Reflection paper

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1. Research scope and future research
This graduation project is aimed at discussing the future development direction and strategy of Chinese idle rural land, especially idle homestead land, under the new political and social background. In the introduction section, writer introduces the definition and problems of current Chinese rural land, the rural leisure industry application in China, and proposes to combine this two scopes together, which means to address: What is the 'long stay rural leisure industry'. In the next, Based on stakeholder theory, writer tries to prove that 'long stay rural leisure industry' is a rational and feasible development mode, to answer the question: From the perspective of governance, why we should apply it. Follow on that, the methodology chapter discuss the methodology to implement and operate it, which based on the 6 pillars and their relationships building. Then, in the strategy section, 'How to deal with it' question is answered. The pilot project chapter is the design visualization outcome of the whole project. The future research should base on the central theme of 'long stay rural leisure' development mode, discuss its values, operation, application, management, and promotion, not only from the spatial planning scope, but also from social, political, natural, and economic points of view, to reflect it in other area with similar backgrounds.

2. Relevance
Scientific relevance
When the Chinese rural land adjustment policy was published in 2018, both rural and urban people were under big influence, and they eager to know the corresponding strategy. This policy change also overturned the perceptive that rural homestead land cannot be operated by enterprise, nor used by urbanites. However, the development direction and management mode is a big question, and research on this topic is lagging and lacking. Besides, current scholar debates on the rural leisure topic is limited in profit oriented construction land, which is not suitable for homestead and relating rural collective land. Although some basic ideas are transferrable, the methodology needs to be redefined. Derive from the Dutch layers approach, this project offers a nature-rural-urban integration scope, hope to enrich the catalogue of future rural leisure industry, and Dutch layers approach in Chinese rural new era context.
Societal relevance
This research is not only focused on the market economic profit by Chinese rural land reform, but also focus on the harmony and integration of rural and urban development, and more importantly, focus on the current farmers without money or knowledge but only land resources, hoping to give them equal rights with urbanites. The rural problem in china is a wicked problem, the chain reaction can be unpredictable, thus paying more attention to the social effect is essential. In addition, 'long stay rural leisure' development mode is different from normal rural leisure development, it relies on the effort of multi factors. It is not only the duty of enterprises and government, but also the participation of farmers, rural collective and tenants. This project tries to build an inclusive, affordable, social friendly long stay rural leisure environment for people involved, to avoid the emergence of ‘tragedy of ant common’.

3. Research group & project
This graduation project is carried out in 'Transforming Chinese cities', complex cities studio. The 'Transforming Chinese cities' group considers that 'Chinese cities are experiencing a paradigm shift on urban development, focusing more and more on regeneration of existing built-up areas than construction of new towns/districts... It brings opportunities to improve livability and urban vitality, making better places for people living and working inside cities'. This sentence seems to focus on the Chinese cities value, actually, it also refers to rural area under urbanization process. Peri-urban area was so called rural area in the past, but currently, it is strongly influenced by urban construction building and policy control. Urban
and rural area is a system, which cannot be treated separately. The motivation of my project is that, migrant farmers leave their rural house and rural land, to seek for working and living opportunities in urban area, which lead to much idle rural houses and land. The regeneration of this abandoned, undefined, idle rural resource is quite urgent and important. We can also call it 'existing built-up areas', but in rural context. How to vitalize this land? How to improve farmers and urbanites life quality at the same time? These questions fit and even extend the idea of 'improving livability and urban vitality'. The central theme of my graduation project is 'long stay rural leisure' construction, which is actually the hybridization of urban, rural and natural system. By research on this topic, I can be able to 1. clearly explain the transformation processes of the chosen city-region from a self-defined perspective, address both social and physical dimensions of these processes, and relate them to issues of livability; 2. map the social and spatial transformation processes in cities with effective analytical tools and correlated narratives; 3. Envision desirable and possible futures for the transforming Chinese cities; 4. Reflect on the on-going urban planning and design practices in China from the self-defined perspective, which are the main learning goals of 'Transforming Chinese cities' research group.

4. Perspective of Research

Chinese rural area is a multi-level, multi-factor, comprehensive system. The development of idle homestead land and 'long stay rural leisure' construction involves various stakeholders' perspectives, which can be structured from the external driving force (including government policy, enterprises, consumers etc.) and the endogenous power (including rural collective, farmers). Their demands and power-interests are analyzed in detailed in theory paper. Simply saying, rural farmers and rural collectives stand for the land ownership perspective; government and enterprise stand for the land management perspective; urban consumers stand for the land using right perspective. These three perspectives are correspond to the 'separation rights of rural collective land' policy regulation.

5. Limitation

Firstly, the whole project is based on the current policy backgrounds. However the Chinese rural land policy keeps changing, which may leads to completely different development mode in reality.

Secondly, the long stay rural leisure development mode is not a popular widespread development mode for Chinese rural land at present. It is just a personal hypothesis by writer herself. The emerge of 'shared farm' and relative literature have not been fully developed, and still need time to test its rationality. In addition, Chinese rural problems are wicked problem, it is impossible to completely solve the rural urban problems only by development mode building. The long stay rural leisure development is only a small part of general rural leisure development, its influence and transferability is limited.

Thirdly, this project introduced the Dutch layers approach, and modify it from 'substratum-networks-occupation' model to 'nature-rural-urban' model. However, the Dutch layers approach is probably not necessary or feasible to promote in Chinese rural context, because of the different social, political and economic backgrounds.

Last but not least, from the perspective of spatial planning and design, this project only selects 6 pillars from urban, rural and nature system subjectively.

6. Process & Progress
During this one year graduation project, I really learn a lot from my mentors: Lei and Steffen. Lei is experienced in strategic oriented planning, integral thinking and Steffen is good at logistic integral thinking. I really appreciate their help and encouragement. Here, I want to tease out the working process.

In P1, I originally hoped to use ArcGIS model to conduct the rural land construction suitability evaluation. Since I was always interested in Chinese homestead topic and ArcGIS methods. Naturally, I wanted to apply ArcGIS to solve homestead development problem. However, during P2, we found that the strategy should not only stay in the evaluation phase, most importantly, the evaluation should guide the following practice, and the pure quantities analysis is lacking argument. Besides, according to the field trip in Bagua island, the statistic information is not strong enough for the overall evaluation from nature, urban and rural aspects. Thus, I gradually abandoned the ArcGIS evaluation methods, instead, switched to the strategic oriented 'analysis-principle-vision-strategy-design' path. However, some other problems appeared. After P3, I was confused and feel anxious about the actual main line of my project. Looking beyond the commercial development mode is difficult for me, which reflected on that I only focused on the homestead itself all the time, because it is the core construction land. Lei kept reminding me that, for long stay rural leisure development, other aspects(natural, cultural, social, urban aspects etc.) are equally important, and have strong relations with homestead, and Steffen inspired me to use pillars to enrich my argument and proposal. Luckily, I think i finally found a clear methodology to guide my whole story, and steered to the right direction.

I am happy and proud to say that now I can understand the Chinese rural land adjustment clearly, and contribute to dealing with idle homestead land by rural leisure industry. This one-year graduation project experience really inspires me and not only gives me relative planning and design knowledge, but more importantly, gives me learning method and improve my self-learning ability that I will benefit forever.