

TRANSLATION OF HUMAN-CENTRED ENVIRONMENTS TO ALTERNATIVE CITY LAYERS

Analyzing the potentials of new Shanghai walkscapes

Do the additional city layers, the so called "new streets" of Shanghai, have the potential to create a different, human-centered multilayered urbanity?

KEY WORDS



Multilayered city



Human-centered urbanity



Walkability and Walksapes

RESEARCH OUTLINE

The research observes new walkways, emerging at alternative city levels of Shanghai, and tries to consider whether these spaces have the potential to evolve different kind of urbanity: a more human-centered, dense, multilayered urbanity which encourages social interaction and provides personal fulfilment.

It has become more than clear that the future development of cities as multilayered systems cannot be stopped. Along with that we became conscious of the intensive spatial dehumanization of the urban environment produced through this process. Thus, the significance of the phenomenon of alternative-level walkways, "new pedestrian streets", that are an important, integral part of the multilayered city, comes into focus. These intriguing spatial hybrids, closely connected to various other city layers, represent at the same time new public spaces that integrate a wide range of uses and infrastructures of soft mobility, emphasizing the significance of "walkability". The research tries to consider the presented problematics regarding the phenomenon of Shanghai alternative-level walkways within a "framework" that could be applied from the smallest up to the metropolitan scale.

RESEARCH CONTEXT

Overview of the multilayered urbanity of Shanghai: walkability focus

Ground level: Area of the main issues

different kind of barriers

ARE THE SIDEWALKS FREE OF ITEMS THAT MIGHT BLOCK FREE WALKING?

YES	25.8%
NO	74.2%

huge vehicle-oriented infrastructures

unattractiveness of the street frontage

discontinuity of pedestrian infrastructure

Alternative city levels: Areas of the possible solutions?

aboveground walkways

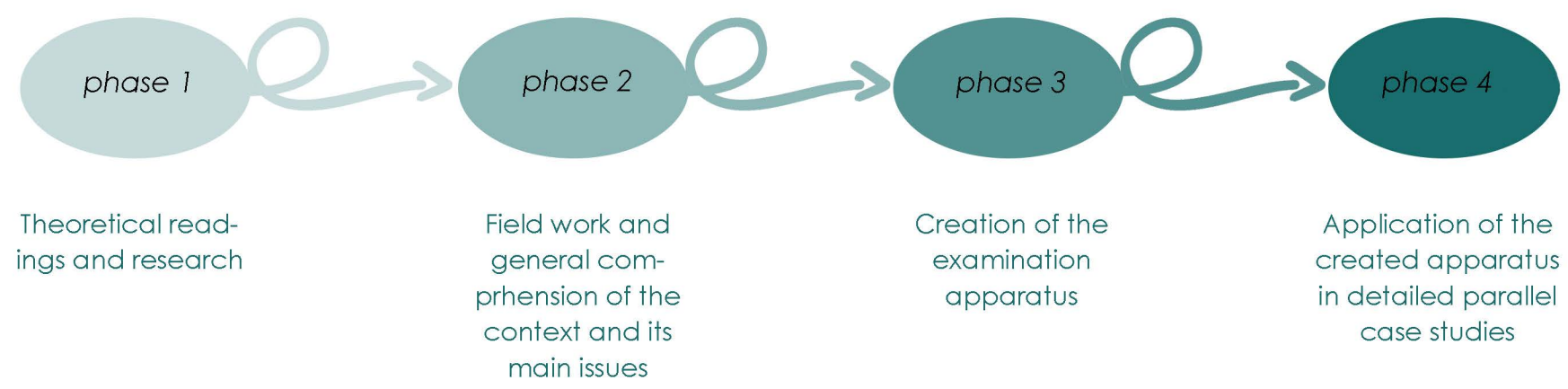
underground walkways

Dora Šterić DMD Fraco-Chinois
2019/ 2020.

EXAMINATION PHASES AND RESEARCH PARAMETERS

The process and the structure of the research are divided in three parts: Theoretical research, Establishment of the proper research "apparatus", Case Studies in Shanghai.

Having in mind how complex and delicate are both, the phenomenon of a multi-layered city and the the concept of "human-centered" urban environment, we tried to developed our own, precise research "apparatus", and to apply it through a parallel examination of three different sites in Shanghai.



Creation of the examination "apparatus" and parameters



Neighbourhood Scale	
1.	Relation and Proportion towards the built environment
2.	Visually Active Frontage
3.	Physically Permeable Frontage
4.	Access to Local Services and mix of Complementary Activities
Walkway-level examination scale	
1.	Walkway morphology
2.	Continuity of Walkways:
3.	Accesses
4.	Connections with other city Layers
5.	Good condition of Walkways:
6.	Attractiveness of walkway environment:
7.	Presence of Walkway amenities
8.	Microclimate
9.	Number and Density of people
10.	Presence of transit

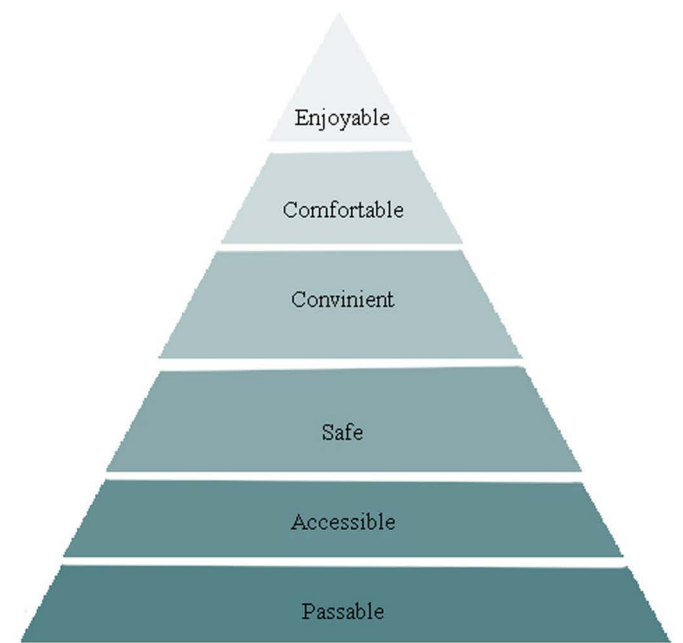


Diagram of the Pyramid presenting the "humanability" level of "New streets", based on the created examination apparatus and aspects

observation of the exemplar cities + theoretical cognitions + contextual specificities of Shanghai = list of parameters

RESEARCH EMBLEMENTS

Brief overall introduction to the three chosen sites

LEGEND

underground walkways

..... level -2

..... level -1

Wujiaochang

first underground pedestrian layer.....

second underground pedestrian layer.....

layer of aboveground walkways

Xujiahui

aboveground walkways

underground walkways

Lujiazui

layer of underground walkways

Dora Šterić DMD Fraco-Chinois
2019/ 2020.

OVERALL EVALUATION OF BOTH EXAMINATION SCALES



ELABORATED RESULTS OF THE CASE STUDIES

Aspects of the alternative-level pedestrian network that require improvement

The examination showed that these are the main aspects that need to be improved or reinforced: space usage, accesses, open-air plazas and walkway amenities.

