

DESIGN BRIEF SCENARIO

Located in the heart of highly urbanised Taipei city, Treasure Hill is like world's apart with it's hilly context and tranquil river view, community vegetable garden, narrow alleyways and steps, exuberant flora alongside with self constructed "illegal" houses that are more precisely scaled to suit the context than all those legitimate houses in the city.

In 2006, the Taipei city authority decided to take the step to transform the Treasure Hill by introducing "Art Village" into the community. Some of the residents accept the authority's offers and left their home in Treasure Hill to make way for the transformation.

I found that there are quite a few elderly people who is living alone in Treasure Hill most of them retired servicemen, retreated from Mainland China in 1949 and with no family members. Social workers are visiting them regularly. However this interaction is not enough to generate that sort of family affection or companionship they desired, to have that kind of affection, the interaction should be more intimate such as living under one roof with family members.

Furthermore, after the transformation, as a side effect of changing structure of community (eg. intervention of "Art Village", visitor and their neighbours being moved out), the interaction between neighbours is diminishing. So, there should be a program or space to bring them back together.

We always accentuate on what we can give to all these old folks so that they can live better. In this scenario, there are opportunities for the elderly to earn their own livings while contributing and sharing experience with different groups of people and participate in relationship with different group of people.

Hence, the space that would most probably suited the criteria above is a space which will perform like Bed and Breakfast which will be integrated into the existing house of these living alone elderly.