Between the Old and the New

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Dealing with Complex Sites: The Form of an Industrial Heritage Park in a New District in China

China has developed fast. One of the essential means of its economic growth is the set of new districts. New districts are pursuing economic growth while old industrial sites are struggling with the update, which is the background of the design of this master's thesis project.

In the old industrial site in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, a new district focused on ecological and technological development is going to be built. The industrial heritage park inside the new district functions not only as a memoir of the past industrial glorious, but also as an essential economic power for the whole area. However, the heritage park is confronted with double challenges that come from the old contaminated land and the new ambitious plan. The purpose of this master's thesis is to explore the potential and influence of the industrial heritage park as an adaptive and dynamic landscape.

The thesis presumes that the industrial heritage park as a complex system has its pre-history and a desired direction of the future development. Its design focuses on forming a landscape framework by conducting pre-designs based on strategies and site pre-histories. These pre-designs are evaluated and balanced in terms of social, ecological and economic benefits. Further, three sub-systems of the landscape framework: ecology, program, and circulation are formed concerning different scales and phases of the new district. With such a framework, the project depicts pictures of both certainty and uncertainty, both openness and spirit, a dynamics between the old and the new.

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1 Masterplan 2 Three sub-systems (from left to right): ecology, program, and circulation.