

Reflection

This study aims to discover a sustainable path for the future of Jiaxing, focusing on its identity as a water city. The issue is complex and requires a governance approach that promotes sustainability. Different strategies and tools are needed on regional and urban scales to address the problem. To ensure a just and long-term transition, it is crucial to identify relevant stakeholders within the region. This project will explore potential regional spatial strategies to help Jiaxing find its unique position while balancing ecology, economy, and well-being.

Scientific Relevance

Although many studies have been conducted on the ecological value of restoring rivers and utilizing the cultural heritage of rivers to enhance the industrial structure in Jiaxing, very few provide a comprehensive view of the water system. Economic development has always remained the dominant factor. This study aims to address this gap by considering all roles of water within a balanced system and coordinating them from the perspective of citizens. It provides a fresh perspective on how water resources can be utilized as a basis for ecological restoration, economic transformation, and well-being.

Societal Relevance

Society is gradually becoming more concerned about ecology, and the government is taking actions to address these concerns. In 2019, the construction of the Yangtze River Delta Ecological Green Integrated Development Demonstration Zone was initiated. However, the actual needs of local areas, such as the continued neglect of river network restoration, are still being overlooked. When planning Jiaxing's ecological structure, only the connection with Shanghai is given importance, while Jiaxing's own watershed structure is disregarded. Therefore, this project aims to increase people's awareness of the local water identity. Valuable resources such as water culture, river environments, and cultural heritage can be preserved and fully utilized.

Personal Bias

As a citizen of Jiaxing, I understand that my opinions are limited to my own experiences and are only representative of my own thoughts and beliefs. Other opinions that differ from mine are equally important and deserving of respect. Therefore, I must be conscious of my personal biases and how they may impact the research process. I will ensure not to select only the evidence that supports my ideas while ignoring those that do not.

Different Context

It is crucial to keep context in mind when applying planning knowledge or conducting comparative studies. Due to different regional conditions, it is not possible to simply copy successful examples from Europe. Whether my design can be adapted to meet the actual needs of the citizens of Jiaxing still needs careful consideration. Further in-depth field research and interviews should be conducted if time permits to gain a better understanding of different stakeholders involved in this study and avoid potential misunderstandings.