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大溪木藝生態博物館的誕生

Daxi Woodart Ecomuseum, 是基於保存文化資產與結合在地社群共同參與的理念下孕育而生; 走訪大溪, 處處可見 200 餘年的歷史縮影.

大溪自清代發展至今形成多元豐富的歷史風貌, 因 Dahan Creek 而成為商業貿易往來的交通樞紐, 不僅古道四通八達, 茶, 樟腦, 木材等重要物資, 經由 Dahan Creek 運送至 Xinzhuang, Monga, Dadaocheng, Tamsui 等地, 成為北台灣重要河運據點.

後又因林本源家族遷移至大溪, 聘請木作匠師興建家族宅邸 “Tongyidi”, 奠定大溪百年木藝基礎; 百年發展讓老城區街道各具特色, Heping Old Street 是木器街, Caodianwei 及 Houwei St.是船運時期挑夫及木器行學徒居住之地, Zhongyang Rd. 是提供日常生活用品的百貨街, Zhongshan Rd.為仕紳居住區, 有 Residence of Tie-chou Lu 及 Chian A-niu Chiancheng Store 等重要歷史空間. 日治時期 Dakekan Branch Office 及其宿舍設置於今 Puji Rd.一帶, 目前登錄為歷史建築的 Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex 即為重要見證.

無論是在地木器產業, 百年警政歷史, 或是遍佈大溪的街屋, 古厝, Samurai Virtue Hall 及寺廟, 普濟堂關聖帝君遶境聖誕慶典及其傳承百年的社頭文化, 這些有形, 無形文化資產與生活於此的人們, 形構出大溪獨特的生活形態與在地文化, 因此博物館將與居民共同致力保存, 記錄與展演大溪木藝產業及常民生活, 促進民眾參與地方文化事務, 呈現大溪自然, 人文, 生活, 產業交織而成的小鎮文化底蘊.

博物館是個有機體, 與居民一起成長共同豐富彼此. 在 2015 年 3 月, 我們與所有居民手牽手, 共同宣誓博物館啟動元年, 努力讓整個大溪, 成為一座無圍牆的博物館.

大溪”我們的”博物館

大溪的自然, 人文, 環境, 居民生活及木器產業經過百年累積, 創造了豐富的有形及無形文化資產, 讓大溪就是一座博物館. 20 年的大溪社區營造基礎, 形成以居民為主體的理念, 強調居民參與及社會實踐的精神, 落實在地有形, 無形文化資產保存, 與居民一起經營”我們的”博物館, 透過共同行動的過程看見自己的價值與榮光, 走進大溪就是走進博物館, 居民就是分享大溪學的館員, 大溪既是生活的場域, 也是教育的場域, 大溪”我們的”博物館, 是一座展演大溪生活魅力的

生態博物館.

使命與目標

Daxi Woodart Ecomuseum 設置理念以大溪百年木藝為核心，結合大溪豐富的有形，無形文化資產為內涵，因此大溪的人文，自然，生活及產業等，例如家具，木藝，飲食，歷史，宗教文化...，皆為博物館保存推廣的內容，並結合社區營造，各式教育活動落實大溪無圍牆博物館理念，長期推動深度文化觀光產業，及促進大溪木藝品牌之建立.

[使 命]

1. 倡議木藝生活
2. 保存常民文化
3. 恢復職人榮光
4. 推動地域振興

[目 標]

1. 促進大溪有形，無形文化資產的保存與再利用，再創造.
2. 探索，紀錄與展演大溪常民生活與木藝產業歷史文化.
3. 促進木藝傳承，發揚大溪木藝職人精神，建立大溪木藝品牌.
4. 促成民眾參與地方文化詮釋與公共事務，建立大溪學.
5. 發掘與串聯大溪資源，創造地域特色亮點，促進地域振興發展.

博物館營運空間發展藍圖

我們善用城區裡的老建築，以登錄為歷史建築之 Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School, Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex 及 Samurai Virtue Hall 為營運中心，預計 2015-2019 年分年分階段完成修繕再利用工程，作為博物館展覽，教育推廣，文化藝術交流，藝師傳承，體驗工坊，及展示大溪特色人物及故事，社區參與營運等空間.

2015 壹號館(原 Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School, No.68, Zhongzheng Rd.)

2016 歷史館(原 Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex 四連棟, No. 17, 19, 21, and 23, Puji Rd.)

藝師故事館(No. 52, Puji Rd.)

Samurai Virtue Hall 暨渡廊特展館(No. 29, 31, 33, Puji Rd.)

2017-2019 融合文創, 工坊體驗, 藝術駐村, 創作交流, 大溪特色之主題館舍空間整備 (Ln. 13, Puji Rd. 宿舍群延伸至整體巷弄, 崖線景觀等)

我們的館舍-武德殿

大溪 Samurai Virtue Hall 落成於 1935 年, 二次世界大戰前, 日人行軍國主義, 提倡武士道精神, 因而在各地修建 Samurai Virtue Hall, 以供警察及青年子弟修練柔道, 劍道, 所謂“武德”即劍道五德“正義, 廉恥, 勇武, 禮節, 禮讓”。1950 年大溪公會堂改為總統行館, 增設大溪憲兵隊, 即以 Samurai Virtue Hall 為隊部營舍。2000 年隊部撤除後, Samurai Virtue Hall 重新整修, 屋頂保持原有的木質結構與青銅裝飾, 四週牆面與護欄則改為水泥及洗石子, 2004 年經登錄為桃園縣“歷史建築”, 2015 年成為 Daxi Woodart Ecomuseum 的公有館舍。

我們的館舍-壹號館

Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School 為 1920 年代興建的日式高架平房建築, 曾為 Daxi Primary School 的校長宿舍, 前屋主是大溪初級中學英文老師 Chen Mao-lin, 其夫人 Chen-Wang Cuiwu 曾在屋裡教授裁縫, 宿舍門口高掛“溪光縫紉補習班”的場景是許多大溪婦女共同回憶。2007 年, Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School 登錄為桃園縣“歷史建築”, 由 Department of Cultural Affairs 接管後, 成為“Daxi Woodart Ecomuseum”第一棟修繕開放的空間, 也因此被稱為“壹號館”。原來的私人生活場所成為公共空間, 打開大溪文化的第一扇窗。老房子有了新生命, 也象徵時代的變遷。

我們的館舍-大溪警察局宿舍群

Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex 見證大溪從日治到民國近百年的警政沿革與大溪發展歷程, 為日治 Dakekan Branch Officer(1901 年)時期開始興建之官職員宿舍, 支廳於 1920 年改制為大溪郡役所, 至 1945 年改制為今日之大溪分局 Daxi Precinct, 時代與制度一路演變, 其宿舍主要用途不曾改變, 直至今日, 少數仍住在此的配住人也都是服務於警政體系之老前輩及其眷屬後代等。

Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex 因具有多元不同等級之宿舍及其臨崖線景

觀，使其具有歷史價值，從 1901 年興建至 1941 年間幾經修繕及增建而成為現今所見獨棟，四連棟，六連棟等建築，民國時期，因住戶空間使用不足，在原有木造建築外陸續加建磚造，混凝土及鐵皮建築，形成現今獨特巷弄景觀，特別的是，No. 29 and 31, Puji Rd.原係為 Samurai Virtue Hall 連通之附屬建築，同屬於 1935 年興建，將透過修復恢復其渡廊連通的歷史原貌。

未來宿舍群再利用，除維持其原居家住屋風貌，述說大溪官廳舍及原住戶故事外，也將增加展示，藝術進駐，創作交流及體驗之場館功能。

我們的街角館

我們強調居民參與，因此自 2013 年起即展開“街角館”推動機制，希望邀請居民一起關心，保存及展演大溪文化，無論是店家，學校，工作室，木材廠，任何具有故事與記憶的空間....只要秉持“願意改變，願意付出”的初衷，願意共同朝向讓大溪更好的方向前進，就是博物館的民間夥伴。大溪宿舍群與街角館將串連成網絡，不僅看見大溪的大歷史，也看見精彩的常民生活史，街角館如同不同主題的小分館，導覽員就是大溪居民或店主人，讓每個街角館說自己精彩的故事，來到大溪巷弄中的街角館，發現不同的驚喜。

溯源-大溪木藝產業

戀戀 Takekan--昔日產業痕跡

大溪舊稱 Takekan，泰雅族與平埔族曾在此留下足跡，接續是閩，客等多元族群的聚居生根，宛若母親河的 Dahan Creek，滋潤在地數百年的生活，也串聯了對外的交通與發展。坐擁 Dahan Creek 的水運之利，大溪曾是北臺灣淡水河系運輸物資可達的最遠之處，身為最內陸的重要商港，樟腦，茶，煤礦，林木資源都曾不同時間點匯集此地，創造大溪繁華多變的產業面貌。

天時，地利，人和--木藝產業紮根

緊鄰大溪的 Fuxing District，宛若天然而美麗的“材”庫，山林裡的木料沿著 Dahan Creek 順流至下游，匯聚到大溪，便利的水運減輕了木材搬運的沉重負擔，再加上氣候濕潤適合木器上漆等自然條件，大溪，擁有得天獨厚的木藝能量。

晚清時期，大溪十大公號<一李，二江，三林，四簡，五張廖，六黃，七呂，八王游，

九陳，什姓等姓氏>齊聚大溪老城區，許多富賈，望族至大溪興建家厝，並聘請了福建省泉州的唐山木藝師傅渡海來臺，從建築樑棟的大木作工程到細木家具一手包辦，這些唐山匠師的巧手，為大溪木藝奠定技藝傳承的根基。

大溪榮光—木器家具與神桌之鄉

1960 年代臺灣經濟起飛，家具，神桌的需求量增加，大溪木器產業鼎盛發展。1970, 80 年代，大溪更以“唐木，紅木家具”等硬木，品質頂級的木器創造榮景，光是 Heping Rd.上就有多達 50-60 家木器店，直到 1990 年代，經濟景氣低潮，東南亞低價家具來臺傾銷，加上生活型態改變，木製家具與神桌的需求銳減，整體木器產業因而受到衝擊。然而，大溪木器重鎮的產業文化歷經百年發展，融合了歷史，藝術，民間工藝，有形的器物，無形的技藝，早已和大溪居民的生活，習俗，信仰緊密相扣，整個大溪宛若一本木器與神桌的活字典，木器業者及木藝匠師們展現著職人的精神，以“頂真，傳承，創新”的態度傳承大溪百年文化，用心，堅持在每件木器上，持續呈現大溪頂級工藝榮光。

早期的大溪神桌有著華麗的龍紋，蓮花等雕刻樣式(影像由協盛木器提供)

[樵接功夫扎實，雕花刻工精良，選材取料考究，上漆慢工細活] 是大溪木器致勝要領。

雕鑿-大溪木藝強韌生命力

大溪木器不僅木工技藝精湛，鑿花工藝同樣倍受肯定，隨著現代生活需求與審美風格改變，家具形式越趨輕便簡單，減少裝飾，但仍有鑿花師傅持續守護細木鑿花文化，從事神桌，木器家具的鑿花細工，例如: Lin Tian-sheng, Chen Li-wei... 等人，也有神佛雕刻師傅開創木雕新氣象，例如: Wu Rong-si, Lan Wei-wen..... 等人，也有人從傳統中汲取養分，融入個人美學思維及生活感動，轉向藝術性的木雕創作，例如: Jian Chen-hsing, Chen Bo-rong, 及榮獲 Ministry of Education “Folk Art Heritage Awards” 的藝師 You Li-hai, 近年來除了木器家具產業，更投入木雕藝術的領域。大溪木藝強韌的生命力，展現在各類木藝師傅不受時代侷限的多元思維裡，不論轉型與否，傳統或創新，他們對木藝的堅持，都讓木材刻鑿的聲響持續傳遍大溪。

堆砌-空間生活記憶

木器街--Heping Old Street

自日治時代起, Heping Old Street 就是大溪地區木器業者聚集之地, 現今牌樓立面可見日治時期店家商號, 目前老街上仍有協大, 協盛, 新玉清, 日月, 新發, 信發, 朝陽, 協新, 協和, 協達, 鑫新, 廣大, You Dong-cheng, Su Yong- hsiang..... 等經營至今數十載的老字號.

文人名流住宅區--Zhongshan Rd.

舊稱新南老街的 Zhongshan Rd., 日治時期主要是文人, 名流駐足的住宅區, 有富商, 地方望族, 醫師, 及少部分在公家機關上班的臺灣人住在這裡, 例如, 地方仕紳 Lu Ying-yang 及其子膠彩畫家 Tie-chou Lu 曾居住在“蘭室”, 氣派雄偉的“Chiancheng Store” 則是樟腦與煤礦業鉅子 Chian A-niu 的住宅兼經商處所, 此外, 街上還有數間高級酒館, 專做日本人生意的商店等.

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打鐵街--Zhongyang Rd.

早期農業興盛, 鐵製農具需求大, 加上 Fuxing District 的原住民來此訂製番刀, 日治時期 Zhongyang Rd. 上曾有 11 家打鐵店, 鏗鏘聲響不絕於耳, 今日大溪仍可見三處打鐵店老字號: Zhongyang Rd. 的正吉號, 葫蘆來打鐵店, 以及介壽路上的千祥打鐵店.

老字號-傳統產業的人情溫度

人口聚集處, 自然有各式民生需求, 早期大溪各式店家林立, 雜貨店, 收驚店, 理髮店; 辦嫁妝的金飾銀樓; 打造紀念碑, 墓碑, 石器的打石舖; 拜拜祭祀所需的製香業.....等. 現今大溪老街區仍可見兩間百年中藥行, 三代相傳的“全昌堂” 以及傳承四代的“再生堂”; 另有一間約 180 年歷史的古厝--曾經傳承五代的“古裕發糕餅舖”, 現今已不再製餅, 但透過老厝的修復保存, 加入文化創思維的經營模式, 傳承家族記憶. 大溪目前仍有許多在地老字號持續經營, 店裡的阿公, 阿嬤露出親切和善的笑容, 訴說的除了歷史, 還有人情溫度.

家傳香-愛上大溪的好滋味

濃郁的陳年滷汁, 剛出爐的糕餅奶油味, 豆類食品的清香, 誘人的氣味飄散在大溪老街區, 傳統湯圓, 百年油飯, 里長嬾的碗糕, 涼水豆花, 花生糖, 月光餅, 風味餐點.....等常民美食, 許多都是百年相傳, 越陳越香的好味道. 到大溪菜市場尋寶, 還能發現許多在地食材以及隱藏版的美食!

神祐福地-多元繁盛的信仰文化

老城區內福仁宮，普濟堂兩大信仰中心，每逢各項祭典盛事，信眾從各地湧入老街區，人潮絡繹不絕，沿著 Heping Old Street 街尾至 Puji Rd.上，普濟堂，修德禪寺，鎮福宮，福仁宮，江夏堂(黃氏家廟)，基督教拿薩勒人教會，濟陽堂(江氏家廟)，基督教長老教會，鎮南宮.....沿路排開，老城區內就有 9 座土地公廟，守護著大溪老街區這塊福地，佛教，道教，基督教等等宗教，長年來相互尊重，展現老城區多元的信仰文化。

每年農曆 6 月 24 日舉行的“大溪普濟堂關聖帝君聖誕慶典”已由 Bureau of Cultural Heritage, MOC 登錄為無形文化資產，祭典活動從 1914 年延續至今，大溪居民視為比過年還重要的節日，相偕請假回到鎮上，連續熱鬧 3 天，其中由大溪各行各業“社頭”組織為主體舉行的遶境儀式，更是全台獨有，例如由大溪木器同業組成的“協義社”就以“墨斗陣”形塑出獨有的社頭文化，形成北台灣關聖帝君祭典最盛大且極具特色者。

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- Our Street Corner Exhibition Pavilions

Daxi - A Hundred Years of Elegance

- Genesis--The Wood Art Industry in Daxi
- Engraving --The Vigor and Resilience of Daxi Wood Art
- Piling up-- Memories about Space and Life
- Time-Honored Businesses --Warmth and Humanity of Traditional Industries
- Delicious Family Heirloom--In love with Great Taste in Daxi
- God Bless the Fortunate Land -- Diverse and Flourishing Religious Culture

大溪木藝生態博物館的誕生

Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum was built for the mission of preserving cultural assets and encouraging the joint participation from local communities. Taking a stroll at any corner of Daxi, one can see Daxi's over two-century history in microcosm.

Developments in the Qing Dynasty until present have contributed to Daxi's diverse historical features. Dahan Creek made Daxi a transport hub for commercial activities. With widespread ancient transportation routes, important goods such as tea leaves, camphor, and timber could be shipped to areas including Xinzhuang, Monga, Dadaocheng, and Tamsui through Dahan Creek, making Daxi an important canal city in northern Taiwan.

After taking residence in Daxi, the Lin Ben-Yuan family hired wood craftsmen to build their family mansion "Tongyidi", which in turn laid down a foundation for Daxi's centuries-old wood art history. Developments over centuries have given distinctive characteristics to streets in the old town. Heping Old Street is known for selling wood products. Caodianwei Street and Houwei Street were home to wood shop apprentices and porters when cargo ships were sailing on the water. Zhongyang Road was known for selling an assortment of household items. Zhongshan Road, which was the residential street of gentries, was where important historical monuments such as Lu Tie-Chou Residence and Chian A-Niu Chiancheng Store were located. The current Puji Road was the former site of Dakekan Branch Office and dormitory complexes during the Japanese Colonial Period. Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex, which has been registered as a historical monument, serves as an important witness of this historical period.

Be it the local wood product industry, the centuries-old history of police, street houses, ancient historical buildings, Samurai Virtue Hall, and temples everywhere in Daxi, Saintly Emperor Guan's birthday celebration festival and pilgrimage, or the 社頭 culture, which has been around for centuries, these tangible and intangible cultural assets and local residents have collaboratively shaped Daxi's distinctive lifestyle and indigenous culture. In light of this, Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum endeavors to collaborate with local residents to preserve, record, and showcase Daxi's wood art industries and common people's life, encourage the public to participate in local cultural affairs, as well as to display the small town's cultural underpinnings interweaved by Daxi's natural resources, humanistic elements, lifestyles, and industries.

A museum, which is a living organism, grows together with local residents, both of which enrich each other over time. We set out to announce the grand opening of Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum in March 2015 with all Daxi local residents, aspire to turn the entire Daxi into a museum without concrete boundaries.

大溪”我們的”博物館

As a result of developments over the past centuries, Daxi's natural resources, humanistic elements, environment, residents' lifestyle, and the wood product industry have given birth to a vast number of tangible and intangible cultural assets, making Daxi a museum itself. Based on the foundation of a 20-year community development undertaking, we aspire to develop a set of local residents-centered ideas, attach importance to the participation of local residents and the spirit of social practice, preserve tangible and intangible cultural assets on this land, manage “our” museum with local residents, and bring individual value and honor into sight in the course of taking collaborative action. In this way, people who set foot in Daxi also enter a museum whereas local residents are museum docents to share the study of Daxi. More than a place for living, Daxi is also turned into a place of education. “Our” Daxi Museum is an ecomuseum which demonstrates Daxi's charisma in everyday life.

使命與目標

Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum, which was founded centering on Daxi's centuries-old wood art, also aims to include an assortment of tangible and intangible cultural assets in Daxi. Therefore, Daxi's humanistic elements, natural resources, residents' lifestyle, and industries covering furniture, wood art, dietary practices, history, religion, culture, etc. are all what the museum intends to preserve and make known to the public. Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum also sets out to collaborate with community development programs and various educational activities to realize the vision of transforming Daxi into a museum without concrete boundaries, promote a more profound cultural tourism, and assist to create brands for Daxi wood art.

[Mission]

1. Advocate a life with wood art
2. Preserve commoner culture
3. Restore the glory of craftsmen
4. Give impetus to the revival of the area

[Objectives]

1. Promote the preservation, reuse, and remaking of Daxi's tangible and intangible cultural assets
2. Explore, record, and showcase the lives of common people in Daxi as well as the history and culture of the wood art industry in Daxi.
3. Encourage the passing down of wood art, promote the spirit of craftsmen in Daxi, and create brands for Daxi wood art.
4. Encourage public participation in interpreting indigenous culture and public affairs as well as make the study of Daxi a new study.
5. Discover and connect resources in Daxi, create highlights of regional specialties, and propel revival and development of the area.

博物館營運空間發展藍圖

Making good use of this town's old buildings, we chose registered historical monuments Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School, Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex, and Samurai Virtue Hall as the museum's operations center. Repairs over a few steps and years are scheduled to be performed in 2015-2019. The repaired buildings are to be used as space for museum exhibitions, education, promotion, cultural and art exchange, passing down of artistry, DIY workshops, displays of Daxi's special historical figures and stories, community participation, and museum operations.

2015 No 1. Exhibition Pavilion (the previous Japanese style dormitory of Dasi Primary School at No.68, Zhongzheng Rd.)

2016 Daxi History Exhibition Pavillion (four joined dormitories No. 17, 19, 21, and 23 of the previous Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex on Puji Road.)

Daxi Craftsmen's Stories Exhibition Pavillion (No. 52, Puji Road.)

Samurai Virtue Hall and Connecting Corridor Special Exhibition Pavilion (No. 29, 31, 33, Puji Road.)

2017-2019 Finish equipping and furnishing the theme-based exhibition pavilions which incorporate cultural innovation, DIY workshops, art in the village, art exchange, and Daxi's distinctive features (Ln. 13, Puji Rd. Spread out from the dormitory complex to streets, alleys, costal landscapes, etc.)

我們的館舍-武德殿

The Samurai Virtue Hall in Daxi was built in 1935 before World War II. Many other Samurai Virtue Halls were built everywhere by Japanese, who practiced militarism and advocated the spirit of Bushido, as arenas for policemen and young male adults to practice Judo and kendo. "Martial virtues", which denote the five martial virtues of kendo, include "justice, honor, courage, etiquette, and courteousness." After Daxi Township Assembly Hall became a president palace in 1950, a great number of military police officers were deployed in Daxi, and the Samurai Virtue Hall in Daxi became the dormitory of the troops. Following the withdrawal of the troops in 2000, Samurai Virtue Hall was renovated. The original wooden structures and bronze embellishment on the rooftop were unscathed yet walls on the four sides of the hall and surrounding fences were changed to cement and granule materials. Subsequently, Samurai Virtue Hall was registered as a historical monument in Taoyuan County in 2004 and became a public property managed by Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum in 2005.

我們的館舍-壹號館

The Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School, a typical Japanese-style raised bungalow built in the 1920s, used to be a school principal dormitory. Its most recent occupant was Mr. Chen Mao-Lin, an

English teacher at Daxi Junior High School. Mr. Chen Mao-Lin's wife Ms Cuiwu Chen-Wang used to teach needlework at the dormitory. A "Xi-Guang Sewing School" banner hanging directly above the dormitory door was the communal memory of many women in Daxi. In 2007, the Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School was registered as a "historical monument" in Taoyuan County. After the Department of Cultural Affairs took over management, the Japanese style dormitory of Daxi Primary School became Daxi Wood Art Ecomuseum's first building open to the public after renovation and was therefore known as the "No.1 Exhibition Pavilion". Transforming a previous private living area into a public space opens a window to Daxi culture, breathes new life into the old building, and reflects transitions as a result of the passing of time.

我們的館舍-大溪警察局宿舍群

Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex has been a witness of the evolution of police and the development processes of Daxi from the Japanese Colonial Period to the government of the Republic of China in nearly one century. The construction of Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex, which used to house officers and general staff, commenced in 1911 during the Japanese Colonial Period. The Dakekan Branch Office was reshuffled to become Daxi Township Government Building in 1920 and subsequently the current Daxi Precinct in 1945. Despite continuous changes in authorities and evolution over time, the dormitory complex's main function has never altered. At present, the remaining few dormitory occupants are entirely veterans who used to serve in the police force or these veterans' family and descendants.

The historical value of Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex can be attributed to its various dormitories of different grades and its cliff-side views. Following the commencement of the construction in 1901, several repairs and construction works were performed to build the existing single-detached dormitories, four joined dormitories, and six joined dormitories. During the period of the Republic of China, dormitories built with bricks, concrete, and metal sheets were built alongside old dormitories made of wood as a response to insufficient space in old dormitories. Distinctive alleys and passages formed by these dormitories are still visible now. In particular, No. 29 and No. 31 dormitories on Puji Road used to be subsidiary buildings attached to Samurai Virtue Hall. Both of the dormitories were built in 1935. Repairs are to be arranged to restore the connecting corridor to its original state.

As for reuse of the dormitory complex in the future, its original state as a living area would stay unchanged, and stories about government offices and local residents in Daxi would be recounted. In addition, displays, in-house art, art exchange, and DIY experiences are scheduled to be added to the exhibition pavilion's existing features.

我們的街角館

We value the participation of local residents. For that reason, we have been advocating the concept of “street corner exhibition pavilions” since 2013 in the hope of inviting local residents to mind, preserve, and exhibit Daxi culture. Be it shops, schools, workshops, wood factories, or any space with stories and memories, all are our museum’s folk companions as long as they can stick to their original “enthusiasm to change and enthusiasm to give” aspiration and are inclined to move forward in the direction of a better Daxi in the future. A network made by Daxi Police Bureau Dormitory Complex and Street Corner Exhibition Pavilions not only brings into sight the history of Daxi but also the inspirational history of common people’s lives. Street Corner Exhibition Pavilions, which consist of several small pavilions featuring different themes, have Daxi residents or shop owners as exhibition docents. In doing so, each street corner exhibition pavilion can share its own great stories. People who visit these hidden gems behind Daxi streets and alleys may find out different surprises.

溯源-大溪木藝產業

In love with Takekan-- traces of an old-time industry

After the Atayal and Pingpu tribe people set foot on Daxi (which was previously called Takekan), diverse ethnic groups including the Han Chinese and the Hakka people also took residence and formed communities in Daxi. Over centuries, the mother river Dahan Creek has not only nourished and provided for this land but also connected transport and development in the outside world. With the advantage of Dahan Creek water transport, Daxi used to be the farthest point where goods transported through branches of Tamsui River could reach. As the most important inland port for business activities, Daxi used to be a confluence point of camphor, tea leaves, coal mine, and timber resources in different historical periods, which resulted in Daxi’s booming and diverse industries.

When the stars align –the wood art industry has taken root in Daxi

Fuxing District, which is adjacent to Daxi, is a natural and beautiful treasury of timber resources. Timber was transported from the upstream to the downstream of Dahan Creek and gathered in Daxi. Such convenient water transport alleviated the heaviness of transporting bulky timber from places to places. Moreover, a moist temperature in Daxi is favorable for glazing wood products, adding another exceptional natural condition for the making of wood art.

In the late Qing Dynasty, [大溪十大公號<一李, 二江, 三林, 四簡, 五張廖, 六黃, 七呂, 八王游, 九陳, 什姓等姓氏>](#) gathered together in the old downtown area of Daxi. A great number of rich businessmen and influential families built their family mansions in Daxi. Tangshan wood craftsmen from Quanzhou City, Fujian Province, China were invited to Taiwan to supervise work as large as making wood house pillars and beams or as small as making wood furniture. Thanks to these dexterous Tangshan wood craftsmen, a foundation for Daxi wood art was established so that the artistry may be passed down to future generations.

The glory of Daxi- home of wood furniture and worship tables

Along with Taiwan's economic take-off in 1960s came a growing demand for furniture and worship tables and a booming wood product industry in Daxi. The heyday of Daxi wood product industry came in 1970s and 1980s when hardwood such as rosewood and mahogany were used to make superb quality furniture and wood products. Heping Road alone had as many as 50 to 60 wood shops. Such prosperity continued until the 1990s when an economic recession struck, furniture at low prices from Southeast Asia were sold in Taiwan, people's lifestyle changed, the demand for wood furniture and worship tables dropped sharply, and the entire wood product industry was impacted. Despite such adversity, developments of wood product industry and culture in Daxi over centuries have incorporated history, art, folk craft, tangible objects, and intangible artistry, all of which was already intertwined with Daxi people's life, customs, and beliefs. The entire Daxi is like a living dictionary about wood objects and worship tables. Wood product industry workers and wood craftsmen demonstrate their craftsman spirit, endeavor to embrace a "conscientious, carrying forward, and innovative" attitude in passing down Daxi's centuries-old culture, put their heart and soul into each wood item, and continue Daxi's glory in producing top-notch wood art.

Early Daxi wood worship tables embellished with engravings in the patterns of dragons and lotus flowers (image provided by Xie Sheng Wood Products)

Joining wooden joints with solid skills, engraving exquisite patterns, exercising great care in materials selection, and glazing the wood in a meticulous manner are secrets to Daxi's unrivaled wood products

雕鑿-大溪木藝強韌生命力

Aside from the marvelous woodcraft, Daxi wood products are also acclaimed for showing craftsmen's excellent engraving techniques. Along with people's changing needs in life and sense of aesthetics, furniture is becoming lighter and with less complicated designs and embellishments. However, some wood engraving artists are still practitioners of this exquisite art. Artists such as Lin Tian-Sheng and Chen Li-wei still perform delicate wood engraving on wood worship tables and wood furniture. Buddha statue engraving artists including Wu Rong-Si, Lan Wei-Wen, and many others have created a whole new scene of wood engraving. There are also artists who draw on traditional elements, incorporate their own unique sense of aesthetics and life experiences, and perform art-oriented wood engraving. These artists include Jian Chen-Hsing, Chen Bo-Rong, and Ministry of Education "Folk Art Heritage Awards" winner You Li-Hai, who not only works in the wood furniture industry but also began to work on the art of wood engraving in recent years. The vigor and resilience of Daxi wood art is reflected on wood craftsmen's free, unrestricted, and assorted ideas. Whether undergoing transformation or not, embracing traditional or innovative elements, their insistence on wood art is to let the unrelenting sound of wood engraving heard all over Daxi.

堆砌-空間生活記憶

The street of wood products -- Heping Old Street

Starting from the Japanese Colonial Period, Dixi's Heping Old Street has always had a cluster of wood shops. Nowadays, shop names in the Japanese Colonial Period are still noticeable on the façade of buildings. At present, old shops which have been operating on this old street for decades include Xie Da (協大), Xie Sheng (協盛), Xin Yu Qing (新玉清), Ri Yue (日月), Xin Fa (新發), Xin Fa (信發), Chao Yang (朝陽), Xie Xin (協新), Xie He (協和), Xie Da (協達), Xin Xin (鑫新), Guang Da (廣大), You Dong-Cheng, Su Yong-Hsiang, etc.

Residential street of scholars and celebrities- Zhongshan Road

In the Japanese Colonial Period, Zhongshan Road, which was previously called "New South Old Street", was mainly where scholars and celebrities lived. Some affluent businesspeople, local influential families, doctors, and a small number of Taiwanese who worked for the government also lived on this street. For example, local gentry Lu Ying-Yang and his glue color painter son Lu Tie-Chou used to live in "Chamber of Orchids". Camphor and coal mine business tycoon Chain A-Niu used to do business and live in the grand and magnificent "Chiancheng Store". In addition, Zhongshan Road also had several high-end bistros and shops that exclusively catered for Japanese customers.

Street of Blacksmith Shops--Zhongyang Road.

With thriving agricultural activities in the past, there was a big demand for iron agricultural tools. Daxi was also where Fuxing District aborigines ordered their savage knives fan-dao (番刀). In the Japanese Colonial Period, there used to be 11 blacksmith shops on Zhongyang Road, making incessant metal forging sounds. Nowadays, the remaining three old blacksmith shops in Daxi are Zheng Ji Hao (正吉號) Blacksmith Shop and Hu Lu Lai (葫蘆來) Blacksmith Shop on Zhongyang Road along with Qian Xiang (千祥) Blacksmith Shop on Jieshou Road.

老字號-傳統產業的人情溫度

Time-honored businesses -warmth and humanity of traditional industries

Where there are groups of people, there are various livelihood needs. In old days, a great variety of shops were already doing business. These shops included variety shops, exorcist shops, barbershops, hair salons, gold and silver jewelry shops which were used for preparing for a girl's dowry, stone-carving workshops which produced memorial stones, tombstones, stone utensils, incense-making businesses to cater for worship practices, etc. At present, two centuries-old Chinese herbal medicine shops- Quan Chang Tang (全昌堂) and Zai Sheng Tang (再生堂), which are managed by third-generation and fourth-generation owners respectively, are still operating on an old street. At another 180-old house in Daxi, a defunct five-generation Gu Yu Pastry Shop (古裕發糕餅舖) used to sell steamed sponge cakes and other baked products here. Although the pastry shop has ceased

operations, the old house was repaired and preserved with culture and innovation in mind to pass down the pastry family's memories. Currently, many old shops in Daxi are still open. When old grandpa and grandma shop owners give out their cordial and friendly smile, what are told are not only the history but also the warmth and humanity of these shops.

家傳香-愛上大溪的好滋味

Old and savory marinades which are enriched over time, fresh-baked pastry with rich butter fragrance, bean products with a whiff of delicate fragrance, pleasant and tantalizing aromas in the air of Daxi old streets, traditional glutinous rice balls, sticky rice from a centuries-old shop, salty rice puddings from a shop run by a former village head's wife, cold water tofu puddings, peanut candies, moonlight cakes, local special delicacies, and many other common people's foods are all here. Many of these specialties have a centuries-old recipe, which is handed down from older generations to younger generations and get bettered over time. Take a treasure-hunting trip to fruit and vegetable markets in Daxi, you may find out many local food ingredients and hidden gems for delicious food!

神祐福地-多元繁盛的信仰文化

Fu Ren Palace and Pu Ji Temple in the old downtown area are two major religious centers in Daxi. Whenever there are ceremonies or festivals, devout worshipers from everywhere flock into Daxi old streets and create an incessant flow of people. Along the end of Heping Old Street and to Puji Road, there is an array of places of worship including Pu Ji Temple, Xiu De Zen Temple, Zhen Fu Palace, Fu Ren Palace, Jiang Xia Hall (Chen Clan Ancestral Hall), Nazarene Christian Church, Ji Yang Hall (Jiang Clan Ancestral Hall), Christian Presbyterian Church, Zhen Nan Temple, etc. The old downtown area alone has nine temples that enshrine the God of Land, who guards this blessed land around Daxi old streets. In Daxi old streets, where diverse religious beliefs coexist, Buddhists, Christians, and Taoists have always had mutual respect for each other.

The Sainly Emperor Guan's Birthday Celebration, which is held in Daxi Pu Ji Temple on the 24th day of the second month in the Chinese calendar each year, has been registered as an intangible cultural asset by the Bureau of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture. This celebration, which has been around since 1914, is more important than Chinese New Year celebration for residents in Daxi. Residents all take days off from work in order to return to their town to join the three-day celebration. In particular, the one-of-a-kind pilgrimage primarily participated by the “社頭” from all industries in Daxi, cannot be found elsewhere in Taiwan. For example, the “Xie Yi Troupe”, which was formed by businesses in the wood product industry in Daxi, used its “Do Mou Performance” to develop a unique 社頭文化 as well as create the grandest and most distinctive Sainly Emperor Guan's birthday celebration in Northern Taiwan.