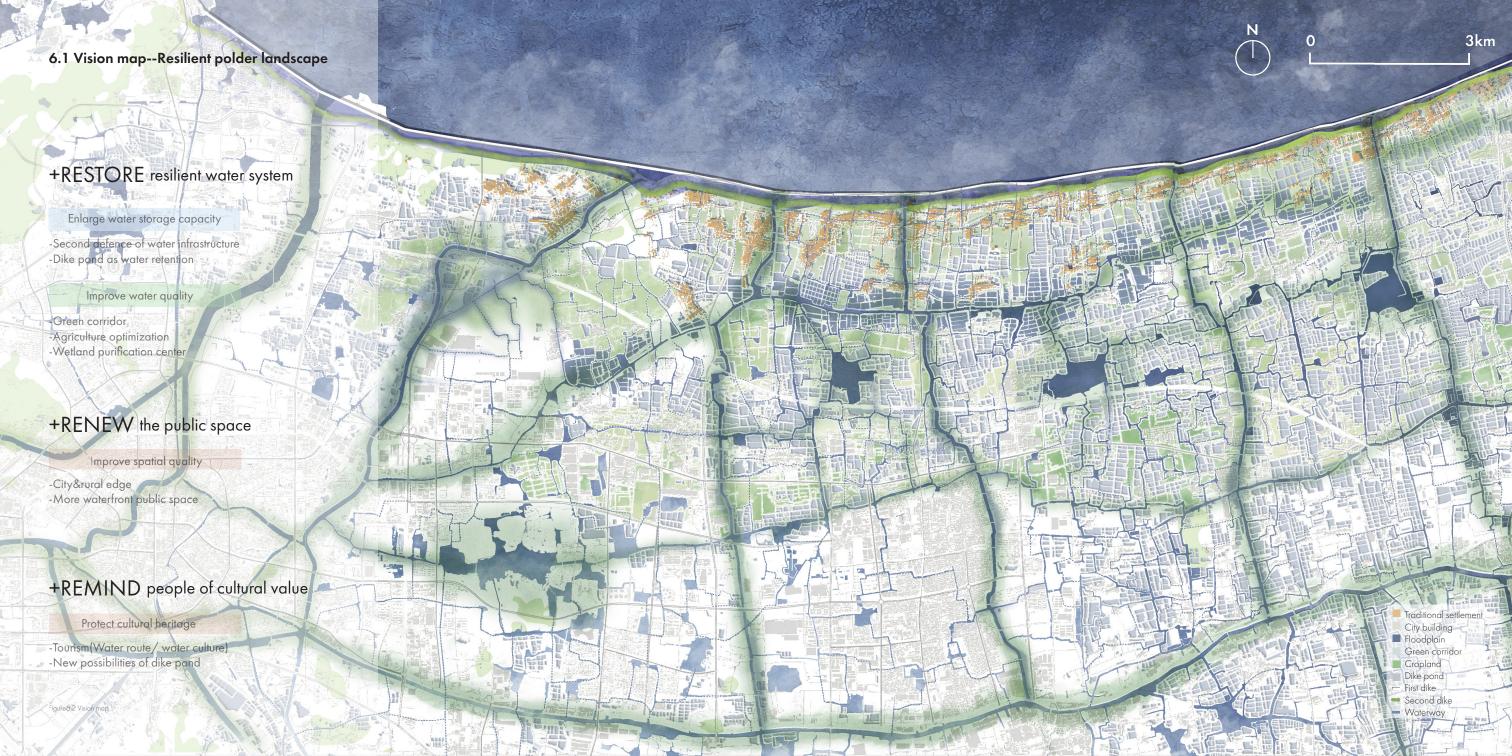
Rebuild the interdependent relationship



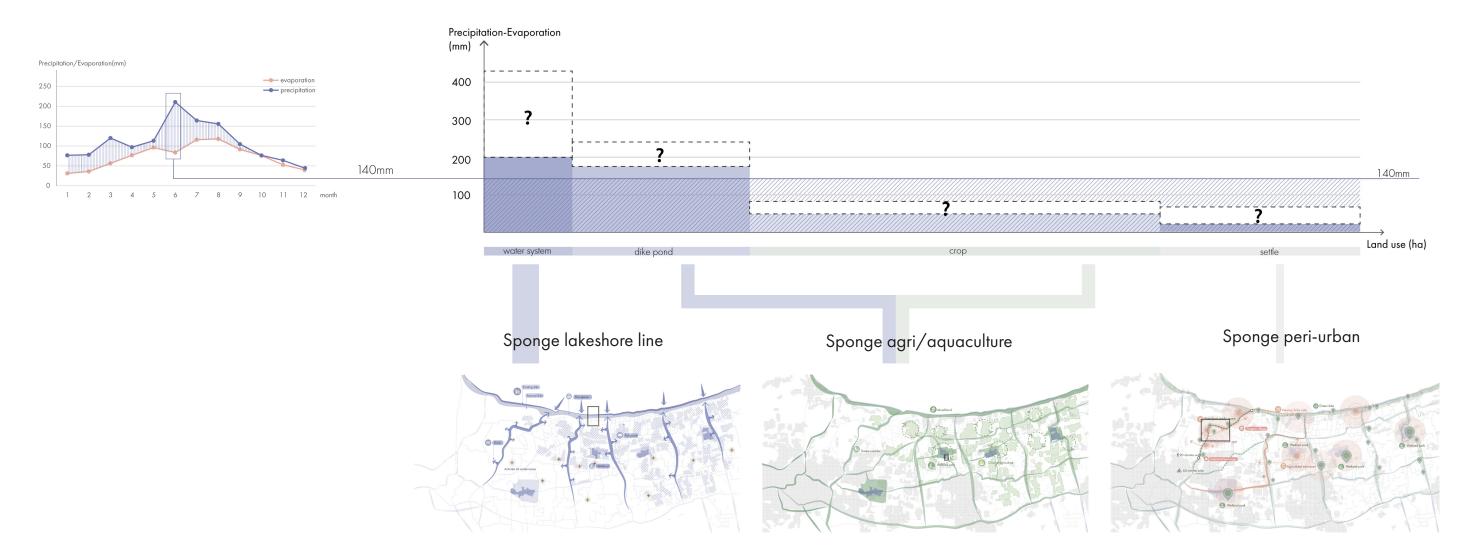
06 Design exploration

- -Vision map--Resilient polder landscape
- -Local scale design exploration
- -Sponge lakeshore line
- -Sponge agri/aquaculture
- -Sponge peri-urban
- -Conclusion





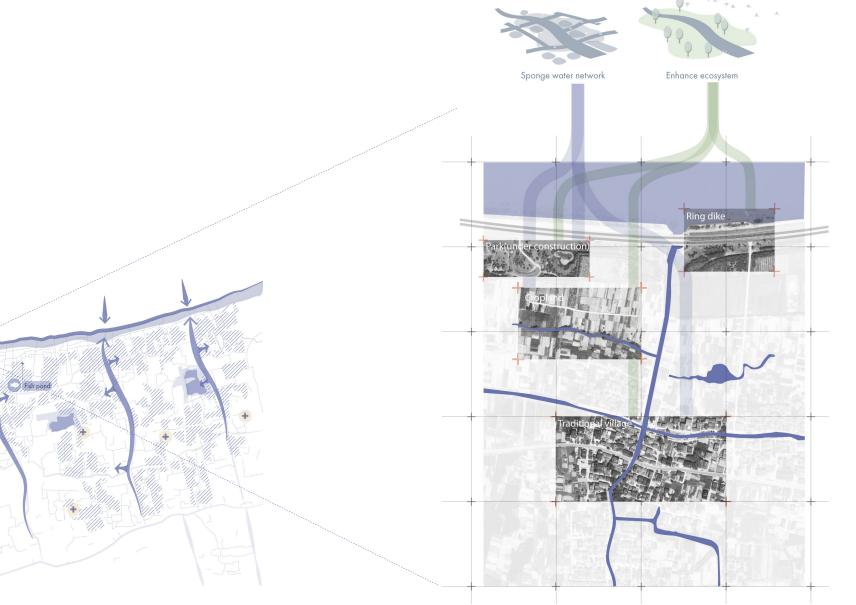
Rebuild the interdependent relationship



+RESTORE resilient water system

Ditch

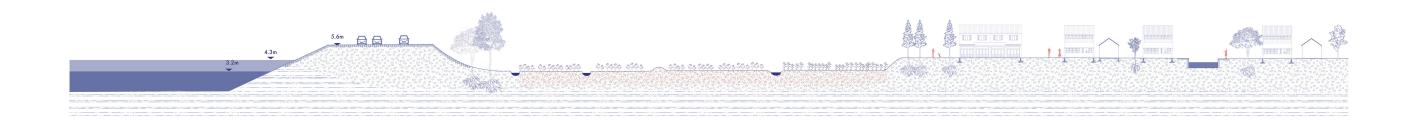
Enlarge water storage capacity



Challenges

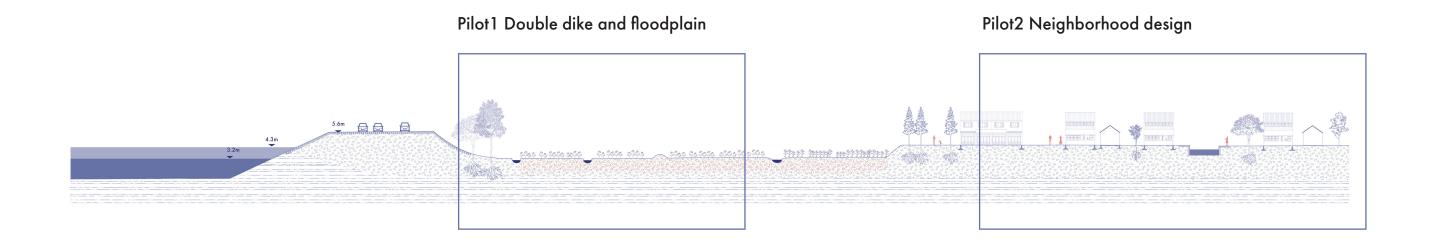






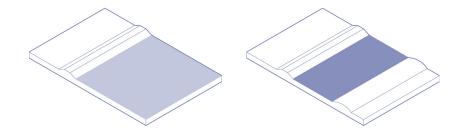
Potential

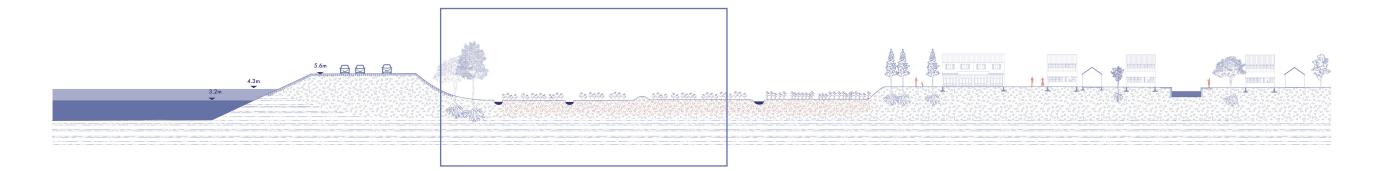
- -Enlarge water storage capacity
- -Build the link between animals and Taihu lake
- -Reconstruct the close relationship between people and the water.



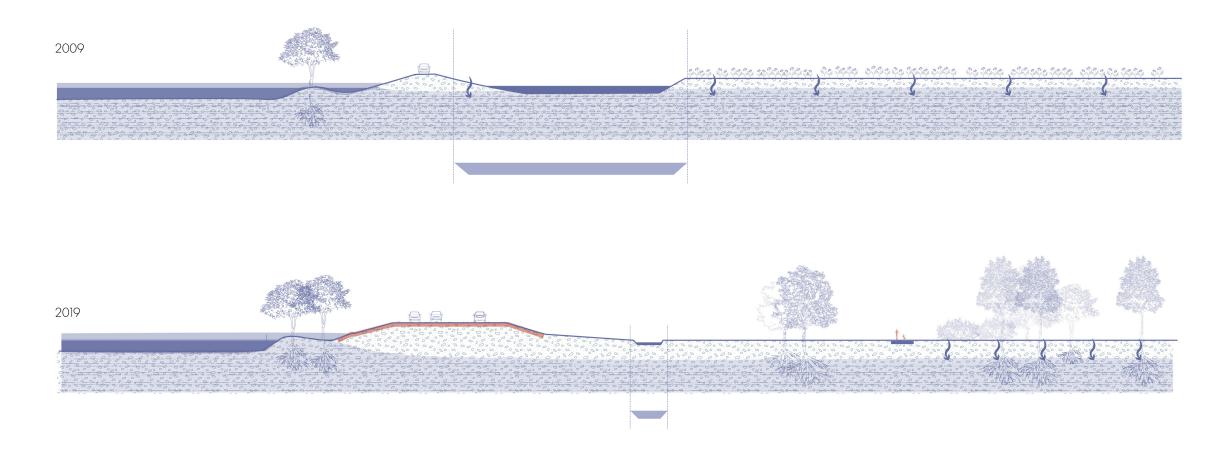


Pilot1 Double dike and floodplain



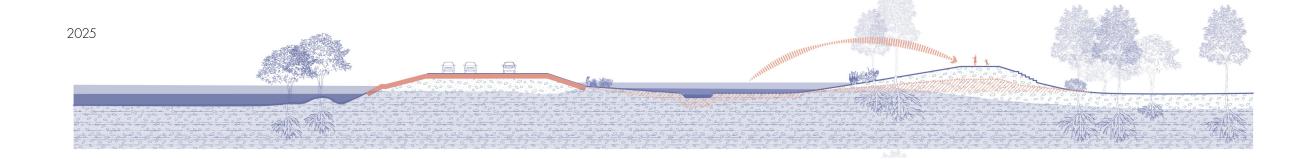


Pilot1 Double dike and floodplain

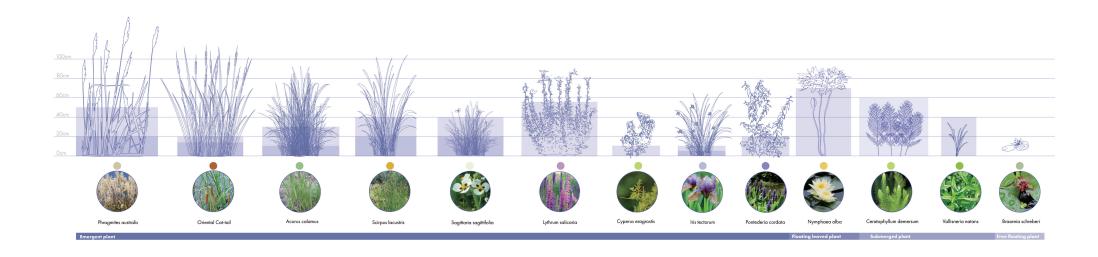


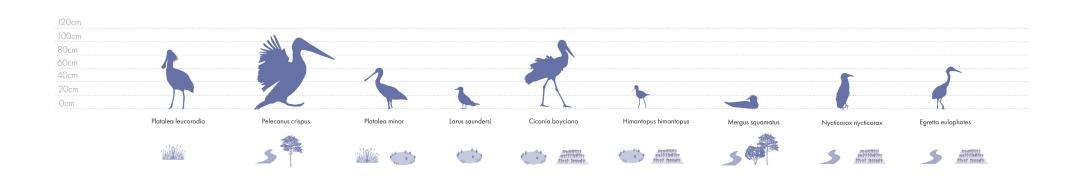
Pilot1 Double dike and floodplain

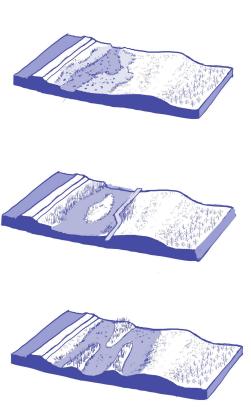




Pilot1 Double dike and floodplain

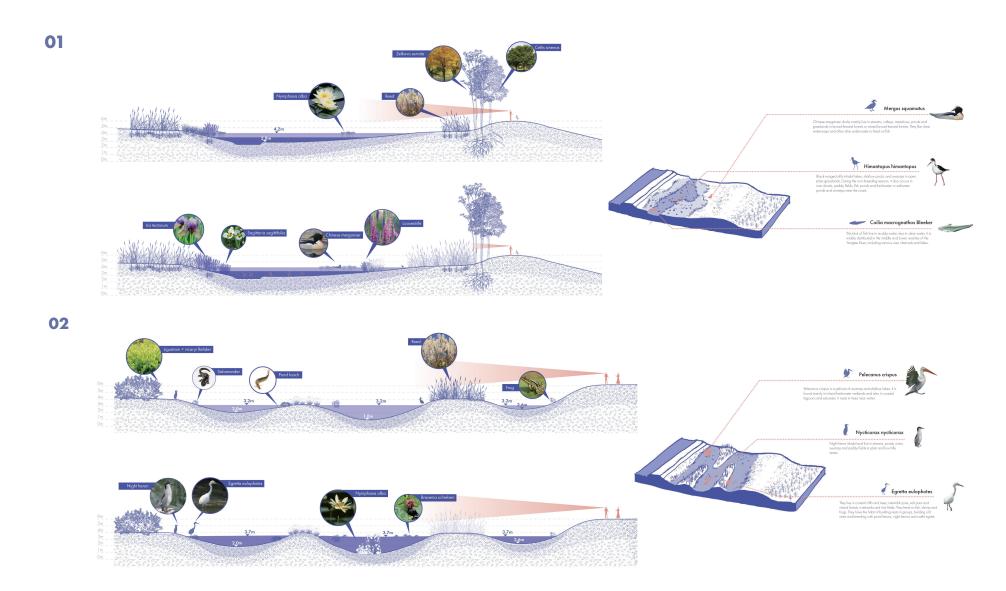




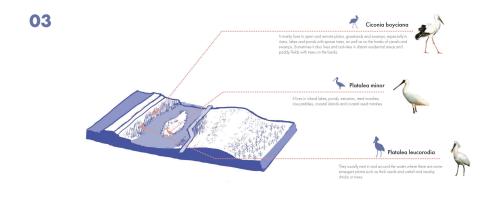


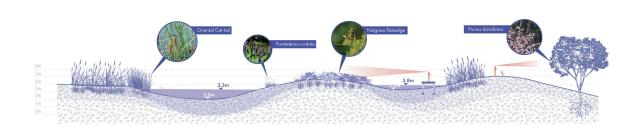
Pilot1 Double dike and floodplain

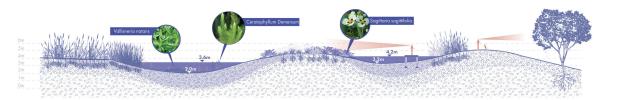
Natural succession in floodplain



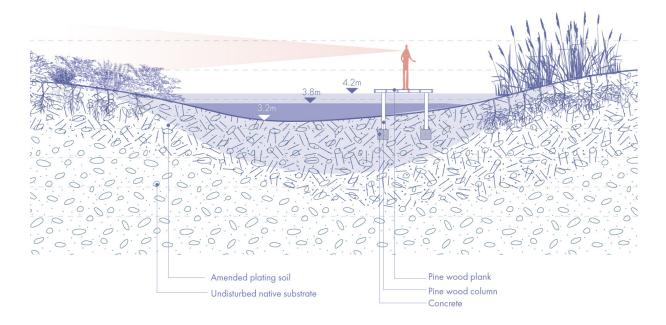
Pilot1 Double dike and floodplain







Accessible floodplain

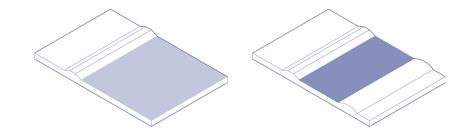






Conclusion

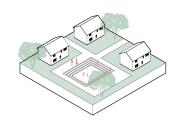
Restore resilient water network

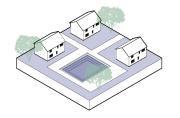


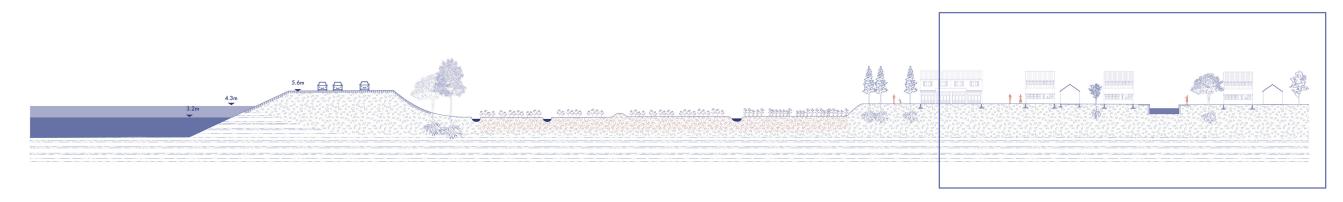
- -Double dike protect lake shoreline, ensuring the water safety;
- -Space between two dikes become **floodplain**, which not only enlarge water storage capacity, but also provide habitats for flora and fauna, enhancing the ecosystem;
- -Water fluctuation triggers the **natural succession** in the floodplain.



Pilot2 Neighborhood design







Existing condition--Impermeable surface and hard bank



Source: https://m.thepaper.cn/baijiahao_15285109



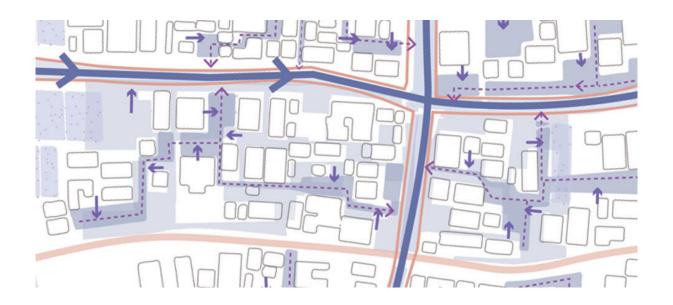
Source: https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1655243482328567847&wfr=spider&for=pc

Traditional wisdom-- courtyard water collection



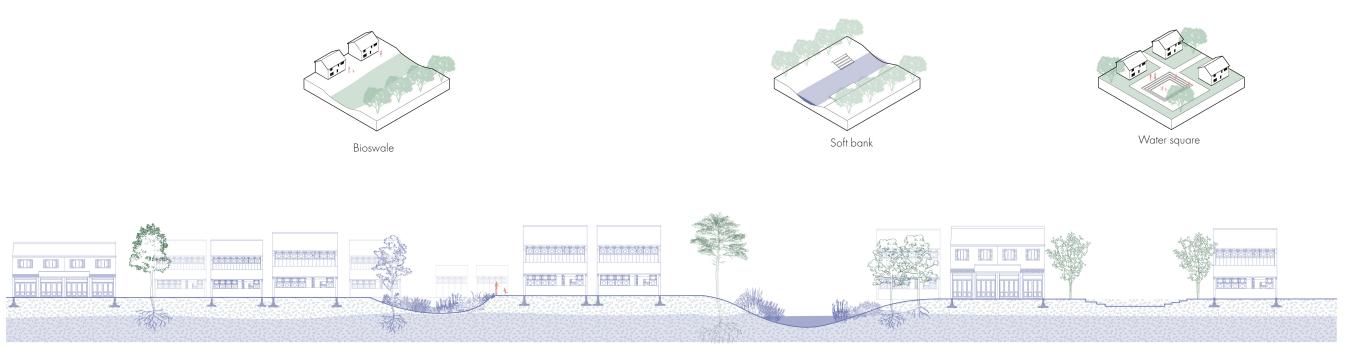
Source: Draw based on http://agzy.youth.cn/qsnag/zxbd/202106/t20210623_13043999.htm

Water management

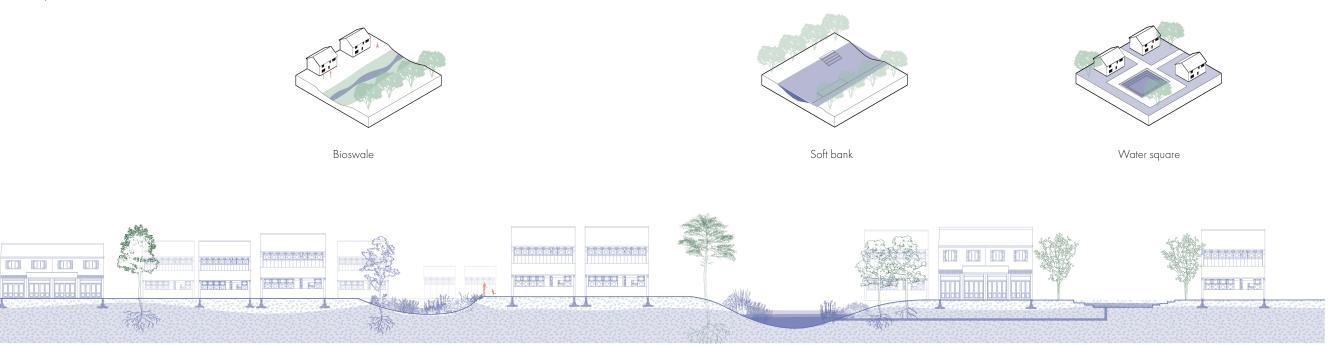




Dry season



Rainy season





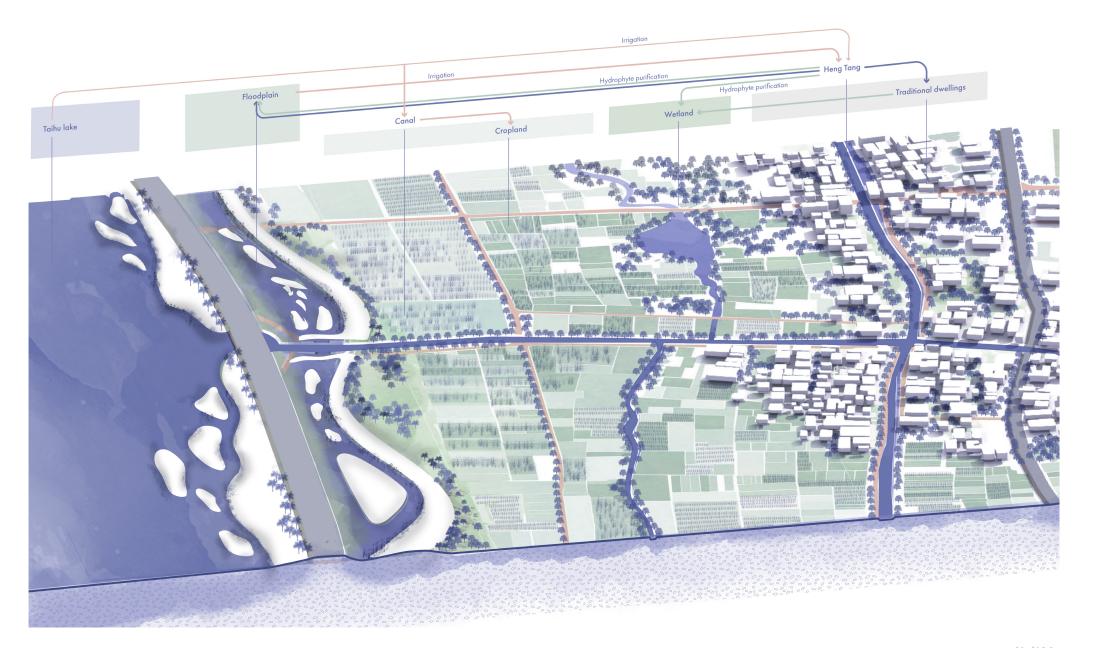
1/3 Sponge lakeshore line

Sponge lakeshore line plan



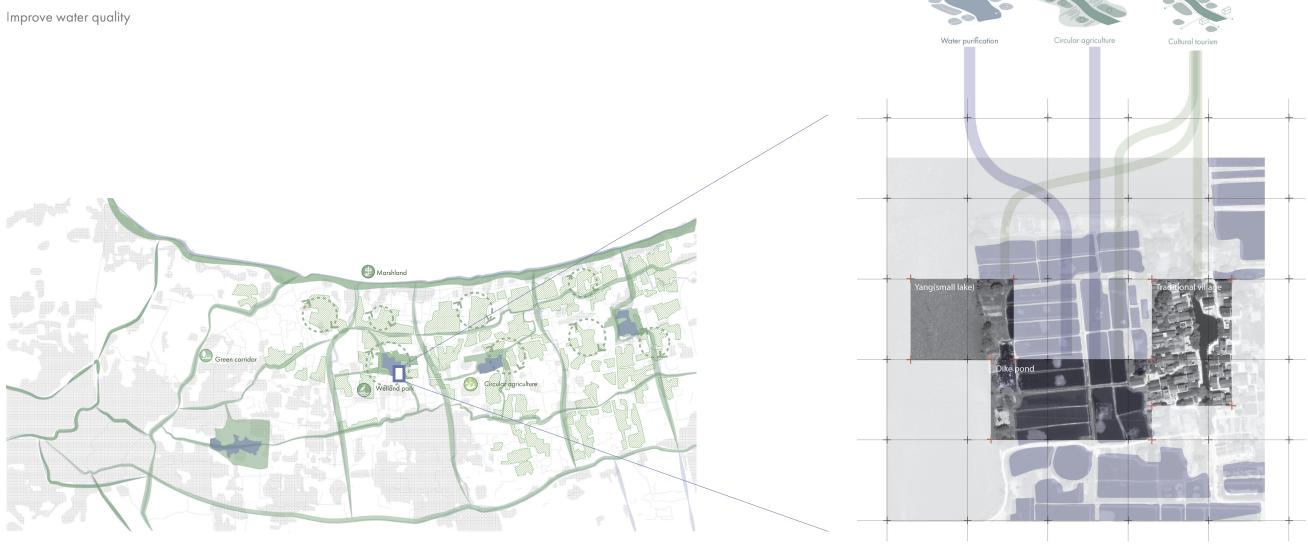
Sponge lakeshore line birdview

Sponge water network system increases the water resilience in the region as well as generates natural succession and benefits for the spatial quality.



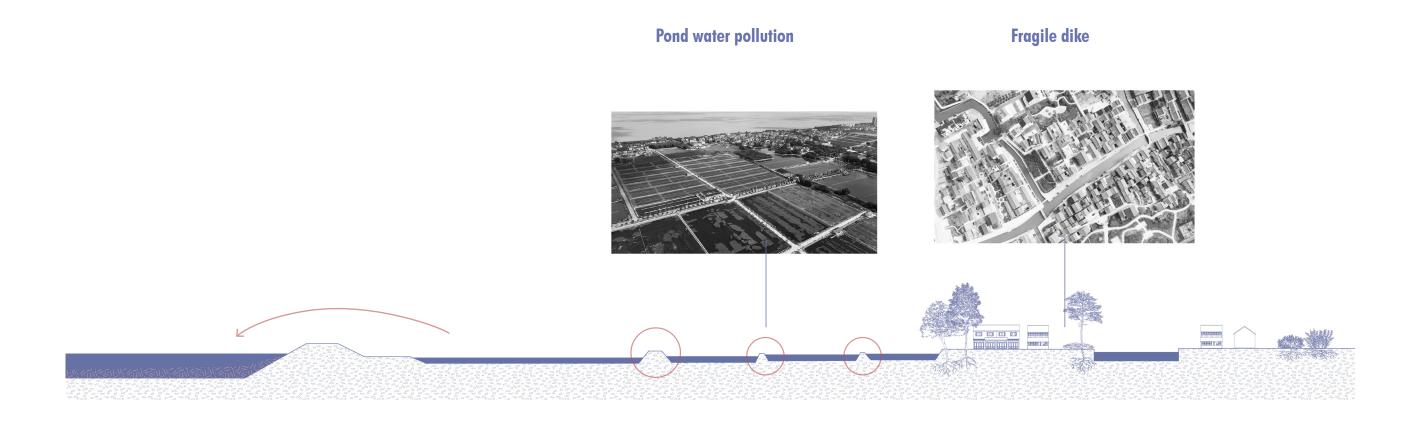
2/3 Sponge agri/aquaculture

+RESTORE resilient water system



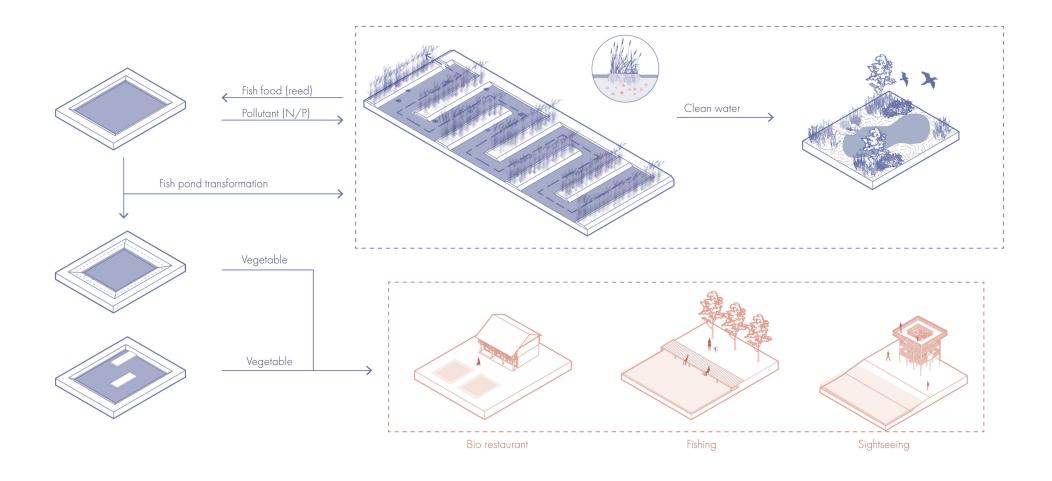
2/3 Sponge lakeshore line

Challenges



2/3 Sponge lakeshore line

New possibilites for dike pond

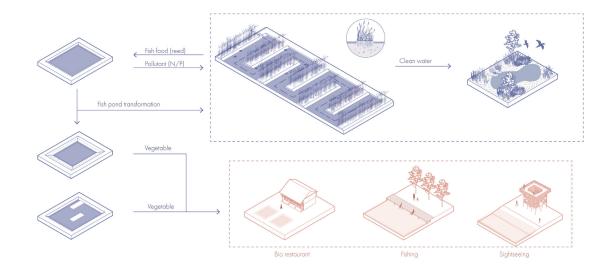




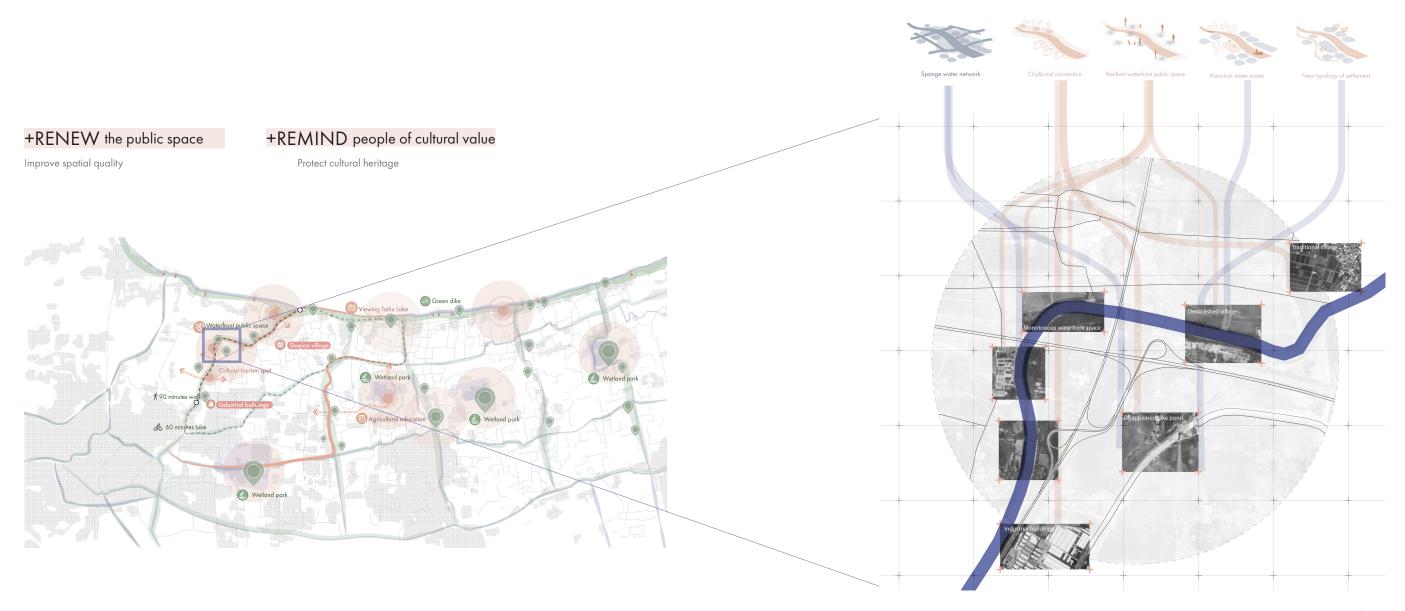


Conclusion

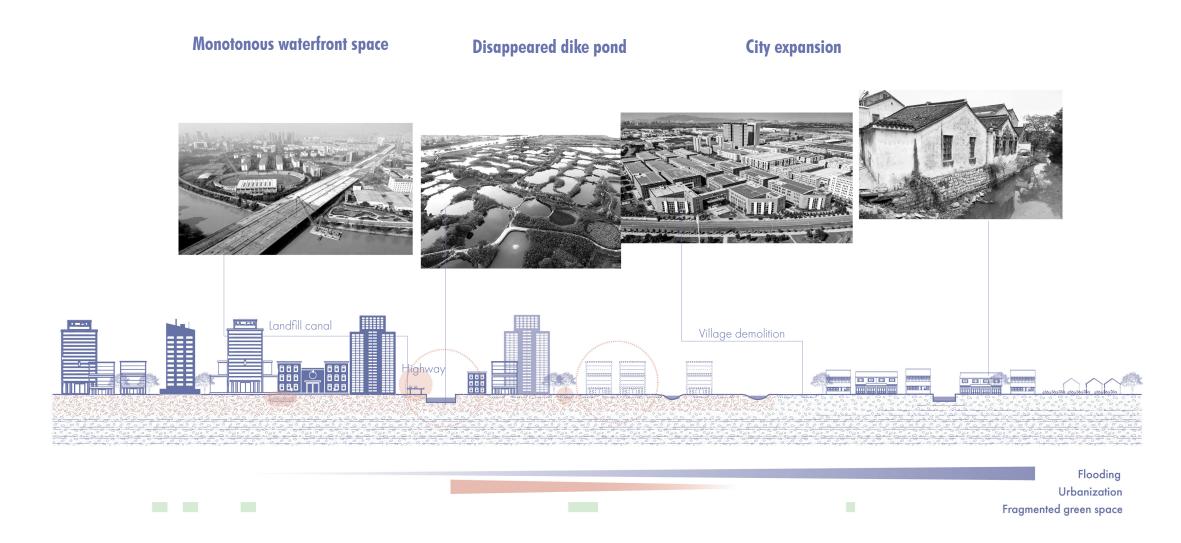
Restore resilient water network



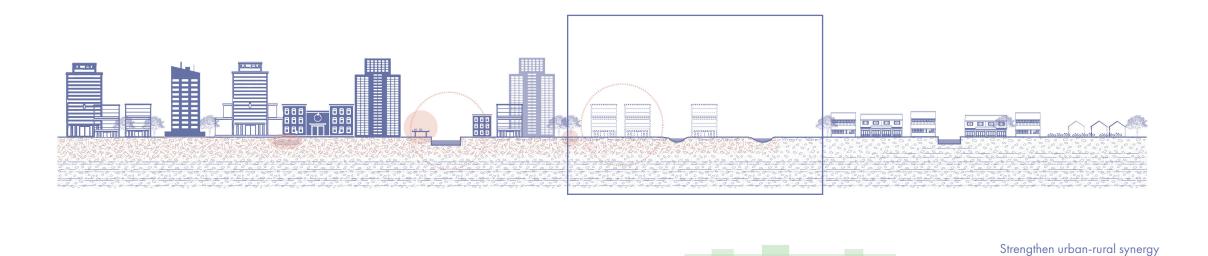
- -A new **sustainable and circular** way to reduce the pollutant from aquaculture, as well as to integrate with **educational and recreational functions.**
- -Transforming dike ponds to **adapt to modern ecological and economic development**, ensuring their viability in the current context.



Challenges



Potential



Blue-green buffer

Water management



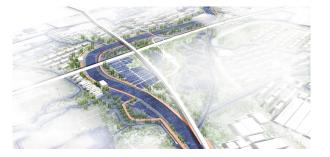
Sponge peri-urban birdview



Riverfront design

Natural

- -Resilient riverfront
- -Slow traffic combined with social activities



Pond space design

Cultural

-Dike pond space translation



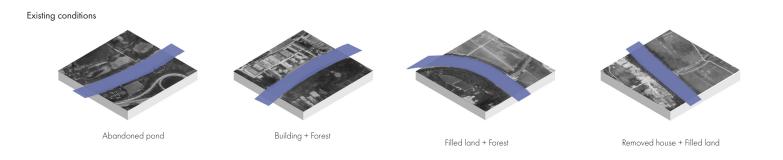
Water adaptive building

Social

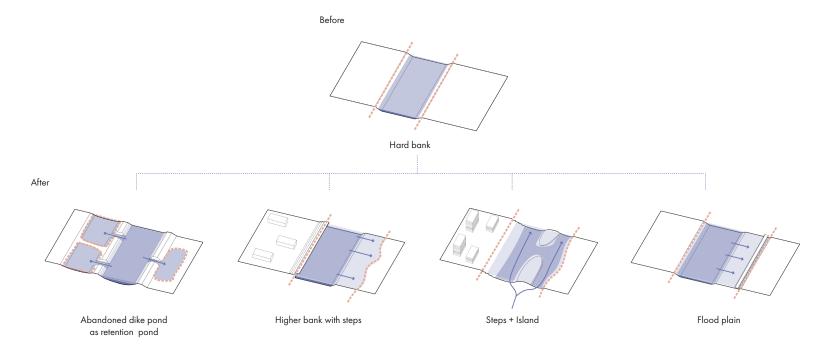
-Water adaptive building



01 Riverfront design







3/3 Sponge peri-urban 01 Existing Riverfront







02 Pond space design



2016



Source: Google map

2021



2025



- 3/3 Sponge peri-urban
- 02 Pond space design

Enclosed feeling of dike pond-- Introverted space



Source: http://www.ciae.com.cn/detail/zh/16186.html



03 Water adaptive building

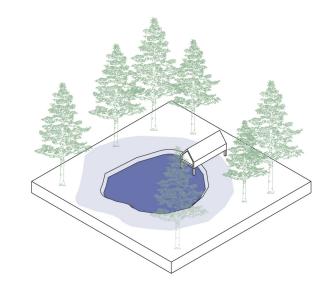




Gengzhi tu Source: Retrieved from website:https://www.shuge.org/ebook/geng-zhi-tu/

03 Water adaptive building

01 Commercial building
Waterfront open public space



02 Viewing building

Semi-open pond space



03 Residential building



3/3 Sponge peri-urban plan

Dry season



Normal season



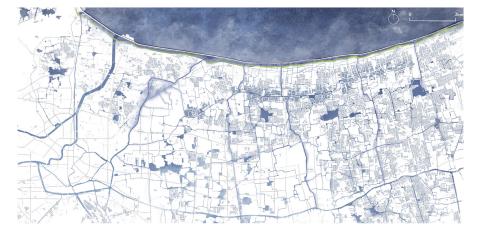
Rainy season



Figure 6.36 Phasing plan of Peri-urban

Strategic phasing

2023-2025



Sponge water network

- 1. Activate the silt watercourse and create a well-connected water network;
- 2. Secondary dike and floodplain, expanding more space for water;
- 3. Slow down the runoff from the south side;
- 4. Rebuild the close relationship between local people and water.

2025-2030



Green network

- 1. Utilize the sediment as nutrient-rich fertilizer for cultivating vegetables on the dike;
- 2. Transform some of the fish ponds into purification ponds for water treatment purposes;
- 3. Introduce the new dike pond to the public, converting it into a recreational area and combining it with the educational function.

2030-2035



Social conectivity

- 1. A variety of appealing recreational areas will be constructed;
- 2. Visitors will have access to leisurely tourism routes that combine slow traffic exploration and agricultural civilization experiences.

07 Conclusion&Reflection

- -Conclusion
- -Reflection



Understanding

What is the traditional polder system and how is the polder system connect to Taihu lake?

Principles

What are the design principles of polder landscape systems from the perspective of water, ecology, settlement, and agriculture systems?

Application

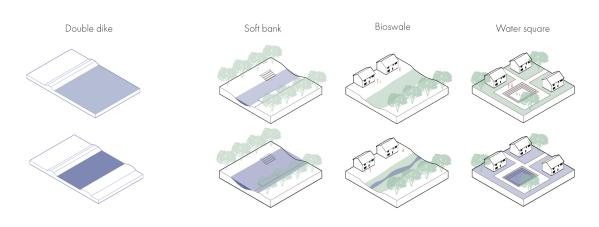
How to apply the design principles in Lougang polder in the Taihu lake basin?

Reflection

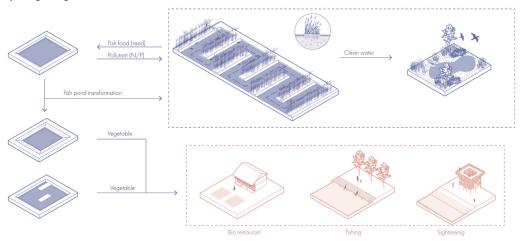
To what degree do the strategies and principles increase resilience in polder landscapes?

Resilience reflection

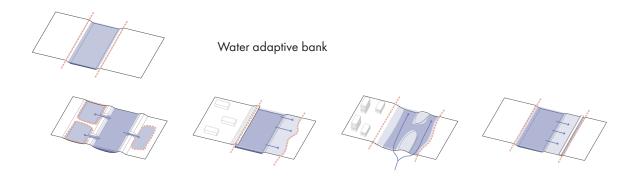
Sponge lakeshore line



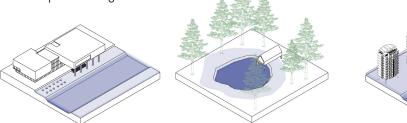
Sponge agriculture



Sponge peri-urban

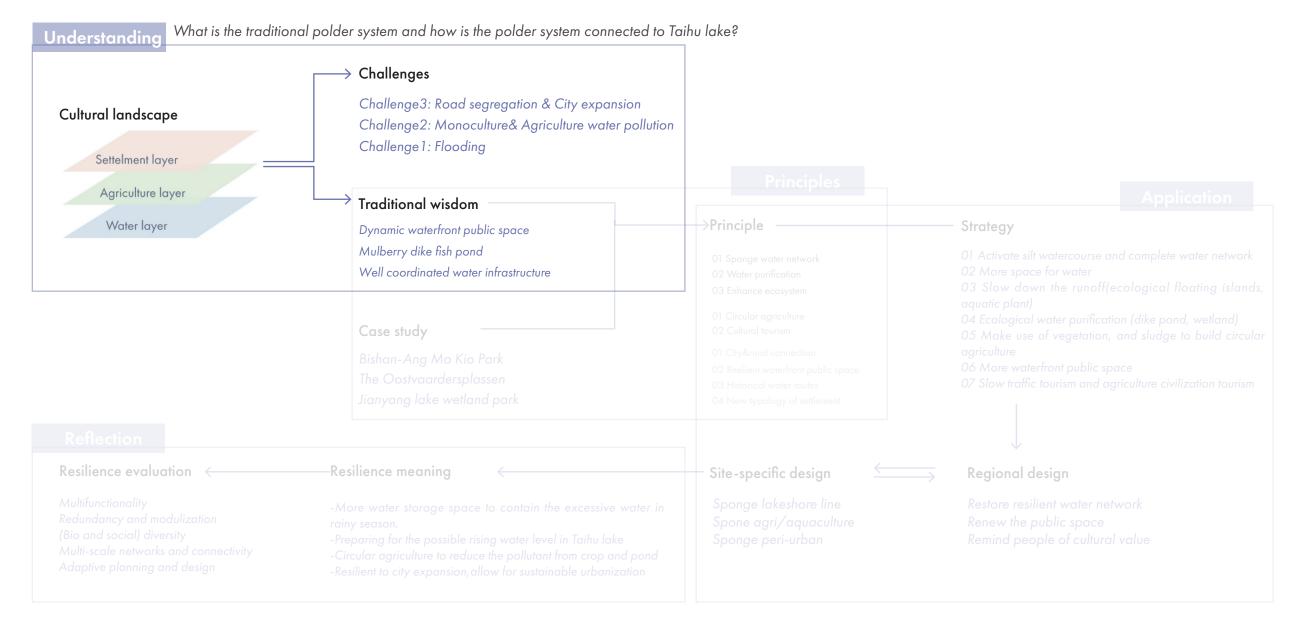


Water adaptive buildng



Research Objective

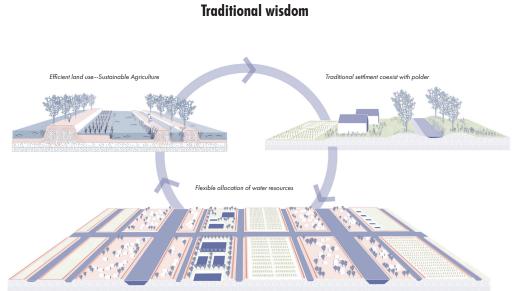
To identify design strategies and principles for water-resilient polder landscapes in the Taihu Lake basin while protecting cultural heritage through learning from history.

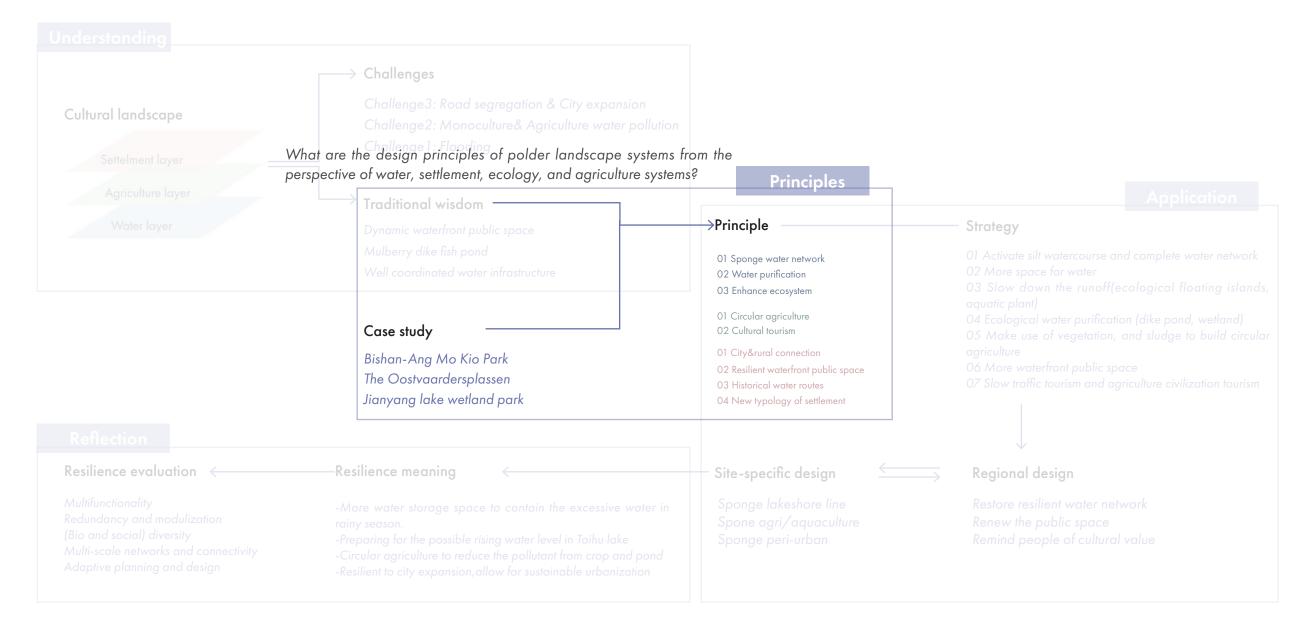


Understanding

What is the traditional polder system and how is the polder system connected to Taihu lake?

Three phases Settlement Agriculture Water Three layers Road segregation & City expansion Monoculture& Agriculture water pollution Flooding Three challenges

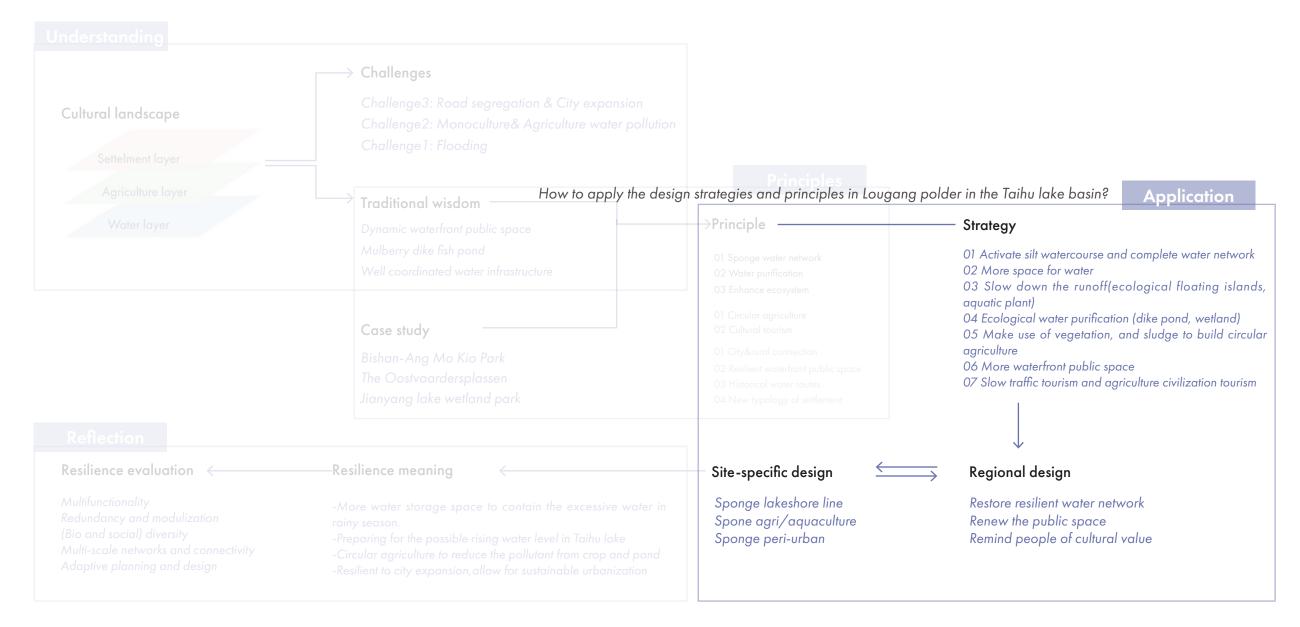




Principles

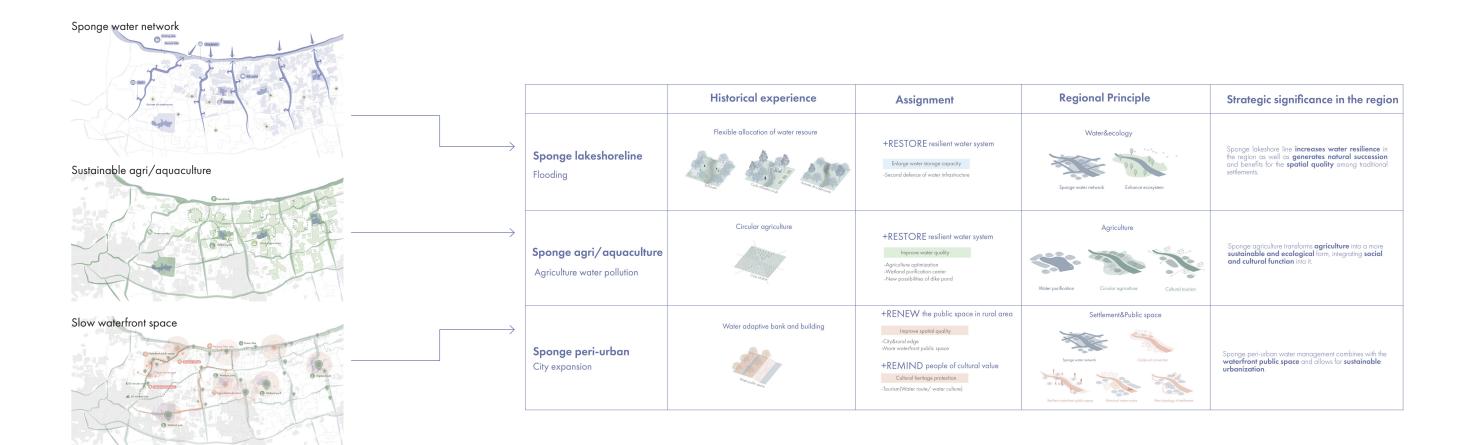
What are the design principles of polder landscape systems from the perspective of water, settlement, ecology, and agriculture systems?

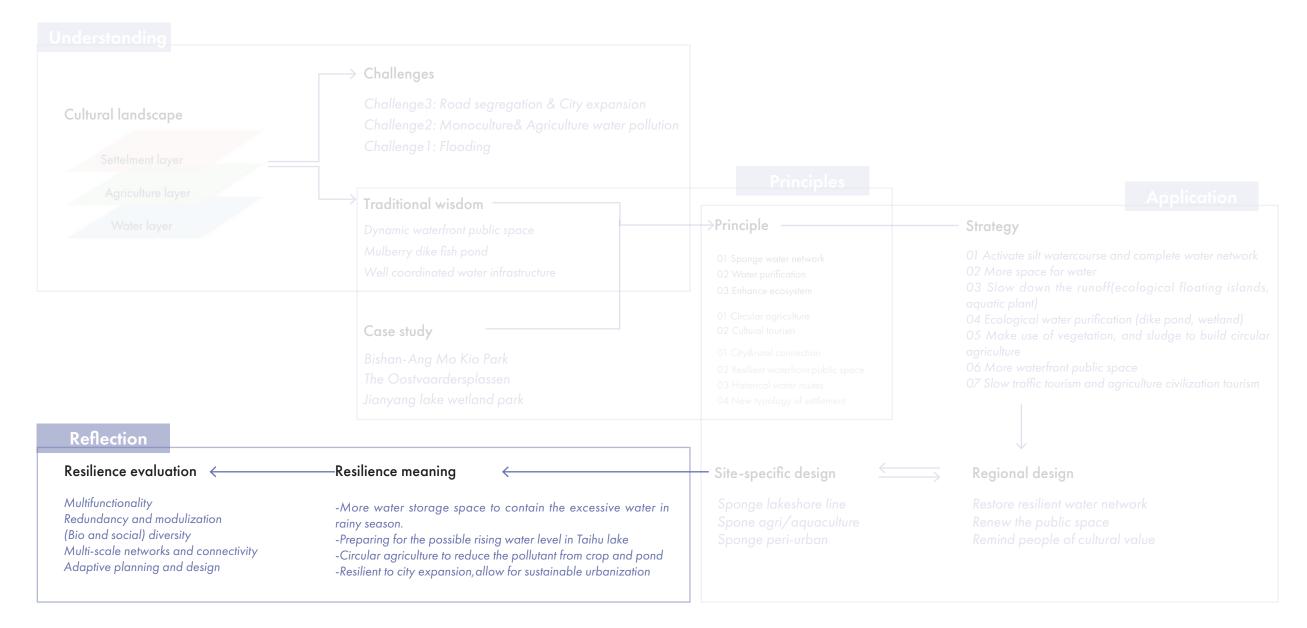
Case study Jianyang lake wetland park **Principle** Water&Ecology Settlement&Public space Traditional wisdom



Application

How to apply the design strategies and principles in Lougang polder in the Taihu lake basin?

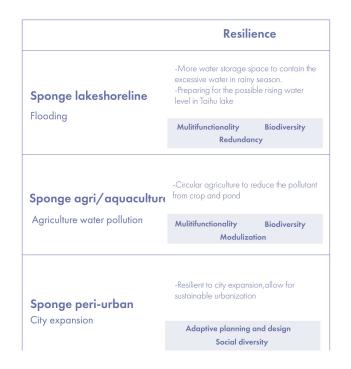


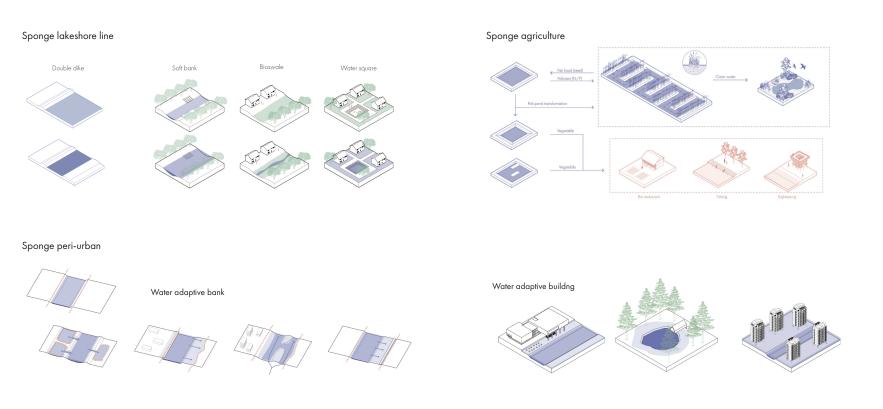


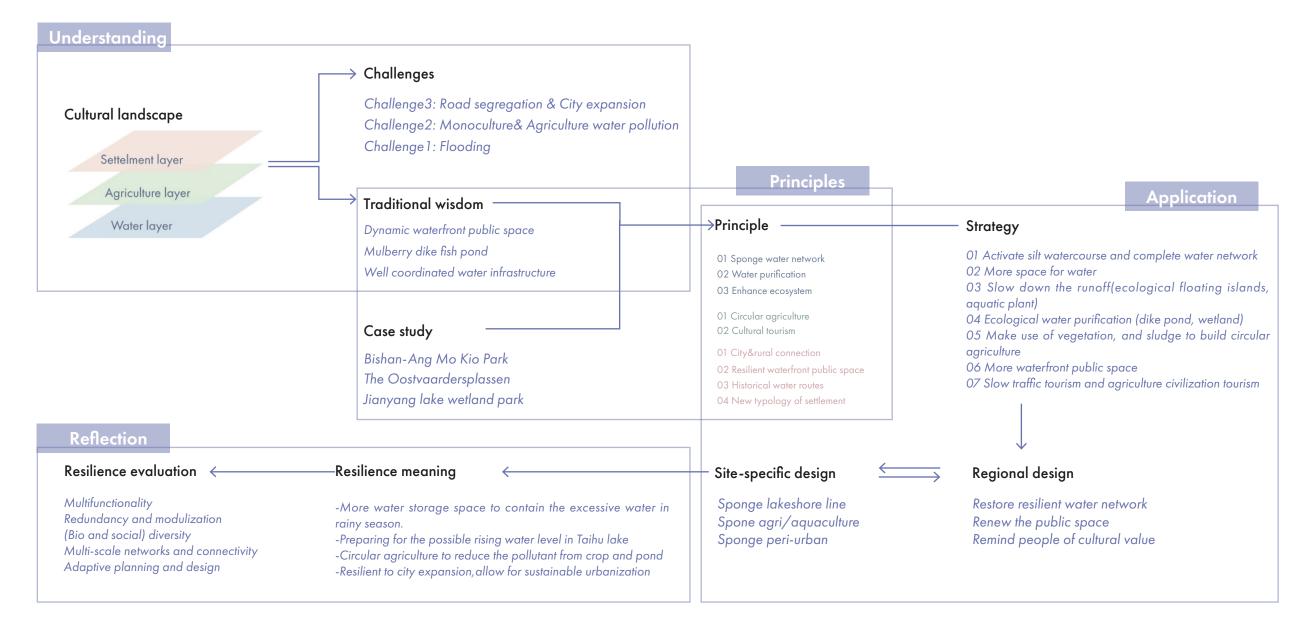
Reflection

To what degree do the strategies and principles increase resilience in polder landscapes?

- Mutifunctionality
- · Redundancy and modularization
- · (Bio and social) diversity
- · Multi-scale networks and connectivity
- · Adaptive planning and design







Lessons learned--Learn from local traditional wisdom

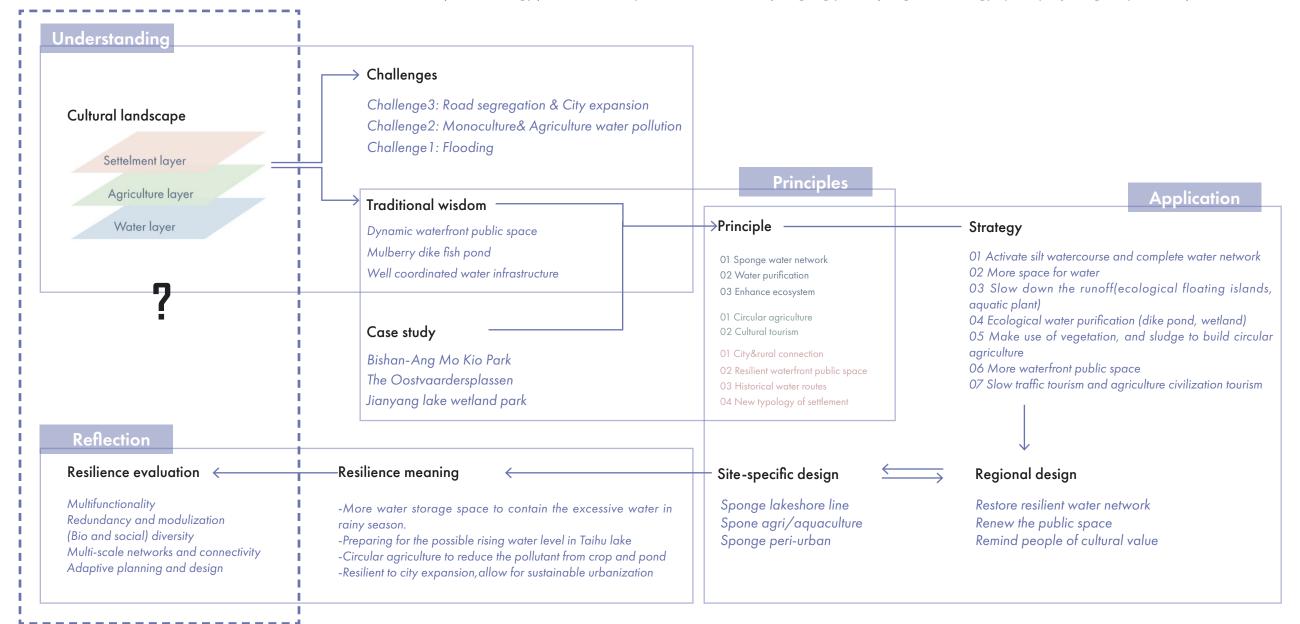
- -Respect the local culture and integrate it into the contemporary context with the demands of the present and the uncertainties of the future.
- -By employing these time-tested techniques, we could create a design that honors the past, accepts the present, and gets ready for difficulties in the future.











Introduction | Methodology | Polder landscape in Taihu lake basin | Lougang polder | Regional strategy&principle | Design exploration | Conclusion&reflection

Resilience thinking + Cultural landscape

How to integrate the resilience thinking into cultural landscape?

Resilience thinking + Cultural landscape

Water heritage



Architectural heritage

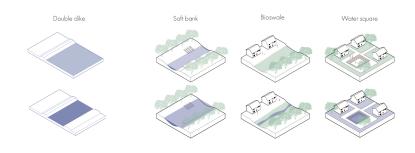




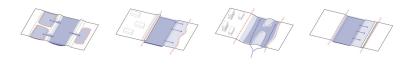




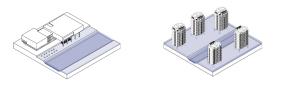
- Flexible allocation of water resources



-Water adaptivity



-Suitable for contemporary and future contexts



Resilience thinking + Cultural landscape

Agricultural heritage

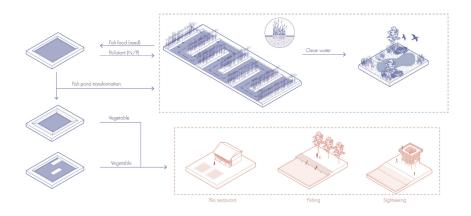




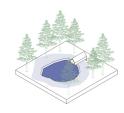




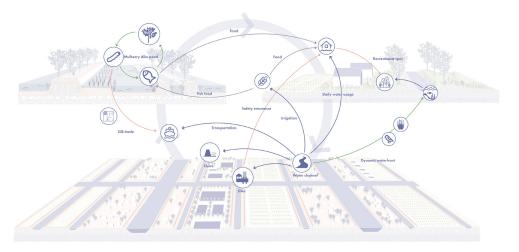
-Revitalizing the circularity wisdom

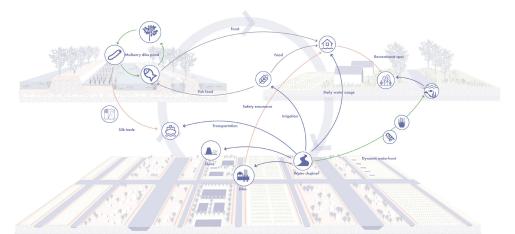


-Translating the dike pond space



Past





Now

