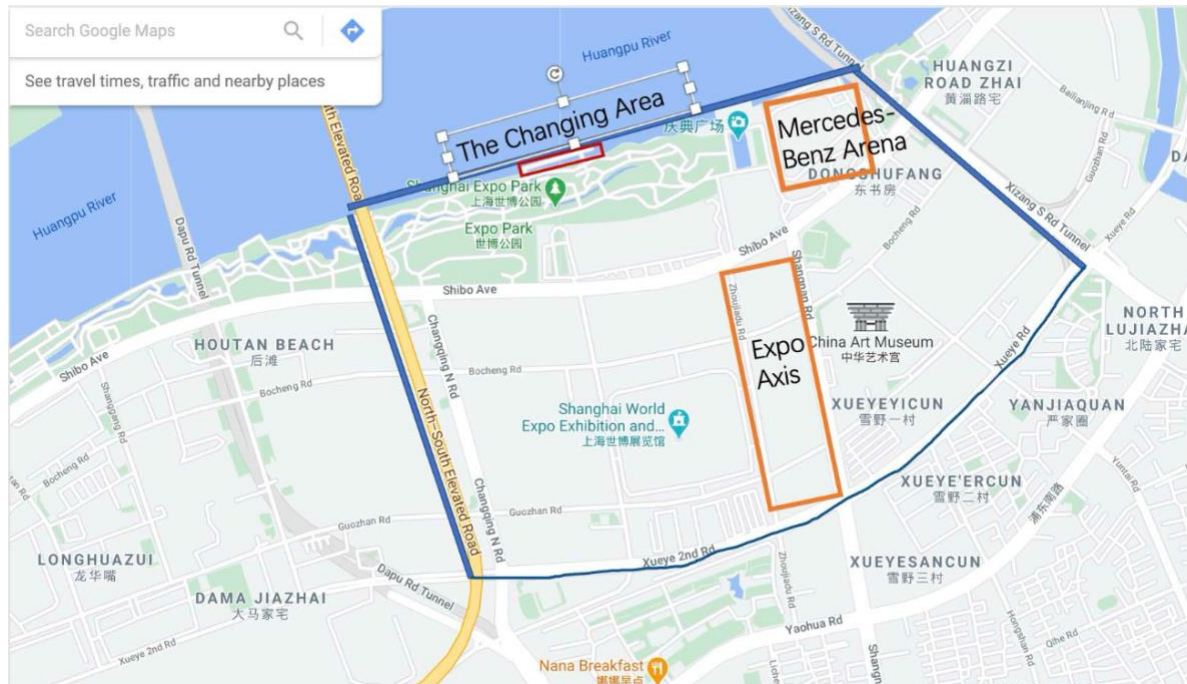


Mapping History: the (re)making of the River Mall Area in Shanghai



The river mall area was the original site of the exhibition halls of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. This is a trapezoid-like area with two major hearths. It has undergone massive development, mainly construction of Commercial or cultural buildings.

The limits surround the river mall area include one River and three main city roads: Huangpu River, North South Elevated Road, Xizang Road Tunnel and Xueye 2nd Road. To find its regional limit, I tried to find routes that satisfy two criteria: There are inconsistent landscapes on two sides of the route, and the route must be wide enough. The River Mall Area is adjacent to the Huangpu river, so the river is the natural boundary. The North South Elevated Road (Figure 1.1) is the West limit of the river mall area. Beyond this Street there is an entire site that is separated by construction walls and still under development (Figure 1.2), while on the east side of the road are some well-constructed commercial buildings (Figure 1.3). Xueye 2nd road (Figure 1.4) separates the commercial and cultural area from the residential area, with the Expo axis, the BMW Exhibition Center (Figure 1.5) and the Chinese Art Palace (Figure 1.6) on the north side, and the denser residential buildings on the south side. So does the Xizang Road Tunnel, residential area is on the east side.

There are two hearths in the river mall area: the first hearth is Expo Axis (Figure 2.1). The Expo Axis is the main entrance and main axis of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo in China, and is also located on the north-south axis of the river mall area; it is a semi-open building with two floors each on the ground floor. The Expo Axis is a large commercial and transportation complex that integrates commercial, catering, entertainment and exhibition services. As I observed, People live around there who would like to purchase commodities or dinning outside would most likely choose here, and they have to wait in line at most of the restaurants on weekends. As a result, this is the most densely populated area of the entire area. **The second one Mercedes-Benz Arena (Figure 2.2).** It is very close to the Expo axis, but the reason why I regard it as a separated hearth is because I think it takes on a different function: the cultural function. The main arena here has a capacity of 18,000 people and has hosted concerts,

basketball games, hockey games, ice shows and other types of large-scale cultural performances. In addition, the main body of the cultural center looks like a flying saucer, so whether looking down from the sky or across the river, it is very eye-catching.

The changing areas are located in the northern part of the Expo Park, along the riverside (Figure 3.1). Since the opening of Shanghai to commerce in the 19th century, this area has been a large wharf, and rows of neatly arranged and renovated mooring pales can still be seen (Figure 3.2). The size of these mooring pales shows that the original cargo ships were not very large. Next to these mooring pales, two large crane towers are erected here (Figure 3.3). This is a historical relic of China's first new modern steel base, Baogang Steel Group. This was once the center of China's steel industry, millions of tons of pig iron were transferred inland from this wharf since 1985. And today, it is a corner of the Expo Park - an excellent observation deck (Figure 3.4).

Boundaries:



Figure 1.1



Figure 1.2



Figure 1.3



Figure 1.4



Figure 1.5



Figure 1.6

Two Hearths:

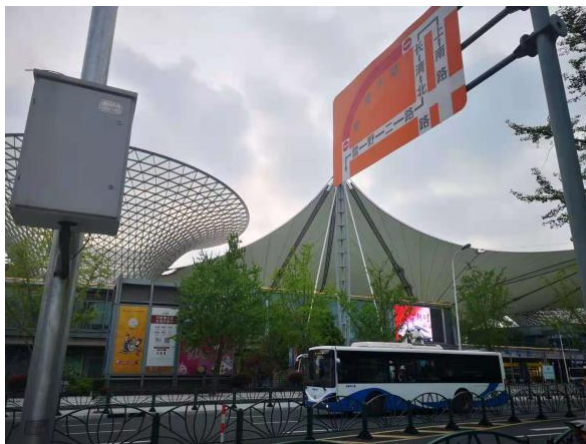


Figure 2.1



Figure 2.2

The Changing Area:



Figure 3.1



Figure 3.2



Figure 3.3



Figure 3.4