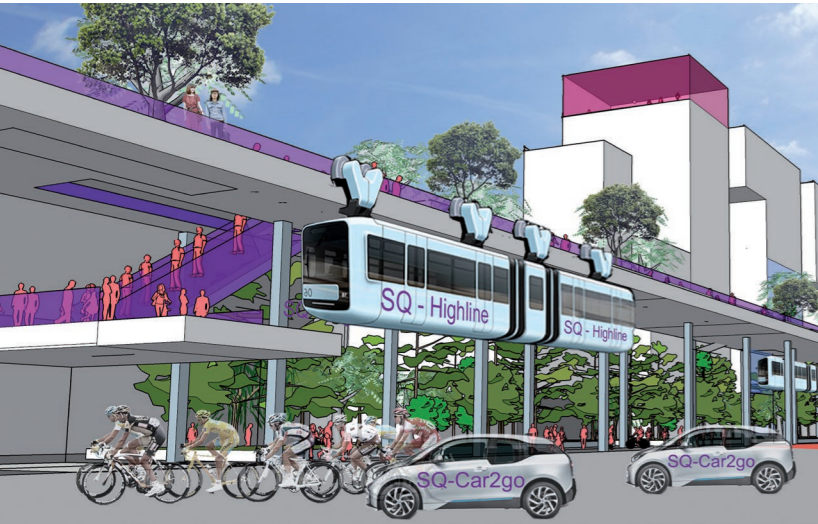# The Learning City– Urban Development in Shenzhen, China

Interdisciplinary Project WS 2014/15 – Master Programme UMSB

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Award Receiving Project, Global Schindler Award (GSA) 2015

Highline Public Transport

Village of Culture and Arts

Das Projekt „The Learning City" wurde als interdisziplinäres Projekt im Rahmen des Studiengangs „Umweltmanagement und Stadtplanung" erarbeitet und Anfang 2015 als eine von 250 Studienarbeiten weltweit als Beitrag zum Global Schindler Award 2015 eingereicht. Dabei ging es um Vorschläge zur städtebaulichen Entwicklung des sogenannten SQ-Areals in der chinesischen Zwölf-Millionen-Stadt Shenzhen. Die Grundlage des Entwurfs bildet die Annahme, dass sich China von der Industrie- zur Wissensgesellschaft transformieren wird. Da es in Shenzhen einen wachsenden Bedarf an universitärer Ausbildung gibt, soll in dem zu planenden Quartier ein Lernzentrum entstehen – mit positiven Effekten nicht nur für die Stadt, sondern für die gesamte Region. An verschiedenen Punkten auf dem SQ-Areal sind acht Hochschulinstitute verschiedener Fachrichtungen vorgesehen, welche das Herz der Learning City bilden. Das Projekt wurde als eine von zwölf preisgekrönten Arbeiten mit 5.000 $ ausgezeichnet und das Bearbeiterteam im April 2015 zur Preisverleihung und Vorstellung nach Shenzhen eingeladen.

The Learning City project was submitted at the Global Schindler Award (GSA) 2015, an anonymous ideas competition, which looked for innovative urban design strategies for lively, mixed-use, and high-density urban environments. According to the competition brief "Designing the city as a resource", the city should not only be considered "as something consuming resources but also as a provider of them, in the form of cultural, political or economic advantages" (GSA 2015).

The GSA's 2015 competition site was the city district Sungang-Quingshuihe (SQ) in Shenzhen, the 12 million border city between Hong Kong and Mainland China – a city which is mainly characterized by its incomparable fast growth during the last decades, which was driven by the declaration as a special economic zone (SEZ) at the beginning of the 1980s to attract foreign investments. Today's challenges are the consequences of this unprecedented growth, including the city's lack of identity, housing problems or the unpredictability of its further growth. For strengthening the city's future international competitiveness, a further development of its economic structure is needed.

Based on the requirements of the competition and the special conditions of the SQ site, the concept here presented intends to transform Shenzhen into a "Learning City" – a city that serves as an incubator and driver for a knowledge-based society by offering a perfect mix of institutional learning structures for all. At the same time, social cohesion is facilitated by developing an architecture at a human scale with multi-mixed uses. The development will be permanently evaluated through the participation of scientists, entrepreneurs and – most important – the city's inhabitants. The Learning City concept is flexible and adaptable to other cities within (and outside) the region and can lead to spill-over effects.

Among an overall 250 worldwide entries to the competition, the Learning City project was among the 12 projects who received an award, comporting 5.000 $.

Learning City
Master Plan

Dense and Mixed
Use Urban Texture