

Corporate Member Feature: CNHW Landscape Design, Ltd (禾拓規劃設計顧問有限公司)

About us

CNHW(禾拓) was founded in 2001 and is widely regarded as one of Taiwan's leading landscape design firms. The company specializes in environment & landscape planning and design. The name of the company indicates our work philosophy: working closely with different professions to expand the possibilities of creating better environments.

(The literal meaning of “禾” is to amplify. In addition, the pronunciation is the same as the Chinese word for cooperation. “拓” means expansion.)

Our company has been operating in Taiwan for over a decade and has worked on approximately 300 projects throughout the nation. Taiwan is densely populated, thus we try to find a balance between urban development and being environmentally friendly in our landscape strategies. At CNHW, our objective goes beyond simply creating beautiful places. We strive to continuously tap into local natural and cultural resources, and amplify the potential and uniqueness of different urban environments to re-present the space with a feeling that is both familiar and fresh. This is the design solution which we believe fits our beloved island nation the most.

Past Projects

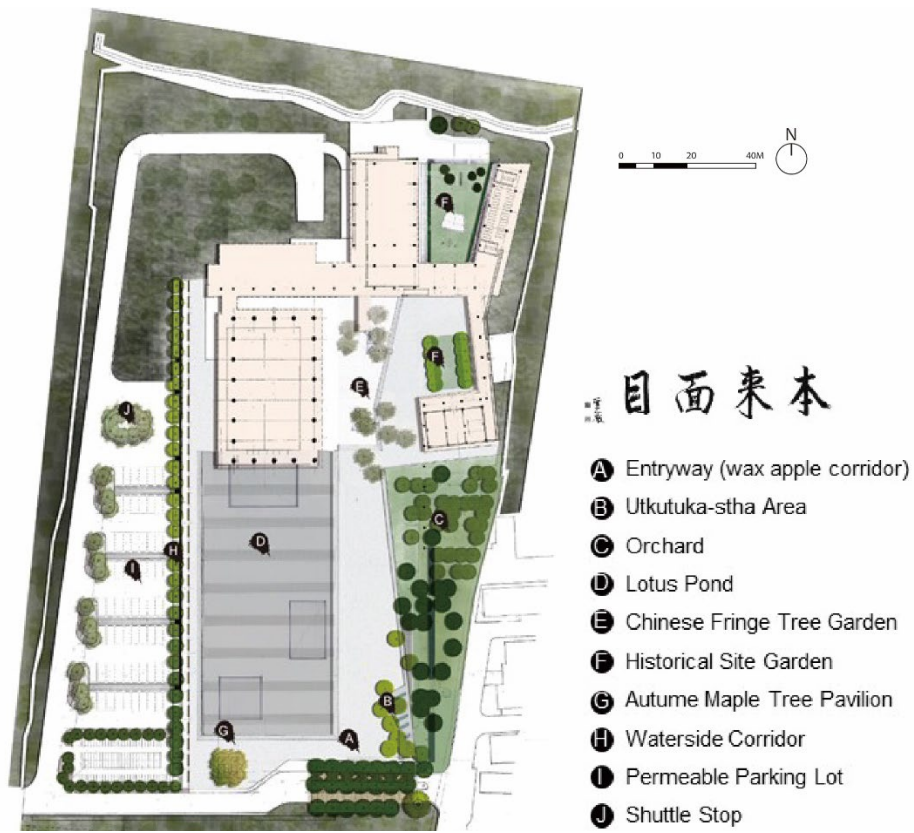
Nung Chan Monastery

The Nung Chan Monastery (meaning 'Farming Ch'an') is a monastery at Beitou District, Taipei, Taiwan. The design concept proposed by Master Sheng Yen was 本來面目 (“the original look”), which means the design should be simple, smooth, uncomplicated, and carrying an expression of “not new” in the sense that it will remain the same after many decades.

For the design, we cooperated with a reputable local architecture firm that designed the main buildings. The architects used the surrounding mountains as a background to reduce the sense of oppression from the buildings and give the space an extra feeling of solemnity. To meet Master Shen Yen's expectations, the current design was born after countless discussions with the architects and clients. It included a large pool (40 meters wide and 80 meters long) which reflects the main buildings, the mountains, the lotuses on the water, and the sky. This part of the design fully interprets the imagery of “flowers in the mirror, moon on the water”, another concept of the assignment.

Other details in the project were designed very carefully as well, such as the alignment at the edges of the space, the surrounding greenery, and the buried large stones which were

inspired by the color of kasayas and the praying figures in the Nung Chan Monastery during their rituals.



Master Plan of Nung Chan Monastery



Photo by Jeffrey Cheng & 姚仁喜 | 大元建築工場

The buildings looks like as if it grew out of the water. It easily blends in with the natural surroundings and show a simple and elegant demeanor. In the back is Datun Mountain.

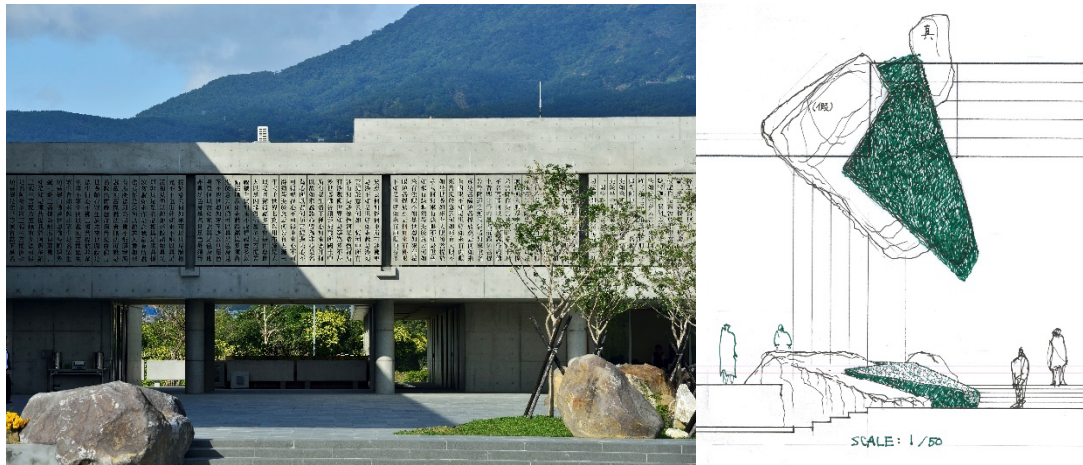
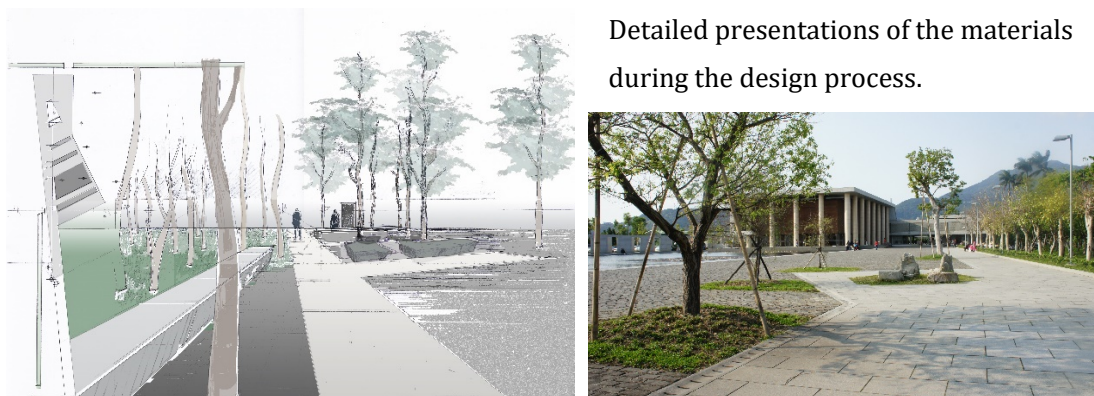


Photo by Jeffrey Cheng & 姚仁喜 | 大元建築工場



Detailed presentations of the materials during the design process.

The Utkuṭuka-stha Area shows the changes of space through scenery transformations.



People and landscapes quietly convey
the soothing strength of religion.



Photo by Jeffrey Cheng & 姚仁喜 | 大元建築工場

NEW LIFE FOR SINYING RAILWAY: GREEN CORRIDOR DESIGN

This site used to be the location of Taiwan Sugar Corp's Sinying Sugar Factory. Trains of different sizes passed through to transport materials and the factory was an important hub where trains carrying sugar, salt, and passengers stopped.

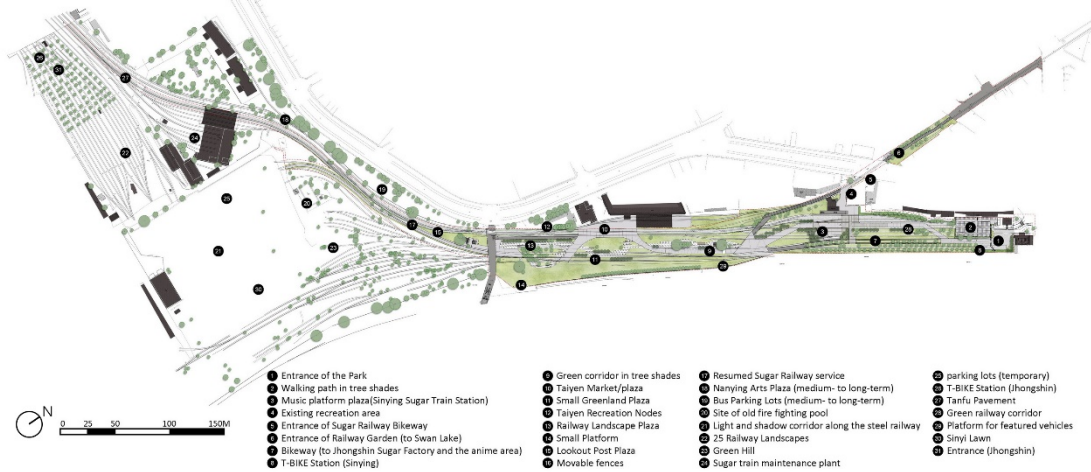
The objective of the project was to transform the park into an important gateway to Sinying. Spaces for walking and biking were created by combining Sinying Art Park and the remodeled Sinying Sugar Factory. Visitors can also ride sugar trains if they want to experience something special. Three railways - the sugar railway, salt railway, and Taiwan railway - are connected to form a cultural landscape. Each railway carried a unique responsibility and bears the mark of history. Old warehouses, sugar railways, and sugar factories are incorporated into the landscape as well. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of students, art groups, and local governments, we are able to preserve the glorious past of this area, as well as revitalize the local economy and recreate local landscapes.



Photo by 賴國華(深海魚)

Tiding up the forgotten railways to re-present the cultural aspects of the railroad landscape and offer a more diverse low-carbon experience.

Railway Green Corridor Design Conservation & Representation



Master Plan of Sinying Railway



Preserving the memories of local space and culture - the co-existence of Taiwan Railways, the sugar and salt railways.



Reopening the green gates of Sinying Sugar Refinery. Preserving the greenery and space structure with sustainable low impact development methods.



Representing the memories of local space and culture - transforming, re-presenting, and expanding the railways.





Suitable for all ages: A location for daily activities, local revitalization, and performances.



Opening up closed areas to the residents throughout the day.



Rebuilding the Old Sinying Region / the center of daily life and low-carbon tourism routes

Beitou Ecological Park

Beitou is an important base for hot spring culture and related industries in northern Taiwan. Due to its unique history, special features of this area include post-colonial architecture and historical sites, greenery and geographical landscapes, hot springs economy, film and television, folk customs, and other local industries. The government established plans to invest in hard infrastructure as well as cultural and industrial guidance mechanisms (soft infrastructure) to revitalize local development.



Master Plan of Beitou Ecological Park

Our role in this project was to collect stories of local lifestyles, find the connections between local cultures and scenic locations which we can highlight, as well as integrate the current

marketing schemes by local industries. With these concepts in mind, we developed four main strategies:

1. Improve economic and cultural benefits with transportation construction projects.
2. Upgrade the development of the hot springs industry by enhancing its marketing and branding strategies.
3. Restore and reinterpret the historical space in Beitou to pass down the hot spring culture.
4. Revive local cultural and sightseeing activities.

With the hard work of everyone involved, we managed to revive the local economy as the unique cultural assets in this area became more and more prosperous. More importantly, local cultures are preserved and can be passed down to the following generations.



The metro station plaza connects with the surrounding terrain via steps, slopes, and guard walls. Natural stones combined with water mist form the visual scene of the plaza and also reflect the natural landscape of Beitou and its four seasons.



The pond at the entrance of Beitou Park has been remodeled multiple times since the Japanese Occupation Period, yet its location and size has never been changed. It has always been the “light” (the focal point) in this glade. To emphasize and preserve the “light”, for this renewing project, we used dark pavement and hazy hot spring mist to emphasize its role. Also, in order to fill in the spaces that lack greenery, we planted five tall Fragrant Maples facing the pond and a pavilion nearby with dark brown pillars and low horizontal backboards to frame a “plant-iful” scene.



The mist at Tangyan Square echoes the theme of the hot spring area.



The pavilion frames the scene.