



Activate “today“ in ancient city of Dali

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The old city district of Dali is one of the famous tourist’s destination in Yunnan, China. More than 40 million tourists visit Dali every year to see this “ancient city.” The city continuously develops tourists facilities and its old cityscape. The development of Dali old city is highly focusing on tourism, and the city’s main streets are full of souvenir shops and new buildings decorated as “old.”

However, those tourism developments are intending to keep the city as “old” and concentrating in the city’s central area, the west side. The east side of the city is left out from the tourism development and remain as “today.” But public facilities such as schools, markets, hospitals, the cultural and religious place are all in the west, and the east area is lacking lively public spaces.

This project aims for developing today’s life in the east area of the city and keep touristic developments stay in the west. The main focus is developing an unutilized green space next to the military base in the south. Improving the accessibility from the surrounding and adding leisure and educational values to collaborate with the existing function on the west side. At the same time, open the existing green assets in the north to the public and create a new north-south spine of the public spaces in the east side. Convert inactive tourist facilities into new multifamily housings and support the new residents. In the end, the east side becomes “the center of today” from “the outside of the old.”



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Activate “today”

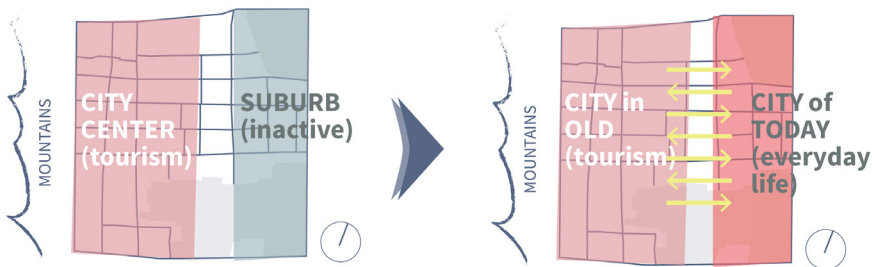
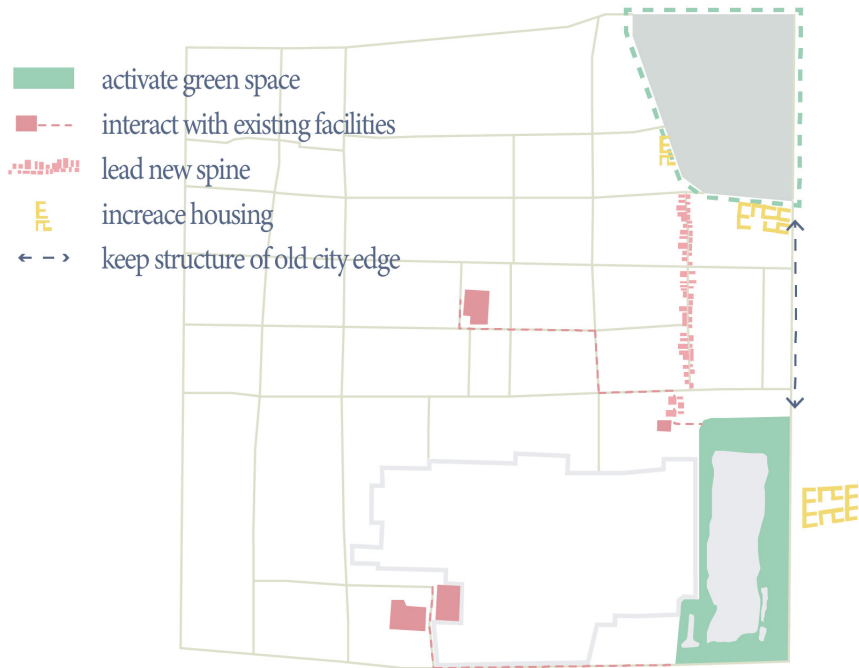
The old city of Dali is a famous tourists' destination in Yunnan, China. Old cityscape and the trace of ancient city structure attracts millions of people every year. However, its tourism development does not have enough power to cover the whole city. Some places do not have enough attention from the city, lacking with the liveliness and could not define their character.

Moreover, the development of the city is focusing on making an old city for tourists and locals' life of today is left behind from its strategy.

This project is aiming for activating those inactive areas not for tourists but for people who live in the city and enable them to update today's life in the heritage city.



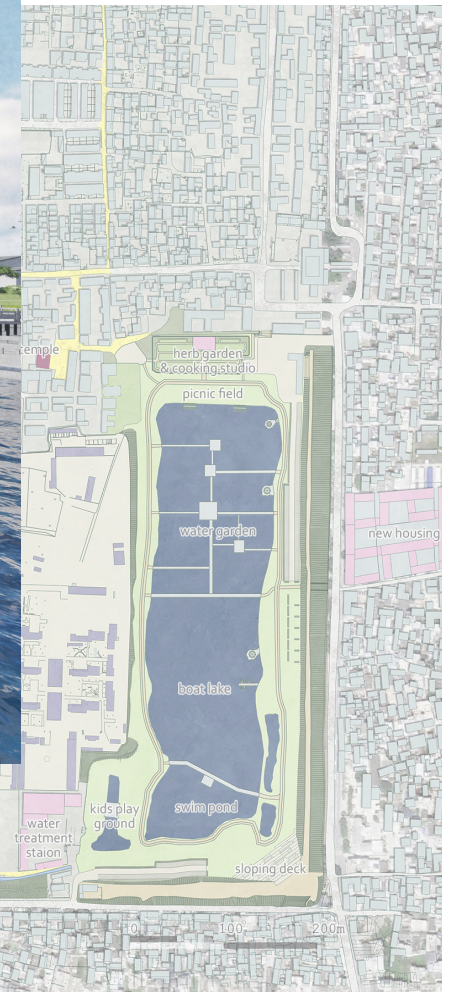
Concept

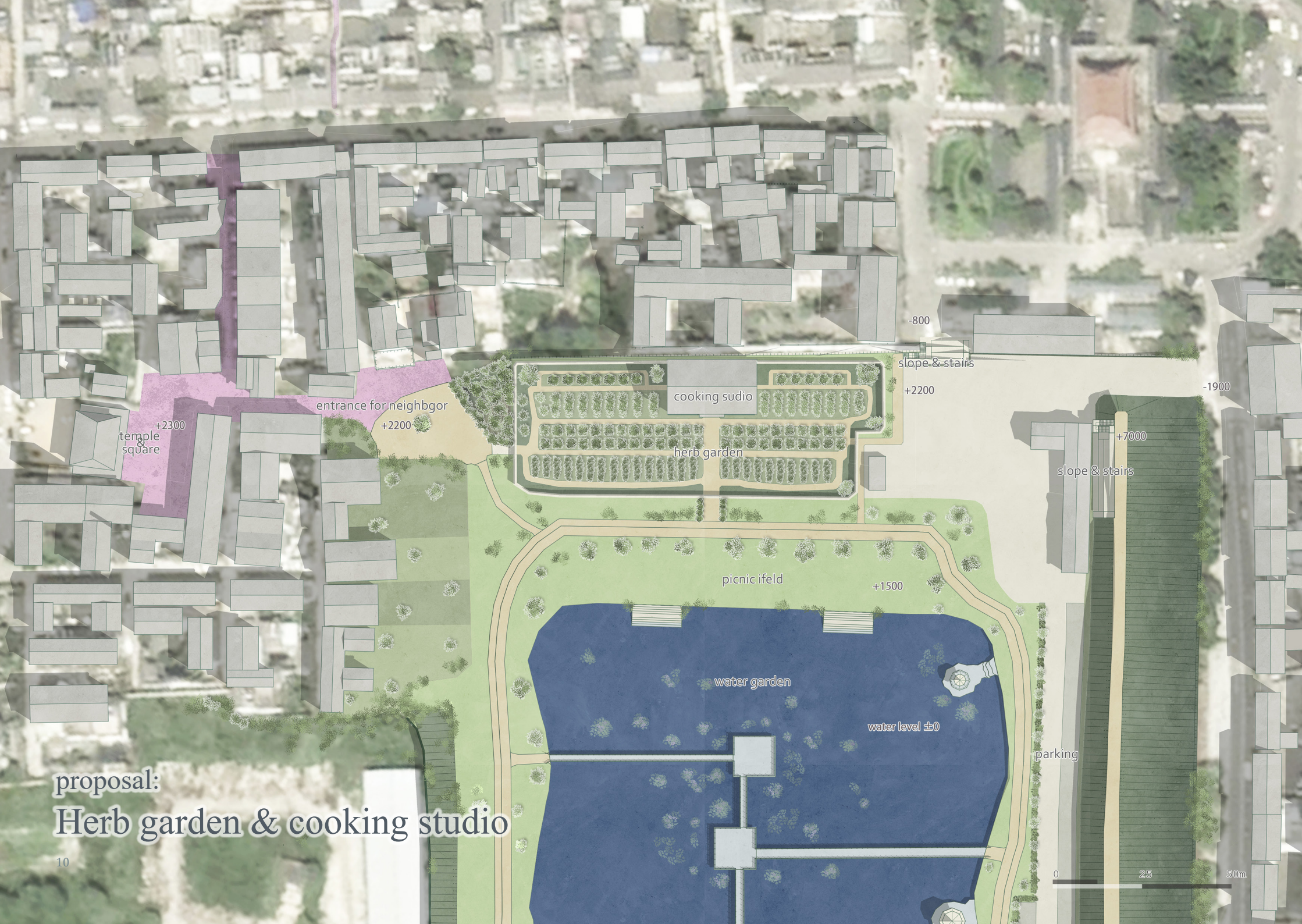


South Reservoir park

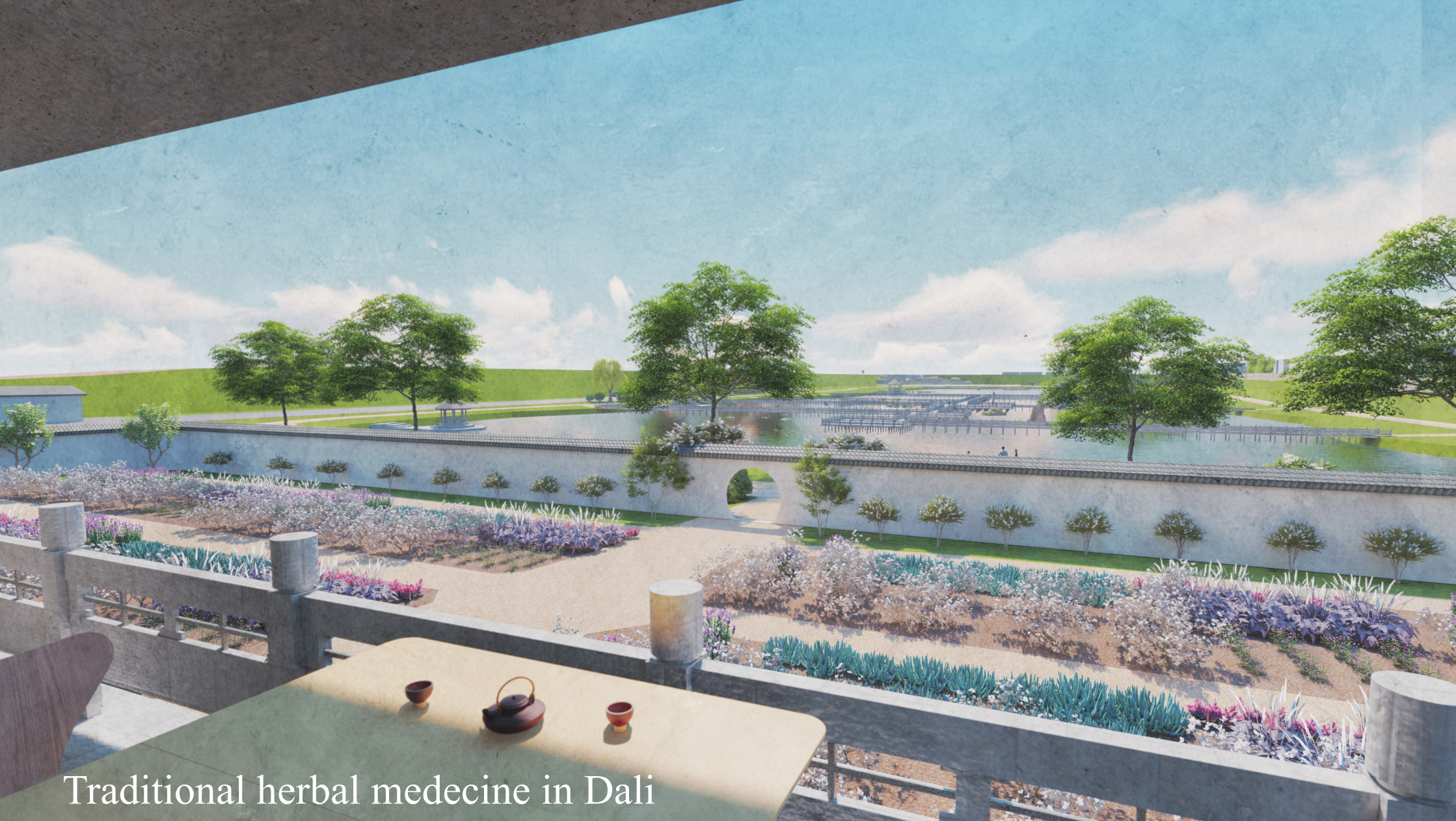


The main aim of this project is to activate South Reservoir, which is currently only used for parking space. Improve accessibility, add leisure and educational functions, and organize the water quality treatment flow synchronized with leisure activities.





proposal:
Herb garden & cooking studio



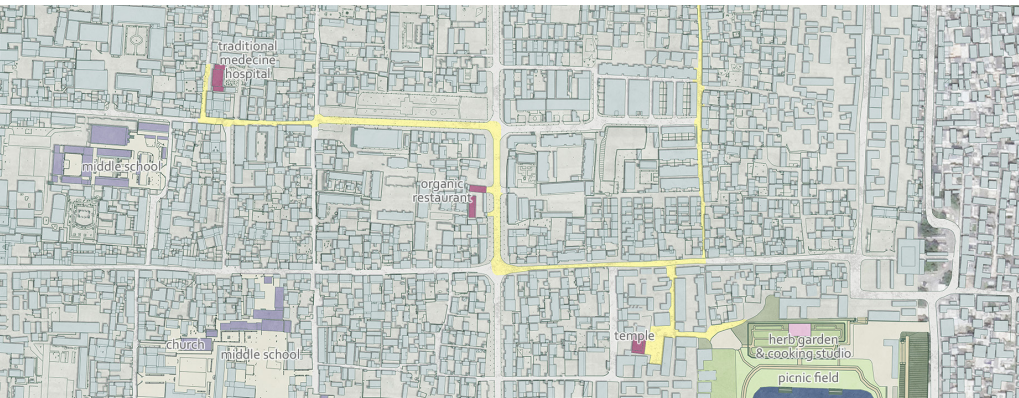
Traditional herbal medicine in Dali

The altitude of Dali city is about 2100m above the sea level. Cang mountain in the west is about 4200m high. This geographical feature enables Dali to produce rare herbs. Herbal medicine in Dali has a long history related to Bai culture. It adapted to today's Chinese patent medicine. Today,

Dali is producing 300 tons of Chinese patent medicine every year. Herb garden and cooking studio are designed to enlighten this local product. They give opportunities to learn how to use traditional Chinese herbs in daily food. The garden and the studio will collaborate with

the Chinese medicine clinic and the organic restaurant in the city and brings people who are interested in organic food and health down to the park. The place also gives learning opportunity to the local students to understand the cultural and natural value of their city.

Relation with the surroundings



The west side of the herb garden is open to the residential area of the city. The other side is open to the city gate area, which is one of the tourists' attractions in the city. Herb garden and the cooking studio will collaborate with the Chinese medicine clinic and the organic restaurant in the city and brings people who are interested in organic food and health down to the park. Those places are also aiming to give opportunities for learning and leisure to students from two middle schools in the city.



The north-west entrance of the park. People can see the cooking studio on the left. The iconic tree is one of the popular features of the village entrance and square in Bai custom.



The north-east entrance of the park. Connect their 3m of height difference by stairs and slopes and make people access easily to the park.

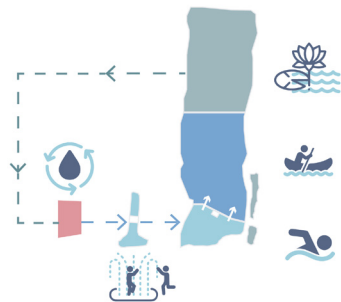
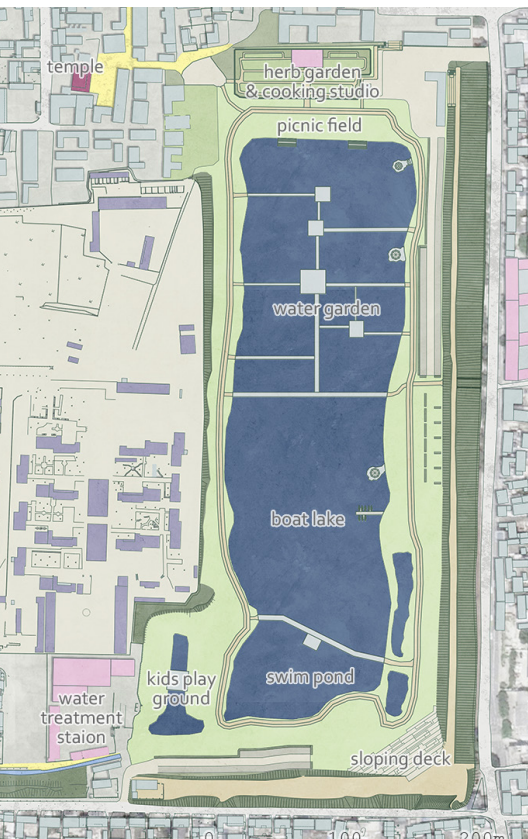


Playground for kids is designed in the south of the park. Kids from kindergarten and families visiting the art center can walk along the stone wall of the military and experience its old city structure. Since the military base is blocking the commercial activities and vehicle flow, kids can take a safe and quiet path to visit the park.



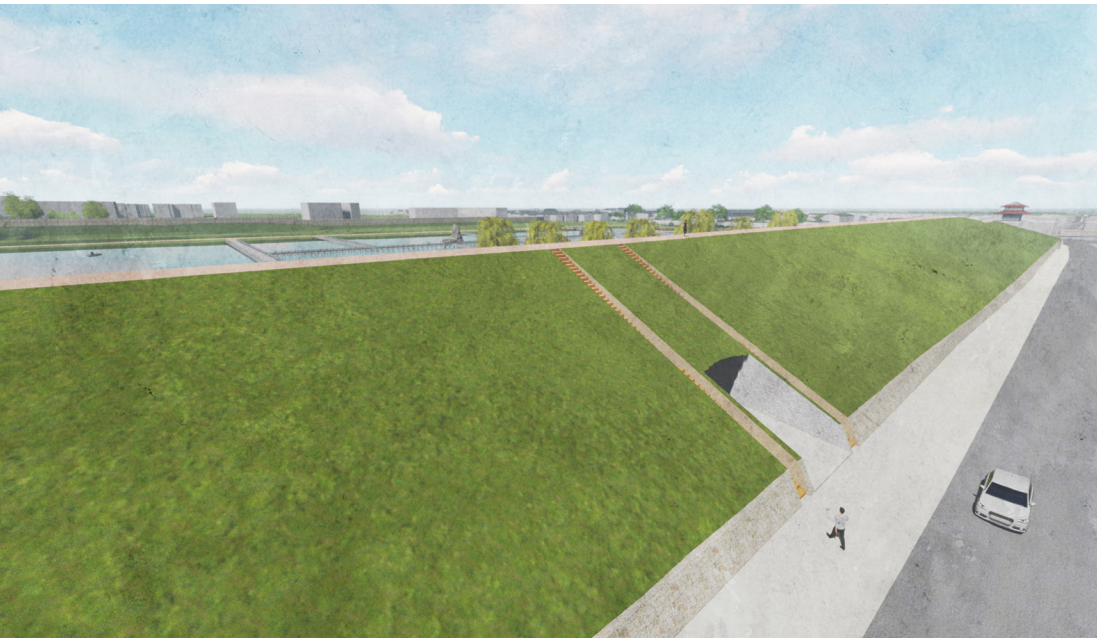


Water treatment flow & activities



Water quality of the South Reservoir needs treatment. First, create the water garden in the north part. It uses plants and biotechnology to absorb pollution. At the same time, install water purification facilities to the existing water monitoring office to help to purify water. The water treatment station pumps up the water from the water garden and cleans the water into level II, which is the level of tap water in China. This water from the station will release in kids playground for recreation and go down to the south of the reservoir. The reservoir is split into three zones by bridges. The sluice gates under the bridges control the water to flow from south to north. The cleaned water from the station stored in the south and gradually released in the north. The south area will open for swimming after collected enough water from the station.

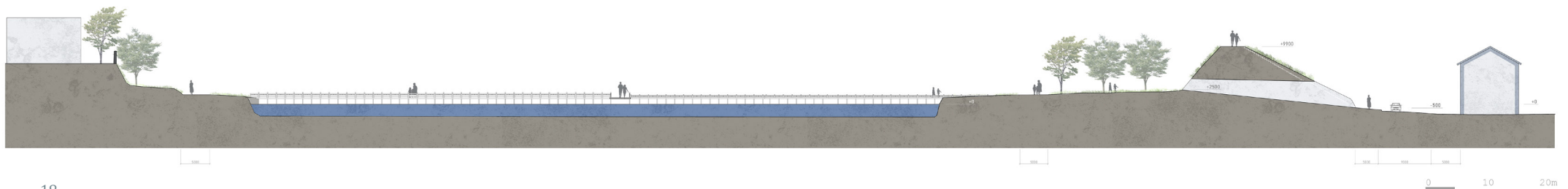


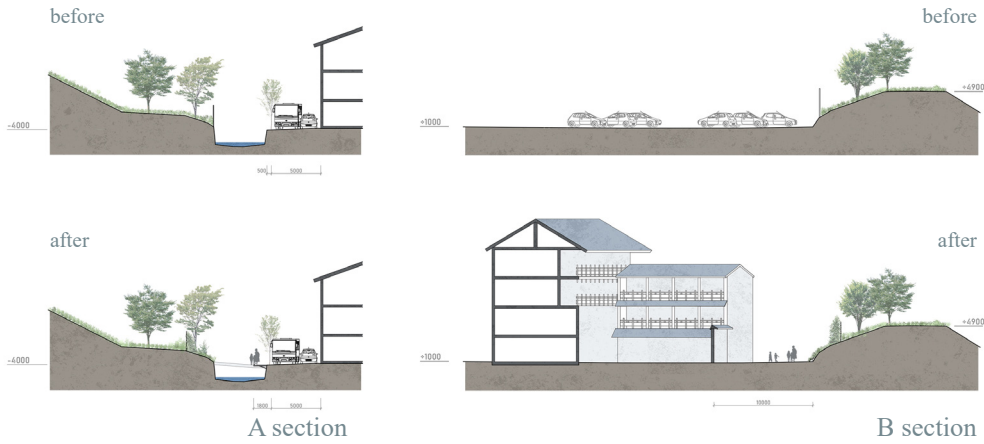


Trace of the old city frame

The 7m high dike is surrounding the south and east side of South Reservoir. Although this dike is blocking the access and the visual connection from outside to the reservoir, this soil wall is the part of the old city frame. The openings to this soil wall are restricted to one place to keep the characteristic of the heritage. Two stairs are leading people not to climb the random place of the dike and emphasizing the strict feature of the old city frame.

On the other hand, inside of the dike has open and soft features. The gradual slopes make wheelchairs and strollers easy to go up and down the wall. The wide stairs facing the water become terrace to sit and rest.

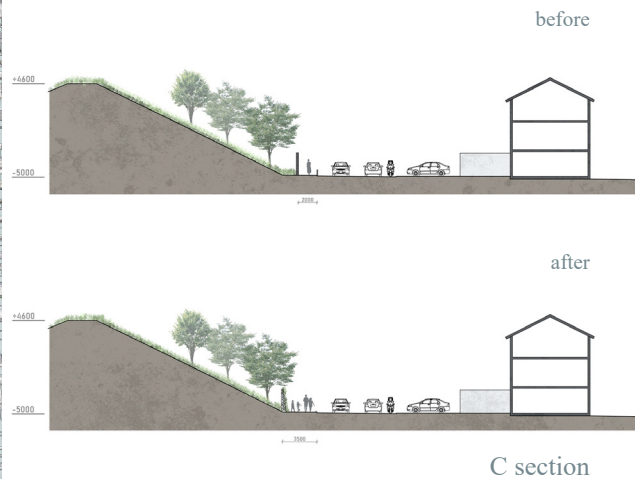




Open the fringe of North Reservoir

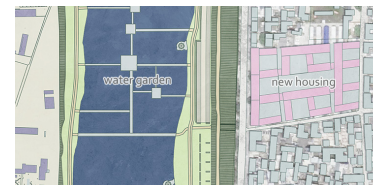
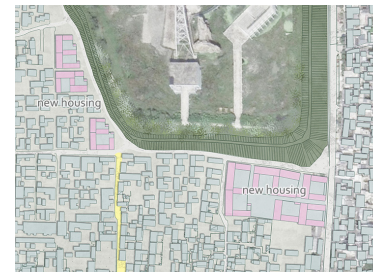
North Reservoir had been turned into the theater stadium and surrounded by fences. However, North Reservoir has rich green assets inside, and those should be open to the public to provide a better visual environment to the city. Open those greens on the fringe to the public and create a safe walk path around the theater.

Closing down the theater and recovering the reservoir should also be discussed for the future. Opening up the fringe green to the public is just the first step.



New housing with traditional typology

Some inactive tourists facilities should be closed and turned into the houses. The new public environment of South Reservoir will attract more young people to live in this area. Scale up the Bai housing style Tree Chamber One Screen Wall to the multiple family housings. Courtyard and inner terrace corridor help people interact with each other and create a new community. Bai style architectural feature will not only keep cityscape of Dali in traditional style but also keep their traditional custom to today.



Reflection

Developing tourism and updating the lifestyle of locals are a dilemma for Dali. It is a challenge for many tourism cities. The demand for old history and traditional culture in China are huge. Tourists are consuming the different cultures of ethnic minorities. This project is challenging to those issues. The aim of this project is not rejecting tourism but co-exist with them. Keep developing tourism and develop public spaces for locals at the same time. The new public spaces show a new face of the city, and it will attract not only locals but also tourists. The new public facilities enlight local tradition and custom, make locals realize what qualities they have and what should keep. Exposing the life to the tourists and exaggerate the culture for tourists have a fear of losing everyday important customs. Understand the traditional customs, adopt them into modern life, and keep them for the next generation. This project is one of the suggestion to achieve this future.

Appendix: research and analysis

Site conditions

Fact sheets

Bai architectural style and structure of the city

Bai architectural elements and city scape

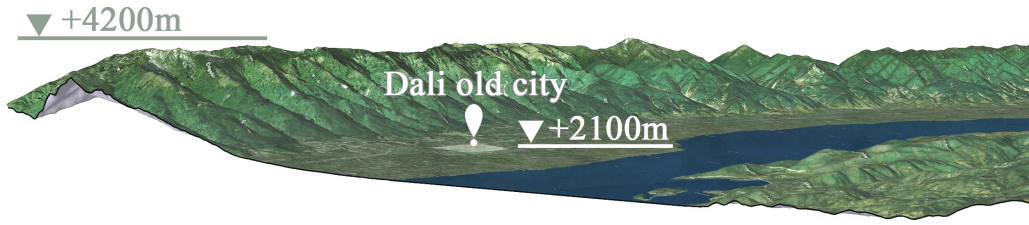
The site from photographs



Site conditions

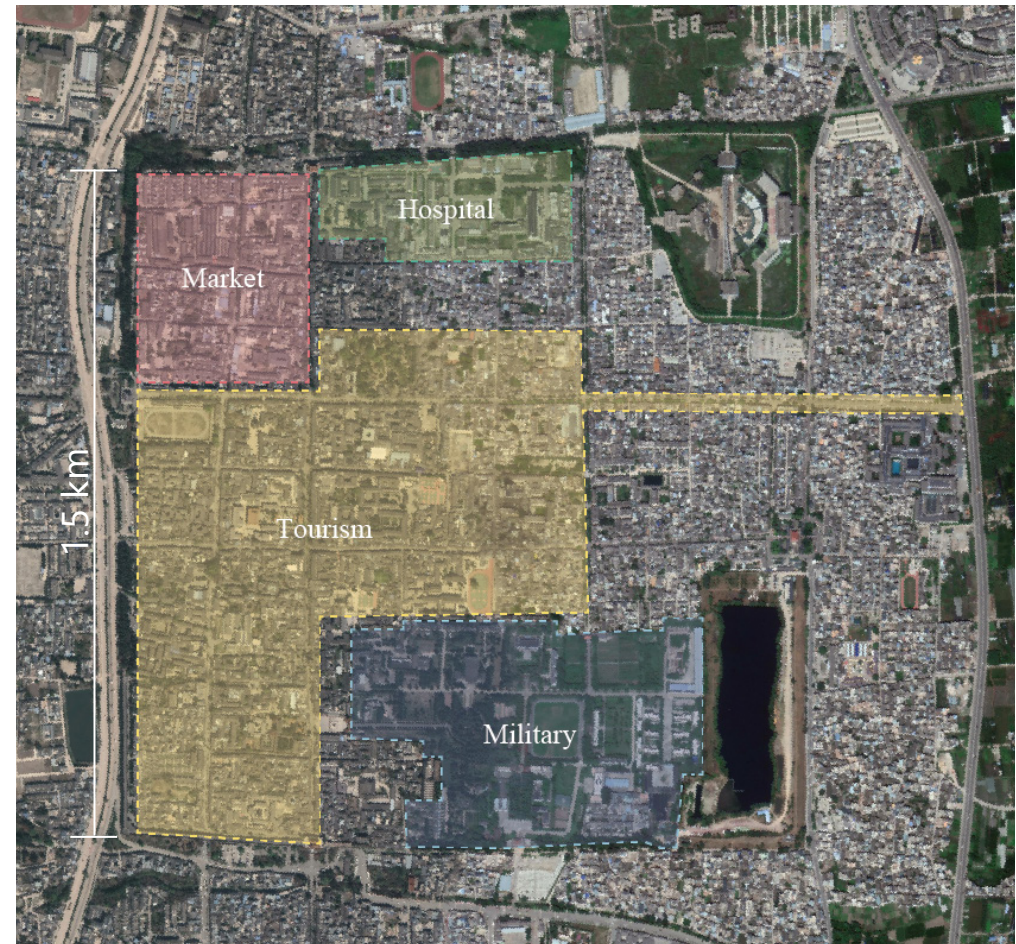
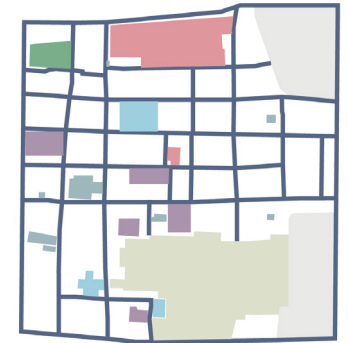


Dali is the city located in the south-west of China, almost close to the Myanmar border. It has a beautiful lake Erhai in front and dynamic mountain range Cang mountain in behind. Erhai is 40 minutes walk, and Cang mountain is 30 minutes walk from the city. But the lake does not have a proper walk path around. And for the mountain, there is no way to get in the mountain without a fee. Dali is rich in natural resources, but they are not for daily leisure.



Dali old city has four unique areas. The largest area is the touristic area. It has commercial streets with souvenir shops and restaurants for tourists, several temples, a history museum, and large hotels. The market area has one large market hall in the middle, and shops in this area are selling daily goods and groceries. The hospital area is a large general hospital, and it is the medical center of the region. And the military zone in the south is blocking the city's movement and creating a void in the city.

Besides those characters of areas, the city has several schools. Two middle schools are close to each other, and some streets in the touristic area are full of students in a specific time.



Bai architectural elements & city scape

White colored wall with light blue decoration is a typical Dali city's color tone.

Edge of the tiled roof is curving upward. Center of the screen walls has calligraphy, which is wishing good luck or showing the name of the household. Decoration in the frame of the walls which look like tiles is paintings.

Not only white walls, but there are also old stone walls.

Square and entrance of Bai village have an iconic large tree.

Those architectural elements are creating the unique cityscapes of Dali.



Bai architecture style & the city structure

Bai housing typology

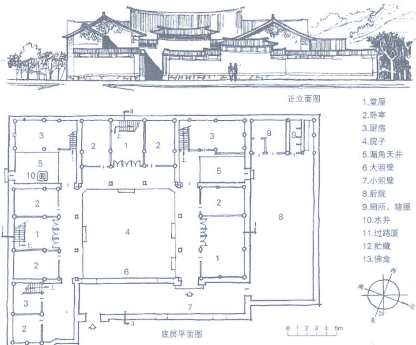
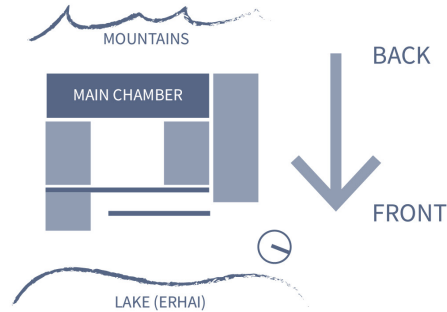


fig01



Bai ethnic's housing style called "Three Chambers and One Screen Wall (三方一照壁)." It generally puts the main chamber on the mountainside and facing east.

LiFang planning system

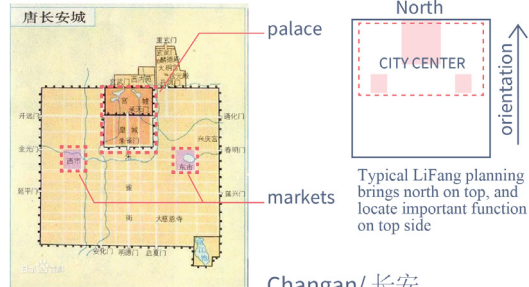
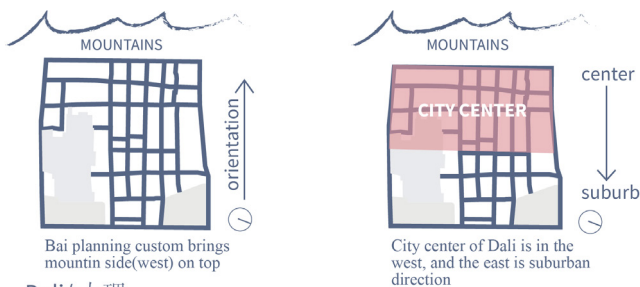


fig02

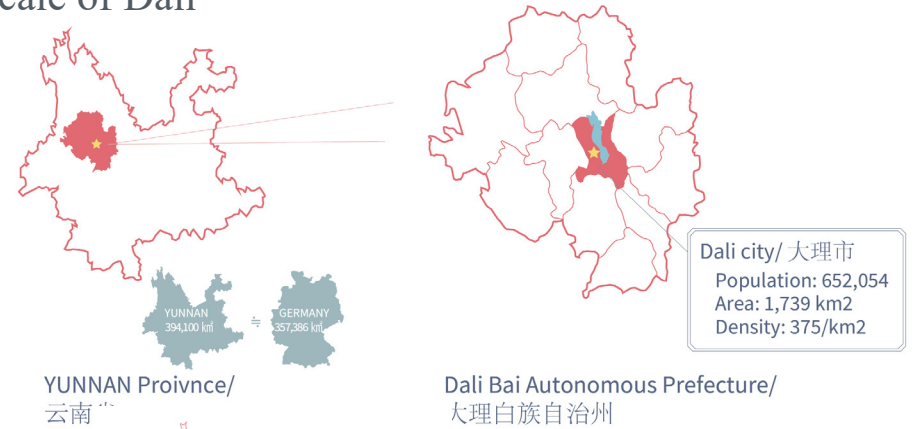
Dali old city district was established as the capital of Nanzhao in the late 8th century by Bai people. It is the time of Tang dynasty in China. Square shaped city frame is a typical feature of the city planning system in that age.

History of Dali old city
779 Established as capital of Nanzhao 南诏
937 Dali kingdom
1256 Liang Kingdom
1390 Ming Dynasty -> part of China



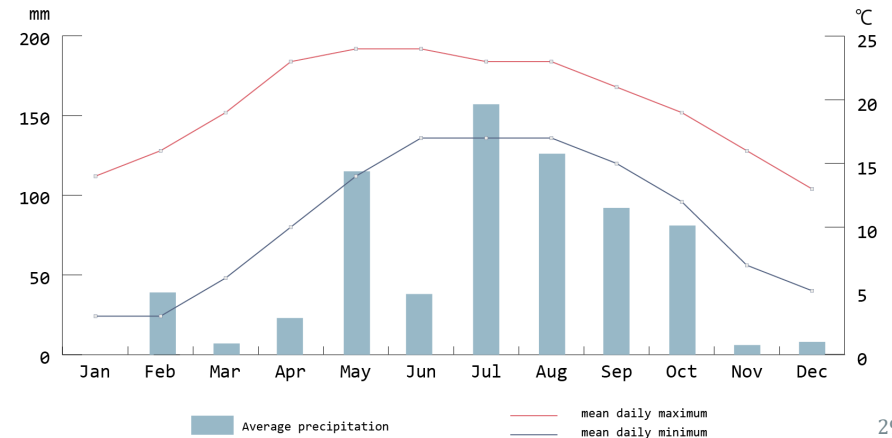
Fact sheet

Scale of Dali



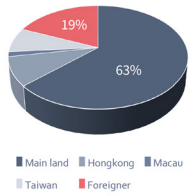
Dali is rural prefecture in Yunnan province. It is an hour flight and 2 hours by fast train from the capital city Kunming. Dali city is the center city of Dali Prefecture, and Dali old city is the one district in Dali city.

Climate of Dali



Tourism in Dali

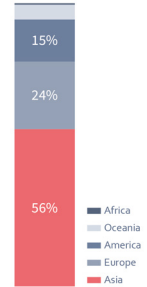
Number of tourists by Area



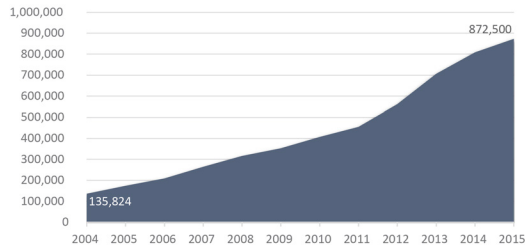
Tourists in 2017
42,220,000

Total tourism revenue
64.7 billion CNY
≈ **8.5 billion €**

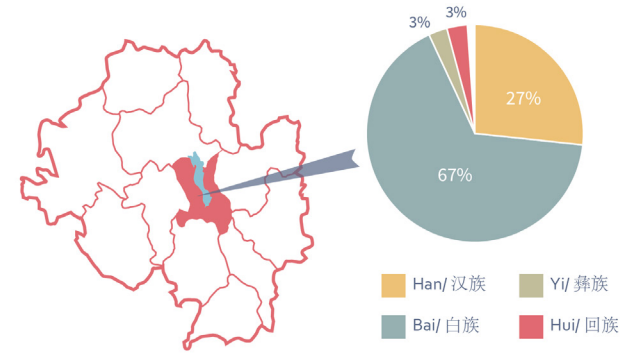
Foreign tourist by region



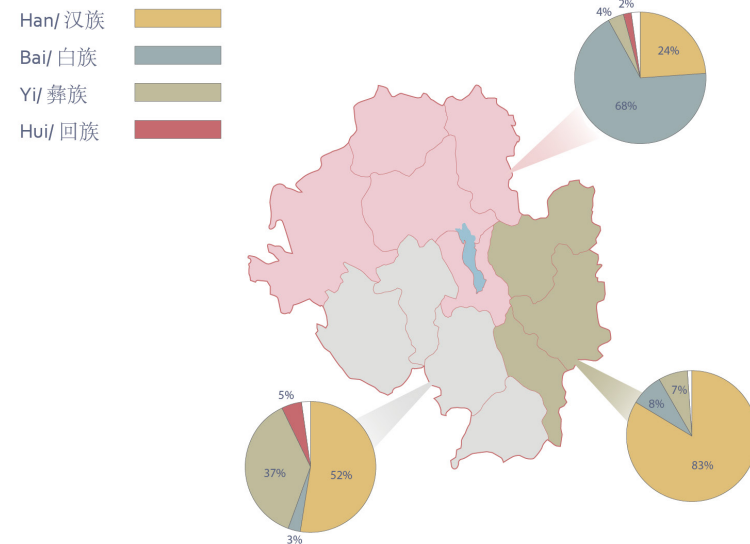
Number of Overseas tourists



Ethnic groups in Dali city



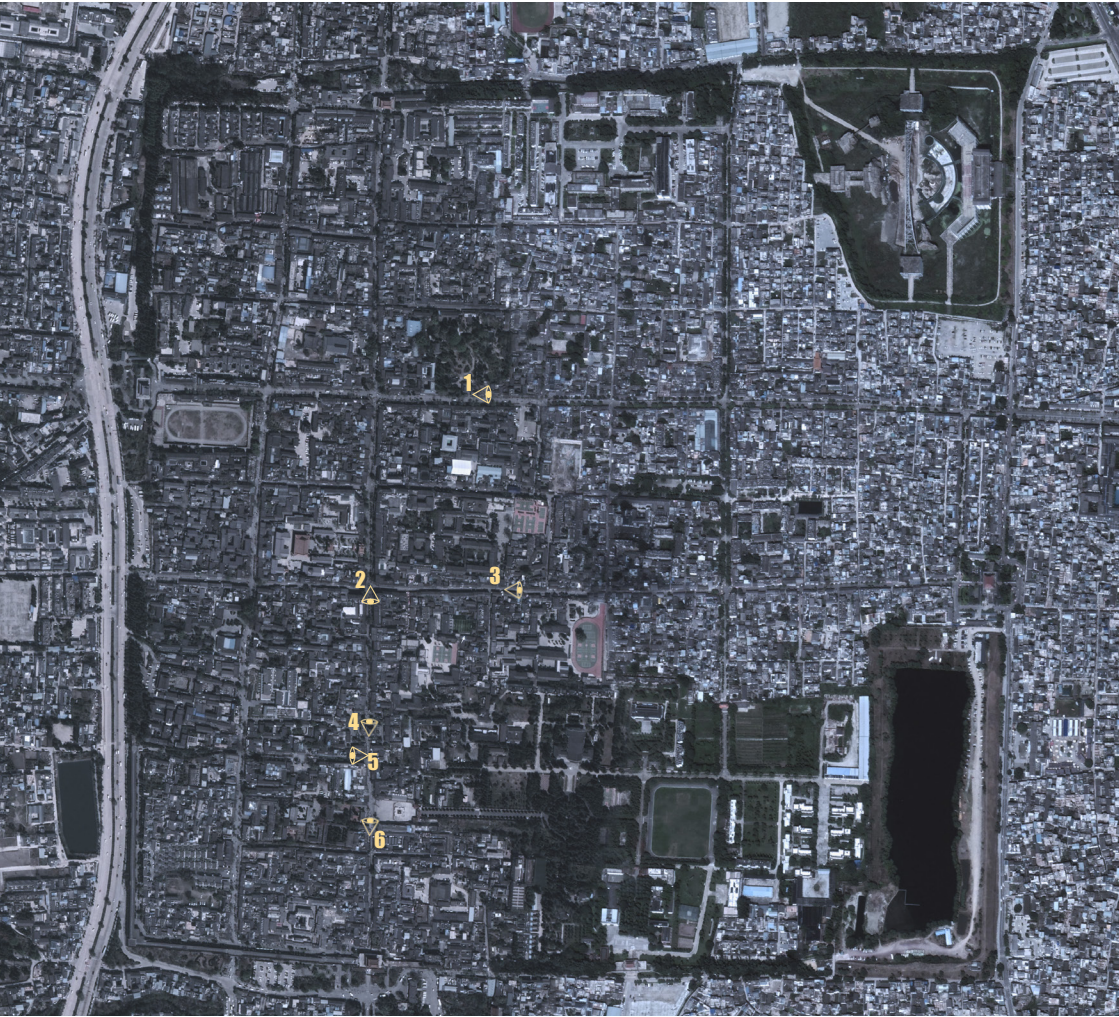
Distribution of ethnic groups in Dali by region



State-recognized Ethnic Groups in China

Name	Population	%	Name	Population	%	Name	Population	%
Han/汉族	1,220,844,520	92%	She/畲族	708,651	0.05%	Pumi/普米族	42,861	0.00%
Zhuang/壮族	16,926,381	1.27%	Lisu/傈僳族	702,839	0.05%	Achang/阿昌族	39,555	0.00%
Hui/回族	10,586,087	0.79%	Dongxiang/东乡族	621,500	0.05%	Nu/怒族	37,523	0.00%
Manchu/满族	10,387,958	0.78%	Gelao/佤族	550,746	0.04%	Ewenki/鄂温克族	30,875	0.00%
Uyghur/维吾尔族	10,069,346	0.76%	Lahu/拉祜族	485,966	0.04%	Gin/京族	28,199	0.00%
Miao/苗族	9,426,007	0.71%	Va/佯族	429,709	0.03%	Jino/基诺族	23,143	0.00%
Yi/彝族	8,714,393	0.65%	Sui/水族	411,847	0.03%	Deang/德昂族	20,556	0.00%
Tujia/土家族	8,353,912	0.63%	Naxi/纳西族	326,295	0.02%	Bonan/保安族	20,074	0.00%
Tibetan/藏族	6,282,187	0.47%	Qiang/羌族	309,576	0.02%	Russian/俄罗斯族	15,393	0.00%
Mongol/蒙古族	5,981,840	0.45%	Tu/土族	289,565	0.02%	Yugur/裕固族	14,378	0.00%
Dong/侗族	2,879,974	0.22%	Mulao/仫佬族	216,257	0.02%	Uzbek/乌兹别克族	10,569	0.00%
Buyei/布依族	2,870,034	0.22%	Xibe/锡伯族	190,481	0.01%	Monba/门巴族	10,561	0.00%
Yao/瑶族	2,796,003	0.21%	Kirgiz/柯尔克孜族	186,708	0.01%	Oroqen/鄂伦春族	8,659	0.00%
Bai/白族	1,933,510	0.15%	Jingpo/景颇族	147,828	0.01%	Derung/独龙族	6,930	0.00%
Korean/朝鲜族	1,830,929	0.14%	Daur/达斡尔族	131,992	0.01%	Hezhen/赫哲族	5,354	0.00%
Hani/哈尼族	1,660,932	0.12%	Salar/撒拉族	130,607	0.01%	Gaoshan/高山族	4,009	0.00%
Li/黎族	1,463,064	0.11%	Blang/布朗族	119,639	0.01%	Lhoba/珞巴族	3,682	0.00%
Kazakh/哈萨克族	1,462,588	0.11%	Maonan/毛南族	101,192	0.01%	Tatar/塔塔尔族	3,556	0.00%
Dai/傣族	1,261,311	0.09%	Tajik/塔吉克族	51,069	0.00%			

Source: 2-1 《中国2010年人口普查资料》“China 2010 Population Census Data” » <http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/pcsj/kpc/6rp/indexch.htm>



Tourists' commercial area



1



2



3



4

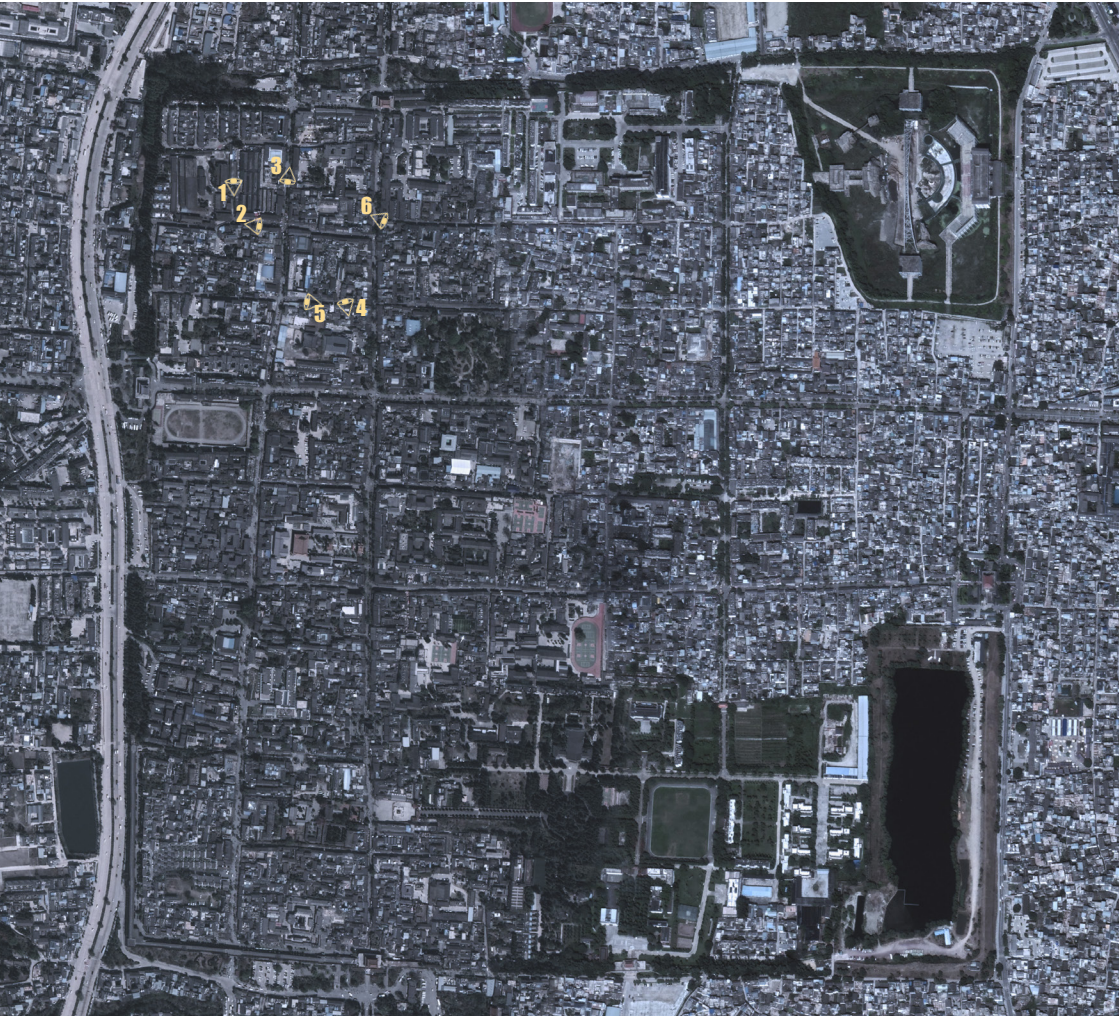


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6

The site from photographs



Market area



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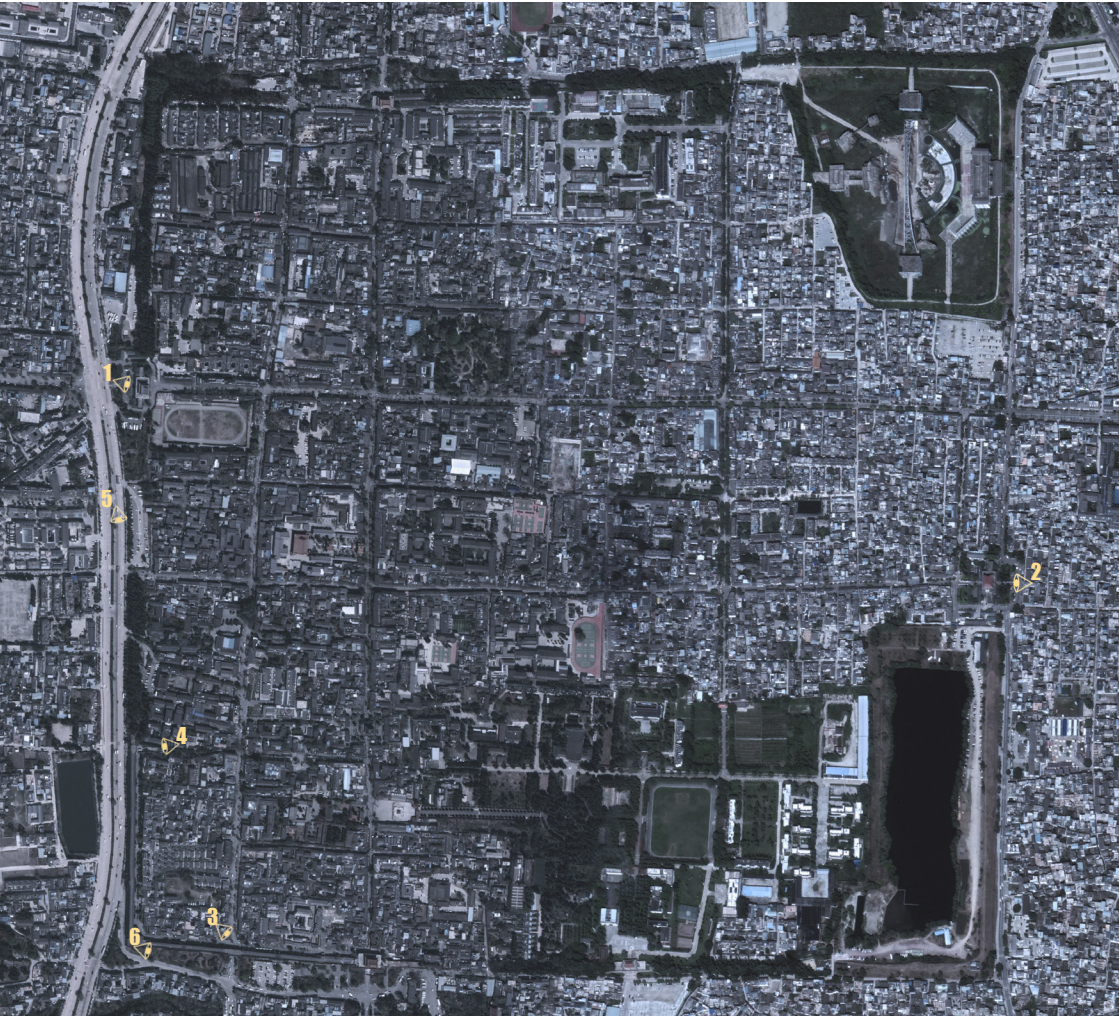


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The site from photographs



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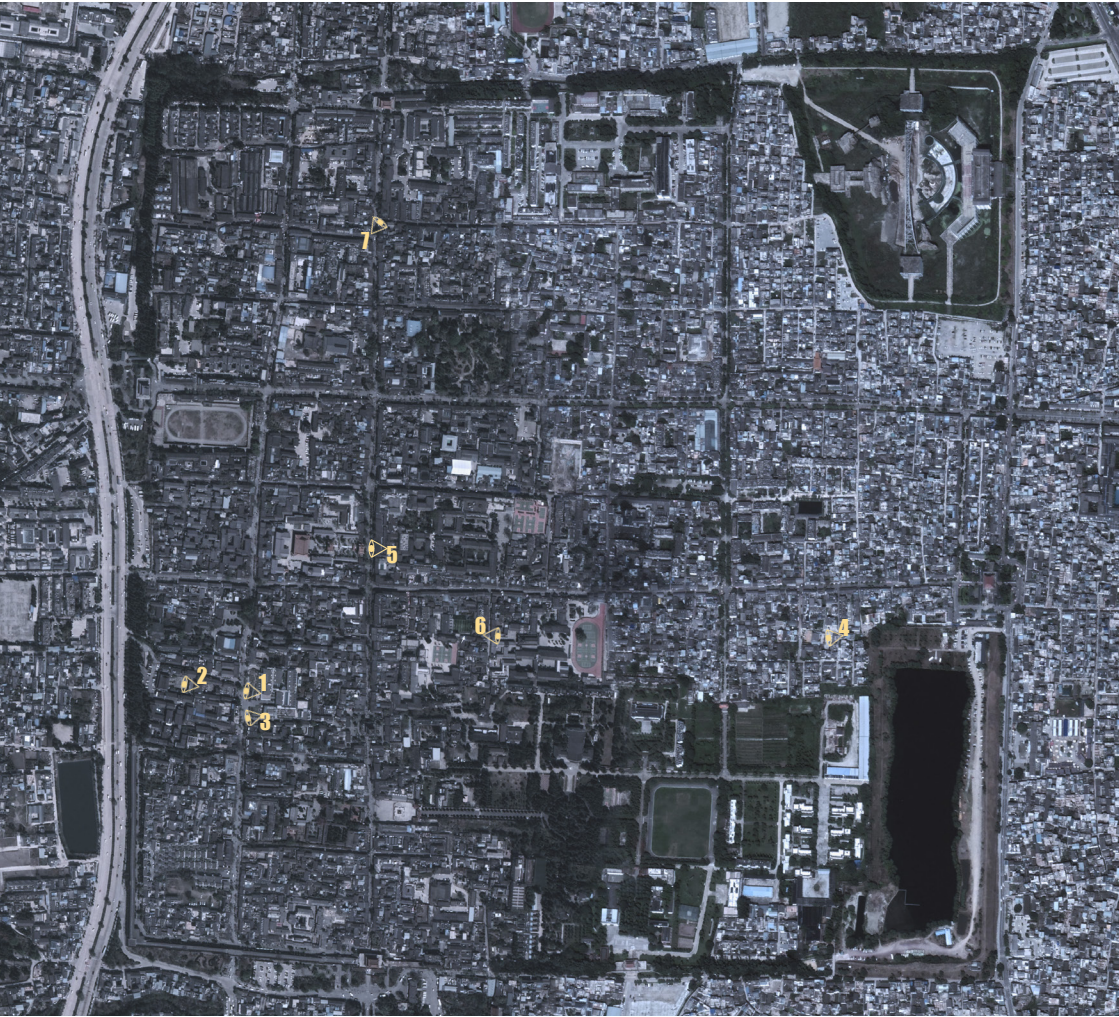
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City walls and gates

The site from photographs



Religious places



1



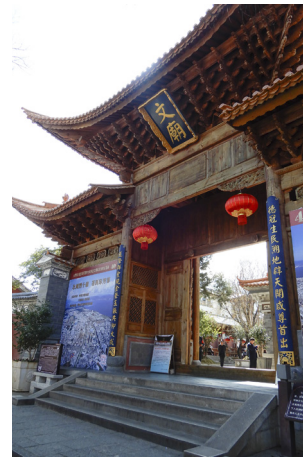
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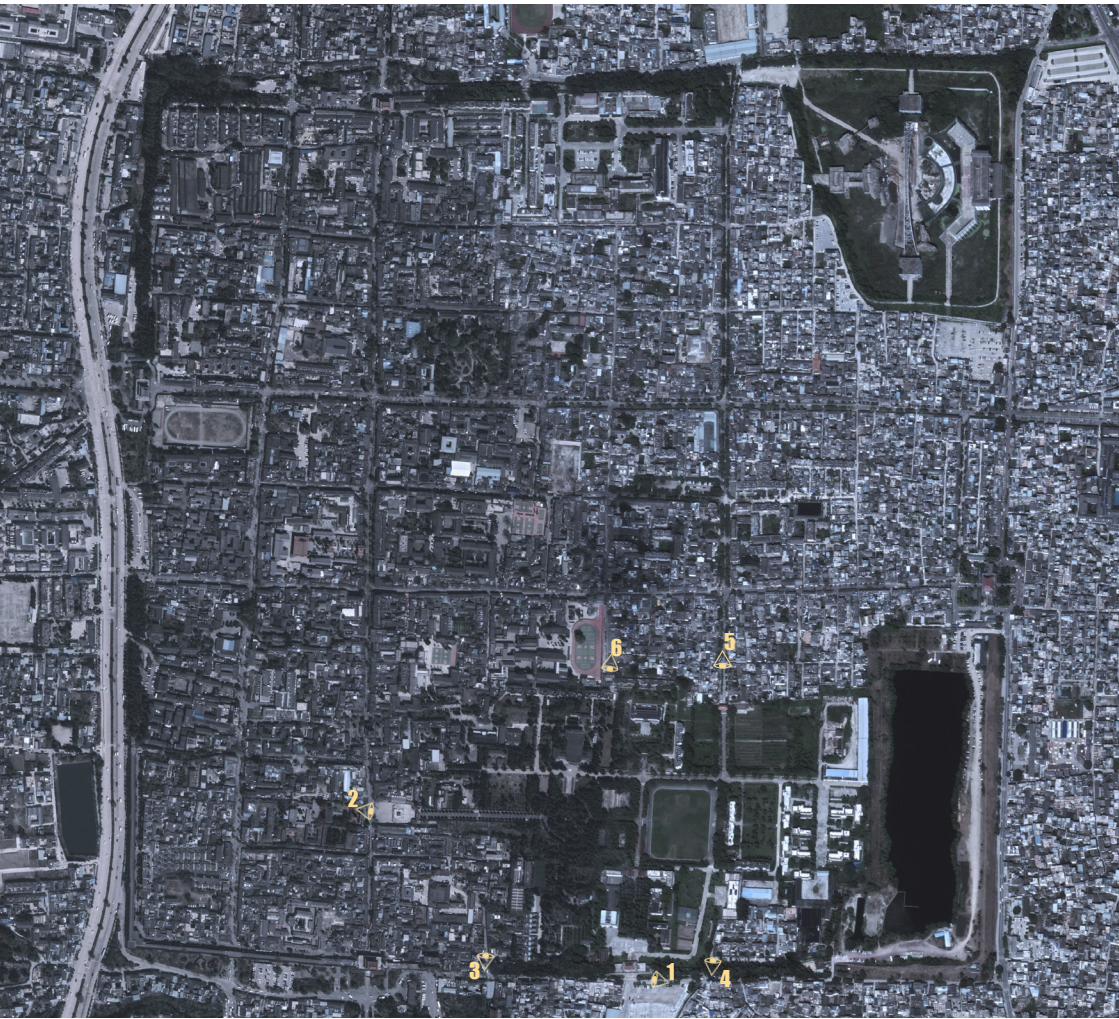


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7

The site from photographs



Military base and walls



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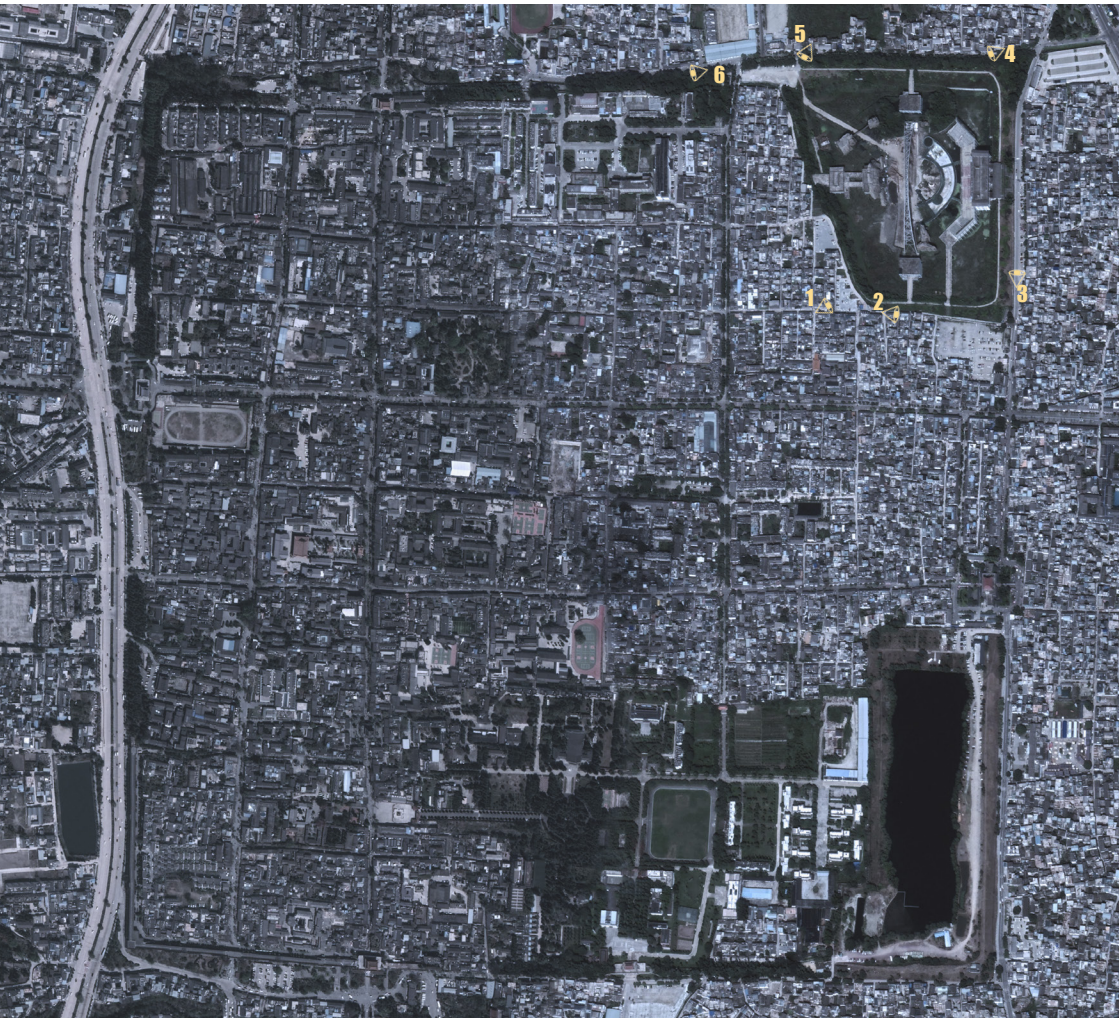


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The site from photographs



North Reservoir



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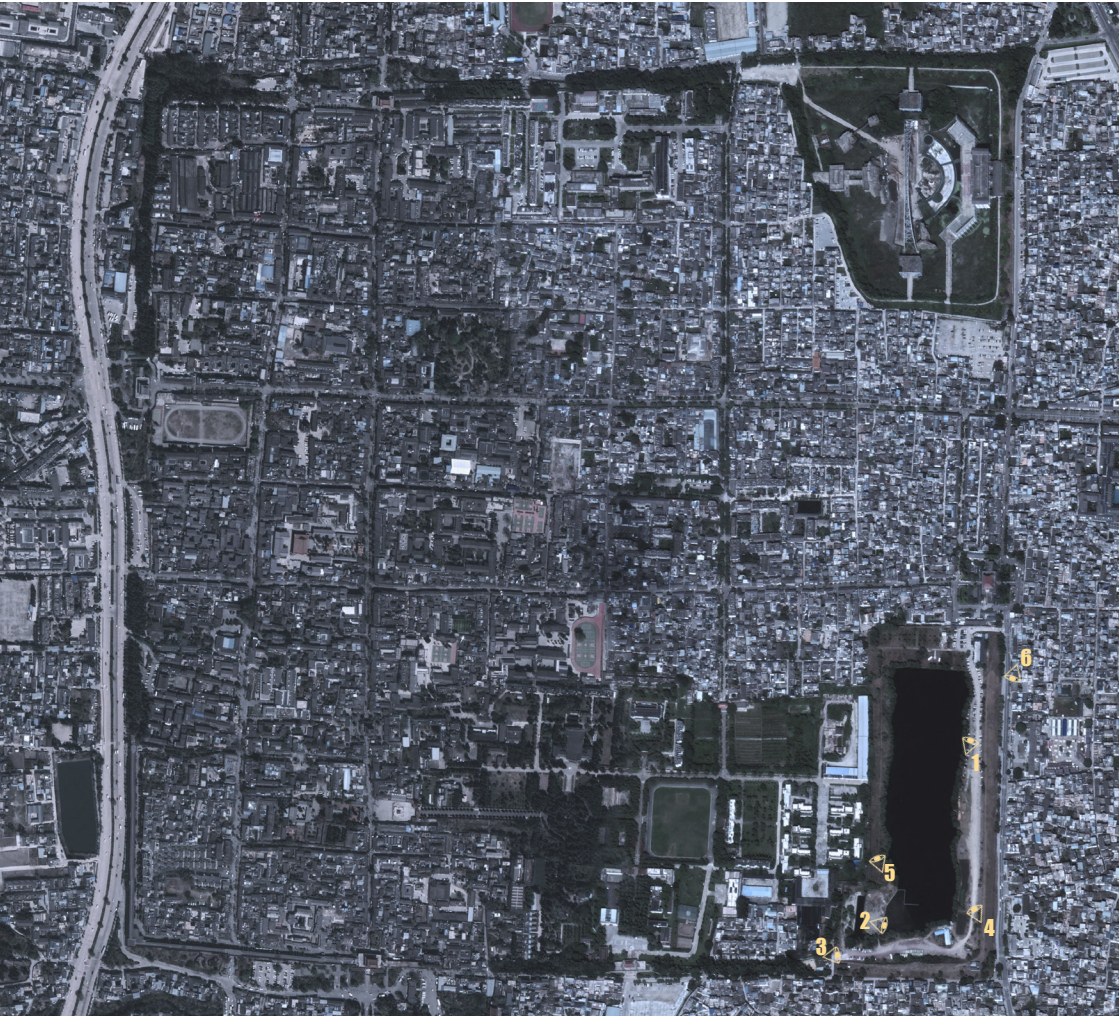


5



6

The site from photographs



South Reservoir



1



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4



5



6

The site from photographs

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Source of images

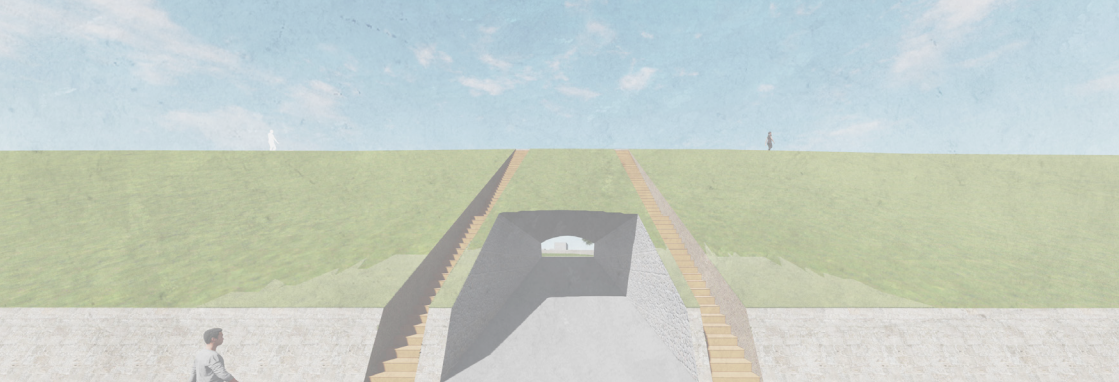
graphics of p2-21,24(except for aerial photo), 28-31(except for fig01&02),p46; created by author

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fig 02: 《百度百科『長安』》<https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E9%95%BF%E5%AE%89/31540>



Thank you/ 谢谢