

(UN)Folding Chongqing

Art Block Design in Contemporary Mountainous City
JiuLong Peninsula, Chongqing, China

1. Significance of the topic

Chongqing, located in southwestern China, is one of the four municipalities directly under the central government in China. With good natural mountains and rivers, suitable natural environmental conditions, rich plant resources, and a long history and culture, Chongqing constitutes a unique image of "mountain city" and "river city" with mountains, rivers and forests as natural elements. Due to the rich changes in the topography of the mountain city, Chongqing has formed a "multi-center" and "multi-cluster" urban fabric. The clusters are separated by rivers and mountains, which are independent and connected to each other.

In addition, with the rapid development of urban construction in China, it is also facing the task of transformation and renewal of the old city. The transformation and renewal of the old city is based on the rational use of urban land, improving the quality of the urban environment, and strengthening the overall function of the city. Studying the context of urban areas, paying attention to urban functions and traffic development, discussing urban space, and improving environmental quality are all key issues in urban renewal and transformation. Therefore, the planned rational integration and utilization of the original resources in the old city district and the implementation of urban space redevelopment play an important role in the development of the entire city.

2. Site Overview

The old districts of the main city of Chongqing are now also facing problems such as imperfect infrastructure, low land utilization, chaotic layout, and environmental degradation. Besides, the social conflicts are acute and urban aging cannot meet the requirements of social development. The site is located in the Jiulong Peninsula, Jiulongpo District, and is surrounded by the Yangtze River. It is adjacent to the riverside area of the Yangtze River. The area where the plot is located is concentrated with rich cultural, historical and landscape resources and is a key urban control area. On one side of the site is the well-known old campus of Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts with a long history and cultural tradition



and on the other side is a power plant with two tallest chimneys in Asia. In the area, there are not only urban spaces closely integrated with the natural topography of the mountains, the unique "vertical streets" of mountain cities, and important passages connecting the city and the waterfront space (piers). Stairways, platforms, fortresses, etc. show the urban space and the living conditions of the citizens, while the methods of setback, sling, and overhead of existing buildings reflect the organic combination of architecture and terrain, reflecting the traditional architectural culture of Chongqing's mountains.

As a site with a strong artistic atmosphere, this design will also face a major choice for urban area renewal. This is not only a reflection and dialogue about art, the city, people and life, but also a discussion about how art can intervene in urban upgrading and link urban growth. By studying the history, development and changes of the urban space in the region, studying the mountainous terrain conditions, carefully discussing the possibilities and methods of reasonable and effective mountain area design, and proposing strategies to improve the urban space and enhance the vitality of the region on the basis of analysis and research. Combining the mountainous features to configure appropriate urban functions to strengthen the existing artistic context of the site, it is also necessary to consider the solution to the combination of key issues such as urban space, transportation, architecture, landscape and topography in mountainous cities.

3. Project Description

The design concept originally originated from Deleuze's theory "The Fold". The most important part of Deleuze's thought is diversity, dynamics and the complexity that comes with it. As the foundation of architectural theory extended by philosophy and aesthetics, it is used by architects as an "infinite extension" represented by Koolhaas' Jussieu Library, a "single and objective" method represented by S.MAO's Sancho Church, "The space-time fold" method represented by Eisenman's Rebstock Park project, and the "circular pattern" method represented by FOA Yokohama International Terminal.

Folding is a specific behavior. Folding makes difference, and the difference comes down to diversity. Therefore, as an application in space design, the folding idea extended from Deleuze's "fold theory" is more suitable for the complex elements of the site itself.

This design hopes to use the folding idea as the design concept, the art block as the architectural form to solve the current situation of the decline of the traditional industry and artistic atmosphere faced by the site, as well as the various groups (industrial sites, storage departments, art schools, commercial pedestrian streets, residential areas) have an opposite and unified relationship with each other. Relying on Chongqing's special mountainous landforms and Deleuze's theory of folding, utilizing the existence of the "one", folding in "many", so that makes the whole design more unified, coherent, and storytelling.

Reflected in the design, the theme of "art" is taken as the "one", "many" represented by 1. complicated functional requirements and circulations of different people, 2. improve the traffic environment to activate the entire area, solve the current situation of independence between groups. 3. fit Chongqing's special terrain and surrounding natural environment factors, are folded into art.

In the design of the people's circulation, the circular pattern of FOA is used as the specific application of the folding: draw the circulation as a loop and let multiple paths intersect. The connection point of the path is always set as the bifurcation point, and the epidermis (building) also bifurcates with the bifurcation. Then get a pattern that is not a series of interconnected spaces with clear boundaries, but a continuous space of branch sequences distributed along a circular system.

It perfectly fits the continuity relationship among the three main groups in this design, namely complex, training center and artist space. It finally takes art as the "core", and the commercial space on the ground floor is connected horizontally. Platforms, ramps, and stairs are used to realize the natural transition and functional connection of the mountainous terrain, making the whole block a vibrant, independent among groups and interconnected whole, and jointly activate the whole area.

Keywords: mountainous city, folding, artistic block, circular pattern, complexity, continuity