**A personal journey**

This project - ‘The Management of Change--Strategic Regeneration Design for Historic Urban Quarters in Guangzhou’ - has been, above all, a personal journey.

As the main concept, management, indicates, this project gathers all my obsessions and interests with urbanism, as well as with this society. To me this is about how to position ourselves in a changing context, and manage it. In this case, I tried to discuss the conflicts between individuals and collective, between layman and professionals, also between myself, as a designer, and the practical world. Different positions, changing perceptions without consensus, limited capability accompanied with anxiety, all these created this mindset aiming at managing the relation between oneself and the wild world. This project is therefore a brave attempt and experiment, in order to find the confidence of ourselves and act as responsible contributors.

Motivated by recently heated conflicts in HUQs of large cities in China, this project takes the challenge in the changing context as a great opportunity and proposes an alternative regeneration process. This process works as bridges to connect actors, approaches and scales. With small steps in managing change, this project also brings the long-term expectation of a memorable urban fabric as cultural images of HUQs in Guangzhou.

In this process, actors like inhabitants need to be engaged to invest and cooperate. Professionals also need to be inspired within constrains. In order to connect these actors, as well as mediate spatial conflicts, a new role, Urban Design, are introduced in Chinese context. Since Urban Design is a currently non-freestanding discipline in China, the roles and guidance it could provide in managing change context, will also be discussed in this project.

**The methodology: An alternative regeneration process**

Two main concept are used to construct the process and this research and design project.

First is the Management concept borrowed from Business Industry. The steps to manage change and engage individuals in a corporation are translated into our discipline. These steps can guide the formation of alternative regeneration process.

Second is the transitional space layers observed in Chinese context. Transitional space is a mixing blurred space extended from private interior space to public street. Since streets are main public space for Chinese from an ancient time, this transitional space works as public space for inhabitants in HUQs. Besides, the socio-spatial conflicts between individuals and collective always happen in transitional space. Hence, the analysis and redesign of transitional space could guide the new proposals and cooperation in regeneration process.

**Implications of the process**

One of the final product of this project is the alternative regeneration process. This “UP 2.0” PLAN takes the Management and Transitional space system as its foundation to mediate actors both socially and spatially. The strategies supporting this process are relevant answers to the challenge and opportunity in the changing context of Guangzhou.

As bridges to cooperation and mediation, this “UP 2.0” PLAN provides a platform for actors like private owners, architects and community designer(urban designer). Separated manuals for these actors guide projects in different scales and stages. Meanwhile, the overall framework of this process ensures the combined results of projects possible to be mediated. With the mediation by community designer, the community could manage different changes and enhance its cultural value.

**Research and design relation**

As the center of this project is to reveal the roles of Urban Design in the changing regeneration context of Guangzhou, the designs of alternative process and spatial quality are methods to answer research question. On the other hand, the research of Urban design roles provides methods to analysis the context and to organize the process.

Besides, the spatial designs of this thesis are separated projects invested and designed by different actors. In order to manage these projects in long-term, the design of the alternative process is an important research part.

As the main concept Management of Change indicates, the “UP 2.0” PLAN provides a long-term process for design and mediation, as well as research and readjustment. In the application period, tasks of community designer may be extended to adjust the PLAN based on issues emerged.

**Relevance and looking forwards**

As this graduation enters the final phase, the focus will be on clarity and conclusions. The urban designer roles would of course be more than observed and listed in this academic context. However, the basic method to develop an alternative regeneration process could already show the value of Urban Design in Chinese context.