Abstract

CREATIVE PROJECT: Applying Transit-oriented Development Principles to Growing Chinese Cities: The Case of Jiubao, Hangzhou, China
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China has experienced urbanization challenges over the past two decades. Increasing urban population, traffic congestion, and ecological deterioration have become critical issues. A typical solution to these urbanization problems is to expand city boundaries, development regions, and sectors. The trend is to transfer population, industrial zones, and new commercial centers to new growing areas and relieve the pressure of urban centers. In addition to narrowing the gap in wealth, growing areas aim to absorb people to live, play, invest, and work by providing more job opportunities, affordable housing prices, and better living environments. Jiubao, a town near Hangzhou, is following this pattern. According to the policy of “Industry to the East, Tourism to the West,” Jiubao has attracted much attention since 2007. With the promotion of a new city plan, Jiubao has developed tremendously in recent years. As a result, the growing area faces new issues. Farmland degeneration, rapid immigration, and environmental pollution are jeopardizing quality of life in Jiubao. This thesis
identifies the existing problems, discusses the methodology, and proposes a solution for growing areas during the urbanization process. Focusing on Jiubao as an example, I intend to define the problem and develop sustainable design for the town to reduce the existing impacts.

Transit-oriented development is a strategy to integrate transit and land use by focusing development around a transit station. The goals of TOD are to build higher-density communities, create pedestrian-friendly environments, and emphasize mixed-use development within walkable distance of transit stations to increase ridership and provide easy access to the range of essential daily services. The proposal will add a new transit center, commercial markets, and central park. Also, real estate developments include large affordable housing projects and high-quality residential districts.