

Low-rise, high-density

Participatory village transformation, Guming near Nanning, China



Main author

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Project data

Project group: Landscape, urban design, transportation infrastructure and public utilities
 Client: Village government and villagers
 Project background: Research project

Summary and appraisal of the project by the jury

The project for the regeneration of Guming village, 20 km west of Nanning, China, offers a model for a socially appropriate and economically robust form of bottom-up urban transformation of rural communities around the country. The gradual upgrade of the existing neighborhood tissue, combined with new carefully integrated interventions, goes hand in hand with economic measures that guarantee – via stakeholder participation – a sustainable development of the village's physical and social space.

The proposal, according to the jury, delivers proof of how modernization might evolve within the context of a rural village, without taking recourse to tabula rasa strategies. On the contrary, due respect is given to traditional building morphologies, while allowing the built fabric to be improved and technically upgraded in time. The project offers a discourse on how to bridge the gap between historic preservation on the one hand and the need to modernize on the other. The jury applauded the measures taken to promote a form of habitation based on low-rise, high-density structures – as opposed to high-rise, high-density responses – that could well evolve as a transferable model for future urbanization in general, whether in China or other regions of the world.



Image 1: Main presentation.

Statements on the sustainability of the project by the author

Adjustment of industrial structure of the village

We adopt self-renewal pattern in the renewal of Guming village in two aspects: independent involvement and community empowerment. Independent involvement concentrates the requirements from the villagers and encourages self-expression and public participating construction. Community empowerment aims to optimize the industrial structure, strengthen villagers' sense of belonging and improve their living, employment and working environment. The final target is to accelerate the sustainable development of Guming village.

ers firstly make structuring guidance after summarizing the local construction method and combining with modern technology. The whole village, including communal buildings, will be built by villagers themselves, provided adequate organization and material support is given.

Reconstruction for traditional buildings

Existing buildings of Guming village are well preserved and only need renovation work. Although most people in Guming village work in manufacturing and agriculture, they have a strong desire for a larger courtyard for living; as well as producing and selling handmade articles. We select two or more neighboring houses and combine them with a gallery and roof structure, mostly using the same materials and similar features of the original building. By these means, we expand the small courtyard to cooperative enterprise in a harmonious way that adds value. Under the guidance of the architect, the new buildings are all equipped with planted roofs, solar panels, building elements of prefabrication and modularity.

Reconstruction for the whole village

The process consists of two steps. In the step for design, officers, developers, designers and villagers cooperate and discuss together on planning vision, traffic and public facilities configuration as well as approach. The final outcome is a system containing possible problem solving method and responsible organization. In the step for actual building, design-

Further authors

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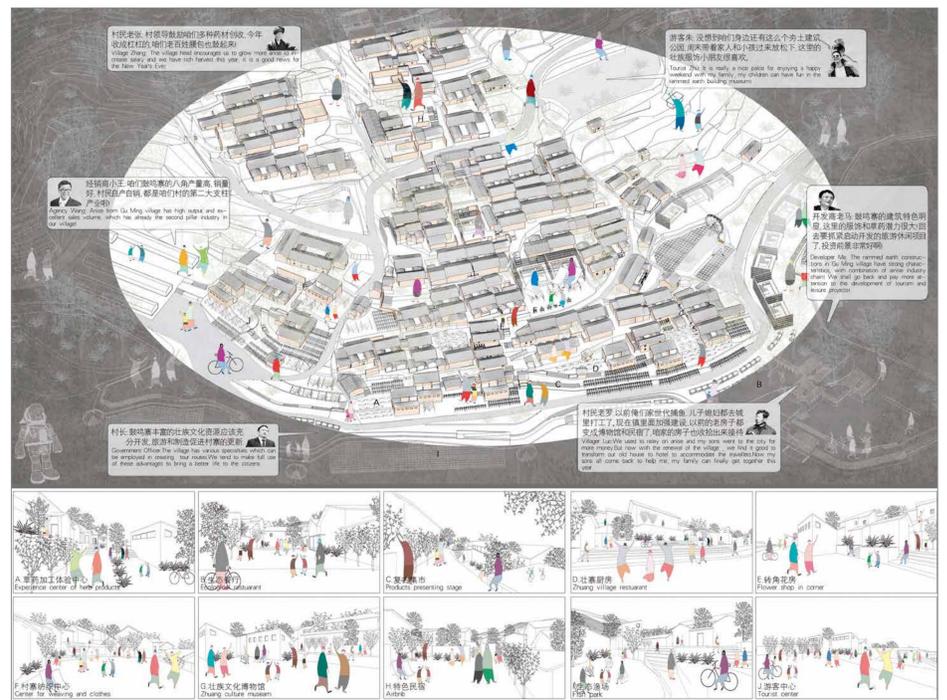


Image 2: The new look of a vibrant community after the renewal.

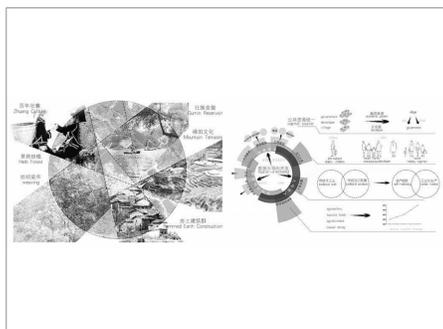


Image 3: Advantages and pattern for courtyard house.

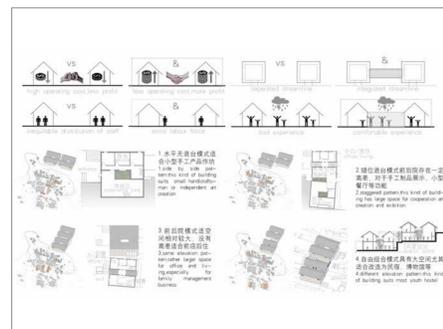


Image 4: Characteristics and resources utilization of Guming village.



Image 5: The original state of the village.



Image 6: The expected state after one year of transformation.



Image 7: The expected state after two years of transformation.

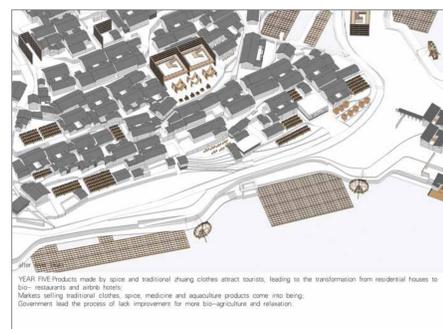


Image 8: The expected state after five years of transformation.



Image 9: The expected state after ten years of transformation.

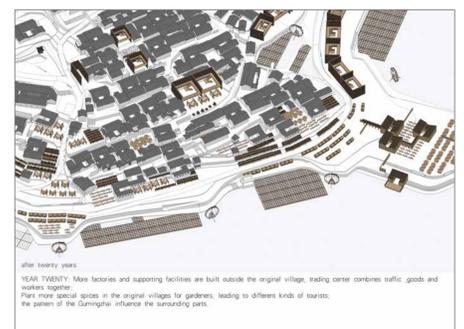


Image 10: The expected state after twenty years of transformation.