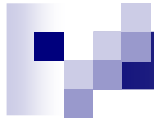




Does The Street Still Belong To All Of US?

YU Hai

Department of Sociology, Fudan University



Content

- Wisdom from Jane Jacobs
- Old street and diversity of street life
- Destruction of street diversity



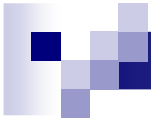
What can we learn from Jane Jacobs on street's life?

- What are uses of a city's sidewalks?
safety, contact, assimilating children
- What is a good street?
diversity, convenience, interest, vitality



The Uses of Sidewalks: Assimilating Children

- Children in cities need a variety of places in which to play and to learn. Besides special places for all kind of sports and exercise, they need an unspecialized outdoor home base from which to play, to hang around in, and to help form their notions of the world. It is this form of unspecialized play that the sidewalks serve- and that lively city sidewalks can serve splendidly.
- Why do children so frequently find that roaming the lively city sidewalks is more interesting than back yards or playgrounds? Because the sidewalks are more interesting..... The wonderful convenience of city sidewalks is an important asset to children too. Children are at the mercy of convenience more than anyone else, except the aged.



Playing in Sense of Freedom and Assimilating in Sidewalks

- Playing in city sidewalks, it is not in the nature of things to make a big deal out of some activities. It is not in the nature of things to go somewhere formally to do them by plan, officially. Part of their charm is the accompanying sense of freedom to roam up and down the sidewalks, a different matter from being boxed into a preserve. If it is impossible to do such things both incidentally and conveniently, they are seldom done.
- In real life, only from the ordinary adults of the city, sidewalks do children learn-if they learn it at all- the first fundamental of successful city life. People must take a modicum of public responsibility for each other even if they have no ties to each other. This is a lesson nobody learns by being told. It is learned from the experience of having other people without ties of kinship or close friendship or formal responsibility to you take a modicum of public responsibility for you.



The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact

- The point of the social life of city sidewalks is precisely that it is public. It brings together people who do not know each other in an intimate, private social fashion and in most cases do not care to know each other in that fashion.
- Lowly, unpurposeful and random as they may appear, sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city's wealth of public life may grow.



Four Conditions for Diversity in City's Streets and Districts

- The district, and indeed as many of its internal parts as possible, must serve more than one primary function; preferably more than two.
- Most blocks must be short, that is, streets and opportunities to turn corners must be frequent.
- The district must mingle buildings that vary in age and condition, including a good proportion of old ones so that they vary in the economic yield they must produce. This mingling must be fairly close-grained.
- There must be a sufficiently dense concentration of people, for whatever purpose they may be there. This includes dense concentration in the case of people who are there because of residence.



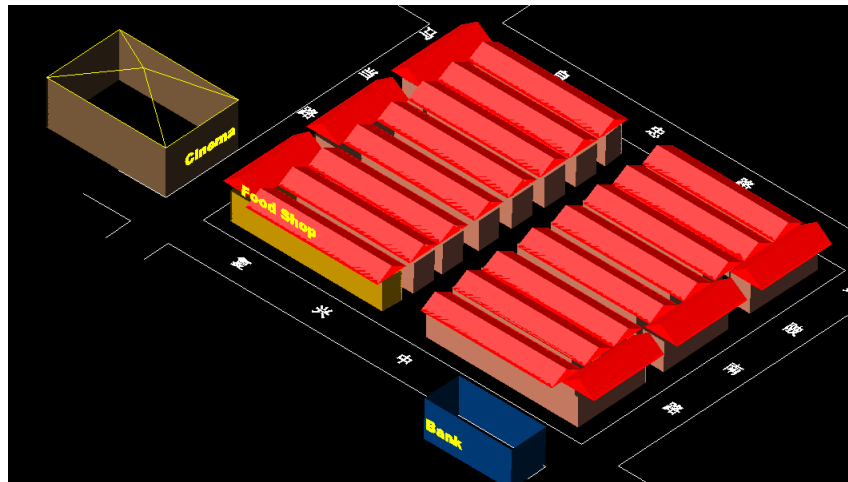
Features of the Old Streets in Shanghai

- Narrow street: 10-15 steps (Yu Hai's)
- Short block: 200-300 steps
- Narrow shop front (one or three-bay) and dense concentration of shops
- Diversity of street space (street corner)
- Elements of Nongtang

Narrow street



Short block



Narrow shop front



Street corner

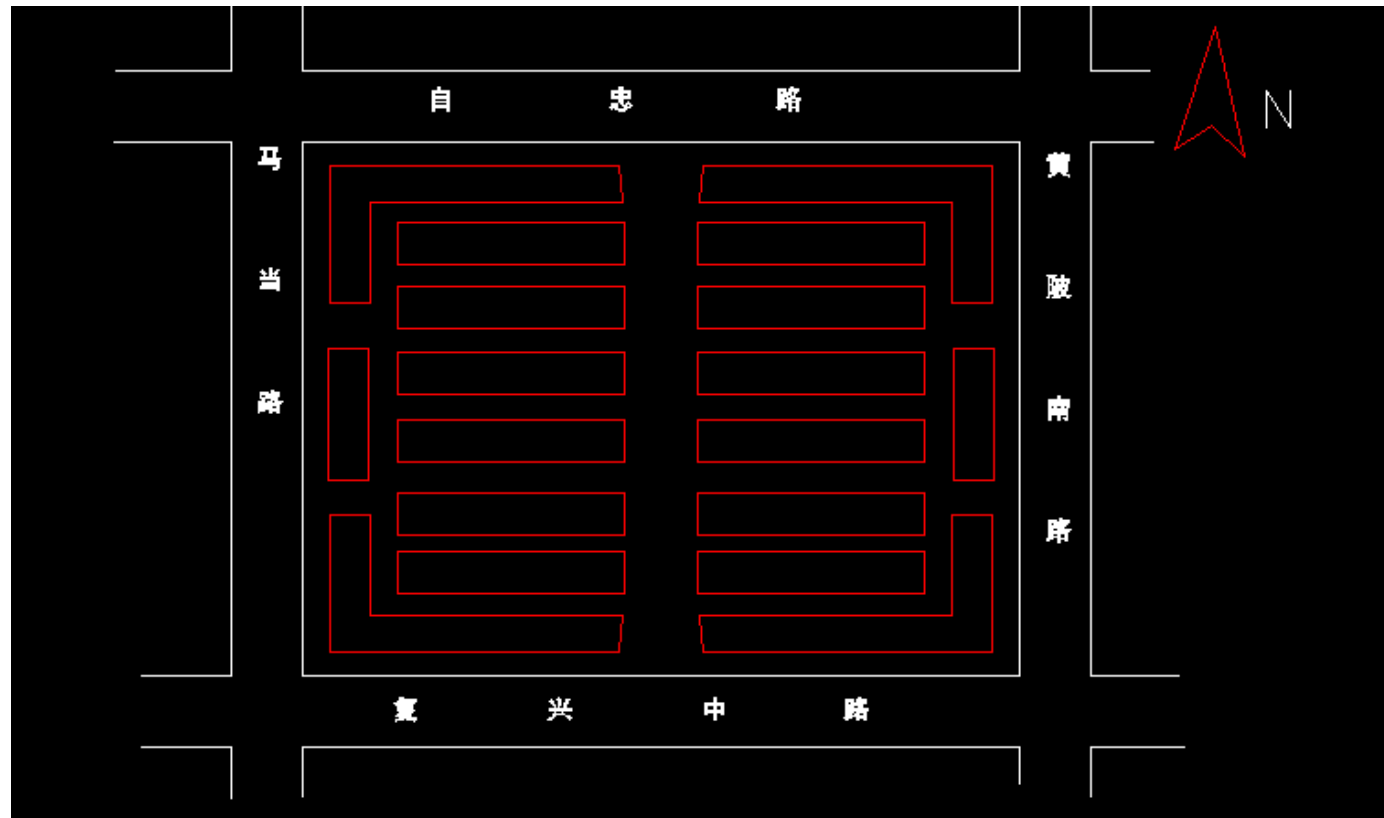




Elements of Longtang related to street life

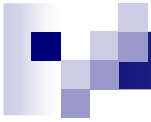
- Entrance and outlet of streets
- Narrow residential space and extended life world
- High density of residents and vitality and diversity of activities
- Plate Longtang and convenience for public life
- Sidewalks in longtang and organic connection of street and longtang

Entrance and outlet of the streets and sidewalks in the longtang



Entrance and outlet of the streets





Longtang is plate





Reshaping street space and destruction of diversity

- Goal of global city and great build
- Aspects of reshaping street: street widen and regimentation of “longtang” (old longtang and new compound)
- Destruction of street diversity and street life

Highway and street in car scale



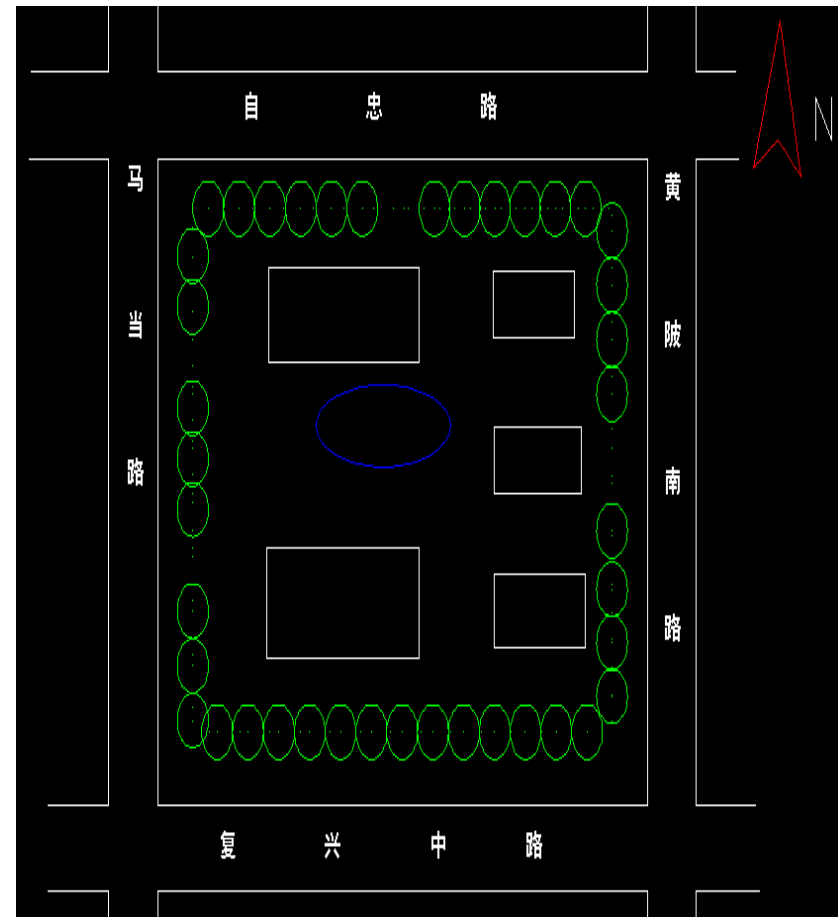
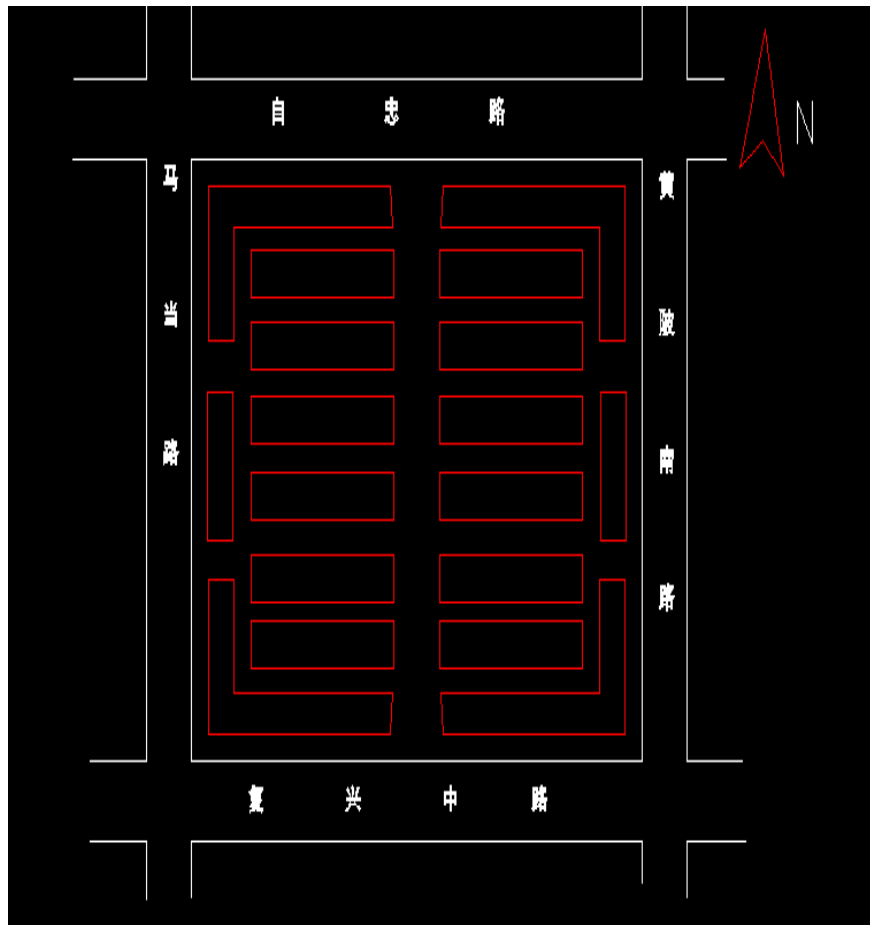
Partition and one-side of street

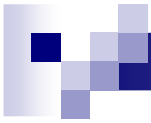


Privatization of housing and regimentation of community



Nongtang v.s. New community



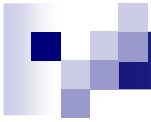


Sidewalks closed

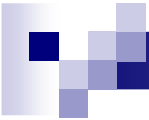


Longtang walled





■ Island?



Rebuilding of Cities or Sacking of Cities

- But look what we have built with the first several billions: Middle-income housing projects which are truly marvels of dullness and regimentation, sealed against many buoyancy or vitality of city life. Luxury housing projects that mitigate their inanity, or try to, with a vapid vulgarity. Cultural centers that are unable to support a good bookstore. Civic centers that are avoided by everyone but huns, who have fewer choices of loitering place than others. Commercial centers that are lack-luster imitations of standardized suburban chain-store shopping. Promenades that go from no place to nowhere and have no promenaders. Expressways that eviscerate great cities. This is not the rebuilding of cities. This is the sacking of cities.



**Where can we look for
diversity, convenience,
interest and vitality
of street life?**

Yuhai_1998@yahoo.com

[http://www.ssdpp.
fudan.edu.cn/yuhai](http://www.ssdpp.fudan.edu.cn/yuhai)

