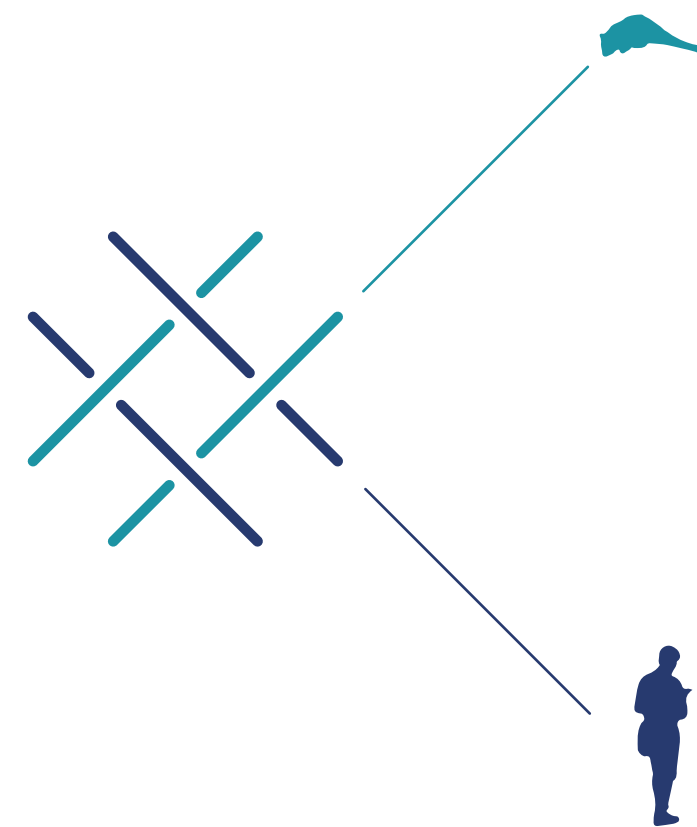# Interweaving Two Worlds

## Imagining Taipei as a Zoo City

Chen Li-Cheng
Bergen School of Architecture
2020-2021 diploma

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# What

### How can wildlife and expanding cities co-exist?

This project discusses the interrelationship between city and nature from different perspectives and focuses on the potential and possibility of interweaving the two. The main goals are to join natural areas that are separated by the city and to return some spaces in the city to animals. So that they can pass through the city safely, and even be willing to stay.

### zoo in future

"Zoos are a valuable resource, and ideally positioned, for providing conservation education to large groups of people and for reconnecting an increasingly urbanized public with the natural world. " [1] This statement shows the core value of the zoo, but it also reminds us to think whether the traditional captive zoo has its contradictions. In my imagination, the zoo may be a city with biodiversity and frequent encounters with different species. However, this project does not attempt to transform the existing zoo, but regards it as one element in my proposal.

# Why

### Anthropocene

The Anthropocene has made the earth more and more uninhabitable, and the development of urban is one of the main causes. If we plan our residences with a human-oriented idea repeatedly and keep weakening biodiversity and ecosystems, we will eventually be counterattacked by the environment.

### city and wilderness

Cities keep expanding outwards, taking more land for human use and away from other species. This situation has caused animal species to lose their habitats, lack resources and become endangered. Furthermore, the living areas of some species overlap with cities, but cities rarely consider their needs. When certain species have a need to move for food and mating, they can only bypass huge cities or risk crossing them.

[1] Katie Roe, Andrew McConney & Caroline F. Mansfield, The Role of Zoos in Modern Society—A Comparison of Zoos' Reported Priorities and What Visitors Believe They Should Be, Anthrozoös (volume 27, 2014), p.530-539

# Where

Taipei, Taiwan

Cities in Taiwan are dense and rapidly expanding to the surrounding area. The natural environment had been relatively unimportant to the citizens for a long time. One can clearly see what is taken away from the natural environment but difficult to see/feel what is given back.

I have chosen to work with Taipei as a case study in my investigation because the periphery of the high-density city still maintains a high degree of biodiversity, and the citizens' environmental awareness has gradually increased. As the epidemic slows down human activities and before the area deterioration, this is an appropriate time to discuss related local issues.

# How

The ways for connect city, wilderness and existing zoo by create a loop.
1. connect existing rivers, pond, parks, green spaces and even street trees
2. transform viaduct, bridge and underground waterway system for wildlife
3. place more man-made nature in the city (ruins, open spaces)

In order to increase feasibility, there must be more strategies.
1. act with three main animal groups: insect, bird and beast (mammal)
2. mix two types space(passageway and corridor) into the system
3. make different levels of interaction between the animals and human

Other design methods can be applied to this case.
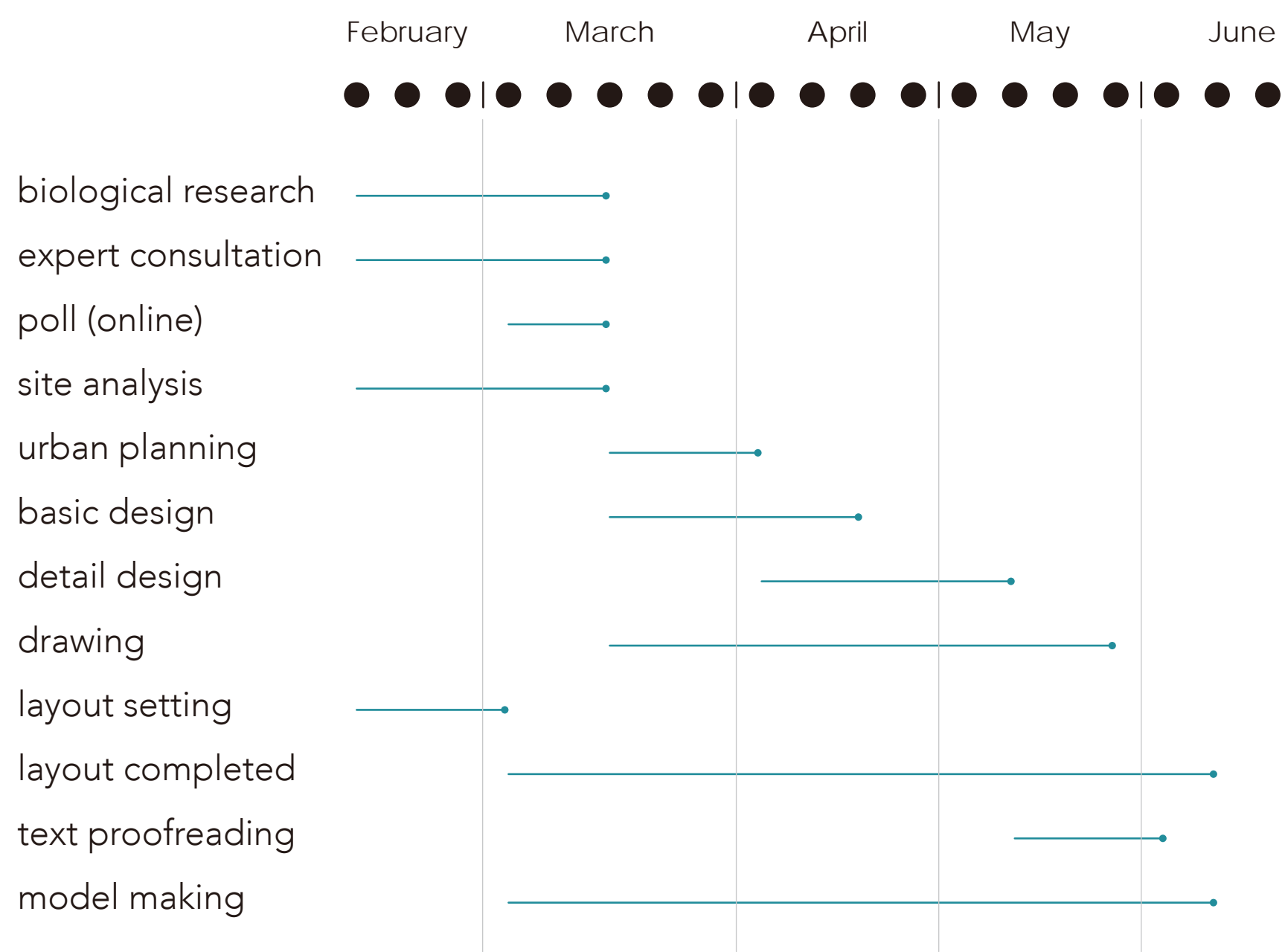1. speculative design
Based on scientific knowledge I have tried to imagine and assume the reality of different species, transforming myself into them in order to examine their behavior and thoughts and consider how the design responds to their needs.

2. parkour
"Parkours are only interested in the connection between the elements in order to provide a trajectory determined through the space. When they instinctively jump and climb in the urban space, the functions and roles of the elements themselves are no longer important."[2]  I have adopted this state of mind, which is closer to animal instinct, when designing so as to avoid/bypass a human-centered approach in my design process.

2. Shelley Smith & Nicolai Steinø, Public Space Design between Alienation and Appropriation: The Case of Parkour, Intervening Spaces (Nycole Prowse, published by Brill | Rodopi,2018), p.2

# Timeline

February    March    April    May    June

| | biological research | expert consultation | poll (online) | site analysis | urban planning | basic design | detail design | drawing | layout setting | layout completed | text proofreading | model making |

# Reference

Maurice Bloch, M 1995: People into Place: Zafimaniry Concept of Clarity (Hirsch, Eric og O'Hanlon, Michael (red.). 1995. The anthropology of landscape. Perspectives on Place and Space. Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

Katie Roe, Andrew McConney & Caroline F. Mansfield, The Role of Zoos in Modern Society—A Comparison of Zoos' Reported Priorities and What Visitors Believe They Should Be, Anthrozoös (volume 27, 2014)

Shelley Smith & Nicolai Steinø, Public Space Design between Alienation and Appropriation: The Case of Parkour, Intervening Spaces (Nycole Prowse, published by Brill | Rodopi,2018)

Simon L. Lewis & Mark Maslin, The Human Planet: How We Created the Anthropocene (Published by Yale University Press, 2018)

# Curriculum Vitae



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## Education

**Bachelor** - Chung Yuan Christian University Department of Architecture ( CYAR )
Taiwan / 2007 - 2012

**Master Courses** - Bergen School of Architecture (BAS) and Liechtenstein University

1st semester - Explorations in Ocean Space

teachers: Nancy Couling & Vibeke Jensen
New Commen Zone
Norway / Oct. 2019 - Dec. 2019

2nd semester - Moving Throught

teachers: Charlotte Erckrath & Vibeke Jensen
Speed Garden
Norway / Feb. 2020 - May 2020

3rd semester - Studio Regional Ecosystem: Bregenzerwald

teachers: Clarissa Rhomberg & Peter Staub
Make Luxury a Necessity
Liechtenstein / Oct. 2020 - Jan. 2021

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## Work Experience

Architectural Designer and Secretary of Architect - Fieldoffice Architects
Taiwan / Sep. 2013 - Mar. 2017

Contract Employee - Taipei Fine Arts Museum
Taiwan / Mar. 2018 - Jul. 2019

programme