Bridging the Fast and the Slow

the urban multifunction interface as place for experience of social interaction and inward reflection

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Landscape Architecture
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Mentours:
Saskia de Wit
Maurice Harteveld
Fancination

Ten acres built with scattered houses square,
Beside the thatched huts eight or nine in all;
There elms and willows shade the hindmost eaves,
With peach and pear trees spread before the hall.
A distant village gleams beneath the sun,
While smoke from nearby huts hangs in the breeze;
A dog is barking in the allay deep,
A cock crows from the clump of mulberry trees.
Within my courtyard all is clear of dust
Where tranquil in my leisure I remain;
Long have I been imprisoned in a cage,
Now back to Nature I return again.
Plan of The Master-of-nets Garden

Views of a garden through windows

Looking outside
Development of the City
Problematic

With a large population, expanding cities can merely provide enough for efficiency and economy. Emphasizing efficiency and efficiency alone, space for slow living, for space-driven and visual-driven activities, are occupied and ignored. As a result, mental stress rises and indifference among people thrives.
Research Objective

Explore the interfaces between functionally different spaces, to allow for informal activities that enable multifunction and bridge the slow and fast life.

Sub-questions
1. How can the urban spatial structure be rearranged, using both horizontal and vertical levels, in such a way that it encourages social interaction, and unexpected encounter?
2. How can contemplation and restoration play a role in that system?
3. How can interfaces bridge these different activities, encouraging one to try out the other life?
4. What is the role of material and vegetation in the role of encouraging informal claim of space and activities?
Methodology
Site —— Chengdu
Abundant Resources

Taoism: Go with the flow

Late Urbanization

-256 Management of Rivers

142 Establishment of Tao

1644-1664 War Famine Plague Beast

1877 First Modern Arsenal and machinery factory
Site - Wenshuyuan Neighborhood

- Water System
- Zen temple and its garden
- Redesigned Commercial Zone
- Old buildings
- High-rise buildings
Conflict: Space VS. Activities
Concept Schiem

space & view & behavior

Contemplation
Social
Behavior
View
Space
Accessible Space
out of daily life
people
More Space ——
Less Car Path and Parking
More Space ——
High Rise Building
Behavior ——
Connectivity & Walkability
Shop Owner

Meet/Look after shops

Extension of shops
Make a Living on the Street:
Peddler, Berger, E-bike drive, Fountain teller

Food/Groceries - On the Go

Begger - Monastery

E-bike Driver - Subway

Clothing - Mall

Religious - Monastery

Clothing - Mall
Visitors

Program-Driven

Informal
Activities

Regular Market

Work Place

Stage for Performances

Alter

Ceremony

Everyday: Meet & Chat, Game, Doctor

Temple Front

Gate

Street

Bridge

Squares

Community Space
Formal Program

shops
temples
hotels
business buildings
residential buildings
parking lots
enclosed communities
public space
Informal Program

- Restoration/Contemplation - Indoor
- Restoration/Contemplation - Outdoor
- Social - Outdoor
Behavior Sequence
Current View
View

To See People

To See Scenery

Scenery

People
Concept Schema
space & view & behavior

Contemplation  Social

Behavior

View  Space

out of daily life  people

human scale  staying place
Street & Square not used
Street & Square in use

4m

shop/stay walking shop

3m

- 36 -
Entrance Square
Behavior & Space
Gallery Square + Hií Square
Temple Square + Reflection Square
Resident Square
Street
Program
Street Widened
Street without Cars
Conclusion

space & view & behavior

- Contemplation
- Social

Behavior

- out of daily life
- people

View

Space

human scale
staying place
Contemplation

Social