Urban Canal Spaces as Public Life Spaces: Inhabitants Attitudes of the Ancient Canal Spaces of Yangzhou

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Background

UNESCO Recommendation on the historic urban landscape (2011)

Development of the HUL Concept

- **2005**
  - The Vienna Memorandum
  - Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes
  - The Xi’ An Declaration on the Conservation of the setting of heritage structures, sites and areas (ICOMOS)

- **2007**
  - The Conference of St. Petersburg

- **2007-10**
  - The international debate, case studies and workshops

- **2010**
  - Conclusions

- **2011**
  - UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

Community engagement tools
Knowledge and Planning tools
Regulatory systems
Financial tools
The Ancient Canal and YANGZHOU
The canal-oriented regeneration strategy concentrated on tourist economy, which aimed to have a “city brand” of the China Grand Canal. It accelerated the development of gentlemanized process and weakened the identity of those places, namely, the tangible and intangible connections between the urban canal space and its residents.
Method and Data Collection

261 SAMPLES; 213 WERE VALID IN STATISTICAL ANALYSIS; 109 OF 213 WITH DEFINITE COORDINATES
Scale 1: Knowledge about the China Grand Canal
The importance ranking of the ancient canal and its surrounding

- As part of the city's memory: 4
- Enhancing the Urban Greening Rate: 4
- Attracting Tourists and Promoting Tourism Development: 4
- Provide leisure and entertainment places for citizens: 4
- Attracting Investment and Promoting Economic Development: 3
- Increase the value of surrounding land: 1
Scale 3: Canal as the core of public life
Preference of the canal sections
Temporal issues of visiting the canal

- Every day or almost every day
- Once or twice a week
- Three to five times a week
- Once or twice a month
- Very few

How frequent do you visit the canal?

- 22.50%
- 19.50%
- 15.33%
- 7.48%
- 25.23%

How much time approximately do you spend on each visit?

- Less than 30 minutes
- 30-60 minutes
- 1-2 hours
- 2-3 hours
- More than 3 hours

When do you usually go near urban canal spaces?

- 0:00-8:00
- 8:00-12:00
- 12:00-14:00
- 14:00-16:00
- 16:00-20:00
- 20:00-23:00
- After 23:00
Traffic issues of visiting the canal

Is it convenient for you to reach the canal?

- Very convenient: direct public transport or walking, by bicycle
- General Convenience: Need to change trains once
- Inconvenience: requiring multiple transfers or taking too long

How do you usually get to urban canal spaces?

- Electric vehicle
- Public transportation
- Cycling
- Walking

Graph showing distribution:

- Other: 7.01%
- Taxi: 11.21%
- Public transportation: 81.78%
Social issues of visiting the canal

Are you usually alone or with whom to go to urban canal spaces?

- Alone: 10.00%
- Family: 80.00%
- Friends: 10.00%
- Girlfriend/boyfriends: 0.00%
- Colleague: 0.00%
- Other: 0.00%

Do the canal contribute to improving your social activities?

- Strongly negative: 5.00%
- Somewhat negative: 10.00%
- Neutral: 20.00%
- Somewhat positive: 40.00%
- Strongly positive: 30.00%

Do you often encounter acquaintances near the canal?

- Never: 60.00%
- Seldom: Meet 1-2 acquaintances: 30.00%
- Often: Meet acquaintances in half of the cases: 10.00%
- Almost every time you meet acquaintances: 0.00%

Do you have friends who know near the canal?

- Yes: 40.65%
- No: 59.35%