Space and Place in Urban Design

Revitalize possible social values in the context of Shanghai transportation hub

18 May
01 Introduction
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**Urban Planning**

*Images & Motivation*

*Introduction*
a) diverse function zones to attract different kinds of people?

b) low traffic as the spatial connectivity?

c) relationship between built environment & people’s quality of life?

“Reality” of Railway Station

a) strong purpose oriented urban space

b) test if strategies or theories of western country could be implemented in Chinese context
Shanghai is located at the East of China with about 24 million people. Shanghai main railway station links the city to the other surroundings urban area, roughly an hour train ride. With the development of rail transit system in the Yangtze Delta area, this railway station becomes the important articulation of transportation system.
a) The fixed and degraded urban structure  
Due to amounts of old buildings and outdated environment, Zhabei district could not attract investors anymore.

b) Backward function and environment of transportation hub  
With the rising of commercial demands, people are seeking for higher qualities of living condition. Following other economic centers’ development, transportation hub with few functional aspects in Zhabei district is neglected by people.

c) Geography restricts urban integrity  
It is obvious that railyards isolate urban topography; north and south area are separated by railway. From the perspective of geography, it cuts off the connection of two districts. Some strategies need to be implemented to improve urban fragment.
Due to the **geography and socio-economic restrict**, development of the Shanghai main railway station is stagnated. Suzhou River and railyards create negative effects on spatial connectivity. The large number of people and heavy flows of vehicles with huge billboard make the area chaotic. The direct consequence for this situation is **deteriorating and degrading social and economic activities**. In the large scale environment, urban integrity is being challenged. The alternative strategy concerning public quality is necessary to maintain **social vitality**.

- Lack of Public Facility?
- People’s Flow?
- Urban Fragment?
- Functional Diversity?
- People’s Perception?
“The square is dirty, disorderly and bad”.

“It is difficult for people, especially for strangers, to find their way at the square of Shanghai transportation hub”.

“The space on the square is not used very efficiently, some space is quite crowded, even exceed capacity, but some space is comparative less used.”

The project is to transfer low quality urban space to vital public place, which vibrates and diversifies social values and promotes spatial connectivity.
what is the definition of space and place in urban design?

How to create places which derive from the human approach of socio-spatial intervention, in order to improve public quality and the integration of urban fragments and networks in Shanghai transportation hub.

How local public quality looks like?

How to contribute for urban integrity?

what kinds of social spatial intervention?
02 Theory & Toolbox
Theoretical Framework

- Space & Place
  - City Scale
  - Place Scale
- Urban Approach
- Human Approach
  - Human Scale
    - Imageability
    - Enclosure
    - Human Scale
    - Transparency
    - Complexity
- Spatial Quality
- Understanding Urban Network

"Place"
Can we design a Place?
Linking to the fields of interests of architects and urban designers

The term ‘place’, by definition, extend the focus of attention beyond geographic space to the experience people have of being in particular landscape environment. The primary function of ‘place’ in urban design is to generate a sense of belonging and identity.

Place — Space + Human Experience

"Sense of Place"
03 Strategy & General Design
Urban Scale (Shanghai’s City Structure)
Design Concept

Strategy
1. Reorganize and distribute function zone via people’s walking lines.
   (Social, Economic and Green)

   a). Social Line
      - Transfer and reconstruct the old industrial buildings to activate and revitalize social values in this district. It also could express Shanghai’s special character.
      - Improve spatial nature of riverside to connect the M50 art village, increase spatial connectivity.
      - Implement the concept of “Static & Dynamic” to redesign the south and north front square (South square would be the main object).

   b). Economic Line
      - Build commercial corridor (ground-floor design) to serve passengers and locals.

   c. Green
      - Use landscape “bridge” to connect the space isolated by rails.
      (South Square, North Square, long-distance bus terminal)
2. Low-speed network is used as spatial connection.

Low speed network becomes the significant factor for connecting different places. “Low Speed” or “Slow Traffic” does not mean vehicle free, it contributes for using designs to achieve pedestrian priority.
3. Emphasize the relationship between the built environment and people’s quality of life in small scale design.

The human orientated design could be a street plan, even the street furniture design. Where is the space for vehicle, pedestrian and sitting area in one street?How to increase the city life via urban intervention?
Landscape

Riverfront Rebuild & New Green Bridge forms the city landscape.

Space Hierarchy

Train Station is the main function with other different supporting programs.

Visual Stimulation

Pleasant waterfront design and green bridge as new landmark could increase visual stimulation.

Theory to Design
General Design
Creating more public realm could promote place-making.

In small scale, large space is divided into small blocks for better planning.

Well permeability of building blocks could increase possibilities for having social activities.
Traditional building material and new culture promenade express the special Shanghai’s character.

The purpose of the design is to increase the relationship between people’s quality of life and built environment, especially in the small scale.

Low-speed network is built to connect all relating design components.

Water Front Culture Promenade

Stone Brick
04 Detailed Design
A) Riverfront Design
a) Building Reconstruction

- Reuse Extra Space
- Increase Relationship Between Building and Outdoor Space

Old Industry Building

Office
Office
Office
Infrastructure

Office
Office
Office

Exterior
Interior
b) The gateway to Shanghai’s Culture (Pedestrian Tunnel)
c) Commercial Building Combination

d) Glass Passageway
“Gateway to Shanghai’s Culture”

Pedestrian Tunnel

“Commercial Street”

Building Reconstruction

Street Furniture

Soft Edge

Landscape Image

Riverfront Design
"Collective Space & Passageway"

Building Reconstruction

"Collective Space & Exhibition Hall"

Building Reconstruction

Riverfront Design
B) Urban Bridge Design
B) Urban Bridge Design

Moreelse Bridge
“Clear Circulation”

Street Bridge
“Urban Facility”
C) Front Square of Railway Station Design
Now

People

Bus

General Vehicles

After

People

Bus

General Vehicles

Design Illustration

Front Square Design
Box Art

a) The “box” works as the flexible and adjustable public facility to increase spatial vitality.
b) Multicolored boxes and pleasant landscape form images in people’s mind.
c) Boxes and other urban furniture with different materials make the place recognizable.
d) Boxes with different sizes fit Chinese context: people would like to play and stay in a small group in small space.
"Interior public with facility as the facade of railway station"
Front Square

"Boxes on the Square"
Front Square

Images & Sketches
Front Square Design
“Tree array & New facade of railway station”

Front Square

“A nice place for people to stay”

Sunken Plaza