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Reconstruct the Missing Narrative: Rethinking Contemporary Chinese Architecture Through Ancient Landscape Paintings

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NARRATIVE

THESIS STATEMENT

.....

In this thesis, we will continue to address the issue of self-identity and missing narrative in contemporary context. Differently, we will use landscape paintings as our design source to revive the narrative quality. We will use the methodologies developed from the research to deconstruct the selected landscape paintings, transform them into narratives, and reconstruct the narratives into architecture.

By extracting events, atmosphere, and spirits from original painting narratives, and by borrowing the principles of paintings to transform them into sequences, we will set up architectural narratives in contemporary context for people to experience.

.....

LINTRODUCTION

- 1. NARRATIVE
- 2. MISSING
- 3. RECONSTRUCT

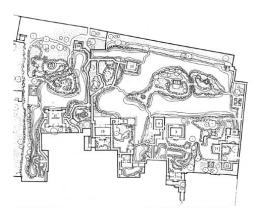
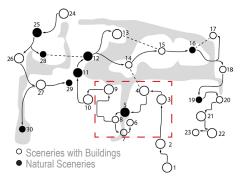


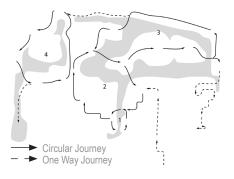
Figure 1. Plan of Zhuozheng (Humble Administrator's) Garden, Southern Song Dynasty. Retrieved from https://goo.gl/3AuqEg.

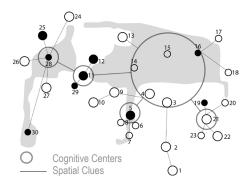
拙政园南宋

Narrative

Designing ancient garden based on landscape paintings and poems began to thrive from Song Dynasty. The inherited narrative is a medium to create an environment that provides personal experience and elusive meaning from a participant's point of view instead of an omniscient view.







In the southbank a hall was built, named "Hall Like a Villa".

To its north side above the water was a little bridge called "Little Flying Rainbow".

I crossed it, walked toward north then west, and saw a pavillion called "Little Surging Waves". Lots of bamboos were standing opposite to its south side as a screen.

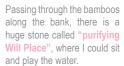
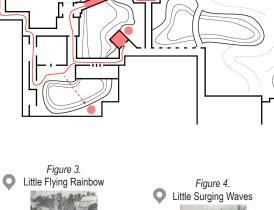


Figure 2.

Hall Like A Villa



Here, water turned its way toward north, and it was so vast as if it were a lake. Lots of willows stood at the west bank, called "Willow Band".....



Continuing walking toward east, I arrived at the back of "Tower for Dreaming of Reclusion".



There, several huge pine trees stood and generated soft sound when wind was blowing. This place was "Listening to Windblown Pines Place".......1

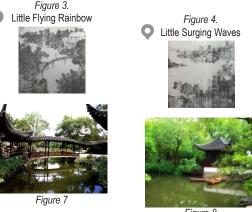








Figure 9

^{1.} Wen Zhengming, 王氏拙政固记, *Notes of Wang's Humble Administrator's Garden.*Figure 2-5: Reprinted from 拙政园三十一景, *Album of Thirty-One Views*, by Wen Zhengming.

Figure 6-9: Scenic Spots of Zhuozheng Garden. Retrieved from http://www.szzzy.cn/Home/Default.

Hall Like a Villa is in Humble Administrator's Garden, the former house for Tang's poet Lu Luwang. Though located in the town, it is has fun of silent mountains and forests.

Once Pi Qiumei said this house "Without going outside of the town, it is vast as if it were a villa in the suburb." So it is named as "Hall Like a Villa".

Why does it need to be in the suburbs to grasp the nature? You clearly have it in the garden.

Streams, bridge, and the color of spring grass, Wood fence, thatched cottage, with afternoon crowing of the cock.

It is enviable that the secular world has no horse or people, It is unbelievable that the town has mountains and forests.

Don't disappoint the place where sages seclude. Bring the scrolls and teach children to read. ²

Little Flying Rainbow is in front of the Tower for Dreaming of Reclusion, To the north of the Hall Like a Villa, Crossing the Surging Wave Pond.

The Rainbow bows as if to drink the water, Its shadow is projected under the sunset as if to turn the wave.

Despite the gloomy water and mountain, the rainy season is not arrived,

Why is the Azure Dragon suddenly flying?

I Know you are trying to assist in governing the country, To lead the way across the cold stream.

The shiny and gorgeous baluster reflects the sky, The magnificient towers are hidden behind the mist.

I come like riding a Golden Turtle,

Wish I escaped from secular life and follow Qin Gao to be an immortal.

The bright moon illuminates the endless land, The lotus in my hand shines upon the autumn water. ³

HALLLIKE A VILLA





LITTLE FLYING RAINBOW





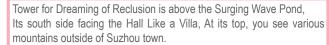
There is water in the garden, covering several hectares, similar to Su Zimei's Surging Wave Pond, so I built a pavilion at middle, called "Little Surging Waves".....

Likewise, the little pavilion sits alongside the water, Still, the blue water circles around the middle column.

Aren't there fresh wind and bright moon with you when you go to fishing? There are also children singing that water washing cloth.

Everywhere has river and lake to put your mood, After hundred of years bird and fish will already forget that feeling.

Shunqin and Dulin have already gone away,
Who can live in reclusion as they did? 4



I once begged for a dream in Jiuli Lake, and received the character "Reclusion" in the dream......

That mountain and water in the dream has already faded away, So I built the high tower to escape and hide myself.

Luwang formerly has house in Wu Lake, Yuanming's house of reclusion is not desolated yet.

In the dream I come to realized positions and riches are only an illusion, In the life of reclusion who knows how far the life has been gone?

Recalling the past, where on earth is the capital for the emperor?

Leaning on the baluster, I only see the dim mounains in the dusk. 5

LITTLE SURGING WAVES





TOWER FOR DREAMING OF RECLUDION









Shan-Shui City

Shan-shui city, a spatial planning concept was proposed in contemporary China to construct the "architecture landscape city" by integrating aesthetics and ideas from landscape paintings, poetry, and gardening design.



Figure 10. Suzhou Museum. Retrieved from https://goo.gl/p57892.



Figure 15. Ningbo Historical Museum. Retrieved from https://goo.gl/JAAOn2.



Figure 11. People see the pavilion via a hexagonal window in the hallway.



Figure 12. They exit at the west gate toward the pavilion.



Figure 13. Passing the bridge beside the pavilion, they have a full view of the pond.



Figure 14. To the north side of the bridge is a cluster of artificial mountains.

4

I.M.Pei creates the narrative sequence by referring to ancient Chinese gardens.

However, certain landscape elements such as artificial mountains are directly plugged in, which people cannot experience through.



Figure 16. The "inside vally" stair is facing the central hall.



Figure 17. People climbs up the stair to the upper galleries.

(2)



Figure 18. At the exterior, people walks up via the "outside valley" stair.



Figure 19. They then experience through the rooftop spaces.

(4)

Wang Shu revives the atmospheric and narrative quality based on landscape painting.

However, the interior and the exterior narratives are separated.

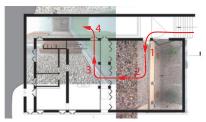


Figure 20. Father's House. Retrieved from https://goo.gl/JfZNyW.



Figure 21. Following the entrance is a courtyard.



Figure 22. People enter the house through the front doors.



Figure 23. They approach the interior stair and glass doors.



Figure 24. They can access the swimming pool via the door.

(4)

Ma Qingyun used various vernacular materials to guide the narrative sequence.

However, no landscape scenarios are incorporated into the sequence.



Figure 25. Nanjing Zendai Himalayas Center. Retrieved from https://goo.gl/PAodOP.



Figure 26. People access the complex from the central plaza.



Figure 27. The escalator brings them to the upper plaza.



Figure 28. They continue the walk to the artificial pond.



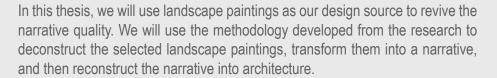
Figure 29. Passing through the garden, they see the cinema in form of artificial stone.

4)

Ma Yansong used the parametric method to construct both architectural and landscape scenarios.

However, architectural scenarios are merely formally imitated as mountains without consideration of spatial narratives.

Reconstruct



By extracting events, atmosphere, and spirits from original painting narratives, and by borrowing the principles of paintings to transform them into sequences, we will set up architectural narratives in contemporary context for people to experience.

II. METHODOLOGY ARCHITECTURE

- 1. BERNARD TSHUMI
- 2. WANG SHU

 NINGBO MUSEUM / CERAMIC HOUSE
 XIANGSHAN CAMPUS
- 3. THOMAS HILLIER

URBAN THEATER

BERNARD TSHUMI MANHATTAN TRANSCRIPT



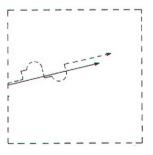
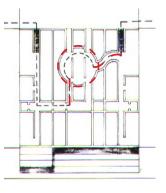


DIAGRAM OF MOVEMENT





SEQUENTIAL PATH





Tightrope





SKATE

Skating Rink









Military Camp

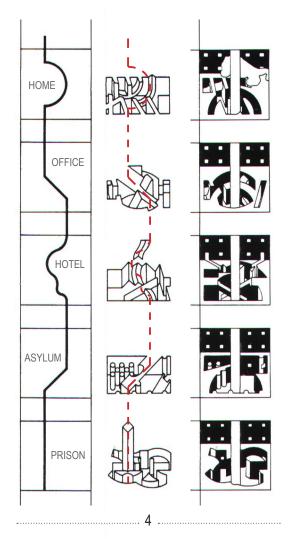




SOCCER

Soccer Field

PROGRAMS FROM EVENTS



SPACES

BERNARD TSHUMI



Figure 30

Unidentical pieces laying on grids as icons to lead custom sequences

FOLLIS



igure 31.

PARC DE LA VILETTE



Figure 32.

Gardens with themes and programs





Figure 33.

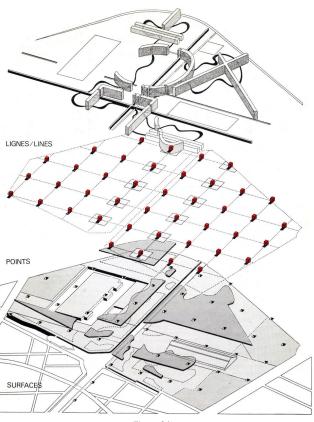
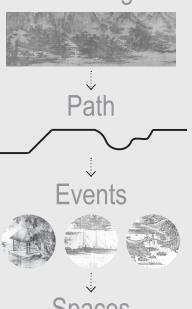


Figure 34.

SEQUENCE

Creating the sequence from landscape paintings involves steps from extracting path, defining programs based on scenes, and designing the corresponding spaces

Painting

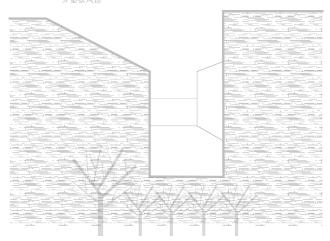


WANG SHU

NINGBO MUSEUM/CERAMIC HOUSE XIANGSHAN CAMPUS



Figure 35. Wind in Pines Among a Myriad Valleys 万壑松风图

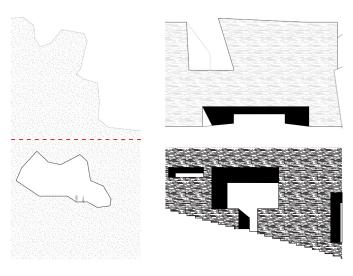


TWO SCALES

Scale 1: Facade Scale 2: "Going Into"







MOUNTAIN VS. CAVE

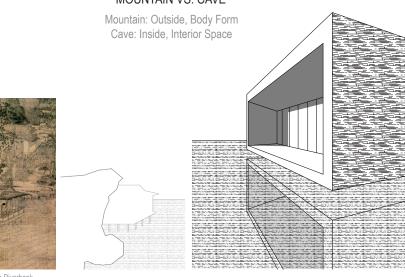
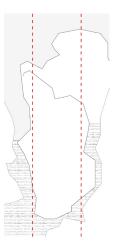


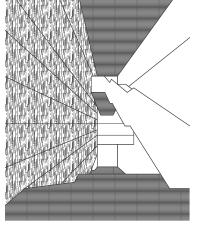
Figure 37. The Riverbank 溪岸图

DIALOG
Built form & Nature
People & Nature



Figure 38. Contemplating on a Donkey Ride Home 骑驴归思图



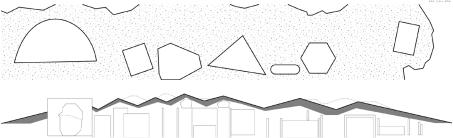


MOUNTAIN VS. VALLEY

Mountain: Solid, Mass Valley: Void, Circulation



Figure 39. Mountain Retreat



DIVERSITY

Far distance: Different Things Near Distance: Experience

ATMOSPHERE

Visual realization of conditions in landscape paintings as a way to revive atmospheric quality of narrative and phenomenology

Two Scales Mountain vs. Cave Dialog Mountain vs. Valley Diversity

Form

Material

Spatial Relationship

METAPHOR

THOMAS HILLIER



Figure 40. Yoshino River in Yamato Province (Woodblock print), by Ando Hiroshige



Figure 41. Architect's Transcription

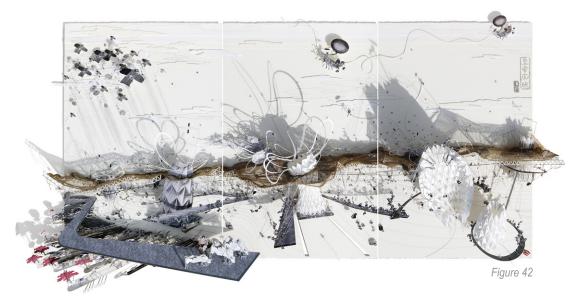
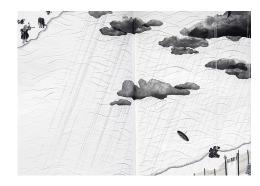


Figure 41-42: Retrieved from http://www.thomashillier.co.uk/.

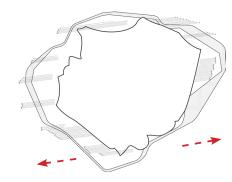




RIVER = SEGREGATION



Figure 43



PRINCESS = A KNITTED MEMBRANE COWHERD = PERIMETER GRASS PARKLAND

The membrane extends towards the outer parkland





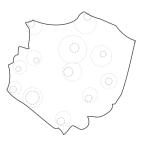


Figure 44

EMPEROR = ORIGAMI LUNGS

The lungs are physical barriers that manipulate the knitted skin to represent conservative attitude toward love



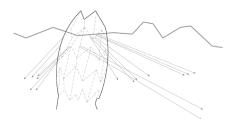


Figure 45

UNCONDITIONAL PIETY = STRINGS

The manipulations are articulated by pulley systems

METAPHOR

A set of architectural language as a way to express the metaphors behind a drawing to address the current cultural and social issues.

?

Objects Meanings

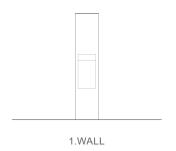
Architectural Language

II. METHODOLOGY

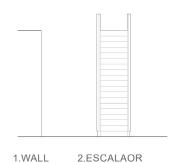
- 1. PLAY TIME
 JACQUES TATI
- 2. 2046 WANG KAR WAI
- 3. IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
- 4. REAR WINDOW
- 5. KAILI BLUES

PLAY TIME

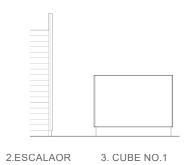






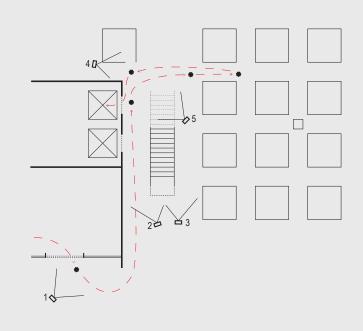




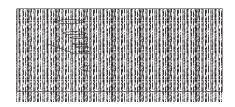


CLUE

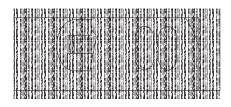
Clues are used in Play Time to direct audience through the spaces and helped with locate oneself. Clues such as elevator, or escalator appeared in current scene, then following scene at a different location to indicate the protagonist's movement and sequence.



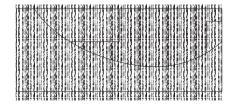




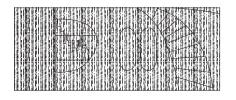




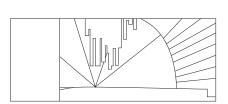






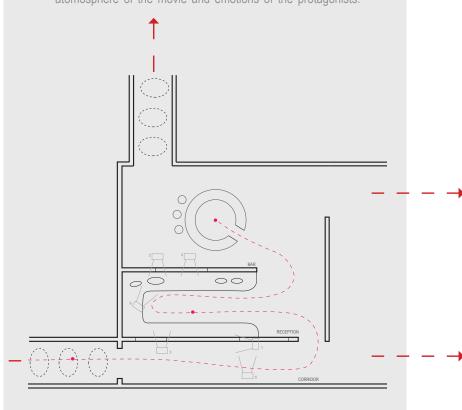




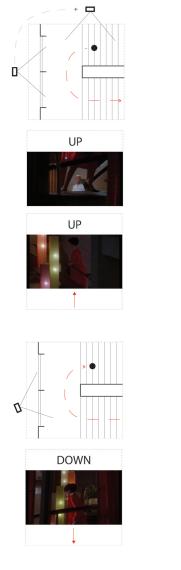


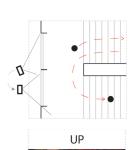
INTENTIONAL FRAMING

The director used intentional framing in the movie 2046. The framing is not only unconventional, but also addresses different focal points. Frame and void together constructed the atomosphere of the movie and emotions of the protagonists.



IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE

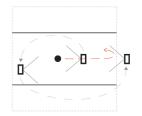














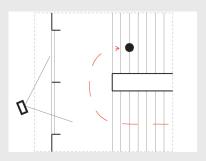






REPETITIVE INDICATION

Same spaces like staircase, hallway, room door, restaurant are showing in the movie with different protagonists, events in different times. The familarity of the spaces allows viewer to juxtapose the tone and emotion as well as the space itself, which leads to the metaphor of the space. For example, the staircase is a vertical maze indicates the hesitation; hallway indicates the segregation.





ATMOSPHERE

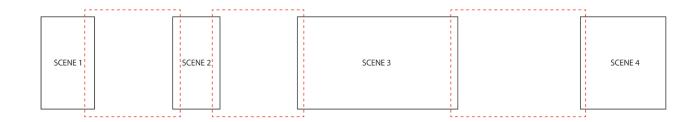
REAR WINDOW







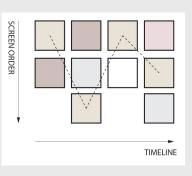


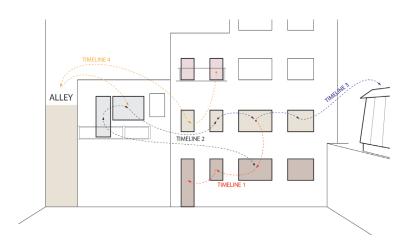


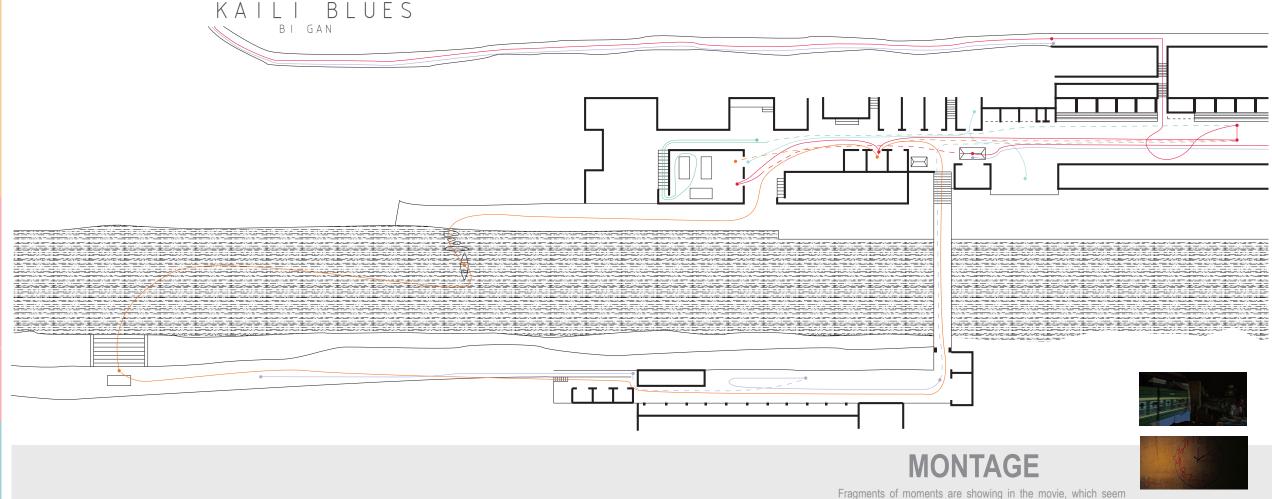


MULTI-FOCAL POINTS

As each protagonist's life is exhibiting through the windows, Hitchcock divided the action of different players but presented them all at once. He createed new connections across seemingly unconnected actions for both the viewer and the protagonist.





















Fragments of moments are showing in the movie, which seem confusing. However, the arrangement of shots combined formed an intellectual meaning. This meaning does not exist within the individual shots, but only shows when they are juxtaposed. Montage as a technique allows audiences to find different clues and form different story lines, which leads to the autonomy of the narritive. In contrast of the rest of the movie, there is a 42 minutes long shot, within which protagonists' movement carved out the spaces.

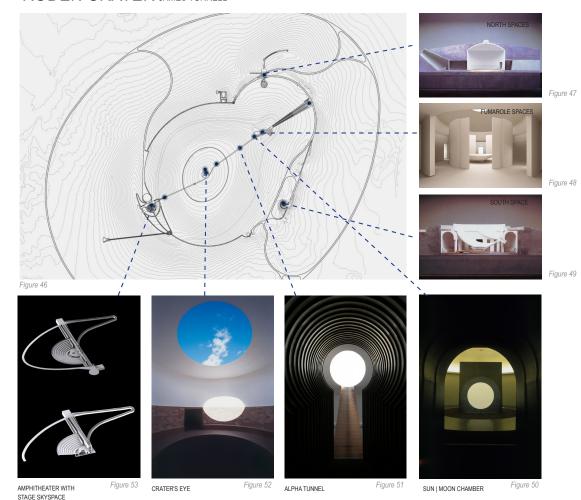




II. METHODOLOGY PHENOMENOLOGY

- 1. JAMES TURRELL
- 2. PETER ZUMTHOR BRUDER KLAUS FEILD CHAPEL
- 3. BRUNO TAUT
- 4. LIBESKIND

RODEN CRATER JAMES TURRELL



RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

GLASHAUS BRUNG TAUT







Montage: "the path followed by the mind across a multiplicity of phenomena, far apart in time and space, gathered in a certain sequence into a single meaningful concept."

"It is hard to imagine a montage sequence for an architectural ensemble more subtly composed, shot by shot, than the one that our legs create by walking among the buildings."

---Sergei M. Eisenstein. Montage And Architecture.

"Freed from the structures of permanent, functional, or comforting architecture, Taut and his colleagues hoped to reveal through the building an evanescent spiritual and artistic ideal. By focusing on the building primarily as an environment that creates illusive experience and elusive meaning, rather than as object or mere backdrop for display, they hoped to make manifest for the populace (Volk) a "higher passion to build" that could inspire the way to a brighter, reformed, unified, and eventually "socialist" European culture. In the best spirit of innovative "installations," Taut intended his Glashaus not only to provoke radical change in art and architecture, but also to give inspiration for massive social, cultural, and political change promised by his vision of a new light-filled world."

---Kai K. Gutschow. From Object to Installation in Bruno Taut's Exhibit Pavilions.

INNOVATIVE "INSTALLATION"

Figure 46-53: James Turrell. Roden Crater. Retrieved from http://rodencrater.com/

Figure 54-57: Kai K. Gutschow. From Object to Installation in Bruno Taut's Exhibit Pavilions.

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QUENCI



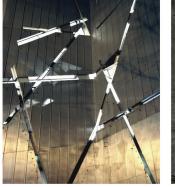








WORSHIP OF MATERIAL & PROCESS









CROSS SYMBOL AS METAPHOR

III. PAINTING ANALYSIS

1. 夏山图

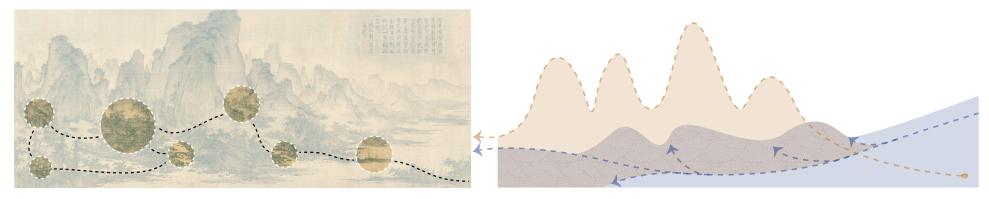
SUMMER MOUNTAINS

- 2. 溪山图 STREAMS AND MOUNTAINS
- 3.溪岸图
- 4. 江山秋色图
 AUTUMN COLORS OVER RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS

Criteria for Selecting Paintings:

- * The work should depict a sequence formed of diverse scenes or events.
- * The work should be a combination of landscape and architecture that contains human activities.
- * The work should contain various elements of landscape, such as mountain, water, cave, trees, etc.
- * The work should express important metaphors or spirits from traditional Chinese culture.
- * The work should inherit certain quality of atmosphere and phenomenology.
- * The selection will sort out paintings of different narratives and different metaphors.





"This painting is one of the few landscape handscrolls remaining from golden age of the art. The magic of this painting relies on its power to draw the eye and the mind of its viewer across a throusand miles in a single foot, to become the vihecle for a unique journey through the hours of the day and the seasons." 6

- 1. A returning fisherman draws in his net for the last time in the gathering dusk.
- 2. A traveler on his donkey and a porter carrying his zither make their way from the landing.
- 3. Travelers make their way toward a temple retreat where vacationers are seated together overlooking a stream, enjoying the view and contemplation.
- 4. Stepping down from the central mountain, there is a cluster of magnificient buildings where travelers gather and enjoy various activities.
- 5. A stream is hidden behind mountains for travelers to explore.
- 6. A returning farmer make his way along the path to his house.
- 7. A lone porter crossing a bridge and a mule train descending from a gated mountain leads the viewer back. 7

This diagram shows the extension as a compositional rule to set up a series of sequence and sequential connections.

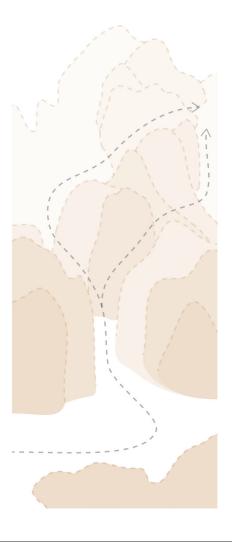
^{6.} Richard M. Bamhart, Along the Border of Heaven: Sung and Yüan Paintings from the C.C. Wang Family Collection (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1983), 39. 7. Maxwell K. Hearn, How to Read Chinese Paintings (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2008), 20-27.



- 1. The scholar withdrew and lived in a thatched cottage with rear farming land.
- 2. He met friends and inscribed poems in the pavillion.
- 3. He started the journey in natural landscape with his friends.
- 4. They heard apes crow along the hidden stream.
- 5. They visited magnificient building clusters. 8

This diagram shows the layered condition of mountains. It creates a spatial sense of flowing, which guides a viewer's sighting as well as the physical movement.



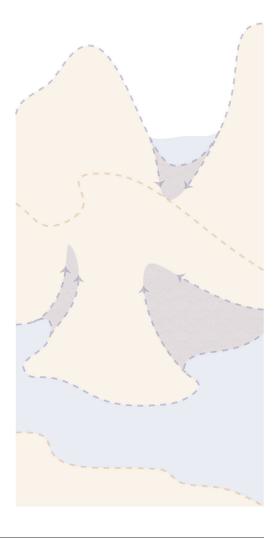




- 1. The scholar and his wife lived a secluded life in the riverside courtyard house.
- 2. The cowboy rided a cow in the courtyard.
- 3. The servant girl was spinning behind the bamboo fence.
- 4. A farmer was catching path in the valley.
- 5. Two other farmers was at a farther distance along the valley.
- 6. Waterfall as a scene in an alternative path for the audience to follow. 9

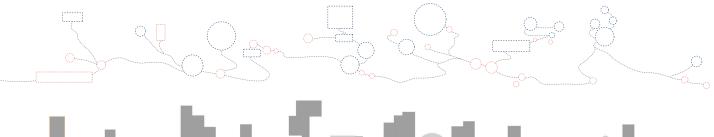
This diagram shows how the overlap of mountain and water creates a valley condition. It suggests spaces and the direction of physical movement.











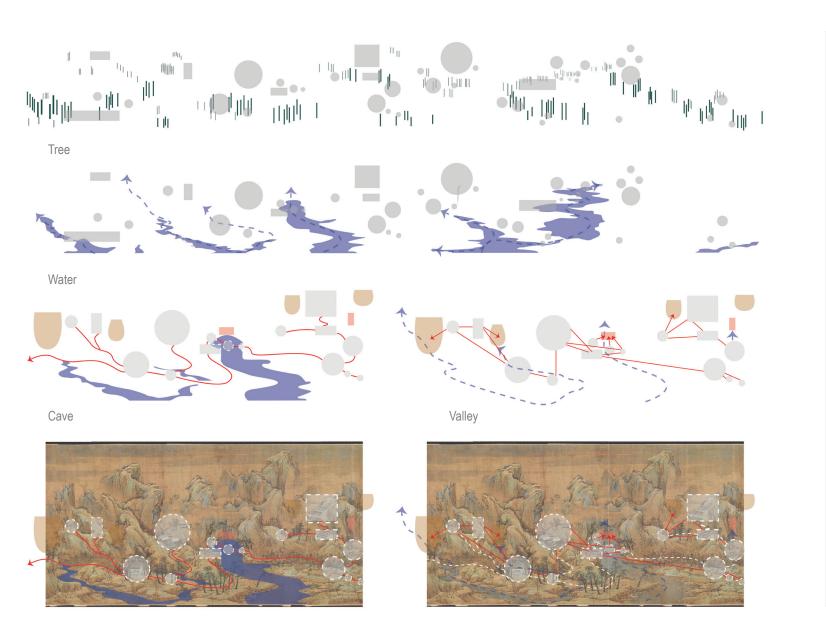


"This painting resents a spectrum of rocky textured mountains inhabited only by travelers on the way to grand vistas and palatial retreats of forbidding isolation. A continuous foreground of low lands with large inlets leading to the horizon is set off from a freakish mountain range that runs along the middle ground and background interrupted only once by a large winding river." ¹⁰

Mountain = Separation

Frame





Trees = Leading Clue

Columns



Water = Connection

Sunken Space
(Courtyard,
Green Space, Platform)



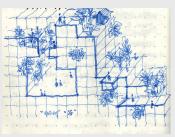
Cave = Physical Path

Entrance to Sunken Space

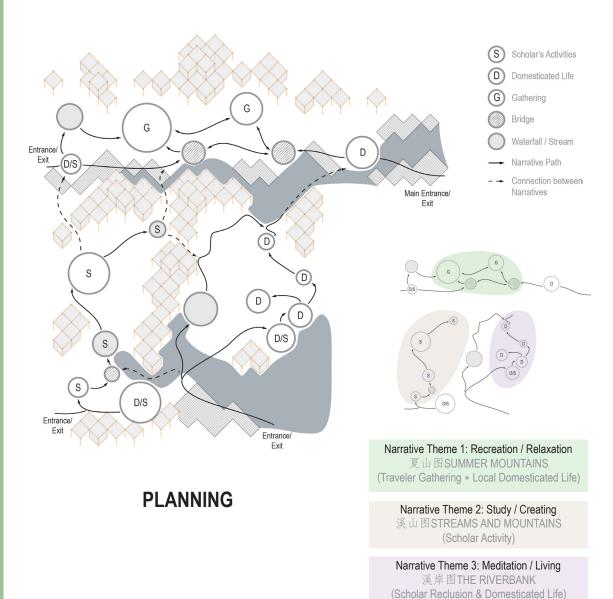
Valley = Visual Connection

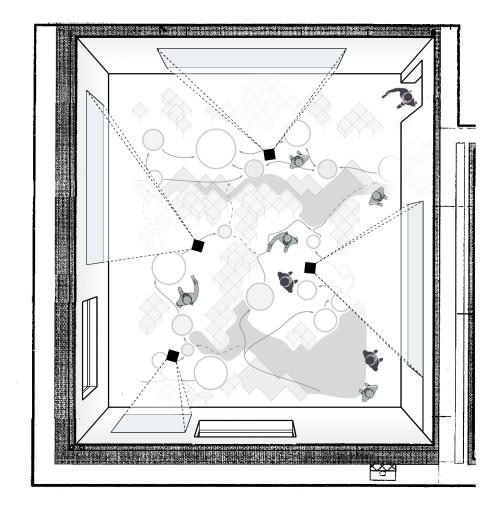
Gap Space





IV. NARRATIVE



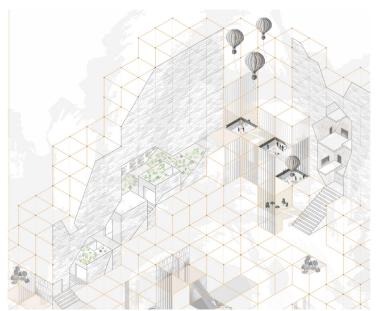


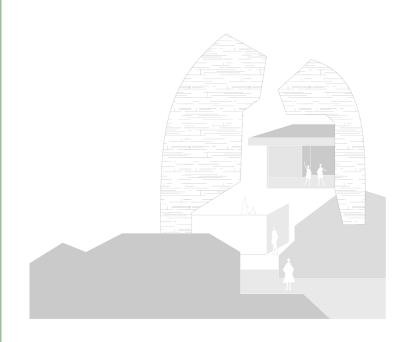
PRESENTATION METHOD













Original Narrative: Scholar's Cottage
"The scholar withdrew and lived in a thached cottage with rear farming land". 11



METHODOLOGY

Intentional Framing:

A series of framings lead people from one space to another.

Dialog:

Visual and physical interations between built form, nature, and people.



2. Meeting Room

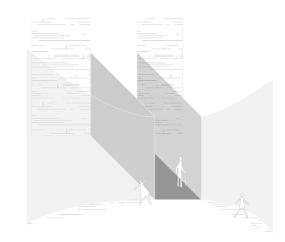
Original Narrative: Pavilion
"The scholar met friends and inscribed poems in the pavilion". 12



METHODOLOGY

Clue:

A series of similar objects act as clues for people to experience through and approach to the main space.



3. Exchange Space

Original Narrative: Bridge
"The scholar started the journey in natural landscape with his friends". 13



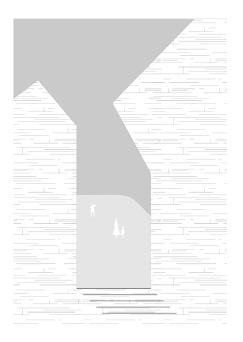
METHODOLOGY

Montage:

When two juxtaposed spaces combine, a meaning is formed. Here, people go back and forth between discussion and creation to exchange ideas.

Metaphor:

Bridge is a space of connection, a space for exchanging.



4. Creative Studio

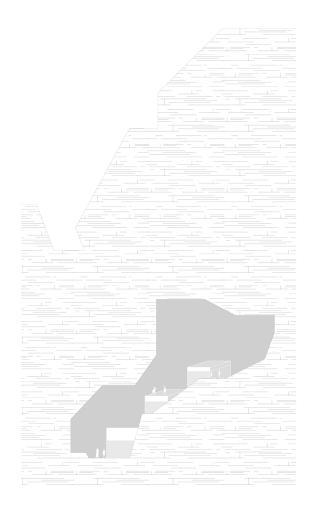
Original Narrative: Hidden Stream "They heard apes crow along the hidden stream" (as an inspiration for their poems). 14



METHODOLOGY

Two Scale:

Hidden behind the front elevation, there is a space with a lot of hidden values and experiences.



5. Resource Library

Original Narrative: Magnificient Building Clusters "The scholar and his friends visited magnificient building clusters". 15



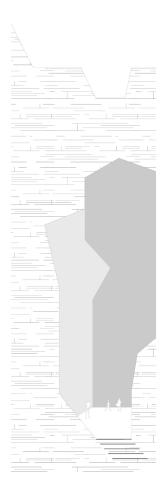
METHODOLOGY

Multi-focal Points / Repetitive Indication:

a series of buildings with identical form but different details makes people explore and discover one that fits them the most.

Mountain / Cave:

Mountain implies building form, cave represents interior space. Here, it contains libraries of different resources.



Gallery

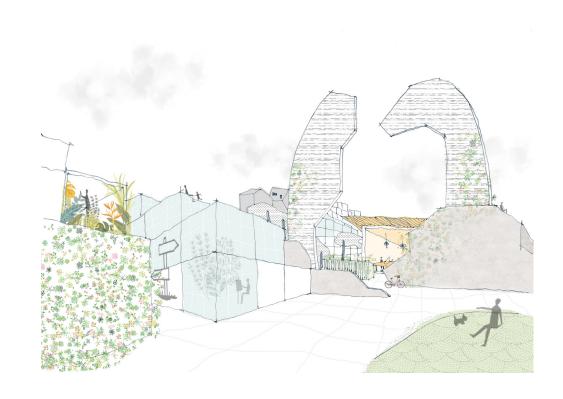
Original Narrative: Waterfall "The journey ended with appreciating waterfalls at the mountain top". ¹⁶



METHODOLOGY

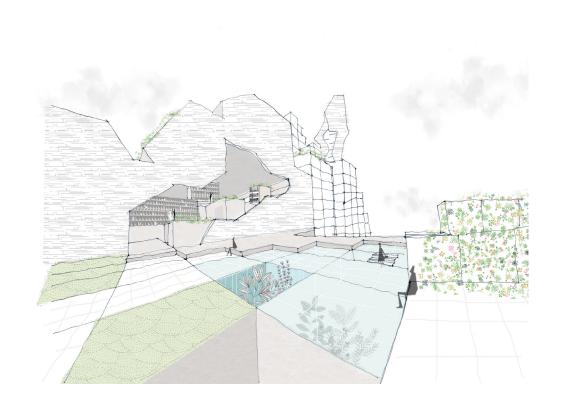
Mountain / Cave:

Mountain implies building form, cave represents interior space. Here, it is a gallery space for people to appreciate the creative works.









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