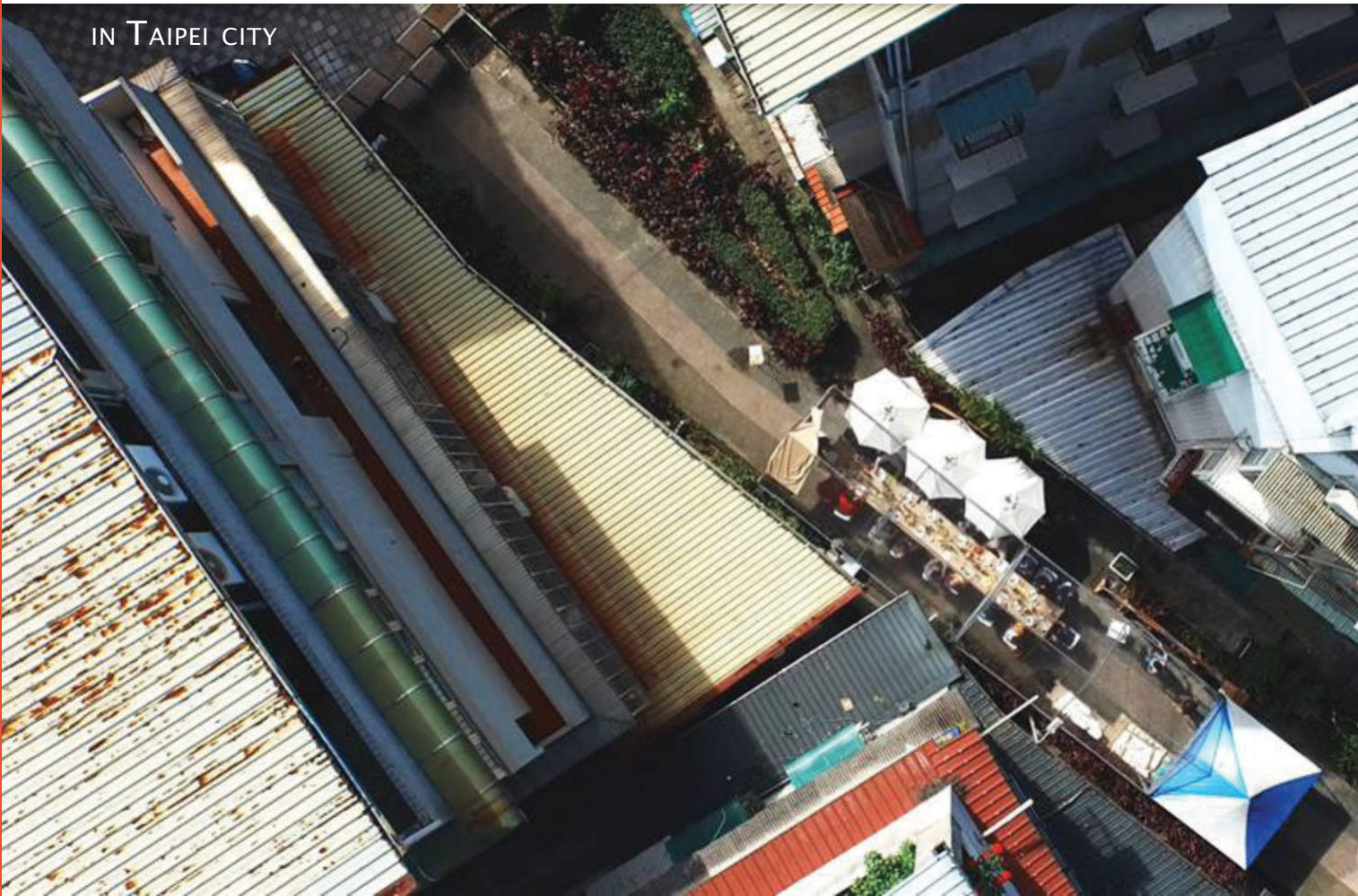




UNLIMITED CITIES IN WENSHAN

IN TAIPEI CITY



REPORT AND ANALYSIS OF THE UNLIMITED CITIES APPROACH
CONDUCTED ON 28 OCTOBER 2018



1

TOWARD COLLABORATIVE URBANISM



Event poster

INTRODUCTION

The Taipei city government has been conducting projects to transform vacant spaces into shared and sustainable community spaces through the involvement and cooperation of residents. At the same time, the city government is also trying to work with residents to formulate guidelines to support the landscape and architectural design of public spaces located within high-density residential spaces.

WENSHAN OASIS : COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE TO IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

Wenshan district is located in the south of Taipei city and surrounded by several small hills. The geographical specificities of the district give it a high ecological quality but also humidity and flood issues. To reduce this problem, field research was conducted. It was discovered that there used to be 4 main irrigation systems. However, as city developed, the irrigation systems were covered in the underground. This not only limits its potential to adapt to climate change, but also left a lot of hidden back-alley ran zigzag between buildings.

The concept of “Wenshan Oasis” is to remodel these abandoned spaces into Rain Gardens and Bioswales that help absorbing the water runoff and lower the probability of flooding. Moreover, the project intend to transform these spaces into community shared spaces that engage the residents and enhance community cohesion. The Wenshan Oasis Project aims to create community spaces that are ecological, flood-detaining and with local vibe.

It has been held several residents’ networking events for everyone to interact : participatory activity of space-planning, outdoor exhibition, models of urban design, community dinner, activities for children... Those events mains goals was to make participants experienced how a vacant space could be transformed. They discovered the correlation of their environment and its drainage systems.

The project focused on the topic of “disappearance of the waterway”, and remodeled the abandoned spaces into community space that are beneficial both ecologically and culturally.

THE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN UNLIMITED CITIES TAIPEI WENSHAN OASIS

The Taipei city urban regeneration office has called on Collaborative O. to manage the Wenshan Oasis project. The Urban Tai-ouan team is involved in the monitoring and development of the Unlimited Cities system for the Wenshan Oasis project. The Unlimited Cities DIY application was developed by the NGO 7 million urbanists. This collaborative work and the use of a digital tool seeks to strengthen the role of residents in changing their neighborhoods and thus put collective intelligence at the service of urban development.

UNLIMITED CITIES DIY ?

Unlimited Cities DIY is an innovative interactive digital tool (open source and free) for Collaborative Urbanism. It offers the ability to act together by allowing everyone to give and share ideas for the public spaces of a neighborhood. It structures these ideas to communicate with urban professionals and local authorities.

Unlimited Cities was designed by the Urban Fabric Organisation (UFO) in partnership with the architecture firm HOST. The Unlimited Cities DIY application is now distributed in Open Source by the NGO 7 billion urbanists who continue to develop it. The latter makes the app available to any community, university, association or professional wishing to use it.

WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE URBANISM ?

Unlimited Cities DIY addresses the challenges of enabling the co-construction of resilient, sustainable cities using collaborative urbanism. Collaborative urbanism is an innovative approach to urban planning, allowing a dialogue between all stakeholders (municipalities, urban professionals and civil society: city dwellers, inhabitants, associations, etc.). Rather than working with isolated groups, collaborative urbanism helps minds intersect. Cities thus access a new sustainability and become more resilient, benefiting from the advantages offered by digital interconnectivity. It's enabled by the collective intelligence that catalyze collaborative thinking and share it globally to improve effective civic participation in the city making. The urban quality of life is in the center of these concepts.

The Open Data approach ensures citizens' ideas are used and truly change urban reality.

HOW DOES IT WORKS ?

Unlimited Cities DIY consists of a web app (working on all operation systems and devices: tablets, smartphones, PC, Mac) that allows to collect and visualize the needs and desires of inhabitants and different populations and to automatically structure the results collected on a large scale. The organized data are then easily usable by policy makers.

The process can be explained in different steps:

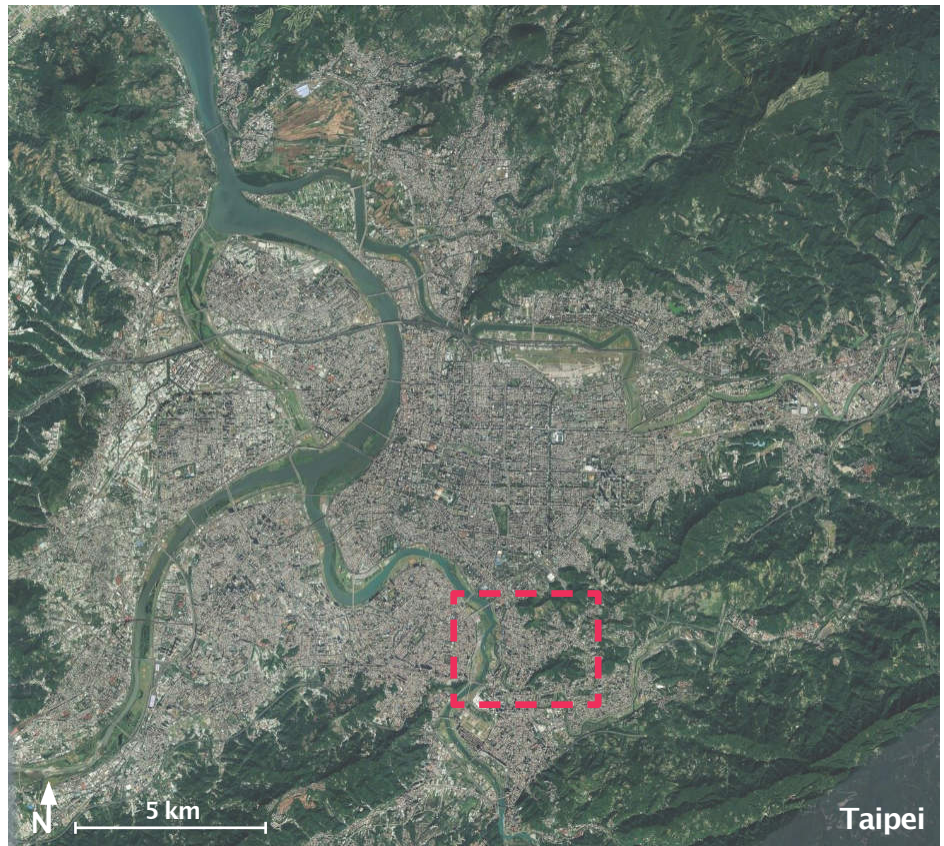
- The first step allows users to choose a picture of the urban environment involved, and then to transform it by dragging elements (trees, bike lanes, shops) from the app's image database, placing them in the location of their choice and scaling them.
- Then, the image created is placed on a dedicated map and shared with the community. It creates a common content and knowledge and incites users to organize exchanges around it.
- The third step is conceived to maximize chances of transforming and improving the reality of a neighborhood by semantic analysts and image recognition so that the application can use the data and meta-data produced by users to produce an analysis report. The report will identify the issues and opportunities involved, the directions and approaches and the results in a clear and operational way.

UNLIMITED CITIES IN THE WENSHAN OASIS PROJECT

Unlimited Cities is being deployed as part of a new event in the Wenshan Oasis project. The digital tool served as an interface to facilitate discussions between professionals and residents. Its use is intended to make it easier for them to express themselves and to allow them to visualize the possible evolution of the different sites.

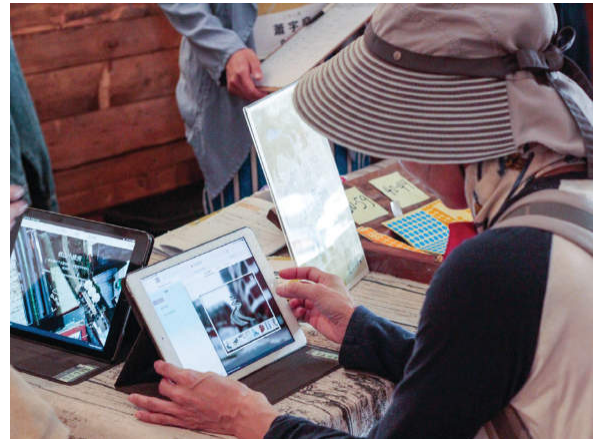
The 5 emblematic sites located along the waterway were selected following consultation and research work previously carried out. They reflect the major urban themes of the district:

- history and culture
- relation to topography and mountains
- urban and residential development
- public spaces and quality of green spaces
- relationship to waterway, flooding and drainage system



WORKSHOP DAY : 2018/10/28

The results obtained in the Unlimited Cities Wenshan Oasis study were collected during an action day organized on 10/28/2018. Collaborative O had organized a day of sports and convivial activities to discuss the development of public spaces, the waterway and the evolution of the various neighbourhoods. 5 sites were identified as strategic. These sites have various characteristics that are often found in the Wenshan area.



Users who participated could follow a relatively clear program. They could pass from sites 1 to 5 along the waterway route. At each stage, they were offered different activities ranging from participation in artistic works, workshops on urban issues, guided tours. They were sometimes offered relaxation areas and soft drinks. Workshops could vary from one site to another.

However, several activities were present at each site:

- realization of a leather bracelet, hand stamped
- creation of a mix on the Unlimited Cities application
- answering questionnaires installed on wooden panels

At the end of the 5 sites, participants could draw a prize related to the Wenshan Oasis project.

APPLICATION PREPARATION

Before the workshop day, our team had to study the work already done by Collaborative O in order to integrate as well as possible into the Wenshan Oasis approach. In addition to field analyses and the reading of the various existing studies, we had to assimilate the stakes of the sites as well as possible to transcribe them into the application. The choice of sites, angles of view and the organization of the image database were made in collaboration with Collaborative O. The choice of images is explained by the problems of the sites mentioned above. It was also decided to insert more neutral elements in order not to guide users' responses.



ROLE OF UNLIMITED CITIES MEDIATORS

During the day, the users were accompanied by mediators for the realization of the mixes. 6 students from the landscaping school participated with us in the workshops. The Collaborative O team that managed the various sites also participated in the follow-up of the workshops. The various mediators had been trained in the use of the application and its role in the Wenshan Oasis process. In addition, he was sensitive to the problems of the various sites.

Their role was to present the application and the Wenshan Oasis project in broad terms. They ensured that the application was working properly and that achievements were monitored. Their role was as much to listen to users as to open a dialogue on the problems of the different sites.

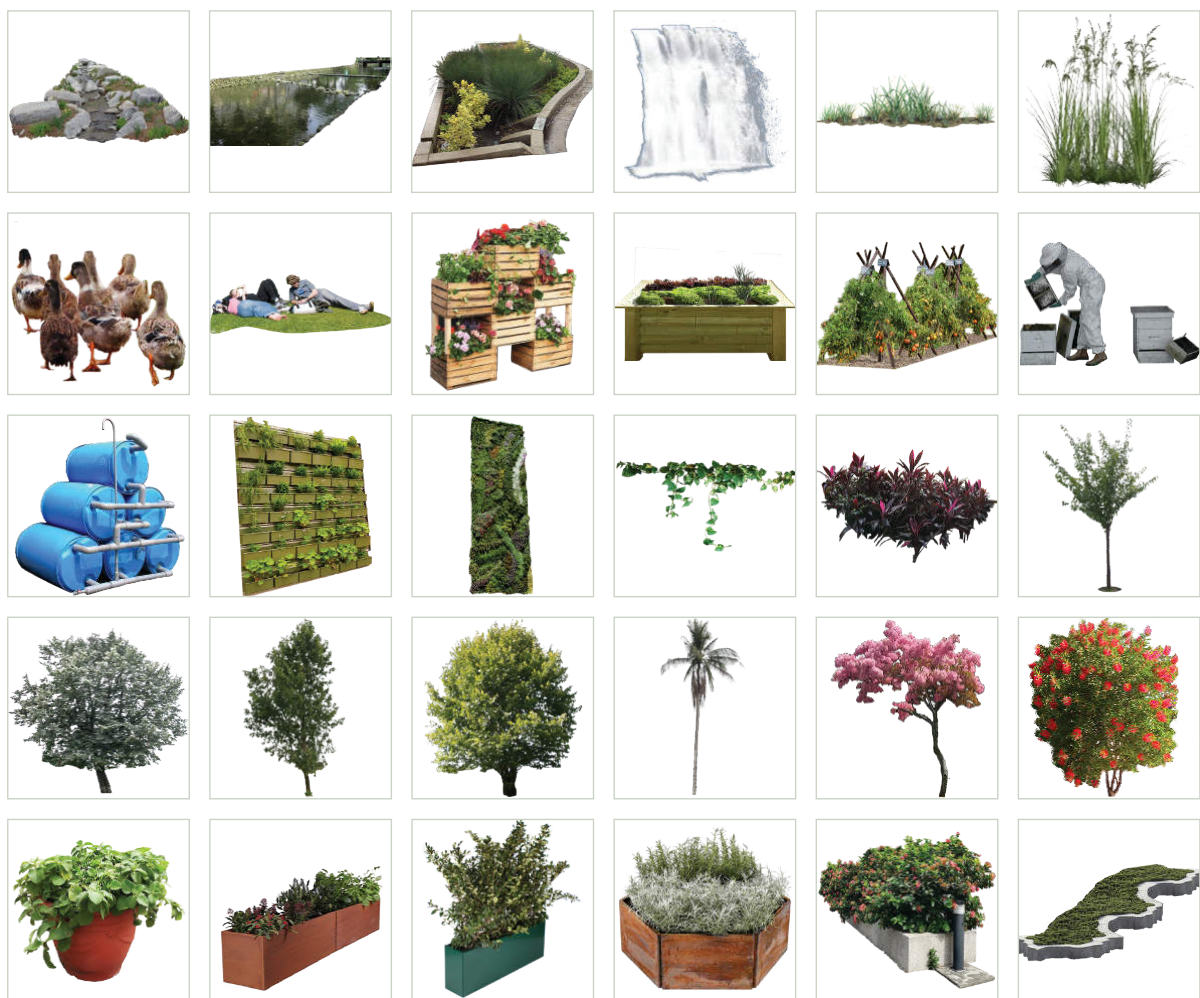


THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS CHOSEN FOR THE APPLICATION

There are 111 elements that have been selected to be integrated into the application. The image bank is completed by 11 surfaces. They are divided into 4 categories (nature, mobility, life, design) and a surface category with different textures.

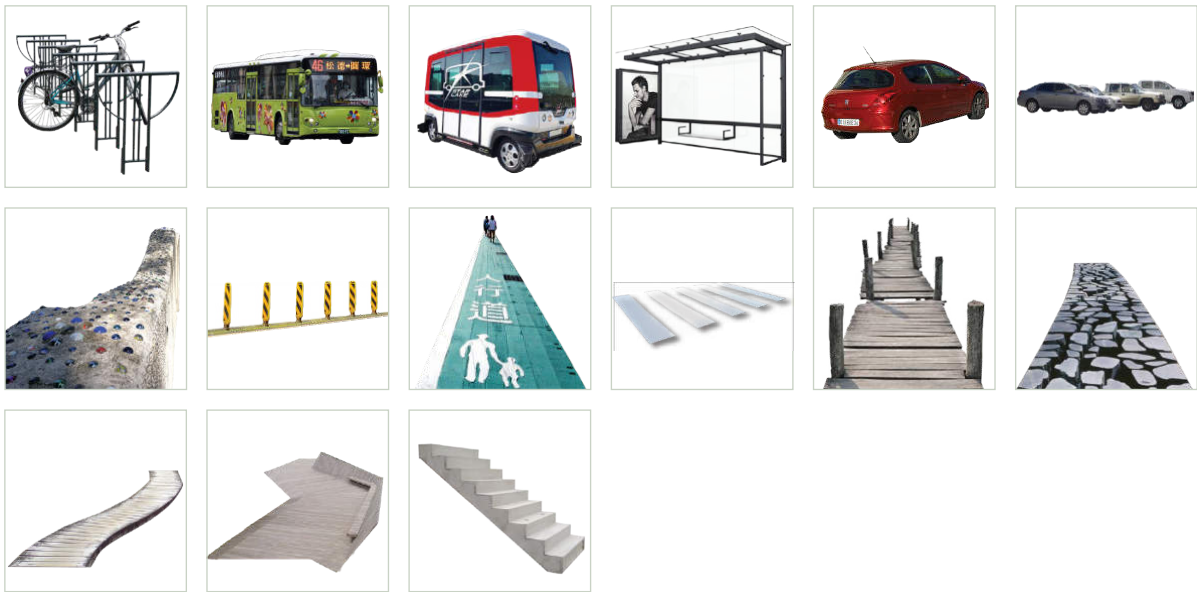
The number of images was decided to offer enough choice. The images were selected according to the themes to be discussed. These are history, the culture of the site, topography, the link with the mountains, public spaces, the environment, green spaces, design, water, the waterway, activities, uses, buildings and urban and residential development.

NATURE ELEMENTS

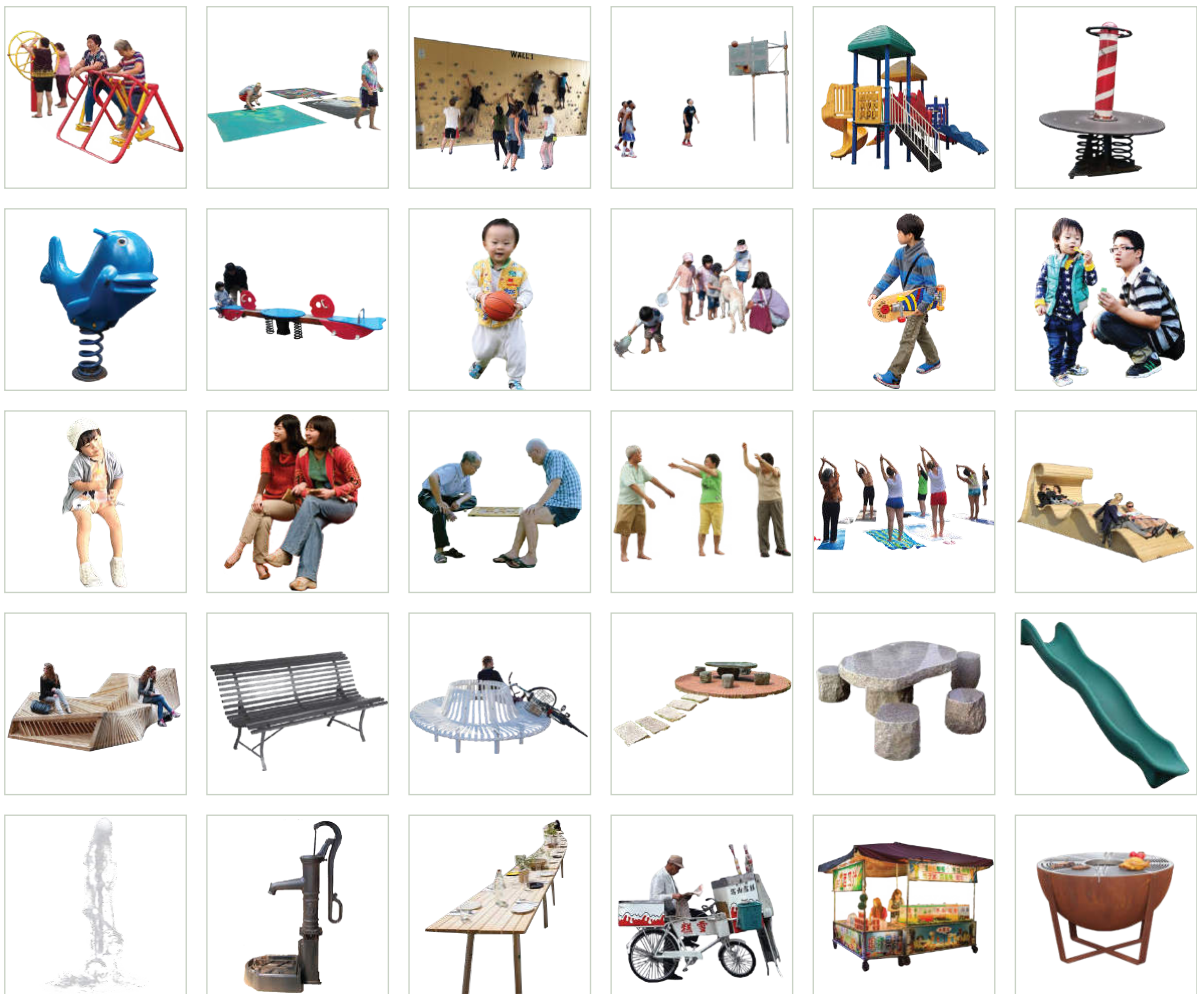


MOBILITY ELEMENTS



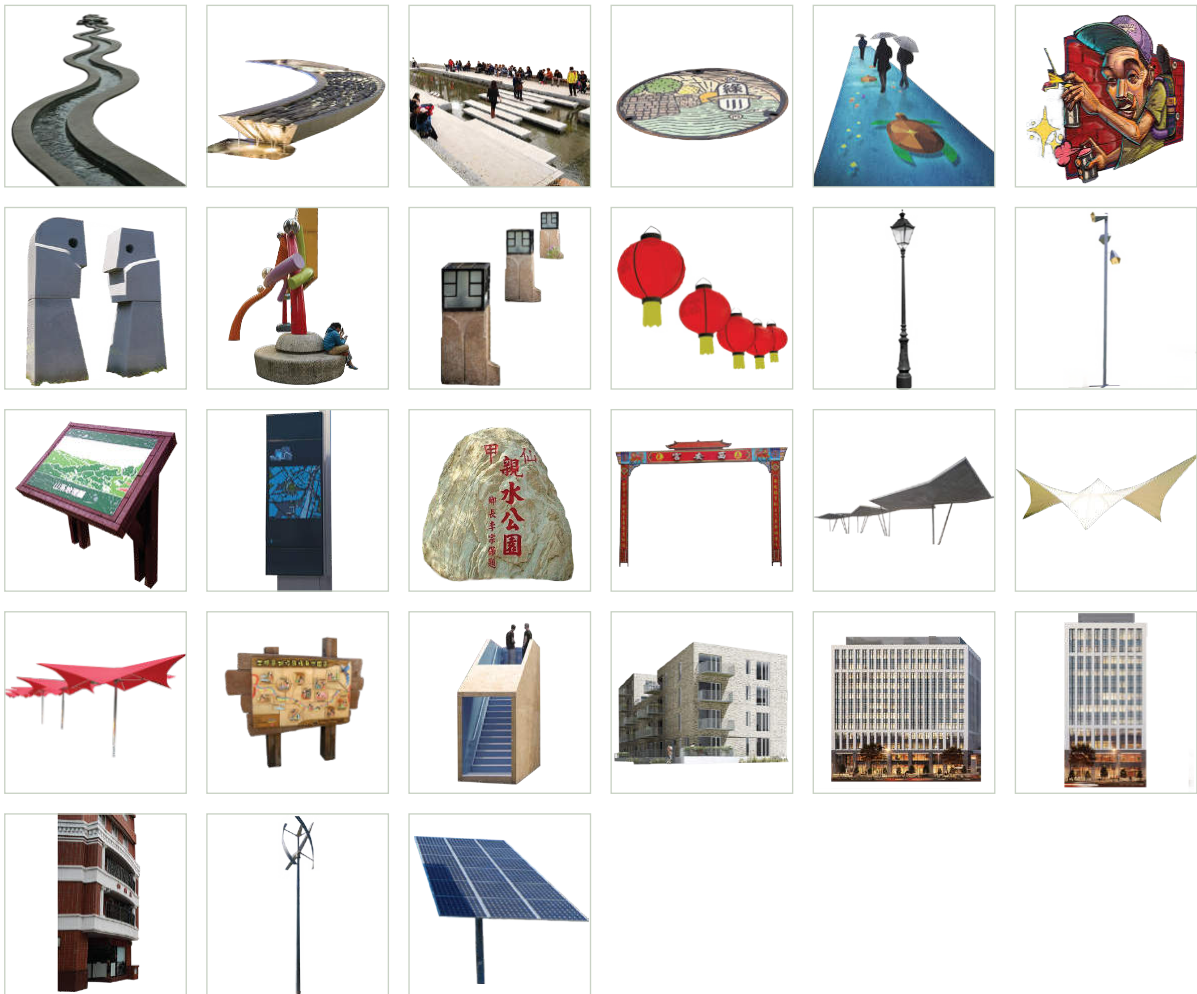


LIFE ELEMENTS





DESIGN ELEMENTS



TEXTURE ELEMENTS



2

SITE ANALYSIS

The various study sites are all located along the waterway. However, they have different urban characteristics: street head, small public space redeveloped, park, driveway, and public space to be redeveloped. To take an emblematic example, the relationship to water is never the same. The waterway is sometimes visible, sometimes invisible. In addition, the development or planning potential also varies.

For consistency, each site will be analyzed independently. However, the same analytical methodology will be used for each site in order not to guide the reading of the results.

METHODOLOGY

After an introduction on the characteristics of each site, the analysis is divided into three parts :

1/ STATISTICAL APPROACH

Questioning: What types of images were most used? Is there a general trend in choices? What does this data tell us?

Method : The first graph represents the number of times an image category has been used in a mix. The use of the objects is then posted. There is an important element to consider in understanding the results. If a user generally uses only one bus stop, he or she easily tends to multiply trees of the same type. This feature could distort the analysis of the results. The object types used are therefore only counted once per mix. A tree used 3 times in the same image only counts as one.

2/ GRAPHICAL APPROACH

Questioning: What were the spatial changes proposed by users? What are the design proposals for the space and buildings? What does this tell us about the perception of place and the demands for use?

Method : the image used for each site has been decomposed into different planes. This decomposition responds to graphic logics but also to the characteristics of the sites. We can observe precisely how the spaces were modified. It is a finer and more visual work than statistical analysis.

3/ SENSITIVE APPROACH

Questioning: What is the relationship between users and public space? What are their main concerns? Is there a specific question or request?

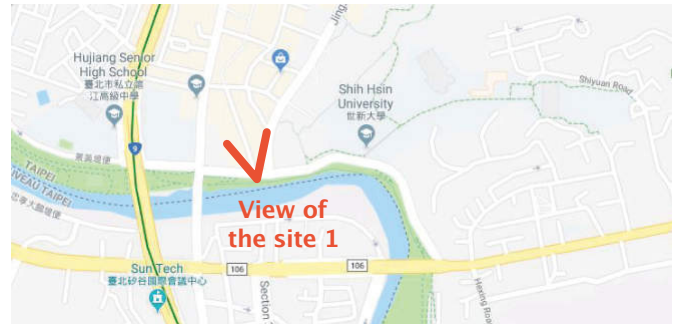
Method : The comments left on each photo have been listed. The keywords of each comment are compared.

SUMMARY OF THE THREE APPROCHES

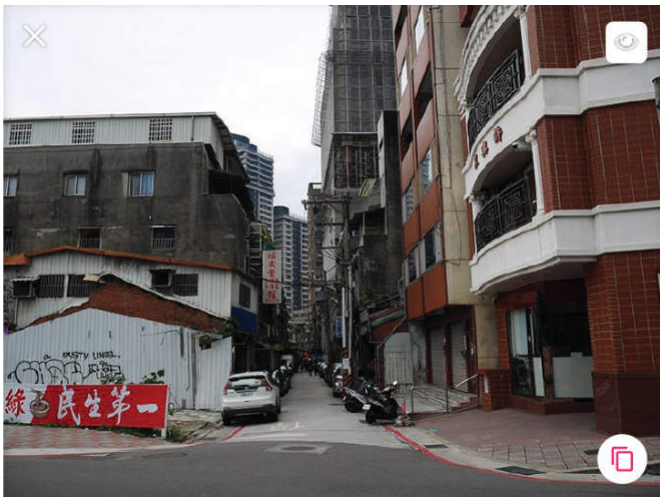
The three previous approaches complement each other. The objective is to question the relationship between users and study sites. They allow the proposal of graphic trends and the formulation of user concerns. This work is detailed in Part 3 of this report.

SITE 1 : INTRODUCTION

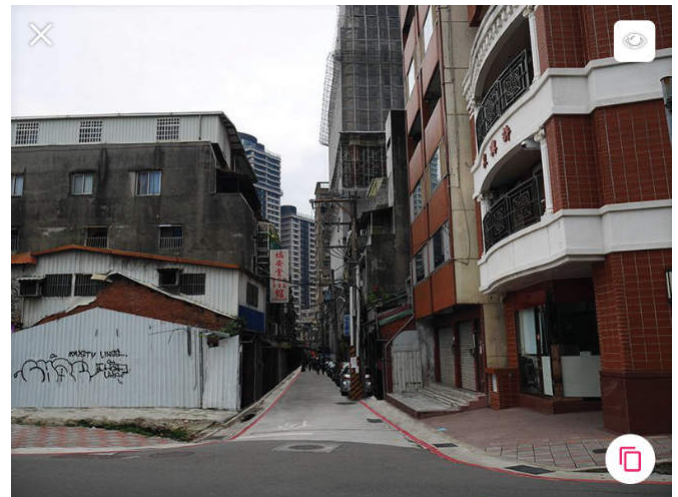
Site 1 is located at the junction of Jingmei street and Muzha road. It is located directly near the river. The latter is neither accessible nor visible due to the flood protection walls. Like many places in Taipei, the street surroundings are subject to significant real estate pressures. The street has historical characteristics because of the old waterway it covers. Photos of site 1 were chosen to address the themes of history and culture.



Existing Mix



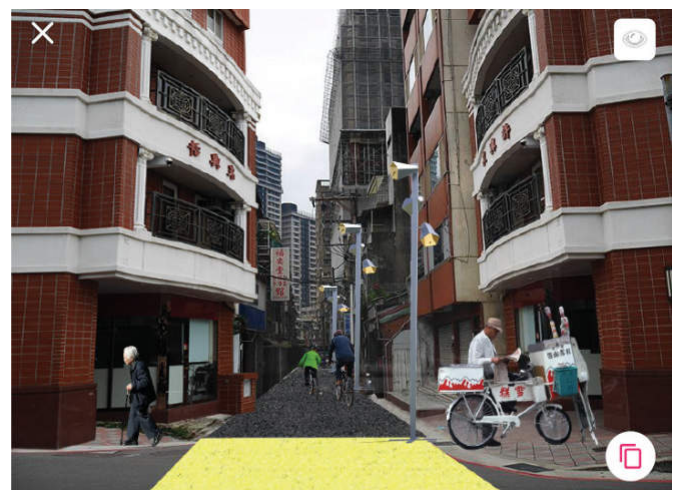
Open Mix



Examples of mixes



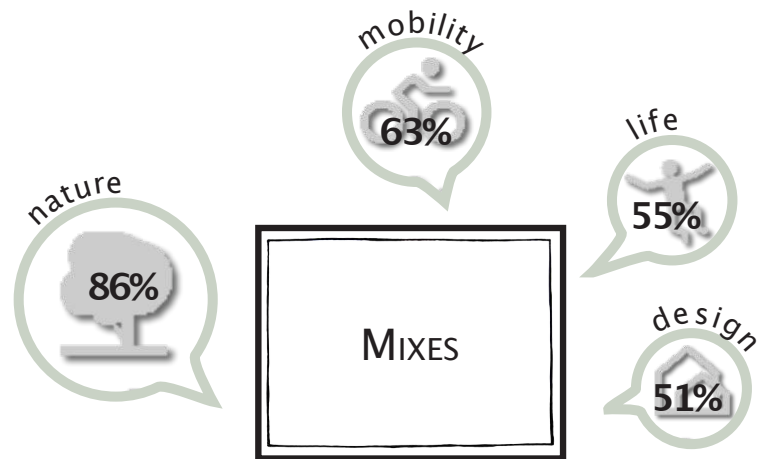
◀ Historical ▶



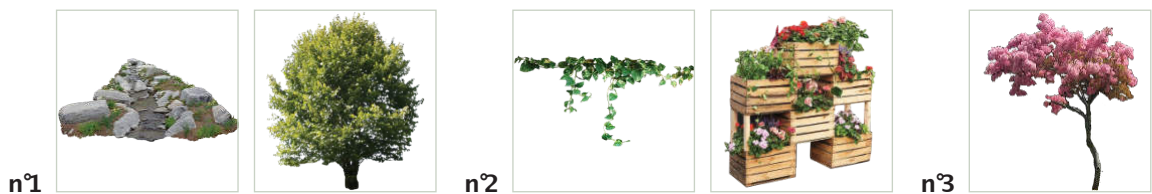
◀ Density ▶

SITE 1 : STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The nature category is the one most used by participants. The mixes mainly emphasize the practice of cycling in a natural setting, including trees. The floor covering is also regularly modified.



Nature elements



Mobility elements



Life elements



Design elements



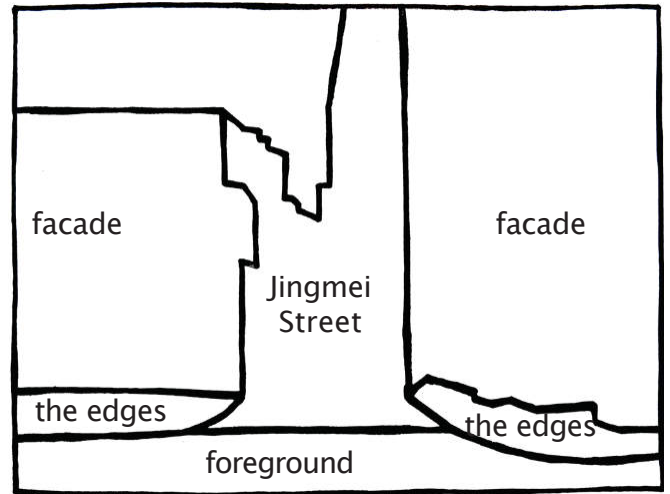
Ground elements



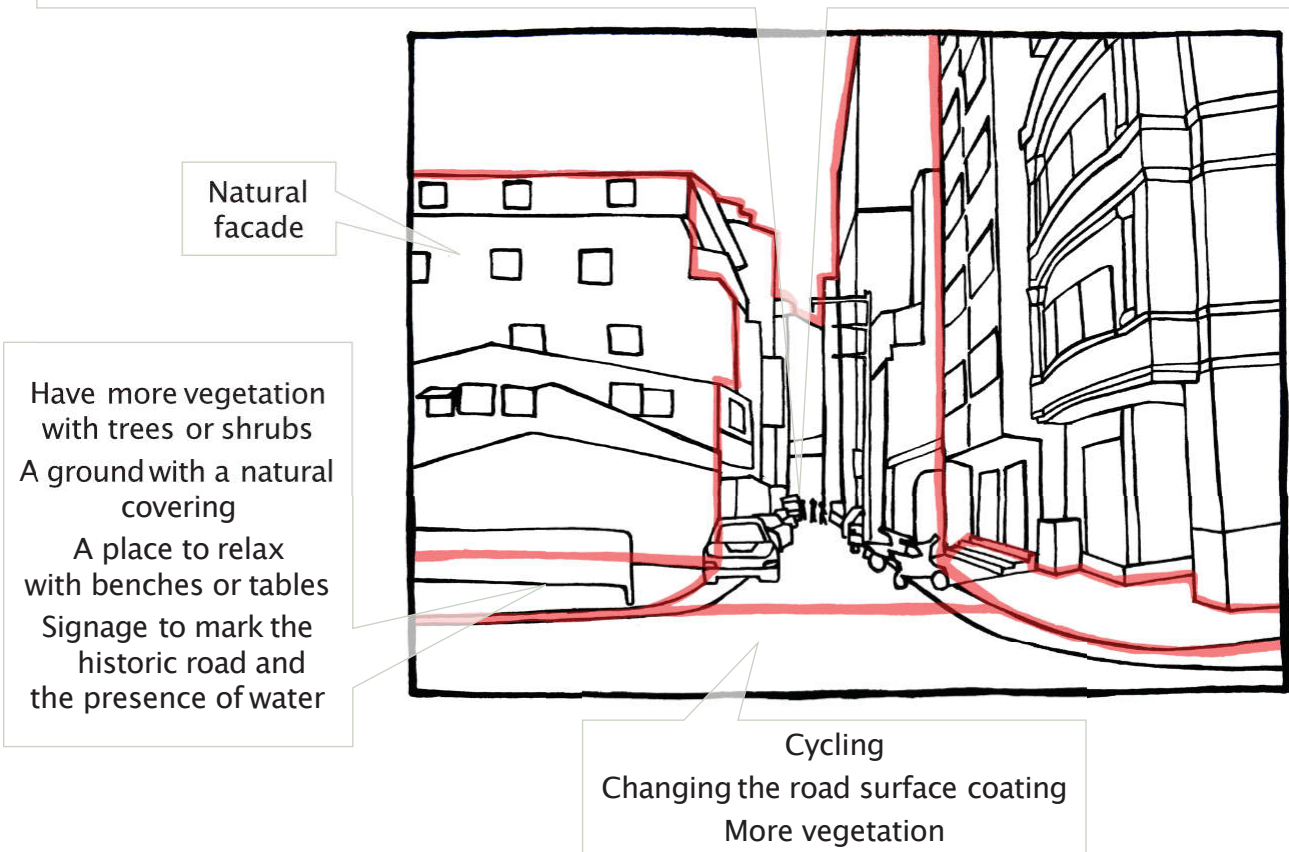
TOP elements



SITE 1 : GRAPHIC ANALYSIS



Changing the road surface coating with paving stones or painted to facilitate walking and cycling
 Revealing the watercourse with design installations
 New lighting



Users have largely modified the floor covering in the foreground. The bicycle has a predominant place. The pavements contain natural elements, such as trees, but also rest areas with benches and tables. The façades are not very well treated but when they are modified they are vegetalized. Finally, the street surface is also modified or painted to make it easier to walk around. Water-related design elements and lighting are also installed.

SITE 1 : SENSITIVE ANALYSIS

OBSERVATION

Most of the messages left by users are requests or suggestions for improvement. No one left a message to say that the situation was suitable for them. Words vary, but several themes regularly appear in the messages. A better environment and more natural elements are often proposed. The lack of activities and things to do was often mentioned. Space is considered somewhat boring. In the messages, users mention very little about the history of the site and the elements related to water.

KEYWORDS

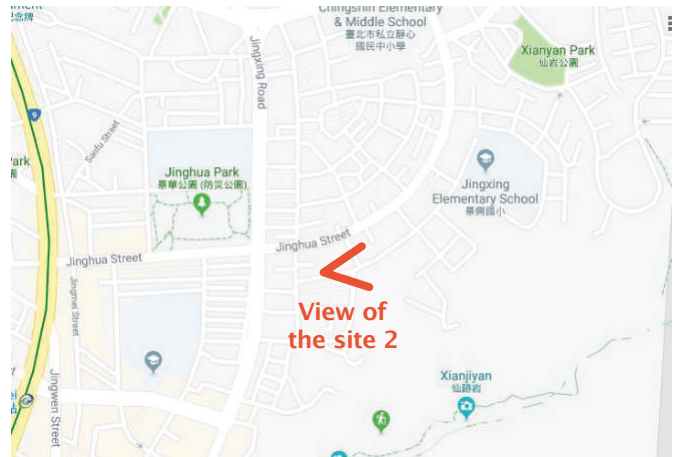
MORE GREEN
hope
More **BEAUTIFUL** **Environnement**
More fun

ANALYSIS

There is a clear demand for natural elements, street beautification and recreational activities. An ecological and playful design work seems to be a possible answer to users' requests. In addition, the lack of references to history and water can be explained by several things: the lack of information on the subject and the lack of visibility of the natural and historical elements. Residents may not instinctively take these elements into account because they are not observable. It would be interesting to include them in a street improvement.

SITE 2 : INTRODUCTION

Site 2 is located in a more residential area. It is located at the crossroads of lane 82, 104 and 128 of Jinghua Street. This is a public space that has already been redesigned. The new design of the public space had been the subject of a local consultation process. Currently, it is a shaded area. Tables and seats have been installed. The mountain can be observed from the corner of the street but is not very accessible. The natural area is still relatively wild. The theme of the link between the neighbourhood with the topography and the mountains is what motivated the creation of the premises.



Existing Mix



Open Mix



Examples of mixes



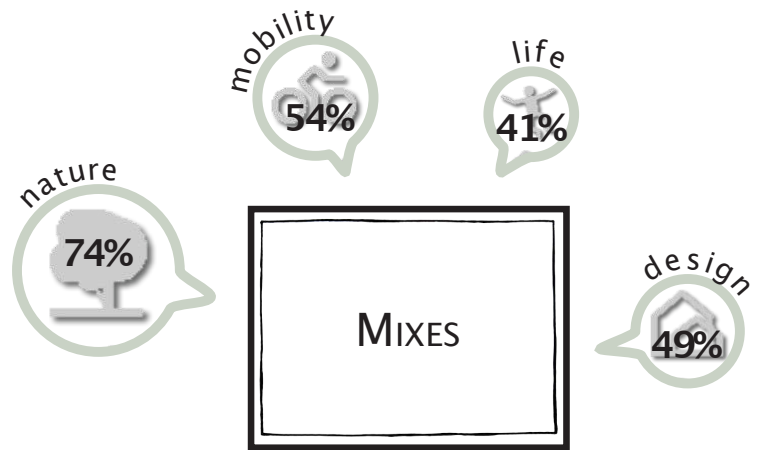
◀ Topography ▶



◀ Local life ▶

SITE 2 : STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In site 2, the nature category is also mainly used. The activities included in life are less present. The top elements do not express particularly strong design desires.



Nature elements



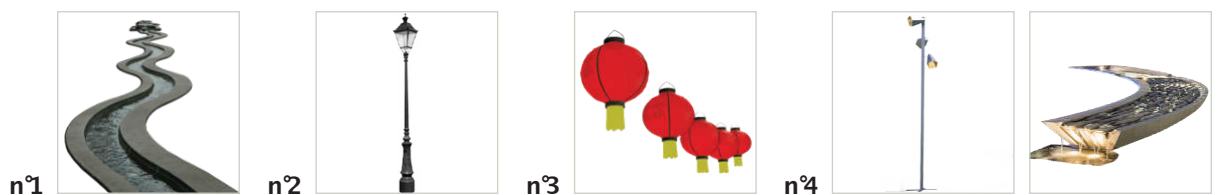
Mobility elements



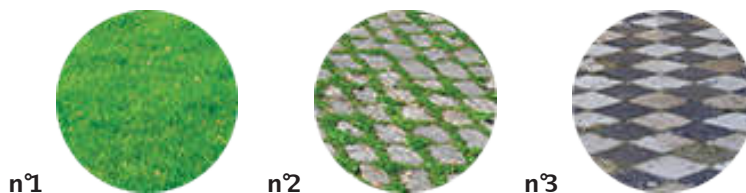
Life elements



Design elements



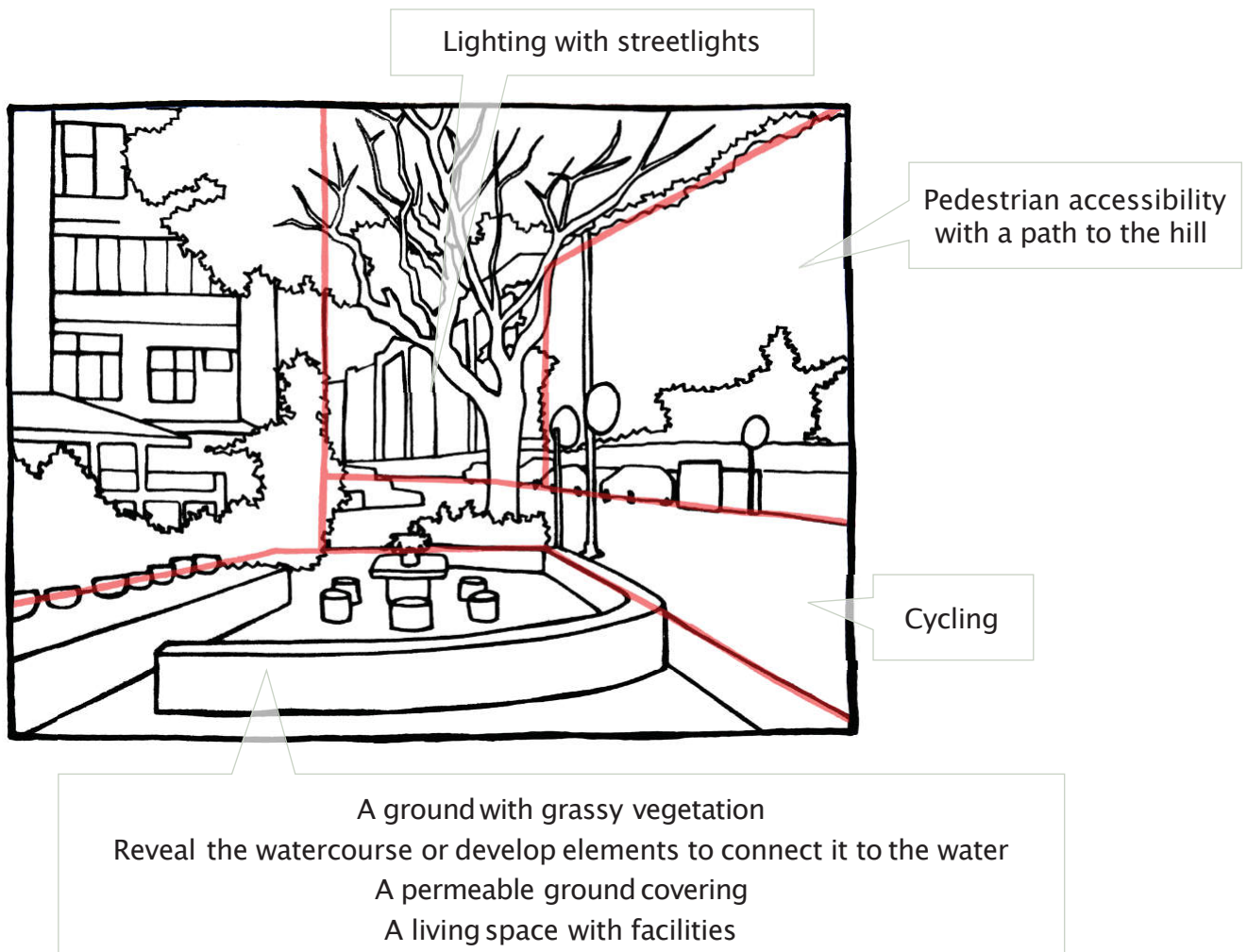
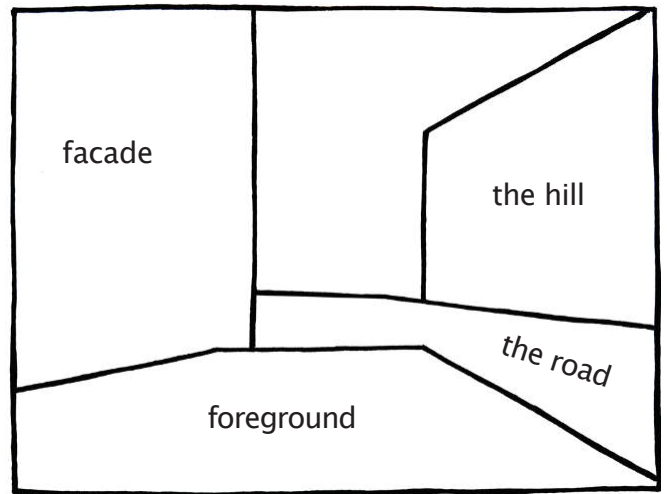
Ground elements



TOP elements



SITE 2 : GRAPHIC ANALYSIS



In the foreground, users add natural elements or permeable soils. They also install things that are relatively similar to what exists, such as benches or flowers. On the road, bicycle trips are highlighted. Luminaires are also installed on the road and in its extension. Finally, some pedestrian accesses are rarely provided to go to the mountains.

SITE 2 : SENSITIVE ANALYSIS

OBSERVATION

Many users pointed out that the space was already well designed. For many, it was difficult to propose other things because the place was convenient for them. However, several terms used in the messages referred to the notion of tranquility, calm and family or community activities. The remarks also stress the importance of environmental quality. Several messages also referred to water. The mountain or topography are themes that were not addressed by the participants.

KEYWORDS

GREEN
Community
Already good
Quiet, clean
Water

ANALYSIS

The current state of public space is suitable for participants. The design of the space is pleasing. However, reference is made to the environment and water, but not to the mountains. The hill does not seem to be a space in which people can easily project themselves. The fact that it is only impractical probably influences people's perception of it. However, the hill could respond to the suggestions of the inhabitants who are asking for natural spaces or places of relaxation and calm. Light modifications could make it easier to practice on the hill.

SITE 3 : INTRODUCTION

Site 3 is located at lane 23, section 2, Jingxing Road. It connects the Jingxing road to the Xinglong road. The waterway passes under this alley. It was once visible and open. The alley is vegetated. It is a relatively quiet and intimate space. The themes that motivated the realization of the premisses are the quality of the surrounding buildings, the quality of their facade as well as the presence of a waterway that passes under the ground.



Existing Mix



Open Mix



Examples of mixes



< Color >



< urban agriculture >

SITE 3 : STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

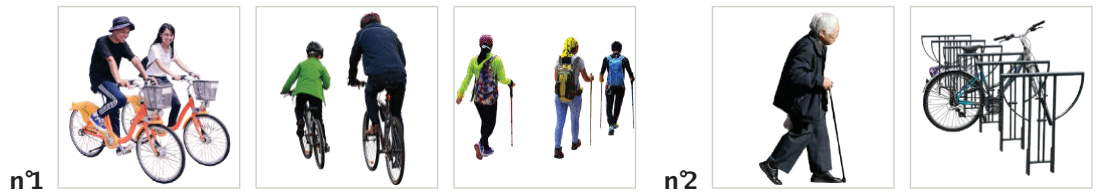
Apart from the nature category, the other 3 are rarely used. A staging of the watercourse is sought as well as the addition of elements such as flower boxes or vegetable gardens.



Nature elements



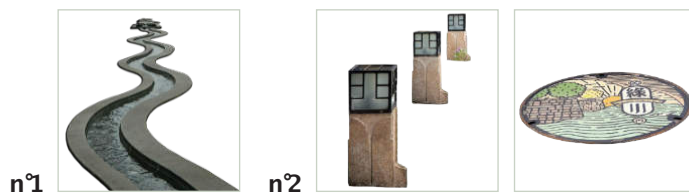
Mobility elements



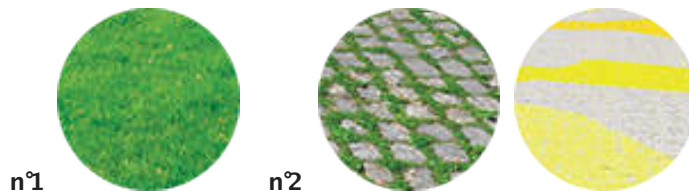
Life elements



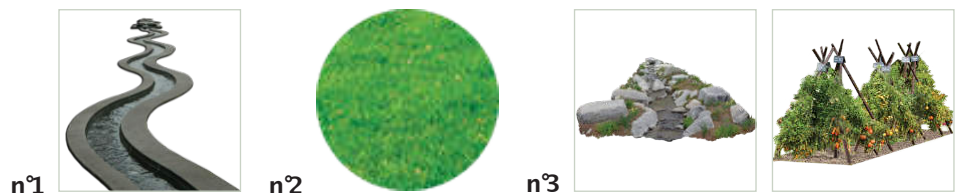
Design elements



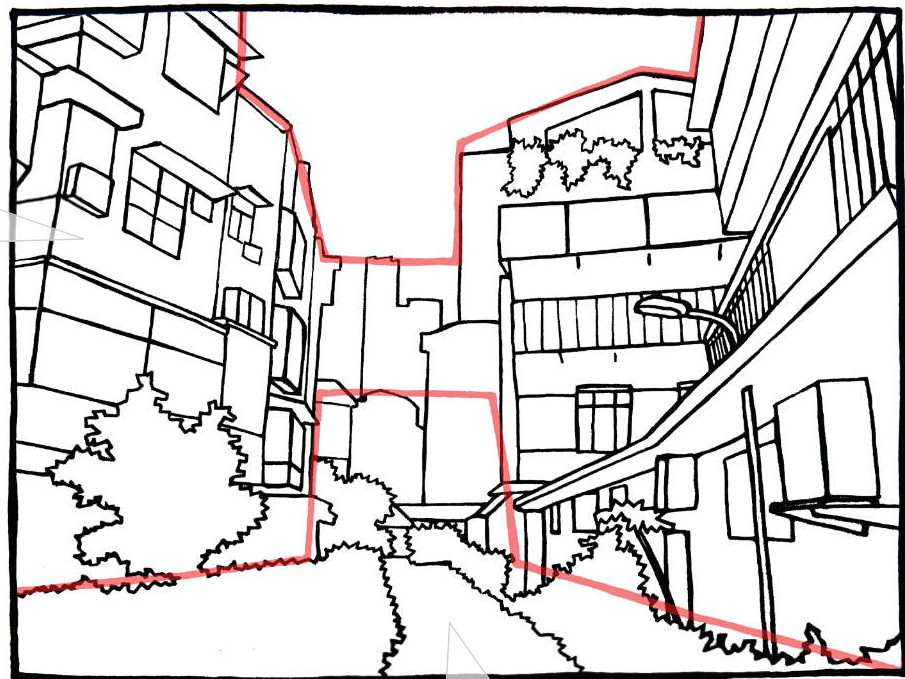
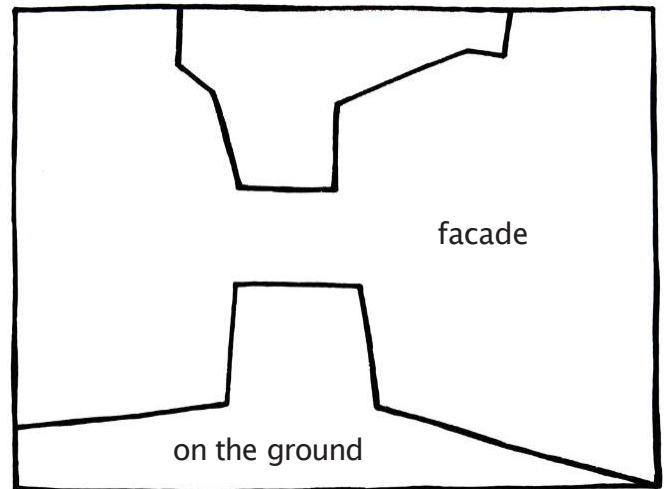
Ground elements



TOP elements



SITE 3 : GRAPHIC ANALYSIS



Natural facade
with plants

Vegetation
Revealing the watercourse
A permeable floor covering
An alley for walking and cycling

The main modifications concerning the street include vegetation elements. The watercourse is revealed and a permeable ground cover is sometimes added. The emphasis is on preserving pedestrian and bicycle traffic. In addition, the facades are sometimes green or painted.

SITE 3 : SENSITIVE ANALYSIS

OBSERVATION

The messages contain few direct requests. These are mainly suggestions. Several messages refer to water and the waterway. The suggestions also refer to natural elements, facilities and making the public space more friendly.

KEYWORDS

GREEN
Friendly
Facilities
Water

ANALYSIS

This alley is already heavily vegetated but the messages still refer to the environment. The alley is an intimate and quiet place that may lack facilities to rest or settle. Design work could be done to respond to suggestions for revealing the presence of water. It appears that users would probably want a more natural environment, leaving room for clean water. Urban furniture and shaded areas could be used to complete the public space.

Finally, there is no message about the facades of buildings. However, requests for natural elements could also be met by solutions concerning the greening of buildings.

SITE 4 : INTRODUCTION

Site 4 corresponds to Jingfen Park. The park's surroundings are more residential. The first steps were taken in order to discuss with the inhabitants on the public space and the quality of the green spaces.



Existing Mix



Open Mix



Examples of mixes



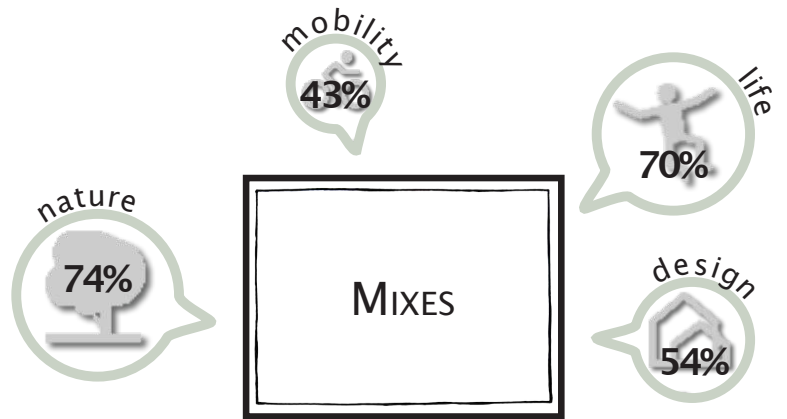
« Resiliency »



« Design »

SITE 4 : STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

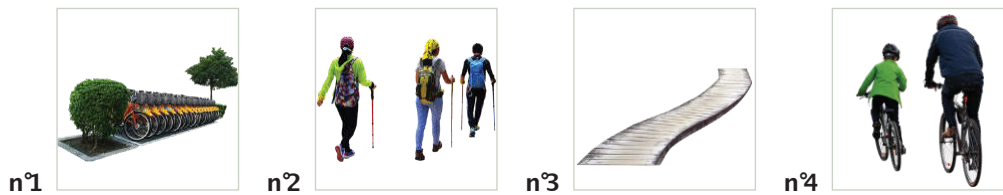
The nature and life categories are both used almost 3 out of 4 mixes. Statistics emphasize the importance of bringing vitality to the park and preserving its environment.



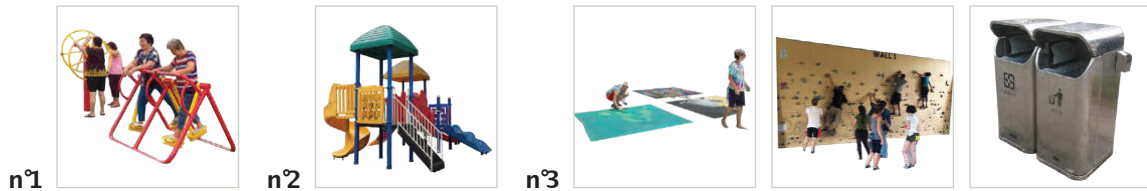
Nature elements



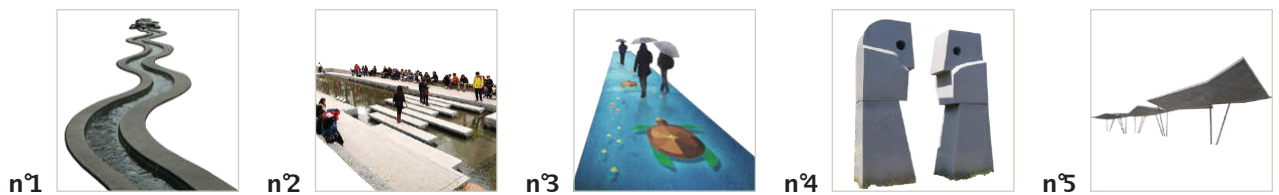
Mobility elements



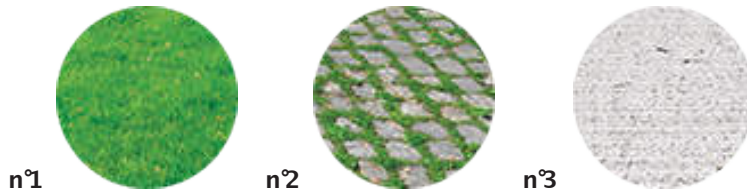
Life elements



Design elements



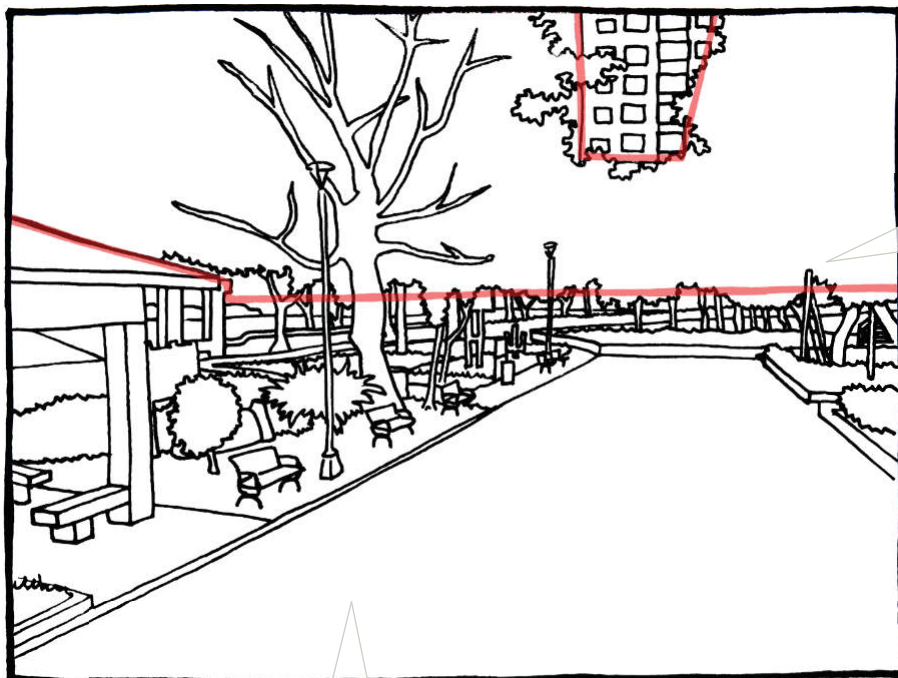
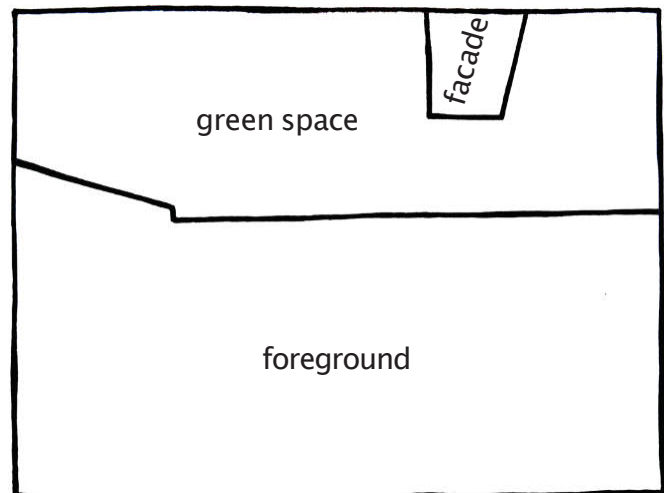
Ground elements



TOP elements



SITE 4 : GRAPHIC ANALYSIS



Bike station
for Ubike
Playground
for children

Reveal the watercourse with design facilities
Grassy vegetation
Integration of biodiversity
Sports facilities and street furniture like benches and tables

In the background, participants sometimes added youbike terminals. In the foreground, the elements added by the participants are multiple. The watercourse is often revealed using design elements. Plants are also added and biodiversity is also valued. Finally, activities have an important place. They are many, even if sport dominates. Bench-type street furniture often accompanies the activities.

SITE 4 : SENSITIVE ANALYSIS

OBSERVATION

Participation was the most important on this site. In addition to references to green spaces, the presence of water is also important in the messages. This involves proposing the staging of the waterway through developments, design elements or proximity to a clean watercourse. Messages very often refer to activities and use. The proposed uses are varied and rather intergenerational. But sports activities stand out.

KEYWORDS

GREEN
Water park
Multifunctional Park
Sport activities
Water

ANALYSIS

Participants affirmed the importance of the presence of natural elements in the park. The desire to reveal elements related to water is in line with the importance attributed to nature. However, the requests are not limited to wilderness. Water is also associated with staging and design elements. The theme of water could be a major design element, which could integrate a theme such as resilience.

The need for spaces or facilities dedicated to sports or other activities makes it possible to consider a reconfiguration of the park space.

SITE 5 : INTRODUCTION

Site 5 is located between Section 5, Roosevelt Road and Section 5, Luosifu Road. This is a space where the waterway is visible. Nearby is a free, wooded area. This area plays an important role in the management of floods and the drainage system. The premises were made to address the link between public spaces and the waterway, floods and drainage system.



Existing Mix



Open Mix



Examples of mixes



◀ Reveal the public space ▶



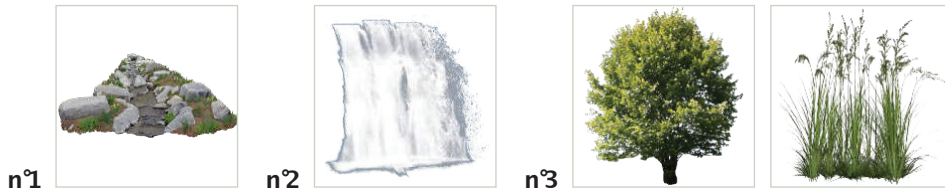
◀ Density ▶

SITE 5 : STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The nature category is the most solicited, unlike the other three categories used less than one time out of two. The environment appears to be a major theme.



Nature elements



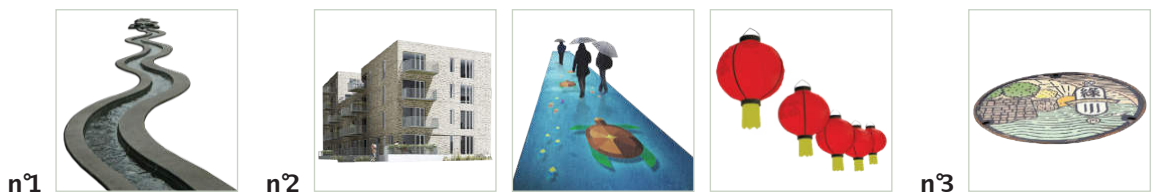
Mobility elements



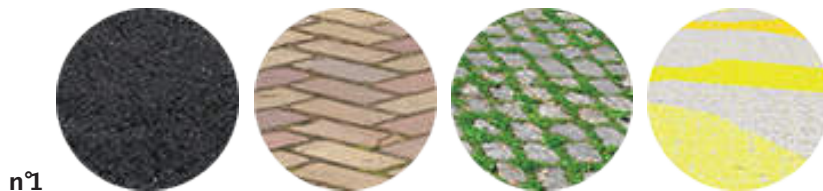
Life elements



Design elements



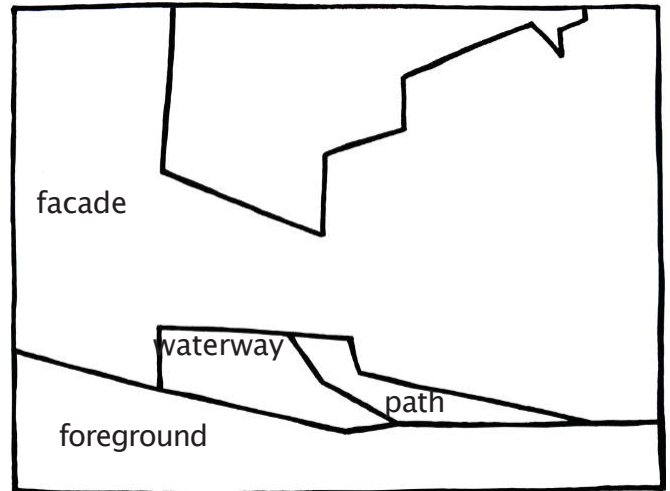
Ground elements



TOP elements



SITE 5 : GRAPHIC ANALYSIS



Improving the watercourse to make it more attractive
Have more vegetation with trees or shrubs



Natural facade with plants

Vegetation
Changing the road surface with paving stones or painted

Cycling
Changing the road surface coating
Vegetation

The road surface in the foreground is often modified. Vegetation is also planted. Bicycles have an important place. These choices are also present on the road along the watercourse. The latter is very often redesigned and made more attractive. More vegetation and trees are established in its direct vicinity. Finally, the facades of the buildings are green or painted.

SITE 5 : SENSITIVE ANALYSIS

OBSERVATION

The messages are quite direct. They very often refer to the importance of improving water quality and adding natural elements. Proximity to the watercourse was mentioned several times. In addition, several messages speak of a need to make public space more pleasant and cleaner. Finally, as the site is at the end of the journey, several friendly messages greet the quality of the event.

KEYWORDS

NEED CLEANER GREEN Great Event
More beautiful More beautiful
Water

ANALYSIS

The reading of the messages is quite clear. They converge. The work to be carried out concerns the quality of the environment to be reclaimed. Water quality on the one hand, and the contribution of new natural elements on the other. Participants seem to expect to be able to enjoy the river in a pleasant and clean environment.

3 FROM CONSULTATION TO DESIGN?

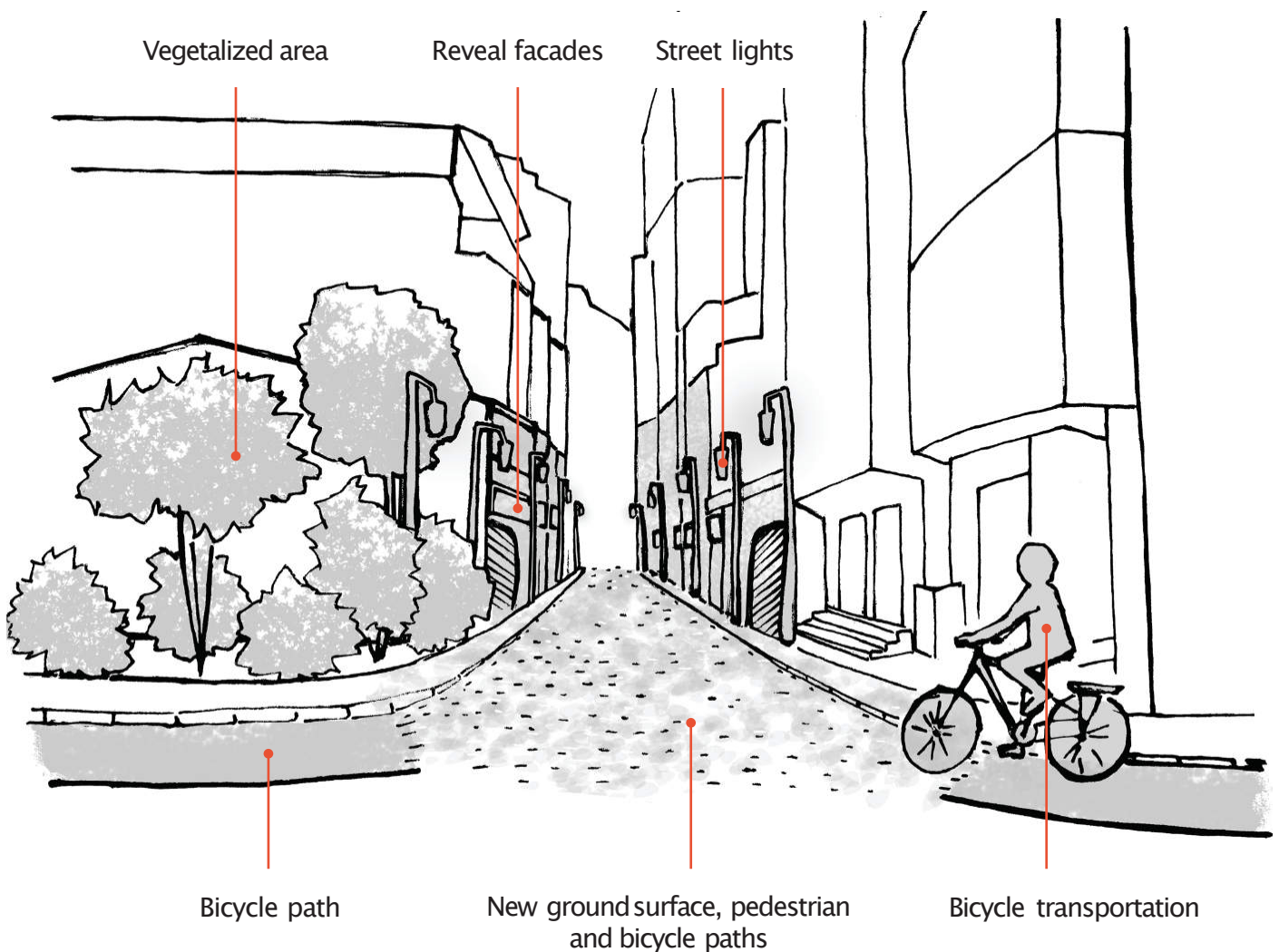
The approach of this study aims to include the inhabitants in the process of evolution of their living spaces. On the one hand, it aims to collect opinions and stimulate creation. On the other hand, it aims to support the redevelopment of targeted areas or the definition of urban planning rules.

The conclusions of the analyses of each site are compiled in this section. The analytical work made it possible to draw up an overview per site. Depending on the situation, we can propose design elements or development hypotheses for different sites.

It should be noted that the results of the study do not allow us to propose a precise design for each site. However, possible actions can still be defined.

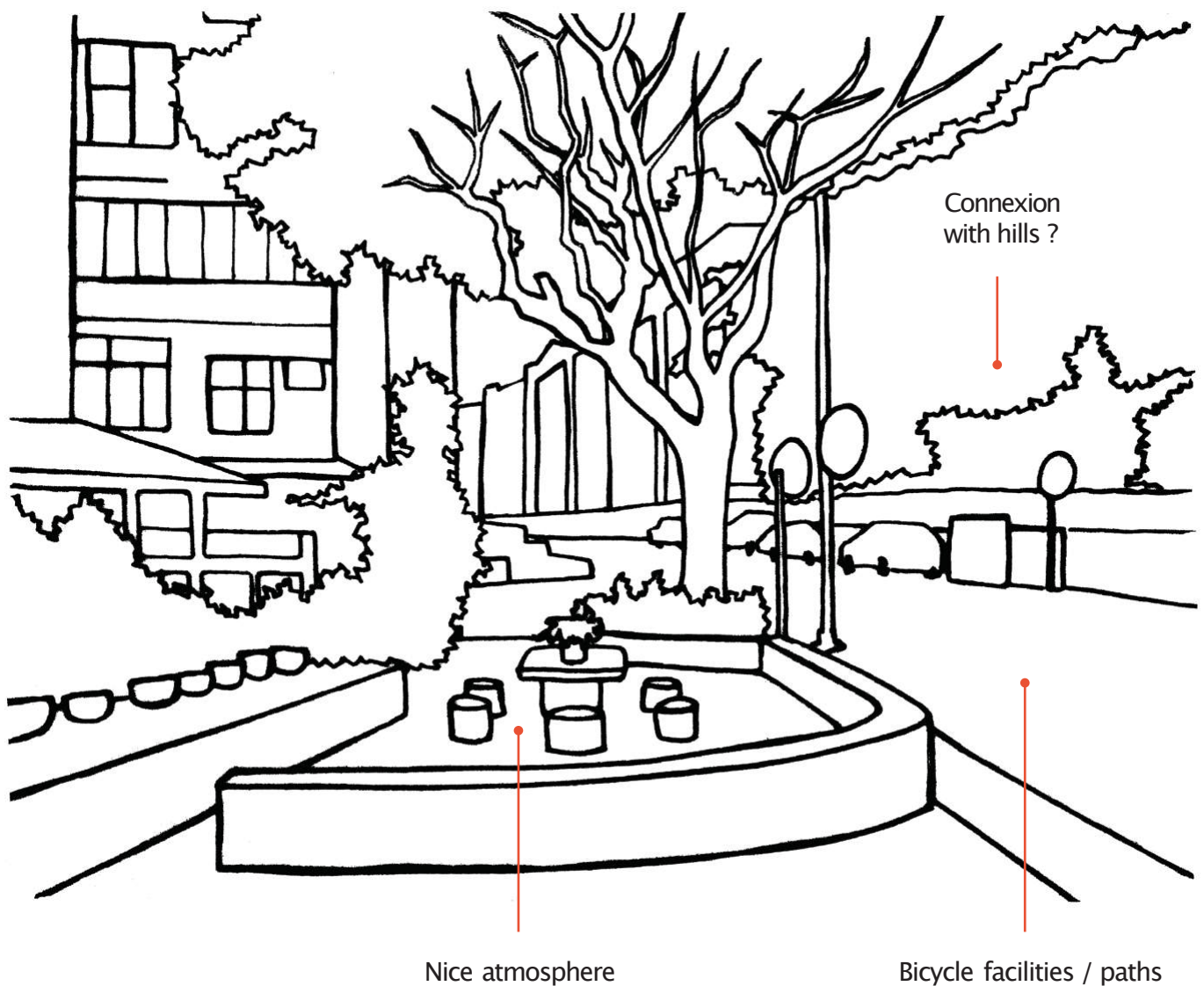
SITE 1

The analysis of the mixes and messages makes it possible to highlight a trend in the redevelopment of the site. First of all, an aesthetic work to make the street more beautiful is regularly suggested. The importance of bicycles and pedestrian traffic is highlighted, particularly by new street surfaces. The sidewalks are regularly vegetated and host urban furniture for meetings or relaxation. In addition, the historical aspect of Jingmei Street could be affirmed by working on the facades, signs, lighting or by installing information elements. Water is also staged or evoked. It could be staged by artistic or design elements.



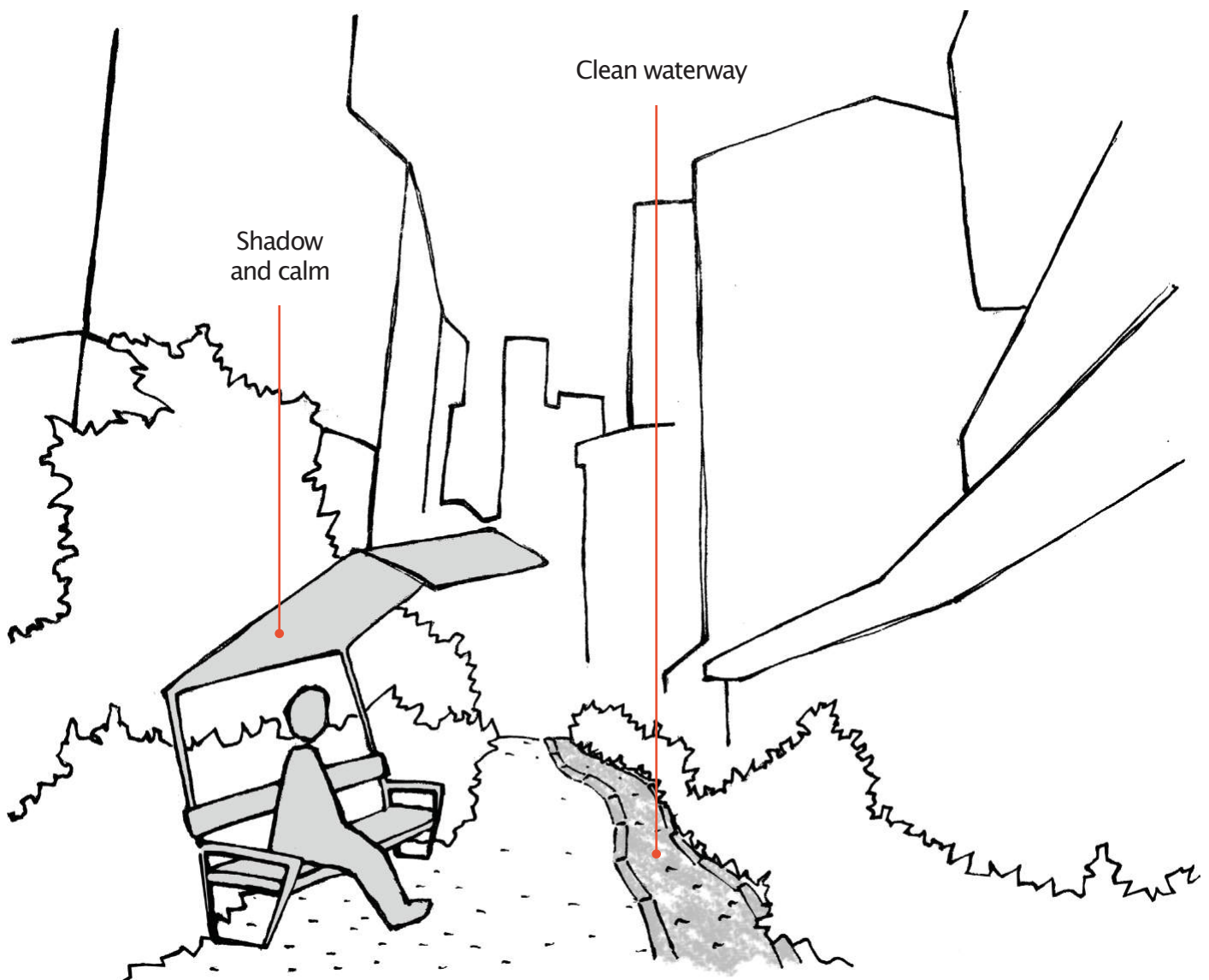
SITE 2

The analysis of the results does not allow us to propose a precise design of the space. There are several reasons for this situation. First of all, the public space has already reported on a process of consultation and renovation. The work done is suitable for the participants. The place is appreciated for its calm and amenities. But new green spaces are still being requested. It is surprising that the relationship to the mountains is not considered by the participants. The practice of hills is only rarely considered. Perhaps it seems inaccessible? However, the construction of small paths into the hill, for example, could meet the demand for additional natural areas. Also, inhabitants are asking for spaces dedicated to cycling.



SITE 3

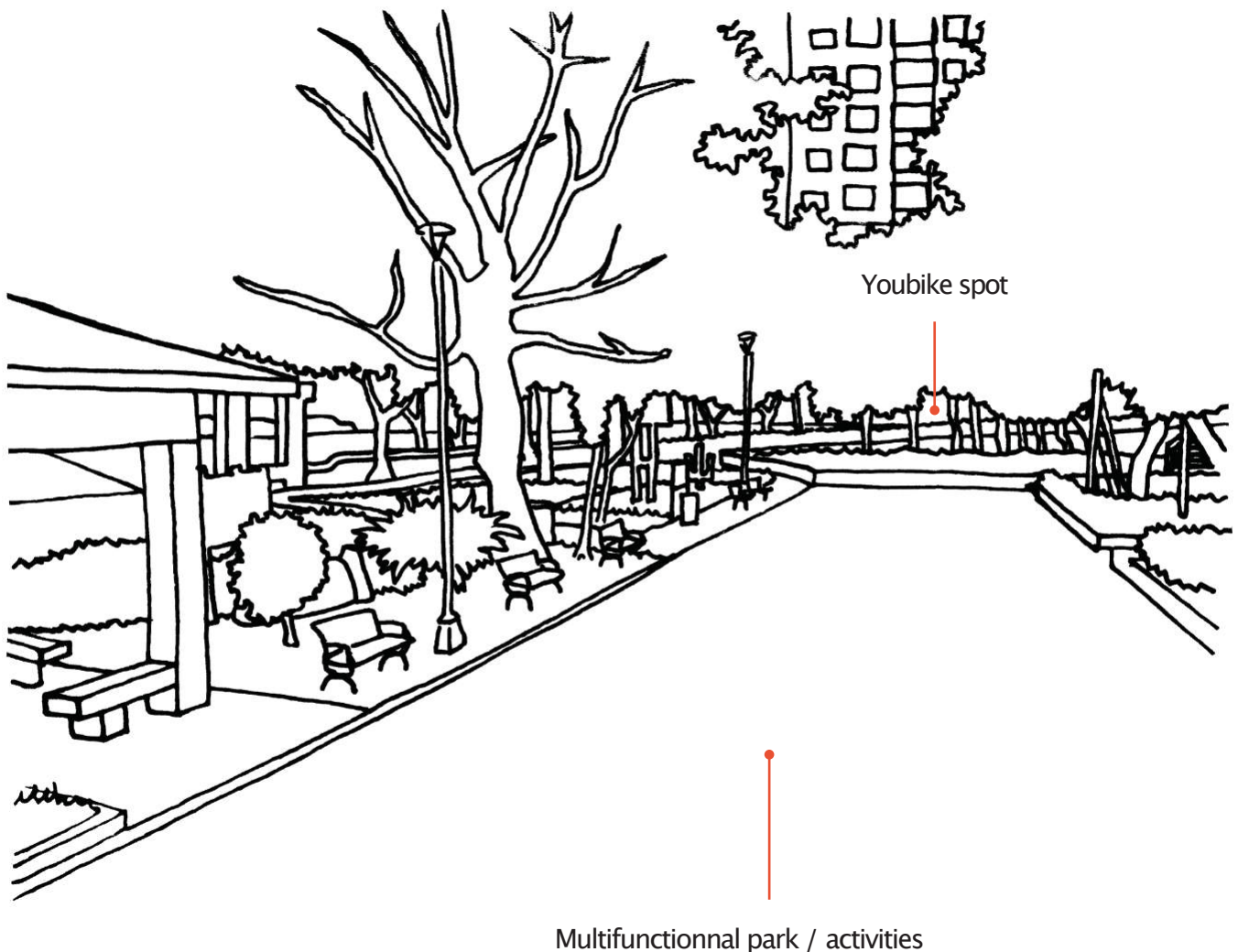
Lane number 3 maintains its calm and peaceful status in the mixes and requests of users. Several facilities and installations are suggested to allow people to rest there. The inhabitants are also asking for shadows. It seems difficult to plant trees in this narrow alley, but street furniture could be used as an alternative shelter. The waterway is sometimes revealed and staged. The presence of natural elements is affirmed. Finally, the facades of buildings are very rarely treated. This is probably due to the complexity of this topic. However, the renovation of the facades would probably promote a natural and pleasant atmosphere as requested by the participants.



SITE 4

The results of the various analyses do not allow us to propose a precise design of the space. The park being a larger entity, it deserves an overall design, difficult to transcribe on a photographic view. However, it is very clear that it must retain as a park. Grassed areas for relaxation are often suggested. The presence of natural elements and trees is affirmed. The presence of water is also proposed by the participants. They plan to reveal the waterway through a layout using design elements. With regard to the park's functions, Many participants stressed the importance of facilities that are suitable for activities, such as sports or community activities. Overall, what they are most demanding is to have a multifunctional park with design facilities.

Finally, it is requested that Youbike terminals be located near the park.



SITE 5

The participants' suggestions insist on carrying out an aesthetic work of revaluing the sector. The requests are for a healthy and clean environment in which the waterway would be redeveloped in a natural style. The greening of the site and the increase in natural elements is also an important point in the mixes and demands. The view of the waterway is important and it is often required to be able to rest nearby. Facilitating bicycle transportation is also in high demand.

