

Quanzhou South City Area Bagua Ditch Waterfront

Urban and Architectural Design



1 Background and Purpose

Quanzhou(泉州), historically known as Zayton(刺桐城), was a global maritime trade center during the Song-Yuan period (10th–14th centuries). In 2021, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China." The ancient city of Quanzhou is home to a wealth of historical and cultural heritage, among which the South City Area (城南) was the most prosperous harbor-trade district of the old town, preserving many World Heritage elements including the Tianhou Temple, Deji Men Site, and Shunji Bridge Site.

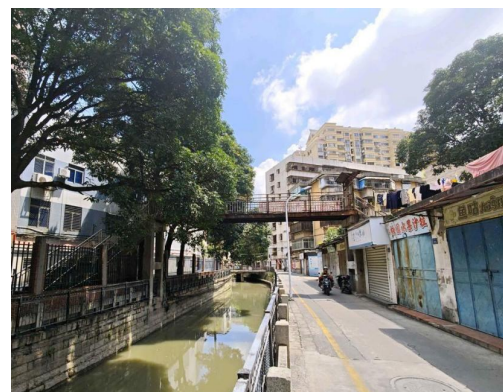
The Bagua Ditch(八卦沟) is a unique moat water system of the ancient Quanzhou city, having evolved through the Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties to form a spatial pattern of "ditch-city" symbiosis. In the 11th year of the Hongzhi reign of the Ming Dynasty (1498 AD), Imperial Censor Zhang Min presided over a large-scale dredging of the canals and placed Bagua (Eight Trigrams) porcelain bottles along the drainage ditches according to the "Early Heaven Bagua(先天八卦)" orientation—hence the name Bagua Ditch. The ditch not only served the city's flood control and drainage functions but also acted as a waterway connecting the Jin River to the inner city—"deep and

wide enough for boats and oars"—carrying the historical memory of Quanzhou's development over a millennium.

However, over time, parts of the Bagua Ditch have been filled in or covered, waterfront spaces encroached upon, and the accessibility and landscape value of the water system have greatly declined. Alongside industrial transformation and community aging, the South City Area faces challenges such as the decay of traditional neighborhoods and a rupture between old and new cultural contexts. How to promote organic urban renewal while protecting cultural heritage is the core issue of this workshop.

This workshop, titled "Quanzhou South City Area Bagua Ditch Waterfront Urban and Architectural Design", invites faculty and students from multiple international universities to jointly explore the following core questions:

1. *How to restore and reactivate the Bagua Ditch water system and reshape the waterfront public spaces*
2. *How to promote organic urban renewal in the South City Area within the World Heritage protection framework*
3. *How to balance historical preservation with contemporary urban life needs and create a sustainable community environment*



2 Design Task

Each group is required to propose a comprehensive urban design scheme for the designated plots along the Bagua Ditch, and to select a focal area within the plot for in-depth architectural design.

The overall urban design should focus on the following aspects:

Water System Restoration and Waterfront Space Reshaping:

Restore the waterfront public spaces along the Bagua Ditch, enhance the continuity and accessibility of the water system, and create a "water-city" interactive landscape system.

World Heritage Protection and Urban Development Coordination:

Explore pathways for organic urban renewal in the South City Area within the framework of Quanzhou's World Heritage protection.

Traffic Organization and Slow-Traffic System:

Optimize the three-dimensional traffic network integrating vehicular, pedestrian, and waterway circulation within the site.

Public Space System:

Establish a multi-level, multi-functional, and culturally distinctive open space system.

Functional Program Planning:

Propose functional revitalization strategies integrating heritage tourism, community services, cultural and educational resources, and more.

3 Deliverables

Each group must submit a PDF file and a physical model at the final presentation, including the following:

- Site plan / master plan
- Floor plans of key buildings (all levels)
- Sections
- Axonometric drawings
- Perspective renderings
- Necessary analytical diagrams
- Overall model at scale 1:500
- Model of key building(s) , scale to be determined by each group

4 Schedule

Date		Location	Plan
Nov.15	Sun	/	Travel to Quanzhou
Nov.16	Mon	Quanzhou	Workshop Kick off+Field Research
Nov.17	Tue	Quanzhou	1st Presentation
Nov.18	Wed	Quanzhou	Trip

Nov.19	Thu	/	Travel to Shanghai
Nov.20	Fri	Tongji	2nd Presentation
Nov.21	Sat	Tongji	Teamwork
Nov.22	Sun	Tongji	Teamwork
Nov.23	Mon	Tongji	Teamwork
Nov.24	Tue	Tongji	3rd Presentation
Nov.25	Wed	Tongji	Teamwork
Nov.26	Thu	Tongji	Teamwork
Nov.27	Fri	Tongji	Final Presentation