ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Hongjin Community--Improve Migrants’ Lives in Shanghai Through Community Redesign

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This project concerns informal settlements and the lives of migrants in urban Shanghai. The project recognizes informal settlements as a reasonable and valuable form of urban development that should be respected during rapid urban expansion. The primary goal of this project is to develop site-specific upgrading strategies to improve the informal Hongjin community in south urban Shanghai.

The research methods include literature review, case study, and field study. The literature review explores political background in China and migration and urban development history in Shanghai. Also, case study specifically focuses on renewal projects carried out in informal settlements worldwide. The field study explores existing strengths, problems, and potential opportunities in the selected site. The field study also
includes observations and interviews with residents to help define their needs and preferences, which are translated into design elements and integrated into the final plan.

The primary goals of creating a healthy and safe community, reducing environmental impact, encouraging economic activities, and preserving cultural context are established through the full understanding of the site contexts and successful case studies. The final design proposes low-impact and adaptable renewal approaches for the selected site and develops five specific site designs to further illustrate the solutions.

Three main focus areas in this project are reorganizing circulation networks, improving basic infrastructure, and creating multi-functional public spaces. This research concludes that spaces and facilities that accommodate circulation, recreation, education, and agricultural production will achieve social, environmental, and economic benefits.