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WHEN THE PARK INTERWEAVES THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD: FUTURE SCENES PLANNED FOR LIVING UNDER THE URBAN RENEWAL.

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ABSTRACT | With the continuous advancement of global urbanization, the problems presented by old communities have gradually become a major obstacle to urban development, and the gap in the living environment has become a symbol of the status of the rich and the poor. The main contradiction in China is the contradic-tion between the people's growing need for a better life and unbalanced and inadequate development, so the renewal design of old communities has become an important focus of urban development. In response to such problems, China has proposed the concept of a park city, which optimizes and integrates the spa-tial structure of the city and improves the quality of old communities by introducing the concept of parks. This paper discusses the design principles and strategies of the spatial, functional, and cultural relation-ships between parks and communities, answers the question of how to balance the development of park cities and old communities, and expounds on the importance of introducing the renewal mode of old urban communities into parks. It aims to seek a new urban development model, a new perspective of urban re-newal, which can not only meet the functions and efficiency of the city but also protect and restore the ecology and culture of the city, realize the high-quality development of the city and the people's better life, and provide a practical example for sustainable urban development.

1. Park City: Park in the City or City in the Park?

Park City is a composite system that organically integrates the form of the park with the urban space and is a new model of urban construction in the new era. The park city is not an image symbol. It is not a park built in the city, nor is it a simple sense of "park + city, " but the city and the park are integrated. Under the premise of following the historical evolution of the city, the transformation from the traditional city to the park city is to break the independent "island" model based on the past city park and integrate the leisure, entertainment, and tourism of citizens.

The essence of the park city is the home, so to meet the needs of the people as the priority. "People-oriented" is the starting point and foothold of the construction of the park city, but ecological protection and restoration is the basic premise, with the city's high-quality and resilient, healthy and sustainable development and social and economical green and efficient development as the guarantee, and finally to achieve a beautiful ecology, production development, and a happy life.

Therefore, in the process of urban renewal, how to effectively integrate parks and old communities to create a more humanistic and ecologically sustainable future life scene has become an important task in contemporary urban planning. Parks are intertwined with old communities, and ecological resources such as urban green space systems and park systems, which are most closely related to residents' lives, are regarded as the basic configuration elements of urban construction and residents' lives (Zhang & Li, 2021, pp. 1292-1301), to find a Chinese model of future communities, to build and create a new scene of future life under urban renewal, and to realize the park city expectation proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping that "the whole city is a big park, and people go out as if they walked from home to their garden."

Figure 1. Chengdu Yulin Road old community into the park city concept renewal design project (image credit: www.archdaily.cn).

2. Renewal of Old Neighborhoods in Park City: The Link Between Urban History and Ecological Future

The construction of park cities is not only to beautify the urban environment but also to improve the quality of life of urban residents, and the transformation and development of old communities, as an important component of urban functional areas, is of great significance to improve the overall image of the city and the living standards of residents. At present, there is a certain contradiction between the construction of park cities and the development of old communities in China.

2.1 Unbalanced Resource Allocation

In the process of urban renewal and development, the construction of park cities often becomes the focus of urban planners and social capital because of its green ecological characteristics and leisure and entertainment functions, attracting more resources and investment. However, the development of old

communities is often neglected, and there is a lack of sufficient resources and attention, resulting in the uneven allocation of resources, the gradual deterioration of the infrastructure, environment, and living conditions of the communities, and the roads, drainage systems and power supply facilities of the old communities are inadequate and gradually aging due to disrepair; green space is scarce, public activity space is insufficient, environmental problems are becoming more and more obvious, and the community style and the quality of life of residents is seriously affected. This unbalanced development trend not only leads to the unfair allocation of social resources but also aggravates the uncoordinated internal structure of the city.

2.2 Land Use Conflicts

The growth of cities often comes with a large demand for land resources, especially in the process of creating park cities, which can mean that some existing land must be expropriated. At the same time, historic neighborhoods are often located in the heart of the city or in easily accessible locations where the value of land speaks for itself. Therefore, how to ensure that there is no conflict between the construction of park cities and the development of old communities while making efficient use of land resources has become an urgent problem to be solved. This requires not only the foresight of urban planners to balance the two with innovative perspectives but also to find a delicate balance between preserving the historical context and promoting urban regeneration. Only in this way will we be able to modernize our cities while preserving the communities that carry our historical memories and cultures and allowing them to coexist in harmony with the modern urban landscape.

2.3 Cultural Inheritance and Urban Renewal

The old town is often a place where the history and culture of the city are accumulated, where every brick, tile, street, and alley bears the stories of the past and the imprint of the times. However, in the process of rapid urban development, these old communities full of charm have unfortunately been marginalized and even faced the fate of abandonment or destruction. Such a situation not only results in the loss of many precious cultural heritages but also threatens to cut off historical continuity and weaken the diversity and richness of urban culture. Therefore, in urban planning and construction, we should pay more attention to the protection and rational use of old communities so that the historical context can be continued and the soul of the city can be inherited.

Therefore, how to balance the development of park cities and old communities and realize the rational allocation and utilization of resources is an important issue that every city must face and solve in the process of pursuing modernization. In the park city, the "park" is no longer a public green space dotted with urban and community spaces in the traditional sense, but a global, continuous, and accessible blue-green space system is established as the basis for the construction of the park city, forming a networked group layout of urban and green space integration (Dai, 2020). This means strengthening the greening, beautification, and purification of the community, paying attention to the fine design of the street space, and promoting the overall landscape construction of the community so that community residents can feel the existence of natural beauty everywhere in their lives. The construction of park cities and the renewal design of old communities should coordinate and cooperate to form a planning and construction model of park communities, realize the full coverage and sharing of park cities, and build a better living space that people yearn for.

3. Case Studies: Integration and Renewal of Park Cities and Old Communities

A good community park can meet the diverse needs of residents, and it will bring something to the residents spiritually. It may be about natural ecology, or it may be about regional culture, which requires us to explore and create (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparative analysis of design cases related to the integration and renewal of parks and old communities in China.

Case Name	Xinhua Road pocket park	Meifeng Community Park	Caoyang Centennial Park	Micro-landscape design of Xiaobao Village, Songzhuang Town
Case location	Shanghai	Shenzhen, Guangdong	Shanghai	Beijing
Design concept	Through the power of space, people can be separated from busy urban life and immersed in a quiet natural garden where they can stroll, sit, watch exhibitions, and enjoy flowers.	Based on the principles of "openness, ecology, and diversity," the site and surrounding areas are systematically sorted out place.	A multi-level, complex pedestrian experience community park, introducing the concept of a "3K" gallery to integrate art into daily life.	Serve the community, integrate art, and face the future.
Design method	1)Mirror stainless steel system. 2)weathering steel entrance. 3)plant system.	1) "Open" – removing walls opens up the boundaries of the park and establishes accessibility to city streets and neighborhoods. 2) "Ecology" - destroy the existing reinforced concrete floors, let the land breathe again, and establish an ecological landscape base. 3)"Diversification" - improve the park road network and basic service facilities, consider the surrounding users to set up children's play venues, terraced squares, Cultural exhibition corridors and jogging trails, and other diverse leisure and entertainment facilities (Zizu Studio, 2021, pp. 62-67).	1)excavating the site context. 2)constructing spatial scenes. 3)reshaping the street green network.	1)The main element of the design is a perforated gray brick wall with concentrated seating in designated areas, alternating with perforated weathering steel. 2)To the rear is a green area filled with pine trees and shrubbery, which form a natural buffer into the car park and can be accessed through various hidden passages.
Design highlights	The mirror system is rotatable; it is full of natural wildness; the weathering steel material is historic; through the reflection of the mirror, it forms a	Use low-cost landscape; design rich vertical aspects to create diverse activity spaces.	Reuse of remaining space; three-dimensional extension of the narrow site; random combination of ten sets of scenes.	There is a "living room" node every 100 steps to create a space for people to stay. Each node has a theme, and pedestrian trails connect the nodes to form a pleasant

	certain reminder to avoid becoming an urban crime space.			walking experience.
Comparison diagram				
	Before updating design			
	After updating the design			

The above pictures are all from www.archdaily.cn.

Based on the above case analysis, it can be seen that China's old communities currently have clear boundaries between parks and communities, which are separated from the urban environment; functional supporting facilities are incomplete and lack maintenance; environmental problems ignore the connotation of ecological nature; cultural loss and lack of "place spirit," the residents' participation level is low, and their enthusiasm for participation is not high. In the context of population aging, there is an insufficient supply of age-appropriate services, and the renewal of age-appropriate services has just started. But at the same time, China has begun to adopt diversified practices in urban community renewal design, such as introducing mass participation, protecting historical features, paying attention to biodiversity, etc., aiming to create a more harmonious and livable urban space.

In terms of audience, community parks mainly serve community residents, the elderly, and children. At the same time, it can also attract residents of other age groups, such as young and middle-aged people, families, etc., who can relax and enhance relationships by engaging in sports, picnics, photography, and other entertainment activities in the community park.

In terms of spatial layout, most of the existing cases have chosen to remove the walls, thereby opening up the boundaries of the park and establishing accessibility between the park and urban streets and communities. The spatial layout within the park agrees that functional zoning and landscape effects need to be considered, and various activity venues, leisure facilities, green vegetation, etc., need to be reasonably arranged to meet the needs and preferences of residents of different ages and hobbies, and to reflect the principles of humanization and aesthetics, creating a comfortable and beautiful public space.

In terms of functional zoning, according to the needs of the audience, it is divided into quiet rest areas, recreational activity areas, sports and fitness areas, recreation areas for the elderly and children, etc. The setting of functional zoning needs to fully consider the diverse and individual needs of residents, making the park a comprehensive space that satisfies different functions and emotions.

In terms of landscape design, eco-friendly, green, sustainable, site-memory materials or unique local geological landscapes are used as the entry point, and measures are adapted to local conditions. For example, local rocks, rivers, lakes, vegetation, etc., are used to create a natural and harmonious landscape, which not only retains the regional characteristics but also increases the beauty of the park and improves the ecological value of the park. The selection of materials should be consistent with the theme and function of the park, reflect the park's innovation and responsibility, and create a green and sustainable public space.

In terms of ecological construction, technologies such as sponge cities, rain gardens, and bioretention are used to collect, purify, and utilize rainwater in the park, reduce runoff and pollution in the park, and improve the water circulation capacity of the park, pay attention to the seasonal changes and plant configuration of the park, create a rich level and change of the landscape effect, enhance the park's ornamental value and interest.

In terms of social culture, different combinations of urban space and entertainment and leisure facilities will form unique urban "scenes," and these different urban scenes contain specific value orientations (Silver, Clark, & Navarro Yanez, 2010, pp. 2293-2324). This value orientation attracts different urban groups to participate in activities and consumption practices, thereby injecting new vitality into the place and promoting regional development. Therefore, scenes are not only consumption, practice, and activity symbols of cultural value in urban space but also an important part of urban space (Deng & Liu,2021, pp.452-467). It fully explores and displays the park's historical culture and community characteristics, enhances the park's cultural connotation and place spirit, and enhances the park's sense of identity and belonging (Zheng, 2023, pp. 286-287). For example, combining the functions and landscape of the park, and setting up some cultural elements that can educate, inspire, and inherit, such as historical and cultural displays, folk activities, etc., make the park a platform for disseminating culture and knowledge. This will increase the participation of community residents, the vitality and interaction of the park, and make the park a platform that promotes community harmony and development.

4. Evolving Design Thinking: Integrating and Updating Park Cities and Old Communities

Integrating and updating the park city and the old community is to introduce the concepts and methods of the park city based on retaining the history, culture, and community characteristics of the old community and carrying out all-around space, function, landscape, ecology, and social development. Through transformation and other aspects, we can realize the transformation and upgrading of old communities and improve the quality of life and happiness of community residents (Figure 2).
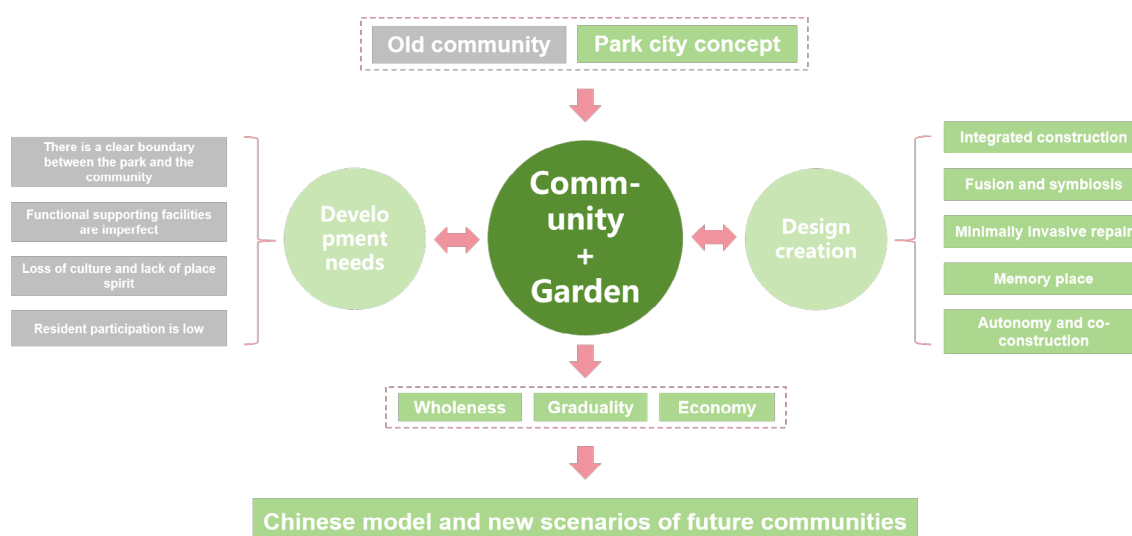

Figure 2. "Park + Community" design thinking (drawn by the author).

With the old community as the core, multi-level and multi-type community parks are organically connected, and around the spatial layout of park green space, community public service facilities, and community centers, an innovative "park +" spatial layout model is constructed, following the principles of integrity, progressiveness, and Economic design principles promote the organic integration of park form and community space, break the rigid functional separation of the community, innovatively use park green space to sew and penetrate the functional space of the community, amplify the landscape effect of the park community, and actively create urban green and An organic blend of landscapes for community spaces.

5. Design Strategies and Experiences: Integrating and Renewing Park Cities and Old Communities

Old communities are important witnesses of urban historical development and one of the main manifestations of urban historical context. Its spatial structure, street texture, history and culture, and other aspects of the form are all products of the development of the times (Zhu, 2023, pp. 102-104). The foundation of the old community renewal strategy is to follow the concept of "people-oriented," which means returning to humanistic participatory and temperature governance. In the renewal of old urban communities, the subjective initiative of residents, the subject of renewal, must be given full play. Based on this, an operating mechanism of "co-construction, co-governance, and sharing" was established (Zhang, Wu, Yang, & Yan, 2023, pp. 95-103). Therefore, the renewal design of old communities requires the cooperation of governments, planners, residents, and other parties. All parties need to use a careful attitude to preserve the historical context of the old community as much as possible. At the same time, the occupied public spaces and abandoned spaces are designed through consultation to eliminate potential safety hazards, increase available landscape space, and create a good living environment for community residents.

5.1 Integrated Construction

1) Expand the area of green space by demolishing illegal buildings, using gaps to plant greenery, and opening fences. According to the provisions of the Property Law of the People's Republic of China, the public green space of the residential community belongs to the owners of the common ownership. Private encroachment on green space destroys the sharing of public green space and affects the quality of public space in the community. Therefore, legal demolition measures should be taken to restore the original green space. In addition, small green belts and miniature landscapes can be set up in the fragmented gray space at the corners of the community to transform and upgrade the inefficient and negative hard landscape.

2) Construction of roof gardens and the addition of vertical greening (Tan & Ma, 2021, pp. 360-369). Low-rise community buildings or roofs that can be roofs of people, retain the original function, improve the efficiency of roof space utilization, implant drying areas, supplement living facilities, implant activity areas and rest areas, and provide public communication spaces. Flexible reserve activity space to meet the diverse needs of residents, guide residents' activity space to the roof of the building, guide community residents to build a rooftop environment, give vitality to the space, and refresh the city's "air appearance." At the same time, by planting climbing plants, hanging flower pots, setting up green walls, etc., the three-dimensional greening effect of the city is increased, the urban landscape is beautified, the urban climate is regulated, the noise Is Isolated, the dust is"abso'bed, the quality of life of urban residents is improved, and a healthier and more comfortable living environment is created for residents.

3) The global COVID-19 epidemic that broke out in early 2020 caused community residents to pay renewed attention to environmental issues in public spaces. After experiencing a long period of isolation, people are more eager to get closer to nature and socialize with others. Therefore, in the design of park space, the alternative medicine system constructed by Japanese researchers can be combined to integrate exercise therapy, horticulture therapy, and forest bathing therapy (Harper, Fernee, & Gabrielsen, 2021), etc., with community park green spaces to achieve a certain healing effect. On the one hand, park green spaces can cool down and humidify, provide negative oxygen ions, and have the function of purifying air, water, and

soil, which is conducive to enhancing individual immunity, thereby reducing the spread of diseases. On the other hand, park green spaces can shorten the distance between people and nature and between people, calm the mind, and help promote the healthy development of individuals' physical and mental health.

5.2 Integration and Symbiosis

We shall give full consideration to the action care of the audience and employ behavioral scene theory to observe the activity characteristics of community residents in different years. Behavior setting believes that residents' activities have clear and definite spatiality and that specific places and people's behaviors are inseparable ecological integral units (Proshansky, Ittelson, & Rivlin, 1976). To analyze the interactive relationship between non-individual behaviors and environmental characteristics, A theoretical approach is provided. According to the behavioral needs, life needs, activity needs, and spiritual needs of residents of different age groups, reshape the green space with refined design and humanization. Through research, it was found that most of the residents in old communities are elderly and children. Therefore, in the community renewal design, attention should be paid to improving the walking environment, smoothing the road network, enhancing the accessibility of facilities, and adding barrier-free facilities, rest seats, handrails, etc. In age-friendly facilities, the activity spaces for the elderly and children should be arranged adjacently to create an activity venue shared by "elderly + children" intergenerational integration and multiple subjects. Design children's activity facilities with high safety and fun to achieve flexible integration of different types of facilities (Zheng, 2023, pp. 126-128); through active social participation and intergenerational activities, we promote equality and tolerance in the social environment and reflect socialist humanistic care value orientation and institutional advantages.

5.3 Minimally Invasive Restoration

Through field research, it was found that a large number of illegal buildings in the old community have seriously squeezed the public space in the community and infringed on the public rights and interests of residents, so it is necessary to coordinate and communicate with multiple parties for these illegal buildings, and demolish them in time to restore the building texture (Zhu, 2023, pp. 102-104), expand the area of public space, eliminate potential safety hazards, and improve the living environment of residents. Given the aging degree of the building, the roof tile finishing layer, protective layer cracking, waterproof layer, thermal insulation layer, roof structure damage, and other roof problems caused by lack of effective maintenance are repaired and strengthened by necessary engineering measures. At the same time, the original chaotic attachments of the building façade, such as air conditioning, awning, water pipes, etc., should be sorted out, and the scale of the air conditioning unit and awning should be unified to maintain the harmony between the building façade and the overall environmental style.

5.4 Memorable Places

Maurice Halbwachs believes that memory is not personal but is influenced and constituted by the social environment and groups. Memory is social, and "collective" and "society" are the practical subjects of memory. Memory is a social construction and a collective behavior (Cai & He, 2023, pp. 112-116). A community is such a "memorable place" that can carry the collective and individual memories of community members, linking the cultural history and memory of individuals and society and generating a "spirit of place" in the continuous interaction between community residents and community space. For example, the "Transition Museum" on Dinghai Road, Yangpu District, Shanghai, "presents" old memories through photography, object display, artistic creation, cultural and creative design, etc., leads people through the "memory corridor," and creates a building that belongs to Dinghai residents. "Memory Place" re-experiences the unique charm of the old alley and realizes the continuation of the "memory of the alley."

5.5 Autonomy and Co-Construction

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that the people's demand for "a better life" should be placed at the core of socialist construction in the new era, a new social governance pattern of "co-construction, co-governance, and sharing" should be created, and the construction of community governance systems should be strengthened. Including community public spaces, urban public space micro-renewal is a continuous and progressive process from planning and design to maintenance and management, and its core is public participation (Su, 2021).

Implement participatory renewal in which residents co-construct, share, and promote community co-governance. Through an organizational model that combines "top-down" and "bottom-up" and balances the interest demands of all parties, a new social governance pattern of "co-construction, co-governance, and sharing" can be achieved (Zhang et al., 2023, pp. 95-103). Coordinated by planners and with the participation of governments, social organizations, and residents (Figure 3), participatory green spaces such as community parks and pocket parks are constructed. For example, in Shanghai's long-term series of micro-renewal activities for old community parks, community parks are designed, constructed, managed, and maintained through government funding guidance, professional guidance from social organization planners and designers, and residents' voluntary organizational participation, not only promotes communication and interaction between neighbors but also improves residents' active participation in community public affairs. The positive interaction of residents' autonomy promotes the sustainable renewal of the community (Kuang, Huang, & Lu, 2021, pp. 14-19).

Figure 3. Multi-party collaborative governance relationship diagram (drawn by the author).

6. Conclusion

In the process of urban renewal in the current stock era, how to stimulate the spontaneity and participation of social and community residents through space creation and social governance is an important part of community construction (Hou, 2019, pp. 23-27). This paper provides a comprehensive perspective on urban renewal and future life scene planning by delving into the interweaving relationship between parks and old neighborhoods. Through the in-depth understanding of the residents of the site and the cultural characteristics of the site environment, starting from the small space nodes, the design exploration is carried out according to local conditions, and finally, the overall vitality of the old community is stimulated, and the public space environment with cultural characteristics, economic rationality, and humanistic care is created.

The construction of park cities and the renewal design of old communities should coordinate and cooperate to form a planning and construction model of park communities, realize the full coverage and sharing of park cities, and build a better living space that people yearn for.

We hope that these findings can provide inspiration for urban planners, policymakers, and community residents and promote urban renewal to better meet people's expectations for livability, health, and sustainable development so that people can feel the atmosphere of the park at their "doorstep," further explore the implementation path of urban old community renewal in the new era of sustainable development, and contribute to shaping a more humane and eco-friendly urban future.

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