

Research on Spatial Reconstruction and Landscape Regeneration Based on Hot Social Events

Xia Wei

Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, Xian 710000, China

754968906@qq.com

Keywords: Hot Social Events, The Obsoleted Railway Tracks, Nursing Home, Spatial Planning, The Intervention of Landscape

Abstract: Hot social events reflect the pressing social conflicts and realistic issues to some extent, whereas, design is the communication media to solve or ease the conflicts. Started from the obstacle for the obsoleted railway tracks and the unscrupulous nursing home, the paper analyzed the social conflicts caused by them and the implicit social values. On that basis, it explored the spatial innovative mode of the combination of the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing home from the strategies of mixed space planning, the intervention of landscape and culture reconstruction. In addition to that, by taking the obsoleted railway tracks in East lake old town of Nanchang city, Jiangxi and retirement issues as the object of design practice, it further discussed the practical significance and possibility of the mentioned mode from the reconstruction of composite space, multiple ecological regeneration and culture representation of site culture so as to provide new thinking for the solution to social issues from the perspective of landscape design.

1. The social conflicts and values highlighted by the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing home

Cities are growing organism and it becomes to be an inevitable process for the urban renewal to reasonably make use of the grey corner space and the abandoned land along with its development [1]. With the expedition of urbanization and transformation of industrial system, industrial abandoned land has increased and the remaining builds has result in problems for the urban environment. The obsoleted railway tracks considered as the obstacles have been hit local hot social event and network headline in recent years (Figure 1). SO, the social conflict for the obsoleted railway track is whether to tear it down. The drawbacks for the obsoleted railway tracks mainly are the invasion of urban public space, poor environment of the abandoned land and the difficulty in dismantling obsoleted carriage and railway tracks. However, every coin has two sides, along with the downside, it also has special values. Firstly, historical value. The continuation of the spatial place represents the historical image [2]. The obsoleted railway track is the carrier of its spiri, which demonstrates the evolution of city history. Secondly, cultural value. The obsoleted railway tracks and its place bear the collective memories of the neighboring residents and demonstrate the regional cultural connotation. Thirdly, the transformation and utilization relate to the harmony sustainability of the city. At last, economic value. It avoids the consumption of manpower and material resources to reuse the obsoleted railway tracks so as to save urban construction cost. Therefore, on the premise of not tearing it down, the paper intended to eliminate or conceal the downside of the obsoleted railway tracks by making use of the approach of landscape design and spatial planning and highlight its value.

Nursing homes are another hot social event that referred in this paper. China has already entered the aging stage of population and only child features the most of the families, thereby, it becomes to be a pressing issue to be solved on how and where to provide for the aged. The nursing homes are supposed to be a place with special social values to provide considerate service that is conducive to social harmony. However, in recent years, the abuse of the senior citizens in nursing homes has been frequently exposed in the media (Figure 1(a)). Therefore, except for the lax nursing homes

legislation and inferior professional ethics of caregivers, it also reveals the relevant design issues of the nursing homes, which mainly are: one is that the poor environment quality and supporting facilities. Many domestic nursing homes are offering the fundamental physical space for the senior citizens, neglecting their psychological demands, therefore, they lack the creation of comfy scenic environment and the medical and entertainment facilities. The other is that the limited site and functional space. The traditional nursing homes are normally with small living space, beyond that, the space for communication and entertainment is pretty small.

Therefore, based on the analysis of the social conflicts generated by the obsoleted railway tracks and the nursing homes as well as the social valued contained, the paper attempted to conduct a composite spatial innovative mode of the combination of both with a comprehensive and bold picture and circumvented and eliminate or conceal the downside of them so as to maximize their social values (Figure 1(b)).

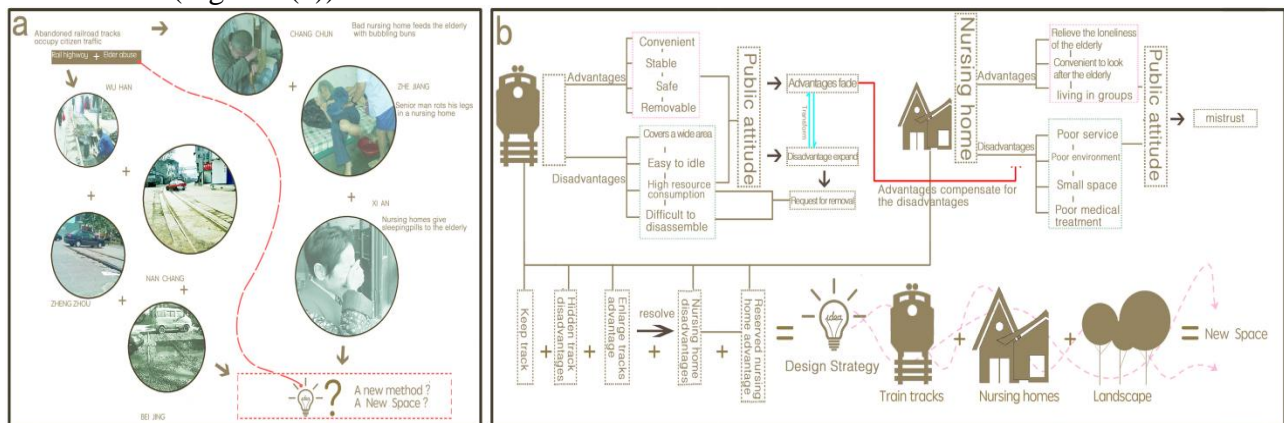


Figure 1. Event and strategy analysis. (a) Hot social event; (b) Abandoned rails and nursing homes' advantages and disadvantages analysis and strategy formation mistrust

2. Spatial innovation strategies of the combination of the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing homes

2.1 Regenerate the place with mixed space planning

The space regeneration of the urban abandoned land and ecological restoration are inevitable choices for the sustainable development of the cities [3]. The composite space strategy of the combination of the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing homes emphasizes on returning the space to people, through the overlay of the functions of the abandoned carriage, railway tracks and nursing homes, making the spatial displacement and the recycling of abandoned resources possible. The combination of them clarifies the demands of the senior citizens and the advantages of the carriage and railway tracks at the abandoned land so that to create a corresponding humanized space for providing for the aged. The focus on the publicity of space not only suffices the demands for providing for the aged, but also suffices the daily activities for the public, which forged an urban lobby with mixed functions. On the one hand, it enhances the interaction between the aged and citizens and eases their loneliness, on the other hand, it allows citizens having a better understanding of the supporting mode for the aged in the nursing homes and supervising the service quality provided by the caregivers in a better way so as to avoid the abuse of the aged.

2.2 The intervention of landscape improves the environment

The Modern landscape design aims at seeking the harmonious coexistence of mankind and the natural ecological environment, which requires the designer to look on urban landscape while sufficing the functions [4]. The aggregation of the obsoleted railway tracks leads to ecological imbalance due to industrial pollution and obsolescence and spit the urban green space system and reduces the lift quality of neighboring citizens. Whereas, most domestic nursing homes pay less attention on the creation of outdoor spatial environment and neglect the spiritual demands of the

senior citizens, which is not conducive to their physical and psychological health. Thereby, through the composite space of the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing homes, it will improve the area landscape through ecological management, greening configuration and creation of landscape, which not only softens the boundary of the combination but also eliminate or conceal the downsides. The intervention of landscape emphasizes on the effect in recuperating the physical and psychological health of the senior citizens, which restoring the ecology of the abandoned land and fill up the urban green ecological system as well as revitalizing the abandoned land and its neighboring area.

2.3 The cultural reconstruction combines the education and fun

Culture is the bedrock of design and also determines the design connotation [5]. Therefore, it especially emphasizes on the leading role that the culture played in the transformation of the urban abandoned land. The obsoleted railway tracks in the cities imply the historical information of the urban development. The spatial form and landscape environment have already been a part of cultural environment and is a cultural landscape of historical value. It should fully explore the cultural characteristics of the site and make use of its unique industrial cultural symbol, carrier and elements for landscaping design and implant the public aesthetic education. Through the landscape update and the cultural reconstruction, on one hand, it allows the public to participate, interact, experience and perceive the historical context so as to better inherit the historical gene. On the other hand, the combination of the culture of providing for the aged not only improves the sense of belonging of nostalgias and memories of the senior citizens, but also integrates the modern concept and realize the goal to keep the aged healthy and out of poverty.

3. Spatial landscape design practice of the combination of the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing homes at East Lake old town in Nanchang City Jiangxi

3.1 Situation of the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing homes at East Lake old town in Nanchang city Jiangxi

The industrial development at East Lake old town in Nanchang city Jiangxi started early and it is the important comprehensive transportation hub. The west yard of the railway selected in the scheme has a history of more than 60 years, was used to be the important convergence connecting major enterprises including Nanchang power plant in the north of the city, Jiangxi paper factory and Jiangxi pharmaceutical factory. Beyond that, the neighboring residents make a living by working at the west yard, therefore, it witnessed the glorious old days of the East Lake area. The west yard with an area of 700 mu was completely abandoned due to industrial system reorganization and policy evacuation, the place used to vitalize the city and the railway tracks became to the obstacle of urban development and the negative factors of impeding public transportation and invading of public space intensified the social conflicts. Providing for the aged is another outstanding issue of this area. As this area is an old town, the aging of the population is quite severe, besides, the infrastructure renewal is slow and the medical service centers and public space are insufficient. During the visiting, we understand that the public expects to build more institutions to provide for the aged and create more public space by tearing the west yard down, however, the government deems that tearing down the railway tracks is both time consuming and energy consuming, which deepens the social conflicts. Therefore, it is imperative to ease the tension by solving the issues of the obsoleted railway tracks and providing for the aged (Figure 2(a)).

3.2 The reconstruction of the composite space

Connect the regional transportation. The road space system is the organic composition of the old town's historic feature. The abandoned west yard impedes the smoothness of the road system just as an urban blood clot and split the traffic net and cause the existence of dead-end roads. Thereby, it is the prerequisite to revitalize the place by connecting the regional transportation. The scheme takes advantage of the setting of primary and secondary entrance and connects each dead-end roads of target place and the neighboring residential roads, which on the one hand, forms an organic whole

for the area and improve the split condition, on the other hand, better attracts popularity and lays foundation for the neighboring public space (Figure 2(b)).

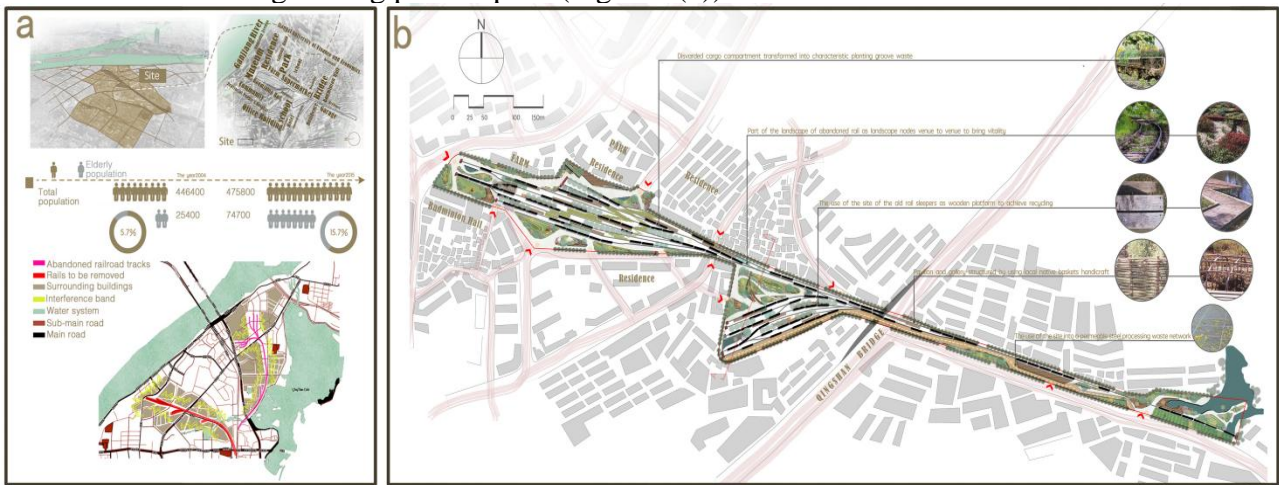


Figure 2. Site Information and general layout plan. (a) Site Information; (b) General layout plan design

The overlap of the abandoned place and customized space for providing for the aged. The essential goal for design is to suffice people’s demands. It will make the space complementary and function displacement realizable by combining the abandoned places and the spaces for providing for the aged. Firstly, customize the carriage to a space for providing for the aged. Categorize the senior citizens based on their physical and spiritual demands and conduct private interior module design and implant different functions into each carriage to suffice their demands. (Figure 5) Secondly, the abandoned carriage and railway tracks will remain at the yard and alter the limited activity space in the traditional nursing homes and form a new space by moving the tracks for different scenes. Based on the mobile gathering and stop of different quantity and different functions, the place will be reformed and a new space will be formed. For example: expansion of the platform to form an outdoor theatre and meeting room when the carriage stops. At last, a landscape platform will be set every 50meters along the tracks, providing the aged a place to communicate while enjoying the scenery and creating a space with humanity (Figure 3(a)).



Figure 3. Module and rendering design. (a) Module and node design; (b) Nursing home scene and railway landscape reproduction

The overlap of the abandoned place and public leisure space. The reconstruction of the composite space is the spatial complementary strategy and returns the space to the public. By taking advantage of the obsoleted railway tracking to return the space to the public, which will not only eliminate or conceal the conflicts between the tracks and the public, but also avoid tearing the tracks down, allowing the preservation and continuation of the historical context of the area, it is also an effective approach to improve the public participation and supervision of the service quality for the caregivers.

The scheme will set various themed park with industrial elements along the tracks to suffice the daily leisure of the public as well as the aesthetic education so as to create an urban lobby with an integrated function of providing for the aged, historical education and public daily leisure (Figure 3(b)).

3.3 The regeneration of diverse landscape

The landscape regeneration design of the urban abandoned land implies the sustainable development [6]. In the first place, the regeneration of railway landscape. Firstly, the regeneration of ecology. The vegetation of the obsoleted railway tracks is poor due to the different level of soil and water pollution caused by heavy metal, the scheme intends to purify the water and absorb the soil by planting the plants with both ornamental value and heavy metal absorption function such as sweet alyssum and wormseed so as to optimize the environment for providing for the aged. Secondly, remain the industrial relics at the sites. Convert the large amount of the remaining tracks, carriages and sleepers into certain design and replace them with featured planting pool, leisure platform and road paving. (Figure 4), it will not convey the spirit but also enhance the sense of belonging for the senior citizens. Thirdly, continue the design gene of industrial style. The industrial themed parks have been designed at each entrance and along the tracks and different function areas have been set and dark red concretes, which echoes the color of tracks have been chosen as the boundary of each function. The children's play areas at the landscape park of major entrance, skateboarding areas have been made by making use of the tracks and the historical evolution has been represented on the tracks, which not only suffice the demands for public leisure, but also realize the goal for historical education. The central area of the site set central landscape node, which enriches the vertical level by the process of microtopography. A climbing platform has been made in dark red iron rust steel plate for the public and the senior citizens to enjoy the holistic view. In order to satisfy their demands for fitness, a 700-meter footpath has been set in the park. By making use of the natural lake in the east end of the site, a waterfront landscape area has been created to be a place for the senior citizens to nurture body and spirits (Figure 4).

In the second place, the link of regional landscape, which is the regeneration of the surrounding ecology. The landscape along the tracks has the spatial continuity. Therefore, the scheme intended to use the obsoleted railway as a belt and link all scattered green spaces, such as natural lake and the grass in public, together as a whole, which forms an urban greenbelt system as well as a landscape gallery to demonstrate the legacy of the city's history so as to enrich the tourism resources. (Figure 4)

3.4 The reappear of the culture of the site

The site is an organic whole that consists of natural and man-made environment, it reflects people's production mode and its unique environmental feature at a certain period [7]. The essence of the design practice is to keep the history context of the site, its railway feature and the combination with providing for the aged. Firstly, the creation of featured cultural area. The scheme set the element of the obsoleted railway tracks and carriages at the central landscape area, primary and secondary entrance and children's play area and also combined the featured landscape with functional characteristic and demonstrated the culture of the site at the facilities, such as the leisure chairs and the planting grooves made by the parts of the carriages. Secondly, build the museum of regional and railway culture. The development history and regional culture of the west yard has been intensively demonstrated at each venue, such as Nanchang porcelain plate paintings, Gan hair embroidery technology and etc. It will not only provide neighboring citizens a place to perceive and educate, but also a place for the senior citizens to memorize (Figure 6). At last, the creation of the cultural activities at the site. In the scheme, temporary auditoriums can be built in each outdoor activity areas and by using different carriages so as to provide places for the presentation of folk crafts, which passes on the culture and enriches the entertainment activities for the public and the senior citizens.

4. Summary

Although hot social events convey a large proportion of negative information to the public, they directly aim at the pressing social conflicts to be solved. The accumulation of long period will definitely intensify these conflicts if avoid talking about them so that will affect the stability of the society. Any effective strategies aiming at the obsoleted railway tracks and nursing homes have not been formed so far. Therefore, only by squarely facing the problems and conflicts and proactive communication, can the blocking be converted to be smooth. Based on that, the paper attempts to combine them with the intervention of landscape and spatial planning to explore the innovative mode of the combination of the obsoleted railway tracks and the nursing homes. In addition to that, it provides the possibility to solve the hot social events from the design perspective by taking the design practice of spatial landscape of the mentioned mode in East lake old town of Nanchang city, Jiangxi.

References

- [1] ZHANG Meng-qi: Studies on the Landscape Regeneration Design of Urban abandoned railways. Dissertation for the Degree of Master, Zhejiang A&F University, China 2013. p. 1-86.
- [2] LU Zheng, GUO Weimin. Expressing and Continuing the Image of a Place Based on pace Syntax Analysis a Case Study on Historic Urban Area in Changsha. *Modern Urban Research*. Vol. (2014) No. 01, p. 89-95.
- [3] ZHANG Jin-wei, CHANG Jiang. The study of landscape and ecological Derelict Land. *Modern Urban Research*. Vol. (2007) No. 01, p. 40-49.
- [4] YANG Ling, XIA Wei. Involved in planning and landscape view: The Reconstruction and Integration for Huangjueping Main Street. *Art & Design*. Vol. 268 (2015) No. 08, p. 84-86.
- [5] HE Caixia, LIU Jie, ZHANG Ying. Reflections on the Transmission of Local Culture in the Art Design. *Design Research*. Vol. 2 (2012) No. 06, p. 20-22+54.
- [6] Zhou Guangwei. Reconstruction Planning and Design of Abandoned Urban Railway ——Taking the Previous Luo-Fu Railway in Downtown Zhoukou as an Example. *Journal of Green Science and Technology*. Vol. (2019) No. 13, p. 46-47.
- [7] WANG Yu, CHEN Zhen. The interaction between cultural environment of site and the structural form of modern landscape architecture. *Sichuan Building Science*. Vol. 42 (2016) No. 02, p. 102-108.