

# RED RIVERSIDE LANDSCAPE REVITALIZATION

## *Hanoi - Vietnam*

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Hanoi

Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam and the country's second largest city. Its population in 2009 was estimated at 2.6 million for urban districts, 6.5 million for the metropolitan jurisdiction. From 1010 until 1802, it was the most important political center of Vietnam. It was eclipsed by Hue, the imperial capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty, but Hanoi served as the capital of French Indochina from 1902 to 1954. From 1954 to 1976, it was the capital of North Vietnam, and it became the capital of reunified Vietnam in 1976, after the North's victory in the Vietnam War. The city lies on the both side of Red River bank, but mostly on the right side.



#### 2. The Red River

The Red River is the river that flows from Yunnan in southwest China through northern Vietnam. In the 19th century, the Red River was thought to be a lucrative trade

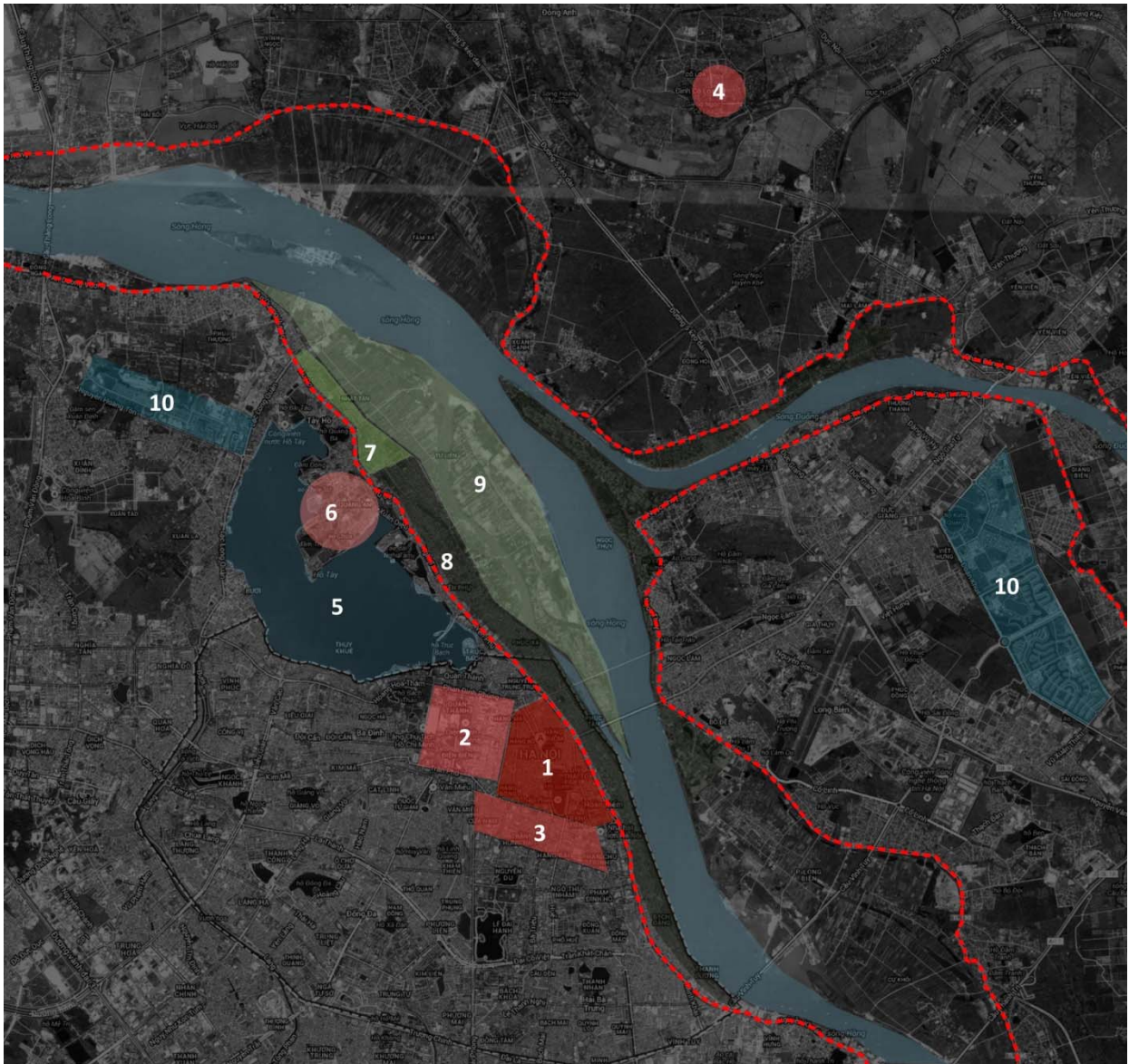
route to China. The late 19th century French explorers were able to travel up the Red River until China. It was the forced opening of the Red River to European commerce that prompted the wars between France and the Vietnamese court, culminating in the conquest of Vietnam.

Red river used to be the "backbone" of Hanoi which was the most critical landscape axis integrating with specific areas in the city. It is not only remarked by many historical relics and traditional handicraft villages along but also attached to thousands of riparians's daily lives. It plays important role in Hanoi's ecology, history, economy and social. However, under the influences of urbanization and development as well as natural disaster, Red river is gradually ***detached from urban system***.



### 3. Urban specific areas and delighted sites along the Red river

***Urban specific areas***



### *1. Hanoi Old Quarter*

Inside the modern and dynamic city, Old Quarter represented the eternal soul of Hanoi and it is the amazing place for both tourist and Hanoians to explore. Located between the Sword Lake, the Long Bien Bridge, a former city rampart, and a citadel wall, the Old Quarter (consisting of 36 old streets inside) started as a snake and alligator-infested swamp. It later evolved into a cluster of villages made up of houses on stilts, and was unified by Chinese administrators who built ramparts around their headquarters. Hanoi's Old Quarter has a nearly 1,000-year old history and became crowded and lively in 15<sup>th</sup> century. What makes them unique is that many of them remain in their very ancient architecture of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Up to now, it has been the oldest continuously developed area of Vietnam.

### *2. French Quarter*

Hanoi's French Quarter lies to the southeast of Hoan Kiem lake. In the late 19th century, when the French occupied Hanoi, they demolished many of the old Vietnamese buildings and replaced them with imposing French-style villas. As well as the architecture the area

is characterized by wide tree-lined streets which, while still busy with traffic, are far easier to navigate than the narrow alleyways of Old Quarter. There are many important offices and headquarters locating here.

### *3. Thang Long palace*

The Imperial Citadel of Thang Long is the cultural complex comprising the royal enclosure first built during the Lý Dynasty and subsequently expanded by the Trần, Lê and finally the Nguyễn Dynasty. The ruins roughly coincide with the Hanoi Citadel today. The royal palaces and most of the structures in Thang Long were in varying states of disrepair by the late 19th century with the upheaval of the French conquest of Hanoi. By the 20th century many of the remaining structures were torn down. Only in the 21st century are the ruin foundations of Thang Long Imperial City systematically excavated

### *4. Co Loa palace*

Cổ Loa Citadel is a citadel built about 20 km to the North of today's Hanoi, during the end of the Hồng Bàng Dynasty (about 257 BCE). The fortress is a spiral-shaped complex of the then new capital. The site has been the source of various relics of the Dong Son culture of the Bronze Age. However, this relic is underused and does not attract much tourists' attention.

### *5. West lake*

West Lake is a freshwater lake in the center of Hanoi. With a shore length of 17km, this is the largest lake of the capital and a popular place for recreation with many gardens, parks, hotels and villas. It is also border with many significant places in history of Hanoi and Vietnam such as Tran Quoc Pagoda, the oldest pagoda in Vietnam and Chu Van An high school, the oldest high school in Vietnam. West lake is considered as the "green lung" of Hanoi.

### *6. Luxury villas*

The real estate price areas near West Lake is staggering and surrounding quarters are often full imposingly large edifices occupied by rich Vietnamese people and ex-pats.

### *7. Flower traditional villages (Nhat Tan)*

Nhat Tan village on the edge of Hanoi's West Lake is blooming with a variety of flowers, especially peach blossom in New Year holidays. It is an interesting place attracting many tourists and locals to enjoy the colorful flowers and taking photos

### *8. Outside the Main Bund*

There are around 160.000 residents living outside the Main Bund without illegal permission or unclear identification. Their lives are threatened by natural disaster such as flood and landslide. These residences are planned to be on-site resettled to reduce the population density and ensure safety.

## *9. Warp*

The alluvial patches along the riverside which appear in dry season and some of their parts are flooded in rain season. Many locals are attracted to going there for spontaneous recreational activities. Especially in summer, it is well known by "nude beach" regardless of the danger of quicksand.

## *10. New developments*

These areas are planned to build new ecological urban development for the middle class and above. They are the combination of residences, parks, commercial centers and administrative centers which will play an important role in urban system in the future.

### ***Delighted sites along the riversides***

*Long Bien bridge:* The historical iconic landmark connects two parts of the city was built in 1899-1902 by French. The bridge plays an important role in spiritual life of Hanoians. It is the most favorable place to enjoy complete sunrise and sunset.

*Tourism harbor:* The harbor is used for Red River Tour which visit all traditional villages, historical relics and religious sites along the river.

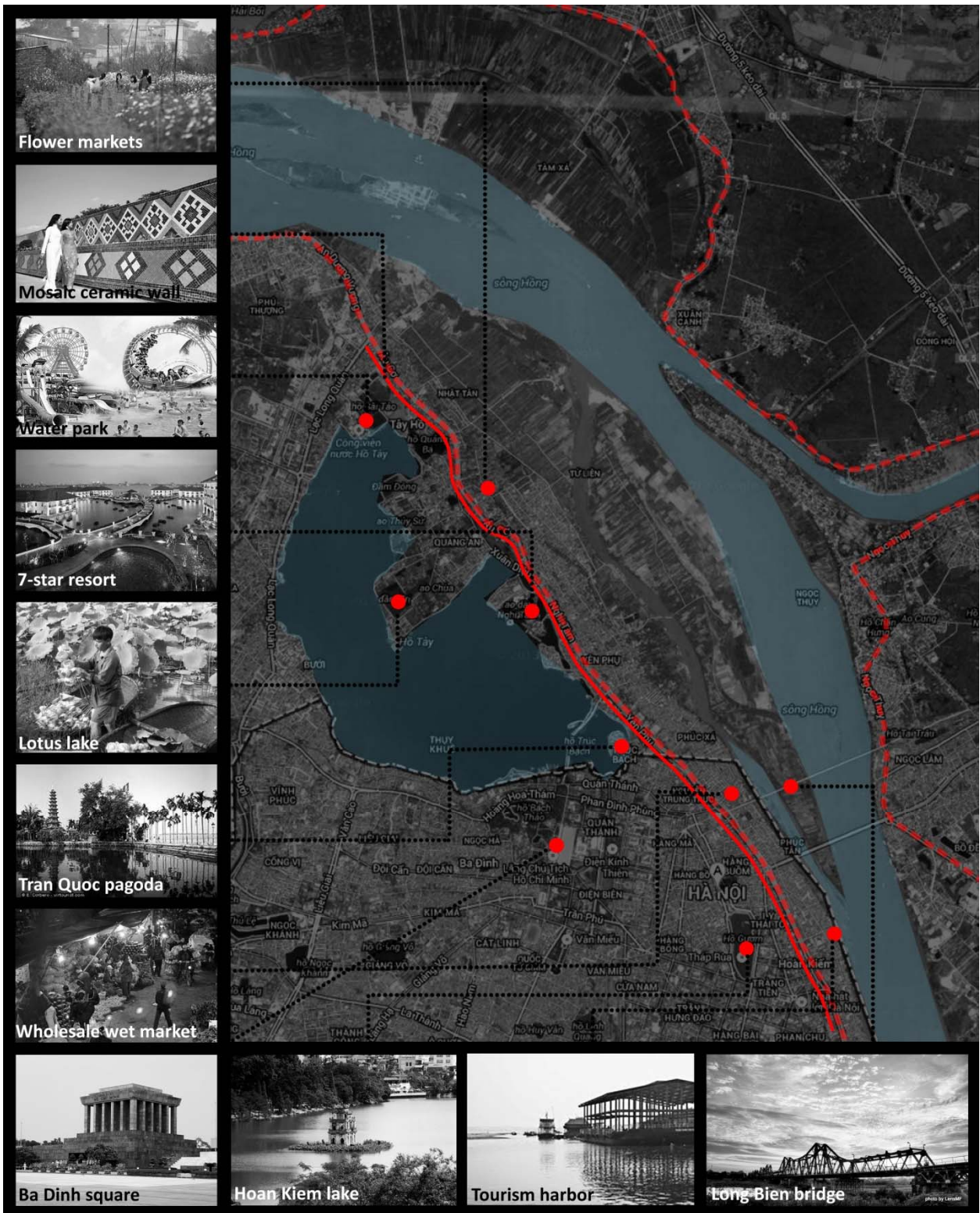
*Hoan Kiem lake:* The lake is one of the major scenic spots in the city and serves as a focal point for its public life.

*Ba Dinh square:* The main square of Hanoi. It locates in front of Ho Chi Minh tomb and surrounded by most important political buildings such as President's palace, National Assembly and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Wholesale wet market:* The frenzied market works in the early morning under Long Bien bridge from around 2AM to 5AM. However, at the day time, when market stops operating, it leaves behind a "death zone".

*Tran Quoc pagoda:* One of the oldest pagoda in Vietnam which is always crowded by both locals and tourist, especially in Lunar New Year.





*Lotus lake:* A delighted natural lotus lakes located among luxury villas near West Lake. This is the preferred place for young people to make a date.

*Water park:* The only water park in the South and the most attractive entertainment places in Hanoi, especially in summer.

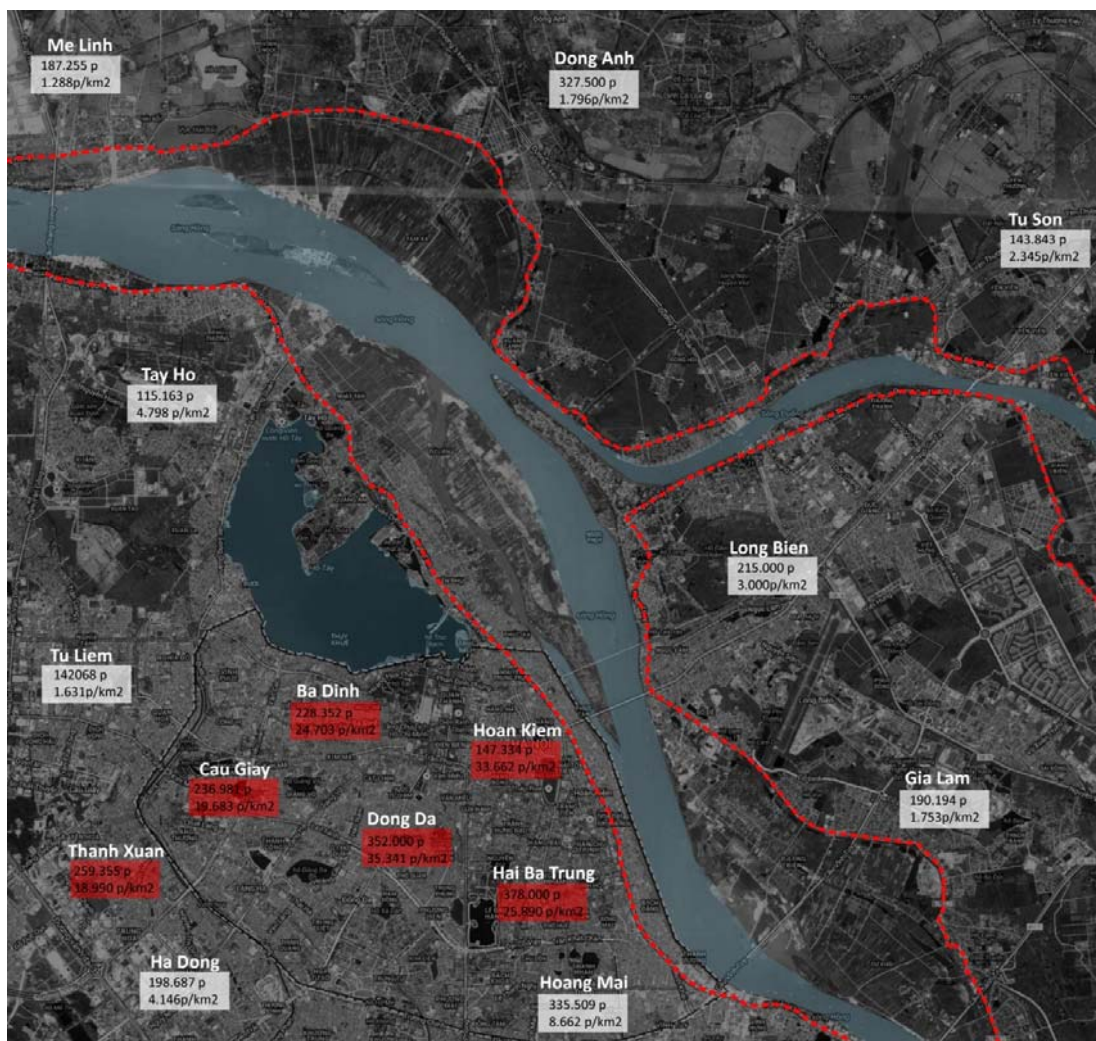
*Hanoi Intercontinental 7-star hotel:* The most luxury hotel in Hanoi

*Mosaic ceramic wall:* The longest mosaic pictures in the world which was encrusted on the Main Bund to celebrate 1000 Hanoi anniversary

*Flower markets:* The early wholesale flower market works from 4Am to 6AM which locates near Nhat Tan traditional flower village

## II. CHALLENGES

Red river used to be the trading artery of Hanoi in the past, however, along with the modernization and urbanization, the river has been gradually detached from urban system and gone along with some following problems which bring about the segregation of two riversides and prevent the Hanoi's urbanization from expanding to the East



*The huge difference in population density between two sides of the river*

### 1. Limited connection to urban realms.

Nowadays, the Red riverside just only can be seen from some limited positions because of illegal constructions' appropriation. Whereas, in the past, The Harbour and the riverside were connected directly to urban fabric in both physical and visual way. Moreover, along 14km length of shoreline attached to city center, there are only 3 bridges connecting to



other side of the river which causes traffic overloaded condition and reduce the developing speed of city on the other side.



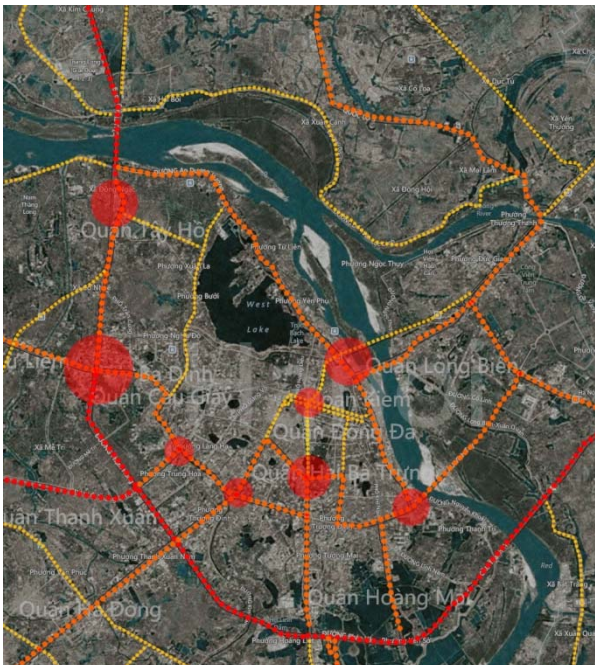
*Past: The Harbor and Old Quarter were connected directly to the riverside*



*Present: The riverside is encroached by illegal houses*

## 2. Sunken areas

The spontaneous development of illegal houses without profound government's concern partly change the riversides into a sunken area of Hanoi with slums, slovenly landscape and crimes. The trees grow messily and raggedly without care. The fetid waste water from the markets streams out under Long Bien bridge. The slums overlooking that polluted stream are home to hundreds of laborers and migrants from rural areas that cause the high rate of violence and crime.



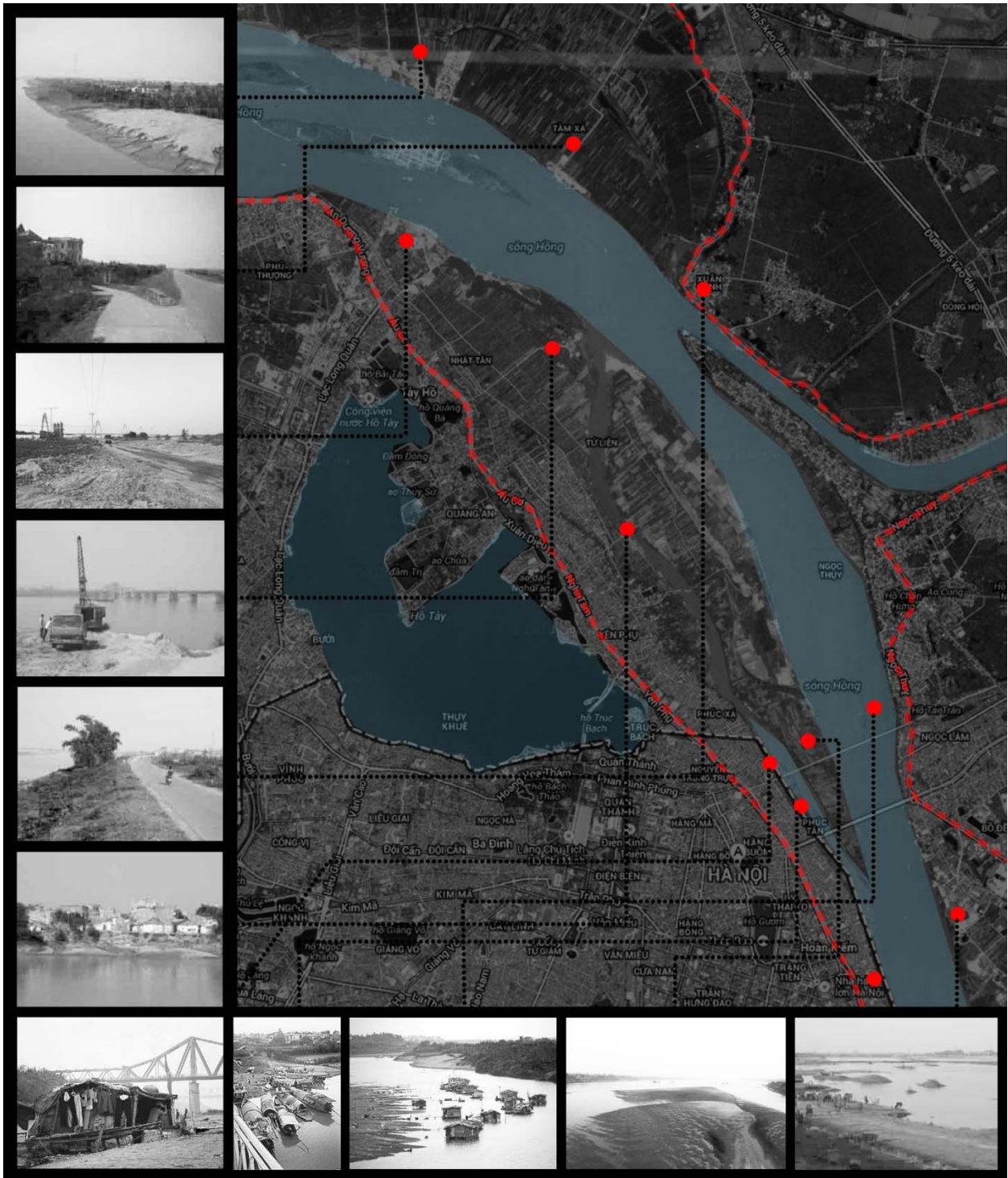
## 3. Natural disaster

Landslip and floods have been threatening and claiming lives of vegetation and people here every year. At the present, the Main Bund is the only method to solution to deal with disaster of the river. But it works in the city scale, not area scale. There is no safety methods for spontaneous areas developed for recreational and commercial activities.

## 4. Traffic overloaded points

Due to underdeveloped and limited of transportation system in Vietnam, traffic congestion is a imperative issue needing to be addressed. The 3 bridges connecting two sides of the Red river is the hottest points of traffic congestion in the city. It partly influences the riverside scenery and prevents people from approaching the river.





*The sceneries along both side of Red river that is detached from the images of the bustling city*

### III. RED RIVERSIDE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

#### 1. Main goal of the project

- Revitalizing Red river and making it become the environmental and social backbone of Hanoi and the critical tool to enhance city's image and heritage.
- Reducing the traffic congestion
- On-site rehabilitat and functional area re-distribution
- Providing urban facilities that will merge with future development

## **2. Reading Hanoi urban planning map 2030**

According to Hanoi urban planning map 2030, we chose some elements to be our premises to develop our project which are:

- Agriculture will be the main function of landscape riverside.
- Creating secondary dyke to protect current residences and develop safety green spaces for public uses.
- Building two new bridges across the river to other side; separating the railway from Long Bien bridge by creating another railway bridge parallel with the old one; preserving Long Bien bridge as a main pedestrian route and historical monument.
- The area which is bordered by the Main Bund, the river, the Long Bien bridge and the new railway is planned for public function.



### 3. Main strategies

Our project of urban design and landscape is mainly working with the riverside . The proposals are created by some critical areas and developed in the direction: along the riverside.

#### 1. Proposing the green belt



Making a green belt is ideal for the landscape aspect since the city center is lack of green and for uniforming the random open spaces along the riverside as well.

## *2. Proposing the secondary dyke*

The secondary dyke will protect the city from the flood, we try to design a dyke that combines with landscape to give a better life quality to the citizens.

## **4. Project in Architectural scale**

### ***SITE : The old wholesale wet market***

This is the wholesale wet market provide fruits and vegetables for all city. This bustling market is in full swing from 2AM from 5AM, however, in day time, it is totally a "death zone" due to dormant closed tents and nearby slum houses of workers.

In urban planning 2030, this area will be transformed into public use because of its significant location which is considered as a gate of city's center. It will also play an critical role in delighting the historical bridge.

- Area: approximately 30.000m<sup>2</sup>

- Aim: Producing connection between city's center and riverside, solving the traffic congestion in this point and sufficient mobility, building a new landmark of Hanoi, delighting the Long Bien bridge as a valuable heritage.

- Expected functions: Rebuilt of the market

- Initial structure propose: light but permanent structure

