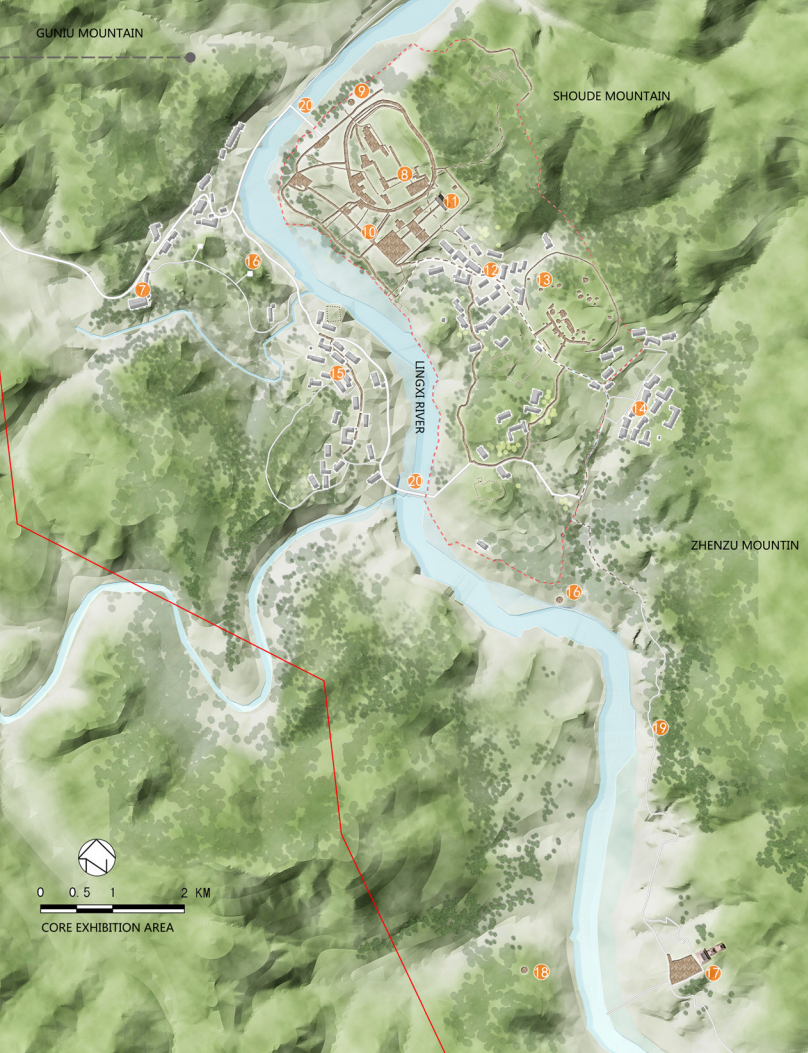
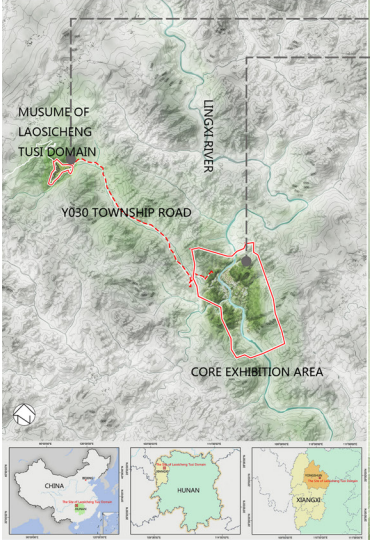


Representation of Tusi Heritage Environment—The Archaeological Site of Laosicheng Tusi Domain



The design approaches to interpreting and presenting the site of Laosicheng Tusi Domain

As a particular type of cultural landscape, the archaeological landscape is unique in nature as it provides extensive outdoor on-site experience, and closer contact between people and the site, complementary to the indoor exhibition at the museum. The design approaches to interpreting and presenting the site are often limited from the conservation point of view, but we seek for possibilities and develop design strategies in order to deliver a dynamic experience, in which authenticity and integrity of the site and its landscape setting will be best preserved.



- MUSEUM OF LAOSICHENG TUSI DOMAIN**
(66000sqm)
1. Entrance
 2. Bamboo Trail
 3. Entrance Plaza
 4. Archaize Light Well
 5. Decking Path and Wooden Trestle
 6. Farmland Landscape

- CORE EXHIBITION AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE**
(2700000sqm - Key design area 99000sqm)
7. Tourist Service Center
 8. Residential Area
 9. Diaoyu(Fishing)Platform Remains
 10. Street Remains
 11. Administration Remains
 12. Zijinshan Burial Ground
 13. Tujia People Traditional Dwelling House
 14. Cultral Showcase of Tujia People
 15. Babudashen Temple Remains
 16. Viewing Platform
 17. Patriarch Temple Complex
 18. Guanyin Pavilion Remains
 19. Ancient Road with Pine and Cypress
 20. Submersible Bridge

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View from the scenic point

BACKGROUND

Tusi Sites: Located in the mountainous areas of south-west China, this property encompasses remains of several tribal domains whose chiefs were appointed by the central government as 'Tusi', hereditary rulers from the 13th to the early 20th century. The Tusi system arose from the ethnic minorities' dynastic systems of government dating back to the 3rd century BCE. Its purpose was to unify national administration, while allowing ethnic minorities to retain their customs and way of life. The sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and Hailongtun Fortress that make up the site bear exceptional testimony to this form of governance, which derived from the Chinese civilization of the Yuan and Ming periods.



The Site of Laosicheng Tusi Domain: Lies on the banks of Lingxi River, 15km east of Yongshun County of Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in western Hunan Province, in the lower mountainous areas of the middle Wuling Mountains in the east of Yun Gui plateau. The site represents the Peng Clan Tusi, one of the earliest established Tusi of Yuan Dynasty, and it also represents Tujia People, the main ethnic group who have settled in this area from time immemorial. The site was initially constructed in the fifth year of Shaoxing period (1135) of Southern Song Dynasty, and subsequently developed large-scale construction since the sixth year of Hongwu period (1373) of Ming Dynasty, until it was left abandoned in the second year of Yongzheng period (1724) of Qing Dynasty. For almost 600 years, it served as the political, economic, military and cultural centre of this region.

DESIGN STRATEGIES

Core Exhibition Area

Bring the site to life - interpretative system

- Information design: divide complicated information into layers; incorporate original archaeological drawings/photo records, original text from historical written records, and artistic illustration; avoid long descriptive text.
- Facility design: small, portable, self-assembly, local ethnic aesthetics.

Presenting the archaeological remains

Zone: highlight the settlement pattern and overall layout by presenting the overlapped system of boundary walls, routes, drainage.

Node: highlight the variety of archaeological remains.

- Flow: connect these highlights in a sensible way to allow dynamic interpretation.
- Adopt appropriate types of facilities depending on the interpretation objectives with minimum intervention.

Celebrate the landscape settings

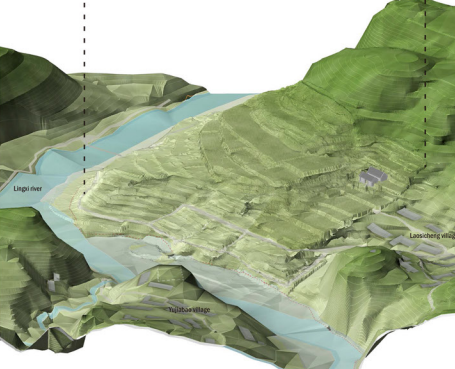
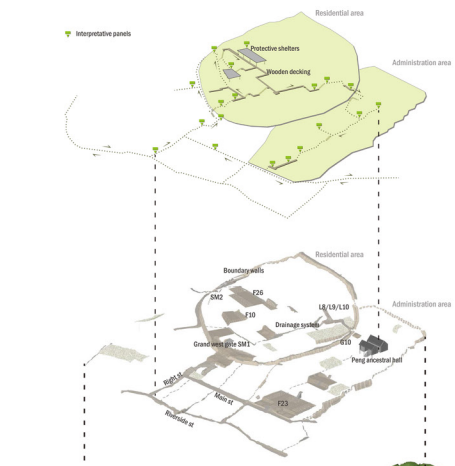
Interpret the historic landscape setting (seeking for key features in terms of time and space from field investigation and historical written records.) Identified key features: Settlements of ethnic minority groups in mountainous areas - features of building, vegetation, road and access, river and stream.

- Enhance the disturbed landscape setting: Identify and remove the incoherent features, especially those visible from along the main route of access.
- Enrich visitor experience with focus and variety: highlight the key features - scenic point, entrance area, riverside walk, dock, villages.

Museum Area

Integrating the new landscape and architecture with its natural surroundings

- Making use of the natural topography;
- Using local materials;
- Selecting local plants;
- Getting back to nature.



Navigation map



Bring the site to life - interpretative system

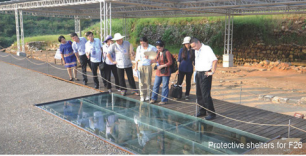
Design objectives: demonstrate respect for the historic and regional landscape characteristics; create enjoyable and satisfying places with natural environment and stunning views.



Building foundation remains F23 Way-finding signpost



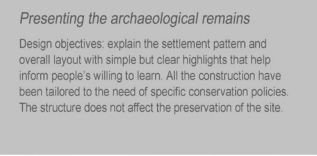
Protective shelters for F10/F11 and F25/F26/F27



Protective shelters for F26



Entrance plaza of the museum



Presenting the archaeological remains

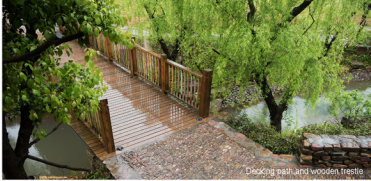
Design objectives: explain the settlement pattern and overall layout with simple but clear highlights that help inform people's willing to learn. All the construction have been tailored to the need of specific conservation policies. The structure does not affect the preservation of the site.



Parts of the routes and drainage ditch remains G17



Traditional building remains F23



Integrating the new landscape and architecture with its natural surroundings

Design objectives: learn from the local construction methods of Laosicheng Tusi Domain, focus on natural landscape, and minimising artificial works, restore the disturbed area after the museum construction to its former natural state.



The scenic point



View platform



Entrance to the core area



Siheung village



Path & Plant