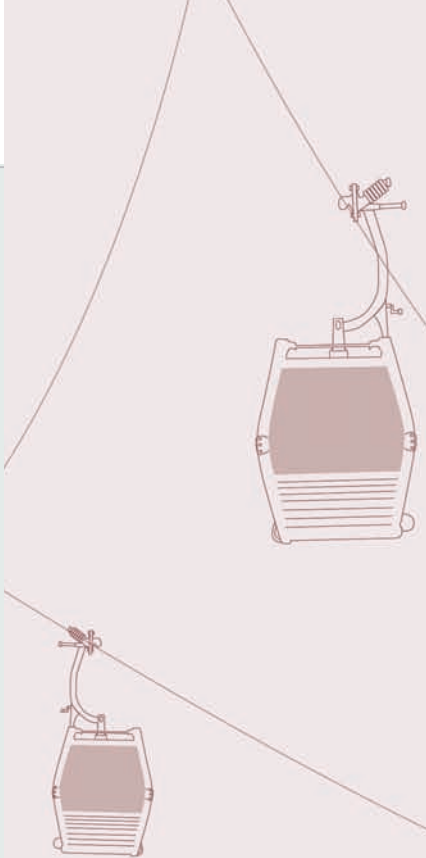




Chapter 2

Urban Development

With the development of other Asian cities and countries comes a heightened level of competition among Asian cities. How will Taipei City stand out in the global city networks? How can Taipei appear to best advantage in the international arena by using its sources effectively? Under the guiding principle of sustainable development, with rich natural and historical resources as well as the harnessed efforts of the public and private sectors, Taipei has devoted significant efforts to improving the quality of life and environment, promoting industrial and business development, and staying competitive by means of regional cooperation, urban redevelopment, community improvement, and public participation. In this constantly changing world, the Taipei City Government continues to take the necessary steps and harness the city's energy to take on and surmount any and all challenges that other cities from around the world may pose.



To make Taipei a city of energy-sufficiency, charm, and creativity and to construct a safe and worry-free living environment, Taipei has set the tone of its urban development mission by focusing on forward-thinking, pleasantness, hospitability, cultural enrichment, ecology, information and safety. With respect to constructing a forward-thinking city, important policies include enhancing international exchange activities, promoting regional cooperation, and forging a technological corridor in Taipei. On promoting the competitiveness of the city, the city should continue to effectively utilize information technology to improve its living quality. Several well-known examples include the connected skywalks of Xinyi Commercial Center, the Street Furniture Project of Taipei City, and the night-time lighting project, all of which reveal the charm of Taipei both day and night.

Part 1 Taipei's Urban Development Vision: In the Making

Taipei's residential, commercial, industrial, administrative, cultural and educational districts, its public facilities, and other urban districts make up 49.3% of Taipei's total area. Agricultural land, scenic sites, protected land, 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 consists largely of tertiary industries; 80.4% of the workforce is employed in this sector, followed by secondary industries that constitute 18.9% of the population. Only 0.2% of the workforce is employed in primary industries. In comparison to other major Asian cities, Taipei's tertiary industries clearly employ the most significant percentage of the city's workforce, showing that it is undoubtedly oriented around the service sector.

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

(1) Northern Taiwan Regional Development and Cooperation Initiative

The forging and development 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.

The "Northern Taiwan Counties and Cities Development Prospect Exhibition" was held on January 12, 2004. So-called Northern Taiwan actually refers to eight administrative districts: Yilan County,



Exhibition of the concrete achievements of the cooperation of the Eight Counties and Cities in Northern Taiwan

Keelung City, Taipei 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; this was signified by the signing of the “Northern Taiwan Government’s Cooperation Memorandum.” The memorandum proposes to fulfill the goals of “improving the quality of life, maintaining public safety, creating social welfare, enhancing administrative efficiency, and promoting economic development” through coordinating the resources of Northern Taiwan, thereby promoting regional development. On June 22, 2007, the first meeting of the “Committee of Developing and Promoting Northern Taiwan” was held. The second meeting was held on November 20, and on December 27, 2007, an annual exhibition of the concrete achievements of the cooperation of the Eight Counties and Cities of Northern Taiwan was held. Hsinchu City and Taipei City will host the meetings in 2008 and continue to promote the cooperation of the Northern Taiwan Region.

(2) Forging a “Taipei Technology Corridor”

The Taipei City Government plans to forge a “Taipei Technology Corridor” which is to extend from the Nangang Software Park and Nangang High-speed Railway New Region through the Greater Neihu Technology Park to the Beitou-Shilin Technology Park to attract businesses related to information, biology, and communication technology that will develop into research and development and regional business centers in Taipei. To offer sufficient space for the development of the science and technology industry, the Taipei City Government plans to reexamine the urban development of the industrial districts along the Keelung River after it underwent modification. The additional space together with the industrial and business regions of the fifth reconstructed area in Neihu ensure the continuing development of Taipei Neihu Technology Park. To increase the capacity of Nangang Software Park, the city government is currently promoting the third stage of development of the land. Future production value is estimated at US\$1.86 billion per year. Moreover, with regard to the “Four Gold Bricks” plan of the Executive Yuan, the city government has devised a development plan between Nankang and Siji along the High-speed Railway to transform Nankang into the Intelligence Center of Taiwan. As for the urban plan of the Beitou-Shilin Technology Park, the city counsel has passed a budget for its development. Related Departments and bureaus have set the groundwork for necessary operations, such as levying private property, for its development.

The Taipei Technology Corridor will make Taipei the Asian headquarters of business operations, research and development, the cultivation of information systems and management in the global high-tech industry. Presently the production value of the corridor has been increasing at a rapid pace. In 2006, the total business income of Nangang Software Park and Taipei Neihu Technology Park was NT\$2,438.1 billion. To promote the overall regional economic development, the city government plans to cooperate with the Taipei County Government to include the industrial areas of the county and extend the corridor from Neihu and Nankang to Siji and Wugu.



A view of the Neihu Technology Park in Taipei



Skywalk of the Songshou Section



Skywalk of the Songgao Section

2. A 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 it extends southward to the financial center of Taipei 101 and the future MRT Xinyi Line exit to ensure a safe and convenient shopping pathway 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 held on weekends and holidays. The skywalks are a welcome boon to the convenient and friendly ambience of Xinyi Commercial Center.

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. The first stage of this project saw the installation of street furniture on many of the major streets of Taipei, including Zhongxiao East and West Roads, Renai Road, Heping East and West Roads,



Daytime View of the renovated Bus Stop Kiosk



The Cultural Poster Keg

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. It not only offers the public a more comfortable, safer, and more convenient urban environment, but also introduces a new visual aspect to the landscape of the city.

C. A Culturally Rich Living Environment: Public Arts

Taiwan has spared no effort in promoting public arts over the past decade and has achieved concrete results in terms of both quantity and quality. The number of public artworks in Taipei established by the city government is tops in the country, and their quality is confirmed by the awards the city received at the ceremony “Awards of Public Arts in 2007” sponsored by the Council for Cultural Affairs, Taiwan. These awards include “Excellence Award for Public Art”, “Award for the Best Plan”, “Award for the Best Sponsor”, “Award for Environmental Art”, “Award for Public Participation”, and “Award for the Best Educational Promotion”. The project of “An artistic road:

the plan to install of public artworks along the corridor of Dunhua South and North Roads” sponsored by the Department of Urban Development was put into practice by setting up many individual artworks along the Dunhua South and North Roads. The mosaic of entitled “Aspiration”, designed by students of the Taipei Municipal Wenshan School of Special Education portrays aspects of the daily life of local residents, their mutual good will and interactions. It has earned widespread praise and serves as a prime example of conveying a dialogue between “humans” and the “environment” through a work of art.

D. An Increasingly Beautiful Urban Nightscape

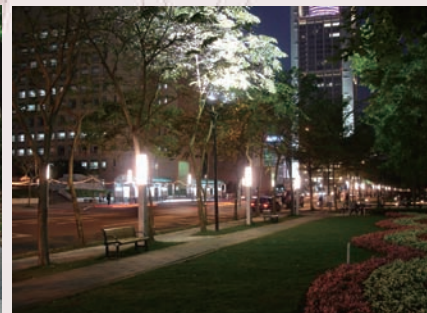
Taipei’s Urban Nightscape is oriented around three general sites: the Xinyi Commercial Center and Taipei Neihsu Technology Park, and the banks of the Danshui River and the Keelung River as well as Taipei City’s major streets and key blocks. In 2007, in order to improve the overall nighttime illumination along the right bank of the Dansui River, a proposal that focuses on the improved illumination of the tiers and water gates was put into practice. Humanistic, artistic, energy-saving, and ecological factors were all taken into consideration and integrated in the plan to construct an outstanding urban environment.



Bicycle racks



Public art



Xinyi Commercial Center Nighttime Illumination System improvement result



Nighttime Illumination Effects along Ruiguang Road Sketch Map

The Xinyi Commercial Center is the stronghold of Taipei City's night-life. The promotion of the "Xinyi Commercial Center Nighttime Illumination System Improvement Project" was designed as a thorough 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. The project was completed in March 2007.

"Taipei 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 flourishing hi-tech community. The main arteries, secondary arteries and public facilities were carefully reviewed with respect to the quality of their nighttime illumination, demands and regional demarcation in order to extend bustling daytime industrial activities well into the night to create attractive images of the high-tech industrial park. Systematic planning has been focused on important intersections and entrances to achieve a high level of quality nighttime illumination, thereby creating unique nighttime images.

E. Casual City Life: Outdoor Cafés

In order to enhance the attractiveness of the sidewalks in Taipei, provide better living space that takes business interests into consideration, and offer the public a rich and diverse living experience in carefree urban surroundings, the Department of Urban Development of the Taipei City Government took on the experimental project of introducing outdoor cafés on the sidewalks of boulevards in the city beginning in September 2001. Its goal is to foster a new type of urban leisure activity.



Manhattan Café on Songshou Road



O-I-Xi Technology Food Company on Zhongcheng Road

This project has entered different phases since 2001 and it now encompasses all major streets of the city. Presently (from January 25, 2006, to December 31, 2007), 22 outdoor cafés have been put into operation; they include 3 on Zhongcheng Road, 4 on Zhonghua Road, 2 on Dunhua South Road, 1 on Zhongxiao East Road, 1 on Roosevelt Road, 4 on Songshou Road, 5 on Guangming Road, 1 on Zhongzheng Road, and 1 on Yusheng Street.

F. Smooth Pedestrian Walkways: Renovating the Arcades

The total length of arcades in Taipei City is about 170,000 meters, and about 110,000 meters are in need of repair. To solve the problem of the unevenness of the arcades, the Taipei City Government initiated the “Project of Leveling the Arcades” in 2002 which focused on certain important areas in Taipei, such as terminals, scenic spots, business districts, and hospitals, to repair the arcades over an extended period of time.

The project for repairing the arcades has won great public support. Mayor Hau Lung-bin had a special arcade committee formed soon after his inauguration. The committee holds regular monthly meetings to ensure the progress of the project, hoping that the project will be successfully completed through the all-out effort of the city government.

The length of the arcades that underwent renovation between 2002 and 2006 was 24,000 meters. In 2007, an additional 39,000 meters were improved. The total length of renovation has now reached 63,000 meters. The remaining 47,000 meters will be renovated, according to estimates, by the end of 2010, marking the completion of the entire project.

G. Beautifying the Cityscape: Renovating Advertisements

The Department of Urban Development of the Taipei City Government oversees the banning and demolishing of advertising materials that might detract from the city’s appeal or interfere with public safety. Moreover, individual model districts and streets were selected to implement the beautifying project in accord with the “Regulations of Temporary Management of Advertisement Materials of Taipei City”. With the consent of store owners, the Department had old advertisement materials of uneven quality removed and set up new advertisements to conform with specific color schemes to meet the Guidelines for Advertising passed by the Counsel of Evaluation of Advertising Materials of Taipei City. Each new advertisement merited NT\$20,000 of governmental compensation.

Streets and Districts that underwent renovation in 2007 were Dabei Road of Shilin District, Wenchang Furniture Street (from Tunhua Street to Guangfu South Road) of Daan District, Lane 212, Section 1, Xiyuan Road and Sanshui Street of Wanhua District, Section 1, Hanko Street of Zhongzheng District, Lane 50, Tienmu East Road of Shilin District. All these areas have a fresh and enhanced appeal after undergoing renovation.



The view of No. 27, Section 1, Zhonghua Road after improvement



Lane 212, Section 1, Xiyuan Road of Wanhua District after renovation

(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 2004 initiated a project to overhaul the hiking trail signage system, and to integrate the public transportation system and hiking trails that form a comprehensive "Taipei Hiking Trail System." In providing a readily accessible environment through integrating the hiking trails and classifying the trail grades, urban residents now find nature much more accessible. In 2006 and 2007, the City Government made improvements on 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.

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. In 2007, the Taipei City Government continued "the Project of Changing Xingyi Road into Hot Spring Area from Protected Area", hoping that the "land-use classification" of the Taipei City Urban Planning could be properly adjusted from the viewpoint of the supply of hot spring resource and the continuous utilization 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 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 solve the local traffic congestion, the Maokong Gondola System was established and began operating on July 4, 2007. The gondolas have added a new dimension to tourism in the Maokong Area and have brought about increased prosperity to the region. Moreover, the plan of "Changing the Protected Areas of Zhinan Li and Laochuan Li of Wenshan District to Possible Building and Parking Lot Construction Sites" was proposed by the Taipei City Government and approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This is the first case in Taiwan that permits the subordinates development to traditional urban planning control. To conserve environmental resources, nurture the tea culture and provide high-quality leisure venues, the area has been rezoned to the rezoning will promote the sustained development of leisure activities and the area's tea-drinking culture, transforming Maokong into a recreational hub for Taipei's tea-drinking aficionados.



The Entrance to the hiking trail of Mingju Mountain

3. A Livable City

(1) Dynamic Community

The Department of Urban Development of the Taipei City Government first promoted the project of "Changing the Environment in Different Regions" since 1996. In 2003, the Department implemented the "Project of Transforming Urban Space", followed by the project of "Friendly Communities" in 2007 in view of the dynamic communities in Taipei City. The project has raised the public's awareness of this issue. The department also coordinates public and private efforts to promote activities and awareness of community autonomy for the purpose of effectively preventing crime and fostering a safe and friendly city.

In 2007, the Department sponsored plans for "Water Friendly Communities along the Banks of the Dansui River" in order to generate ideas for water activities and innovative life styles, thereby raising the living quality of the area. The project sought to enlist the cooperation and interaction of the communities along both banks of the river for renovation of the areas along the Dansui River.

(2) Constructive Urban Redevelopment

A. Strategic Urban Renewal in the Making

In 2007, the Department continued to promote the urban renewal of certain areas, such as the public land of Huaguang Community east of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and the area near Guaisui Street of Datung District. Moreover, with regard to the re-construction of the area on the right bank of the Dansui River, the renovation of the areas around MRT stations, the revival of businesses in the old sections of Wanhua District, and the reuse of extensive tracts of public land, the Department came up with concrete projects



Present condition of the area near Guaisui Street in Datung District

of urban renovation and revised specific urban planning sites. The Department also proposed to continue promoting urban renovation and developing strategies to attract business investment that will in turn speed up the process of renovation.

B. Making Improvements on Public Open Space

Plans for improving public open space by the Taipei City Government in 2007 include creating new parks and undertaking community park renewal, improving and refurbishing markets, building parking lots, and leisure and cultural centers, undertaking public property renewal, rebuilding the North-South Axis, making improvements to roads and sidewalks, and creating nighttime illumination projects. The launching of neighborhood improvement projects will go far in raising the living quality of local residents.

C. Revitalizing Business Development

In order to raise the competitiveness of business circles and attract shoppers and at the same time combine traditional businesses with new business circles, in 2007, the Taipei City Government sponsored a series of revitalizing plans in the business circles of old districts to change the consumption environment of business and highlight the distinctive local features of these districts. These plans include “Assisting the Establishment of Business”, “Movement for Revitalizing Community and Industrial Development”, “Movement for Maintaining and Transforming Urban Space” et al. The projects coordinate culture, business, and community efforts to revitalize business development in the local economies and to sustain their cultural heritage.

D. Encouraging the Private Sector to Support Renewal

As times change and communities evolve, some old buildings and a majority of apartment buildings of four to five stories become obstacles to the development of the city and the high living quality desired by residents. Some abandoned buildings, i.e., those damaged in disasters, those whose building materials contain a high level of chlorine (the so-called “sea-sand houses”), and those built with radioactive steel, are scheduled for demolition in the Urban Renewal Plan of the Taipei City Government. In order to encourage owners to demolish these buildings and build new ones on their own, the city government continues to examine and simplify relevant urban renewal regulations of Taipei City and, at the same time, provide compensation for expenses involved in the preparation, operation, construction and maintenance of private property from the Urban Renewal Fund. These inducements serve to effectively promote the reconstruction and renewal projects and help 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: Integrating Nature, Heritage and Art Trails

Taipei boasts a rich natural, historical and artistic heritage concentrated in 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". The following measures have been taken to shape the spatial framework of these three trails: first, the improvement of the pedestrian environment along Zhongshan North Road and Jiuquan Street was the goal of the Stage 1 Project. In 2007, the sidewalk on the north of Jiuquan Street and the area on the southeast side of Zhongshan Football Stadium were greatly improved. The pedestrian environment on the north side of Jiuquan Street (from the east of the MRT Yuanshan Station to Section 3 of Zhongshan North Road) was improved, now providing a new view of the Yuanshan Station. The area at the southeast side of Zhongshan Football Stadium (the area around the intersection of Minzu West Road and Zhongshan North Road) was improved by the installation of wooden platforms and water paths, enhanced illumination and new pavements, planting trees and flowers, and designing recreational space with special facilities. This renewed area has come alive attracting a diverse public to engage in leisure activities.



Sidewalk on the north of Jiuquan Street after illumination improvements



The area on the southeast side of Zhongshan Football Stadium after second-stage improvements

(2) Public Environment Improvement Plan

In order to enhance the individual landscape features of each area in Taipei, the Taipei City Government has in recent years implemented the "Public Environment Improvement Plans" to improve and transform historical and noteworthy sites in old urban quarters, commercial blocks, gathering places and riverbanks; it has also created bike trails all around the city. By giving these areas a gateway image, a series of activities were held for the public to revive businesses and local economies and promote the renewal and development of old communities through urban renovation. In 2007, the Department was responsible for the renovation of North Datong District, Dunhuang Wharf, and the area near the Old Mansion of Chen Yue-ji (Laoshi Fu), for improving the environment of the business circle on Huayin Street of Datong District, planning and designing improvements of the public space in Ximen District (Phase 2). The Department also initiated a project to renovate Quenxue Path near Jiuquan Street in the Revived Area of Datong District and a project for improving the public space around the MRT Guandu Station.

(3) Special Features in Some Streets and Areas

To restructure both sides of Linsen North Road and revitalize the businesses in the area between

Zhongshan North Road up to Xinsheng North Road and Changan East Road up to Nanjing East Road, the Department of Urban Development of the Taipei City Government proposed a thoroughgoing project with a detailed design in 2006. The project calls for the environmental renovation on both sides of Linsen North Road. In 2007, to offer a wide range of leisure activities and convenient transportation by enhancing the quality of public space, the city government started the construction of reforming the area on both sides of Linsen North Road (Chitiao-tung and Xinsheng North Road). The area would eventually become an international tourist attraction by promoting local tourism resources and shaping the image of “Tiao-Tung” (ally).

2. An Eco-City of Sustainability

(1) The “Green Net”

The “Green Net” 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 Taipei City Government seeks to create a verdant and lush urban landscape. The greening improvement plan for Civic Boulevard has been completed, and the strategic area



Taipei Municipal Longan Elementary School after improvement

improvement design has been carried out. In 2007, major improvement constructions included Taipei Municipal Longan Elementary School, the west side of Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School, and the area surrounding Taipei Municipal First Funeral Home. In addition, the landscape improvement plan for Zhongxiao East Road and Roosevelt Boulevard continued apace. Subsequent design and construction works are scheduled to get underway to connect the green spaces and green corridors of Taipei City, eventually forming an integrated “Green Net”.

(2) International Flower Fair in Taipei

Tourism is currently in a stage of rampant growth. The Taipei City Government believes that by developing the flower industry, its related human resources and combining it with tourism, Taipei will find new opportunities for growth.

In November 2006, the proposal to cosponsor an international flower fair of A2/B1 class in 2010 or 2011 by the Taipei City Government and the International Association of Horticultural Producers, was met with approval. On September 4, 2007, a progress report was given at the fall annual meeting of the marketing committee of the International Association of Horticultural Producers, and the local level of professional knowledge and the rich content of the plan won high praise at the meeting.

(3) Promoting Green Architecture

In accordance with the “Rules of Architecture Technology: Green Architecture Regulations”, applications for constructing green buildings in Taipei City have to follow the regulations to pass inspections in order to gain approval.

Starting from July 1, 2003, any public building with a construction budget of NT\$50 million and above needs to submit a “Green Building Candidate Certificate” when applying for a building license. The most representative cases of green buildings in 2007 include the Shipai Branch and the Beitou Branch of Taipei Public Library.



Beitou Branch of Taipei Public Library

(4) Constructing a Water-Friendly Environment

In recent years, the Taipei City Government has been expending significant effort in the area of public landscape construction, in Dajia Riverside Park, Dadaocheng Wharf, bike trails, and Huajiang Goose and Duck Park, hoping to create multifunction water-areas and landscapes in the limited space of Taipei City and rebuild Taipei as a harbor city. High embankments, though effective in flood prevention and serving transportation needs, together with dense traffic on the overpasses form concrete obstacles between pedestrians and the river banks. So how to reestablish the connection between the city and its riverbanks, to improve the overall living environment of Taipei City, and to create charming areas along the river banks are important considerations of the Taipei City Government. To promote the city's water resources, the Taipei City Government proposed a series of projects in 2007, including "Building a Water-friendly corridor", "General Improvement of the Environment in the Area around Zhonggang River Mouth of Guandu", "Redevelopment of the Foundation of Luoyang Parking Tower", and "Consigned Plan and Design of a Garden Corridor".



Shipai Branch of Taipei Public Library

Part 3 Taipei City's Development Action Kicks Off

(1) "Face off" in the City: A Colorful Make-up Movement

The Taipei City Government encourages private projects that promote urban renewal and improvement by publicly recognizing the construction of buildings that coordinate environmental concerns with innovative ideas. These buildings are publicized in order to raise public appreciation of the buildings' exteriors and the quality of environment to serve as inspiration to make improvements of their own environment through renovation and regular maintenance. In 2007, 42 applications were submitted for the "Face-Off Award of Taipei City". After careful evaluation, "Manlemen", an old brick building on Zhongshan North Road, was selected as an outstanding example of renovation and given the "Award for Best Renovation/Maintenance of a Private Building". "Liaoyu Mansion" was awarded "First Prize for Private Open Space" for its courtyard that combines the beauty of landscape, sounds,



The Golden Award for Public Open Space (1): The Museum of Contemporary Art of Taipei



The Golden Award for Public Open Space (2): The Plum Garden

fragrant smells, and concrete design. The Museum of Running Water was given the “Award of Best Renovation/Maintenance of a Public Building” for its classic exterior that revealed a historical facade after careful renovation. The “Golden Award for Public Open Space” was given jointly to the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei and “The Plum Garden” in No. 1 Park of Beitou for their innovative designs that complemented the old buildings. “Taipei Jinlien Amusement Center” won the award in the category of “Best Plan and Design” as it displayed features of urban ecology in combination with water landscape and gardens.



Fuyang Park of Natural Ecology

(2) The Urban Landscape Awards

In 2007, 51 applications were submitted for the sixth “Urban Landscape Awards”. The first prize went to the “Beitou Branch of Taipei Public Library”. Moreover, special awards for those who had made special contributions to enhancing the city view were given to “Fuyang Park of Natural Ecology”, “General Construction of Zhishanyen Community”, and “Fenleting II-An Exhibition of Contemporary Art in the Eastern Section of Taipei.”

(3) Neighborhood Improvement: The Creation of a New Urban Community

Neighborhood Improvement is a project that 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 2007, seven neighborhood improvement projects were undertaken, including “Creating Energy for Life in the City Jungle: DIY Greenery for Community (Linko Community)”, “A New Phase of Yushan Community: Collecting Sunshine, Water, Soil, and Local Wisdom in Urban Space”, the “Plan and Construction for Reforming the Space at the Corner of Bangka Boulevard of Heping Community in Wanhua District of Taipei City”, the “Plan and Design of the Water Living Corridor of Taihe Community in Xinyi District of Taipei City”, “Twin Stars of Lohas: Construction of the View of Both Jieshou and Dongrong Lis”, “Construction of the view of Zhongyang Community in Beitou District of Taipei City: Beautifying the Community Environment and Planning the Swallow Hiking Trails”, and “Construction of the View of Dongrong Li Community in Songshan District of Taipei City.”



The View of Linko Community after renovation

(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”. The Taipei City Government started the selecting process for community planners in 2001 to assist residents to develop their communities. In 2007, the Taipei City Government selected 57 teams of community planners to volunteer for the project. The Taipei City Government wanted to recruit enthusiastic and creative young individuals 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. The Taipei City Government started an annual training program for young community planners in 2000, and about 700 planners have participated in this training program so far. In 2007 alone, 93 young community planners participated in the training program to bring new blood to the 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 the twelve community universities. The joint undertaking of the universities and the community planning service center brought community planners and professionals together. The course, mainly concerned with environmental issues, was offered for community planners and interested participants.



Interaction between Mayor Hau Lung-bin and community planners

(5) Community Planning Service Center

Taipei City set up the “Community Planning Service Center” in 2001 as a platform for public discussion on issues related to the various districts. To put the issues under discussion into practice, a project on “Competition” was proposed in 2007 to encourage the innovative practices. Moreover, to fully implement the policies put forth by the Taipei City Government, application of private groups on important issues was encouraged and reviewed.

In 2007, the Community Planning Service Center entrusted the Project on Competition to three institutes: Chinese Science and Technology University was



The Community Planning Service Center: Public interaction in the summertime

in charge of the activity, "A Green Mountain City for the Citizens of Daan and Wenshan Districts: Reliving the Water-friendly Memory", Zhenyu Design and Construction Counseling Company was in charge of "The Heart of Wenshan and the Reappearance of the Fairy's Trace: General Plan for the Area of Xienji Yen", and Hsi Liu Environmental Greening Foundation sponsored the activity "Constructing the Green Spider Web in 101 Nanshan Cave: A Friendly Ecological Network of the Wuxing Ditch, Green Areas, and Commuting". The above activities focused on the landscape of the Daan, Xinyi, and Wenshan Districts and issues relating to how to cope with global warming. Through public participation and community workshops, members of the public were able to work out a consensus for the promotion of future plans for the community.

(6) Community Architects

The management of buildings is rather complex. The project of "Community Architects" was established to assist members of the public to come up with regulations for community organization for management through professional guidance. The community architects also introduce residents to fireproof materials for furnishing, and offer advice on the maintenance of existing illegal buildings. This is an honorary service job that needs the support of professional architects.

To put the project of "Community Architects" into practice, the Building Management Office of Taipei City Government came up with the "Promotion Plan for Community Architects of Taipei City" with the help of Taipei Architects Association. The first group of community architects was formed with outstanding results. In 2006, the Department started the selecting process to form the second group of community architects in 2007. According to the original plan, there would be one community architect for every 10,000 to 20,000 residents, so the total number of community architects would be 188. The Department accepted applications from each district and selected local professional architects who were enthusiastic and passionate. Related policies were established at the same time to ensure sufficient authority and resources for these community architects so that they could fulfill their jobs smoothly.

The spatial structure formed in 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.