CONCLUSIONS AND REFLECTIONS

This planning studio focused on planning and design options for the proposed new central area along the West River in Gaoming. Of particular interest was the exploration of new ways of integrating water and hydrological factors into a modern city and its many systems including watershed and natural ecosystem protection, recreational activities, housing, transportation, and tourism.

The disciplinary differences of the students and MIT’s distance from the site posed the greatest challenges to the class. However, through continued discussion and feedback, the studio successfully analyzed the existing site conditions and explored a number of policy and design alternatives for the major infrastructure systems of Gaoming. This document represents the collective understanding, analysis, and experience of the students in the class.

The students’ commitment to their client, the city officials of Gaoming, and to Gaoming’s long-term goal of becoming a sustainable, modern water city drove their work throughout the semester. The students present this book and the recommendations contained herein as a first step in an ongoing planning process that will ensure Gaoming’s viability and the city’s economic, environmental, and equitable sustainability in the years to come.

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