

Cause

In consequence of land development and reconstruction of military family village (MFV) in Xinyi Project Area, all habitants in Military Family Village 44 South (MFV44S.) moved out in 1999. The constructions they left behind were facing the former habitants and dignities from cultural societies provoked a reservation movement for The Village, hence MFV44S. Culture and History Studio was set up. Taipei City Government will join relative divisions and Xinyi Elementary School in planning, and will bring up proposal of culture preserved for MFV. After being surveyed by Antique Review Committee, Bureau of Culture, The Village was listed as "Historic Construction", in which there were four constructions in symmetry would be preserved and planned. Finally, on October 25, 2003, Xinyi Citizen Meeting Houses and Cultural Park was presented with new charm. The base amasses about 137.2 acres with construction floorage about 23.8 acres including Special Exhibition Hose, Exhibition Hall for Military Family Villages, Display House and Community Hall, Central Square and Culture Park.



Trek of History

Moving to Taiwan at War

At the end of 1948 when the civil war between Kuomintang and Communist Party was declared in urgent situation, employees and their dependants of the 44th Arsenal, Joint Services Command located in Qingdao City in Mainland rushed in Tai-Kang Ship to cross the sea and arrive at Keelung Port. Soon, they moved to Taipei City and "temporarily stay" at the place that was former Japanese Army Depot during the Japanese occupation era and was newly assigned to the 44th Arsenal, Joint Services Command.

At first, employees and their dependants took the 44th Arsenal as a shelter and bore in mind that they just crossed the sea to Taiwan for a short stay and were sure to return home in a year or even half of it. So families separated with each other only with clothe sheet in the depot. Meanwhile they started to build Military Family Village 44 South, Owing to increasing population, Military Family Village 44 East and Military Family Village 44 West were constructed for further expansion. Till 1951, three villages were all completed. As for Military Family Village 44 East, it was the new home for those employees and their dependants for over fifty years.

Military Family Village 44 South was the first Military Family Villages in Taipei Region founded by employees and their dependants of the 44th Arsenal, which moved to Taiwan from Qingdao City in Mainland China. At the beginning they bore in mind that they just crossed the sea to Taiwan for a short stay and were sure to return home in a year or even half of it. However, the stay is more than decades with numerous seasons passed away.



Space Modeling and Structure

The space of house planning for Military Family Village 44 South (MFV 44 S.) inherited the disciplinary and mass control model from traditional military dependant quarters, which were spread in neat formation like fishbone. The structure and materials for main construction body were originally made of bamboo pieces that were stuck together with calcium hydrate mud. Later on, brick wall structure was applied.

In earlier days, MFV 44 S. was divided into A, B and C groups of constructions. A group was located to the west of Zhuang-Jing Road, B group was located to the east of Zhuang-Jing Road, and C group was next to the east of B group and neighboring Xinyi Elementary School.

House Compartments

In earlier days, each house unit is about 11.59 square meters without bathroom, toilet, and kitchen. Bath water was taken from public faucets. People went to public toilet for natural calls. That was very inconvenient. Later on, living quality improved, villagers increased indoor space by attached constructions, such as: setting hammocks indoor, building kitchen, bathroom or rooms on the passages to their home, or cutting windows on the pitched roofs.

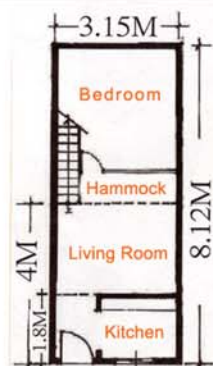
Narrow Alley



The narrow alleys in the Village were the most attractive. Usually these alleys were very narrow, main doors facing each other one on one. The common scenes were that people often chatted while standing at their own doors. Women in particular, usually sit in front their own door knitting, washing meal materials. These narrow alleys were actually the important social activity place for the female.

Lampposts

In earlier days, electricity was provided from 6am to 8am, from 12pm to 1 pm and from 6pm to 12pm. After midnight only lamppost lights were lit. Then the pressure for entering high education was severe, therefore quite often people could see many students studying hard under lampposts.



Having entered Exhibition Hall for Military Family Villages, it seems that we go back to the old time, to the Village in history. From hometown nostalgia, the poem by Yu Guang-Zhong to the time treasure box fabricated by the habitants' own hands, gradually we walk into and feel their nostalgia caused by leaving hometown and the source of odyssey.

Forty Four Giant Dragon

The Dragon is made of 44 parts. Before the Arsenal moved to San-Xia, on occasions of Lunar New Years, Double Tenth National Days and other important festivals, the dancing Dragon will be performed as the last (but one) program in the shows.



Village Mothers

Mothers in the Village not only need to take care of food, clothing, living, transportation for the whole family as well as take good use of every penny from husbands' salary, but also they must learn and do some crafts so as to earn extra money to support the family. Usually mothers could not rest till the nights were late.



Military dependant quarters literature

Many years ago, the content of Military Family Village (MFV) literature centered on deliberate writing on the dreams of fighting back to Mainland, recovering the country or returning home gloriously as well as the war memory and hometown nostalgia in the military when they were young. Later on with the appearance of the second generation, "growth literature" mode was gradually included in military dependant quarters literature such as "Not Ended" by Zhu, Tian-Xin, "Fate in Thousand Miles" by Su, Wei-Zhen and "Fifth Grader Time" by Zhang, Gou-Li in 90's, which all reflected the contracted imaginations from the authors' juvenile memories. There were: gangster friendship in dependant quarters such as "The Juvenile Murder on Gu-Ling Street", the bondage of pressure of entering higher education, the rebellious & "Leaving Same Side", and the desire of exodus such as "I am from a MFV, Those were incessantly emerging topics in MFV literature.

Education

Si-Si Fu Xiao (Forty Four affiliate Elementary School, present Xinyi Elementary School) was set up in 1949 for proper aged students from the Arsenal's dependant quarters. During that time, it was under martial law; therefore the school as well as the Village was under military administration. The principle and the faculty were employed through the Arsenal's decision till 1956 when the school was taken over by Bureau of Education, Taipei City and was renamed as Xinyi Elementary School.



Stolen moment of leisure time

For the villagers working day and night in order to raise a family, moment of leisure was hard-to-get luxury. Common entertainment were playing chess and mahjong, window shopping at San-Zhang-Li and Xi-Men-Ding, and attending various activities held by the Arsenal such as Si-Ping Peking opera team, theater team, basketball team, volleyball team and writing classes.

Cannon ball lamps

They were made from scraped cannon ball by earlier villagers.



Don't ask where I am from

---My hometown is far away...

Since the outbreak of Anti-Japanese War, the Arsenal moved again and again. From Henan, Hubei, Sichuan, Yunan, Guizhou, Qingdao till Taipei, the villagers migrated constantly like rootless duckweed far away from home.

Playing around

Many years ago, there was undeveloped land surrounding the Arsenal. Then Keelung Road was a river not covered yet, with many tributaries. The villagers could enjoy the country life everywhere around them. Crabbing in the streams, digging sweet potatoes, hacking sugar canes, pushing coal mine carts on Gulu horse treks, or even picking up cannon steel scraps have made up the common memory for the second generation of the villagers. Besides, they could play cannon ball or diving over San-Xing Elementary School, then swan back along Keelung Road back to the Village. Sometimes, they just sat on a big iron tub floating down the river.



Time treasure boxes

They were hand made when the villagers moved out several years ago. Each represents the deepest and sincere memory and reminiscence of the Village from every family member and individual.

Where to in the future

Siding with the change of general environment, the second generation of the villagers continuously moved out of the Village to every corner of the world for their own dream.



Information for each House

A Xinyi Parent - Child Center

Xinyi Parent - Child Center builds a "harmonious and joyful family" for 0 to 6 years old children. We provide free Parent-Child playing space, Parent - Child activities, home education, consultation of child - care etc. Let parent and children play together, bring up together and learn together.

B Exhibition Hall for Military Family Villages

Mainly for dynamic exhibitions for Si-Si-Nan Cun culture including topics such as Trek of History, Military Dependant Quarter Literature, Village Mothers, Village Delicacies, Human Life Handcrafts, and Multi-media Theater etc.

C Good Cho's

D Community House

Mainly open to District residents for meeting, watching movies, and groups of people to practice, show and study indoors.



Floor Plan



Service Information

■ House Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 9:00 to 17:00 free of charge

■ Closed Hours: Mondays and national holidays

■ Touring in Groups:

Groups from various organizations or institutions over 20 persons or above may request guided tours. Please make a reservation one week in advance provided a guide is available.

■ Reservation Telephone: 27239777 # 855

■ Fax number: 27223031

■ Xinyi Citizen Meeting Houses Telephone: 27237937

■ Xinyi Citizen Meeting Houses Address:

50 (House A), 52 (House B), 54 (House C), 56 (House D), Song-Qin Street, Xinyi District, Taipei City

■ Transportation Directions:

1. Bus Lines stops at Taipei World Trade Center (Zhuangjing): 1, 22, 33, 37, 226, 266 (Shuttle bus), 665, Blue 5, Blue 5 (Shuttle bus)

2. Bus Lines stops MRT Taipei 101 / World Trade Center Station (Xinyi): 207, 797, Xinyi Main Line New Xinyin Main Line, Blue 5, Blue 5 (Shuttle bus)

3. MRT Taipei 101 / World Trade Center Station Exit 2, turn left and walk about 50 meters.

■ Parking Information:

Roadside parking lot beside Xinyi Middle School, Underground parking lot north of Xinyi Middle School, Underground parking lot beneath Xinyi Square, A20 ground parking lot, Song-De temporary ground parking lot, Underground parking lot beneath Song-Shou Square, Underground parking lot at City Hall Front Square.

No Smoking, No Food and Beverage, No pets indoors
Edited by Xinyi District, Taipei City



<Good Cho's > Bagel, Café, Goods, and Simple Life

Driven by our passion to provide a refreshing variety of local products and creative inspirations, Good Cho's aims to bring the idea of Simple Life closer to everyday living.

At Good Cho's, the mixture of used furniture and the cozy interior offers a sense of home, while the combination of bagels and locally found food ingredients satisfies both the stomach and the heart. If you prefer to pack and take out the surprise, the local produce and the design products at the shop are good choice of gifts for their good quality and stories.

Wishing to be the city corner where interesting people meet and good things happen, Good Cho's invites you to come and be a part of the good time.

Business hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00-21:30 (Closed on first Monday of Month)
Weekends 09:00-18:30

Reservation: (02)2758-2609

Address: No. 54, Songqin St., Xinyi Dist., Taipei

