The proposal situates a 2 million square meter zoo on the current Shougang Iron and Steel Factory site. Considered a catalyst for the redevelopment of the industrial site, the zoo attracts multiple programs of education, leisure, commerce, offices, housing, and hotels. The project reorganizes the zoo to connect the river to the rest of the city, introducing novel and accessible public spaces to the western part of Beijing.

The conceptual backbones of the project rest on the notion of “high” and “low” and the desire to increase public space in the city. How can the site become a sustainable and profitable attraction while accommodating unemployed steel and iron workers?

**Main Program**

- Tourists
- Residents
- Restaurants
- Supermarkets
- Shopping Malls
- Expositions
- Offices
- Housing

**Future**

- Urban Safari
- Landscape Immersion
- Traditional Enclosures

**Green Corridor**

- Inhabit a mixed-income housing
- Develop mixed-used program near transportation stations
- Profit commerce along main roads and green corridors
- Recreation and educational campus for cultural and ecological study and public education
- Connect program with program corridors along main roads
- Create a 2.5 hectar park and edge park
- Create inhabitable expanse with 2 million square meter zoo
- Extend and regenerate city grid

**Shougang Urban Nature**

Tsinghua-MIT Beijing Urban Design Studio

July 2008

Eric Gonzalez, Jae Kyung Kim, Yu Qi, Jennifer Tran, and Xu Xu

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The Masterplan

The masterplan acknowledges the riverside as a potential site of leisure for both locals and tourists. The proposed zoo and green areas occupy the riverside in a gesture of publicness. The zoo, as we imagine, is open to the public for a nominal fee. Not to be mistaken for an overly idealistic masterplan, however, the project includes exclusive hotels and privileged views of the zoo and the city. Those who can afford the experience, may pay to live in the wilderness.

The project is more than just a tourist site. We propose a satellite campus of Tsinghua University. Students from the Departments of Zoology and Ecology will convenitly study plants and animal species on a first-hand basis. Students, faculty, and support staff may comprise a permanent population of the Shougang site.

Linear green spaces organize the site and activities. A developer’s dream, the central park offers scenic views from flanking buildings. Additionally, corridors of landscape and program run across the width of the site from the river to the eastern edge. These finger-like corridors both separate zones within the zoo, and extend into the city, acting as strips of circulation. Placed equidistant from each other, each finger generally includes a monorail stop and direct entrance into the zoo.
Land uses:
- residential
- commercial
- multi-use
- educational and public
- industrial (technology)
- green area and plaza

Section A

Inner view of the hotel

Outside view of the hotel

Furnace No. 4 and the landmark hotel

marsh
Zooming In: The Panda Reserve

Existing cooling towers and a triangular shaped plaza mark the entrance to panda viewing area.

A buffering zone of mini bamboo forests and educational and commercial programs separate the zoo from the city. These programs are arranged in alternating bands, allowing pandas access to bamboo and people access to buildings.

In our proposal, Furnace 4 is converted into one of the main monorail stations. It is conveniently situated near the Panda Reserve, an area that will surely become a major draw for the zoo.