



## 中国环境与文化的平衡

### Environmental and Cultural Equilibrium in China

汤姆·里德 / Tom LEADER

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摘要 ……

汤姆·里德景观设计事务所是一家获得过各类奖项的景观设计公司，在美国加利福尼亚州、明尼苏达州和中国香港设有工作室。自2001年创办以来，汤姆·里德景观设计事务所关注于城市中独特的、能够体现城市及其景观内在特色的营造，试图将理念和实践结合起来，并满足现实情况的具体需求。在本次访谈中，里德回顾了汤姆·里德景观设计事务所在中国的实践和经验，并希望通过“平衡设计”为中国营造一个更美好的未来。

关键词 ……

中国；汤姆·里德景观设计事务所；平衡项目；生活质量

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Abstract ……

Tom Leader Studio (TLS) is an award winning landscape architecture practice with offices in California, Minnesota and HongKong. Since its inception in 2001, the studio has invested and built upon the unique, inherent qualities of cities and their landscapes. In so doing, TLS seeks to provide a link between emerging ideas and practices and the concrete need for their realization in physical space. In this interview, Leader talks about TLS's practices and experiences in China and how an "equilibrium of design" may bring a brighter future for the nation.

Key words ……

China; Tom Leader Studio; Equilibrium Project; Quality of Life

#### 中国设计市场对于汤姆·里德景观设计事务所（以下简称TLS）意味着什么？

汤姆·里德（以下简称里德）：我认为对TLS来说，中国与美国等其他国家之间并没有很显著的差异。我们公司的规模并不是很大，团队一般维持在12-15人。所以我们的运作模式和目标都明显不同于那些在中国从事景观设计实践的大型企业。我们一直在寻找那些能够在场地环境中创造出不同之处的、打破传统实践方式的有趣项目。我们发觉小规模的工作室能够允许我们践行一些新的想法，并以一种我们自己的思考和设计方式进行表达。通过寻找一些不同寻常的理念和实验，从而能够推动我们的“平衡项目”——我们在中国及其他实践地区都很重视的一种理念。我们追求的并不是扩大业务，项目的规模和体量也并非我们衡量成功的标准；原创性，有时甚至是对我们有所帮助的“挑衅性”设计才是我们真正看重的。从这一点上来讲，我们与那些寻求大体量项目的其他美国大型事务所截然不同。

#### 对于中国项目来说，您是如何理解并在项目中回应场地的历史文化背景的？

里德：我认为同其他任何地方一样，我们

所考虑的是如何去提高人们的生活质量。这一点在中国尤为重要，在庞大的内需及外需的影响下，生活质量正在成为中国越来越严峻的现实议题。如此多的新增



车辆、工业产品、能源生产以及高端产品的消费……所有这些以“创建美好生活”之名衍生出来的消费正是引发众多问题的源头。在很多时候，空气和水成为了牺牲品，它们需要我们提供越来越多的解决对策。健康问题和健康的生活方式将会在未来10年中成为真正影响中国的重大问题。因此，当我们将“改善生活质量”进行定义时，需要将这一问题也纳入考量之中。社区需要具有生命力的公园、湖泊、溪流和开放空间，这些场所的空气和水体有助于人们的健康，并能够促进人们进行户外锻炼。在中国，景观设计能够通过通过在广阔的地域尺度上建立利用自然规律来净化水体和空气的景观系统，从而在创建更宜居的社区中发挥关键作用。5000年以来，中华大地上的聚落一直与自然和谐共生，而现在我们的工作是在寻回并恢复一种能够让每一个人人都能拥有健康生活的平衡之道。

目前，我们正着手于太湖沿岸（无锡段）的一个大型公园项目。太湖湖面辽阔，但水深很浅，因此这里的水体污染的扩散也明显要比其他湖泊更加迅速。这片土地曾经被众多湿地环绕，这些湿地滋养着生活在这里的人们，以及那些可供人们食用的水生动植物。而现在的情况已经发生了变化，很多地方的湿地边缘已经退化或消失，水生环境正遭受着严峻威胁。当地政府已经决定对太湖周边的由大量工业生产活动带来的污染进行治理。我们负责设计的公园在无锡市新开发区整体的地表径流净化中起到了非常关键的作用。这个公园不仅必须成为一个重要的视线节点，而且应被打造为一个能够随着城市的增长在如此这般的环境中不断发展的、循序渐进式的范例。我们希望该项目能够成为一种见证变化的强有力的、可视化的符号。我们钟爱这个项目的部分原因不仅仅是由于那些宽阔的湿地水面，还包括一些相对较小的组成部分——由木栈道、台阶、漂浮花园、水道及池塘构成的复杂网络——这些构成元素会令游人愉悦，并使人感受到一个健康的湖泊能够为家庭及个人带来多少欢乐。



#### 您在中国的设计实践中所获得的最为深刻的体会有哪些？

里德：众所周知，在中国工作的最突出的感受是设计和建造的速度快得惊人。而这是一把双刃剑，利弊皆有。设计能够从图纸变为现实着实令人兴奋，但是否能够对实现具体方案的施工图纸和施工过程拥有足够的掌控又时常令我们担惊受怕。我们对在何时、何地工作能够取得最佳的成效，如何运用当地专业知识等方面已经有所了解，并对那些不那么重要的事情学会

了“放手”。你得懂得哪些是决定项目成败的关键部分，并学会很好地沟通交流、利用所有的潜在资源使项目建成。

#### 您是否认同一些人认为中国是设计师的“Playground”这一观点？

1. 事务所全家福
2. 深圳盐田中轴线景观规划
3. 上海大学创智天地广场
1. TLS Team
2. Shenzhen Yantian Park
3. KIC Center of Shanghai University



里德：跟任何人一样，我也喜欢做一些有意思的事情……但我不认为中国是那些无谓或无聊的、只为博人眼球的作品的“Playground”。我知道这样的事情时有发生，但我认为中国更需要那些经过深思熟虑的解决方案来对很多资源有限的、严苛的场地条件进行回应。这些来自于场地的挑战通常会为我们指明方向，同时能够激发我们的灵感。这使我联想到例如上海这样的国际化大都市的天际线，每当看到那些高耸的大楼竞相建造的稀奇古怪的“顶盖”，我都感到非常可笑。但是就个人而言，我更愿意将这些“顶盖钱”用于健身中心、健康步道和雨水净化设施上。

#### 您认为外国设计师参与中国城市建设的浪潮为中国带来了哪些影响？

里德：在中国，我们非常享受并乐于接受来自工作的挑战，但我认为我们更应该将目光投向那些将会在未来几年对这个国家的设计文化起到引领作用的中国设计师。不言而喻，他们对中国文化的了解远比那

些远道而来的建筑师和设计师要深刻。就拿2012年获得普利茨克建筑奖的中国建筑师王澍来说，我不觉得西方设计师会懂得使用他的一些独特的设计语汇。在实现急需的“环境与文化的平衡”的道路上，我认为中国设计师的引领作用至关重要。对我们而言，这绝对是一个在未来几年非常关键的话题。千百年来，中国的建筑体现出了对于自然和文化的细致的、不断变化的理解。然而，过去20年来令人难以置信的建设热潮和经济变革印证了我的担忧，即外来思想的不可持续性涌入是否会影响到中国千百年来一贯的生活质量。重现这种由来已久的与自然和谐共生，是所有在中国工作的设计师所面临的重大任务。当然，一些来自美国的优秀的理念正在尝试着恢复这种和谐——由吉姆·李带领的SWA集团团队与SOM建筑设计事务所最近合作完成的南湖项目通过恢复集体农业格局，创造了一种新型的社区营建形式。他们所赋予项目的如此宏大的愿景和来自欧美相对先进的庞大知识支持，是外国设计师能够提供给中国的可行之路。**LAF**



4. 杭州高德置地广场运河公园
5. 杭州高德置地广场屋顶水景
6. 北京银行科技研发中心
7. 北京金融街景观
4. Canal Park of Hangzhou Goldsun CBD
5. Roof Reflection Pool of Hangzhou Goldsun CBD
6. STRD Center, Bank of Beijing
7. Beijing Financial Street



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#### How much the design market of China means to Tom Leader Studio (TLS)?

**Tom LEADER (LEADER hereafter):** I would say, there is not any huge difference between China and the US or other countries we work in. Our firm is not very large, between 12 ~ 15 people normally. So the way we operate and the types of ambitions we have are quite different from larger corporate practices that do landscape design in China. We are always looking for projects that will make a difference in their context and will be interesting to us in terms of deviating from conventional practice. We find the small studio allows us to test ideas and express them in a way that is very particular to how we think and design. We just want to look for individual ideas and experiments that could contribute to the “equilibrium project” we see being important in China or elsewhere we are working. So we are not looking to expand and get large. We do not really measure our success in terms of size and volume but in terms of originality and sometimes even useful provocation. That may be distinct from other larger US offices that seek large volume business.

#### We would like to learn that how do you understand and then respond to the specific historical and cultural context of each project site in China?

**LEADER:** We think in China, just like anywhere else, we need to respond to ways of improving people’s quality of life. In China, it seems that now especially, quality of life is becoming a bigger and bigger issue because of huge consumer demand both inside and outside of the country. The outcome of so many new cars, so much industrial production, so much energy generation, so much consumption of high end



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goods — the consumption of all these things in the name of a better life are causing a lot of problems too. Air and water in many cases have been compromised and require more and more mitigation. Health and healthy lifestyle will become truly key issues over the next 10 years. So the definition of an improved quality of life needs to take this into account. Communities need living parks, lakes, streams, and open space where the environment promotes good health in air and

water and the ability to exercise outdoors. Landscape design in China can become key to create healthier communities by creating landscape systems at a broad regional scale that help to clean water and even air through natural principles. For 5,000 years communities in China lived in an equilibrium with nature and the job now is to seek and restore a balance that allows each person the chance for a healthy life.

Right now we are working on a very



large park along the shores of Lake Taihu near Wuxi. Taihu Lake is very large but very shallow so the effects of water pollution become clear much faster than elsewhere. It used to be surrounded with enormous margins of wetland that kept the water healthy for people and aquatic species that fed the people. This has changed now and many places the wetland margin is gone and aquatic life is really suffering. Taihu Lake has become a site where the local government has decided to make a major effort to reverse the effects of widespread industrial production around its edges. The park we are working on is essentially a massive water cleaning device for all the runoff of the newly developing areas of the city. It must also serve as a key point of visibility and progressive example of what can be done as cities grow in these environments. We hope we can create a powerful and visible symbol of change with this project. Part of the project we love is not only the vast expanse of wetland margin but the relatively smaller components — the complex network of boardwalks, stairs, floating gardens, channels, pool — that let

people enjoy and remember what pleasure a new relationship to a healthy lake can offer families and individuals.

#### What is the most impressive experience you have ever had, in your practice in China?

**LEADER:** As everyone knows, the biggest difference working in China is the speed at which things get designed and built. This is both an advantage and a disadvantage. It is great to know things will really happen and get built, but it is scary to wonder whether there will be enough control of the documentation and construction process to realize the specific proposal. We have learned when and where our work will have the best effect and where to rely on local expertise and let go of things that are not crucial. One has to know and communicate well about what are the key features that will make the project a success and allocate all possible resources to making that real.

#### Do you agree with the view that China is a

#### “Playground” for designers?

**LEADER:** I like to have fun as much as anybody... but I do not think of China as a “Playground” in the sense of gratuitous or frivolous proposals to get attention. I know that sometimes happens but I think there are a lot of very demanding situations with limited resources that need thoughtful answers. This usually leads to a design that provides evidence of meeting those challenges and provides that sort of inspiration. This makes me think of some of the crazy hats you see on top of tall buildings competing for attention on the skyline in places like Shanghai, they definitely make me amused when I see them all in context. But personally I would rather see that “hat money” spent on health clubs, running trails, and water purification features.

#### What influence do you think has the surge of the engagement of foreign designers brought to China?

**LEADER:** We enjoy and are very challenged by our work in China, but I think we should all look to Chinese designers to lead the country’s design culture in the years ahead. It only makes sense, they really know China’s culture better than anyone and everyday more Chinese architects and designer are coming forward to do this. Just look at the recent winner of the Pritzker Prize in Architecture, Shu Wang. I do not think a western designer would have the understanding to propose some of the structures he has done. I think Chinese designers’ leading will be a critical factor in achieving the sort of environmental and cultural equilibrium that is so badly needed. To us, this is an absolutely crucial project for the years ahead. For thousands of years the structures that were built in China reflected a careful and dynamic understanding of nature and culture. The unbelievable building boom and economic changes of the last 20 years has shown what I consider an unsustainable surge in foreign ideas that may or may not contribute to the



stable quality of life for communities there. Working to restore this time-honored sense of equilibrium with nature is the really important task of all designers in China now. Of course there have been terrific ideas from US designers trying to show the way back to equilibrium — SWA with Jim Lee has done a

terrific project recently in Nanhu with SOM that revives communal agricultural patterns as a way of settling new communities. Projects with that sort of ambition and knowledge that is more developed in the US or Europe are the ways foreigners can offer good ideas in China. **LAF**



8. 无锡太湖新城景观规划
9. 无锡太湖新城亲水公园
10. 无锡太湖新城码头广场
8. Wuxi Taihu New City Master Plan
9. Wuxi Taihu New City Water Edge Park
10. Wuxi Taihu New City Pier Park