THE BEIJING BLOCK

RESTRUCTURING THE URBAN FORM IN BEIJING THROUGH THE CREATION OF AN IDEAL BEIJING BLOCK THAT EXHIBITS GOOD PRACTICES IN CONNECTIVITY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC SPACE, HOUSING, AND THE EMBODIMENT OF CHINESE HISTORY AND CULTURE.

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IMPROVE EXISTING CONDITIONS IN EACH OF THESE AREAS:

**CONNECTIVITY**
Panjiyuan Market currently exists as part of a super block, surrounded by gated residential communities that comprise other super blocks. We wanted to break down the super block, creating greater connectivity in the block and easier routes for the surrounding residents to access the market.

**ENVIRONMENT**
A green tree canopy exists along Beijing’s streets and surrounds the market. We wanted to explore how green could infiltrate the block and create a green system.

**PUBLIC SPACE**
We wanted to create public space that met the basic needs of people. Spaces with seating, shade, and room for exercise, going against past urban renewal projects that neglected open space or created unfriendly grand urban plazas that were not intended for the people.

**HOUSING**
We think a Beijing block should provide government-subsidized affordable housing that is done in a manner that gives more thought to the residents. Presently, housing exists in skyscrapers, built with only efficiency as a concern.

**HISTORY/CULTURE**
New development in Beijing has a reputation of demolishing its historic character. We believe a Beijing block should preserve the history and culture of Beijing in order for the city to maintain a sense of place.
LOCATION

FORBIDDEN CITY
TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

HOUSING

DENSITY
HIGH
LOW

WALKABILITY

GATED COMMUNITY
0.5 Km RADIUS
PEDESTRIAN ROUTE

OPEN SPACE

PRIVATE
PUBLIC

GREEN CANOPY
Our existing diagram shows the current location for our five project goals of connectivity, environment, public space, housing, and culture/history. This diagram shows the disconnectivity between our site block and the blocks to the north and south.

In our proposed diagram, we attempt to reorganize our five goals so that all are present on our site with the overarching idea of connectivity creating a direct relationship between all three blocks.
IMPROVED CIRCULATION

OUR SITE DESIGN BREAKS UP THE SUPER BLOCK. CREATING THESE SMALLER BLOCKS CREATES BETTER CONNECTIVITY AND IMPROVES PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION AND THE ROUTES PEOPLE TAKE TO WALK TO THE MARKET.
RAISED CROSSWALKS MAKE CROSSING THE STREET EASIER FOR PEDESTRIANS. BIKE PARKING HAS BEEN DISPERSED AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE SITE, ON THE EDGE OF THE SIDEWALKS. EXISTING FENCES THAT ORGANIZED LINES FOR THE BUS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH GROUND PATTERNS. THIS CREATES A FRIENDLIER SIDEWALK ENVIRONMENT AND ALSO PROMOTES ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SHOPS THAT FACE THE STREET. THE FEEDER ROAD HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO A BIKE ONLY LANE, MAKING ACCESS TO THE MARKET FROM THE EXISTING SUBWAY STOP EASIER. CAR PARKING HAS BEEN MOVED UNDERGROUND AND SERVES BOTH THE MARKET USERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE BLOCK.
THE BEIJING BLOCK LANDSCAPE IS ABOUT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS. OUR CONNECTIONS WERE INFORMED BY ACCESS POINTS AROUND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE THE “SHARED STREET” MODEL COULD SUPPORT AN IMPROVED SENSE OF CONNECTIVITY VIA A “SHARED” MARKET AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY.

A SERIES OF GREEN SEAMS RUNNING NORTH/SOUTH AND EAST/WEST THROUGH THE SITE SUPPORT SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS. THE SOCIAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS CIVIC IN NATURE, ENCOURAGES REST, RELAXATION, AND RECREATION ALONG GREEN PROMENADES, INTERIOR COURTYARDS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND PLAZAS. THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM INCLUDES A SERIES OF SWALES AND RAIN GARDENS THAT ARE LOCATED TO CAPTURE BUILDING, COURTYARD, AND IMPERVIOUS SURFACE WATER RUNOFF. THESE WATER CAPTURE DEVICES ARE VEGETATED WITH NATIVE BEIJING PLANT MATERIAL THAT HELPS CAPTURE AND RETAIN WATER SO THAT IT CAN FILTRATE AND PURIFY ON SITE. ADDITIONALLY, A SLIGHT GRADE TO THE SWALES AND RAIN GARDENS HELPS DIRECT EXCESS WATER TO IN-GROUND DRAINS THAT FURTHER DIRECT WATER VIA UNDERGROUND PIPES CULMINATING IN A LARGE RETAINING POND LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THE SUPER BLOCK.

KEY:
- SITE BOUNDARY
- PRIMARY WATER FLOW
- SECONDARY WATER FLOW
- UNDERGROUND PIPES
- WATER INTAKE
- SWALE
- LAWN
- PERVIOUS COURTYARD

GREEN SYSTEM DIAGRAM
OBLIQUE VIEW OF GREEN SYSTEM OPERATION

EXISTING: 0% PERVIOUS

PROPOSED: 24% PERVIOUS
The four larger courtyards group items being sold in the market into four categories. There is also a workshop area in each courtyard that relates to the goods being sold there.
THIS DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATES ANTICIPATED USAGE OF THE MARKET BY PEOPLE DURING THE DAY.
AFTER THE HOURS OF THE MARKET OPERATION, THE SITE WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS A PUBLIC SPACE. THE MARKET WILL CONTINUE, BUT AT A LOWER INTENSITY. STALLS THAT OUTLINE THE MAJOR PATHS THROUGH THE MARKET REMAIN OPEN. DAYTIME VENDORS’ GOODS CAN BE STORED UNDERNEATH, ALLOWING OUTSIDE VENDORS TO COME IN DURING NIGHT HOURS. THE STALL DESIGN RESEMBLES THE STALL PICTURED TO THE RIGHT WHERE, EVEN WHEN STALLS ARE CLOSED, A SENSE OF OPENNESS CAN BE PRESERVED AS YOU ARE STILL ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THEM. IN THE SCULPTURE COURTYARD, WIDER PATHWAYS ALLOW FOR OUTSIDE FOOD STALL VENDORS TO COME INTO THE MARKET TO SELL AT NIGHT. IN THE ANTIQUES AND HANDICRAFT COURTYARD, A LARGE PORTION OF VENDORS SELL ON THE GROUND. AFTER HOURS, THESE SPACES BECOME OPEN. OPEN SPACE IS NOT OVER PROGRAMMED, BUT WE HAVE ENVISIONED WHERE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES LIKE GROUP EXERCISE, GAMES, AND SPACES FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY COULD OCCUR.
THIS DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATES ANTICIPATED USAGE OF THE MARKET BY PEOPLE DURING THE NIGHT. IT ALSO SHOWS THE PROVISION OF LIGHTING. THIS HELPS TO MAINTAIN THE MARKET AS AN INVITING PUBLIC SPACE INTO THE NIGHT AND ALLOWS FOR "EYES ON THE STREET" TO HELP ENSURE SAFETY.
BUILDING USE

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

WORKSHOP
OUR DESIGN PROVIDES HOUSING ON SITE FOR THE PERCENTAGE OF VENDORS THAT DO NOT LIVE AROUND THE MARKET AND LIKELY MAKE LONG AND TROUBLESOME COMMUTES TO THE MARKET TO SELL THEIR GOODS. LIVING SPACE HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED ABOVE THE WORKSHOP SPACES FOR THE CRAFTS PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE INCLUSION OF HOUSING ON SITE INTEGRATES THE MARKET INTO THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS. IT ALSO CREATES A 24/7 ACTIVE SPACE THAT PROMOTES IT AS A GOOD AND ENGAGING PUBLIC SPACE.
IN EACH OF THE FOUR LARGER COURTYARDS THERE IS A WORKSHOP SPACE THAT RELATES TO THE GOODS BEING SOLD IN THAT COURTYARD. EACH WORKSHOP SPACE INCLUDES A STUDIO WORKSPACE THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, A HISTORY ELEMENT, AND AN ENGAGING OR HANDS-ON ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE OVERARCHING THEME OF THE WORKSHOP. THE WORKSHOP SPACES ARE MEANT TO EDUCATE AND INVOLVE PEOPLE IN THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF CRAFTING IN CHINA. PEOPLE WILL SHOP IN THE MARKET AREAS AND THEN WILL HEAD TO THE WORKSHOP SPACES TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY AND THE CRAFT OF THE GOODS THEY SEE BEING SOLD IN THE MARKET AREA.
SITE PLAN FEATURES INCLUDE PUBLIC ENTRANCES PLAZA ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER AND ALONG THE NORTHEAST EDGE OF THE SITE. THESE LARGE SPACES CREATE GATHERING AND MEETING PLACES AND ALLOW FOR INCREASED PUBLIC FLOW FROM SURROUNDING INTERSECTIONS, BUS STOPS, AND SUBWAY ENTRANCES/EXITs.

THE SHARED STREETS MODEL IS PROPOSED SO THAT WE CAN INCREASE THE NEIGHBORHOOD LIABILITY BY SLOWING TRAFFIC, DE-EMPHASIZING THE CAR CULTURE, AND EMPHASIZING A PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT.

THE FOUR MARKET AREAS CREATE CLEAR MARKET BOUNDARIES THAT BREAK THE MARKET UP INTO SMALLER, LESS OVERWHELMING EXPERIENCES. WE HAVE GROUPED MARKET GOODS AND FUNCTION AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO DESIGNATE AM VERSUS PM USES.

EACH COURTYARD INCLUDES A SMALL GARDEN ADJACENT TO THE WORKSHOP SPACES. THESE BECOME PLACES OF RESPITE WITHIN THE LARGER SHOPPING CONTEXT. IN THE TRADITION OF THE INTERIOR CHINESE COURTYARD, THESE GARDENS ARE “NATURE WITHIN.”

THE SWALE, COURTYARD, AND PLAZA SECTIONS ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE ILLUSTRATE MATERIAL DETAILS AS WELL AS SITE PROGRAM.
PLANT PALETTES USE NATIVE BEIJING PLANTS THAT OFFER SEASON INTEREST VIA BLOOMS, BERRIES, OR FALL COLOR. ADDITIONALLY, DECIDUOUS VARIETIES WERE CHOSEN TO ENCOURAGE MAXIMUM SUN EXPOSURE DURING WINTER MONTHS.

THE HARDSCAPE PALETTE STICKS WITH THE EXISTING, TRADITIONAL MATERIALS THAT ARE CURRENTLY ON THE SITE.

THE PERSPECTIVE VIEW ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE IS FROM THE LOWER PLAZA LOOKING NORTH ALONG THE MAIN, INTERIOR SWALE. THE SWALES AND RAIN GARDENS SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ON THE SITE, COLLECTIVE AND DIRECTING THE WATER FLOW WHILE FILTRATING AND PURIFYING ON SITE. BY REPLACING EXISTING IMPERVIOUS COVER WITH PERVIOUS PAVERS AND THE SWALES AND RAIN GARDENS, WE HAVE INCREASED THE PERMEABILITY OF THE SITE BY 24%.

SWALE PALETTE

PLANTER PALETTE

HARDSCAPE PALETTE
PLAZA PERSPECTIVE