Chapter 2

Urban Development

With increasing competition from other Asian cities and countries, how well Taipei City meets these challenges and stays ahead is crucial for the city's continuing development.

In 2006, Taipei utilized its natural and historic resources, and harnessed the efforts of the public and private sectors to foster a positive environment for cooperation with its neighboring counties. Under the guiding principle of sustainable development, and by means of regional cooperation, urban redevelopment, community improvement, and public participation, Taipei's living environment has improved markedly. What is more, by significantly improving the industrial environment and increasing the availability of suitable land, we have made Taipei City more competitive than ever. These achievements have received wide media coverage.

A series of international conferences held by the Department of Urban Development has demonstrated Taipei City’s strengths to nations throughout the world. In this constantly changing world, the Taipei City Government will continue to take the necessary steps and harness the city’s energy to take on and surmount any challenge that other cities from around the world may pose.
Chapter 2 | Urban Development

Taipei has set the tone of its urban development mission by focusing on forward-thinking, pleasantness, hospitality, cultural enrichment, ecology and safety. However, in view of such irreversible trends as globalization, informatics, sustainability and aging issues, Taipei is facing challenges on many fronts. These challenges include improved management of natural resources, improved risk management, and purposeful modification of the urban spatial framework. These challenges, significant though they all are, nevertheless present unprecedented opportunities for the city to turn the corner.

Taipei’s residents are the foundation for urban development. By acquiring the support and backing of public opinion, the Taipei City Government is now poised to formulate its policies and strategies for the future, positioning itself for fresh challenges and putting those policies and strategies into effect. By elevating its status to that of an international metropolis in a globalization framework, Taipei City is poised to become a major player on both the regional and global scales. It has become a “cybernetic city” in the age of informatics. Taipei City will continue to fulcrum the powers of its citizenry and society, while making good use of its natural resources to reform itself as an environmentally sustainable metropolis.

Part 1 Taipei’s Urban Development Vision — In the Making

Taipei’s residential, commercial, industrial, administrative, cultural and educational districts, public facilities, and other urban districts make up 49.3% of Taipei’s total area. Agricultural land, scenic sites, refurbished riverside land and other non-urban developmental regions constitute another 50.7% of Taipei’s total area, signifying plentiful natural resources. The city’s industrial structure is largely tertiary industries; 80.4% of the workforce is employed in this sector, followed, by a big gap, by secondary industries that constitute 19.4% of the population. Only 0.2% of the workforce is employed in the primary industry. In comparison to other major Asian cities, Taipei’s tertiary industry clearly employs the most significant percentage of the city’s workforce, showing that it is undoubtedly oriented around the service sector.

Continual efforts have been devoted to improving Taipei’s overall transportation efficiency, the quality of its environment, its spatial constitution, living quality and urban competitiveness. In recent years, Taipei City has climbed to the top in various international and national rankings of cities.

A competitiveness survey on Taiwan’s 25 counties and cities conducted by Global Views Monthly for its July, 2004 issue showed that Taipei City was ranked first in four of five competitive categories (administrative efficiency, enterprise efficiency, technological development, economic performance and infrastructure), decidedly placing Taipei City as the most competitive metropolis in Taiwan.
According to the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report for 2004, Taipei was ranked 11th among 53 cities around the world in competitiveness—the third highest-ranking city in Asia (behind Hong Kong and Singapore).

In 2005, Taipei was ranked number one by Global Views Monthly in competitiveness among 46 cities in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao.

In 2006, the China Social Science Institute and Bucknell University of the U.S ranked Taipei number two (behind Hong Kong) in competitiveness amongst China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao.

This recognition symbolizes the fruits of labor on the part of Taipei’s citizenry, and the city government. The Taipei City Government vows to continuously and actively strive for perfection.

1. A Forward-Thinking City in a Globalized Production Climate

(1) Northern Taiwan Regional Development and Cooperation Initiative

Development and the forging of alliances between cities and regions are becoming an irrevocable trend in the era of globalization. To avoid becoming marginalized, Taiwan and its local governments need to meet these challenges head on by transcending administrative boundaries, integrating common resources, and fostering cooperative relationships to secure mutual benefits and prosperity.

A “Northern Taiwan Counties and Cities Development Prospect Exhibition” was held on January 12th, 2004. So-called Northern Taiwan actually refers to eight administrative districts: Yilan County, Keelung City, Taipei County, Taoyuan County, Hsinchu County, Hsinchu City, and Miaoli County. During the exhibition, the eight counties and cities announced their partnership to face the world hand-in-hand, signified by the signing of the “Northern Taiwan Government’s Cooperation Memorandum.” On November 21st, 2005, a “Northern Taiwan Regional Development and Cooperation Commission” was inaugurated in Taoyuan County as a mechanism to formally establish regional partnerships. On January 13th, 2006, representatives of the administrative districts converged on Taipei City and signed a “New Era, New Actions for a New Taiwan-Cooperation Declaration.” The declaration officially kicked off Northern Taiwan’s regional partnership cooperation!

The Taipei City Government intends to work on “Improving Living Quality, Maintaining Public Safety, Creating Social Welfare, Promoting Administration Efficiency, and Encouraging Economic Development” as its core values, and building cooperation and integration on eight major life issues (leisure and relaxation, communications and transportation, industrial development, environmental resources, disaster prevention and social security, cultural education, health and social welfare, aboriginal and Hakka communities, and new immigrants. Fifty-three joint initiatives have been put forward (with eighteen short-term goals, twenty-four mid-term goals, and eleven long-term projects) to effectively integrate regional resources in Northern Taiwan.
(2) Forging a “Taipei Technology Corridor”

The inception of a “Taipei Technology Corridor” was oriented around combining human resources with technology industry clusters to forge a highly efficient and high quality technology corridor. The “Taipei Technology Corridor” extends from the Nangang Software Park in the east, through the industrial districts along the Keelung River after it was straightened to allow for more space, all the way to the Neihu Technology Park, the Beitou-Shilin Technology Park, and extending to the Guandu Industrial Park, for a total area of 536 hectares. The Corridor consists of ICT, biotechnology and an array of innovative industries as a designated development area. The Corridor also allows wholesale operations, logistics management, exhibitions, shopping, recreation facilities, and strategic industries for sustaining other industries to establish themselves and prosper there.

2. Quality Living Environment in a Pleasant City

(1) Urban Landscape Beautification

A. The Installation of the Pedestrian Walkway Network

The “Xinyi Commercial Center’s Pedestrian Walkway” was designed to connect the major commercial clusters within the center by creating a 3-D pedestrian walkway network. It links the Taipei City Hall Station of the MRT’s Bannan Line in the north with the main commercial and shopping nexuses, and extending southward towards the financial center and future MRT Xinyi Line exit ensures a safe and convenient pathway.

Skywalk of the Songshou Section

Skywalk overlooking the Warner Village and New York, New York Shopping Mall
for pedestrians. This innovative pedestrian walkway network is characterized by an elegant new type of skywalk free of the unattractive appearance often associated with conventional skywalk designs. Rather, conventional designs were supplanted in this case by lightweight, simple yet elegant footbridges, which integrate LED bulletin boards and traffic signals. The skywalks combine transparency and functionality with aesthetic appeal. The skywalk system has evidently reduced the congestion and clutter of pedestrians and motorized vehicles, while streamlining the flow of visitors to the trade shows on weekends and holidays. The skywalks are a welcome boon to the convenient and friendly ambience of Xinyi District.

B. Vibrant Street Vista—The Installation of Street Furniture

The “Taipei City Street Furniture Design, Operation and Management Plan” was devised to create a high quality urban streetscape, in which urban fittings are continuously kept anew. Through private investment, management and maintenance, contractors have been commissioned to design, install, maintain, clean and manage street furnishings. This project has been undertaken to install street furniture on Zhongxiao East and West Roads, Renai Road, Hoping East and West Roads, Chongqing North and South Roads, Zhongshan North and South Roads, Fuxing North and South Roads, Dunhua North and South Roads, Roosevelt Boulevard, Keelung Road, Chengde Road, Daye...
Road, and Xinglong Road to beautify the street landscape, providing Taipei’s residents with a more comfortable, safer, and more convenient surrounding while helping to transform Taipei into an innovative and cosmopolitan city.

C. A Culturally Rich Living Environment—Public Arts

In 2006, the Taipei City Government continued to promote public arts by establishing an “architectural outer wall” as the principal part of the project for embellishing the city’s buildings. A model installation was set up at the Urban Arena at the intersection of Bade Road and Dunhua South Road, using an LED module prototype as the featured element for a digital interactive art work: “City Dream Walk of Little Dots,” stimulating pedestrians on an experiential level to generate fresh views.

The quality and quantity of Taipei City’s Public Arts Installations are the foremost in the nation encouraging local residents and visitors alike to acquire a deeper level of appreciation for Taipei’s art, landscape and culture. A Public Arts Database was launched in 2006 in the hope of establishing a comprehensive public arts network that would systematically integrate works of a cultural and artistic significance, new talent, and project installation progress inquiries as an exchange platform with other counties and cities.

D. An Increasingly Beautiful Urban Nightscape

Taipei’s Urban Nightscape is oriented around two general sites: the Xinyi District and Neihu Technology Park. Nighttime illuminations along the Tamsui River, the banks of the Keelung River and Taipei City’s key blocks are to undergo major renovation in the future.

The Xinyi District is the stronghold of Taipei City’s night-life; its urban functionality has been fully developed. The promotion of the “Xinyi District Nighttime Illumination System Improvement Project” was designed as a “Node (section), Line (route), and Range (building facades)” illumination network to create a multi-leveled spatial experience through rhythmical variations of light and darkness. The “Light Experience” route is characterized by a combination of structured self-lighting venues and nighttime landscapes. In 2006, the peripheral area surrounding Taipei City Hall underwent Phase 1 of the nighttime illumination improvement project.

“Neihu Technology Park” is referred to as Taipei City’s...
Sunrise Industrial Park. Architectural models and artistic vocabulary in the making have fully conveyed the image of the park as a happening hi-tech community. The main arteries, the sides of secondary arteries and public facilities were carefully reviewed in regard to their nighttime illumination quality, demands and regional demarcation in order to extend bustling daytime industrial activities well into the night to create a high-tech industrial park image. Systematic planning has been focused on important intersections and entrances to achieve a high level of quality nighttime illumination, thereby creating unique nighttime images.

(2) Versatile Recreational Spaces

Hills and mountainous areas constitute over half of Taipei City’s total land area. In order to provide a user-friendlier environment for hikers and mountain climbers, the Department of Urban Development in 2005 initiated a project to overhaul the hiking trail signage system, and to integrate the public transportation system and hiking trails in order to form a comprehensive “Taipei Hiking Trail System.” The Department continued to improve and beautify the landscape amenities at each of the hiking trails’ entry points. In providing a readily accessible environment through integrating the hiking trails and classifying the trail grades urban residents now find nature a lot more accessible. In 2006, the Department consolidated the basic infrastructure and continued to issue publications to promote and encourage the general public’s participation in mountain climbing and hiking as a leisure activity. Twenty-six hiking events were held in the course of 2005 and 2006. In the future, hiking and mountain climbing as a healthy activity will be instilled into the curricula of middle and elementary schools to increase the level of environmental protection awareness and to build a sustainable, ecologically-friendly, and wholesome Taipei City. Unique volcanic geological topography and activity have given rise to the many hot springs in suburban Taipei, which in turn has led to the development of clusters of the hot spring industry in the region. However, the urban planning district of the Xingyi Road hot spring area is zoned as a conservation area, and for decades, uncoordinated development has resulted in a disorderly local landscape, excessive waste of the hot spring resources, and the destruction of the local ecology and environment. To bring order to this type of illegal hot spring development, the “Beitou Xingyi Road Hot Spring Area Plan” was devised and put into effect by the Taipei City Government to serve as a guide for developers to abide by regulations in achieving sustainable development. The “land-use classification” of the Taipei City Urban Planning Project has been adjusted accordingly to promote the sustainable development of these unique, precious resources. The Maokong area, with its great variety of teas, tea gardens and sightseeing spots, has long since been a popular tourist destination for Taipei’s residents to engage in hiking, tea drinking, and to enjoy Taipei’s nighttime scenery. In order to conserve environmental resources, nurture tea culture and provide high-quality leisure venues, the area will be rezoned according to the City’s urban planning project to promote sustained development of leisure activities and tea-drinking culture, modeling Maokong into a leisure center for Taipei’s tea-drinking citizenry.
3. A Livable City

(1) Dynamic Community

A community by its very nature is intricately connected to the lives of its townspeople. New visions of the community and discussions of new development possibilities are voiced and reviewed by community leaders. New community prospects are the focus of the “Living Circle Development Plan” which engages professionals to provide assistance in reviewing, discussing and encouraging members of the community to form a consensus in identifying development prospects and putting them together to form a concrete development game plan.

In addition to elements in the planning stage, the Taipei City Government has also put forth the “Urban Space Transformation Plan” for the purpose of renovating the city’s environment. The Taipei City Government publicly requests and evaluates project proposals, for which the public is encouraged to propose Spatial Renovation recommendations. In 2006, the “Mangka Qingshui Temple Living Circle Construction Project,” the “Nangang Zhongnan Street Life Circle Construction Project,” the “Wolong Street Urban Spatial Construction Project,” the “Taiho Mountain Green Veranda Living Circle Construction Project” and the “Mangka Taipei First Street Urban Space Transformation Plan” were all proposed.

The Taipei City Government established the Community Planning Center in order to gain insight into and direction for the future development of community planning. It seeks to encourage the participation and energy of the private sector in community planning activities through the governmental assistance of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to establish and operate Community Planning Centers.

The Taipei City Government further designated the heritage-listed historical building (the original Renan Clinic Building) located within the Dadaocheng Historical Special Development District to be reused as a Community Planning Center; renovation constructions took place during 2006. The City Government also seeks to tap government resources to organize the Taipei City Community Planning Center Experimental Operation Project” for the purpose of integrating community resources, fostering community companionship, promoting in-depth discussion of community issues and taking into account international experiences to assist communities to improve their environment, nurture the quality of community life, and highlight the importance of community planning. The City also hopes that the Community Planning Center can serve as a flexible, vital Third Force to work with the municipal government in creating a versatile, friendly and thoroughly modern Taipei.

(2) Constructive Urban Redevelopment

In contrast to the rapid growth and burgeoning construction projects of the new town area, early
developments appear decrepit and rundown after tides of time. To balance the scale of development of the two areas to better present Taipei’s versatility, in the course of rebuilding the old town area, the Taipei City Government has recently begun promoting urban redevelopment in the hope of attaining an “East-West Axis Reversal, Remaking the Westside District.” The present Urban Renewal projects consist of the following:

A. Strategic Urban Renewal in the Making
The Mangka area along the Tamsui River was one of Taipei City’s earliest development. It possesses rich cultural resources and historical reminders of how the City has grown in the past decades. To revive its beauty, this area has been strategically listed as a priority urban renewal site. Strategic urban renewal in the west includes: urban renewal of the Wanhua area, regional developments nearby the Taipei Main Station, an urban renewal project in the Datong district, and underground development along the Nangang Railway Line and land development along the above-ground rail line.

B. Improvement of Public Open Space
A user-friendly living environment and amenities are closely associated with the welfare of the local population. Plans include the creation of parks and community park renewal, improving and refurbishing markets, building parking lots, leisure and cultural centers, public property renewals, rebuilding the North-South Axis, making improvements to roads and sidewalks, demolishing overpasses, and creating nighttime illuminations. The launching of neighborhood improvement projects will go far in raising the living quality for local residents.

C. Revitalize Industrial Development
In order to attract shoppers back to commercial districts and revive historical neighborhoods, the Taipei City Government has introduced guidelines for developing commercial districts, promoting community and industrial redevelopment and urban space renovation, and has sponsored a maintenance and renewal program to revitalize local economies and preserve local cultures.

D. Encouraging the Private Sector in Advancing Renewal
To expedite the urban renewal process, resources from the private sector were drawn upon for construction projects, post-disaster reconstruction, and industrial renovation and the remodeling of private residences, all of which serves to revamp Taipei into a livable city.

Part 2 Reinforcing the Rubrics of Urban Development in Taipei City

1. Unveiling Taipei’s Cultural Diversity

(1) The Capital City — Integration of Nature, Heritage and Art Trails Project
Taipei boasts a rich natural, historical and artistic heritage concentrated at various clusters within the urban landscape much like brilliant pearls, each with its own enchanting stories. The “Capital City — Integration of Nature, Heritage and Art Trails Project” aims to connect these numerous isolated heritage clusters to form a precious string of “pearls”. By so doing, Taipei City has vowed to increase the range of recreational activities and touring in Taipei City and make them much more enjoyable for residents and visitors alike. The following measures have been taken to shape the spatial framework of these three trails: improvement of the pedestrian environment along Zhongshan North Road and Jiujuan Street in a Stage 1 Project the renovation of its landscape,
reinforcement of urban nodes, and enhancement of the night lighting ambience in this area. These measures have helped to improve the overall quality of public space and have brought together a wealth of natural, historical and artistic resources all along the trails.

(2) The Huashan Culture Park

The Taiwan Railway Huashan Cargo Station was formerly located at the current Central Culture Park; it used to be a freight depot between the Taipei Main Station and Nangang Station. Due to the underground construction of a railway network and the relocation of Taipei Winery, the station ceased its operations. Taking up an area of nearly five hectares, the station was a prime site for renovation. Since 2001, the Council for Cultural Affairs and Taipei City Government joined hands and organized a number of landscape renewal projects for the Park. The Park has been transformed into a lively, artistic urban area. In 2006, the Huashan Culture Park (including the Central Cultural and Creative Park) Greenery Landscape Construction Project was completed, infusing new life into both Huashan Park and Central Park. In addition to opening up 9.9-hectares of outdoor leisure space, the project has facilitate the growth and flowering of cultural and artistic activities in Taipei, and transformed the park into a cultural urban landmark.

(3) Public Environment Improvement Plan

In order to enhance the individual landscape features of each area in Taipei, the “Public Environment Improvement Plan” aims to improve and transform historical and noteworthy sites in old urban quarters, commercial blocks, gathering places and riverbanks. By giving these areas a gateway image, improving pavements and streets, installing street furniture, beautifying commercial signs, creating multipurpose plazas, increasing the number of trees and street lights, each locality and streetscape will be endowed with a unique character that go hand in hand with its distinctive historical and cultural features. Activities are held periodically that combine public participation and commercial activities to advance the development and renewal of these old urban quarters.
2. An Eco-City of Sustainability

(1) Taipei Agenda 21

“Taipei Agenda 21” is an overview of the strategic plan for the sustainable development of Taipei City, encompassing an organizational structure, prospects, strategies, a game plan, and a review mechanism. After gathering a wealth of wide-ranging opinions from representatives of the City Government and comments from experts and private organizations, the framework for building a world-class sustainable Taipei Eco-city has been worked out. It entails the establishment of a framework to preserve environmental resource, improve society security and enhance economic development. The framework encompasses seven visions: “Sustainable Taipei”, “Eco-Taipei”, “Clean Taipei”, “Secure Taipei”, “Cultural Taipei”, “Knowledge Taipei” and “Network Taipei”. The framework is comprised of 46 strategies, 96 plans of action and 282 work items. Of these work items, 26 were listed as high priority for 2006.

(2) The “Green Net”

The “Green Network” project was designed by the Taipei City Government to create a green urban environment and a more harmonious city landscape by connecting its sidewalks, open spaces, green areas and public spaces such as institutions and schools. Through the systematic integration of a green network consisting of nodes, lines and areas, the Government aims to create a verdant and lush urban landscape. The greening improvement plan for Civic Boulevard has been completed, and the strategic area improvement design for 2006 has been carried out. In addition, the landscape improvement plan for Zhongxiao East Road and Roosevelt Boulevard continues apace. Subsequent design and construction works are scheduled to get underway to connect the green spaces and green corridors of Taipei City, thereby forming an integrated “Green Network”.

(3) Leisure Farming

In addition to the modern bustling lifestyle of metropolitan Taipei, the city also possesses a unique urban farming culture. Presently the total area of active farm and hillside land in the city is 13,000 hectares, which is over half of the city’s total land area. 3700 hectares of this land are arable, or 7% of the city’s total area. Due to the limited space of agricultural land in the City, the Taipei City Government is now taking the initiative in assisting farmers to transform their farmland into a new kind of educational farmland. It has integrated the Taipei Farmers’ Association and organized hands-on agricultural activities, making this new development a multifunctional undertaking that is recreational, educational, social and environmentally friendly.

Taipei’s farm produce includes: alocasia at Zhuzi Lake in Beitou, Chinese yams in Shilin, green bamboo sprouts in Muzha and Beitou, and Baozhong Tea in Muzha and Nangang. The Taipei City Government has been promoting special marketing events every harvest season, such as the Alocasia Season at Bamboo Lake in the spring. By holding a series of springtime marketing campaigns when alocasia are in season,
the City aims to increase the production and marketing levels as well as the tourism activities at Zhuzi Lake. In 2006, over 550,000 people were on hand for the event and helped create about NT $120 million in receipts. The “Muzha, Beitou Green Bamboo Sprouts Festival” kicked off in June, with festivities taking place at both sites. On the agenda were the Green bamboo sprout competition and bamboo sprout delicacies. The “Muzha Baozhong Tea Production Contest” is held every August and local tea varieties are sold at the Jianguo Holiday Flower Market. The “Shilin Chinese Yam Season” takes place in December when the mountain yams on Yangmingshan are harvested. Meals prepared with yams, yam growing activities, and yam processing exhibitions delight visitors and increase the value of output.

3. A Safe City — Free from Care

Despite the completion of an Urban Disaster Prevention System, a Downtown Disaster Rescue Operation Center together with a Review of Rescue Efforts in 1997 and 2001, respectively, in recent years, new developments have been taking place in various administrative districts in Taipei City. To build a robust, citywide disaster prevention mechanism, the city must carefully examine the unique disaster prevention needs of each region. In recent years, Neihu has become one of Taipei’s strongholds in terms of strategic development and multipurpose industry. High-tech and logistics specialists and distributors and wholesalers have been flocking to this area, changing its demographic structure, residential makeup, spatial development, road system and land applications. In 2006, the City Government tapped government funding to thrash out a plan for an “Urban Disaster Prevention Spatial System” specifically for the Neihu area, which is based on the blueprint of the “Disaster Prevention Planning Pamphlet.” In addition to reviewing the city’s overall rescue operations, evacuation planning and prevention mechanisms, the City aims to incorporate the features of this new plan into its Urban Planning operations to encourage the completion of a robust citywide disaster prevention system.

Part 3 Taipei City’s Development Action Kicks Off

1. “Face off” the City: A Colorful Make-up Movement

Taipei City, with a century of history under its belt, has witnessed the decay of many buildings in its downtown area which are in urgent need of repair. These buildings have brought an unwanted sense of disorder and chaos into the city landscape. In order to create a more attractive urban space, the “Face off the City: A Colorful Make-up Movement” activity was initiated to encourage public participation in remaking the city’s buildings, and thereby recreating the surrounding open space and endowing its historical buildings with new life. The activity encourages residents to pay more attention to the facades and exteriors of buildings. The building make-up activity has a positive impact on the urban environment and landscape, and it by encourages residents to increase their awareness of the need to conserve the environment.

“2006 Face off the City: A Colorful Make-up Movement” Poster
2. The Urban Landscape Awards

The 5th Taipei Urban Landscape Awards citation ceremony was held on November 2nd, 2006, with Mayor Ma Ying-jeou on hand to personally present the awards. A total of 31 nominees were in the running, and after two phases of intense deliberation among the judges and a panel of jurors, the Taipei Cultural Center won the top prize and was selected as the Most Popular Artwork on the InternET. Additionally, other works that made unique contributions to the urban landscape were commended, with a special award being given to the National Taipei University of Technology for its “Zhongxiao East Road Campus Water View.” The Lanzhou Eco-Park was given the Community Contribution Award. “Fubon Artistic Mini Dining Car -the Good Luck Beast”, “Mobile Fawn”, “A Cupful of Blessings,” and “The Joy Loudspeaker” were given the Industrial Contribution Award.

3. Neighborhood Improvement — The Creation of a New Urban Community

Neighborhood Improvement is a project that is aimed at enlisting the help of Taipei’s residents to propose their own improvement plan for their community’s public space. The Taipei City Government subsidizes any plan that gains approval to aid in its implementation. In the planning process, planners generate ideal images of public space by drawing upon the input and insights of residents and engaging them in a continuous process of discussion and communication. Planners try to achieve their objectives not only by enhancing the quality of the urban living environment but also by designing a community that is responsive to the needs of local residents. In this way the process entices public participation and reinforces community awareness. In 2006, eight neighborhood improvement projects were undertaken, including the construction of the Huian Water and Greenery Life Arcade in Xinyi District; the Mingshan Borough’s Half-moon Wasteland Community Improvement Project in Shilin District; Tianho Park’s Foreign Well Construction; the Landscape Botanical Garden by the entrance of Wannin Public Housing; the Linkou Open Space Landscape Greenery Project; Shezi Island’s Farmland Picket Fence Makeover; the Butterfly Community Zen Project, and the Landscaping Project surrounding Sonde District.

4. Community Planners

“Community planners” are individuals with a background in urban planning and are willing to serve the community. They serve as liaisons between the government and city residents, whose major responsibilities are largely devoted to improving “public space”. Another important aspect of their
work is the “localization” of their planning process. In 2006, the Taipei City Government selected 54 teams of community planners to volunteer for the project. The City Government wanted to recruit enthusiastic and creative young men willing to devote their time to benefit the community. The project provided young community planners with systematic training and a practice course was designed to develop their communication, coordination, and integration skills. The training program and the experience gained from the project provided the planners the opportunity to involve themselves in community affairs, contribute to community planning and promote the sustainable development of the city. In 2006, the City Government provided training for 99 young community planners. In order to encourage community residents to participate in community planning, the Taipei City Government sponsored the course “Urban planning and community participation” in cooperation with twelve community universities. The joint undertaking of universities and the community planning service center brought community planners and professionals together. Their course, mainly concerned with environmental issues was offered for community planners and interested participants.

5. Community Planning Service Center

In order to create the Community Planning Service Center, the Taipei City Government, beginning in 2001, has encouraged universities with specialists in spatial design and professional spatial groups to make available their expertise. The main purpose of the professional spatial group is to serve the community by offering community residents the opportunity to learn about spatial planning. The professional spatial group is to cooperate and coordinate with residents to study local development plans. One purpose of this project is to encourage professionals and students to become engaged in neighborhood affairs. Schools can also tap resources to increase their expertise; in this way, all parties can benefit from the partnership. Nine groups were selected to serve the district in Taipei City in 2006.
6. Community Architects

Launched on October 23rd, 2004, the goal of the “Community Architect” project was to provide a channel for professional inquiries. The architects’ service jurisdictions were decided by “administrative subdivision”, with a “Community Architect Review Committee” in charge of selecting “localized” enthusiastic professionals. 253 community architects were selected through an open, fair and proper procedure, and given of the necessary authority and administrative resources to assist residents in legally using and maintaining the city’s public buildings. With adequate government support and relevant resources, community architects provide expertise in promoting various building management services and in improving the living quality of the city’s residents.

The spatial structure formed during the course of Taipei’s dynamic development has lent a unique yet manifold charm to Taipei City as the nation’s capital. As Taiwan’s center of politics, economics, and culture, Taipei radiates irresistible grace. In Taipei residents and visitors alike can see the latest fashions in the commercial districts, renovated historical buildings in the old downtown, and beautiful natural scenery throughout the city. Through public and private cooperation, rundown areas have been rejuvenated, affluent communities are now friendlier, natural resources are more accessible and industrial activities are more diverse. These achievements instill a sense of pride in everyone associated with Taipei City.

The integration of cross-border cooperation among local governments is creating hope for the future development of Northern Taiwan. In the face of fierce global competition, Taipei City now has a more than adequate foundation that, together with the integrated resources of the neighboring counties and municipalities, will provide the region with a competitive edge. In creating a better life for its citizens and preserving a sustainable ecological environment for the generations to come, the Taipei City Government must continue to preserve its healthy and vibrant natural environment, while at the same time improving its investment environment. Government leaders are poised to showcase Taipei City as one of the most prominent urban centers in the world through effective marketing strategies. The Taipei City Government sincerely invites all residents to work together to make Taipei an even more highly competitive center, one whose advanced investment environment and high standard of living has made Taipei an international city that is also a great place to live, work and enjoy life.