Western Science Meets Eastern Philosophy

You cannot step twice into the same river...—Heracleitus

Return is the motion of the Dao. —Laozi

Themes: “An Open System”

The site of the Art City Project is located in Shenyang, northeast of China. It is near the center of the city and covers an area of 7.35 square kilometers. There are hundreds of low-income urban residents whose lives will be affected by the project. In accordance with sustainable planning concepts set by the project, we want to move out this part of the population, but to re-habitat them in the local site.

CHALLENGE

How to avoid an isolated island of urbanized area? “An Open System”, change with outside.

BACKGROUND

STEP 1 Improve the quality of the local building.

Without an integrated plan that takes the original settlements into consideration, the existing would probably become an isolated island of urbanized area, or even worse, a Village in Town. We plan to improve the quality of these local buildings, so that they can be compatible with modern new functions beyond traditional residential function.

STEP 2 Enhance all kinds of functions in the old area.

STEP 3 Generate employment opportunities to community.

The purpose of the Art City Project is not just to provide a new position to the old settlements, but to generate employment opportunities to the old community. That is an important issue in the design process.

STEP 4 As a sustainable settlement to attract more visitors.

Through the project, we are happy to foresee that local residents could build a harmonious community together with artists and students in the projected Shenyang Art City. At the same time, they can benefit a lot from Government’s extensive investment in infrastructure which brings much convenience to this area, as well as more job opportunities from the development of service industry and increased revenues.

CONCLUSIONS

China has been in a rapid urbanization era. It is a challenge for Urban Planning to consider how to solve the problems in urbanization progress. The most important is that the regeneration strategies should not lead to the beginning of gentrification, so that the poor have to move out to another unattractive area, which form new deprivation and poverty. And the target of the regeneration should be the “human upgrading” not only the upgrading of building. This is a sophisticated strategy supporting integrated social and physical strategies.

ABSTRACT

1. Mix western science “moving” with ancient Chinese philosophy “return” to approach of planning for sustainability.
2. Improve the quality of the local building with enhanced function in the old community.
3. Rethinking of the regeneration in the development of China.

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