

RESEARCH ON MULTI-LEVEL PUBLIC SPACE SYSTEM  
PLANNING STRATEGY IN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL  
BLOCK BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF "COLLAGE CITY"——  
TAKING BEIJING MOSHIKOU HISTORICAL AND  
CULTURAL BLOCK AS AN EXAMPLE

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**Abstract:** In China, historical and cultural blocks serve as the material carrier of traditional culture and resident life in the city, as well as an important area for protecting local culture, inheriting historical culture and displaying urban style. In the transformation and renewal stage of the city, the protection and renewal of historical blocks has become a hot topic of research and discussion. Based on the life and leisure needs of residents in historical and cultural blocks, this paper firstly interprets the concept of 'collage city', emphasizes the integration and coordination of spaces and surrounding population demand, land use function and style, and proposes a planning idea. Secondly, taking the Beijing Moshikou historical and cultural block as an example, realize the diversified and systematic public space system through the three-level planning of 'node-tour line-region'. Meanwhile, we plan festival activities to promote neighbourhood relations and tourism development, and encourage community residents to participate in the planning process through time series construction. In the end, in the historical and cultural districts, the use of collage techniques to promote the integration of multiculturalism, coordinate the balance between tourism development and residents' lives, and achieve sustainable urban transformation.

**Keywords:** Sustainable urban transformation, Public space, Landscape technique, Public participation

## 1 Introduction

In China, historical and cultural blocks serve as the material carrier of traditional culture and resident life in the city, as well as an important area for protecting local culture, inheriting historical culture and displaying urban style. However, due to the rapid development of the city, the historical and cultural blocks have been built for a long time. Historical and cultural blocks generally have problems such as backward infrastructure, narrow living space and poor sanitary conditions. The weakening of neighborhood relations and the lack of public activity space, the harsh environment and the lack of care for vulnerable groups have led some aboriginal people to be unbearably and gradually moved out, eventually making the neighborhood community gradually lose its vitality. Memory <sup>[1]</sup>. Therefore, in the transformation and renewal stage of the city, the protection and renewal of historical blocks has become a hot topic of research and discussion. However, the current historical and cultural district renovation projects often focus on tourism development and economic benefits, and are not based on

the daily life of the original residents in the neighborhood. The reconstructed neighborhoods are too commercialized and socially isolated, eventually leading to these The renovation project has not achieved the expected economic and cultural benefits, nor can it meet the basic daily living and leisure needs of the residents. Historical and cultural blocks often have scarce public space, not only in small numbers, but also in problems such as unreasonable distribution, low diversity, and inadequate functional facilities. Under such restrictions, the drastic new green space is neither realistic nor rational [2]. Therefore, on the basis of completing the protection and restoration of historical and cultural blocks, it is the main content of this paper to use multi-level and time-series public space system planning to reshape traditional culture, display urban style and enhance living environment.

## **2 The concept of “Collage City”**

The concept of “collage city” comes from Colin Rowe's book *Collage City*, which he believes that urban form always changes in a small and gradual way, and the culture of the old town is different. The cultural accumulation of the period and the multiculturalism contradict each other to form a collage [3]. The concept of “collage city” opposes the demolishing of cities in the name of modernization. It believes that cities should self-renew in different segments without losing the whole, and should pay attention to the continuation of historical context and style. "Collage" is a design method that respects historical things. By using existing things and old things to create, you can perfectly integrate the future, present and past things to form new things. The core content of the “collage city” concept is summarized as follows [4]: 1.The city is a product of historical synergy. Anyone's understanding or influence on the city is fragmentary and partial, and the whole city is partly partial. Formed by patchwork. 2.Cities are complex and diverse, and space should be the product of society and people based on their interpretation of absolute reference and traditional values. 3."Collage" on the level of urban "technology" means that spatial design should be based on respect for urban texture, deal with specific situations in a variety of ways, and achieve harmony with the surrounding environment, rather than conflict. 4. Actively advocate the "bottom method" to analyze and Cognitive cities. 5. “Collage” can be a strategy to impart reality, change, movement, behavior, and history through Utopia's ultimate unchanging vision.

## **3 The idea of public space planning in historical and cultural blocks under the concept of “Collage City”**

### **3.1 Coordination with the needs of the population**

For the diverse use demands of people, the public space features a variety of functions such as rest, exercise, children's recreation, cultural display, party negotiation, etc. Compared with large parks, the use of small public spaces is more humanized and closer to the daily life of community residents. Based on the concept of “collage city”, the planning of public space system in the historical blocks should fully coordinate the relationship between the public green space and the functional needs of the old city, and arrange the green spaces with multiple functions in the urban area to make the spaces of each function coordinate with each other. Emphasize the interactivity of each monomer between the public space system and ensure the functional integration of the space system to meet the diversity needs of the residents of the area.

### **3.2 Respond to the function of surrounding land**

Due to the flexible layout of small public spaces, the service objects are nearby people, and the surrounding environment is complex. The surrounding areas of public spaces may be office areas, residential areas, and commercial areas. Therefore, the use of people and surrounding environment should be fully considered. Under the guidance of the concept of “collage city”, the relationship between green space and surrounding land should be fully considered, focusing on functional connection, texture integration and layout coordination to form an organic space system. The specific planning and design can determine the focus of the public space function planning according to the surrounding land use function, and consider the surrounding land use planning and green space system planning, thus exhibiting a multi-dimensional unified urban micro green land function carrier.

### **3.3 Setting off with cultural landscape style**

The culture of historical and cultural blocks is the cultural accumulation of different periods and the interweaving of multiculturalism. When excavating the cultural characteristics of the historical blocks, it is necessary to continue the historical and cultural connotation and traditional style, and also to enhance the era of the old city. As a carrier of culture, public space bears the role of protecting cultural diversity. In the design of public space, the cultural features of the urban area are extracted, and the language and cultural meaning of the venue design are given to form a dynamic open space with urban regional characteristics. Incorporating local regional cultural characteristics into public space not only can display the unique characteristics of historical and cultural districts, but also help to increase the cultural identity and local sense of belonging of local residents.

### **3.4 Collaboration with the urban renewal plan**

The construction of public green spaces is not only related to the effect of optimizing the surrounding human settlement environment in the near future, but more importantly, it will directly affect the reconstruction of the long-term pattern of green space in historical and cultural blocks. The planning and construction of public space system is an organic process of “point-to-face”. The “Collage City” concept focuses on sustainable and progressive public space planning and construction, and in this process, moderately and systematically protect and update the living environment resources of historical blocks. Promote the continuity and stage of the historical and cultural district renewal process through public space, and restore and revitalize the vitality and vitality of different historical and functional spaces in historical blocks<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **4 Multi-level public space system planning——taking Beijing Moshikou historical and cultural block as an example**

### **4.1 Research scope**

Moshikou Historical and Cultural Street is located in the northwest of Shijingshan District in Beijing, at the southern end of Xiaoxi Mountain, and belongs to the shallow mountainous area of the city. According to the scope of protection of the historical and cultural blocks of the model mouth determined by Shijingshan District, this study covers Shimen Road in the west, Jinding North Street

in the east, Fahai Temple Forest Park in the north, and Nankou in the south. It has Yongding River Canal. Through, the total area is about 56.8 hectares.

#### 4.2 Spatial classification of potential construction

Through on-the-spot investigation, the “corner space” existing in the historical and cultural blocks of the model port is explored as a potential space that can be developed into a micro green space. As seen in Figure 1, according to the current land use function and utilization situation, these potential spaces are divided into forest land, park green space, courtyard space, streetside public space, waterfront space, parking lot, construction site, and waste land . These potential spatial layouts are scattered and have a public nature. On the one hand, they provide space for daily life and social interaction for residents, on the other hand, they are also an important element to highlight the characteristics of the community and human settlements in the historical and cultural blocks of the model. The conversion of these potential spaces into public spaces is of great significance for enhancing the living environment, community identity and belonging.

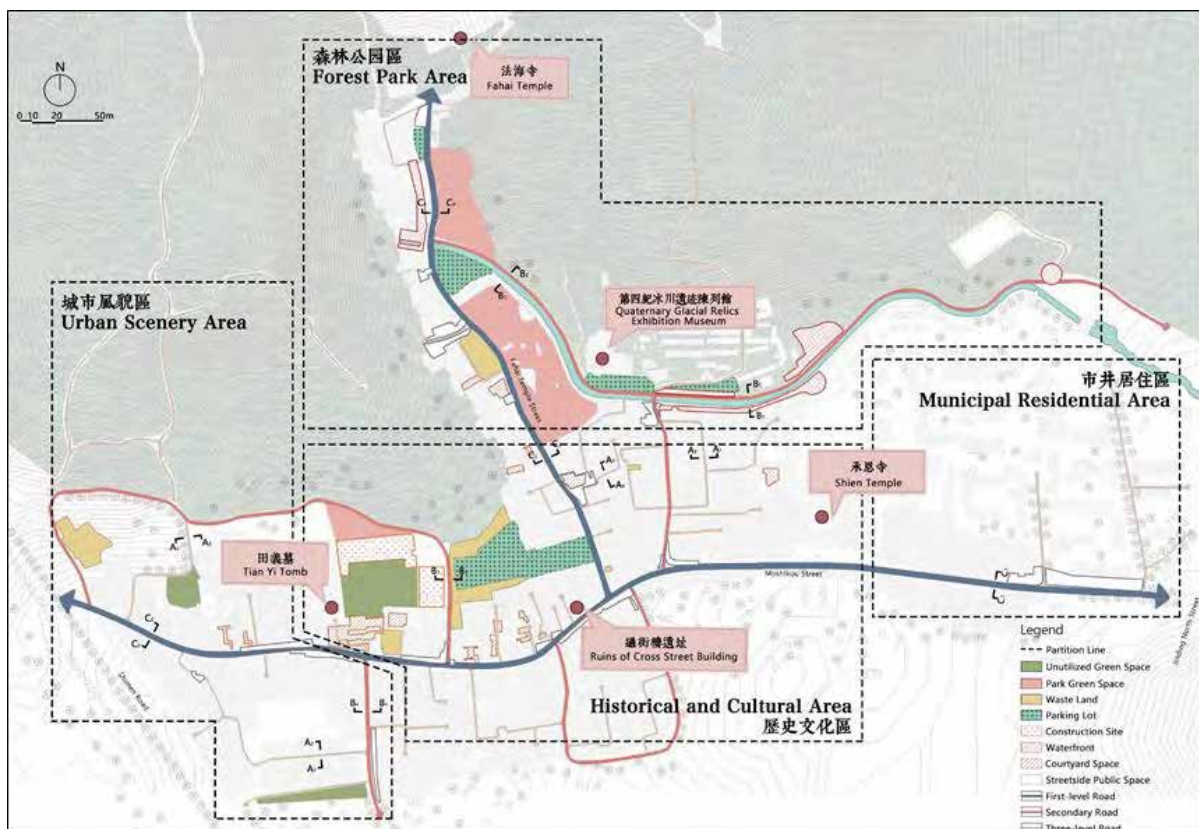


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the current potential spaces

#### 4.3 Node level public space planning

There are many “corner spaces” in the development of the Moshikou block. Converting these scattered point spaces into green space is a strategy for transforming the green areas from the node layer. Although these green spaces are not large, it is evenly distributed and easy to reach, and the transformation from the nodes can have an immediate effect. After evaluating the potential space within the site, it was found that the Moshikou historical and cultural block was partially in good

condition and has many public spaces (such as parking lots, cultural attractions, parks, shelters, etc.). As seen in Figure 2-4, different ways of creating catalyst nodes, combining green space and rationally utilizing free space are adopted for different situations.

#### **4.3.1 Creating catalyst nodes**

Public space has the role of “point-to-face”. Catalyst nodes can play a “catalytic effect” to stimulate and guide the surrounding resources and potential, thus driving the vitality of the neighborhood. Therefore, the potential space is screened and four micro spaces are selected as the catalyst nodes. The size of the four catalyst nodes is about 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, which is suitable for the pocket park. It is suitable for public activities and can achieve the effect of point-to-face. The site selections of the catalyst nodes is located in the west, north, central and eastern parts of the site, and are at key positions in each zone, which can stimulate the vitality of all quarters. There are public service buildings or cultural relic sites around those sites, which have a certain flow of people and are more conducive to the attraction of the catalyst node. With the theme of interactive experience, green ecology, historical humanities and cultural creativity, the four catalyst nodes create four different thematic catalyst nodes, which become the vitality points in the block and create possibilities for attracting multiple formats. For example, in the interactive experience-themed catalyst node, the residential activity stage and the interactive tea seat are designed to provide social space and display space for residents and foreign tourists, and to promote and attract drama and dance and cultural products.

#### **4.3.2 Sharing courtyard space**

According to the public courtyard space of residents, the courtyard space is integrated, and each household both has its own space and public space shared by residents after designing and combining those fragment and separate spaces. Residents' demands for courtyard space is that they must have independent use space (such as placing sundries, planting flowers) and convenient public spaces (such as traffic, and sitting). Therefore, open the public courtyard space of residents, dismantle the simple houses and walls that are built randomly, re-dividing the private space and public space of the residents and improve the accessibility of the courtyards between some residents' courtyards or courtyards, and build a public space shared by residents. This type of public space is only used to serve multi-family residents around the courtyard space.

#### **4.3.3 Reasonable use of free space**

Reasonable use of free space is a reform strategy for parking lots and other abandoned spaces, that is, reorganizing the existing waste space and parking lot, releasing unused space, opening the wall to facilitate pedestrian entry in the street, and flexibility make use of the free space of the parking lot as a public space. According to the survey, the parking area of the model port is large, the greening is small, and the space is not fully used. Therefore, it is possible to release a space that is not effectively utilized, and a movable planting pond, a flower pond, a seat, and the like are placed in the space. When the parking volume is small, this space becomes a green leisure space for tourists and residents to stay. When the parking demand is large, the facility can be moved at any time to resume the parking function.



Figure 2 Interactive Experience Living Room



Figure 3 Green Ecological Kitchen



Figure 4 Collage Culture Wordshop

#### 4.4 Tour line level public space planning

The streets and water systems in the Moshikou historical and cultural blocks have strong spatial characteristics. The integration of their potential space to form a continuous linear green space is the main strategy for tour line level transformation. The linear green space can enhance the connection between different public spaces, green spaces and cities, and expand the contact space and interface between the city and nature. At the same time, as seen in Figure 5, by integrating the potential space along the street and widening the street boundaries, the problem of pedestrians can be solved while accommodating public activities such as booth sales, cultural exchanges, leisure recreation, etc., adding certain infrastructure and creating rich and interesting street space. For the residents' streets and waterfront trails, two ways of renovating the street space and the façade and continuing the waterfront space were adopted.

##### 4.4.1 Enrich street space and facade

After the preliminary investigation, it was found that due to the special geographical environment of the shallow mountain where the model mouth is located, the residential space and the street on both sides of the street have a large height difference, forming steep ridges, platforms and retaining walls, which cannot be used as a public space. Therefore, by optimizing the street façade and transforming the steps and retaining walls on both sides of the street, the streetside public spaces are created and the street boundaries are widened. The streetside spaces with high difference are taken as the object of reconstruction, the retaining wall next to the street is digested, the ramp is set, and the slow-moving road is expanded by using the high-end residential space. The use of walls and space under the steps for three-dimensional greening creates a public space where people can stay and create greenery.

##### 4.4.2 Continuing waterfront space

Continuing the waterfront space is the transformation strategy of the space beside waterfront trails, that is, excavating the waterfront space on both sides of the river, and forming a continuous green

corridor through the integration of space. The Yongding River diversion canal in the Moshikou block is Between the block and the mountain. Although there are waterfront roads which can be used, the waterfront space is totally neglected, and there is no continuous green space and road system of traffic diversion. Space, increase seats, plants, small squares, scenic walls, pedestrian walkways, etc., to form a continuous strip of green space, to lay the foundation for the formation of green roads. By continuing the waterfront space, the waterfront green landscape can Be enhanced, so as to better connect people with mountains and waters, and to close the distance between man and nature.



Figure 5 Culture and Creative Corridor

#### 4.5 Regional level public space planning

Through the transformation of the public space at the node level and the tour level, the points and lines of the public space are no longer scattered and isolated, but can form an organic green mesh system at the entire regional level of the pattern and history and cultural blocks, driving the organic updating of the block. From the perspective of the tour system, various types of point-like micro-green space connect the main landscape nodes of the city, ensuring the continuity of the green open space. They form a network that provides a richer function and a more diverse landscape for the urban green space to form a system for building a tourable space. From the perspective of ecological pattern, when the urban green lands develop to a certain scale to form a green network, the city and the shallow mountain are well connected, which will certainly exert positive ecological benefits, including mitigating the heat island effect, improving air quality, and increasing species diversity. And a series of positive effects such as reducing building energy consumption<sup>[5]</sup>, greatly enhance the high-density urban ecological environment, thus forming a green complex in the shallow mountain block. From the perspective of cultural shaping, the public space system carries a variety of neighborhood culture, and the historical and cultural system of the block is inherited and improved. Residents can carry out various cultural activities in the public space, thus forming a multicultural exchange and sharing space and cultural display space.



## 4.6 Event planning

By planning social organization activities, government organization activities and residents spontaneous activities, enriching the lives of community residents, it can also attract tourists, and the economic benefits brought can also be invested in the next step of construction, as seen in Figure 6. Activities include:

1.Social organization activities. Including the Arbor Day, Spring Tour, Beijing Design Week, etc., which can attract a large number of enterprises or colleges to participate in the construction of the Moshikou historical and cultural blocks, which can becomes the carrier of multicultural communication.

2.Government organization activities. Including community green plant distribution, plants science cognitive activities, talent competition, marathon competition and other activities. By organizing such activities, the government can enrich the residents' lives and promote the relationship between the neighborhoods, as well as enhance the visibility of Moshikou historical and cultural block, so that more tourists can know the Moshikou and join in protection and renewal work.

3.Residents spontaneous activities. Including spontaneous activities such as morning market, mountain climbing, and walking. Through the construction of the public space system, the quality of the green outdoor space of the model port will be improved, so that the historical and cultural district of the model port can better become a good place for residents' living and tourists to relax.

After the planning of the event, the residents of the community as well as the tourists and enterprises and the government can participate in the construction process , and it can also promote the neighborhood relationship. The economic benefits brought by the development of the tourism industry can also provides economic support for the further protection and renewal work of Moshikou block.



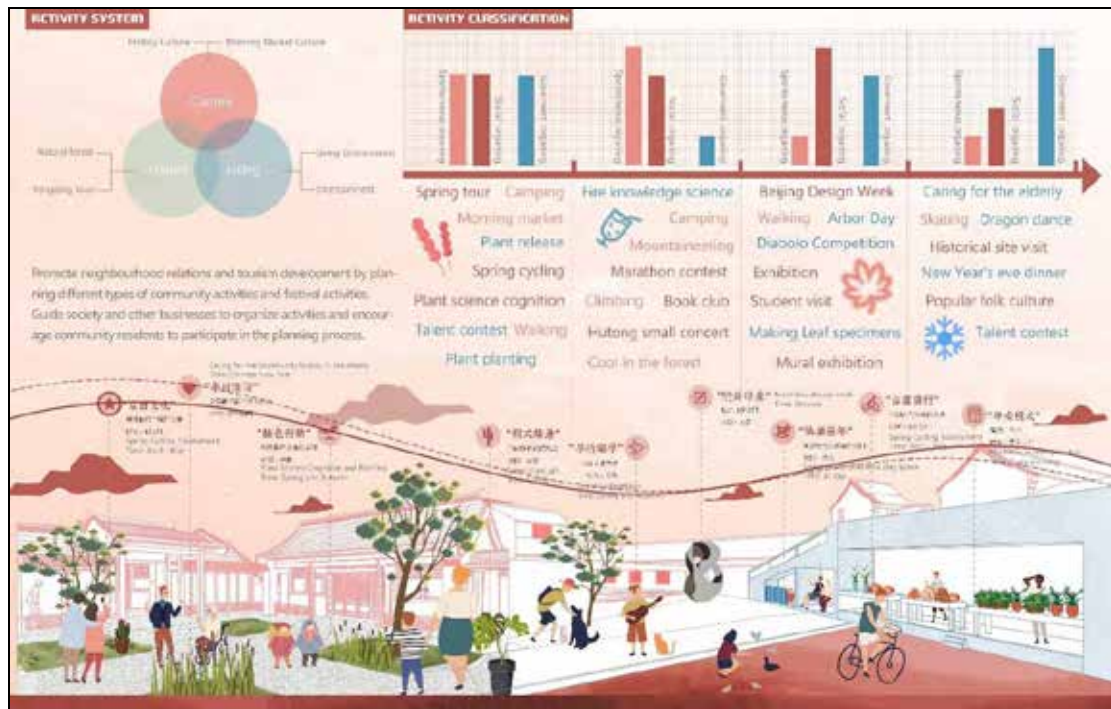


Fig.6 Events Planning

## 5 Summary

The transformation of the public space in the traditional historical and cultural blocks is mainly to attract foreign tourists, to make renovations in the public space of the neighborhood from the aspects of tourists' sightseeing and shopping experience, ignoring the quality of local residents' life qualities. Professor Pu Yisan once said that , “Once historical blocks have lost their traditional lifestyles and customs, they have lost their 'life authenticity'. Instead of the real people’s activities attached to these historical sites, In a sense, it is another kind of falsification behavior, and the block will lose its original historical charm.” The author believes that the construction of historical and cultural blocks should not blindly pursue the restoration of the antiques, and should respect the residents’ lives in the block. From the perspective of the needs of tourists, we will solve the various needs of the local residents, such as building living and leisure space, continuing the good cultural atmosphere, creating a beautiful and humane living environment, which also can meet the tourists' perception and experience of the venue living environment. .The public space planning idea based on the concept of “collage city” emphasizes the rational and coordinated systematic design plan. From the overall perspective, it proposes the plan according to the sequence and stage, pays attention to constructing a sophisticated and perfect public space system, and gradually promotes the healthy development of the block. This paper also hopes that this plan can fully mobilize the surrounding resources and potential, and make the neighborhood and the surrounding have a organic linkage, and build a public green space system of the city's overall area with a integration goal, gradually improve the urban green space system structure, and build a harmonious symbiosis between human-beings and nature.

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