Optimization of the neglected space of an old pier in in the town of Yuncao (Ma'anshan) based on the concept of symbiosis

A Master's Thesis Design Presentation

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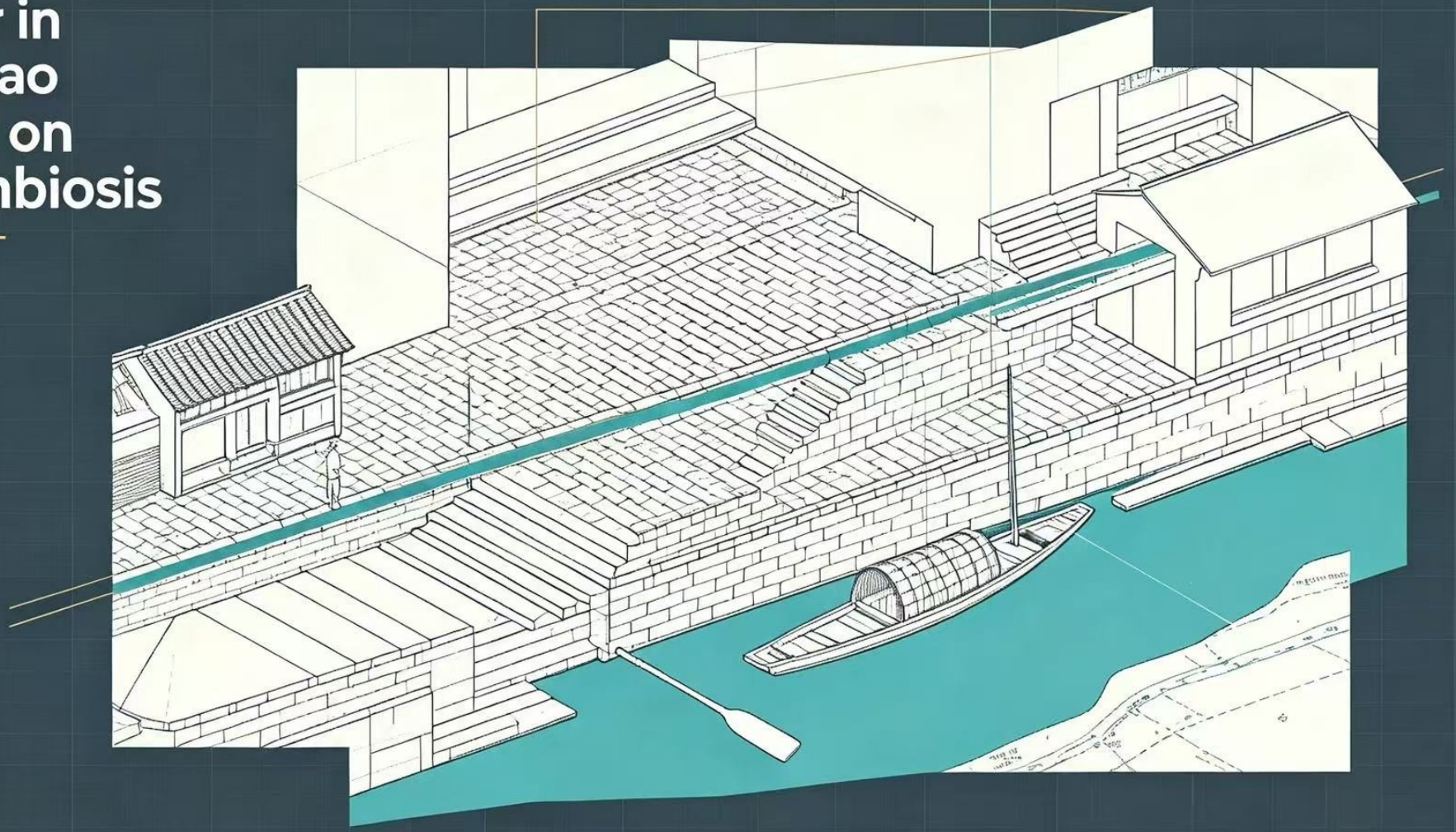


Research Background: Negative Space in Ancient Town Renewal

Tourism Development Pressure

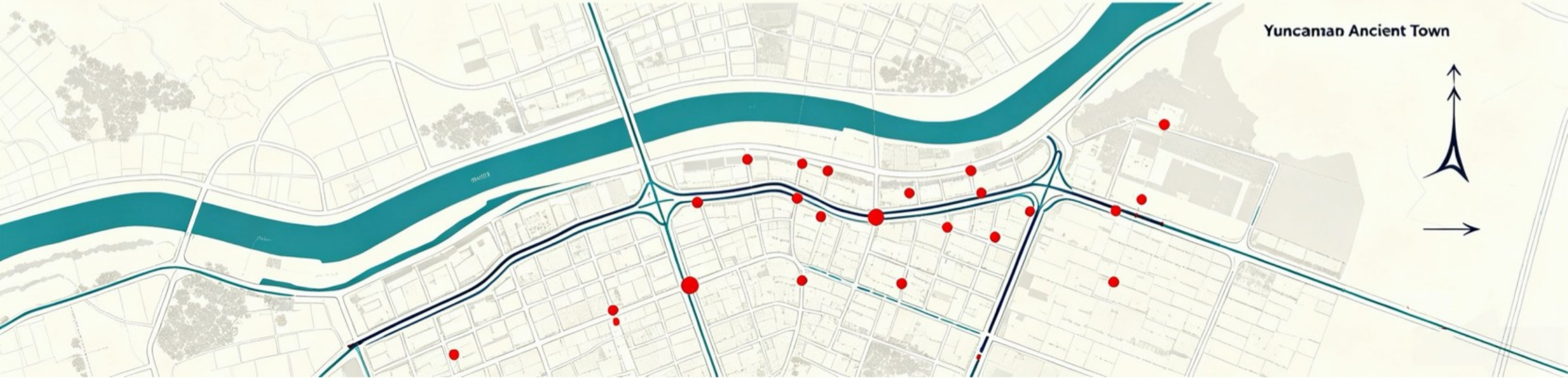
Core streets are often renovated, while marginal spaces remain neglected

Dual-Group Conflict

Tourists need cultural experience; residents need daily public space

Superficial Cultural Expression

Decorative symbols are frequently used without functional integration



Three-Dimensional Symbiosis Framework

People-People Symbiosis

tourist–resident

demand balance

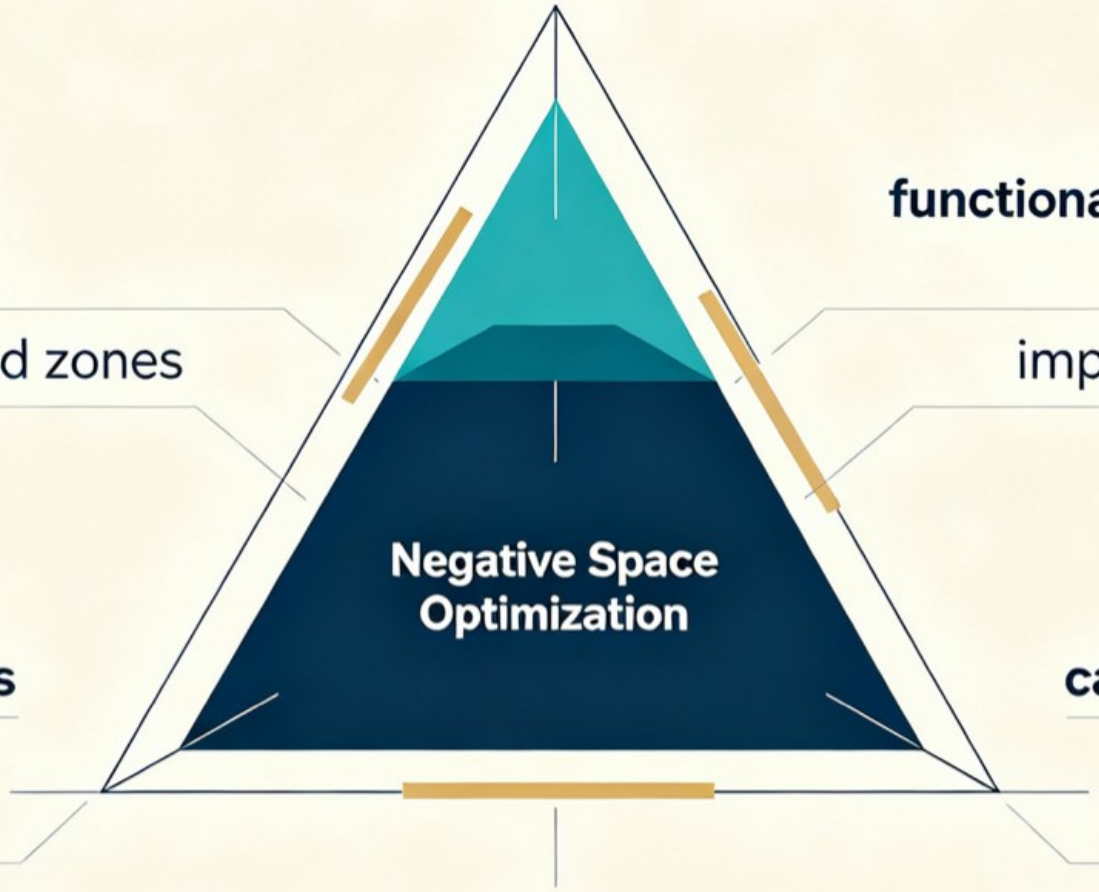
time-sharing and shared zones

Space-People Symbiosis

functional complementarity

flexible facilities

improved accessibility



People-People Symbiosis

Space–People Symbiosis

time-sharing and shared zones

Space-Culture Symbiosis

canal–culture translation

historical scene reconstruction



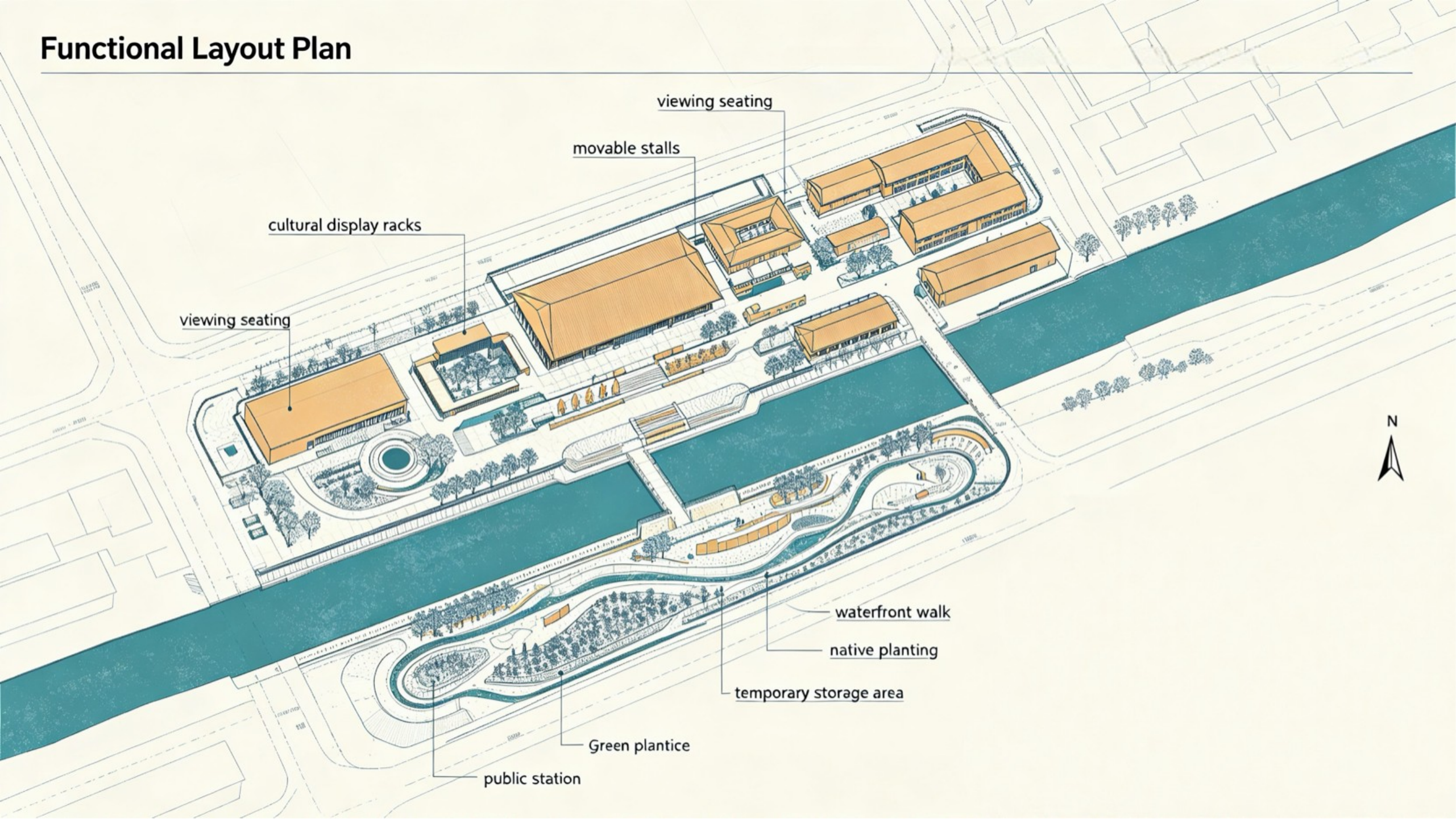
Field Investigation: Yuncao Historical Core Area

—ne river runs through the town, three parallel streets, five interconnected lanes





Functional Layout Plan



Tourist-Resident Demand and Space-Use Conflict

Tourist Demands

- immersive canal-culture experience
- waterfront landscape appreciation
- comfortable rest and orientation
- peak activity: weekend daytime



Resident Demands

- daily fitness activities
- neighborhood social space
- convenient public services
- Peak activity: workdays and evenings

9:00–18:00 Tourist-Oriented

18:00–21:00 Resident-Oriented

Negative Space Types and Formation Mechanism

Functional Negative Space

idle old wharves, passage-only lanes, insufficient activity facilities

Environmental Negative Space

aging revetment, abandoned courtyards, overgrown vegetation

Cultural Negative Space

lost cultural markers, covered historic facades, weakened memory



canal function loss



uneven renewal investment



tourist-oriented logic



superficial culture



accumulated negative space

Optimization Strategy System

People-People Symbiosis Strategy		
time-sharing use	exclusive and shared zones	joint activities

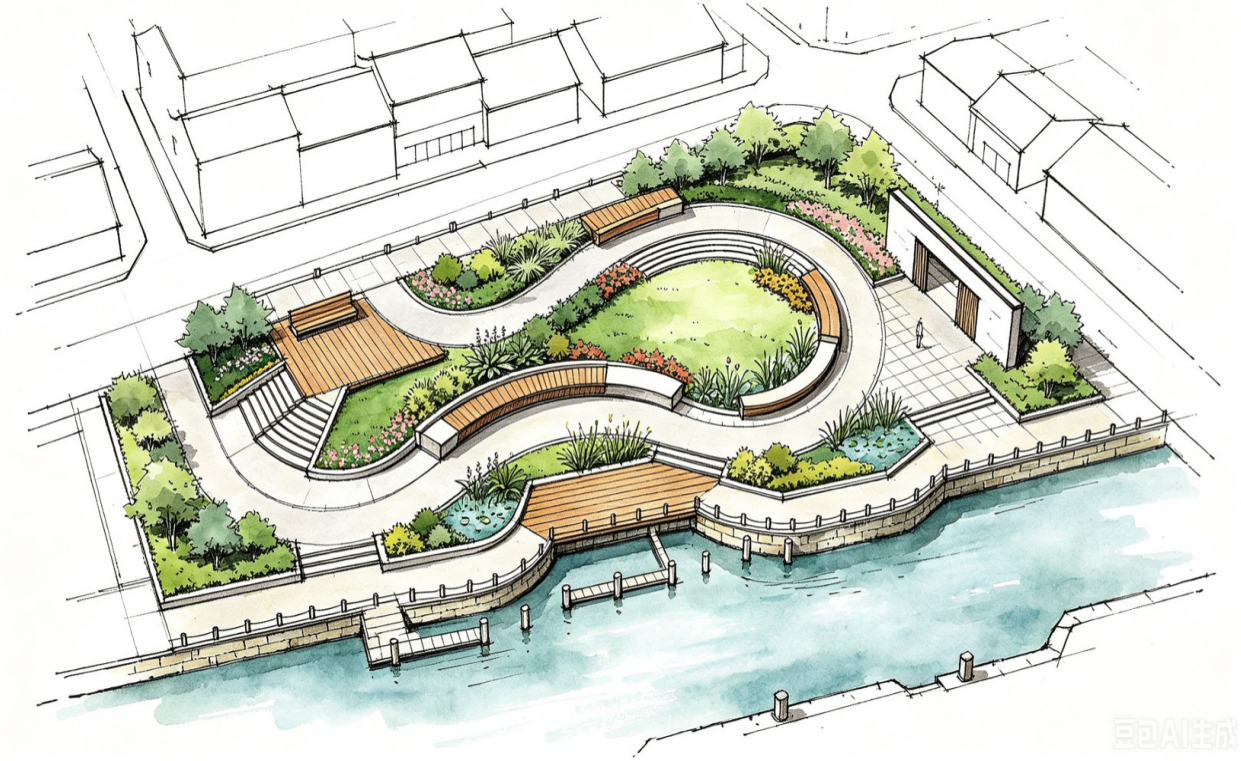
Space-People Symbiosis Strategy		
targeted functional adaptation	flexible facilities	accessibility improvement

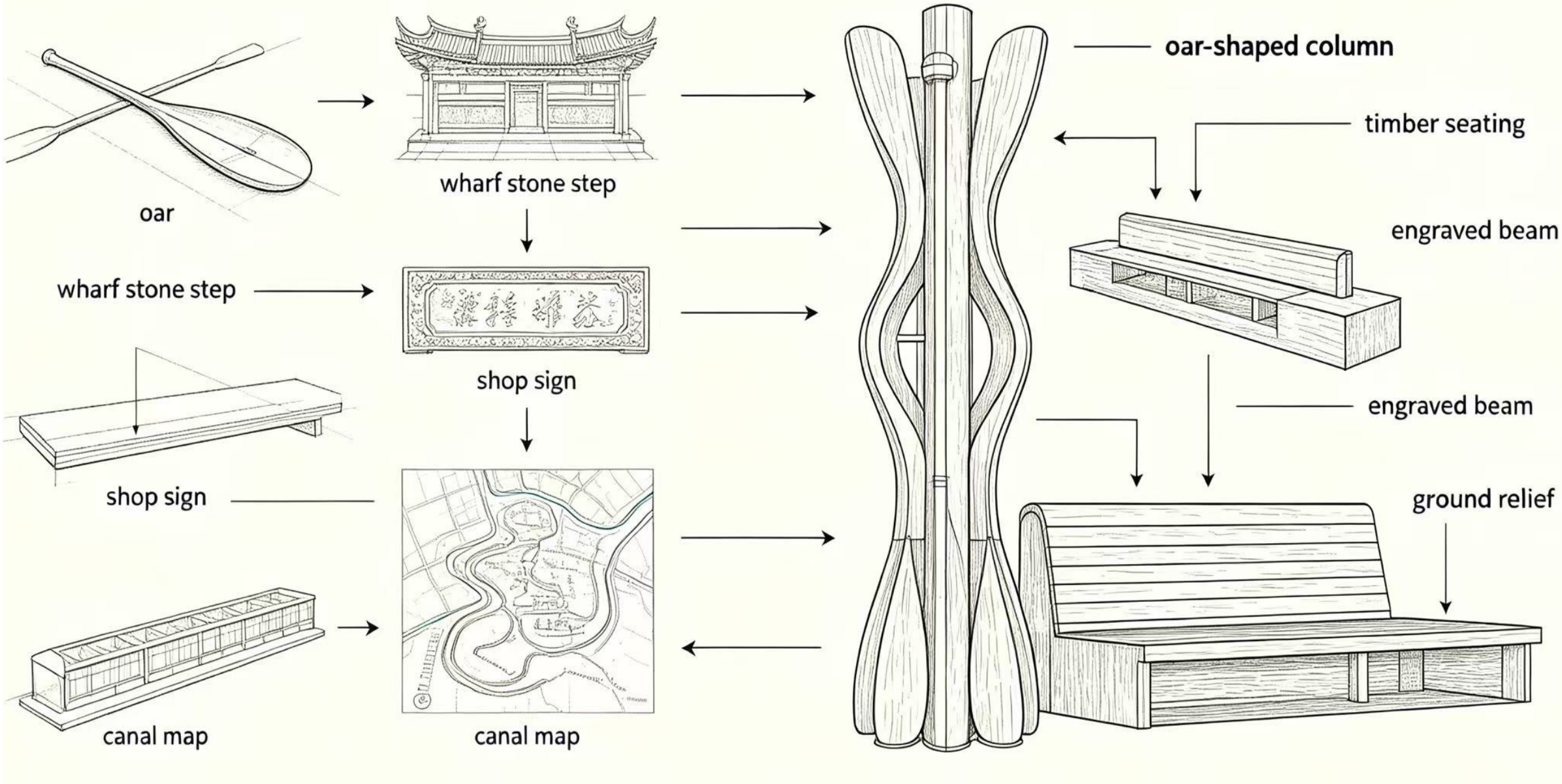
Space-Culture Symbiosis Strategy		
cultural symbol translation	historical scene reconstruction	overall facade coordination

Analysis
→ Strategy
→ Design
→ Operation








oar
wharf stone step
wharf stone step
shop sign
shop sign
canal map
canal map
oar-shaped column
timber seating
engraved beam
engraved beam
ground relief

Key Node Design Visualization

Wharf Memory Gallery



Duall-Group Shared Seating Zone



Movable Canall–Culture Fair Zone



Overall Aerial View of the Old Wharf Waterfront

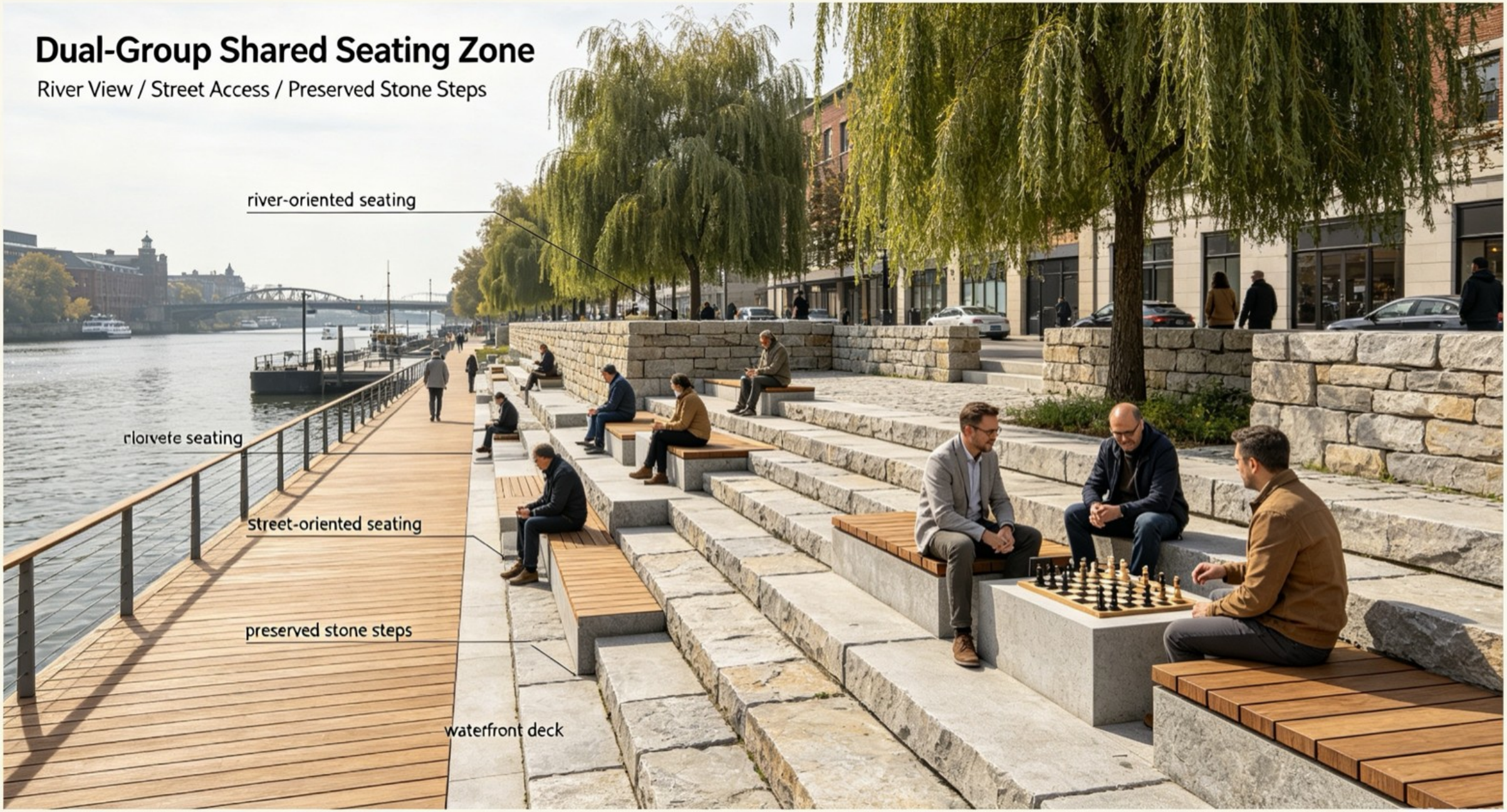



Night Time-Sharing Scenario
18:00—21:00 Resident Use Period
display rack storage
open activity space
open activity space
low-intensity lighting
resident social area


Movable Canal-Culture Fair Zone
Daytime Culture / Evening Market / Detachable Stalls
movable stalls
courist souvenirs
central lawn
resident agricultural market

Dual-Group Shared Seating Zone

River View / Street Access / Preserved Stone Steps



Wharf Memory Gallery Frame

Cultural Exhibition / Daytime Use / Evening Storage



THANK YOU

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