

Inheriting the City: Study on the Concept, Principles, Preservation and Restoration Strategies of Urban Agricultural Heritage

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Urban Agriculture (UA) was a historical phenomenon, and also is a recurrent possibility through time.¹ The relationship between the city and agriculture has a long history: the agricultural landscape around cities has always been a place of food production and recreation.² In the past, the hinterland around a city was the daily food supplier for city dwellers, vegetables, fruits, and animal products, especially some products with a limited shelf life (milk, egg, etc.) were sold in the markets located in the main squares of the city. But as the development of modern science and technique application, for example, transportation is becoming more and more convenient, urbanites could buy daily food even around the world. Hence, traditional agriculture in hinterland has been losing its status. Now plenty of historical origins might exist in the agricultural areas which nearby or within the city. Sometimes, traditional agriculture is protected as cultural heritage, which is another form of agricultural conservation.

For this phenomenon, my research emphasizes Urban Agricultural Heritage. It attaches importance to protect and innovate the existing Urban Agricultural Heritage (tangible & intangible) to inherit specific agricultural civilization, at the same time, to avoid the urban homogenization in the process of development.

The study comprises the following steps:

Chapter 1-2: Background introduction and summary of types and characteristics of Urban Agricultural Heritage from a global perspective.

Chapter 3-5: Case study: deep analysis of three valuable cases in Germany, Italy, and China (fig. 1) via using a systemic approach (a reasonable and comprehensive heritage analysis methodology).

Chapter 6: Comparison of different conservation and restoration measures in different countries. Action strategies corresponding to different types of Urban Agricultural Heritage.

Chapter 7: Practice in one city: analysis and suggestions of agricultural potential value in Hangzhou, China.

¹ Björklund, A., (2010). Historical Urban Agriculture: Food Production and Access to Land in Swedish Towns before 1900. Sweden: Universitatis Stockholmiensis.

² Branduini, P. (2015). Urban Agriculture and Cultural Heritage: A Historical and Spatial Relationship. Urban Agriculture Europe (138-147). Berlin: Jovis Verlag.

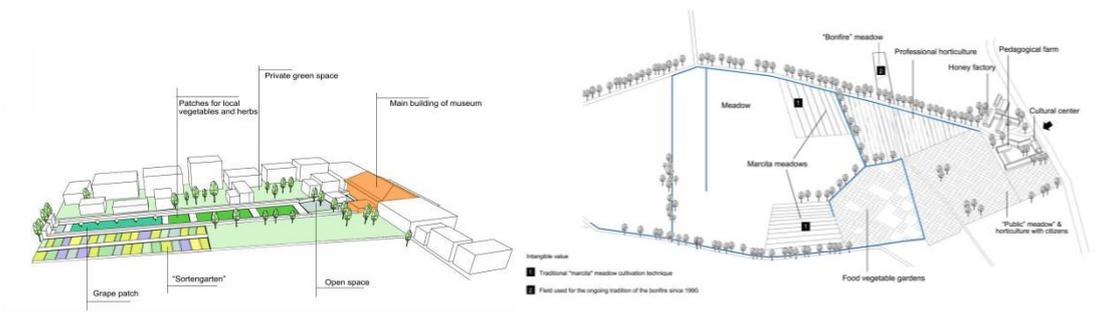
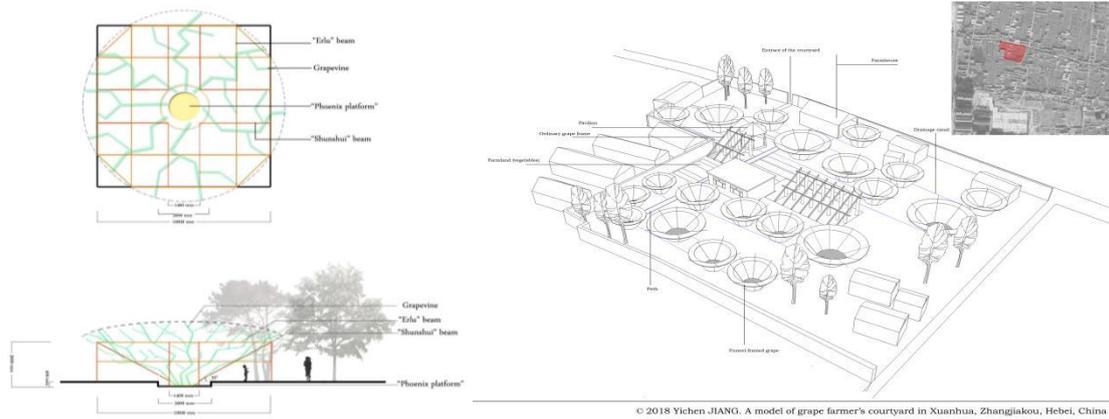


Fig. 1. Sketches of 3 cases in China, Germany, and Italy. By JIANG.