

REFLECTION

Yuan Yuan | 5297230
Delft University of Technology
M.Sc. Landscape Architecture

01 research method and approach in relation to the graduation studio

As a member of the Circular Water Stories lab, first, draw on the site's traditional water knowledge from history. And excavate the advantages and cultural values of traditional water systems. For example, in my project, I chose to study the traditional water system of the Honghe Hani Terraces, to explore the current conditions of this 1300-year-old irrigation system. The second step is to extract the problems and potentials faced by the design site through more detailed information collection and research in different scales from nature and culture aspects. For example, my site is facing the problem of drought, the disappearance of culture and chaotic tourism. At the same time, specific research questions are raised. The third step is to study related theories and form a theoretical framework that can be used for site design. In the fourth step, the theory is applied to the specific site design to address the research questions raised earlier.

02 the relationship between research and design

The research of this project includes three aspects, the first aspect is the study of the traditional water system of the Honghe Hani terraces; the second aspect is how to make the cultural heritage landscape dynamic; the third aspect is to seek the balance between tourism development and heritage protection. Correspondingly, the author also constructs the theoretical framework of the project from three aspects: water management, cultural landscape and landscape narrative. Through the exploration of these three theories, the relationship between the three research topics is constructed. Then, in the design process, the research method is applied to the site of different scales, and different conclusions are obtained. The conclusions obtained from the research part need to be used to guide the design. At the same time, it is necessary to continuously give feedback, reflect and revise the research part. In the process, the project's logical framework is made more coherent.

03 the relationship between circular water lab and landscape architecture

My graduation topic is to create a sustainable Yuanyang terraced ecosystem in terms of ecology, culture, and economy. The traditional Yuanyang terraced ecosystem is composed of forests, villages, terraces, and rivers. Therefore, water plays a vital role in the entire ecosystem, which is highly related to the studio topic: Circular Water Stories. The CWS lab focuses on the water stories, encouraging us to explore possibilities behind the main project topic and to provide a set of methods to design for the water issue. Under the guidance of the studio topic, I learn about the stories behind the traditional water system and learn how the Hani people in the past managed water, used water, symbiosis with water, and so on. In this way, it helps me to understand the role of water in the production, life, entertainment, and cultural beliefs of the Hani rice terraced fields, which is the first step of my landscape architecture design.

04 the transferability of the project results

This project attempts to use the Azheke Village in Yuanyang Hani terraces as a case to explore the interactive strategies of tourism and traditional ecological culture and to further think about the symbiosis approach of tourism and traditional ecological culture. On a small scale, the theme of developing eco-cultural tourism can be applied to the other 81 villages in Yuanyang Rice Terraces. From a broad perspective, facing the increasingly popular rural tourism in China today, it is necessary to emphasize the development of scenic spots with the theme of protecting the environment and promoting local culture before the rural ecology is destroyed. How to find a balance between tourism development and cultural protection is an important issue for Chinese rural landscape design.

05 the limitation of the project

I have to say that during the whole design process, the part of collecting and researching the site was relatively difficult. The design site is located in China, Yunnan Province, Honghe Prefecture, Yuanyang County, a village located in a mountainous area. Therefore, it is relatively difficult to obtain accurate elevation data and satellite images. Secondly, due to the epidemic, it was hard to return to China, so I did not have site research. It's difficult for me to directly feel the environment and atmosphere of the site and set up an emotional connection with it. In order to solve some doubts and problems, I had to collect more information on the Internet and seek answers from relevant papers. Although I contacted some locals through social media, it cannot be denied that the limited sample size can lead to one-sided conclusions. Therefore, inevitable errors may occur in some parts of the project, which may lead to the lack of applicability of the landscape design.