

Dissolution of Margins

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1

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Luzhi is located on the low-lying polder area in Taihu Basin, at the heart of Yangtze River Delta and shares the same fate as many other industry towns in the region. After subsequent waves of development, the traditional water town has grown into a non-hierarchy mixture of fields, villages, new housing areas, factories and infrastructures.

The challenge is to figure out how to react to the increasing vulnerability of the territory caused by climate change and the pressure from industrialisation and urbanisation.

The existing functionalist government planning will lead to the disappear of spatial threshold in the vernacular settlements and living styles. On a large scale, the solid border between homogenous city zone is unable to adjust and enrich itself to the change of long-term of urban re-structuring and increasing climate crisis.

The thesis focus on the polders at the axis of the proposed green wedge along highway and Qing River. The design will shift from the government planning and try to create a landscape framework at the industrial periphery of Luzhi, which will engage with different conditions of boundaries, in response to the future urbanisation and climate challenges. So that, at the end, the spatial segregation and social marginality could be dissolved.

The expansive industrial demolition offers the opportunity to reclaim land along the highway as an extensive urban forest. The dykes and polder system will be reinforced and extended beyond their functional role to be the planning to program open spaces as well as productive landscape and structure future urbanisation.

1 plan
2 transformation axonometric

