

# ID 1343 | CHINESE RETURN TO THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AFTER THE WAVE OF MASSIVE URBANIZATION - A CASE STUDY OF THE SHENZHEN BAY RECREATIVE SEAFRONT BELT

Jincheng Weng<sup>1</sup>, Yiwan Li<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Shenzhen Urban Planning & Land Resource Research Center  
[weng\\_jin\\_cheng@163.com](mailto:weng_jin_cheng@163.com)

**ABSTRACT:** Shenzhen is located on the South of China; east of the Pearl River Delta; while bordering Hong Kong on its south. It is one of the fastest growing cities in China with a strong economic vitality. Started from a small fishing village in the 1970s, Shenzhen has become a mega city with a population of twenty million in 35 years. As a developing coastal city, Shenzhen had most definitely neglected its residents need of leisure. Especially recreational use of waterfront space. Shenzhen's municipal government activated the relevant works of Shenzhen Bay leisure seafront in 2003. The project started west of the Nanhai Hotel, all the way east to the Mangrove Nature Reserve Area. It spans throughout the east coastline of Shenzhen Bay, with a total length of 15 km. The project objectives are specific in the followings: comprehend the importance of coastal natural resources of Shenzhen Bay, make full use of the shoreline. Construct a complete form of ecological system while improving the current ecological function basing on the Mangrove Nature Reserve Area; opens the closed seafront; returns the natural waterfront space to the public; uses international consultation as the standards to reshape the coastal characteristics; encourage public participation in the process of planning and design. Holding these objectives, 9 kilometers of coastline on the east side were completed in 2011. Upon its opening, the Shenzhen Bay leisure seafront belt had won the public praised and regional recognition the Shenzhen and Pearl Harbor Delta area almost immediately. It had then become the symbol of Shenzhen, as a modern coastal city. Summary: This leisure project demonstrated that urban space is not only a carrier economic development and construction. For a better life tomorrow, adhering to the people-oriented, nature-oriented, and positive concepts are needed. They are there to guide urban planning and construction activities in the city tomorrow.

**KEYWORDS:** Public space, Public interest, Coastal Characteristics, Shenzhen, China

## 1 PREFACE

The Shenzhen Bay is an estuarine bay shares between the city of Shenzhen and the city of Hong Kong. The west end of Shenzhen bay, bounds to the Pearl River Estuary, while the east bounds to the Shenzhen River; the bay holds roughly 80 square kilometers of area. The water depth gradually shallows from the east to west. The shallowest depth of the water holds at 1 meter. The Shenzhen Bay referred in this article is within the administrative boundaries of Shenzhen.

The new Shenzhen coastal waterfront emerged when the reclamation of the new Shenzhen Bay Checkpoint and Shenzhen Bay Bridge were completed at the end of 2003. Under this circumstances, the municipal government of Shenzhen began to reflect the urban development of past 20 years, including the significances of the Shenzhen Bay regarding to natures, urbans and the publics.

The Shenzhen Bay Coastal waterfront space has superior geographical location and unique landscape resources. It would be an unreasonable wasted, if Shenzhen Bay was not able to convert into public use due to the lack of reasonable use objective. Meanwhile, the shoreline has become increasingly prominent as the inner marine of Shenzhen and the gateway to the city image. Unfortunately, it has no coastal features.

For all the illustrated reasons, Shenzhen municipal government started the relevant works of Shenzhen Bay recreative seafront. Which spans 15 kilometers west from the Nanhai Hotel, along the Shenzhen Bay shoreline till east to the Mangrove Nature Reserve Area.



Figure 1 – Location of Shenzhen Bay

## 2 REFLECTING TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHENZHEN BAY

### 2.1 FUTIAN CITY CENTER'S COASTLINES SERVED MANLY FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL SHORELINES ARE RELATIVITY SCARCE

The earliest economic development of Shenzhen was the opportunity of undertaking Hong Kong's manufacturing industry. Due to the fast-paced industrial urbanization, the city ignored people's needs and basic living. Many production facilities were set up along the administrative boundaries. The city developed rapidly from its east side towards its western base on its geographical and market factors. Uses of shoreline were mainly industrial; however, the public hydrophilic coastline was almost non-existence.

While most of the coastline were industrial, Shenzhen do have one unique feature of nature at its city center. The Futian National Mangrove Nature Reserve is a the only natural coastline of Shenzhen Bay, as well as is the only urban center nature reserve in the entire world. The Futian National Mangrove Nature Reserve and Hong Kong Mai Po wetland composed an important transit point for the international migratory birds in the eastern hemisphere. More than ten thousand of migrant bird rest and stop in the Shenzhen Bay every year. Since the nature reserve is a closed manage facility, and only 120 visits can be taken under reservation daily, most of the public has difficulties to reach and connect to this magical land.

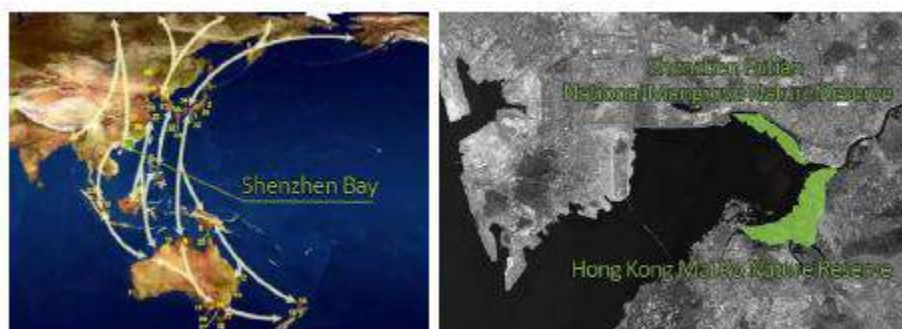


Figure 2 - International Migratory Birds in Eastern Hemisphere(Left)  
 Figure 3 -Nature Reserves in Shenzhen Bay(Right)

### 2.2 SHENZHEN'S COASTAL SPACES WERE CLOSE FOR VISIT WITH MANY NEGATIVE IMAGES. THEREFORE, THE SHENZHEN BAY AREA SERVED NO RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERYDAY URBAN LIFE

Early planning and design of the water did not fully consider public's leisure and spiritual needs. Coastal regions were often occupied by non-penetrable buildings, ports, checkpoints and expressways. Sea sight could not be reach by urban population. The Shenzhen Bay area served no relationship with its urban

population. Rapid urbanization ignored the social public space consciously, and the real embodiment of the city charm of the city spirit was given way to the market economy.

### **2.3 SHENZHEN AS A COASTAL CITY HAD NO COSTAL REVELATION**

As a rapid growing city, the demands for land were high. The water area of Shenzhen Bay was reclaimed as land, and it was reduced from 108 square kilometers in 1977 to estimate 83 square kilometers today. Massive extrapolation on reclamation was to meet the needs of city's early economic development; nevertheless, the original waterfront space and environment were not considered under the early planning stage. The construction of large-scale port and transportation facilities resulted shorelines to be enclosed and revitalized. These constructions had also changed the ecological resources in the city environment. Expressways such as Shahe and Binhai are acting as border walls that separates the urban population and the seafront spaces. Locating on the coastline, but cannot sense the sea. It's an embarrassing impression of Shenzhen as a coastal city. Coastal features of Shenzhen were facing endanger threat from the it rapid development.

### **2.4 AS THE CITIZEN'S LIVING STANDARD RAISES, HIS/HER SPIRITUAL NEEDS ALSO INCREASE. THE PUBLIC STRONGLY DEMANDS THE REOPENING OF WATERFRONT SPACE**

Water is the source of life; human nature is hydrophilic. Ancient Chinese had a saying where "live beside the water, habitat by the water ". Nowadays, waterfront space does not only bear the city public activities, cultural heritage, ecological conservation, but it also reflects its city spirit. The value of waterfront space depends and changed on the public demands during different stages of city development. It was used for agriculture production at an early age, and progressed to industrial and manufacturing services during industrialization. With the transformation of urban industry and improvement of resident's buying ability, the function of waterfront space needed to be reevaluate and reassessed. The waterfront spaces will return to urban life as a citywide trend.

## **3 THE PROCEDURES OF SHENZHEN BAY RECREATIVE SEAFRONT CONSTRUCTION**

### **3.1 COMPREHEND THE IMPORTANCE OF COASTAL NATURAL RESOURCES OF SHENZHEN BAY, MAKE FULL USE OF THE SHORELINE. CONSTRUCT A COMPLETE FORM OF ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM WHILE IMPROVING THE CURRENT ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION**

An ancient Chinese sage Lao Tzu explained the relationship between man and nature two thousand years ago. "Everything exist together in a delicate balance, human being has to respect and learn from the earth, the sky and the entire nature."

Therefore, to take better care of the sensitive and fragile ecological environment, we must give priority to the primary needs of the natural biosphere. Including the birds, mangroves and so on. Pay full respect to the mangrove reserve's international influence and its sensitivity. Large-scale constructions are forbidden near the reserve land. Ensuring no disturb wildlife habitat, we need disperse the pattern of human activities and controls the types of activities that are taking place near the reserved land. To reduce the impact of human activities on the wetland ecosystem, human activities are taken far away from the mangrove, where the birds live.

The Shenzhen Bird Watching Society also participated regarding on the overall layout and functional organization for the mangrove. Goals to preserve large natural mudflats for benthic ecology and migrant

birds. In this new aspect of urban development, humans and birds, city and nature all coexist harmoniously.

With the establishment of large-scale physical hydraulic model, we can then simulate the artificial shoreline filling form and scale for the Bay area water flow. It can encourage a substantial contraction of reclamation area. Bay reclamation can be done per the needs of coastal activities, and moderate adjustment of the Shenzhen coastline can be taken to an accurate account.



Figure 4 - Establishment of Physical Hydraulic Model

### **3.2 REOPENS THE CLOSED SEAFRONT, RETURN THE NATURAL WATERFRONT SPACE BACK TO PUBLIC**

Alleviates the physical isolation of the expressways, improves the connecting facilities such as overpasses, underpasses and traffic accessibility to the coastal area. Many measures can be all taken place to reshape the richness of coastlines and create a subtropical city coastal leisure space, while increase the chance of various functions, such as leisure tourism, occasional sports, fitness and so on. The connections and bounds of public activities will entitle the impression of this coastal city, promote the idea of the Shenzhen Bay from the urban edge to an undeniable urban function. It achieved the goal of psychological and social connections through physical transformation.

### **3.3 USES INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION AS THE STANDARDS TO RESHAPE THE COASTAL CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **3.3.1 ACQUIRE HIGH DESIGN THAT QUALIFIES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT**

In 2003, the city planning bureau established the design, bidding with a clear task. It had received 58 design application worldwide. A team of experts selected 7 qualified design firms for the competition, and a committee of both domestic and foreign experts, elected the four most prominent proposals from these 7 firms. The design that scored the project is a collaboration work of China Academy of Urban Planning and SWA Group. In the following two years after its successful bid, the team had an abundance of time to improve their design. After the design and engineering had fallen into places, the project started its construction in 2006.



Figure 5 – Winning Design



Figure 6 –Improved Design

### **3.3.2 AVOID ADMINISTRATIVE INTERFERENCE, STAY LOYAL TO THE ORIGINAL DESIGN, AND ESTABLISH HIGH STANDARDS OF ENGINEERING**

Phase one construction of Shenzhen Bay Recreative Seafront started in 2006 and continues till 2011. The design team acts as the general coordinator and it continues to advise government departments, stakeholders, drafting units as well as the construction company. Ensuring the spirit of design being unaltered.

### **3.4 IMPLEMENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS**

Ever since the consultant information had issued internationally, the project of Shenzhen Bay had grabbed the attention from national, provincial and local media. Example as the People's Daily Paper, China Southern Metropolis Daily Paper, Shenzhen TV Broadcast Company..., etc. They had carried out detailed follow-ups regarding of the process of this project.

The planning bureau had displayed the top four designs on the government website and related planning exhibitions. Goals to communicate and gather publics' ideas. The responses that were received displayed a great public interest in the planning process. Not only did the public browsed planning exhibition site, went online and filled out questionnaires; they had also suggested through phone, email and on-site.

The design with the most public votes happens to be the same one chosen by experts. The public had displayed these following reasons for their choice: it conforms to the natural environment; it highlights the themes of ecology and leisure; it is suitable for modern lifestyle that requires sustainable development; it has a clear and rational layout; it creates a unique environment for the city; it enriches cultural elements that this city desperately needed; and it is full with local characteristics.

While the display design was available to the public, the municipal government organized a public meeting that invited hundreds of general publics, real estate entrepreneurs and design institutions. The meeting had reached a consistent decision after a fierce discussion: the outpost of Shenzhen Bay should advertise the development of the entire bay area in the future, and the real estate companies should bear more social responsibilities regarding on this mission.

At the end of the public involvement, the planning bureau received 736 responses with comments. They included ecological preservation, regional functionality, and implementation strategies..., etc. The planning bureau and the design team had analyzed these responses and corresponded to all the public suggestions. Fortunately, the design team had considered and perfected their design base reasonable suggestion from the publics.



Figure 7 – Public Participation

#### 4 RESPONSES FROM THE SHENZHEN BAY RECREATIVE SEAFRONT PROJECT

The 9-kilometer coastline on the east side finished its construction in 2011. It had gained Shenzhen and the Pearl River Delta region’s public recognitions and was praised almost immediately; It had become the symbol of Shenzhen as a modern coastal city; it had received numerous awards, including the 2014 China habitat environment award, and the ninth International Federation of landscape Architects Award.



Figure 8 and 9 –Citizens’ Favorite Public Spaces

## 5 PERORATION

The core idea of urban planning is to ensure the city's livability and provides citizens a peaceful, convenient, and enjoyable environment for work and life. This project of Shenzhen Bay Recreative Seafront is a reflection and a breakthrough of modern city concrete stereotype. Shenzhen often received this stereotype of as a public space and nature ignorant; nonetheless, this project demonstrates a rational decision of rus in urbe after twenty years of insane urban constructions. Urban space will no longer serve as the urban economic development solely; urban spaces in the future will be people-oriented, nature-oriented. Only incorporating public leisure spaces, ecology preservation, and sustainable living into urban planning will guarantee a better city tomorrow.



Figure 10 - Shenzhen Bay Recreative Seafront Belt

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## ID 1348 | USE AND DESIGN OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AS PAROCHIAL REALMS BY MOTHERS AND ELDERLY: A CASE STUDY IN IZMIR, TURKEY

Kastas-Uzun<sup>1</sup>, Fatma Senol<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Izmir University of Economics, Faculty of Fine Arts and Design,  
 Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design  
[ipek.kastas@ieu.edu.tr](mailto:ipek.kastas@ieu.edu.tr) ; [fatmasenol@iyte.edu.tr](mailto:fatmasenol@iyte.edu.tr)

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Neighborhoods parks are core living environments that create an important part of the public life which help to fulfill residents' social needs and satisfaction through social relations of neighborliness and familiarity. Neighborhood parks can ideally provide various opportunities for the well-being of especially those whose daily lives are bounded to their place-of-residence, such as women, children and elderly people. In fact, they can be used as parochial realms by these "groups-in-need." In daily life, however, not all of these groups do and can use neighborhood parks in the ways as desired, because the access to park use is not equitable among all. In order to improve urban planning and urban design strategies that