

Building a Shared Society Starts With the Transformation of University Entrances

Kongjian YU*

College of Architecture and Landscape, Peking University, Beijing 100080, China

***CORRESPONDING AUTHOR**

Address: Rm. 501, Peking University Science Park, 127-1 Zhongguancun North Street, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, China
Email: kju@urban.pku.edu.cn

ABSTRACT

During every summer and winter vacation, the entrances of Peking University and Tsinghua University in China are always crowded with visitors. Although it is not yet possible to fully open and share campus facilities with the public, a reasonable solution would be allocating part of the entrance space to create a shared public square, with trees planted and seating arranged. This would offer shade and rest areas for the young visitors and their parents who travel from across the country. Such improvements would not only benefit visitors and reduce security burdens, but also enhance the universities' image and reflect their spirit of inclusiveness. Moreover, it would offer these prestigious institutions an opportunity to showcase their culture, disseminate knowledge, and promote enlightenment, while embodying the humanistic care and social commitment that universities should uphold.

KEYWORDS

Campus Renovation; Shared Spaces; Urban Squares; Social Commitment; Civilization Development

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During every summer and winter vacation, the campuses of worldwide famous universities in China such like Peking University and Tsinghua University are teeming with visitors, and most of them are teenagers and their parents from all cross the country (Fig. 1). For these universities, it would undoubtedly be a great chance to provide the general public with immersive educational opportunities during the visits, allowing them to gain enlightenment and edification in science, art, aesthetics, and civilization. However, the current campus design does not adequately meet the needs of visitors.

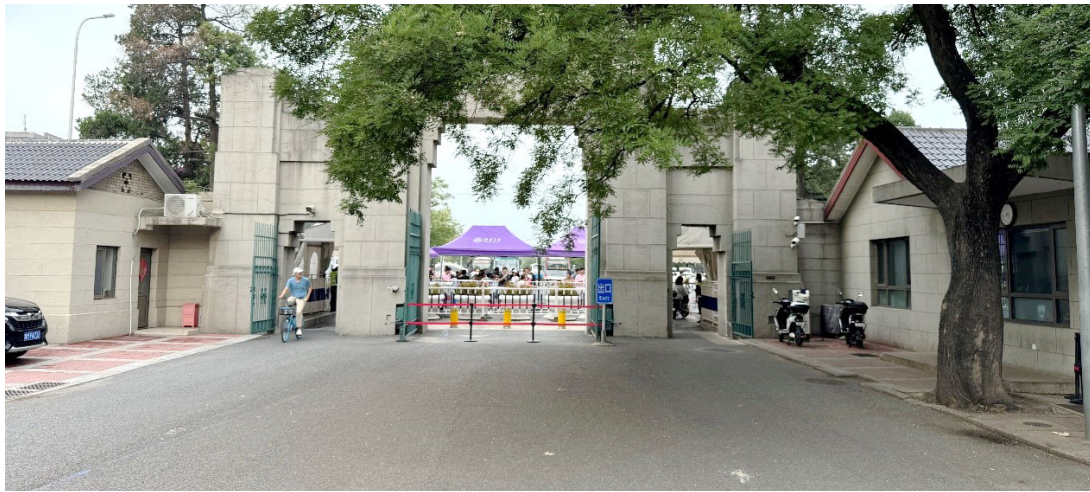
The visitors, who travel long distances, wait in a long queue outside the entrances of the campuses, enduring the scorching heat or biting winds, shoulder to shoulder with the crowds. Campus security personnel take shifts to maintain order. Tour guides and vendors navigate through the crowds. People taking pictures often occupy city roads, causing traffic chaos and unnecessary disputes. These visitors, along with their family, have to endure the fatigue of waiting and noisy environments, while both universities' public image and their educational operations might be impacted.

While we cannot ask the universities to fully open their campuses (including libraries, stadiums, or even dining halls), they could consider opening and creating a shared public square by allocating part of the entrance space. A slight redesign and renovation of this area (Fig. 2) could significantly alleviate the



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1. On a summer day, the areas outside the entrances of Tsinghua University and Peking University were as bustling as busy marketplaces.
2. While the areas outside the entrances are congested and obstructing traffic, the large spaces inside the campus walls are less frequently used. There is a potential to transform such places into shared urban spaces without compromising the campus's access control.



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- ① This suggestion has been separately submitted to the leadership of both Peking University and Tsinghua University. The reason for this public release is that the author often observe congestion around the entrances of some universities and institutions, competing with city traffic. This issue could all be resolved through spatial courtesy. This is not just a matter of design, but also concerns the awareness of civilization development.

current issues. By preserving the gatehouses as landmarks, setting back portions of the walls and security facilities by 10 ~ 20 m to form a recessed entrance square of about 1,000 m², planting canopy trees, and providing seating, the area could be open to the public^①. Other functional requirements can be thoughtfully addressed through design. Both campuses already have spacious squares and lush lawns, so sacrificing a little of those spaces to create a gathering zone would further enhance the inclusiveness of campus landscapes.

Offering a shared urban square can provide convenience and comfort to long-travel visitors and future students. This would beautify the campus environment and refine its elegance; significantly reduce the burden of campus security, save costs, and prevent incidents; and exemplify the legendary tradition of sharing and inclusivity of both universities, setting a model for all. Through such landscape design, the campuses can also convey and promote the values of truth, goodness, and beauty to the society.

By renovating the entrances, the campuses will become more

accessible to the public. Therefore, it is recommended to expedite the renovation of the main entrances of Peking University and Tsinghua University, particularly the eastern and western entrances respectively, through the design of shared, tree-lined urban squares. This will help these two universities to keep their names as world-class institutions.

Competing interests | The author declares that he has no competing interests.

建设共享社会，从高等学府的校门改造开始

俞孔坚*

北京大学建筑与景观设计学院，北京 100080

*通讯作者

地址：北京市海淀区中关村北大路127-1号北大科技园
501室

邮编：100080

邮箱：kju@urban.pku.edu.cn

摘要

每逢寒暑假，北京大学和清华大学的门口总是摩肩接踵、人头攒动。尽管目前还不能实现与社会全面开放共享校园设施，但可以通过礼让一方广场，设计一个面向社会的共享空间，广植乔木、设置座椅等，为全国各地慕名而来排队参观校园的青少年和他们的家长提供树荫和休息的便利。这样的改造不仅能够为访客提供便利、减少安保负担，更能提升校园形象，彰显大学的包容精神。这不仅为这些学府提供了展示其文雅、传播知识和启蒙文明的机会，更能体现大学应有的人文关怀和社会责任。

关键词

校园改造；共享空间；城市广场；社会责任；社会文明建设

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每当寒暑假，北京大学和清华大学的校园便游人如织、门庭若市，其中多为来自全国各地的青少年及其家长（图1）。如果能够通过营造校园沉浸式教育空间，让广大访客获得科学与艺术、审美与文明的启蒙和熏陶，不正是大学求之不得的机会吗？特别是对于广受青睐的高等学府来说，无疑是天大的好事。然而，目前的校园设计尚不能很好地满足游客的参观需求。

游客不远千里而来，舟车劳顿，为了能够一游校园，冒着烈日酷暑或凛冽北风，摩肩接踵；安全管理人员轮班维持秩序，人声鼎沸；导游和商贩往来周旋，熙来攘往；拍照留影的人群挤占城市道路，极

易造成交通拥堵，引起不必要的争吵。不仅这些携老带幼的游客要忍受久候之苦和嘈杂环境，两所高校的社会形象和教学秩序也会受到一定的负面影响。

我们虽不能要求两所大学全面开放校园（包括图书馆、体育场，甚至食堂），但通过开放共享一个入口广场——实际上，只需对校园入口（图2）稍加设计改造，便可极大改善这类问题。具体而言，可以保留门楼作为标志，将局部围墙和安检设施后撤10~20m，形成面积约1 000m²的内凹型入口广场，广植乔木，设置坐凳，面向社会开放^①。其他细节均可通过设计周全考虑。两校校园内皆有广场阔绰、草坪如茵，设置一个集散广场更加能够提升校园景观包容性。

为社会礼让出一个共享的城市广场，一可以为各地父老乡亲和未来学子们提供便利和舒适；二可以修校园之边幅，维护学府静雅之仪态；三可以大大减少安保管之负担，节约开支，减少事端；四可以彰显两校共享包容之传统，垂范天下，精诚之至，以实际行动展现高校风范。通过这样的景观设计，大学校园也将向社会展示并传递真、善、美。

通过校门改造，可使大学校园更加贴近公众，故建议加快对北京大学和清华大学的主要入口，特别是两校各自的东、西侧入口进行改造，设计共享林荫城市广场，助力这两所高校在追求世界一流学府的道路上更进一步。

^① 此建议已分别致信北京大学和清华大学两校领导。在此公开发表是因为笔者经常看到某些院校、机构的围墙外拥挤不堪，与城市交通争夺空间。实际上，这些问题都可以通过空间的礼让来解决。这不仅是设计层面的问题，更是社会文明建设的意识问题。

图 1. 暑期某日，清华大学和北京大学校门外嘈杂如闹市。

图 2. 当校门外拥挤不堪、阻塞城市交通时，围墙之内却开阔宽敞，完全可以将其改造为不影响校园门禁设置的城市共享空间。