

Listening to the Wild: Everyday Coexistence Between Humans and Non-humans in Sai Sha Village



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Designed by

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/Yanny



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Problem

Mainstream views tend to simplify human–animal relationships, but these differ from how Sai Sha villagers actually live and coexist with animals.



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Mainstream perspective

- Focuses on risk and control
- Frames human–animal relations as conflict and danger
- Overlooks local lived experiences

Current Situation in Sai Sha

- Villagers and animals coexist in everyday life
- Animals are not perceived as a threat
- Relationships are grounded in lived experience



Conflict

- Gap between mainstream understanding vs. local experience
- Local coexistence knowledge is overlooked



How can we learn from villagers' everyday experiences to understand and translate human–animal coexistence into design?

Objectives

- **Understand Coexistence:** Learn from villagers' everyday experiences through observation and dialogue
- **Design with Empathy:** Use understanding and empathy to shape human–animal relationships
- **Reconnect with Nature:** Encourage people to listen to their inner awareness and feel nature

Primary Audience

Sai Sha villagers

- Recognising their lived experiences
- Enabling their voices and storytelling

Secondary Audience

General public / outsiders

- Reframing perception
- Recognising alternative human–animal relationships
- Understanding coexistence beyond conflict

Tertiary Audience

Policy makers

- Grounded in real, local perspectives
- Informed by bottom-up evidence
- Shift from fixing to listening



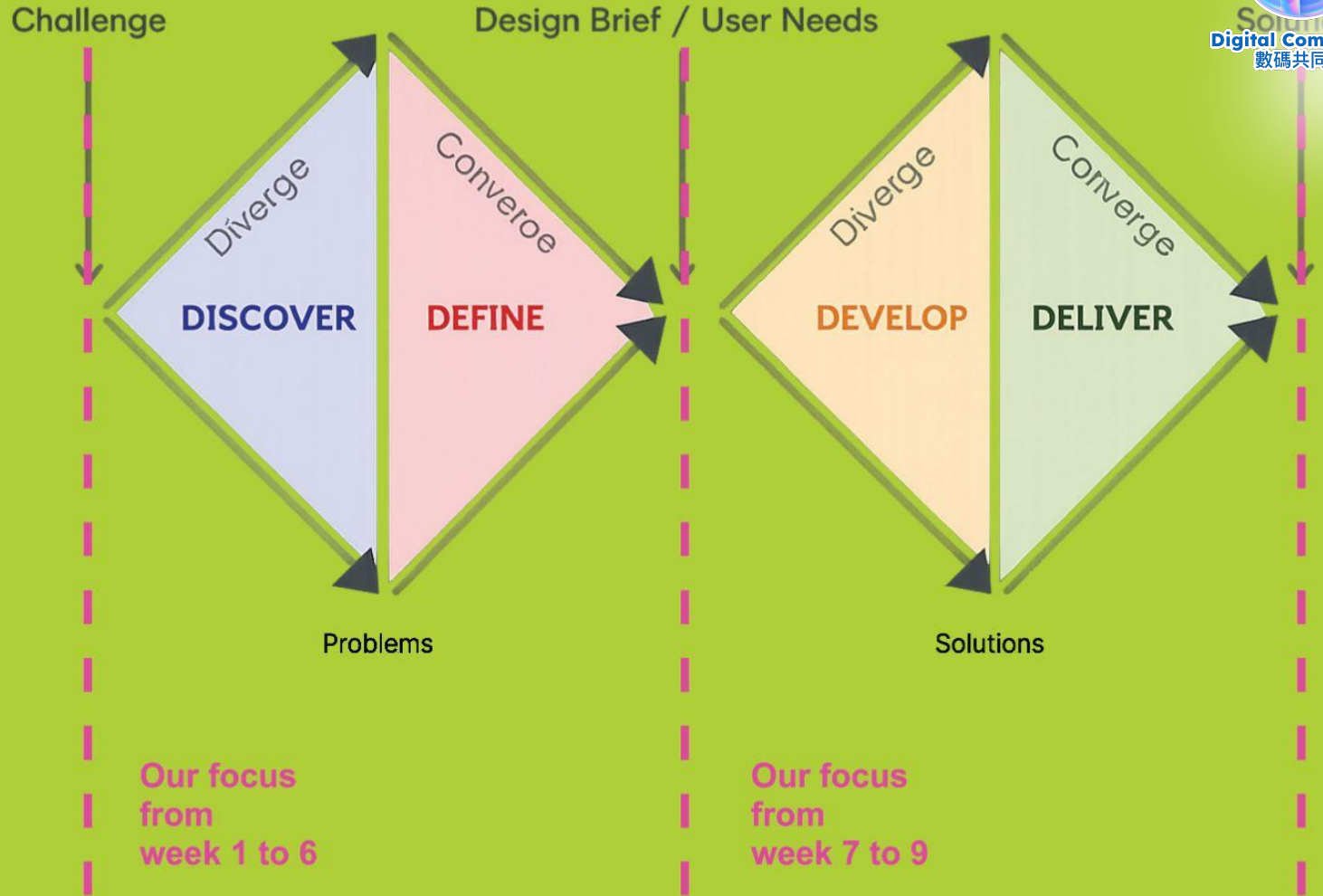
Approach: bottom-up + listening

10+ hrs
in Sai Sha

5 villagers
interviewed

2 site visits
different time of day

20+ observations
human-animal interactions



The Double Diamond



Location



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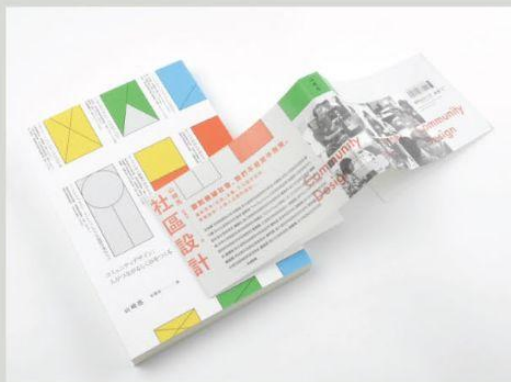


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BIOLOGICAL RECORDS & SITE VISITS
BY THUNDER TEAM

“Better than a million people visiting once,
is ten thousand people returning a hundred times.”

(Ryo Yamazaki@ Studio-L)



Rethinking Engagement in Design

- Not mass attraction
- Focus on meaningful engagement
- Quality over quantity

Design should deepen relationships,
not just increase numbers





Social Campaign / 在地感知計劃

Building a Culture of Quiet Coexistence

- Behavioral Guidance
- Visual Identity
- Guide Map & Signage
- Quiet Pact
- Community Involvement

X

Spatial Intervention / 空間介入

Compass Nodes for Meditation & Ecological Connection

- Compass Meditation Nodes
- Meditation Seating
- Multispecies Listening Habitat
- Sensory Listening Space



Design inspired – Compass

The compass is not only a tool for direction.

It is a system that connects space, human activity, time, and natural change.



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Middle Layer

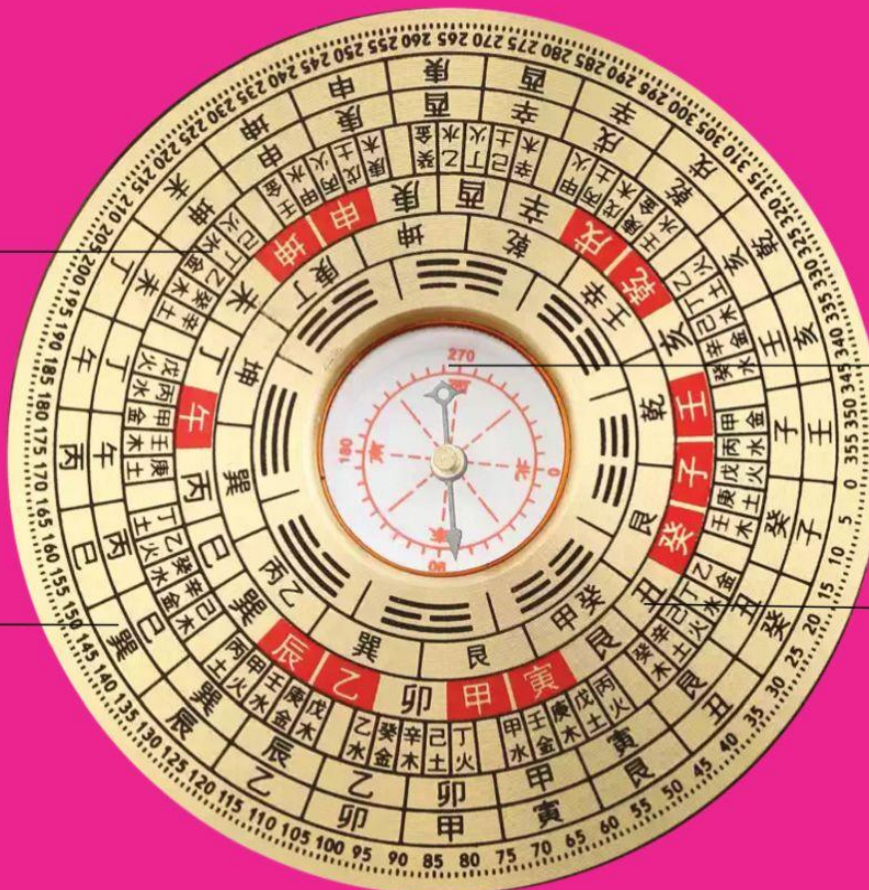
(Human Plate)

- Offset by 7.5° relative to the Earth Plate
- Relates to human–environment relationships
- Reflects interaction between human activity and space

Outer Layer

(Heaven Plate)

- Offset by 7.5° relative to the Human Plate
- Used to interpret energy flow / movement / environmental direction



Center

(Heaven Pool / Magnetic Needle)

- Indicates direction (East, South, West, North)

Inner Layer

(Earth Plate)

- Divides 360° into 24 directions (each 15°)
- Represents spatial orientation
- Connects to geographical context and positioning

SAI SHA COMPASS

A space to slow down, coexist with nature, and find quiet together.

A SPATIAL INTERVENTION FOR QUIET COEXISTENCE



PAUSE & OBSERVE



RESPECT ECOLOGY



KEEP VOICES LOW

SITE VARIATIONS



VILLAGE NODE



FOREST NODE



COASTAL NODE



WETLAND NODE



OUR QUIET PACT



KEEP VOICES LOW



SLOW DOWN



OBSERVE, DON'T DISTURB



CHERISH THE LAND



THE QUIET HERE IS PRECIOUS. LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.

VISITOR JOURNEY



Arrive in Sai Sha



Notice the Compass Symbol



Understand the Invitation to Quiet



Experience Nature in a Quiet Way



Become Part of the Atmosphere



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THE QUIET PACT



KEEP VOICES LOW

Minimize noise, respect nature and others.



SLOW DOWN

Slow down and be present.



OBSERVE, DON'T DISTURB

Observe wildlife without feeding or disturbing.



CHERISH THE LAND

Leave no trace, take only memories.



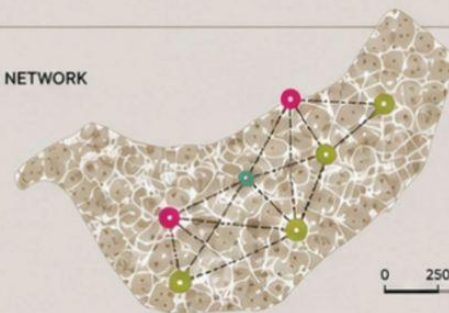
SHARED SPACE

The quiet here is precious. Let's protect it together.



KEEP VOICES LOW

NODE NETWORK



MAIN NODE

SECONDARY NODE

CONNECTION PATH



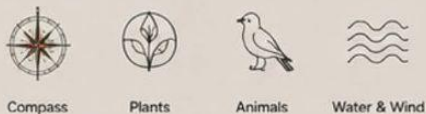
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VISUAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Through a consistent visual language, we communicate the atmosphere of quiet and the invitation to coexistence, guiding both locals and visitors to experience nature with respect, observation, and slowness.

KEY VISUAL ELEMENTS



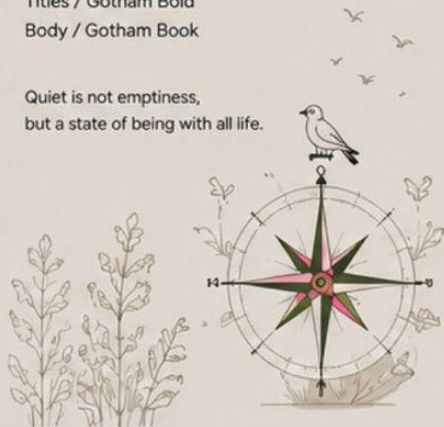
Compass Plants Animals Water & Wind



TYPOGRAPHY

Titles / Gotham Bold
Body / Gotham Book

Quiet is not emptiness,
but a state of being with all life.



GUIDE MAP



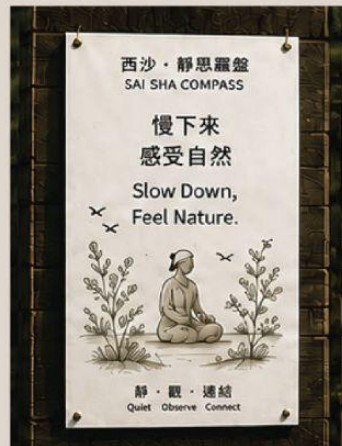
Map of compass nodes and nature paths, inviting slow travel and exploration.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE



Simple wayfinding to guide visitors to nodes and paths with minimal impact.

POSTER



Share activities and values, inviting participation with a calm tone.

BANNER



Placed at entrances and key spots, strengthening the identity of quiet.

NODE INTRODUCTION PANEL



Introduce the characteristics and ecology of each node, enhancing understanding.

QUIET PACT SIGN



A gentle reminder and invitation to protect the quiet together.

GUIDE BOOKLET



Provide deeper stories and information to accompany the journey.

SOCIAL MEDIA EXAMPLES



Extend the message online, inspiring more awareness and engagement.



Multispecies Sensing & Listening System



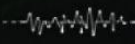
Bird · High-Frequency Calls

Detects high-frequency bird vocalizations and nesting activity



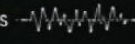
Frog · Wetland Calls

Captures frog calls and reproductive activity in nearby wetlands



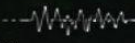
Wind · Vegetation Movement

Senses wind through plants reflecting the breath and rhythm of the environment



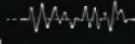
Water · Low-Frequency Vibrations

Detects low-frequency vibrations in water, revealing subtle ecological changes



Insects · Micro-Vibrations

Captures micro-vibrations from insect movement and communication



Bird Habitat

Provides shelter and breeding sites to support bird survival and nesting



Amphibian Habitat

Offers wetlands for rest, reproduction, and larval development



Wind Flow

Air passes through openings to create natural ventilation and air circulation



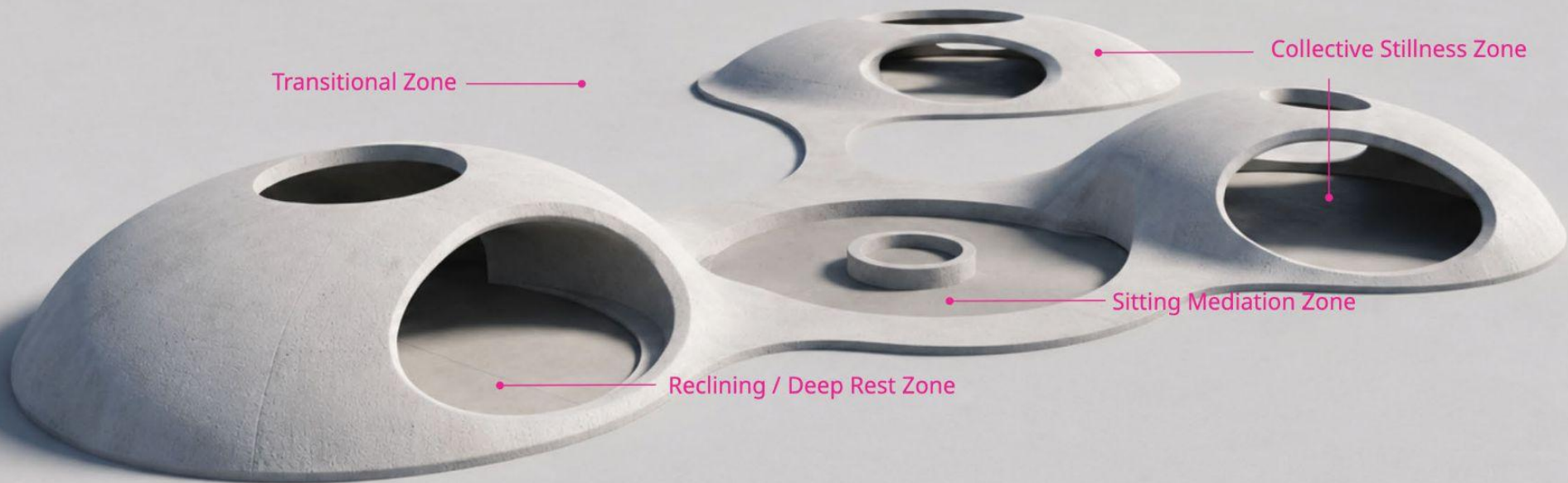
Water Rhythm

The gentle flow attracts aquatic life and maintains a low-impact habitat



Insect Habitat

Provides micro-habitats for insects to hide, reproduce, and sustain biodiversity





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Functions & Sensory Experience



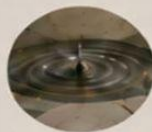
Orientation Guidance

Natural compass using bamboo or wood



Wind Awareness

Bamboo wind chimes to sense airflow



Water Sound

Water features for gentle soundscape



Nature Observation

Local stones and plants to connect with nature

Light & Ventilation Strategy

Daylight Entry

Soft natural light from above



Natural Ventilation

Cross-ventilation for fresh air



Structure & Materials



Roof Covering:

Grass thatch

Frame Structure:

Bamboo / Timber

Wall Infills:

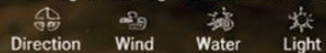
Clay / Rammed earth

Base/Foundation:

Stone / Gravel

Orientation Guide

In harmony with natural forces—wind, light, and life. The design aligns with the land's energies, creating a dwelling in balance with nature:



Ways of Use



Standing

Awakening the senses and presence



Sitting

Focusing inward and grounding



Contemplating

Connecting with nature and the environment

Village Settlement

Integrated with the forest edge.

Built with local natural materials to minimize impact and support harmony with the land.



Forest Retreat

Tucked into the woodland, comfortably secluded.

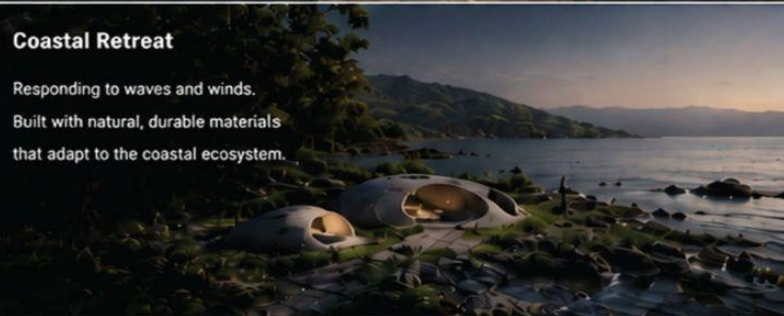
A low-impact way of living that coexists with the forest.



Coastal Retreat

Responding to waves and winds.

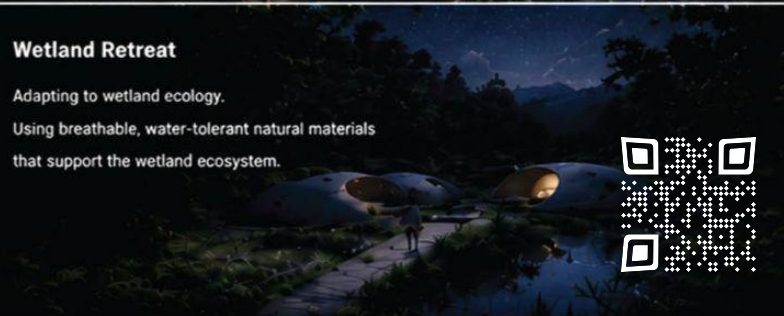
Built with natural, durable materials that adapt to the coastal ecosystem.



Wetland Retreat

Adapting to wetland ecology.

Using breathable, water-tolerant natural materials that support the wetland ecosystem.





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「靜」是心中無物
Stillness of Heart-Mind





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「念」是心在當下

Mindfulness in the Present Heart



Reflection 1: Non-linear Design Process

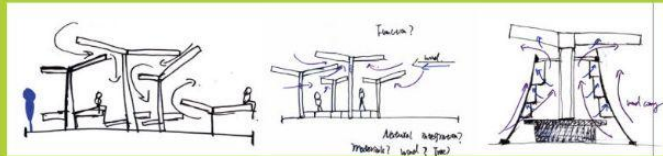


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Week 1
Chinese architecture design



Week 3
wind turbine



Week 5
brainstorming idea of our group



Week 7.
predicted outcome,
mindfulness and meditation



Week 2
a screen of "turtle shell" creation



Week 4
the view of anime's scene



Week 6.
listening becomes space



Reflection 2: Decolonising Design Practice



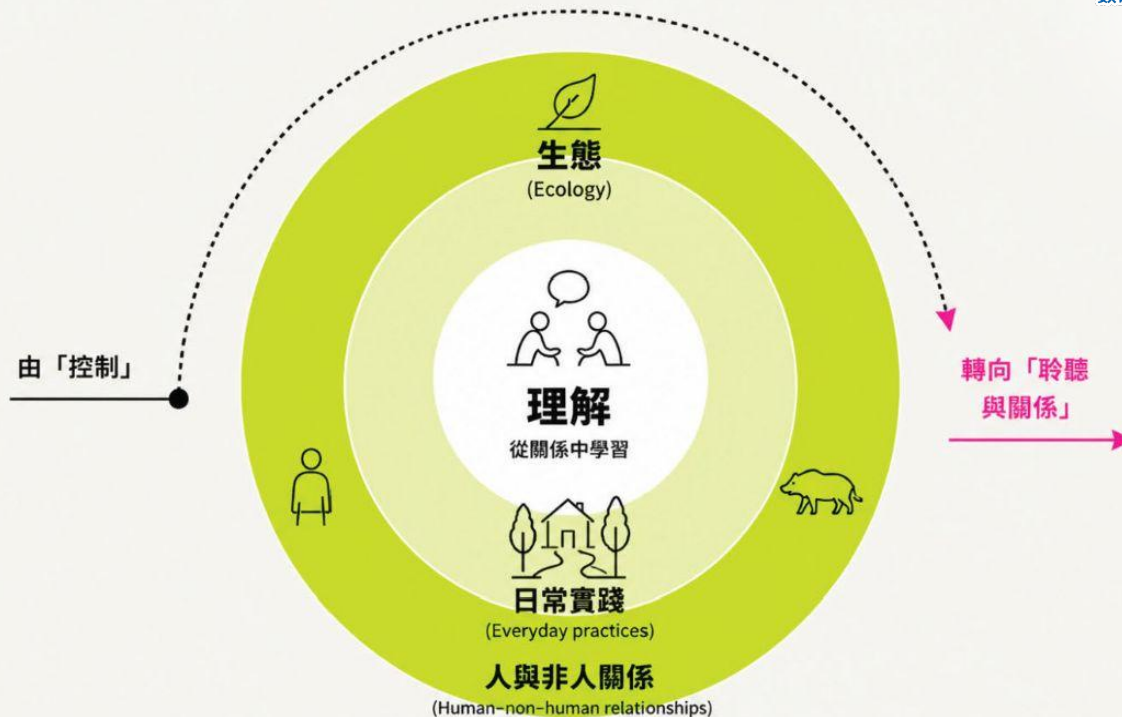
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Decolonising

Challenging dominant ways of thinking, and creating space for diverse forms of knowledge, ways of being, and relationships.

Not about redesigning the land,
but learning from existing relationships:

- Ecology
- Everyday practices
- Interactions between humans and non-humans





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Our Team

Tokiwa / SFXS F5 Student

This workshop is I have joined for provides's workshop third times. In this workshop, actually the result is not very important for my lesson. But the process of our team's idea and the work hard is. Alought our teamate is not a very perfect in such as AI, design idea, suggestion..... But I saw our teamate for the past group present and zoom meeting can discribe their idea clarify and in detail. Also, our idea of silent is a very creatively theme of our architecture design. So, this workshop I can meet this teamate and create this design our idea is my presure. >v<



JZYI / F5 Student



Ben / 50+ Volunteer

Joining Provides Ng's workshop for the third time has been truly rewarding. Learning alongside young peers and expert mentors, I've explored AI in research, text-to-image and video creation, 3D printing, and biomimetics. These experiences opened my eyes to AI's creative power. While some fear it may weaken humanity, I embrace our instructor's wisdom: AI is neither good nor bad—it is a tool. Used thoughtfully, it can enrich education, spark innovation, and strengthen communities, becoming a force for social progress.

Irina / F4 Student

我覺得個設計好好，例如「鳥巢式結構」與「蜂巢孔洞」為鳥類、昆蟲與微小生物提供棲息地，透過仿生結構與雨水循環系統模擬了自然的排水，亦都保留咗中國建築的特色。



Yanny / F4 Student

我覺得個設計反思咗人造結構同自然景觀嘅界線。利用樹狀支撐結構同埋多孔嘅頂部設計，能模擬出森林下嘅庇護感。呢個空間唔單止係物理上嘅遮蔽，更係精神上嘅避難所，讓人唔理嘅結構中搵返內心嘅寧靜。

Tracy / Architecture Commons Social Communication Designer

This workshop showed how educational settings differ from general community engagement. We were not only facilitating participation, but also reframed communal ways of knowing, being, and doing across our community. I found it interesting how structure and explanation with team became more critical, shaping interaction and knowledge-building from bottom-up approach. It, thus, revealed a shift from open dialogue to more intentional, supported development.



Losco / HKU Master of Sciences in Advanced Architectural Design

As a student with a background in architecture, participating in this workshop as TSL this time is a rare experience of transforming from a "learner" to a "guide". This experience made me realize that guiding "how to ask questions" is more important than giving answers. In the context of the rapid iteration of artificial intelligence and digital tools, this workshop has prompted me to constantly think about how to integrate the advantages of artificial intelligence into the production work of design.





第三屆 青年建築師計劃



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Design Scientist 2026 Incubation Program | The 3rd Annual
Program of The Citizen Architect Initiative

AI 仿生設計營 | 設計成果展

AI+ Biomimicry Design Final Showcase cum Exhibition



TheMisto.ai

這項活動由 Future Ecopreneur Programme 隸屬下的 Eco-pilot Project 資助，該計畫由 香港科技園公司 和 和富社會企業組織，並由 恆生銀行 提供支援。