

**China · Wuxi**

**“The Appointment between Youth and City”**

**Urban Regeneration Design Competition**

**Design Assignment**

## **1. Competition Overview**

### **1.1 Competition Background**

Wuxi is located in southeast Jiangsu province, the center of the Yangtze River Delta, which is the most developed economic area of China. It is adjacent to Taihu Lake on the south, the Yangtze River on the north, 128 km to Shanghai on the east, and 183 km to Nanjing on the west. Boasting a history of more than 3,000 years, Wuxi is a historical city with profound cultural heritages and a large amount of talents. It's home to the Wu Culture in ancient times, and the national industrial and commercial culture in modern times. Wuxi has 31 important heritage sites under state protection, 11 sites named national intangible cultural heritage and 60 museums and memorial halls.

Under the profound influence of the development and evolution of youth policies promoted by international and domestic organizations, in order to attract young people who are well-educated and high-quality talent resources to enhance urban competitiveness as well as meet the urgent need for sustainable urban development, Wuxi, as an important window for the world-class urban agglomeration in the Yangtze River Delta and a pioneer in the development of innovative intelligent manufacturing at the international level, has put forward relevant planning and implementation plans to promote the coordinated development of youth, the economy and society by benchmarking the layout planning of international youth friendly advanced cities. Wuxi's implementation plans aim to embrace and support the development of young people, build a youth development-oriented city, and create a city of hope for young

people. It aims to make Wuxi become a more promising and friendly city to young people, so as to encourage young people to contribute to the new practice of Chinese path to modernization in an all-round way, show their youth achievements, and achieve “urban excellence” with “brilliant youth”.

Wuxi Urban Regeneration Design Competition – “The Appointment between Youth and City”, as an important support for the construction of a youth-oriented city in Wuxi, carries the aspirations of young people for a better life. It is committed to filling the gaps in public services by focusing on the perspective of young people, creating a comprehensive policy and social environment that meets the diverse and multi-level development needs of young people, promoting the gathering of young talents, assisting in the upgrading of Wuxi’s urban level, the revitalization of industries and the cultivation of potential, and achieving mutual promotion and positive interaction between high-quality development of young people and the city.

## **1.2 Competition Theme and Target**

### 1.2.1 Competition Theme

The theme of this urban regeneration design competition is “The Appointment between Youth and City”, aiming to focus on the positive interaction between urban regeneration and cultural inheritance in the “Old Town” of Greater Jiangnan from the perspective of youth. Taking the selected locations of the competition as samples, combined with a series of measures that emphasize both restoration and protection, as well as upgrading and renovation, it aims to establish a model case of compatibility between “historical and cultural protection” and “urban regeneration”, and create a series of new cultural and tourism landmarks for youth development-oriented cities.

### 1.2.2 Competition Target

The Urban Regeneration Design Competition will gather the wisdom and strength of young designers, and explore the implementation paths of youth city which shall be

constructed, enjoyed and loved by youth.

- How to create new experiential spaces and place spirits by implanting new symbiotic spatial logic.
- How to achieve the organic integration of urban regeneration and cultural inheritance in the “Old Town” of Greater Jiangnan from the perspective of youth.
- How to further gather the power of youth through a series of scene planning, venue operation and other aspects that can make young people feel joyful, and help to realize youth introduction, talent attraction and popularity gathering in Wuxi.

### **1.3 Organization**

Organizers: China Communist Youth League Wuxi Committee

Housing and Urban Rural Development Bureau of Wuxi City

Liangxi District People's Government of Wuxi City

Co-Organizers: Urban Regeneration (Beijing) Holding Group

Co-Sponsors: Huaxin Design Group

China Construction Science and Industry Corporation Ltd.

### **1.4 Award**

The competition has set up one first prize (one team) with a bonus of 100,000 RMB/team (approx 14,000 USD) (include tax), second prize (3 teams) with a bonus of 50,000 RMB/team (approx 7,000 USD) (include tax), third prize (5 teams) with a bonus of 30,000 RMB/team (approx 4,200 USD) (include tax), and honorable mentions (several teams) without bonus.

There is an opportunity for the award-winning works to be implemented, which shall be determined by the hosting organization for detailed and specific implementation plan. The competition committee shall reserve the final interpretation right for this

competition.

## **2. Competition Contents**

### **2.1 Site Selection**

The site selection for The Urban Regeneration Design Competition – “The Appointment between Youth and City” is located in Liangxi District, Wuxi City. Based on the needs of diverse and multi-level public environment as well as experiential space for the young people, the competition organizing committee has selected five locations, including Erquan Square, Zhang’s Jiale Hall, “Caozhangli” Food Street, Liangxi District Library and Yongding Bridge Park.

#### **2.1.1 Erquan Square**

- (1) Information: Erquan Square is located in the core area of Chong’an Temple block in the urban center, with a conceptual design scope of 6,550 square meters and a core design scope of 800 square meters.
- (2) Overview: Chong’an Temple is the origin and cultural symbol of Wuxi city. The Erquan Square, located in the core of Chong’an Temple block, is a public leisure square named after the famous erhu song “The Moon Over a Fountain” by Chinese folk musician Hua Yanjun (Ah Bing). A seated statue of Ah Bing immersed in music stands in the core area, which has become the soul of Erquan Square. The square is also adjacent to the former residence of Ah Bing, a national key cultural relics protection unit in the sixth batch; the former site of Wuxi County Library, a cultural relic protection unit in Jiangsu Province, as well as numerous historical and cultural buildings such as Yuhuang Hall and Chong’an Pavilion, which are symbols of the prosperity of Wuxi’s cultural heritage.
- (3) Design Requirements: It is required to use scene planning and design, characteristic installations to coordinate the three-dimensional spaces of plan, facade and skyline, establish a spiritual landmark that reflects the epitome of

Wuxi's urban history and development, and achieve the transition of Erquan Square from the historical origin of the city to the gravitational source of urban youth, so that it can better serve and function as a cultural window and urban living room.

### **2.1.2 Zhang's Jiale Hall**

- (1) Information: Zhang's Jiale Hall is located at No. 252 Nan Chang Street, covering an area of approximately 564 square meters, with an indoor area of approximately 1,065 square meters (two floors).
- (2) Overview: Zhang's Jiale Hall was built by Zhang, a senior employee of Qingfeng Cotton Mill, in 1930. Jiale Hall faces west and east, with a width of five rooms and three entrances. The first flat house was demolished due to the widening of Nan Chang Street, and the entrance was changed to a gable wall for entry and exit. The second entrance is a two-story building with a height of 4 meters, long French windows on the ground, and a three-story attic with two roof windows. The exterior walls are built with granite stone, and stone carvings are embedded on the feet to record. It is indicated that "When the homeowner rebuilt the house, more than three chi (equal to 90 centimeters) of space was vacated on the east gable wall side. Although recorded by the county construction bureau, in the winter of the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the Republic of China, Zhang Jiale Hall recorded.", which has significant historical value in architecture. It was announced as a municipal-level cultural relic protection unit in June 2003 and restored to its original appearance in October 2008.
- (3) Design Requirements: Based on the basic form and structure of the building, it is required to combine with the reversible indoor space renovation with minimal disturbance, plan to create an innovative format for young people loved, so as to accurately match the needs of young people, reconstruct the spatial scene, and pulse the new life of historical buildings.

### **2.1.3 "Caozhangli" Food Street**

- (1) Information: Caozhangli is an old street running north to south, located between Yongfeng Road and Yongle Road, with a total length of less than 1 kilometer.
- (2) Overview: Caozhangli was originally a small yellow mud path in a vegetable field in Yangming Township, a suburb of Wuxi. It was not until the rise of Caozhang New Village in the 1980s that the continuous influx of popularity gradually formed the current urban lifestyle in Caozhangli. Today, Caozhangli has become the most popular food check-in spot in Wuxi, with the most authentic taste of Wuxi and becoming the “Grassroots Food Street of Wuxi”. In addition, to the south of Caozhangli, there are also a series of energetic and artistic youth social gathering venues, such as the Taihu Lake Square, Wuxi Library, Wuxi Museum and China-Japan Friendship Park, etc.
- (3) Design Requirements: The main focus shall be on the scene planning and enhancement of overall style. It aims to update and improve the traditional business forms of the old street, and strengthen the atmosphere of youth activities in the block based on the overall organization design of space and transportation streamlines, combined with the youth lifestyle and aesthetic of life.

#### **2.1.4 Liangxi District Library**

- (1) Information: Liangxi District Library is located at No. 328 Renmin East Road. The main building covers an area of approximately 2,447 square meters, with a total indoor area of approximately 10,000 square meters with five floors.
- (2) Overview: The Liangxi District Library is adjacent to the Youth Palace of Liangxi District, District Cultural Center and Renmin Road Campus of Donglin Middle School. It was rated as a first-class library by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2023. The main building has 5 floors, with the library on floors 1 and 2, as well as the archives on floors 3 to 5. Due to the relocation of the Liangxi District Archives, the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> floors will be used as the library. Therefore, it is proposed to carry out on-site renovation for all the 5 floors of the library.
- (3) Design Requirements: On the premise of ensuring that basic functions such as reading and cultural exchange are not affected, With avant-garde trend experience

as the guide, combined with innovative theme planning to integrate more new scenes, spaces and formats, it is required to expand the content attributes and activities that the library can bear, and form differentiated development with the district youth palace and cultural center, in order to establish a cultural space that meets the spiritual needs of young people, demonstrate avant-garde while highlighting cultural confidence.

### **2.1.5 Yongding Bridge Park**

- (1) Information: Yongding Bridge Park is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Xianqian West Street and Jiefang West Road, with the Huimin Parking Lot on Xianqian West Street to the south and the old moat to the west. The green area is approximately 4,095 square meters.
- (2) Overview: After the preliminary renovation, the park has been maximally adapted to meet the needs of residents, allowing them to enjoy the convenience brought by the comprehensive park as soon as they go out. Meanwhile, the combination of terrain differences in the park and the addition of characteristic pieces enriches the fun and participation of the space. In addition, the park has also carried out sponge special design based on special geological conditions, which has played a positive role in improving the ecological environment of green spaces and preventing urban waterlogging. However, the park is a traditional green space model at present. Residents only come here for walking and fitness. The time for rest and stay is limited, which is not attractive to young people.
- (3) Design Requirements: It is required to combine the urban park effect with the lifestyle of urban youth, fully utilize the terrain conditions to optimize the overall layout of the park space, enhance spatial vitality, provide leisure and relaxation places for young people with practical and specific atmosphere, and create a highly favored outdoor exquisite living area. It is recommended to include the southern parking lot in the renovation scope for overall consideration.

## 2.2 Design Principles

- **Originality:** The design should create rich and colorful spaces for local and non-local youth in Wuxi, which must be original.
- **People-oriented:** The design shall fully consider the actual needs of the youth community and create youth-friendly urban spaces.
- **Sustainability:** The design shall need to consider the sustainability of scene planning, venue operation and other aspects. Meanwhile, under the premise of meeting basic needs, more public service functions can be endowed through intensive use of land, breaking the thinking inertia of traditional design and providing creative designs that combine functional complexity and practicality.
- **Regionality:** The design should deeply interpret urban culture, take into account the current situation and future development of the surrounding area, comprehensively consider the needs of surrounding citizens or tourists, and carry out targeted design.
- **Prospective:** The innovation is encouraged such as the use of new technologies and methods to ensure the avant-garde and creativity of works, so as to foresee and lead future development. It is recommended to pay attention to concepts of green environmental protection and methods of new energy utilization. If AI tools are applied to generate drawings and videos, please indicate specifically.
- **Practicality:** The design should fully consider the operability of materials, construction forms and other aspects. Meanwhile, it should consider the economic rationality of construction costs, avoid exaggerated shapes and excessive design.

## 2.3 Design Types

The design types can be various, and participants can freely express themselves, including architecture, landscape, sculpture and installation, etc. However, it is required that the project as a whole should be creative with the new urban scenes and new formats that young people love as the core for thinking and innovative design,



based on the site conditions and the theme of the competition, so as to effectively activate the vitality and regeneration of the city, as well as form a unique personality and cultural tone of the “Old Town” of the Greater Jiangnan Area.

### **3. Competition procedure**

#### **3.1 Registration**

##### 3.1.1 Recruitment

The competition is open to all young designers, artists, teams of teachers and students worldwide in the fields of urban planning, architecture, landscape, environmental art, regarding urban furniture, landscape, art design and other methods as its carriers. Meanwhile, interdisciplinary professionals and practitioners are also encouraged to participate. The competition expects all the young designers to participate in the research of youth development city construction, and collect design works that are both pioneering, creative, practical, foresee and could lead future development.

##### 3.1.2 Team Organization

Individual or team participants are both acceptable. If participating in the competition as a team, team members should be no more than four people. Each team should designate a team leader to be responsible for future contact. Teams or individuals can submit design sketches or text ideas at the same time when registering (if you have). Meanwhile, each team can also have 1 advisor to participate in the competition.

##### 3.1.3 Registration

For registration, please log in the website: <http://youngcitywuxi.cbcuri.com/>, click ‘register’ to sign in and fill in the information;

#### **3.2 Submission**

##### 3.2.1 Submit electronic works

Participants must submit electronic works (including panels and related documents). The competition committee will not accept any paper works. All entries will be printed and displayed unified.

### 3.2.2 Original Work

The entries must be original works, and the relevant patents belong to the participating team (or individual), and must not infringe on the rights and intellectual property rights of others. Meanwhile, projects that have been implemented, won awards or published in other competitions are not allowed. Panels and videos which are generated by AI tools, please indicate.

### 3.2.3 Works Submission

Please submit the digital edition of drawings and other documents to: [wuxicompetition@cbcure.com](mailto:wuxicompetition@cbcure.com)

## 3.3 Jury Review

The competition committee have invited renowned architects in planning, architecture, landscape and other professionals to form the final review jury panel and evaluate the entries for the competition. The winning work will have the opportunity to be implemented.

## 3.4 Q&A

Inquiries and questions related to the competition will be responded to via e-mail: [wuxicompetition@cbcure.com](mailto:wuxicompetition@cbcure.com). Only the team leader will be contacted when necessary if participates as a team.

## 3.5 Schedule

Phase	Date	Work Content
Phase I	September 20, 2024	Release of the open call
Phase II	December 31, 2024	Deadline for Registration
Phase III	February 20, 2025	Deadline for Work Submission
	March, 2025	Jury Review
Note: The specific time is subject to the final notice on competition official website		

## 4. Submission

### 4.1 Submission Requirements

#### 4.1.1 Submission Contents

- (1) Each group of works corresponds to one site, and each team can submit multiple groups of works
- (2) Final work A0 panel ×2, landscape orientation
- (3) Other supporting materials, including design brochure, electronic model, etc. (If needed).

#### 4.1.2 Layout and Format Requirements

- (1) The panel size shall be A0(1189mm x 841mm) Landscape orientation, 2 panel required for each site. Provide panels that can fully express the creative intention of the work, for example, location analysis diagram, scenario planning, master plan, rendering, plan and elevation section diagram, key node magnification diagram and analysis diagram. As well as design description of about 500 words, there are no limits on the scale and effect of all drawings on panel.
- (2) Other supporting materials (including design brochure, electronic model, etc.) can be submitted
- (3) Please submit the drawing layout (300 dpi, long side is more than 1500 pixels) in the version of jpg. And name the picture according to the content (such as XXX

plan 1)

## **4.2 Submission Method and other documents**

Documents submitted should be classified according to the following requirements:

- (1) Folder named ‘Panel’ : Place 2 panels (named according to the work+panel number) in one folder;
- (2) Folders named ‘Identification’ : Participants from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and international should provide passports scanned copies. Students should also provide scanned copies of their student id cards. If participating as a team, all team members’ certificates scanned copies are required. (no more than 4 team members and no more than 1 instructor in each group).
- (3) Folders named ‘others’ : videos and other design description files;
- (4) Package the “Panel”, "Identification" and "Others" folders in ZIP or RAR format, with the size of 50M-100M in total.
- (5) Please submit panels and related documents in electronic version, email named ‘Site name+Work title’ . Please submit the work  
to: wuxicompetition@cbsuri.com

## **4.3 Submission Language and Unit**

### **4.3.1 Submission Language**

The official language of the competition is Chinese and English (English must be included in the language of title and main design description). Chinese and English drawings are required by Chinese competitors; English drawings are required by international competitors.

### **4.3.2 Submission Unit**

International Measurement Units (Meters, Millimeters, etc.)

## **5. Competition Regulation**

Individual participants and groups shall agree with and follow the competition requirements and regulations. The organizing committee reserves its right of final interpretation.

- (1) Entries with words or pictures relating to the name or department of participants in the digital drawings will be disqualified from the competition.
- (2) Participants have the copyright, while the organization committee can exercise all other rights except authorship.
- (3) Entries will not be accepted if found to be published under others' name or in other competitions.
- (4) Juries cannot act as advisors to participants; otherwise participants will be disqualified from the competition.

## **6. Contacts**

Competition official email: [wuxicompetition@cbcuri.com](mailto:wuxicompetition@cbcuri.com)