

PROJECT SYNOPSIS FORM

(TEMPLATE 3)

This information is concealed from the jury during the judging process. Complete the form, print it out, and attach to the front cover of the Entry Binder, behind the *Project Credits Form* with a binder clip or paperclip (please do not staple). The form will be removed prior to the jury review of the Entry Binder. Also, save a copy of the completed form on the CD/DVD submission in a word-processing application (i.e. Microsoft Word, rich text, text or document files, etc.).

This shall be a synopsis (75 words maximum) that will be read during the 2011 FLASLA Awards Gala and printed in the 2011 FLASLA Design Awards Publication and other Florida Chapter Public Relations efforts if your project receives an award. Entry Anonymity is not necessary in the synopsis.

NOTE: FLASLA will edit any synopsis exceeding 75 words.

Project Category: Planning and Analysis

Project Name: Crosswaters Ecolodge

Brief Synopsis (75 words or less):

The success of the Crosswaters Ecolodge is a result of the cutting-edge quadruple bottom line approach applied during the early planning phases of the project and carried out through an in-depth environmental, social and metaphysical analysis. Through research and study of the flora, fauna and geography of the site along with experiencing the local people and their culture, a truly authentic ecolodge experience was developed. An experience which fully celebrates and enhances its beautiful setting.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(TEMPLATE 4)

Project Category: Planning and Analysis

Project Name: Crosswaters Ecolodge

Project Location (city/state/zip): Nankun Mountain Reserve, Guangdong Province, China

Date of Completion: 2007

Narrative Summary: Longmen Mt. Nankun Zhongheng Ecotourism Development Co. Ltd., a company owned by Chinese Nationals, developed the goal to develop the first ecotourism destination in China in the forests of Nankun Shan Mountain Reserve, Guangdong Province, South China. The team employing a cutting-edge quadruple bottom line approach: not only protect the existing forest biodiversity, but enhance it; not only involve the local people but also help them benefit from the development; not only inject much needed capital into the local economy but also make a profit; not only respect the spirit of the place but enrich it through thoughtful, sensitive sustainable planning and design.

Nankun Shan Mountain Nature Reserve is located in Central Guangdong and 80 miles from Guangzhou. The reserve was established in 1984, and its major objective is to protect the subtropical evergreen broadleaf forest. The nature reserve lies within the boundaries of the Nankun Shan Forest Park, which covers an area of 260 sq. kms. There are over 1,300 plants to be found in the park with over 30 sq. kms of Bamboo, the main species being the *Phyllostachys pubescens*.

The landscape architects carried out an in-depth environmental, social and metaphysical analysis consisting of three different on-site visits (one week each) during winter, spring and summer where time was spent on the site first understanding and then studying the lives of the local Keija people, who make up the majority of the population on the Mountain. Of particular interest were their internal spaces and relationships to gardens and philosophical connections with the Bamboo. We also looked for clues and responses from what we observed; drainage, existing agriculture, water levels, seasonal visitor traffic and industry.

From the physical topography base map provided by the client, we used GIS to generate several layers; Watershed, Vegetation, Hydrology and Land Use. We also used GIS add-ons Spatial Analyst and 3-D Analyst to create slope, elevation, slope aspect analysis and 3-D terrain analysis layers from which we identified the optimum locations for the various buildings.

For the metaphysical site analysis we brought in a local renowned *Feng Shui* master with over 20 years experience to help us analyze the 'chi' (chinese word for energy) of the site. South China is the center of *Feng Shui* beliefs and thought processes and we felt that the local cultural and spiritual values needed to be respected. It was crucial that the 'chi' of the site not be disturbed during development.

The local people were brought into the planning process from day one. Members of the local council and leading citizens from the main village made valuable contributions. There was significant community participation in the preparation of the ecotourism and Crosswaters Ecolodge plan and we received regular feedback on the various alternatives that were presented to the client and local people.

Bamboo is called the "*friend of the people*" in China because of its diverse use in everything from food and cooking to furniture, paper, musical instruments, boats and houses. The Crosswaters Ecolodge project is a celebration of the bamboo, reflecting its context with the surrounding bamboo forests.

The landscape architects researched and analyzed ancient Chinese gardens, e.g., Tao, Shouzhou and Imperial Gardens to understand the relationships between inside-outside and orientations of buildings and gardens. This research was then used in the planning and design of the various gardens throughout the property.

A truly international consultant team was assembled including the top two Bamboo designers in the world. The core consultant team represented all six continents of the world. The rest of the expertise was local, both from academic and professional fields. Some of the most well renowned professors in Southern China provided input in ecology, ornithology, plant selection, horticulture and tourism planning. Crosswaters Ecolodge is truly an experience that draws a worldwide audience eager to learn about the surrounding ecosystems while giving back to the local community all in devotion to the highest standards of responsible design and implementation.

SITE PLAN



clubhouse & swimming pool

single story mountain villas

star gazing tower

spa and meditation area

bamboo bridge, restaurant
conference & reception

lotus garden

presidential villas

back of house

sunaping villas

luxury villas

butterfly garden

sunaping double
story villas

observatory

tea house & fine dining restaurant

botanical garden &
garden of cultivation

garden of reflection

ecolodge entry gate

welcome center

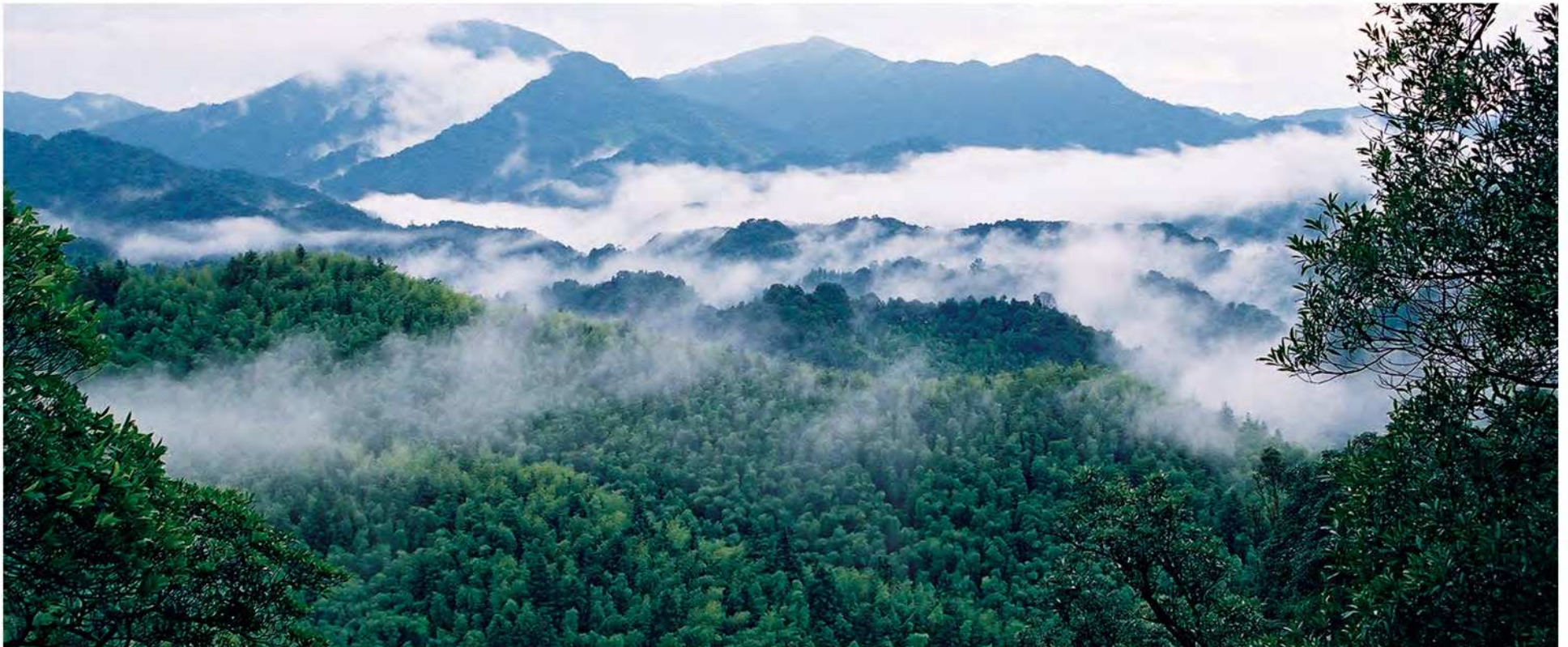
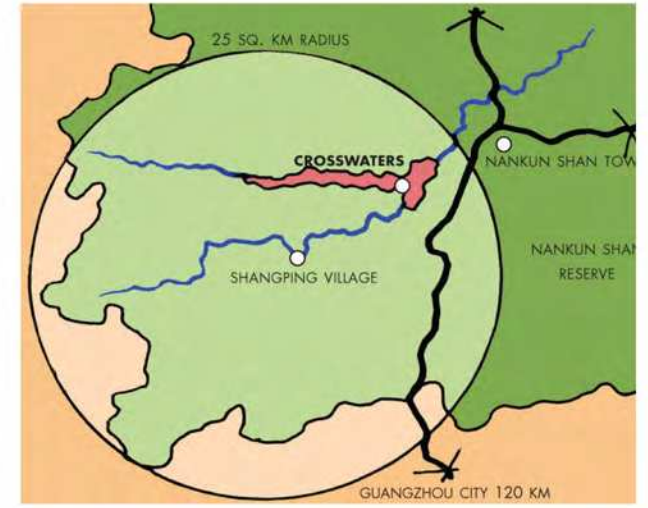
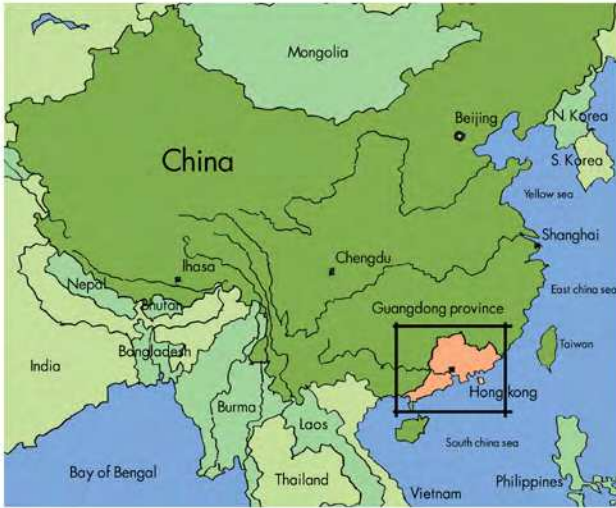
swimming hole

seven sages garden

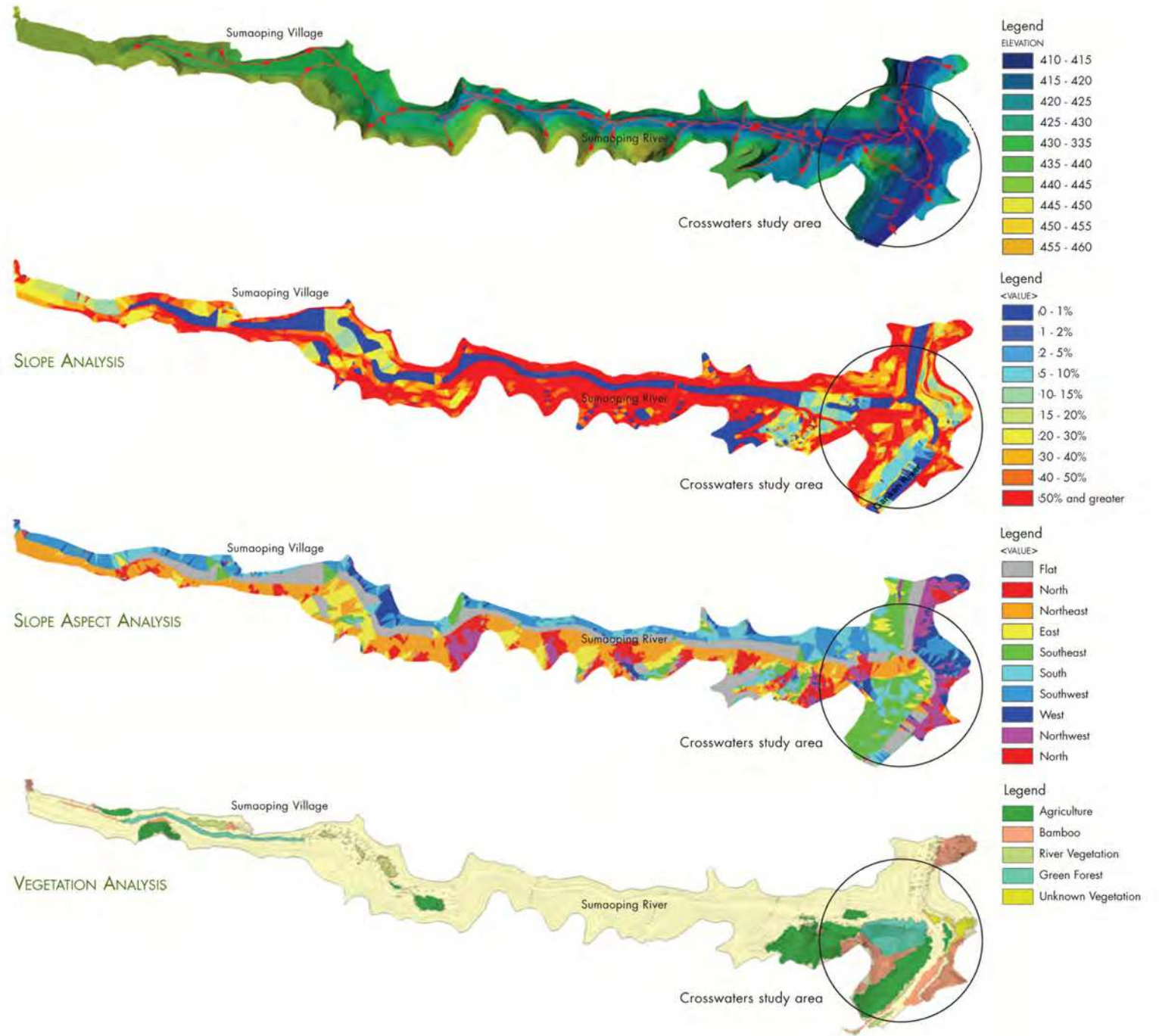
bamboo villas

NORTH
not to scale

LOCATION



ANALYSIS - Riparian Corridor



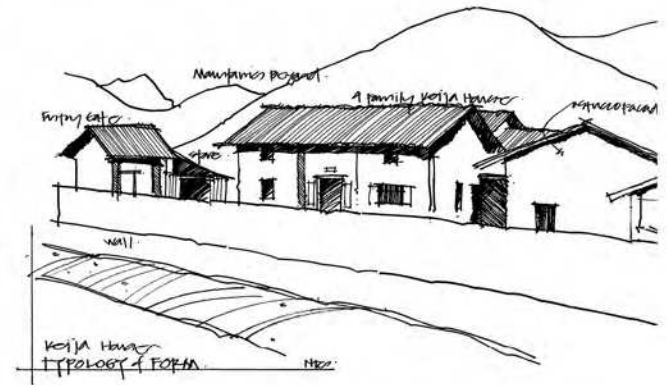
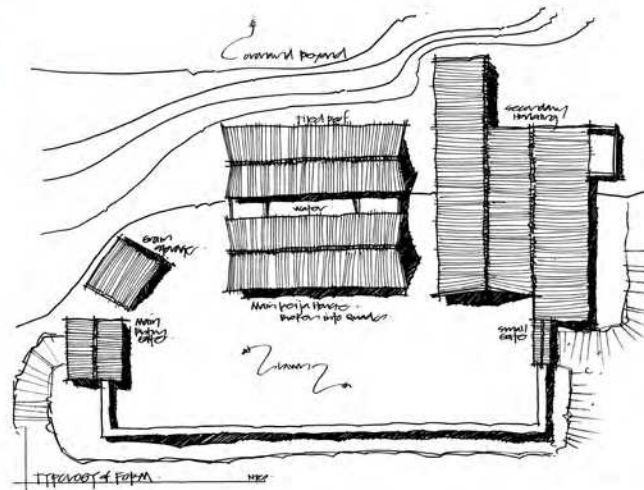




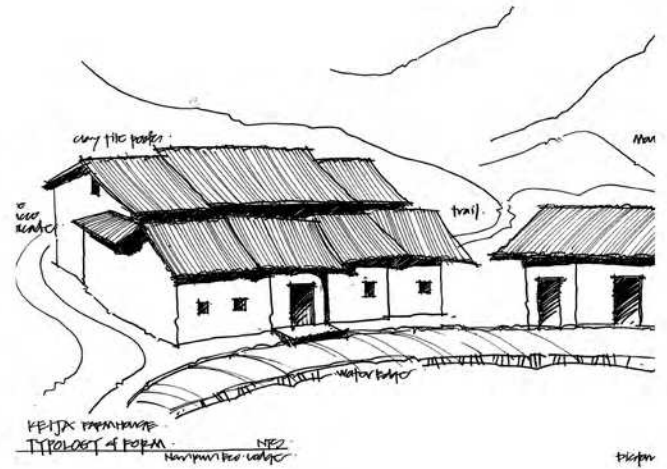
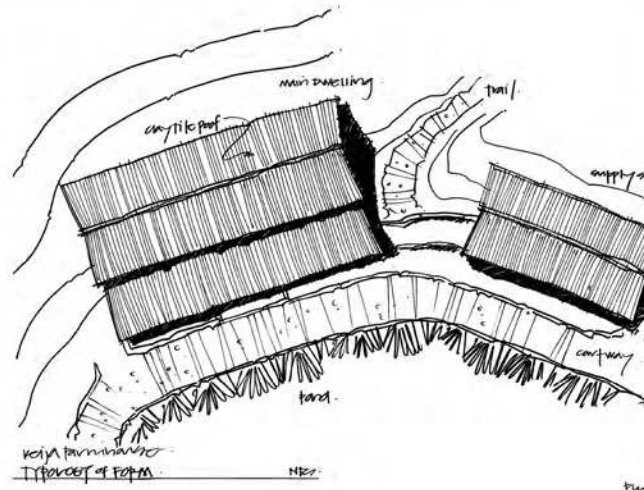
ANALYSIS - Typology of Form

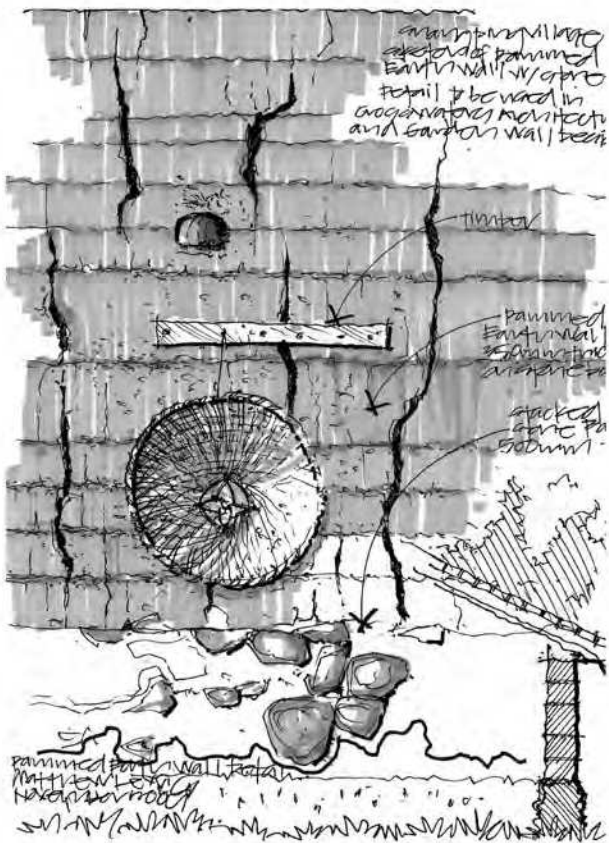


Shangping Village Keija Style House

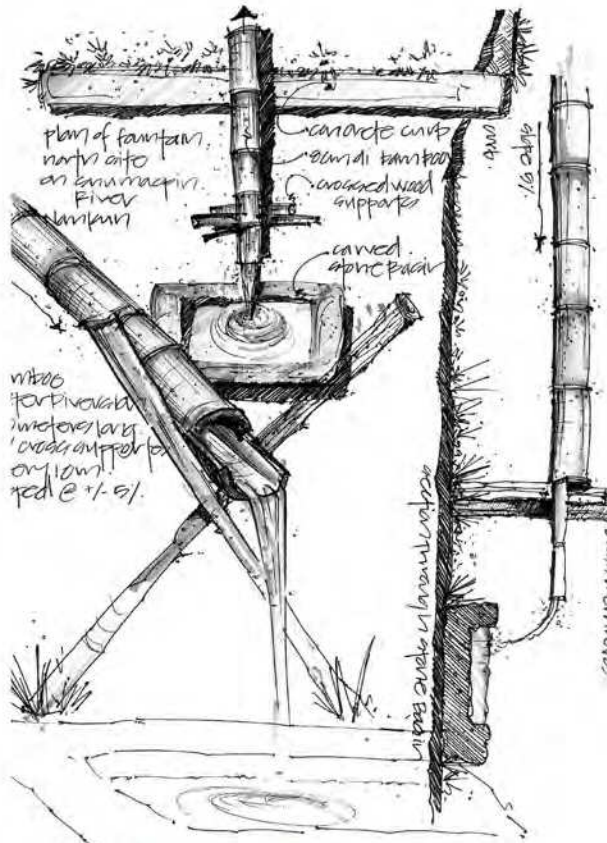


Mountain Village House

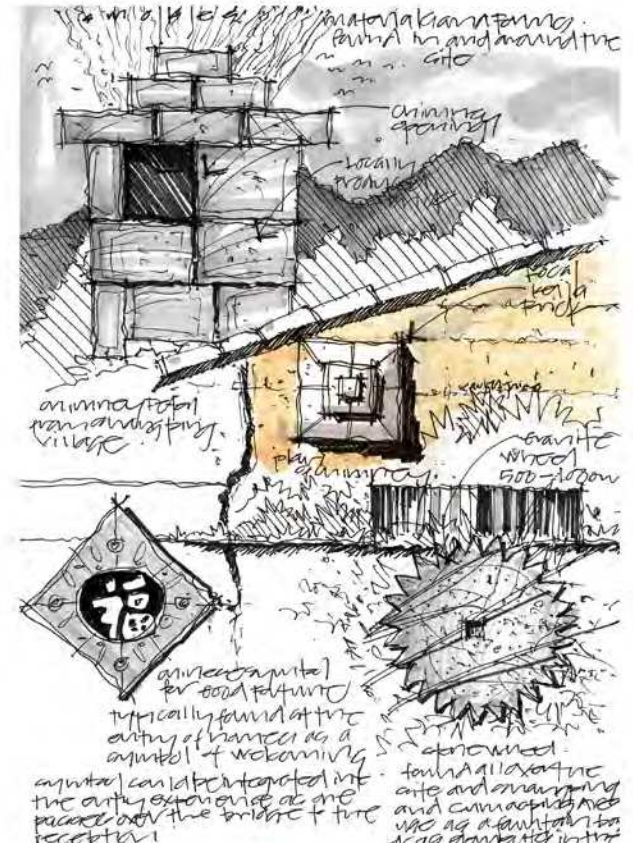




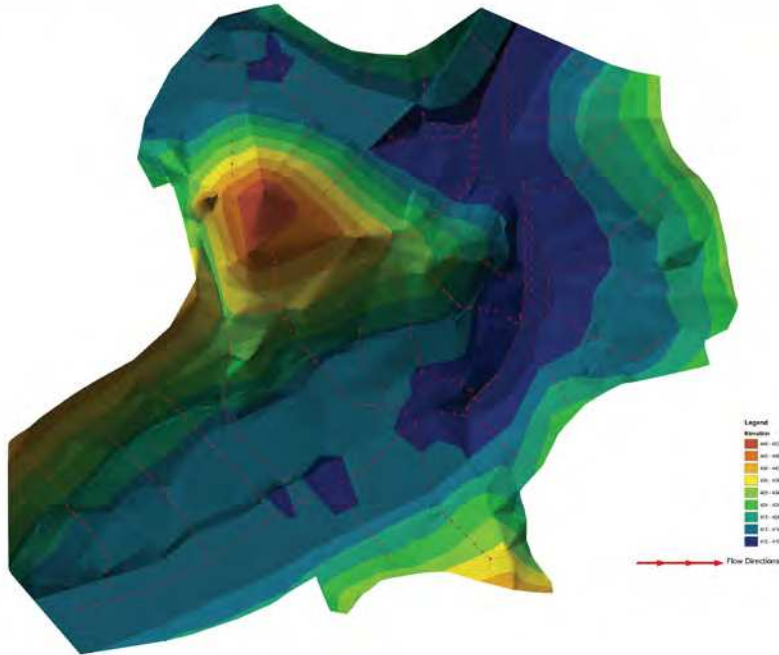
Detail of Rammed Earth Wall



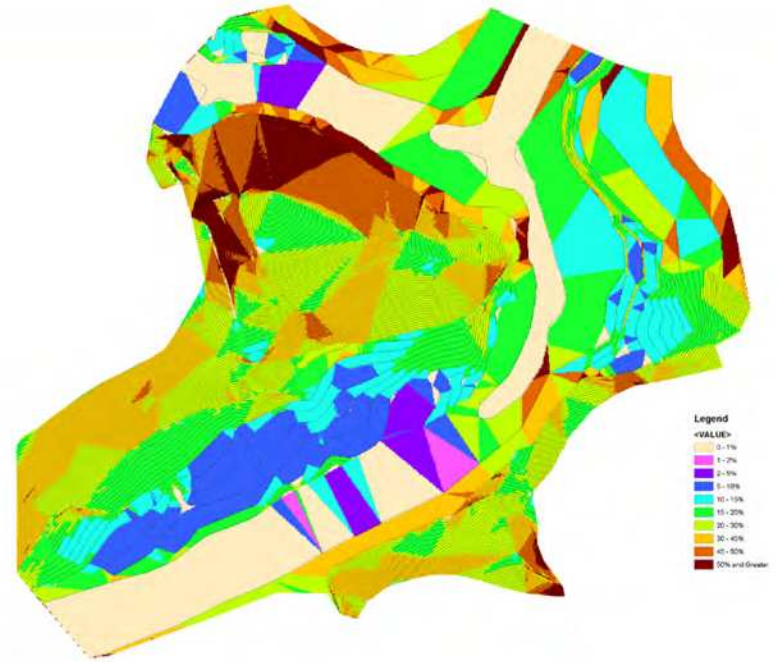
Detail of Bamboo Fountain



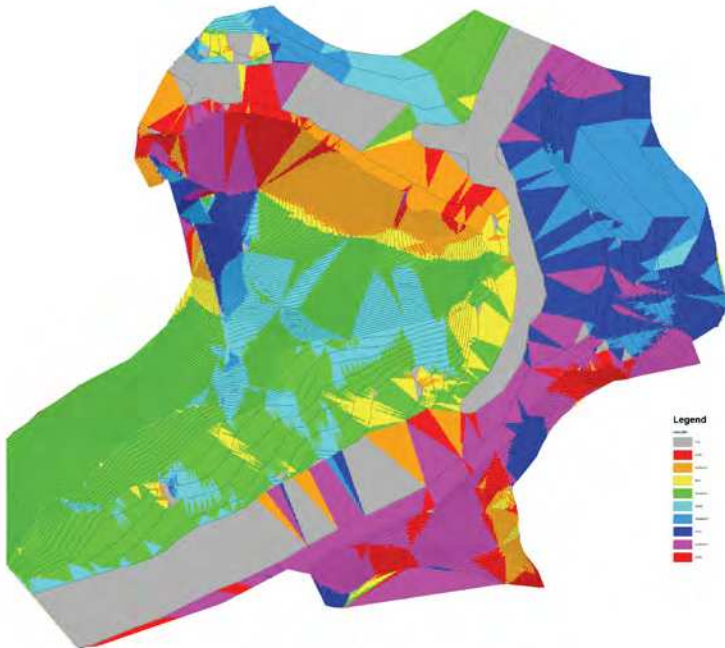
Detail of Roof and Landscape Elements



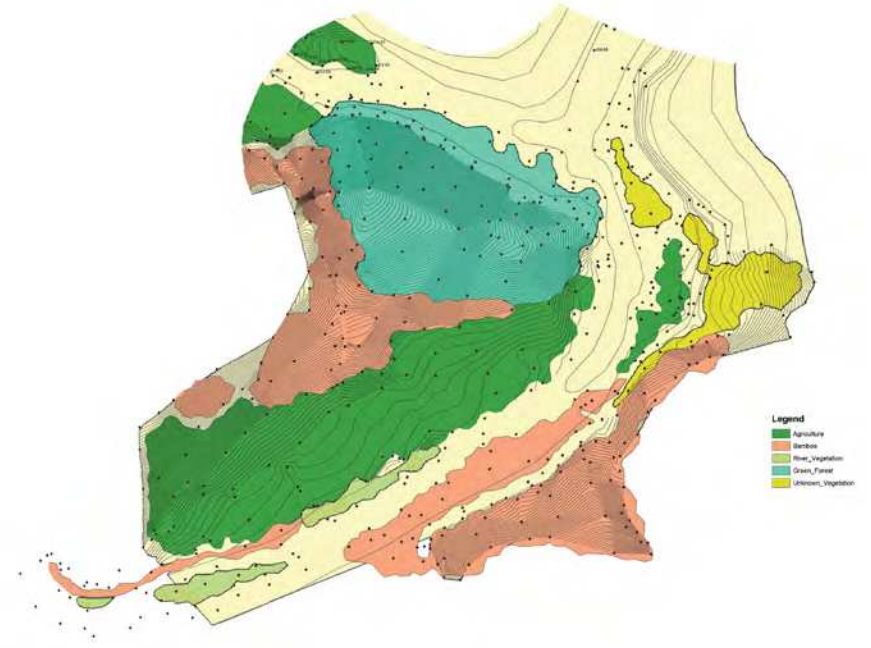
Elevation and Hydrology Analysis



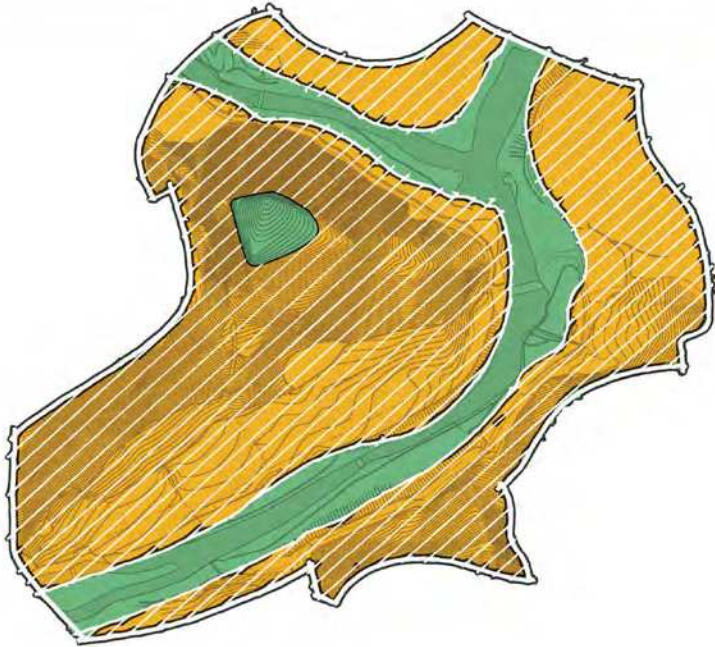
Slope Analysis



Slope Aspect Analysis



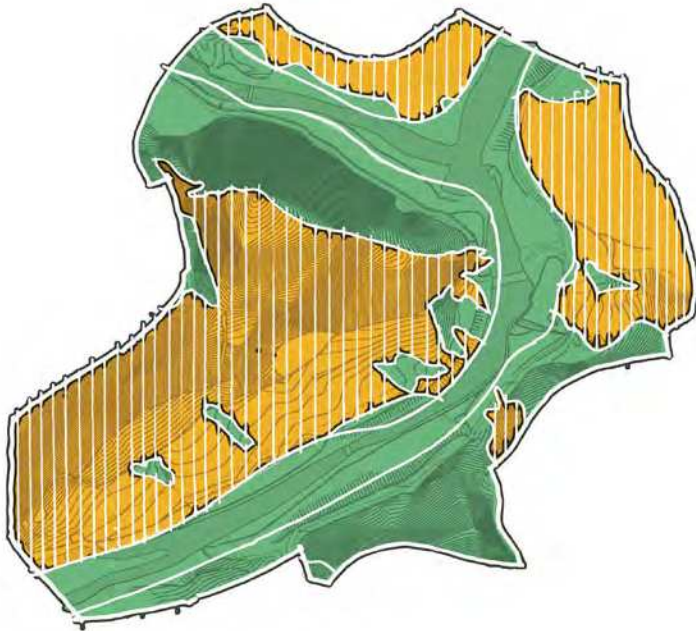
Vegetation Analysis



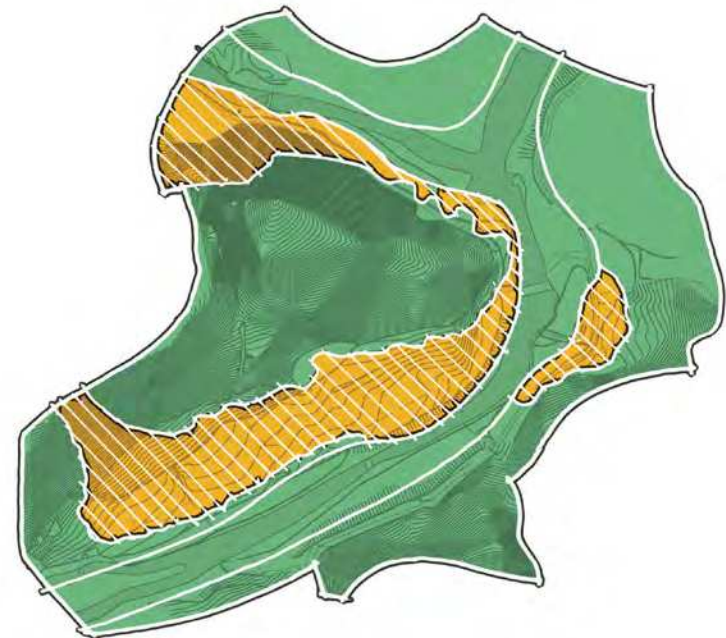
Elevation and Hydrology Suitability



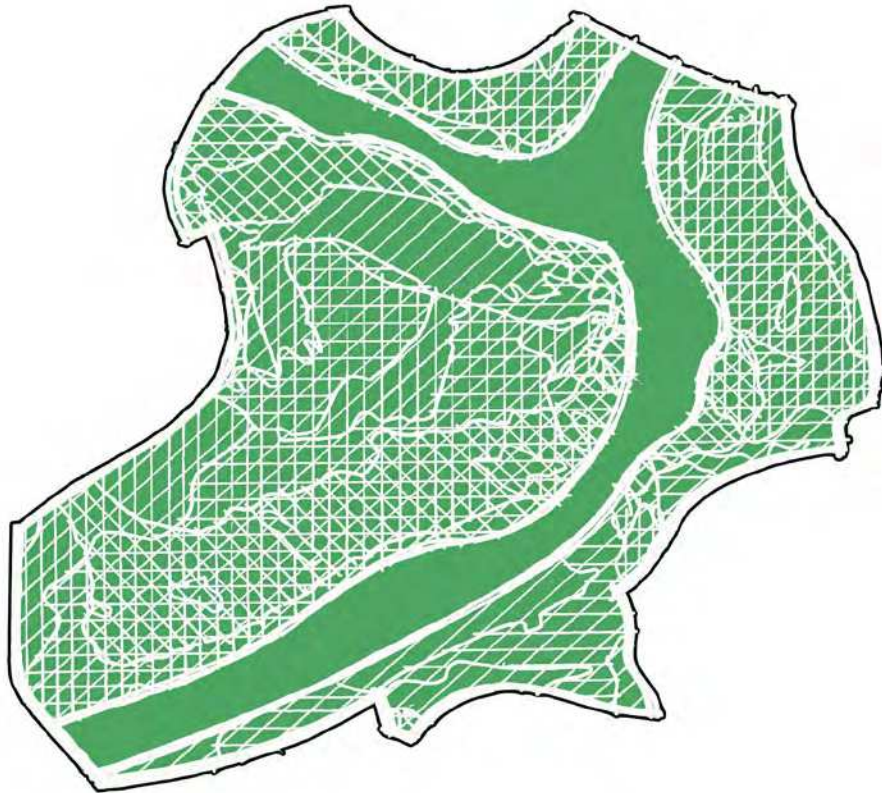
Slope Suitability



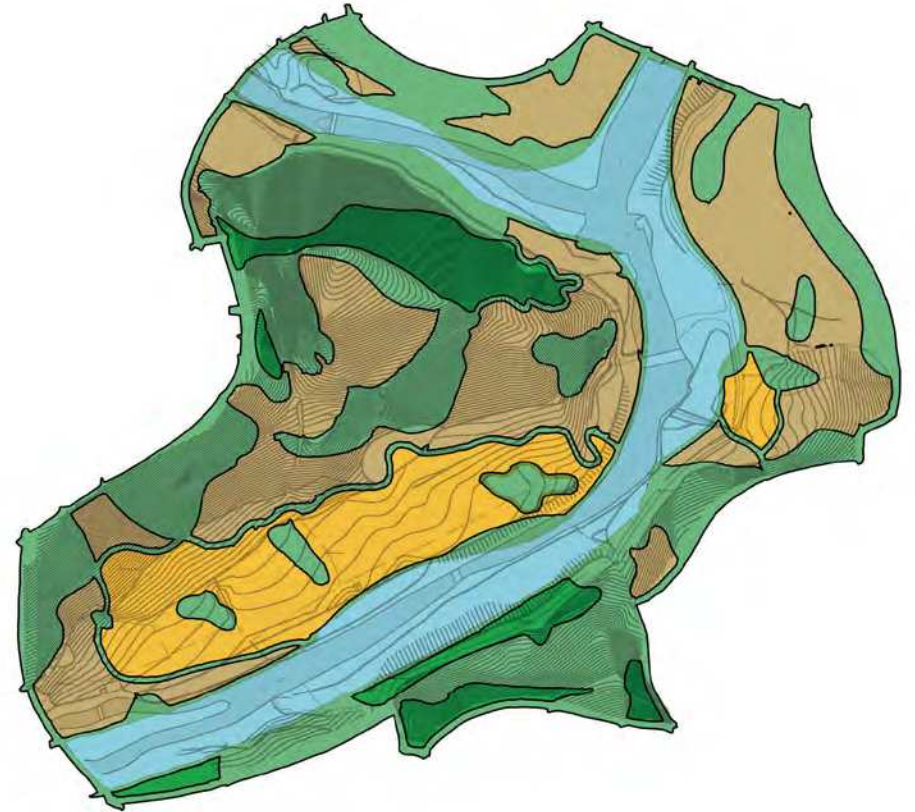
Slope Aspect Suitability



Vegetation Suitability



Individual Composite Overlays



Final Composite Analysis

ANALYSIS - Opportunities and Constraints



PEAR GROVE
 - opportunities for cultural continuity
 - maintain grove ambience



EXISTING BUILDING
 - opportunities for reinstating vernacular architecture



VALLEY FLOOR
 - brilliant variations of green
 - steep walls



THE RIVER
 - clear slow flowing river
 - maintain river edge
 - constrained by access



ENTRY EXPERIENCE
 - beautiful bamboo stands
 - opportunities for creating entry experience



BAMBOO ECOSYSTEM
 - densely vegetated
 - enhance ecosystem
 - opportunities for using bamboo in project



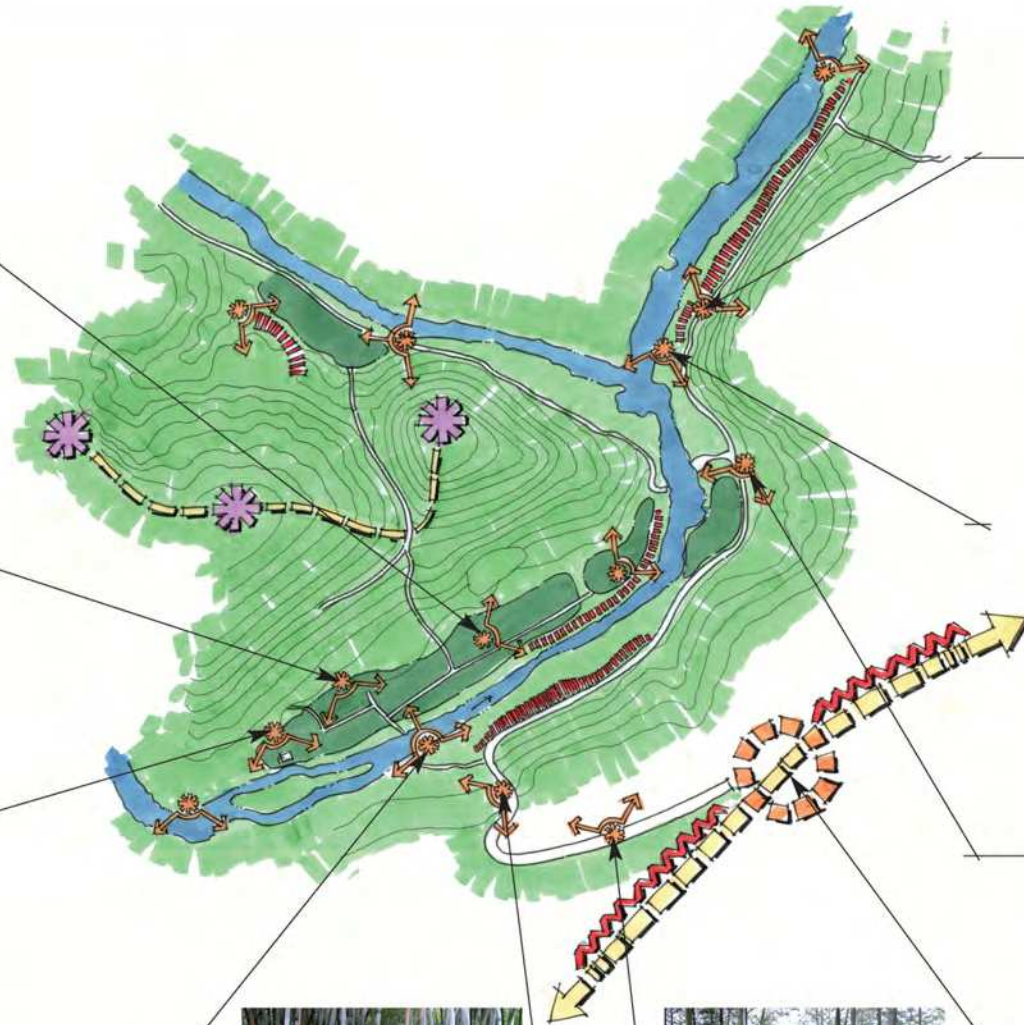
VALLEY EDGE
 - constraints of space
 - opportunities for privacy



CONFLUENCE
 - most scenic spot on site
 - great feng shui 'chi'
 - opportunities for welcome area

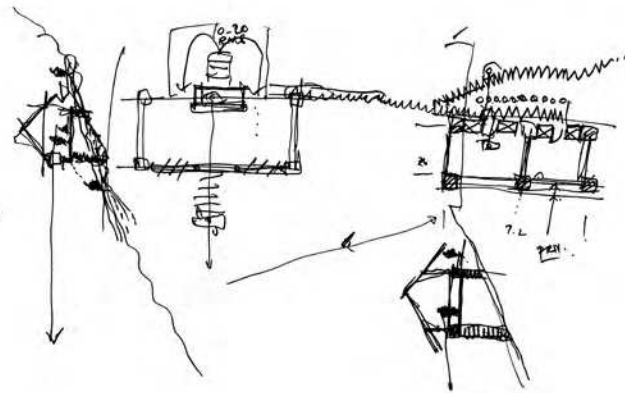
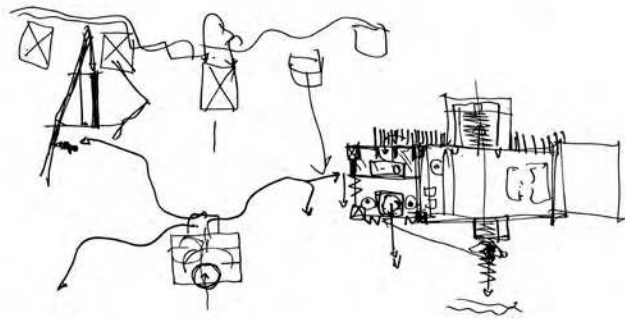
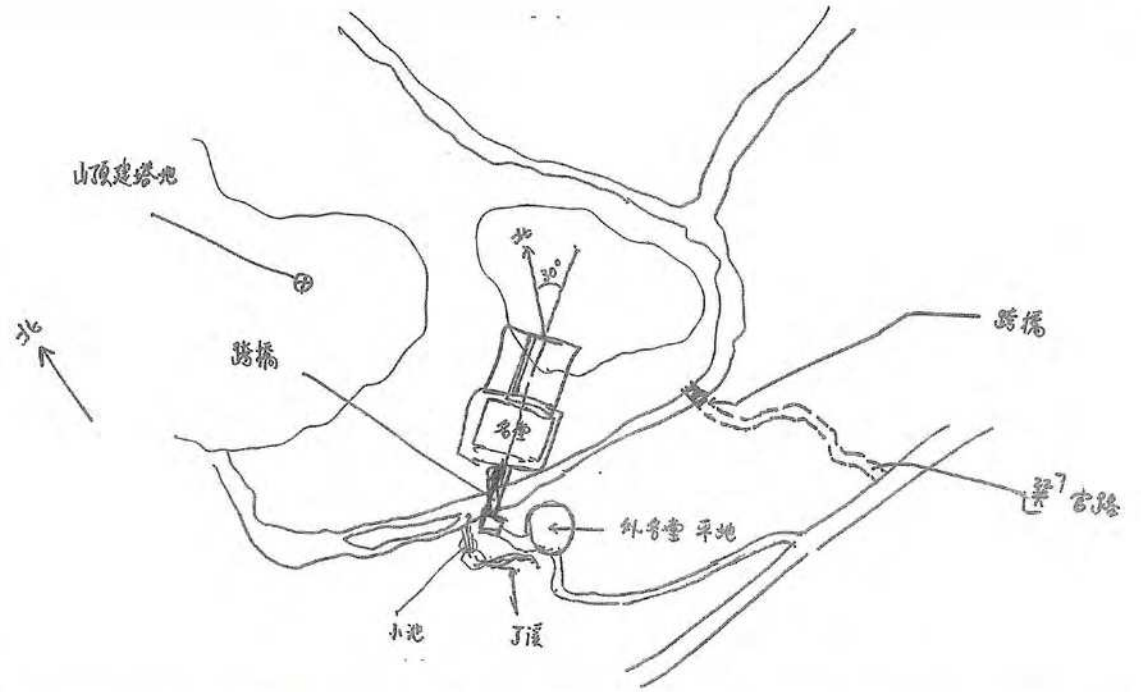
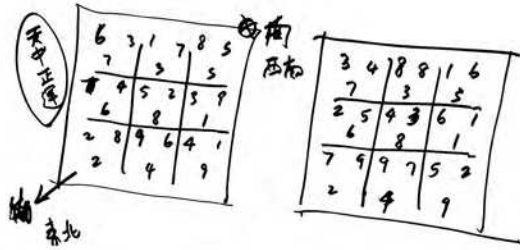


ORANGE GROVE
 - existing squatter grove
 - opportunities for organic garden
 - use of fertilizers



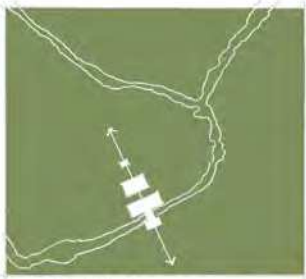
MAIN ENTRY





PLANNING - Overall Conceptual Master Plan





Feng Shui Axis



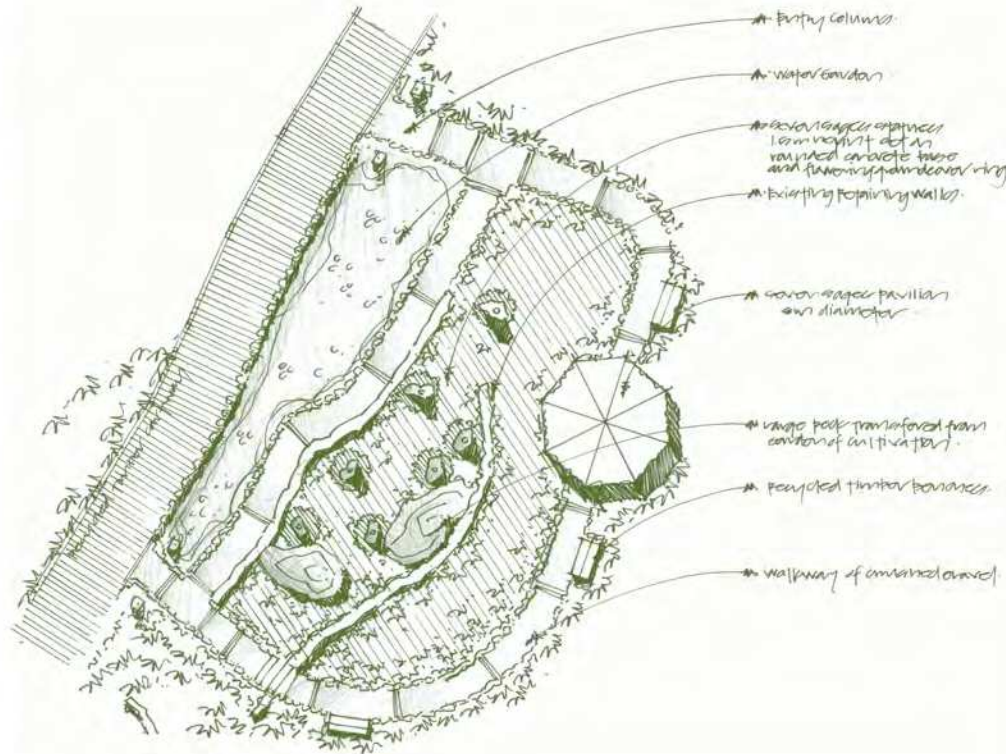
Building Clusters



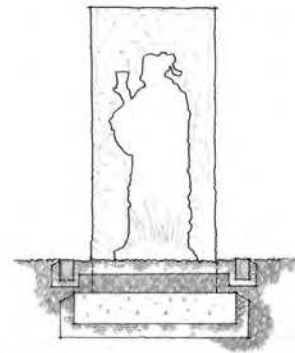
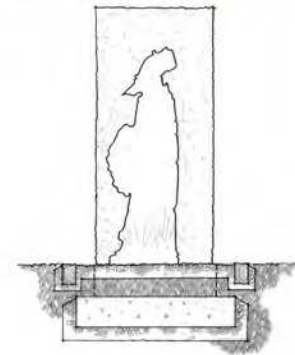
Circulation



Garden Spaces

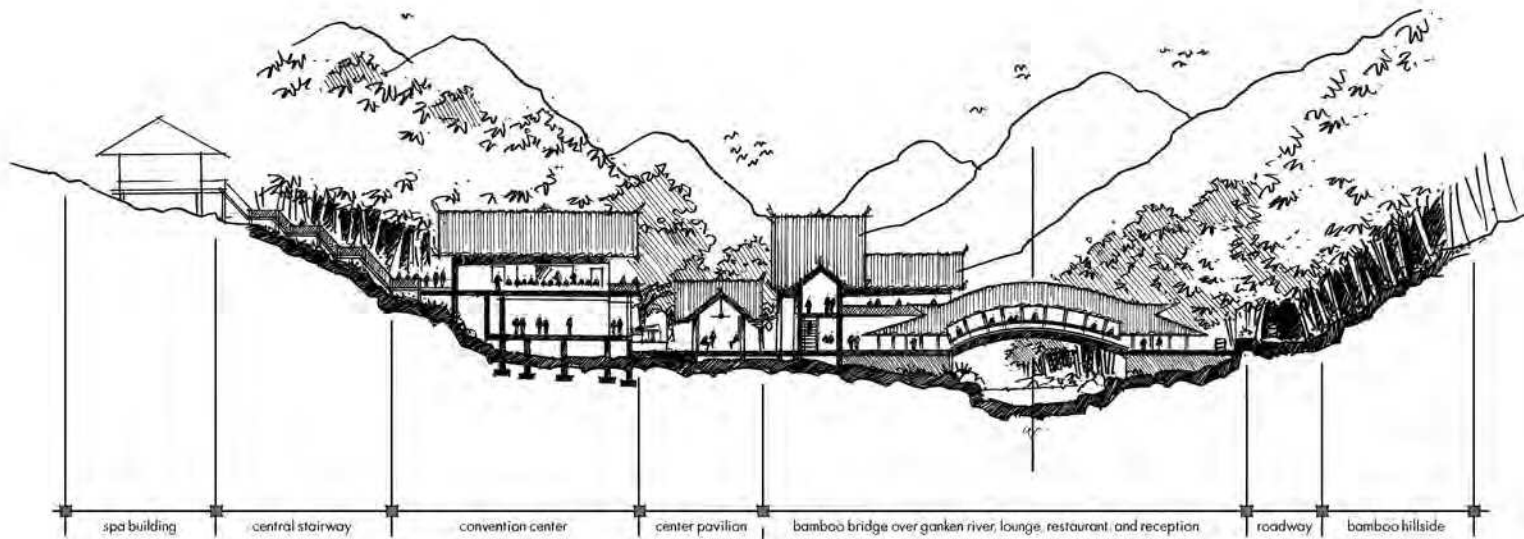
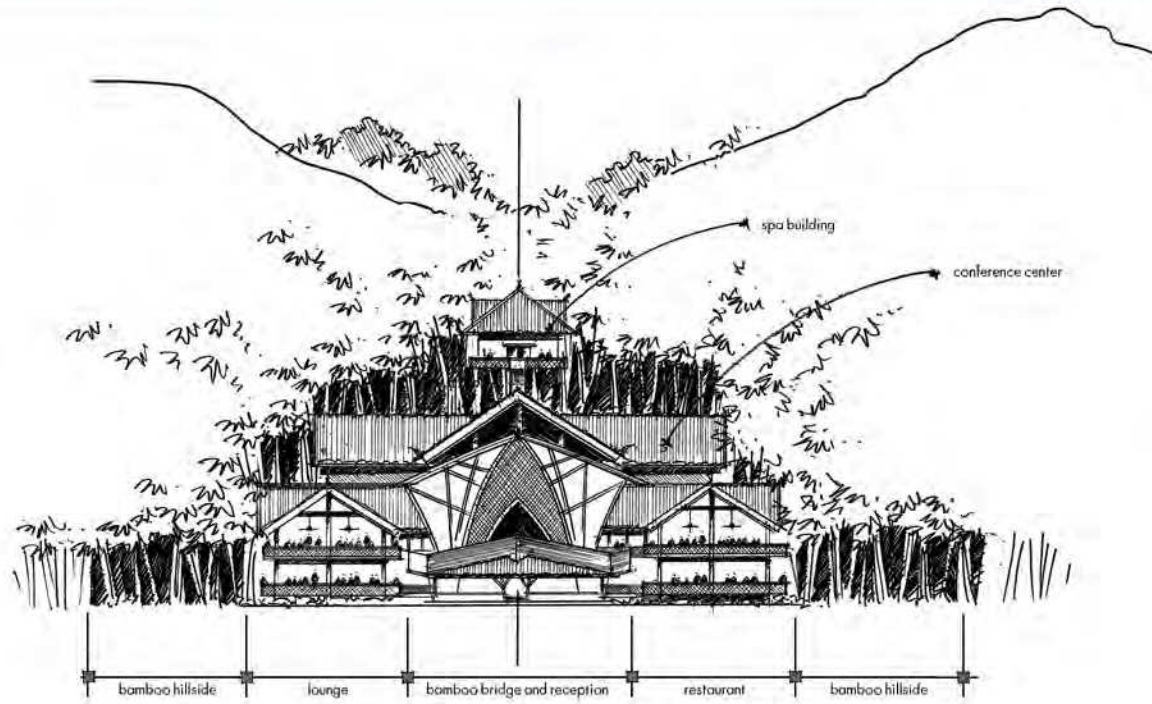


Chinese Painting of the Seven Stages of the Bamboo Grove Used for Research and Inspiration



Sculptural Gardens Elements

PLANNING - Ecolodge Site Selection and Elevation





WRITTEN DESCRIPTIONS

PA05-01 This series of maps show the location of Crosswaters Ecolodge in context to the Nankun Shan Mountain Reserve, Guangdong Province and the China Region. The photo illustrates the beauty, topography and bamboo forested hills of the Reserve.

PA05-02 Existing site surveys and GIS Spatial Analyst was used to generate studies of hydrology, elevation, vegetation, slope and slope aspect to determine possible site locations for the Ecolodge. Once on site, the design team compared initial observations to actual site conditions to further narrow the areas for development.

PA05-03 The initial site visit unlocked a rich culture with individual elements and unique details becoming a guiding force in establishing character and style that reflected the elements that make this region special.

PA05-04 As part of the on-site social and environmental data gathering, meetings, interviews and workshops were conducted with the local Keija tribe. Winning the trust of the local government and community was crucial to the success of the project.

PA05-05 Site analytical studies were conducted of authentic Keija house form typologies showing inside-outside relationships and connection to the surrounding landscape, outdoor spaces and gardens. Local village planning, building construction, the way building forms relate to each other and to the landscape were very important.

PA05-06 Sketching techniques were utilized to capture the 'chi' (energy) of the Keija village neighboring Crosswaters Ecolodge. These 'genius loci' studies were part of the initial presentation to clients.

PA05-07 After the site was selected for the Ecolodge, GIS Spatial Analyst was again used to study site specific watersheds, elevations, slope for development purposes, slope aspects for feng shui and vegetation to understand previously disturbed areas.

PA05-08 These series of drawings show the most suitable areas of development for each one of the various components. Development on slopes was limited to 0-25%. Development was limited to areas outside the 100 year flood zone and 30 meters below the high point.

PA05-09 All the suitability analysis maps were layered to create a composite map which illustrates the most optimal areas to develop while causing the least impact on the site.

PA05-10 Both objective and subjective analysis (feng shui) were utilized to identify the opportunities and constraints of the Crosswaters Ecolodge Site.

PA05-11 A feng shui master analyzed the preliminary master plan and provided invaluable input on the energy flows of the site and directions of the main axis of the project.

PA05-12 Crosswaters Ecolodge is located in a beautiful 'feng shui' site where two rivers meet each other surrounded by mountains. The whole site plan follows feng shui principles with the main building situated along a '3 degrees of magnetic north' axis.

PA05-13 These sketches dissect the master plan and provide valuable information on the major planning concepts such as building clusters, circulation and garden spaces. These studies helped to further refine the Conceptual Plan and also lead to refined garden philosophies.

PA05-14 A series of sections and elevations were produced to study cross river connections, building placement within the landscape, building character and maintenance of natural water flow to the rivers.

PA05-15 Construction photos illustrate the use of local materials in the building of main entry bridge (bamboo), villa walls (rammed earth), roofs (recycled clay tiles), and boardwalk (reused railway ties).