

# LONGFOR SUZHOU PARADISE WALK

New Urban Theaterism Waterfront Commercial Plaza - Prototype of Six Theatres

Sector: Commercial Complex

Size: 4 Ha

Client: LONGFOR HUSU

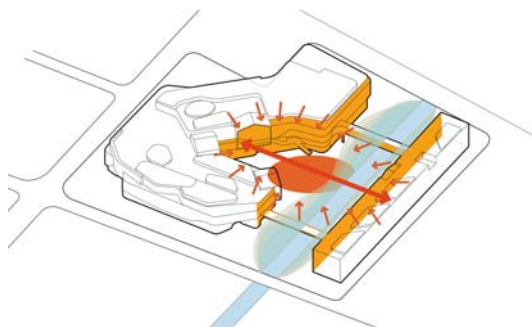
LA Architect: FLO

Longfor Suzhou Paradise Walk is a community-based commercial complex located on the bank of Yangcheng Lake in Suzhou Industrial Park. The plot is crossed by an existing river. We expect to create 6 differentiated prototype spaces within the site - a series of public gathering places belonging to the city: the landscape space is a series of stages for our city, and the public life of the Xinghu community is the repertoire staged within it.

Based on our observation and research, the spatial tenet of commercial landscape coincides with theater typologies; in which, both seeks to celebrate formal and informal gathering with multiplicity of sight lines to promote active participation and interaction. A successful commercial landscape while satisfying both community and operational needs requires not only a central plaza, but a series of flexible and multi-functional inter-relational spaces that encourages people to socialize, play, observe and rest. In our early conception, we strategized to implement theatre typologies into the public realm of our project that will ultimately elevate human experience and commercial success.

## CHALLENGE 1 - SUBDIVIDED RETAIL BLOCKS

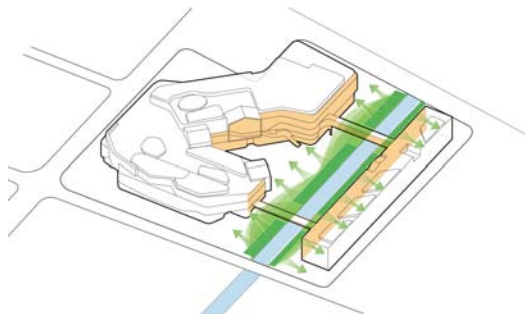
STRATEGY - FOCAL EMBRACEMENT (CIVIC AXIS)



Civic Axis: The malls are divided by a waterway and situated on both sides of the river. The west block is larger and has a central plaza looking towards the waterway, serving as the hub of the retail center; the east block is long and narrow, serving as a children activity center. The landscape design aims to connect and reinforce the relationship of the subdivided retail by conceptualizing the three-dimensional relationship along the waterfront spaces. Firstly, we designated a "Round Stage Theatre" (Reflection of the moon) at the ground level open space to encourage participatory activities. Secondly, we integrated treehouse walkways along the exterior building facade and sky bridges to create "V-Shaped Theatre" and "U-Shaped Theatre" observation spaces, strengthening inward focus and linking multi-directional sight lines to embrace the central activity plaza.

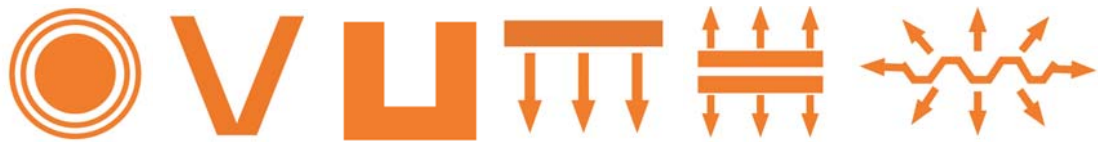
## CHALLENGE 2 - HOMOGENEOUS WATERFRONT

STRATEGY - ACTIVATION OF INTER-RELATIONAL SPACES (WATERFRONT AXIS)

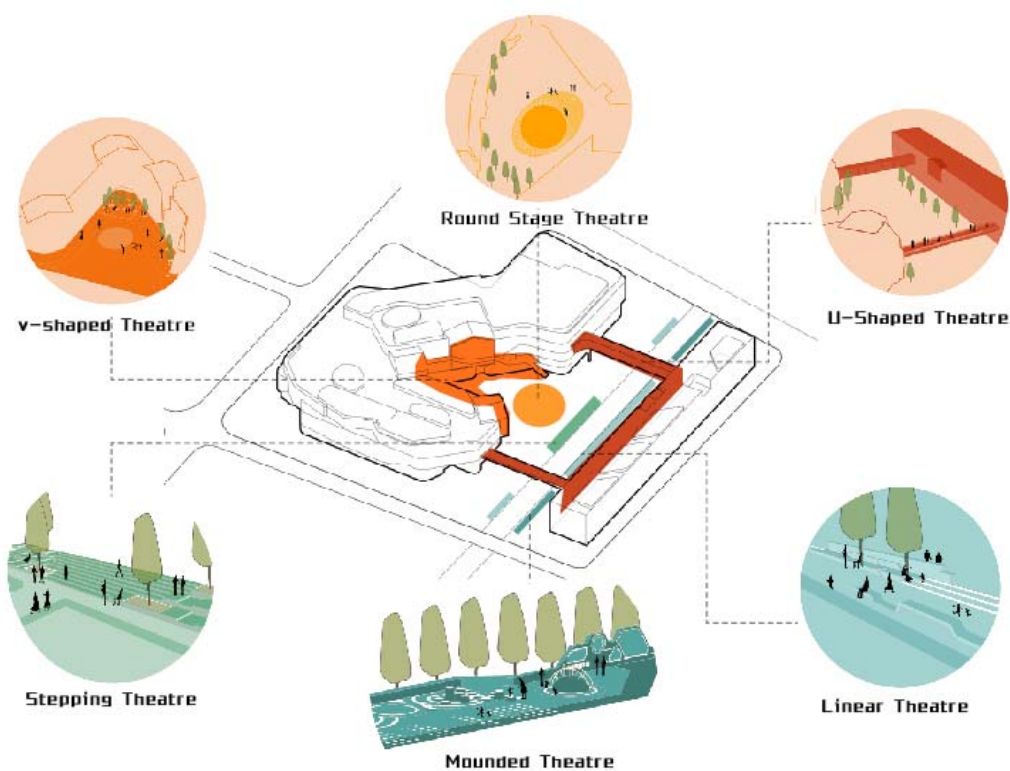


Waterfront Axis: The existing waterway and greenspace that subdivides the retail malls is a challenging condition for a commercial project. We hope the design fully respects and responds to the natural conditions, therefore creating a natural corridor with insertions of multiple pocketed participatory spaces along the waterfront. We have designed a series of pocket prototype spaces that include "Stepping Theatre", "Linear Theatre" and "Mounded Theatre" to activate waterfront public realm and attract intimate interactions with the natural environment. These pocket spaces not only connect the commercial environment with water, but also enrich the recreational experience along the waterfront interface.

## NEW URBAN THEATERISM - PROTOTYPE OF SIX THEATRES



1、Round Stage Theatre 2、v-shaped Theatre 3、U-Shaped Theatre 4、Stepping Theatre 5、Linear Theatre 6、Mounded Theatre



Through our theaterism prototype place-making, the project has successfully elevated the standard of urban public realm in commercial landscape practices. It is not only a center for commercial and community gathering, but a highly activated public realm that encourages civic life and recreations.



## 1. ROUND STAGE THEATRE

Multi-functional immersive plaza with multiple modes of interactions.



## 2. V-SHAPED THEATRE

Layered viewing spaces at ground level and upper levels.

Upper Level: Treehouse cabins and elevated walkways along exterior facade.

Ground Level: Canopied seating and viewing spaces along plaza edges.







### 3. U-SHAPED THEATRE

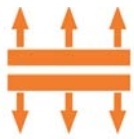
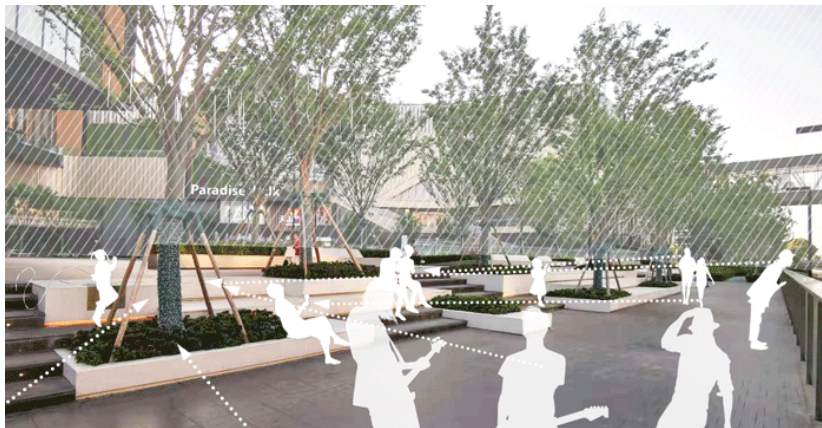
Skybridges framing the focal space, providing spectator space towards plaza and waterway events.





#### 4. STEPPING THEATRE

Layered seating terraces facing the waterfront, providing pocket performance and spectator spaces.



#### 5. LINEAR THEATRE

Undulating seating and bar tables, providing multiple engagement scenarios and informal play opportunities.







## 6. MOUNDED THEATRE

Interactive edges integrating formal play and seating areas.



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## ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

Experiential trails with seasonal plantings and meadows along the waterfront.



## Design and Place-making Highlights:

### 1. Narrative Innovation - New Urban Theaterism

Through our research and analysis, we aimed to integrate an innovative narrative and spatial strategy while solving the challenges of the site. The conception of Theaterism in a commercial context is particularly relevant with regard to activating and elevating public realm. We believe a successful commercial project should encourage public participation in terms of inter-relationships of formal and informal behaviors.

### 2. Strategic Formulation - Civic Axis & Waterfront Axis

From our design precept, we aimed to establish a strong hierarchy and clarity in the strategic framework that will further guide our formulation of different spaces. Each axis serves a distinct purpose appropriate to the project context, and is interpreted differently to create multiplicity of experiences.

### 3. Prototype Implementation - Inter-Relational Public Realm

Through our prototype design approach, we were able to implement appropriate prototype typologies to site-specific conditions and enrich the experiential quality of each space. The spatiality of our design is rich in functionality, while providing diverse opportunities for social interactions for all users.