The Protection and Revitalization of Historic District

-------Case Study of Guangzhou West Relations

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1. Introduction of Xiguan area

2. The existence problems of historical blocks in Xiguan area

3. The protection of historical and cultural blocks in Xiguan area

4. The reconstruct strategy of Xiguan historical district
XI GUAN
The Historical District
9,600,000 km²

419,000 km²

GDP No.1
Xiguan

GUANGDONG
Xiguan Region

Economy

Distribution

Culture

Rich

Guang Zhou

Xiguan Region
in ancient times a process of development now
Xiguan Region
Buildings
Xiguan House Qilou Xiguan street

2007~2010

150,137 m² Xiguan region
6,766 m² Xiguan region/day

Xiguan House

Qilou

Xiguan street
texture

space form
1. tear down
2. move
3. build
New Xiguan Region

Now disappeared.
3. Culture
• Men Wear Butch Haircut
  Women Comb Hair into Coil

• White Vest + Shorts + Flip-flops

• Bigger Eyes    Thick Lips

People live in Xiguan region

The Shape of Chinese General People

Shorter    Thinner    Darker
When They Get Together

Produced:

• Cantonese Opera
• Cantonese Cuisine
• Cantonese Medicine
• Cantonese Dialect

And

Traditional Culture
Can Hand Down ... ...
Their homes are being demolished continually, the culture of Xiguan can't go on

They feel sad, angry, helpless, have to move away from those place where all the ancestors lived.
Lots of residential have to move away
In this situation,
the culture of Xiguan will gone forever
4 Environment
Before

- Beautiful environment
- Abound
- Rich gather
Now

• The population lived in Xiguan is far outweight its own capacity and most of it are immigrate. Most of the inhabitant are low-income. In addition, with the lack of living facilities and infrastructure, the environment is become even more worse in Xiguan as well as the increasing of potential safety hazard which is bad for living.
The local leaders think:

• The environment in Xiguan is bad
• The transient population is large and hard to control
• The living buildings are too old
• The streets in old town are too narrow which lead to jam so often

There are too many disadvantages, so we need to rebuild it right now and make it into another "xintiandi"
If this goes on...

All of the historical blocks in Xiguan will be replaced by modern buildings in the near future.
How to protect
First of all, we need to preserve the old buildings in Xiguan area

- Xiguan Mansion
- Arcade commercial streets
- Common dwelling in Qing dynasty
• The infrastructure, life quality of blocks should be enhanced by government.

• Control the preservation of street and not allow to change the life model at will.

• The government established the lasting concept of protection, and at the base demand of local people, rebuild it in a small area.
Second, protect the function of historical district is very important

• The function: Xiguan should protect the historical district first, and on the base of this, develop and use the local culture, business, culture tourism property. Revival local economy, deduce the population and enhance the life quality

• Protect the original theme and change a little function of the part. Our purpose is to emphasis the key function and the service.

• Guarantee at least 60% of the population are the local people. Deduce the total people and contain the living area to enhance life quality.
Last, we must protect the local people:

• In order to let the aborigines live in those district, a good way is that make a law which restrict their rent.

• We can’t discriminate against the local people, on the contrary we need to treat them equal.

• Clear the property right of old buildings in historical blocks, the government can balance the interests of each parts and seek for a new assignment method. Therefore, local people can live here safety
How to Revive
Improve the Xiguan area and the environment around it. Improve the living in new blocks service commercial facilities, to block in the existing operation of the protection of traditional items. For example, Xiguan Taotaoju, Lianxianglou restaurant, they can held traditional food party in some holiday. It can increase their fame, attract more people and also help the economical development of the area around it which make it diversity.
Use the reputation of Xiguan area sufficiently, hold propaganda in local festival. Such as in “up and down 9 street, Shipu street” which are the most prosperity street in Guangzhou, hold some knowledge competition and let everyone can join in. In this way, it enhance the interesting and reputation of Xiguan area which can benefit the economy.
Restore the old name of Xiguan. Because each old name has a long history, use these name set stele to be a symbol, in the same time hold some show which can let people review the history.
Increase traditional Cantonese opera related business, then make them become the special traditional street. In there, people can buy traditional products. Such as Cantonese opera practice tools, dolls and CDs.
Publicize traditional special Xiguan program all wide and make the citizen know more about the traditional festivals. Such as, Qixi, March 3rd, Lion dance.
There are lots of traditional buildings in Xiguan historical district which are in the Ming and Qing period. We rebuild it and make it looks like it’s origin. Increase the modern facility like water supply line, phone line and internet but don’t change its original function. Plan the environment around it and provide convenient traffic. Maintain at least 60% of the population are local people and provide low-rent houses.

There are still many local people prefer to live in Xiguan area. In the remove process, there are some people apply to renovate the house by themselves. But at last they have to move out because the government doesn’t let them do this. The government said they want to protect the Xiguan traditional building but actually they prefer more income, so finally lots of traditional building was removed and replaced by commercial residential building or CBD. I am wondering, why government let the local people can’t repair their houses by themselves, on that way it save the money and protect the tradition.