Digital Heritage Preservation of the Shilin District: Conserving Taiwan's Unique Identity

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Digital Heritage Preservation of the Shilin District: Conserving Taiwan's Unique Identity

An Interactive Qualifying Project submitted to the faculty of WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC

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Abstract

Historically, in Taiwan, there exists a disconnect between the modernization of industrial development and the preservation of culture. Collaborating with Dr. Fu-sheng Shih of Soochow University, the WPI project team created an interactive website that captures the essence of the Shilin District's cultural development and not only resonates with but also benefits Shilin through digital heritage preservation. Case studies on similar websites, community-based accompaniment in Shilin, and interviews with five Shilin locals informed the design of a final website that encapsulates Shilin's unique identity through personal narratives accompanied by audio files, photograph galleries of people and places, and videography.

Executive Summary

Introduction & Project Objectives

As the identity of Taiwan continues to develop today, the significance of its cultural asset protection becomes ever more important. In particular, the Shilin District of Taipei experienced the historic transformations of Taiwan from a traditional Chinese immigrant society to one embedded in a modern world. After initial research, our team found a disconnect between promoting economic growth through industrialization and the preservation of cultural assets.

It is important to highlight this disconnect because cultural assets enable future generations to connect with their roots, appreciate their history, and maintain a sense of identity. Conservation also allows for the passing down of values, knowledge, and skills from one generation to the next, creating a bridge between the past, present, and future. Preserving heritage contributes to the diversity of global cultures, fostering mutual respect and understanding among different communities. In summary, the preservation of cultural heritage is an investment in the present and the future. One modern solution to heritage preservation is digital conservation.

The goal of this project was to create an interactive website that captures the essence of Shilin's cultural development and not only resonates with but also benefits Shilin through digital heritage preservation. In addition, the deliverable of this project needed to effectively showcase the impacts of modernization in Shilin for locals and visitors. We aimed to accomplish these goals by implementing the following four objectives:

1. Determine key features for website and select platform to build on.
2. Collect and analyze data in the field for website content.
3. Develop a mock website and receive feedback on layout.
4. Implement feedback and develop a final website.

Background

A Brief History of Taiwan

To understand why Taiwan is unique and worthy of conservation, a basic understanding of significant events and influences that the nation endured is necessary. Conserving this identity involves acknowledging the cultural and historical elements that have shaped the nation over centuries.

Taiwan has been entangled with several nations due to its advantageous geographical position for trading in Asia. The Qing Dynasty controlled Taiwan from approximately 1680 to 1895 (Tsai, 2016). This assisted Taiwan's economic growth by establishing rice and sugarcane exports, as well as implementing policies to regulate trade. During the Qing Dynasty's rule, Taiwan transformed into a settled society from its previous status as a country bordering China. Over time, as Japan's interest in Taiwan and Korea heightened, conflicts arose and thus began the Sino-Japanese War between the Qing Dynasty and Japan, lasting from 1894 to 1895. The Treaty of Shimonoseki resulted in China ceding Taiwan to Japan, marking the beginning of Japanese colonization, which lasted until 1945 (Rubinstein, 2015).

The Japanese government's primary focus in 1895 was to exploit resources from Taiwan while abolishing the Chinese customs that Taiwanese individuals adopted, such as foot binding and the use of opium. Their strict rule and prohibition of Chinese customs resulted in a hostile relationship between the Taiwanese and Japanese (Tsai, 2016). Goto Shimpei, Japan's Chief Civil Administrator, recognized that internal improvement through education and industrialization could serve as a remedy to the violence. He implemented a modern education system, as pictured in Figure 0.1, that ensured schools taught Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese mannerisms to Taiwanese students (Tsai, 2016).

Figure 0.1 Taiwanese School Girls Waving Japanese Flags (Adams, 2014)

These industrialization policies attempted to modernize and advance Taiwan's economy, infrastructure, and social systems. The country's shift from an agrarian society to an industrialized economy significantly affected traditional agricultural practices. Transitioning from small scale farming toward other work led to the loss of traditional agricultural lands and displacement of many farmers from their livelihoods (Bishai, 1991). This disconnect between encouraging economic growth and protecting cultural assets was the main motivation for our project.

Digital Conservation

One modern solution to heritage preservation is digital conservation. Developing a website was a feasible option as nearly 91% of the Taiwanese population has access to the internet (Statista, 2023). In addition, a website can easily support multiple languages. Thus, regardless of personal background, the web can offer a portal to share the value Shilin's culture worldwide. Lastly, unlike a tangible cultural asset, the digitized counterpart has a higher probability of standing the test of time, continuing to preserve cultural heritage for current and future generations (UNESCO, 2019).

Methodology

The team first performed case studies on six websites that had a similar goal of cultural preservation and storytelling to determine necessary website features. Next, the team received community-based accompaniment throughout the Shilin District by our sponsor, Dr. Fu-sheng Shih of Soochow University, through historical walking tours, where he would explain an in-depth history of the cultural development of the area. We relied heavily on this approach because without it, our website would lack a sense of authenticity. It was vital that the team observe the culture through the lens of Shilin's community members and Dr. Shih, as well as Soochow University students, assisted with this by immersing the team in the Shilin District. During these moments of accompaniment, the team determined historical sites that displayed the impacts of modernization and interviewed locals of the Shilin District. Using mediums like audio, photography and videography, these interviews documented their lived experiences and captured their stories, which is a qualitative interviewing process known as a "narrative research method". Once the mockup's design was satisfactory, the team held a design review and received feedback from the project's sponsor and advisors. With their feedback, the team developed a final website and, through an online survey distributed to locals of Shilin and the United States, assessed how well the website achieved its goals.

Website Development & Implementation

The team had to decide between coding the website from scratch, using a website builder, or using an HTML template for the project website. Considering the project's short time frame, the team decided to use a template to code in HTML and CSS. The template included eye-catching designs and a pre-coded template, enabling the team to focus on programming new features.

Some features that the team incorporated were a slideshow in the homepage that captivates users with stunning visuals, an auto-translator button that translates the entire page in the selected language, and a see more section underneath each page that entices users to keep exploring the website. Another feature the team implemented was a modal, which is a scheme that enlarges photos in greater detail after a user clicks on the smaller sized version. This design choice was significant, as visuals play a large role in capturing the vivid uniqueness of the Shilin District.

However, due to the website containing over 60 high-quality images, the initial load time of the website was incredibly slow. In addition, because of the professional looking subdomain 'wpi.edu' and free unlimited storage, the website is hosted on WPI servers. One unavoidable drawback of using a WPI server is that the website's content physically resides in Worcester, Massachusetts, meaning each byte of content needs to travel all the way to Taiwan when accessing the site, also resulting in lower network speeds. To address this issue, the team had to scale down each image, optimize it using compression software and finally iconify the image to drastically lower the subsequent size. These changes resulted in a 13 times page size reduction and 17 times faster load time. Now, once a client receives all server data, modern web browsers will store image files in a local cache for faster, almost immediate retrieval on

subsequent page loads. Overall, the team dedicated nearly 200 hours to overall website development and content composition.

Results

Website Case Studies

The team determined functionalities that were important to a website and created a list of criteria including, but not limited to: responsivity, content layout, user experience and forms of media. A main takeaway was the importance of mobile responsivity; how a website maintains its spatial organization on both mobile and desktop. The team anticipated that most users would view the website through a smartphone, and these case studies revealed how responsivity could potentially influence the website's overall reception. The team chose to use an HTML and CSS template, which allowed for flexibility and the ability to design the layout based on the six case studies.

Interview Results

The five interviews the team conducted produced a diverse collection of voices that speak for the Shilin District. A video interview with Shilin Elementary School teacher and museum curator Mr. Wu echoed background research the team conducted, agreeing that heritage preservation is important because "It's crucial not to neglect our own history… this lets the next generation understand the efforts and struggles of the previous generations." The results of these interviews provided meaningful content for the final website, revealing a small glimpse of what makes the cultural development of the Shilin District unique.

Final Website

This section provides examples of each page on the final website. For an immersive experience, please visit shilin.wpi.edu.

Homepage

The user is met with a short introduction about the Shilin District and a corresponding interactive Google Maps widget. Scrolling further is a slideshow of images from all featured pages. The website also displays the navigation bar, which contains a Google Translate widget.
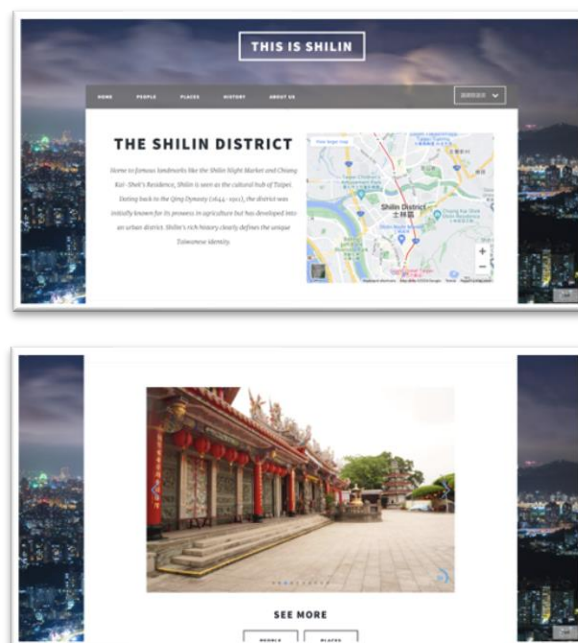

Figure 0.2 Homepage

People Page

The *people* page displays an organized array of portraits that each lead to a story that captures Shilin's unique identity.
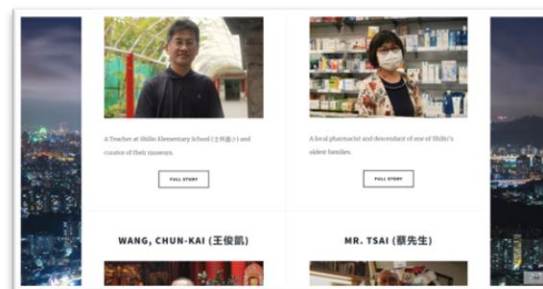

Figure 0.3 People Page

People – Mr. Wu

Mr. Wu's page contains images of the museum he curated as well as a featured video of his interview that discusses the importance of heritage preservation.

Figure 0.4 People Page: Mr. Wu

People – Lily

Lily's page contains a touching account about her grandfather's tragic death in the 228 Incident, which was a civil uprising in Taiwan in 1947. The event is still taboo in many households and Lily's page helps highlight the true complexity of Shilin's identity. Her page includes an audio file of her telling the story in Mandarin Chinese and a dubbed version in English.
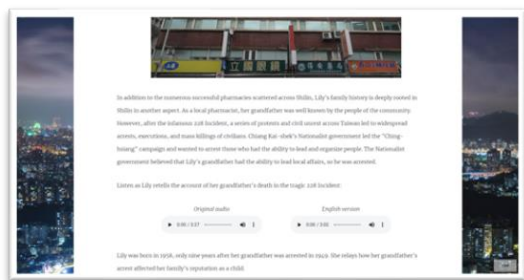

Figure 0.5 People Page: Lily

Places Page

The *places* page features an array of historical locations in Shilin that showcase the impacts of modernization.
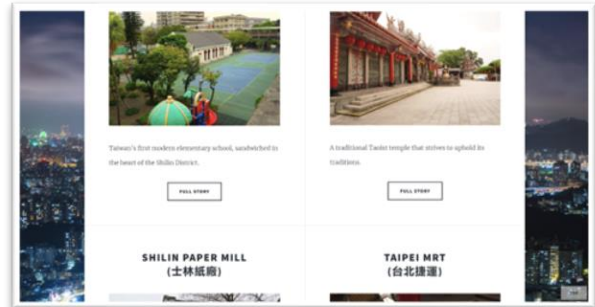

Figure 0.6 Places Page

Places – Zhishanyan Huiji Temple

The Huiji Temple is striving to maintain tradition as the areas around it industrialize. Its page highlighted the ways customs have evolved over time.
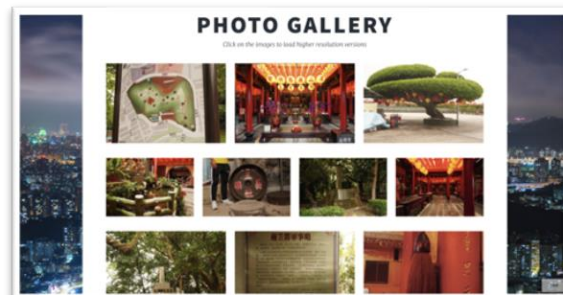

Figure 0.7 Places Page: Huiji Temple

Mobile Responsivity

On mobile devices, the website maintains its professional layout and organization.

Figure 0.8: Website on Mobile

Survey Results

To determine whether the content of the website resonated with the Shilin community, the survey asked respondents "How much of an impact does the website have on you?". 94.2% of Taiwanese respondents believed the website was somewhat impactful, impactful, or very impactful, confirming that the website resonates with the community. Additionally, over 81% of respondents felt the website captures Shilin's culture (Figure 0.10) and nearly 80% believed it displayed the impacts of modernization (Figure 0.11).
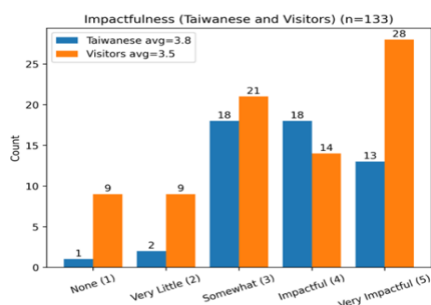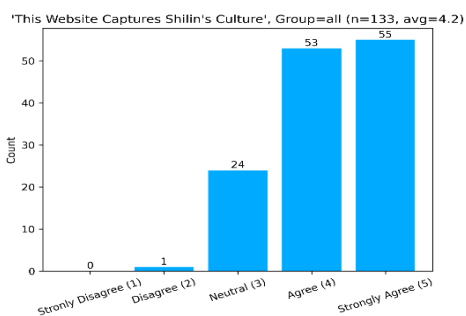

Figure 0.9 Results of Website Impact
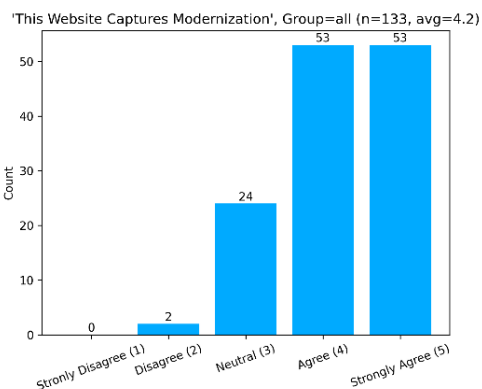

Figure 0.10 Results of Capturing Culture

Figure 0.11 Results of Capturing Modernization

Conclusion

The history that has occurred in the Shilin District alone has played a vital role in forming modern-day Taiwan. One cannot discuss the history or the identity of Taiwan without mentioning the Shilin District. As the Taiwanese identity continues to develop, the significance of heritage preservation becomes ever more important. How does one preserve an identity that continues to change? It's imperative to listen to the people. The people who know the culture, have experienced it change and are striving to maintain tradition. The success of our research project was dependent on our observing the culture through the lens of its members.

As the preservation of Taiwan's culture is a continuous undertaking, the team ensured that that our sponsor and future WPI students could continue to add content to the website. The team created two concise tutorial videos that outline the website's HTML, CSS, JavaScript and image files, as well as what the layout of each HTML page looks like and how to edit it. This project could serve as a model for preserving digital heritage in neighboring Taipei districts, laying a strong foundation for future preservation efforts. Our team believes that given the developmental tools provided, the content of the website will continue to grow and over time, fully encapsulate Shilin District: the unique identity of Taiwan.

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1.0 Introduction

Compared to most countries found in East Asia, the history that defines modern-day Taiwan is quite short. Taiwan's historical narrative includes distinct influences from multiple diverse cultures, namely Japan and China, that shape its unique and dynamic heritage. Each of these unique influences employed the same method: throughout each century, each administrative government tried to remove any trace of their predecessor to fully establish present control. This erasure included tactics such as renaming significant historical locations and enforcing an educational system based on the current culture's traditions (Hon and Culp, 2007). Due to these tactics, Taiwan has always lacked a systemic approach to cultural conservation (Morris, 2018). Although the traditional law and single party dictatorship transitioned to multiparty democracy, the practice of "heritage preservation" did not. As the Taiwanese identity continues to develop today, the significance of cultural asset protection becomes ever more important. To lose cultural assets is to erase history, and to erase history is to lose the Taiwanese identity entirely. Eliminating the physical and symbolic representations of the past makes it difficult for future generations to understand and connect with their history: this history plays a crucial role in defining the identity of Taiwan.

After our initial research that we discuss in the background chapter, our team found a disconnect between the modernization of industrial development and the preservation of culture. In particular, the Shilin District of Taipei experienced the historic transformations of Taiwan from a traditional Chinese immigrant society to one embedded in a modern world. The history that occurred in the Shilin District of Taipei alone, played a vital role in forming modern Taiwan.

The sponsor of this research project is Dr. Fu-sheng Shih, an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Soochow University in Taiwan. Dr. Fu-sheng Shih is a co-author in

multiple published journals surrounding topics on land, economic and social development in Eastern Europe. Dr. Shih's main goal for our team was to pursue strategies to preserve the heritage and history of Taiwan.

There are many methods to ensure cultural preservation. These include oral tradition, the act of verbally recounting history and stories from memory throughout generations; the display of cultural assets in public museums; preventing the inhabitance of historic lands; and publishing literature relevant to the cultural, historical, or geographical past that recounts important histories (Kourtit and Nijkamp, 2019). What all these methods have in common is the idea that preservation of cultural heritage is for the benefit of current and future generations.

Preserving cultural heritage enables future generations to connect with their roots, appreciate their history, and maintain a sense of identity. Conservation allows for the passing down of values, knowledge, and skills from one generation to the next, creating a bridge between the past, present, and future. It also contributes to the diversity of global cultures, fostering mutual respect and understanding among different communities. In addition, preservation provides a basis for the continuity of traditions, rituals, and customs. This continuity is vital for maintaining a sense of community and social cohesion. Through the preservation of cultural assets, one may also understand the evolution of society and develop an appreciation for both the challenges and achievements that have shaped their culture. Cultural heritage sites also attract tourism, contributing to the local and national economy. By preserving historic landmarks and traditions, communities can leverage their cultural heritage for sustainable tourism, in turn generating economic opportunities, creating jobs, and supporting local businesses (Otero, 2022).

In summary, the preservation of cultural heritage is an investment in the present and the future; it enriches societies, fosters understanding, and contributes to the well-being of

individuals and communities on various levels. One modern solution to heritage preservation is digital conservation.

The goal of this project was to develop an interactive website that captures the essence of Shilin's cultural development and not only resonates with but also benefits Shilin through digital heritage preservation. In addition, the deliverable of this project attempted to effectively showcase the rapid modernization of settlements in Shilin for locals and visitors. We aimed to accomplish these goals by implementing the following four objectives:

1. Determine key features for the website and select a development platform.

2. Collecti and analyze data in the field for website content.

3. Develop a mock website, receive feedback, and make improvements.

4. Develop a final website, receive feedback, and make improvements.

The research team conducted case studies to determine a platform to design the website and the necessary features that make a website interactive and accessible. The team then utilized community-based accompaniment around the Shilin District area to document clear examples of the effects of modernization in the community. In addition, the team conducted interviews with locals of Shilin to collect information about the interviewees' personal heritage and beliefs on heritage preservation. Analysis of the results from these interviews show a mixed view on heritage preservation in Taiwan; some respondent's feel that Taiwan's history has not been preserved well by the local government, while others believe that Taiwan's history and its traditions have been preserved due to efforts of the community. The team then developed a prototype website, containing filler content. The sponsor and advisors of this project reviewed the prototype and provided feedback. The team then implemented these changes and developed a

final website containing content from the interviews conducted and documentation of the impacts of modernization. Once the team finished designing the website, we distributed a survey to both locals of Taipei and individuals from the United States, to gather feedback on the overall functionality and resonance of the website. Having the community interact with the website engages them and encourages our research to apply directly to the intended audience (Mason and Vavoula, 2019). The survey results revealed that most users felt the website did impact them personally and overall enjoyed their website experience. The website, *This is Shilin*, not only digitally conserves the heritage of Taiwan but also highlights the rapid modernization of Shilin's society.

2.0 Background

This chapter begins with a summary of Taiwan's history. To understand why Taiwan is unique and worthy of conservation, the first section (Section 2.1) provides a basic understanding of significant events and influences the nation endured. Conserving Taiwan's identity involves acknowledging the cultural and historical elements that have shaped the nation over centuries. Sections 2.1.2 and 2.2 focus on specific examples of industrialization in the nation and how modernization altered the cultural landscape of Taiwan. These two sections highlight the disconnect between the modernization of industrial development and the preservation of culture. We then focus on the Shilin District specifically and highlight the industrialization that area faced along the Tamsui River. The conclusion of this chapter considers the methods for cultural heritage preservation we can implement today to benefit present day Shilin and its surrounding districts. In essence, this chapter highlights the need for cultural conservation in the Shilin District of Taipei and considers the significance of heritage preservation theories.

For this paper, a **"cultural asset"** refers to the language, arts, music, traditions, and histories that make up a community's identity, character, and customs. **"Cultural conservation"** refers to the active practice of protecting cultural assets. Cultural conservation efforts can preserve cultural heritage, or the tangible and intangible cultural assets of a community. This paper uses the terms **"preservation"** and **"conservation"** interchangeably (Kourtit and Nijkamp, 2019).

2.1 Introduction to History of Taiwan

Taiwan, an island formerly known as Formosa, began with the Aborigines, whose origins stem from Indonesia. The Aborigines spoke Austronesian languages and identified as

Austronesian people. Austronesians are from Taiwan, Mainland Southeast Asia, Melanesia, and Polynesia, and they have different ethnicities, including Vietnamese, Cambodian and Thai (Rubinstein, 2015). In 1889, Dutch Indologists created the southern origin theory, which states that the Aborigines originated from the Malay Archipelago. The Malay Archipelago consists of islands in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The arguments of the southern origin theory are as follows:

1. "Aboriginal tradition" of legends is "that their forefathers came from a southerly direction".

2. "Consensus of foreign opinion" is that "travelers see in the various tribes of Formosa the features and manners of the inhabitants of Luzon, Polynesia, the Malay Peninsula".

3. "Natural migration" of northward-flowing ocean currents supports the concept of instances of boats from the Philippines and Pelau washing onto Taiwan's shores (Rubinstein, 2015).

The southern origin theory also established Taiwanese Aborigines as being independent from the Chinese population, countering the Chinese government's claim of historical ties with Taiwan as justification for considering it part of China's territory (Rubinstein, 2015).

Taiwan has been entangled with several nations due to its advantageous geographical position for trading in Asia (see Figure 2.1). In the 17th century, China, Japan, Spain, and the Netherlands aspired to settle on the island to establish trading ports. Chinese merchants and fishermen had begun to visit the island of Taiwan. The Dutch first arrived in Taiwan off the coast of the P'eng Hu islands in 1604 (Rubinstein, 2015). The Dutch travelers' demands with the Ming empire in Taiwan were to access trade routes. When the Ming empire pushed back against the wishes of the Dutch, it forced the Dutch to stay on the P'eng Hu Islands. Diplomatic tensions

between the residents in Taiwan, as well as the Japanese government, rose throughout the Dutch colonization due to trade disagreements. These conflicts resulted in hostile relations between the Dutch, Japanese, and Chinese, leading to the Dutch's expulsion from the island in 1662.

Figure 2.1 Map of Taiwan and Neighboring Countries of Asia (Cooper, 2024)

The end of the conflict marked the beginning of Taiwan's first Chinese ruler, Cheng Ch'eng-kung, a Ming general, who was in power from 1661 to 1683. Cheng's reign quickly weakened after conflicts with several members of his family. Eventually, his grandson, Koxinga, surrendered to the Qing Dynasty, which controlled Taiwan from approximately 1680 to 1895 (Tsai, 2016). During the Qing Dynasty, rice and sugarcane became the prime export, spurring an agricultural revolution in Taiwan. Taiwan exported these products to most of Asia, including China and Japan. During the Qing Dynasty's rule, Taiwan transformed into a settled society from

its previous status as a country bordering China. The Qing Dynasty assisted Taiwan's economic growth by establishing rice and sugarcane exports, as well as implementing policies to regulate trade. However, the Qing Dynasty's rule would end in Taiwan after over 200 years of improving the economy (Rubinstein, 2015). Over time, as Japan's interest in Taiwan and Korea heightened, conflicts arose. Thus began the Sino-Japanese War between the Qing Dynasty and Japan, which lasted from 1894 to 1895. Although China had more troops, Japan had leverage in its advanced technology and quickly overwhelmed the Chinese soldiers, ending the war. The Treaty of Shimonoseki resulted in the ceding of Taiwan to Japan. This marked the beginning of Japanese colonization, which lasted from 1895 to 1945 (Rubinstein, 2015).

2.1.1 The Japanese Influence in Taiwan

During this period, Taiwan underwent industrialization and experienced many cultural changes. The Taiwanese people were now under Japanese rule, leading to unrest in the population. The Japanese government's primary focus in 1895 was to exploit resources from Taiwan while abolishing the Chinese customs that Taiwanese individuals adopted, such as foot binding and the use of opium. The Japanese government's goal was to keep Taiwanese nationals in the country and banish Chinese residents. Their strict rule and prohibition of Chinese customs resulted in a hostile relationship between the Taiwanese and Japanese (Tsai, 2016).

In 1895, the Taiwanese people led a rebellion against the Japanese, causing 30,000 Japanese casualties. Japan decided to station its military force on the island to counter these attacks and retaliated by causing 6,000 Taiwanese casualties in the town of Touliu. After years of continuous bloodshed, Goto Shimpei, Japan's Chief Civil Administrator, recognized that education could serve as a remedy to the violence. He introduced the agenda "Urgent Remedy for Taiwanese Governance," in 1898, which established self-governance—a practice that the Aborigines followed before non-Taiwanese-natives appeared in Taiwan. Goto's political goal

was for the Japanese government to act as external forces to improve the nation, while the Taiwanese population improved Taiwan internally. The internal improvement involved allowing influential Taiwanese citizens to participate in Taiwan's politics. Goto's agenda also attempted to provide Taiwan with modern technology that Japan had developed, such as railroads, and public hospitals to help with the Opium Epidemic; Goto's main objective was to shift the loyalty of the Taiwanese population to Japan. Additionally, he implemented changes in the education system (see Figure 2.2). Goto ensured that schools taught Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese mannerisms to Taiwanese students. He believed that if Taiwan's population spoke Japanese and followed their customs, the bloodshed would end, and the island would become economically independent. Japan's effect in Taiwan not only altered the Taiwanese heritage and identity, but also increased the speed at which Taiwan industrialized (Tsai, 2016).

Figure 2.2 Taiwanese School Girls Waving Japanese Flags (Taken Adams, digitized Bingo, 2014)

2.1.2 Industrialization in Taiwan

During Taiwan's period of Japanese colonial rule, the island underwent substantial industrialization and modernization. The colonial administration concentrated on expanding the

tea and sugar industries, though with differing levels of achievement. While sugar production

flourished tremendously, the tea industry proved more challenging and eventually declined due to

the increased completion and transportation costs. Seeking to construct a modern infrastructure,

the Japanese government invested greatly in developing Taiwan's transportation systems. This led

to the construction of the crucial North-South Railway in 1908 (note the dark blue line in Figure

3.3), which connected Taiwan's northern and southern regions for the first time. The new railway

helped consolidate local rice tariffs and established a free market economy across Taiwan,

enabling goods and resources to flow more freely within the island (Tsong-Min, 2017).
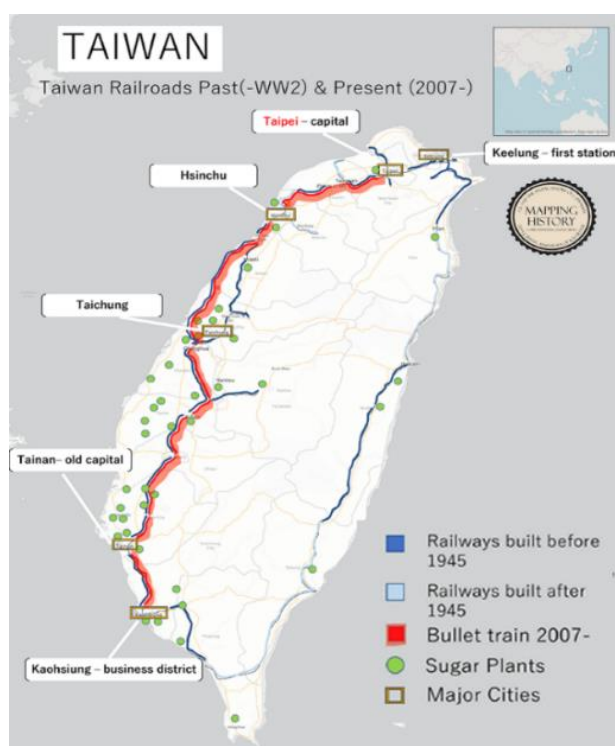
Figure 2.3 Taiwan Railroads - Mapping History (Kuwabara, n.d.)

The increasing costs of importing sugar and advancements in sugar production methods in

Taiwan greatly impacted the development of the industry. However, making sugar in Taiwan still

proved more expensive than in other parts of the world due to high production costs. During this

time, improvements in Taiwan's transportation aided sugar exports. Under Japanese rule, exportation started to expand to many areas since trading opportunities became more practicable and affordable. While domestic production enhanced over these years, imports continued to affect the local market (Tsong-Min, 2017).

The industrialization policies of the Japanese colonial authorities had a significant impact on the establishment of colonial reforms in Taiwan. These policies attempted to modernize and advance Taiwan's economy, infrastructure, and social systems. Efforts to industrialize included improving education, healthcare, and travel opportunities for Taiwanese citizens (Tsai & Cai, 2001). In addition to those efforts, the Japanese authorities took steps to promote economic expansion by cultivating industries and trade connections.

During the Han dynasty, under Chinese rule, the invention of papermaking came to fruition, as described in Tiangong Kaiwu (The Exploitation of the Works of Nature). This marked an important moment in human history, shaping modern life with paper's many uses. From packaging and containers for food, to recording information and cleaning products, paper became a daily necessity (History, n.d.). Within the Shilin District specifically, the establishment of the first paper mill took place in 1918, during Japanese rule. The chimney stacks of this mill served as a beacon to merchants traveling by sea, signaling their arrival to Shilin District (Figure 2.4). This mill was known as "Taiwan Paper K.K" due to the influence of Japanese merchants (Shih, Fu-Sheng).

Figure 2.4 Taiwan Paper Mill Chimney (Taipei Municipal Shilin Elementary School)

In Taiwan, the paper industry is relatively new, less than 400 years old. Influenced by machines from Europe's industrial revolution and automated systems, the industry has grown over time. The Taiwan Paper Industry Association (TPIA), started in 1947, has guided the industry's growth for over 70 years. "In 1996, paper and paper board production was 333 times higher than in 1947," showing Taiwan's economic change (History, n.d.). At first, there were joint national provincial ventures and small independent mills, due to post-war challenges and U.S. aid. However, through conjoint efforts, especially from 1967 to 1976, the golden decade for industrial paper, the industry thrived, meeting demands for general merchandise. Later, private companies expanded and modernized, leading to huge increases in production and quality standards. This prepared the industry to face new challenges like globalization and digitalization in the coming decades, particularly after Japan's defeat in 1945 (History, n.d.). This defeat caused greater hardship on the Taiwanese sugar and tea industries due to competing in the global market (Tsong-Min, 2016).

Nevertheless, the growth of exports throughout Taiwan's Japanese colonial time had substantially raised the GDP, which laid the groundwork for Taiwan's rapid development in the

early 1960s (Tsong-Min, 2017). This continuous move towards industrialization caused underemployment in agriculture, which resulted in poverty in farm families and a low standard of living for laborers. The modernization of agricultural equipment and the greater opportunities for travel created a surplus of laborers in the agricultural sector, causing those people to look for jobs in the industrial market despite the low paying wages that came along with it (Tsai & Cai, 2001). The export-oriented approach significantly influenced the development of various industries within Taiwan, particularly in electronics and basic metals. In turn, this focus on export-orientated manufacturing played a role in the incentivization of economic growth over the preservation of the past agricultural norms of the time (Tsai & Cai, 2001).

2.1.3 The Cultural Impact of Industrialization in Taiwan During Japanese Rule

Taiwan's industrialization significantly impacted how its people preserved their aspects of culture. The country's shift from an agrarian society to an industrialized economy substantially affected traditional agricultural practices. Transitioning from small scale farming toward other work led to the loss of traditional agricultural lands and displacement of many farmers from their livelihoods (Bishai, 1991). The control Taiwan's government had over land usage created a disruption of customary farming practices and this jeopardized its potential to preserve that aspect of their heritage.

Establishing industrial parks and estates transformed natural landscapes. This affected the cultural identity and heritage connected to these areas. By tightly controlling the supply of industrial land, the government limited companies' autonomy in a negative way. In conclusion, while modernization and industrialization brought Taiwan economic prosperity, it also negatively impacted people's ability to uphold their own values. This brings up the importance of protecting both customary values and encouraging economic growth (Bishai, 1991).

2.2 America's Influence in Taiwan

Due to treaties at the end of World War II, Japan had to leave Taiwan and renounce their rule. Taiwanese loyalty shifted towards the United States due to their perception of having been "liberated" from the Japanese. In 1943, the United Nations Relations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, also known as the UNRRA, was created to:

> "Plan, coordinate, administer, or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter, and other basic necessities, medical and other essential services" (Guptil, 1992).

Once a UNRRA team had arrived in Taiwan in 1946, they set out a plan to help the Kuomintang Nationalist Party of China, the KMT, establish control over the nation. Despite these efforts, most American citizens disagreed with helping the KMT. Vice Consul George H. Kerr had become deeply involved in Taiwan's culture by serving as an American consulate in Taipei and writing the Taiwan Civil Affairs Handbook in 1944. He disagreed with the views of KMT rulers due to their practices of taking a large quantity of natural resources from Taiwan and ruling with an iron fist (Tsai, 2016). Despite the divide in opinions, the KMT gained control of Taiwan in Tamsui in 1949, in turn, taking over Japan's trading monopoly. The KMT had a strong desire to integrate Taiwan as one of China's provinces. As a result, the Taiwanese people held an independence movement, known as the February 28 incident (228 Incident). The KMT saw the 1947, February 28 incident as a rebellion movement against Nationalism. The February 28 incident was initially incited by the mistreatment of a female tobacco vendor by the KMT authorities, which led to an increased number of disturbances, resulting in the Taiwanese people protesting (Kuo, 2020). The authority of the KMT felt threatened, which resulted in the

movement's suppression. Tensions between the United States and China grew after the communist movement in Shanghai. Regardless, President Truman announced that America would not establish military bases in Taiwan to defend Taiwan from their looming conflict with China. In 1951, the US Congress passes the Mutual Security Act (Tsai, 2016). This act stated that it would defend nations to protect their liberties. For Taiwan, they gained monetary assistance from the United States, which totaled $1.49 billion to aid Taiwan's economy. With the help of American loans, Taiwan's economy witnessed exponential growth, assisting postwar food struggles and facilitating the country's movement towards industrialization (Tsai, 2016).

In the early 1960s, the local market had become oversaturated with agricultural products, which led to Taiwan's expansion into exports. Agricultural products made up 86 percent of Taiwan's exports, which improved Taiwan's economy significantly. The government promoted exports and later encouraged the population to invest and develop domestic industries. These industries ranged from textiles, plastic, paper, and rubber products. Due to the increase in labor-intensive industries, the production of agricultural products decreased, thus shifting Taiwan into an industrial economy (Tsai, 2016).

In the late 1960s, economic minister K. T. Li proposed that bringing American chip companies, like Texas Instruments, on the island would give jobs to the masses and integrate the US further with Taiwan. This was amid fears that America's security promises were diminishing in Asia as the situation in Vietnam deteriorated – the more economic ties Taiwan had with the West, the more willing the United States would be to defend the nation. This marked the start of the Taiwanese semiconductor industry, eventually birthing the behemoth Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), which today supplies tech giants such as Apple and Nvidia (Miller, 2022).

2.3 Cultural Preservation in the Shilin District

Taiwan's history has rapidly evolved. Through several conflicts and regime changes, from Dutch and Spanish colonists to the Japanese and Chinese, many different cultural influences have been present on the island. It is a natural byproduct that port areas such as Tamsui have been at the center of cultural change. The Tamsui River flows through the heart of Taipei and along the southern border of Shilin District. The Shilin District is approximately 24.08 square miles (62.37 square kilometers), and Figure 2.5 illustrates its proximity to the Tamsui River. The river has been a strategic area for settlers as early as the 1620s, when the Spanish constructed a fort overlooking the river's mouth. Soon after came the Dutch, who took control of the fort and claimed the area, including local aboriginal tribes. Later, in the mid-1700s, Chinese immigrants began settling around the river. Today, multiple Buddhist and Taoist temples are present throughout the city, indicating diverse influences (Guy, 2009).

Figure 2.5 Map of Districts of Taipei City and Tamsui River (Torty3, 2016)

An example of the rapid evolution in Shilin is the once-burgeoning tea industry. In short, during the 1860s, businessmen John Dodd and Li Chungsheng began incentivizing indigo farmers to grow oolong tea. As the industry kept growing, tea eventually accounted for over 50% of total Taiwanese exports. The success gained the attention of several Western companies, who opened satellite offices in Tamsui (Shuhua, 1996). Although the major exports of Taiwan have since shifted to textiles and western electronics since the 1960s, this change in exportation garnered further foreign influence in Taipei. Due to the cheap work force, foreign influences took advantage of the Taiwanese working class (Rubinstein, 2007).

Once the KMT retreated from mainland China to Taiwan in 1949, the population density among the riverbanks, and consequently Shilin, skyrocketed. More than 1.5 million people emigrated to the area from mainland China and surrounding Asian countries, furthering the cultural diversity. As a result, the river got more polluted from domestic human waste and industrial sources. Thankfully, former Environmental Protection Agency member Hau Lung-pin won the Taipei mayoral election in 2006 and was responsible for significantly cleaning and restoring the river (Guy, 2009). It is important that the government preserves the Tamsui River – not only by taking care of the area's natural beauty, but also by safeguarding its rich history. When the government preserves the heritage and natural beauty of a place, it gives locals a connection to their roots and visitors a deep appreciation. It even has economic benefits; tourists are more likely to visit areas that have natural beauty and a rich history (Rypkema, 2008). The mayor's early 2000s restoration efforts revitalized the Tamsui River and Shilin District. The clear cultural and industrial evolution that the Shilin District has experienced is the reason this project focuses on cultural preservation.

2.4. Significance of Digital Conservation

One modern solution to heritage preservation is digital conservation. The first public use of the term "digital conservation" dates back to 2011. There are numerous approaches to digital conservation, including augmented reality tours, virtual museums, and 3D scanning/modeling of cultural assets (Van Der Wal & Arts, 2015).

Encouraging the modern notion of "embracing new technologies," implementing a website is a feasible option for the digital world of Taipei. Nearly 91% of the population has access to the internet, leading us to believe that a website may be a realistic technique to capture the richness of Shilin's historical development (Statista, 2023). According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), use of the internet leads to a significant increase in digital heritage, specifically in areas that are disadvantaged by the predominant use of English (UNESCO, 2019). A website can easily support multiple languages, so, regardless of personal background, it can serve as a worldwide portal to share the value and significance of the culture displayed. In essence, digital heritage widens the capabilities of creation, communication and sharing of knowledge among all peoples (von Schorlemer, 2020).

In addition, unlike its tangible cultural assets, the digitized counterpart has a higher probability of standing the test of time, continuing to preserve cultural heritage for current and future generations (UNESCO, 2019). Once the intangible cultural asset is digital, it becomes tangible. For example, the present generation can easily forget key aspects of the Taiwanese identity like music, dance, and oral traditions if no one digitally records them. With an online presence, digital conservation also promotes education and increased awareness. Internet users can instantly share cultural memories via digital platforms, that may expose them to previously unknown information. Having the community interact with both the design and final product

engages the community and encouraged our research to interact directly with the intended audience (Mason and Vavoula, 2019).

2.4.1 Key Aspects of User Experience

To capture the richness of historical development in a manner that benefits present-day Shilin, we believe the solution should be digital. "Interactivity" is a critical factor when assessing media that is web-based. Interactivity is the degree to which users can exchange information and exercise control over an online medium (Young Chung et al, 2011). There is a strong positive correlation between interactivity and attitude towards a web site. When a function of a website provides you with sufficient detail and realism, one can imaginatively put themselves into a physical setting or picture either the grand scale or small significance of an object. Mental imagery processing leads to greater flow state intensity, in addition to positive attitude changes (Young Chung et al, 2011). In other words, users will want to continue exploring an interactive map of Shilin, if it provides them with sufficient detail and interactivity.

2.5 Summary of Background

This chapter covered a brief history of Taiwan, the impact of modernization on heritage conservation and the importance of Shilin District as a location of interest. It concluded by considering the importance of heritage conservation and digital features that help conserve cultural assets. The research outcomes of this chapter heavily impacted our team's decisions regarding methodology and specific historical aspects of Taiwan that our project highlights. In addition, it provided a more complete appreciation for Taiwan's complex history and guided our project's efforts to effectively capture the Taiwanese identity through a lens focused on Shilin and in a manner that benefits the nation.

3.0 Methodology

The goal of this project was to develop an interactive website that captures the essence of Shilin's cultural development and not only resonates with but also benefits Shilin through digital heritage preservation. In addition, our deliverable needed to effectively showcase the impacts of modernization in Shilin for both locals and visitors. We targeted these goals by addressing the following four objectives:

1. Determining key features for the website and selecting a development platform.
2. Collecting and analyzing data in the field for website content.
3. Developing a mock website, receiving feedback, and making improvements.
4. Developing a final website, receiving feedback, and making improvements.

Throughout the methodology chapter, the word **"site,"** or **"historical site,"** refers to any place that the team visited, documented, and showcased on the project's website. **"Website"** refers to the deliverable that we developed with our sponsor, not to be confused with **"site".** **"Area",** or the **"Shilin Area"** and **"the District"** refers to the Shilin District.

This chapter considers the specific methods and analytical tools the team used to address each of the four objectives. It concludes by discussing certain challenges and limitations the project faced and, importantly, the ethical standards that guided our research and data collection. Figure 3.1 depicts the connection between the four objectives and the methodology this research employed.

To summarize, the team first performed case studies to determine necessary website functionality and features. Next, the team toured Shilin District with the project's sponsor, Dr. Shih, where he explained an in-depth history of the cultural development of the area. The team then interviewed locals of the Shilin Area and documented historical sites to gather content for

the mockup website. Through a design review, the team received feedback from the project's sponsor and advisors, and subsequently implemented suggestions for improvement. Finally, through an online survey, the team assessed how well the website achieved its goals.
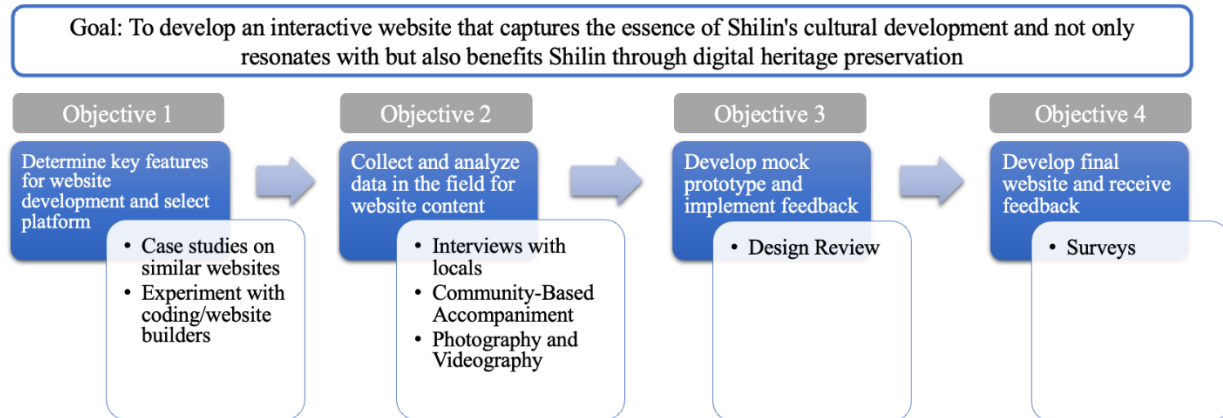
Figure 3.1: Project Goal, Objective, and Methodology Overview

3.1 Determine Key Features for Website Development (Objective 1)

The group's initial objective was to determine the key features that the heritage-preserving website would implement. The team performed case studies on similarly themed websites to gain an understanding of how and how not to develop an effective website. Table 3.2 summarizes the six websites that the team used as case studies to discern the functionalities that were important to include in the project website.

Website Title	Background	Similarities
Humans of New York	A website that documents direct quotes from people on the streets of New York City to examine the challenges that people from different backgrounds face.	They documented human experiences through interviews on the streets of New York City, which is what the team aims to produce on the website
IQP: Developing a Website for Rasnov, Romanic as a Strategy for Historical and Cultural Preservation	A WPI IQP that focuses on preserving the culture of Rasnov by designing a website and encouraging users to submit stories.	This IQP team created a website that includes historical photos of Rasnov residents to preserve Rasnov's culture and history. The IQP team also implemented a map on their website, along with stories about historical moments. They encouraged users to submit their own stories.
IQP: Sustainable Tourism in Prague	A WPI IQP that focuses on showing tourists authentic restaurants and shops in Prague.	The Prague team created a website that included a map. Their map pinpointed specific locations for tourists or users to look at and visit.
Humans of Kuala Lumpur	A website that documents personal stories from people on the streets of Kuala Lumpur, and larger stories often seen in the press.	This website documented personal stories and displayed visual accompaniment, like text and graphs.
Humans of Amsterdam	A website that documents direct quotes from people on the streets of Amsterdam.	The website documented only personal stories on their website and kept it simple, and easy for users to navigate and learn more.
Ministry of Culture of Taiwan	A website that is responsible for "cultivating Taiwan's soft power in the areas of arts and humanities, community development, crafts industry, cultural exchanges, international cultural participation, heritage, literature and publishing, living aesthetics, TV, cinema, and pop music".	The website utilized a grid-like scheme of portraits to access in depth personal biographies of people who have contributed to the Culture of Taiwan.

Table 3.1 Website Case Studies

3.1.1 Performing Case Studies on Similar Websites

A case study is an in-depth examination of a specific subject that social science researchers commonly use. Using this method, the team's goal was to uncover and implement important functionalities in the development of the project website while creating a good user experience. By performing case studies, the team discovered and named necessary functionalities found on similar heritage preserving websites and created a list of criteria:

1. How responsive is the website?

    a. What does it look like when you shrink the display to a handheld device, compared to a larger display i.e. desktop.

    b. Does anything look out of place when viewing the website on a handheld device?

2. How aesthetically pleasing is the website?

    a. Does the layout make sense?

    b. Does the design of the website confuse the user?

    c. Does the design make the user want to click off the website?

3. How is the user experience?

    a. Is it hard to navigate the website?

    b. What functions make viewing new and older content easier for the user?

    c. Do all the buttons and menus work?

4. How does the website present its content?

    a. What makes the content catch the viewer's eye?

    b. How is the content presented so that the user does not click off?

The criteria focused on optimizing the user experience and presenting a professional website that is interesting visually in terms of its content. The given criteria are how the team prioritized certain features.

3.1.2 Choosing a Tool to Develop Website

The team had to decide between using a website builder, coding the website from scratch, or using an HTML template for the project website. The team had scheduled to select the development tool from March 18th to March 22nd. In addition, the team met with their sponsor to determine the website's platform so that the sponsor can update and maintain it in the future. The allocated time gave the team room to discuss and experiment with using a website builder and coding the website from scratch.

3.2 Collect & Analyze Data for Website Content (Objective 2)

The team created the website to contain qualitative data, such as stories, photos, and videos. The first method for data collection included field observations from community-based accompaniment. The next step was to perform interviews with Shilin residents. The team used the "snowball method" with the assistance Dr. Shih's connections. The snowball method is an approach to gather respondents for interviews and surveys; it involves identifying an initial set of respondents to interview, and then asking these interviewees to recommend potential subjects who are relevant for the purpose of the survey (Voicu and Babonea, 1997). The team decided to use this method to engage with locals and have a better understanding of the heritage of Shilin. These interviews aimed to collect information that highlights the culture of Taiwan, as well as the participant's personal history and major events that have impacted their heritage.

3.2.1 Community-Based Accompaniment & Field Observation

Our research team mainly received accompaniment throughout Shilin District by both our sponsor, Dr. Shih, and students from Soochow University. Although the team often explored the district individually, receiving accompaniment by an individual from the community has multiple benefits. Not being members of the Shilin community, if the team members were to

only choose our own areas of interest, our form of "helping" would never bring about change

that fully recognizes the dignity and worth of each individual, family, or community (Wilkinson

& D'Angelo, 2019). Accompaniment is a process that requires both time and critical

reflection (Wilkinson & D'Angelo, 2019). Our team could only fully recognize the essence of

Shilin's cultural development by observing the culture through the lens of Shilin's community

members.

3.2.2 Performing Interviews with Shilin Locals

Our methodology involved interviewing locals to document their lived experiences and

capture their story, which is a qualitative interviewing process known as a "narrative research

method". A narrative research method consists of learning about the lives of the interview

participants to combine different views in chronological order (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). A

translator aided us in overcoming the language barrier when the interviewee spoke in Mandarin,

which was necessary for each of the five interviews that the team conducted. Considering the

digital preservation aspect of the project, the act of digitally video recording the interviews

played an important role. Due to the elaborate nature of this method, it was important to receive

written consent from the participants (see *Appendix A1* and *Appendix A2* for the consent

document in English and Mandarin Chinese respectively). Additionally, the team took a

photographic portrait of the participant to include on the website, which served as a visual

accompaniment to their story. The interviews took no more than forty-five minutes to balance

between sufficient data collection and necessary translation efforts, as every interview utilized a

translator. Table 3.3 lists the name, occupation, and location of interview for each interview

participant.

Interview Date	Name	Occupation	Location of Interview
03/27/2024	Wu Chien-Hong	Art Teacher	Shilin Elementary School
04/10/2024	Lily	Pharmacist/Business Owner	Her family-owned Pharmacy, Shilin
04/16/2024	Wang Chun-Kai	Director of Temple Operations	Zhishanyan Huiji Temple, Shilin
04/17/2024	Mr. Tsai	Market Vendor	His food processing kitchen, Shilin
04/17/2024	Mr. Huang	Market Vendor	In the Huarong marketplace, at his stand

Table 3.2 Interview Participants

The semi-structured interview format focused on questions regarding the interviewee's childhood experiences, how they have viewed the transformation of Shilin over time, and their views on the importance of heritage preservation. These questions aimed to capture important factors of the participant's identity and preserve their story as part of the area's cultural heritage (see *Appendix A3* and *Appendix A4* for the current set of questions in English and Mandarin Chinese respectively). The team made the questions broad and open-ended to encourage interviewees to freely speak their opinion. The questions also largely depended on the interviewee's occupation or role in the community. We use the answers to questions regarding the importance and status of heritage preservation in Shilin as featured quotes on the website.

3.2.3 Documenting Cultural Assets

To reiterate, in this paper a "cultural asset" refers to the language, arts, music, traditions, and histories that make up a community's identity, character, and customs. Our primary objective was to digitally preserve these assets, recognizing that documentation can take form in various mediums. For example, for cultural assets related to music or riveting stories, our method of documentation included an audio recording. For assets related to a natural scenic spot, our documentation took the form of photography or videography. Regardless of the narratives that

our interviews produced, documenting these cultural assets required preserving the heritage of

the individual digitally, whether that be by photographing it on our own or receiving cultural

information from interviewees.

The team documented five historical sites and architectural remains that characterize the

rapid modernization of the Shilin area. The accompaniment tours by our sponsor believed these

locations played a pivotal role in Shilin's cultural development. The first site the team

documented was Shilin Elementary School, the first modern educational system implemented in

Taiwan, the same day as Art Teacher Wu Chien-Hong's interview. The second site was the

Zhishanyan Huiji Temple, documented by the team after Temple Director Wang Chun-Kai's

interview. The Shilin Paper Mill, Taipei MRT and Architectural Features of Shilin were

documented by the team during the first walking tour. A summary of these locations and their

documentation dates is summarized in Table 3.4.

Documentation Date	Location
03/20/2024	Shilin Paper Mill, Taipei MRT, Architectural Features
3/27/2024	Shilin Elementary School
04/16/2024	Zhishanyan Huiji Temple

Table 3.3 List of Historical Locations Documented

3.3 Develop Mock Website, Receive Feedback & Make Improvements (Objective 3)

The initial step the team took to create the final deliverable was to develop a draft website

called a mockup. In this paper, we will use **"prototype"** and **"mockup"** interchangeably. A

website mockup is a model of a proposed design, which details the final overall look and

interaction of different web pages. It was important to develop a prototype early in the project

term and leave more time to make changes and develop the final draft. The previous WPI IQPs

"Developing a Website for Rasnov, Romania…," (Decelles et al.) and "Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Prague" (Lam et al.) used this method successfully.

The mockup was a skeleton version of the final website, in English, featuring the same core structure as the final. As this took place before our interviews and documentation were complete, it had meaningless filler content such as "Lorem Ipsum" text. This way, the reviewers were still able to get a feel for the site.

The team waited to develop the mock website until after completing the case studies. This strategy yielded several high-level functional requirements regarding user experience during development of the prototype.

3.3.1 Mockup Design Review & Improvements

To receive feedback on our mockup, the team held a design review with our sponsor and advisors to make sure the prototype aligned with our sponsor's overall goal. The only way to avoid or fix communication errors was to supply the mockup to reviewers. To this end, the team had a meeting with Professor Du, Professor Shih, and Professor Kinicki, where they were able voice their suggestions. To assist with the language barrier, the team added a Google Translate widget to the mockup so users could translate the pages into Mandarin Chinese (or any other language). This meeting was conversational, and the user had a chance to interact with and explore the mockup. While conducting this review, the team took notes on questions and suggestions for improvement.

Once the team received feedback from the design review, Will Buchta and Rose Strobel were responsible for web development given their background in computer science. The next chapter discusses the specific design choices and technical decisions Will and Rose made to fully develop the final website. Hannah Moran and Alexis Vilmenay were mainly responsible for composing the written and visual content of the website.

3.4 Develop Final Website, Receive Feedback & Make Improvements (Objective 4)

Our final goal for the project was to improve the website based on feedback from a survey of sample users. The team distributed the website by sending the survey link directly to individuals in the United States, posting the survey link on social media platforms like LinkedIn, Instagram and Snapchat, and walking around Soochow University's campus with a QR code linking to the survey. Our sponsor also distributed the survey on online social platforms geared toward the Shilin community. The research team assessed the data and determined common trends. Additionally, the team determined what changes to implement right away while leaving other improvements to the website for future work. This type of methodology – prototype, evaluate, reiterate is the standard part of the engineering design process (TWI, n.d.).

3.4.1 Collecting Surveys on Draft Final Website

To get feedback on the quality of our final website, the team created an online survey with Google Forms. To receive feedback from the survey in two languages, the first step was to create the survey in English while the second step involved having a native speaker translate the questions to Mandarin Chinese.

Having the Shilin community interact with the product engaged them and enabled our research to gather opinions directly from the intended audience (i.e., locals from Taipei and even individuals featured on the website) (Mason and Vavoula, 2019). We also included privacy statements, letting the survey taker know exactly how we will use the information they provide. To get opinions from English speakers who were not as familiar with the area, the team sent the survey to several groups of varying ages who currently live in the United States (See *Appendix B1* and *Appendix B2* for our survey questions in English and Chinese respectively). The survey included questions regarding the participant's age, gender, and current location to gauge how

effective different features were among various groups of people. The survey then asked

questions regarding the website's effectiveness and interactivity.

3.4.2 Ensuring the Continuity of the Website

As the main goal of digital preservation is to have a long-lasting medium, the team made

sure that the website will stay active after the conclusion of our research project, and to this end,

the team considered three options for hosting the website during development: hosting it on

GitHub for free with an unappealing URL; utilizing a hosting service for $7/month, or hosting

the website on Soochow University's main server. The team ended up hosting the website on

WPI's university servers (see Section 4.5 for an in-depth discussion of hosting). In addition, the

team created in-depth tutorial to outline the steps needed to add additional content (see *Appendix*

I).

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Before executing interviews and surveys to gather information from participants, it was

important to consider ethics to maintain the integrity and validity of the research process. The

primary actions the research team took to uphold ethical standards were to ensure informed

consent, protect privacy while avoiding potential harm, and maintaining a sense of respect and

honesty. When there was a need for a translator, their role in those interviews was to uphold

those same ethical standards and to translate with confidentiality to protect privacy. Maintaining

a sense of confidentiality while conducting interviews when it came to names and talking about

sensitive topics, such as connections to historical events, was essential to cultivating trust

between the interviewees and the interviewers. For instance, one of our interviewees, Mr. Huang,

preferred to only be recognized by his last name. Guaranteeing protection of requested withheld

knowledge, allowed for an open dialogue, critical for acquiring precise understandings and information.

3.5.1 Translation & Transcription

Guaranteeing reliability in transcription and interpretation was an essential part in collecting data from participants. This required the individual translating the interview to cautiously consider the words they translated to accurately reflect the participants association of thought (Hadi, 2023). When reviewing the video recording, word-to-word translation was not always possible, since one concept in Mandarin Chinese may not have an exact equivalent when translated into English.

When conducting research that involved other cultures, it is imperative to demonstrate cultural sensitivity. As researchers, the team needed to be cognizant of cultural norms and differences to guarantee that translations respected those norms and were suitable for the intended community. By consulting with our sponsor and other students at Soochow University who are more in tune with the surrounding population, the team strive to produce translations respected cultural nuances and embraced people of different backgrounds than our own. An example is the importance of tailoring communication styles to older generations. Similarly, when conducting interviews, the interview location matters. Thus, the team selected locations to avoid becoming a disruption to the locals and to stay within the cultural norms of the community.

3.5.2 Photography & Videography Laws

In Taiwan, privacy laws protect humans' rights, prohibiting the photographing or filming of humans in private settings without their explicit consent. Private settings are environments which consist of homes, workplaces, and wherein people could reasonably assume privacy. Conversely, Taiwan commonly authorizes public photography and videography across its public

areas. Nevertheless, people who carry out such activities need to be attentive and avoid encroachment on the privacy or personal rights of others inside those public settings. Therefore, the team did not take any photos of individuals without their permission, especially since publishing photographs of a person in a public space did require consent in most cases according to the law. In the Civil Code Articles of Taiwan, the "right of portrait" is understood as part of rights of personality or rights of privateness and highlighted throughout the Civil Code Articles 18, 19, 152, 184, and 195-1. The honor, reputation, and public image of the depicted person must not suffer infringement (Civil Code - Chapter - Laws & Regulations Database of The Republic of China (Taiwan), n.d.). This played into the concept of ethical photography and how contextualizing photos to provide context around an image helped to avoid stereotypes (*Ethical Photography* /, n.d.). When taking the role of photographers, it is necessary to provide a description of the photo and to not showcase uncommon occurrences as a norm. This Considering this concept, while conducting pieces of our storytelling, allowed us to follow ethical standards while remaining culturally sensitive.

3.6 Summary of Methodology & Gantt Chart

This chapter considered the specific methods and analytical tools the research team used. The chapter concluded by discussing the ethical standards the team members kept in mind for our social science project. Figure 3.5 contains a Gantt chart that kept deadlines and objectives organized, to anticipate the time needed to complete each project task.

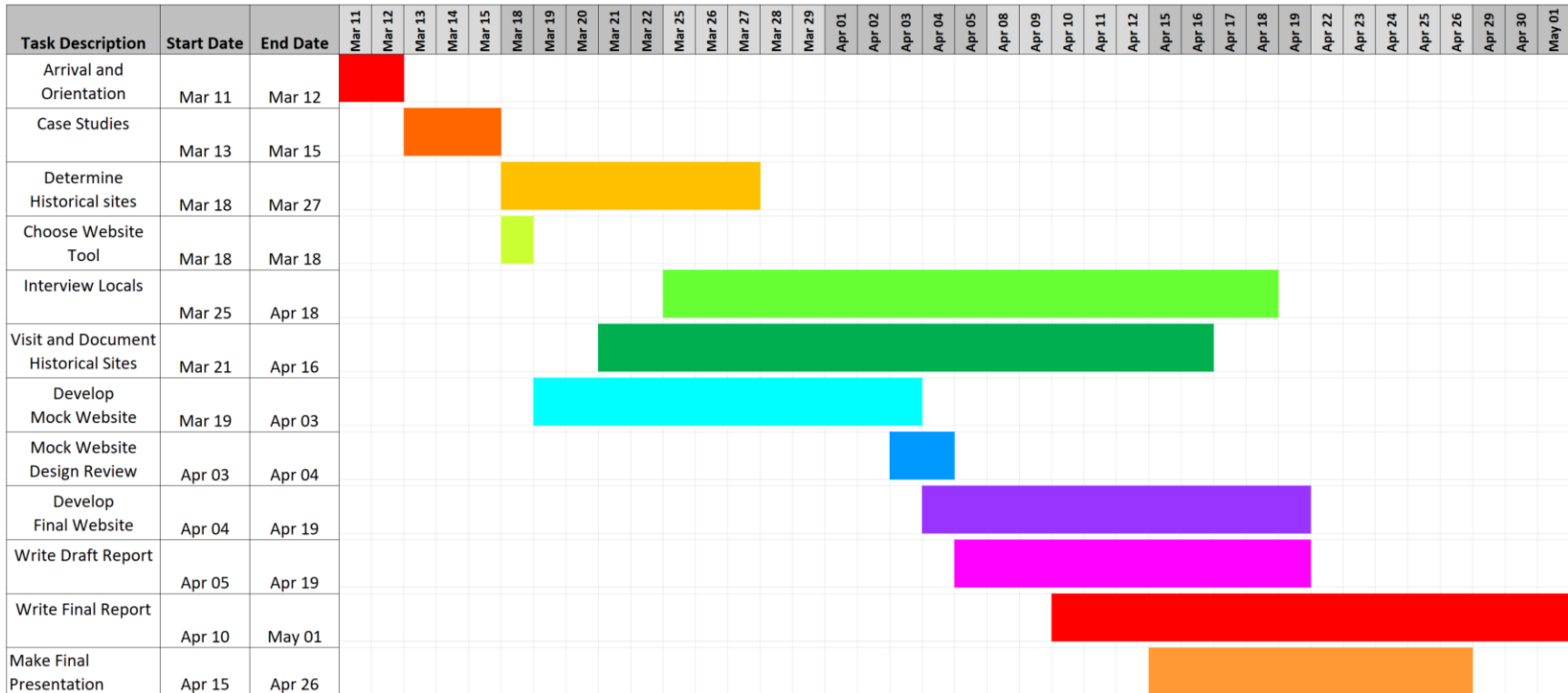| Task Description	Start Date	End Date	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29	Apr 01	Apr 02	Apr 03	Apr 04	Apr 05	Apr 08	Apr 09	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 15	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 01
Arrival and Orientation	Mar 11	Mar 12	█	█																																				
Case Studies	Mar 13	Mar 15			█	█	█																																	
Determine Historical sites	Mar 18	Mar 27						█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																									
Choose Website Tool	Mar 18	Mar 18						█																																
Interview Locals	Mar 25	Apr 18											█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
Visit and Document Historical Sites	Mar 21	Apr 16									█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█											
Develop Mock Website	Mar 19	Apr 03							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																				
Mock Website Design Review	Apr 03	Apr 04																		█	█																			
Develop Final Website	Apr 04	Apr 19																			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
Write Draft Report	Apr 05	Apr 19																				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
Write Final Report	Apr 10	May 01																							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Make Final Presentation	Apr 15	Apr 26																										█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			

Figure 3.2 Gantt Chart describing anticipated timeline for each task

4.0 Website Design & Implementation

This chapter considers the main design choices the team made to create an interactive website and interleaves into the discussion the technical issues the team faced to produce the ultimate solution.

4.1 Determining a Design Tool

The team had to decide between coding the website from scratch, using a website builder, or using an HTML template for the project website. One option was to use a website builder, such as Wix or Squarespace. A website builder can save time and offer needed design capabilities; however, it may not be able to implement all the features the project may need, limiting the team's ability to modify the layout and design. The second option was to create the website from scratch using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. By coding the website, the team would be able to incorporate arbitrary design characteristics, include needed features and add desirable functionality obtained from our six case studies. It would also enable flexibility in choosing how to host the website and easy integration to any current webserver.

The downside of this choice was that it takes significantly more time to design and develop compared to using a website builder. It would also require the team and future contributors to be fluent in JavaScript. The team had scheduled to select the development tool in Taiwan from March 18th to March 22nd. The team also planned to meet with their sponsor to determine the website's platform so that the sponsor can update and maintain it. The allocated time gave the team room to discuss and experiment with using a website builder and coding the website from scratch. We decided to use a template to code in HTML and CSS, while accounting for the project's short time frame. The template included eye-catching designs, enabling the team

to focus on programming new content and extra features. The pre-styled and pre-coded template enabled the team to focus on creating the layout, hosting the photos, and hosting the text content.

4.2 Evaluating HTML Layouts

To develop a website that professionally displayed the content, the team had to decide on an HTML layout. The team held a meeting to look at the designs on the website "*HTML5UP!*" A main concern was to have the website content appear professional on both mobile and desktop platforms. Given that the main content of the Shilin project website would be photos and text, the option of using a photo gallery was attractive. However, the team moved away from the idea of photo galleries due to the perceived difficulty in implementing all the planned content, such as the stories and interview videos. The chosen design is **Massively**. This HTML5UP! layout contained built-in JavaScript features, CSS styling, and the ability to handle responsivity. **Massively** uses visuals to create an eye-catching homepage, as well as pre-styled tabs and pages (see Figure 4.1) Due to the aesthetic visuals of **Massively** and its ability to present photos, videos, and text in a professional manner, the team decided to move forward with choosing **Massively** as our HTML template.
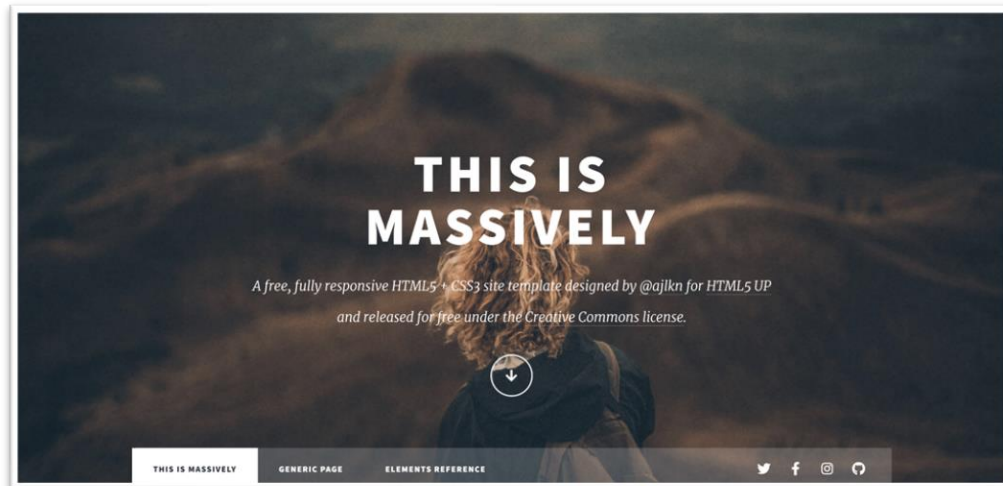
Figure 4.1 Chosen HTML Design Layout, **Massively**

4.3 Evaluating Methods for Displaying Content

The team had to decide on the detailed layout for displaying different visual content, such as the photographs of interview participants and the different historical locations. Using concepts that the website case studies yielded, our team built the layout and presentation of the personal stories' pages quickly, displaying the photograph of the subject first. The next design decision was to place other content, such as videos and recordings, under the subject's photo. The team displayed the photos of the locations on separate pages. Similarly to the *People* pages, the *Places* pages showed the photograph of the location first, and then continued with other content such as the text and extra photos. A grid at the bottom of each page displayed extra photos.

Additionally, the team needed a scheme cto enlarge the photos when the user clicked on them. Another word for this concept is modal. A modal provides a clean popup window containing a larger photo. The two options were creating the modal from scratch or finding a script online. After attempting both methods, the team saw that the online script version worked better and looked cleaner. Hence, our website development utilized the free modal script,

Lightbox (https://lokeshdhakar.com/projects/lightbox2/), which is licensed under the MIT license.

Another feature the team implemented was a slideshow to make the homepage contain more visuals. This involved using the online script **Swiper** (https://swiperjs.com/get-started). This bundle contained all the necessary JavaScript and CSS styling to import into the website layout. Using these two freely available scripts enabled the team to focus more time on implementing content.

4.4 Designing a Mockup Website

The mock website contained filler content, such as fictious images of characters and places. The filler content stood in place of the real photographs and text that the team was collecting. However, the team's mock website did contain most of the features the team wanted to implement, such as the *See more* section, the auto-translator button, and the simple layout of the *homepage*, *people* directory page, *places* directory page, and *about us* page. The team designed each page based on the functional criteria gleaned from the case studies. Figure 4.2 shows an example of the *Places* directory page with filler content, and Figure 4.3 provides an example of the S*tories* directory page.
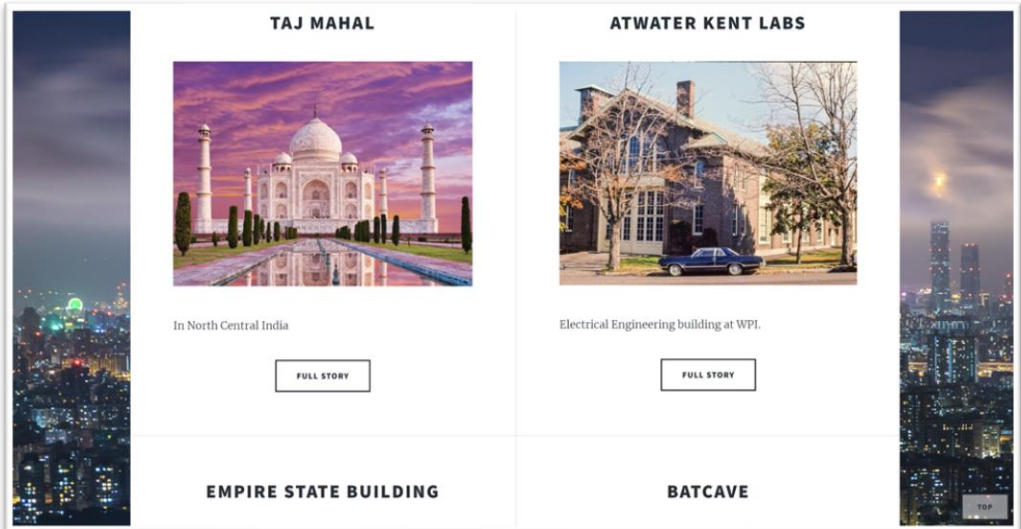
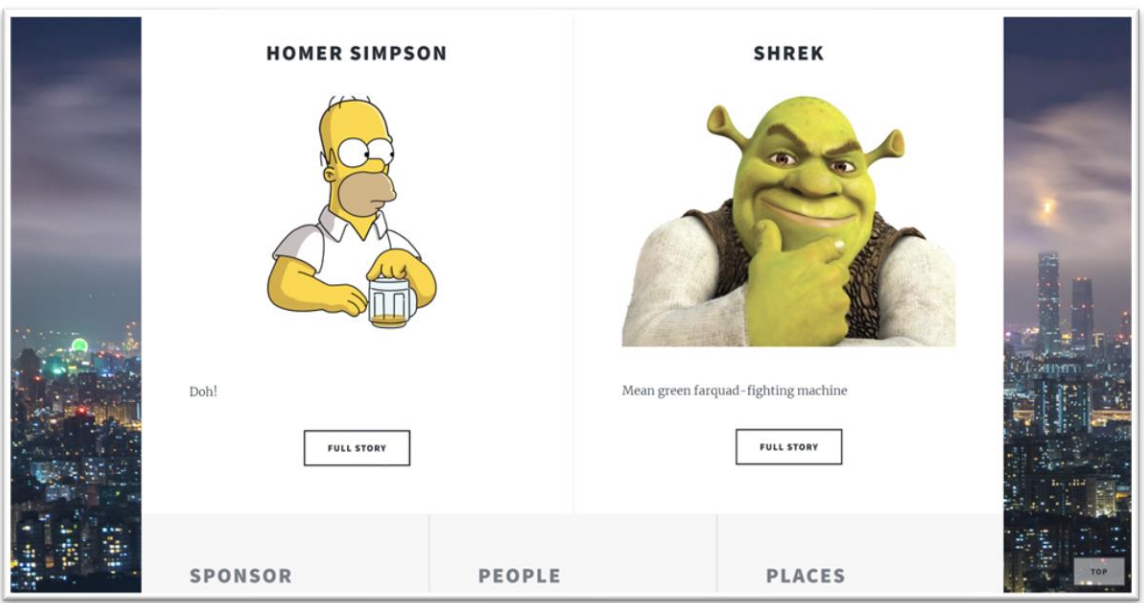*Figure 4.2 Places directory page with filler content*

Figure 4.3 People directory page with filler content

4.5 Website Hosting Issues & Solutions

The team chose to host the website on WPI servers for a few reasons. First, the project team acquired a good-looking subdomain of wpi.edu, *shilin.wpi.edu,* for free. This is opposed to another free hosting option like GitHub, which would appear as: "*username.github.io/repository/webpage*". Carrying the wpi.edu domain is easier to remember, looks more professional, and is more reliable. In terms of longevity, the previous Rasnov IQP's (Decelles, Mitchell, et al., 2022) website is no longer accessible through the internet due to hosting complications. Additionally, this project has essentially unlimited storage on WPI's servers. The group received support from WPI's Unix IT group for free, which was especially helpful when getting the server started. Working with the WPI servers also facilitated continuous-integration-continuous-deployment (CI/CD), which translates to faster development cycles. One drawback of staying in WPI's ecosystem is that it is more difficult to include collaborators who are outside of the school's Microsoft organization, however, it is still possible to give these collaborators access to the website.

During development, the team rendered the website on their individual machines using Visual Studio Code. Upon the first field-test of *shilin.wpi.edu*, the team noticed extremely long load times. One unavoidable drawback of using a WPI server is that the website's content physically resides in Worcester, Massachusetts, meaning each byte of content needs to travel all the way to Taiwan when accessing the site. This results in slightly lower network speeds than normal, and a longer travel time for each message between the client and server. A possible workaround for this is using a Content Delivery Network (CDN), which stores content on servers throughout the globe, but that would be expensive.

The online tool *webpagetest.org* supplies useful data about how a client machine loads a webpage, including detailed timing diagrams for each individual file request. This site lets users set custom network bandwidth and latency values, this way, the team could emulate the network speed that a device in Taiwan will realize when talking to a WPI server. Figure 4.4 illustrates a test result of the first revision of *shilin.wpi.edu*, which had very large images, and a total page size of 33.4 Megabytes. When running multiple load speed tests, the worst case for all images to finish loading was *over two minutes*, which is unacceptable.
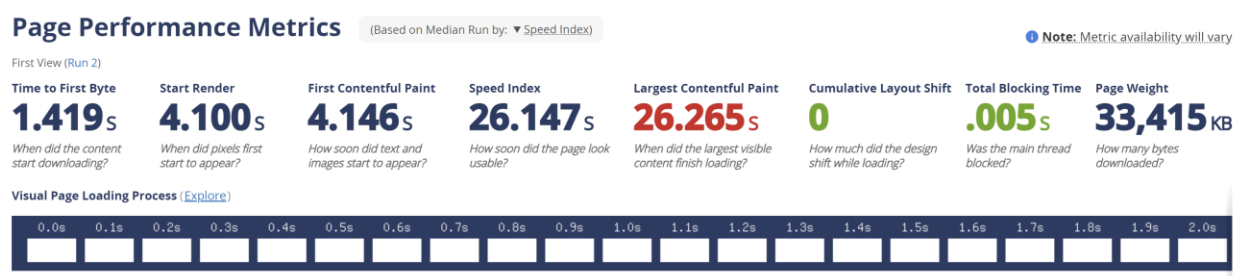

Figure 4.4: Non-optimized homepage with 33.4MB page size (webpagetest.org)

Figure 4.5 graphs the "Waterfall" view of test results, which details the order and duration of web requests. Each request is on the y-axis, while the start and end times are on the x-axis.

Since the website displays many high-quality images, the most straightforward way to fix load times was to reduce each image's size. The raw image size from our camera was on the order of 6000 by 4000 pixels with only basic compression. The first step in load time reduction was to scale these images down to a more reasonable dimension, understanding that most web users wouldn't be able to view an image of that size on their screens. Then, the team optimized each image further using the RIOT image compression software that uses the JPEG algorithm and encoded each image as "progressive". A progressively rendered JPEG image will first load at a low, blurry quality and get better as the server sends more data, as opposed to standard

rendering, where the server sends the photo at full quality line-by-line. This gives the illusion of faster load time to the user. Finally, instead of loading high-quality photos immediately, the team iconified each image to drastically lower the subsequent size.
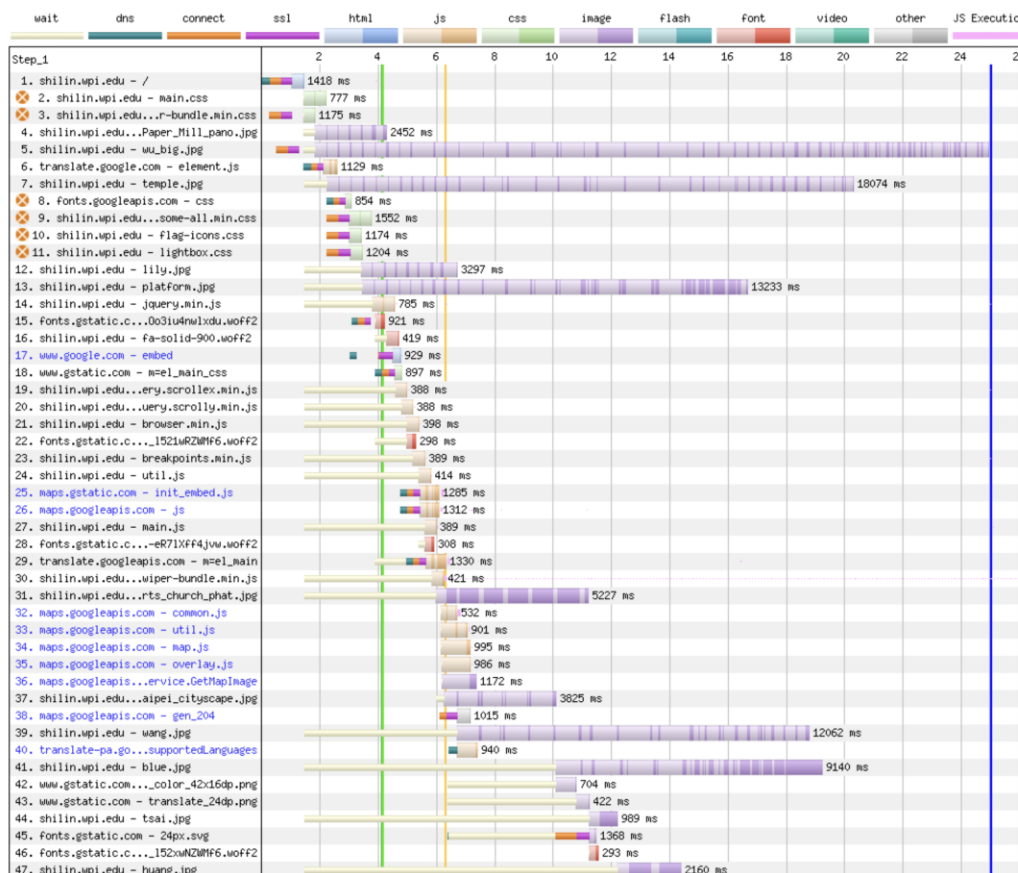

Figure 4.5 Website diagnostic tools showing images are significant.

The team formatted each webpage such that the client only loads icons, not full images immediately, resulting in approximately 13 times page size reduction and 17 times faster load time in the worst case (the average load time reduction is near 4-5x as detailed by Figure 4.6). Only when a user clicks or taps on an icon is the corresponding high-quality, full-sized image sent by the server. Notice how the waterfall in Figure 4.7 is much more streamlined, with fewer outliers.

Figure 4.6: Optimized website metrics (webpagetest.org)
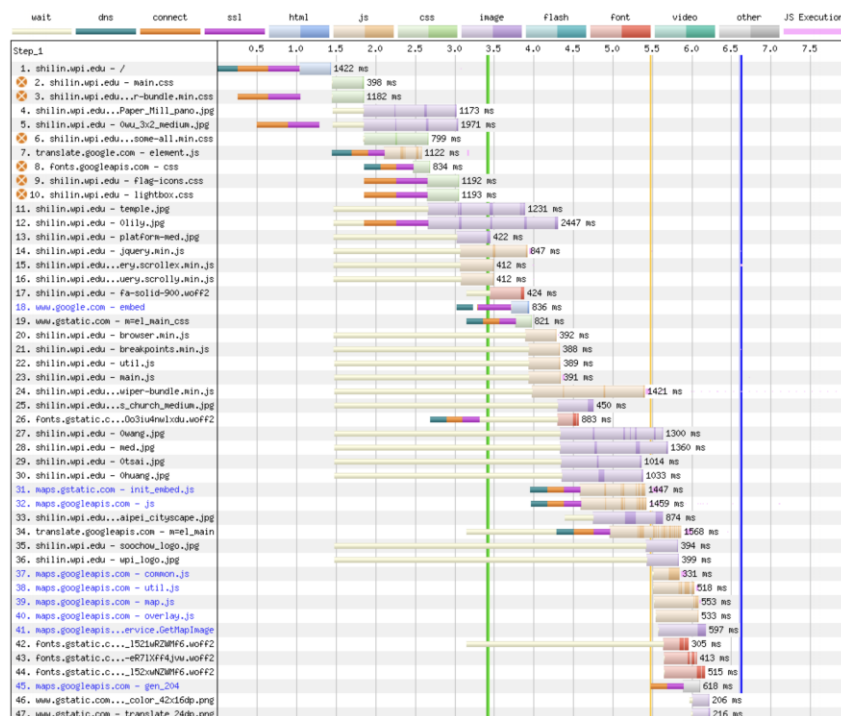
Figure 4.7: Optimized webpage waterfall view

Figure 4.8 shows two screenshots of video recordings of each test run, with the corresponding timestamp underneath. The original unoptimized page began rendering after 27.3 seconds, while the optimized page began rendering after 7.9 seconds. Note that there is a difference between first render and final image loading. A web browser will start to render a webpage once it receives layout data, even though the server may not have sent all the images. Thus, the browser leaves blank spaces where images will eventually load in.

Figure 4.8 First content paint load speeds

Note that users only see slow load times upon the first website load. Once a client receives all server data, modern web browsers will store image files in a local cache for faster, almost immediate retrieval on subsequent page loads.

4.6 Website Design & Implementation Summary

This chapter outlined the major technical decisions the team made to design a fully interactive website. The first step was choosing the HTML template **Massively** due to its design and ability to change the size of the content based on the user's screen dimensions. The next step was building a mock website with filler content. To create a good user experience and emphasize the focus on photography, the team decided that the script **LightBox** was the best option for gallery modals and the script **Swiper** was best for the slideshow on the homepage. Importing high quality photos to the website made the loading time for each page slow. The solution to the slow load times was to optimize each image to a smaller dimension. This made the load time for the website significantly faster. Overall, this chapter detailed all the team's planning and solutions involved in the website's design.

5.0 Results & Analysis

This chapter presents the main findings our team derived from data collection. The team undertook case studies of similar websites to determine key features for the website and categorized the pros and cons of various development platforms. This chapter also outlines insights from community-based accompaniment. In addition, the team conducted interviews that supplied quantitative data for the website. Feedback that the team received on the mockup website, several figures of the final website and main findings of a survey on website experience are in this chapter as well. The chapter ends with outlining future work and ensuring continuity of the website.

5.1 Website Case Studies

The first phase of this project was to research six websites with similar goals as case studies to identify good website design and layout. The main goal was to determine features that would benefit the website and features to avoid in our website implementation. This online research yielded functionalities that were important to a website and created a list of criteria including but not limited to: responsivity, content layout, user experience/navigation and forms of media.

5.1.1 Humans of New York

The "Humans of New York" website focuses on documenting direct quotes from people on the streets of New York City to examine the challenges that people from different backgrounds face. The direct quotes of the interview participants give readers an emotional connection to the narratives and a unique perspective on the topics discussed. The team liked the simple layout of the personal story pages. The layout focused on the subject using a photo with

their direct quote underneath. The team also liked the *u* section underneath each personal story for its user-friendly navigation, which made it easier to access different content (see Figure 5.1) Overall, the aspect of using a vivid portrait of each person stood, however, having multiple bodies of text on one page was not ideal.

Figure 5.1 Homepage of Humans of New York, (https://www.humansofnewyork.com/)

5.1.2 Humans of Amsterdam

Similarly to the "Humans of New York" website, the "Humans of Amsterdam" website contained stories and quotes. The content is comparable to the "Humans of New York" website, except it centers on people from Amsterdam, Dunkirk, Lebanon, Qatar, the Philippines, Tunisia, Nicaragua, and Vietnam. The focus of this study was the *homepage*, due to its simplicity while still being eye-catching (see Figure 5.2). The team viewed the "Humans of Amsterdam" *homepage* as inspirational regarding its style and functionality.
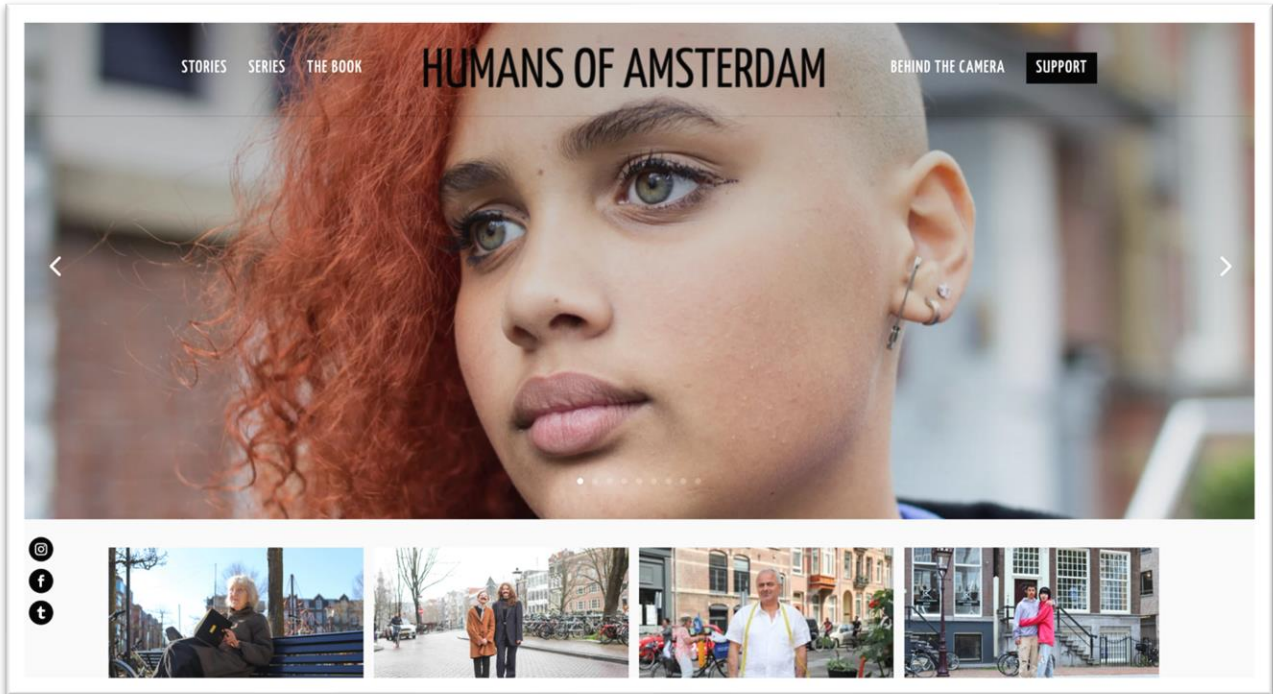
Figure 5.2 Homepage of Humans of Amsterdam, (https://humansofamsterdam.com/)

5.1.3 Humans of Kuala Lumpur

The team noticed that the "Humans of Kuala Lumpur" website had a simple navigation bar and didn't use a drop-down menu as the main form of navigation. This key point aided in the lack of clutter and confusion when navigating the website. The content was concise, targeting shorter attention spans, and using the strategy to attract viewers to related stories after each page, consequently enhancing the overall experience.

An area for improvement is the function of the cursor hovering over pictures. Figure 5.3 illustrates how the effect of a blue overlay is applied to an image when the cursor is over it, which impairs its visual impact. Such an oversight disrupts the intended user experience and the colors of the image that viewers may be keen on seeing.

By *Humans of Kuala Lumpur* In *family. Humans of KL. Lifestyle* Posted *17/03/2024*

Figure 5.3 Blue overlay effect over images on Humans of Kuala Lumpur (https://www.humansofkl.com/)

5.1.4 Developing a Website for Rasnov, Romania as a Strategy for Historical and Cultural Preservation (IQP)

The Rasnov IQP website preserved the culture of Romania using stories submitted by users and their interview participants. The team liked how simple the layout of the website was. However, the *stories* pages did not display interesting visuals to draw the user in, which meant that each story relied on its text content. As Figure 5.4 shows, the text for each story was displayed in paragraphs, making it hard to understand what each story is about right away. The team agreed that less text, or an eye-catching visual to encourage readers to click on the story, would be more appealing. The website also implemented a map, which added a layer of user interactivity and helped paint a picture of the Rasnov area. Overall, the team liked the Rasnov website for its simplicity and use of user interactivity, but we felt that the presentation of the visuals was too minimal.
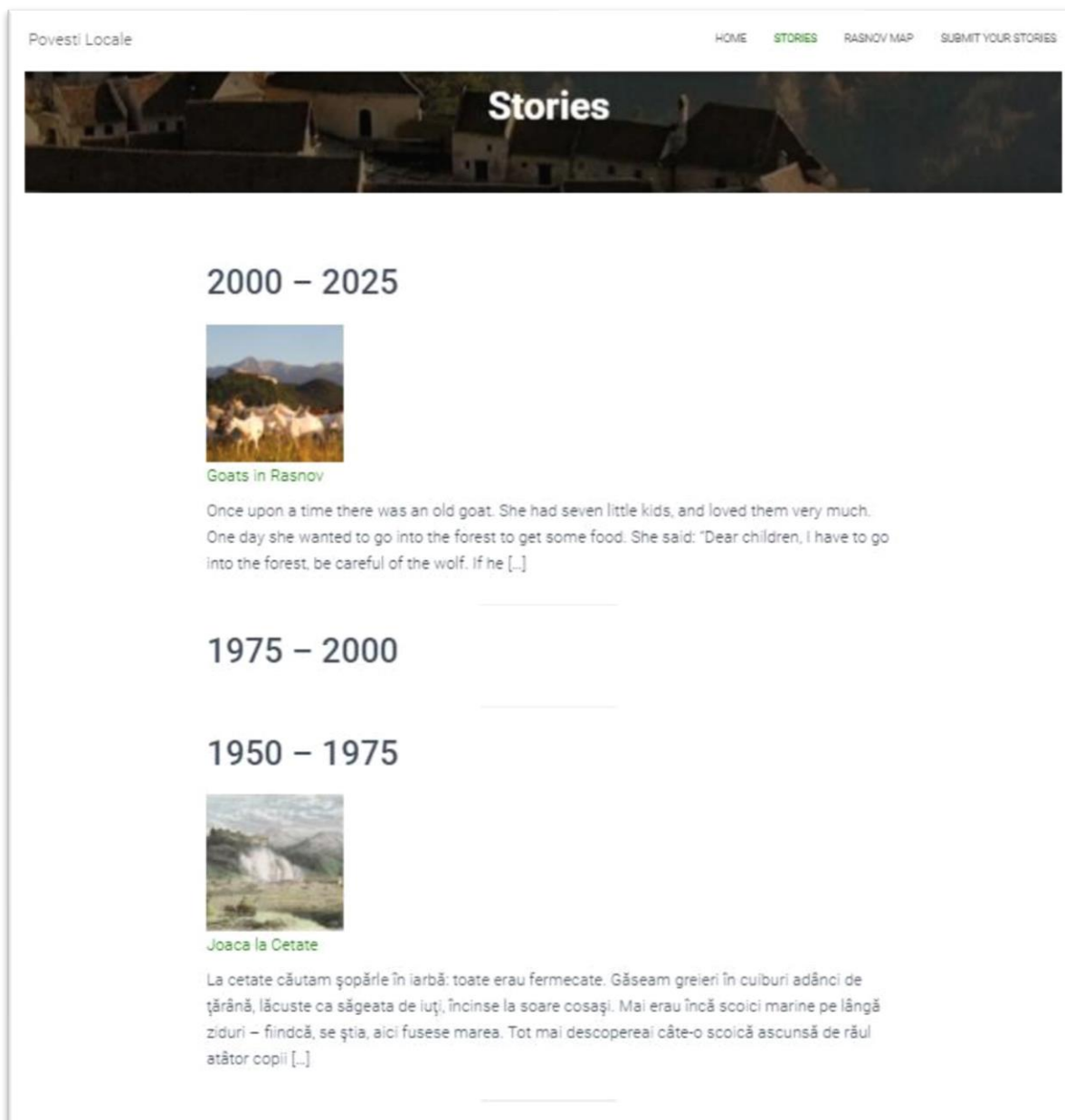
Figure 5.4 Stories page of Rasnov IQP

5.1.5 Sustainable Tourism in Prague (IQP)

The "Real Prague" website case study contained features that the team did not find ideal. The first image when loading on to the website is cut off, which did not align with our goal of professionally displaying the visual content (see Figure 5.5).
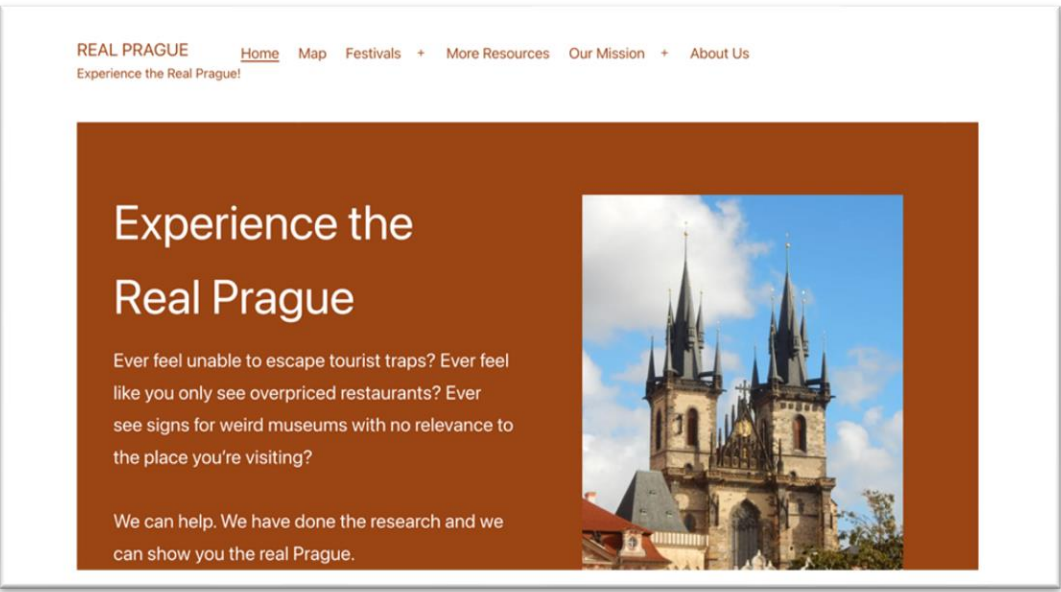
Figure 5.5 Homepage of "Real Prague" on desktop platform

The boxes containing various written content were too big for desktop and mobile. On the mobile version of the website, the text did not scale to size, making it harder for the user to read, greatly affecting the user experience (see Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6 Homepage of "Real Prague" on mobile platform

5.1.6 Ministry of Culture of Taiwan

The Ministry of Culture of Taiwan's website was most applicable to the project, as it was the only case study that solely presented content about Taiwan's culture. According to the *About Us* page, the Ministry is responsible for "cultivating Taiwan's soft power in the areas of arts and humanities, community development, crafts industry, cultural exchanges, international cultural participation, heritage, literature and publishing, living aesthetics, TV, cinema, and pop music." Noticeably, the website considers a wide variety of cultural aspects, far more than our team intends to consider. Consequently, as Figure 5.7 demonstrates, their drop-down menu is quite crowded and hard to navigate.


Figure 5.7 Dropdown menu of Ministry of Culture of Taiwan

The *Cultural Features* page closely emulates our intended goal of portraying featured stories of Shilin community members. The design arranges page layout by several categories like: "Academics & Architects", "Musicians & Performers", and "Writers & Poets". These pages

organized the featured individuals in a grid-like structure, using their portrait as an icon. The team agreed that this overall function made interaction more interesting, but that the professionality and cleanliness of the organization needs improvement. For example, the images aren't all the same size, as pictured in Figure 5.8. The individual profile pages contained additional photos and lengthy biographies that the team felt were not sufficiently concise for a website. Impressively, translation was available in five languages, which makes the website appealing to an international audience.
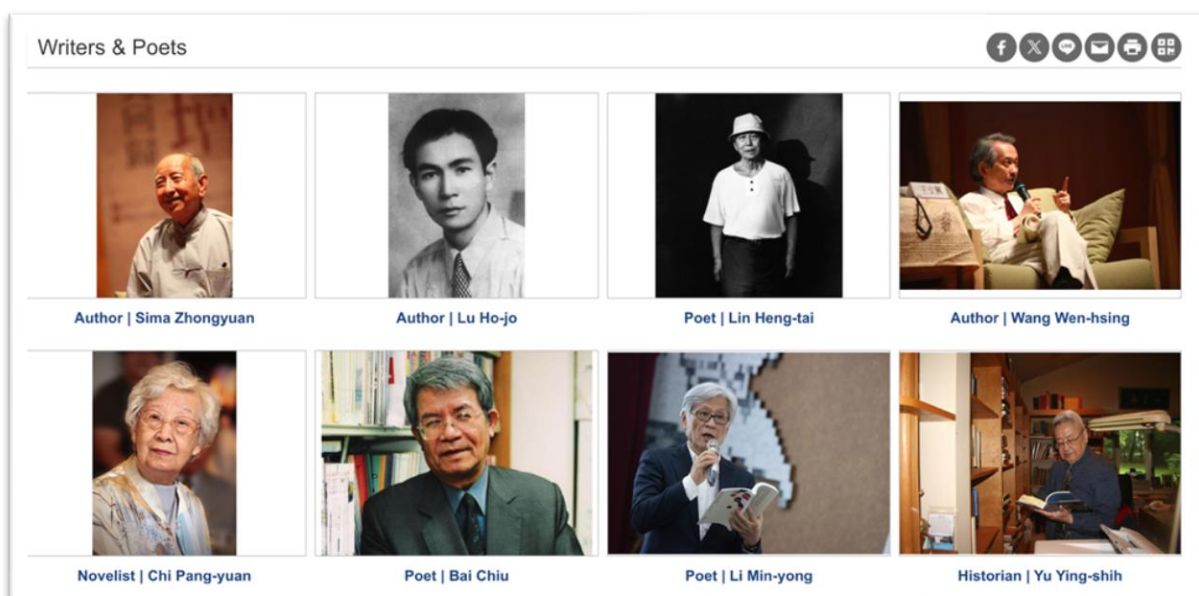
Figure 5.8 Writers & Poets Page on Ministry of Culture of Taiwan

5.1.7 Summary of Key Insights from Website Case Studies

By conducting case studies, the research determined several key insights regarding website features. Overall, the team noticed how important responsivity is when building a website. The websites "Humans of New York" and "Humans of Amsterdam" scaled the images and text to the screen size and centered all the content. It was important that the project website maintain its spatial organization on both mobile and desktop use, as the team anticipated that most users would use the website via mobile. The team also liked specific features that positively

affected the user experience, such as the *See More* section below each personal story, making navigating to different stories a quicker and smoother experience. The presentation of the content and the layout of the "Humans of New York", the "Humans of Amsterdam", and the "Humans of Kuala Lumpur" websites were the team's ideal website design due to their focus on a simple yet effective layout which the project team believes draws the user in. The websites that did not fit the team's vision on how content should be presented in our final deliverable was the "Real Prague" website and "Ministry of Culture" website due to the lack of spatial awareness for both the written and visual content.

5.2 Insights from Community-Based Accompaniment

Throughout the research team's time in Taipei, our sponsor, Dr. Fu-sheng Shih, led four "walking tours" of the Shilin District. During these walking tours, he would relay important information about small details found in the Shilin community. One team member took field observation notes for further analysis, while the other three members took photos and videos for website content. On one particular tour, our sponsor brought the team to Shilin Elementary School (see Figure 5.9), where he introduced the team to our first interviewee, Mr. Wu.

Figure 5.9 Project sponsor leading the team on a tour of Shilin Elementary School

Mr. Wu gave an informative tour of the school's historical museum to the team.

Receiving accompaniment enabled our team to effectively communicate with Mr. Wu (see

Figure 5.10) and learn more about the significance of the school, a historical site that is on the

final website.

Figure 5.10 Mr. Wu and Dr. Shih in the Shilin Elementary Museum

On March 20th, during the second week of our trip in Taipei, the project's sponsor led the team on a historical walking tour of Shilin District. Following the footprint of the Fudeyang Canal, Professor Shih relayed important details on the surrounding geographical properties, architectural features, and related historical facts. During this time, one team member took field observation notes. The team visited upwards of four temples and three marketplaces during this excursion. Overall, from this experience, the team developed a greater understanding of the historical factors that contributed to the cultural development and identity of the Shilin District, and how we could display these factors as website content.

Figure 5.11 depicts the route the team took along the Fudeyang Canal. In 1739, the local government built the Fudeyang Irrigation Canal (福德洋圳) in the Shilin District, playing a large role in the city's development. Fudeyang is the original name of Shilin District; in Taoist beliefs, "Fude" is the lowest god of small villages and "yang" refers to the fertility of Shilin's soil. Originally the water irrigated surrounding farms, but its function evolved over time. Eventually being used for domestic and industrial purposes, the local government eventually diverted the canal towards Shilin's first paper factory in 1912.
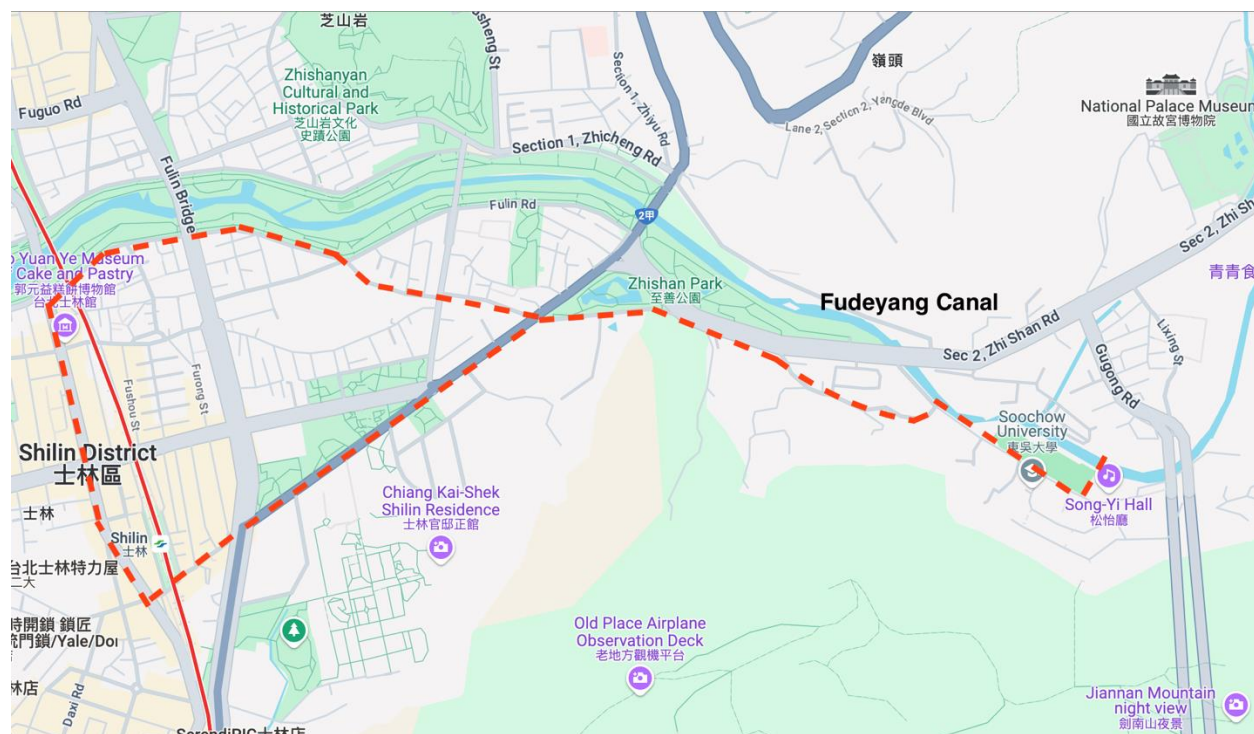
Figure 5.11 A map of the Fudeyang Canal walking tour

As Figure 5.12 pictures, it was a common practice of the Taiwan ancestors to plant trees along canals. This provided two main benefits; first, shade and cooling for those collecting water and second, the roots of the trees reduced the erosion along the canal banks. As the function of the Canal became more residential, homes started to incorporate a small bridge like structure from the street path, over the canal and up to the front door. One can find this distinct historical feature throughout the Shilin District and this characteristic is now highlighted on our final website, as pictured in Figure 5.13. Although the Fudeyang Canal is mostly dry today, the remaining paths of trees and bridges over dry beds tell the canal's history. Collecting and distributing impactful content that shows the cultural development taking place in Shilin is a direct result of community-based accompaniment. The website currently contains over 25 images that the team took during these walks.

Figure 5.12 Planted trees along the now dry canal

Figure 5.13 A small bridge from the street path, over the canal and to the front door

5.3 Interview Results

The team's five interviews produced a diverse collection of voices that speak for the District of Shilin. The interviewees represented several age groups, professions, and genders, but have one commonality: they are local to Shilin, whether by occupation or residence. Dr. Shih provided the interviewees for the team. The setting of the interview and the possible visual content the interviewee would mention determined the type of recording. In addition, one team member took a portrait of the interview and additional supplementary photos. The results of the following interviews provided meaningful content for the final website, revealing a small glimpse of what makes the cultural development of Shilin District unique.

5.3.1 Wu Chien-Hong

The first interview the team conducted was with Mr. Chien-Hong Wu. *Appendix C* contains the full transcript of his interview. A local of Shilin, Wu Chien-Hong has lived in the district his entire life, nearly 55 years. After completing his compulsory education and obligatory military service, Mr. Wu decided to follow his interest in art and working with children. Currently an art teacher at Taipei Municipal Shilin Elementary School, Mr. Wu's influence extends past the classroom. After discovering the various historical documents and significant artifacts the school had dispersed around the campus, he decided to curate them all in two separate museum exhibits. He retold how he spent countless hours organizing photos and the detailed timeline. He felt it was "a significant mission. If I did not properly handle it, the future generations would have no one to keep it going, and these artifacts could be drowned out by time, leaving Shilin's memory completely blank." After 35 years of teaching, Mr. Wu will be retiring from teaching at the end of this year; however, his legacy in Taipei Municipal Shilin

Elementary School will have a lasting impact through his impressive contributions to heritage preservation.

Echoing the background research the team conducted, Mr. Wu agreed that heritage preservation is important because of the future generations of a nation. He likens a country that doesn't preserve its culture and history to a place "without a past or roots." He believes that every country should safeguard its cultural heritage and pass it on to the next generation so that our children can know what happened in the past; "It's crucial not to neglect our own history… This lets the next generation understand the efforts and struggles of the previous generations". Mr. Wu impactfully ended his interview by relaying that "In the past, the visitors to our school were primarily Japanese, today marks the first time we have guests from the United States, and we are very welcoming. We hope that in the future, more people from different countries will come to visit, to understand the historical origins of the school, and to experience the beauty of Shilin together."

In a similar vein, the team expects the website to provide a digital opportunity for people to experience the Shilin District and Shilin Elementary School.

5.3.2 Lily

The second interview the team conducted was with Lily, a long-time pharmacist in the Shilin District of Taipei City. *Appendix D* contains the full transcript of her interview. Her family is originally from the Fujian Province in Mainland China and has lived in the Shilin District for over 200 years. They are deeply rooted in the community, particularly in the medical sector. The family practiced traditional Chinese medicine at the start of their business, but eventually gave way to Western medicine due to demand, thanks to Lily's father.

Lily's involvement in her family's company began in the 1970s at the age of 22, where she able to witness Shilin's growth firsthand. In the interview she stated that "the whole

landscape of Shilin has changed a lot" and that she remembers a time when the terrain was considerably different; rivers and bridges used to decorate the landscape. However, she has seen the urbanization of Shilin erase these historical landmarks, transforming the formerly rural area into an urban city. Lily affirms that Shilin's architectural past is significant and demonstrates its unique identity within the city of Taipei. She specifically recalled how her family's pharmacy changed the neighborhood's skyline and symbolized progress in 1986, when the building became one of the first taller buildings in the area.

Beyond ties to their pharmacy business, Lily's family history is closely associated with significant historical events in Taiwan. Her grandfather was arrested and killed in the 228 Incident, which happened during the Japanese rule, due to his ability to organize the community. This incident had long-lasting effects on the family. Lily highlights how her grandfather's arrest negatively impacted her family's reputation. The social stigma surrounding the 228 Incident in Lily's family is evidence of Taiwan's complex history. Her exploration of the incident whilst visiting Singapore uncovered a deeper understanding about the true history. Now, at Taipei's 228 Peace Memorial Park, her grandfather's name and photo is currently on display as a sign of vindication and recognition.

5.3.3 Wang Chun-Kai

The third interview that the team conducted was with Zhishanyan Huiji Temple director, Wang Chun-Kai. *Appendix E* contains the full transcript of his interview. Wang Chun-Kai was born in the Datong District in Taipei. He had been interested in traditional events and activities since his childhood, which inspired him to study Folk Art at the National Taipei University. Temples held an important role in his life, influencing Mr. Wang and his friends to visit temples often as young adults.

As the temple director, Mr. Wang manages annual events and activities, such as the Zhongyuan Festival in July, and the Mazu Festival. In Taoism, the Zhongyuan Festival is when ghosts and spirits, including those of deceased ancestors, come out from the lower realm to visit the living. The Mazu Festival honors the Chinese sea goddess for her protection over coastal communities. During the festival, the Mazu statue is carried through the streets by the temple volunteers and employees, accompanied by traditional music, dance performances, and colorful decorations. Traditions like the Mazu Festival showcase Taiwan's heritage and culture, which makes preserving them ever more important.

Chun-Kai Wang also noted a few special traditional events that occur today, while having a modern twist. He talks about the Mazu Welcoming Festival, which historically involved going around the village door to door to collect donations. The amount of money each family donates depends on the number of people in the household. Today, people donate to the temple voluntarily, which shows devotion to their deity. Areas like Tianmu, a neighborhood of Shilin, still preserve this tradition. This is special because Tianmu is a very modern area, yet it continues to uphold older traditions. Mr. Wang believes that if leaders do not promote and continue older practices, that they may disappear from history.

5.3.4 Mr. Tsai

The fourth interview that the team conducted was with Mr. Tsai, a food vendor on the corner of Huarong Street in the Shilin district. *Appendix F* contains the full transcript of his interview. Mr. Tsai moved to the Shilin district when he was 8 years old, alongside his father and brother. His father started the stall in 1966, focusing on selling sausages using fresh produce from local markets. Mr. Tsai has continued his father's business for nearly 60 years, demonstrating his love for his craft, as well as his dedication.

The main difference between Mr. Tsai's sausages compared to competitors is their freshness and size. Mr. Tsai wakes up at 8:30 AM to buy fresh meat and grinds it until noon. His day does not end until 9:30 PM, when he returns home from his stall. Mr. Tsai's sausages have coined the name, *the Shilin Big Sausage*. He notes that Taiwan's tradition of night markets and food stalls are important due to their food quality. Supermarkets cannot produce the same freshness that food vendors do. Mr. Tsai believes that to maintain Shilin's culture, the community needs to take care of it.

5.3.5 Mr. Huang

In the fifth and final interview, the team met Mr. Huang, who has run a juice stall for nearly five decades. As the interview was during his workday, it had to be short. *Appendix G* contains the full transcript of his interview. He shared insights into how the neighborhood and its night market have changed over the years: "I've been running this stall for almost 53 years," Mr. Huang reflected. "As I've gotten older, I've realized that staying healthy is most important, so I don't work too long sometimes."

Mr. Huang has strong ties to Shilin, having been born and raised there. He explains, "My mother is from here. ... We moved to Shilin about 30 years ago, and I've lived near the Shennong Temple since I was young."

Mr. Huang stated that not much has changed in the night market, despite the fact it is an old community. "The biggest difference is probably the Guanghua Cinema, which is now a clinic, and the new bus terminal," he stated.

We get a glimpse of the resilient spirit of Shilin's community, one that remains rooted in tradition but adaptable enough to change with the times, through Mr. Huang's account of the past. His observations serve as a reminder of the neighborhood's ability to adjust to continuous change as time pushes forward.

5.3.6 Summary of Interview Results

These five interviews showcase how each member of the Shilin District contributes to their community's culture and heritage. Firstly, Mr. Wu's commitment to preserving history for future generations demonstrated through the curation of artifacts illustrates his passion towards maintaining the Taiwanese identity. The second interview with Wang Chun-Kai exemplifies his devotion to his community through his passion for organizing events, and his knowledge as the Zhishanyan Huiji temple director. The third interview with Lily entailed a captivating family story pertaining to the 228 Incident. The fourth interview with Mr. Tsai showcases his tenacity through his grueling 12-hour work schedule and his love for his craft. The final interview with Mr. Huang revealed how he continues to give back to his community by producing fresh orange juice for locals.

5.4 Mock Website Design Review

The purpose of the design review was to confirm that the prototype aligned with the project sponsor's expectations. The team met with Professors Du, Kinicki, and Dr. Shih and gave tem each time to go through the website and provide their feedback at a design view meeting.

5.4.1 Sponsor Comments

Dr. Shih's feedback was as follows:

Dr. Shih offered informative feedback on the website's current state. He emphasized how important it was to link the website to the official university portal as well as the website of the previous research team to educate foreign students about Taiwan's history, specifically in the Shilin District. He requested that the team integrate current resources for ease of access and for future works to be accessible in the same place. As for content throughout the website, our sponsor suggested adding more details about Taiwan's agriculture and how it relates to the

district. In addition, he recommended emphasizing our "American opinion" when discussing historical facts. Lastly, Dr. Shih offered to assist with the vocabulary and written content found on the website.

5.4.2 Advisor Comments

Professor Kinicki's feedback was as follows:

According to Professor Kinicki, users might not notice that they can click on a subset of the photos to enlarge them. The picture slideshow's quick transitions make it difficult to fully appreciate the images that are on display. To keep the website operational after the project ends, it is essential to provide future students researchers working with Professor Shih with instructions on how to update it. Professor Kinicki suggested keeping an entire interview in one language. Since dropdown menus are absent from the website and point-and-click navigation is the primary method of navigation, it is necessary to defend this design decision as the best one for this project. A succinct history of the Shilin District will be included in an executive summary to show the importance it plays in the project. One approach Professor Kinicki suggested is writing about Taiwan first, then concentrating on Taipei City, and finally focusing on the importance of the Shilin District. Overall, Professor Kinicki's comments expressed satisfaction with the current development of the website.

Professor Du's feedback was as follows:

Professor Du strongly advised to collaborate with Professor Shih, including making any translations required to support his goals. In addition, Professor Du expressed skepticism about Google Translates accuracy, pointing out that even with possible errors, it can still effectively communicate essential ideas. Given that Professor Shih is our sponsor, she stressed how important it was to put his expectations at the forefront. She briefly questioned why the website

should be hosted on Soochow servers for Professor Shih. The team explained that the sponsor hopes the website will provide information to possible international students who are studying at Soochow University. Furthermore, hosting on Soochow servers would make it easier to add content after the project ends. In years to come, the possibility of future Soochow students continuing with the website's maintenance and WPI continuation with similar work is plausible. Overall, Professor Du expressed satisfaction with the website, pointing out its professional look, tasteful font choice, well-thought-out artistic design, and its positive user experience. She particularly enjoyed how the team incorporated photographs they took, into the website.

5.5 Final Website Design

This section gives examples of each page on the website. For an immersive experience of "*This is Shilin*", please visit shilin.wpi.edu.

5.5.1 Homepage

Figure 5.14 depicts a screenshot of the homepage on desktop. Once the page loads, a picture of Taipei's nighttime skyline fades in. When scrolling down, the user sees a short introduction about the Shilin District and a corresponding interactive Google Maps widget, as Figure 5.15 illustrates. The website also displays the navigation bar, which contains the Google Translate widget.
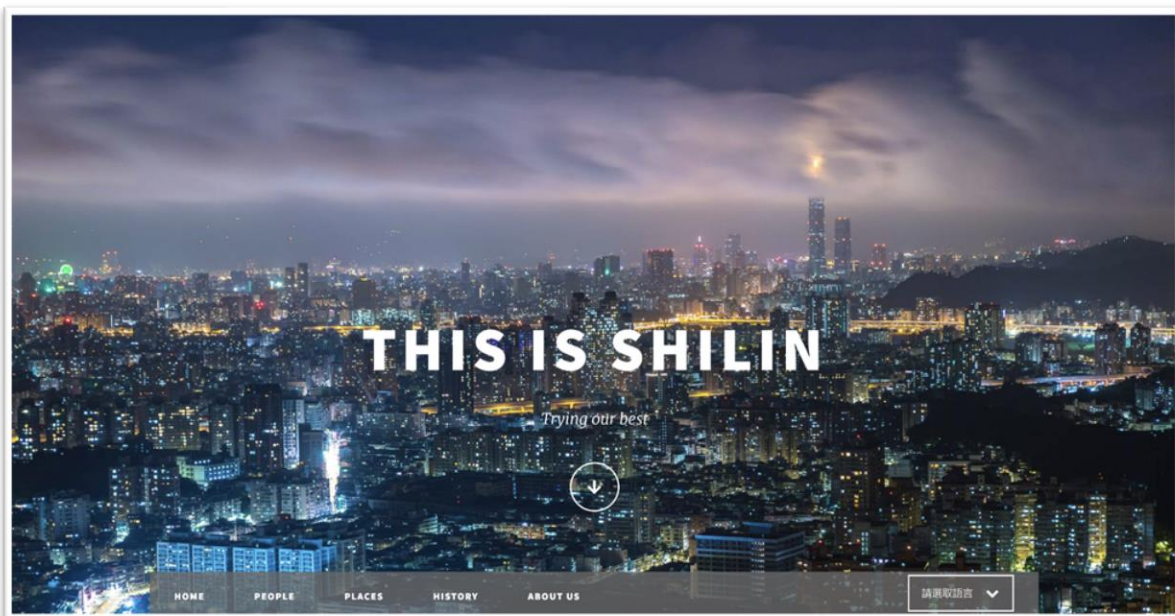
Figure 5.14 Homepage on desktop
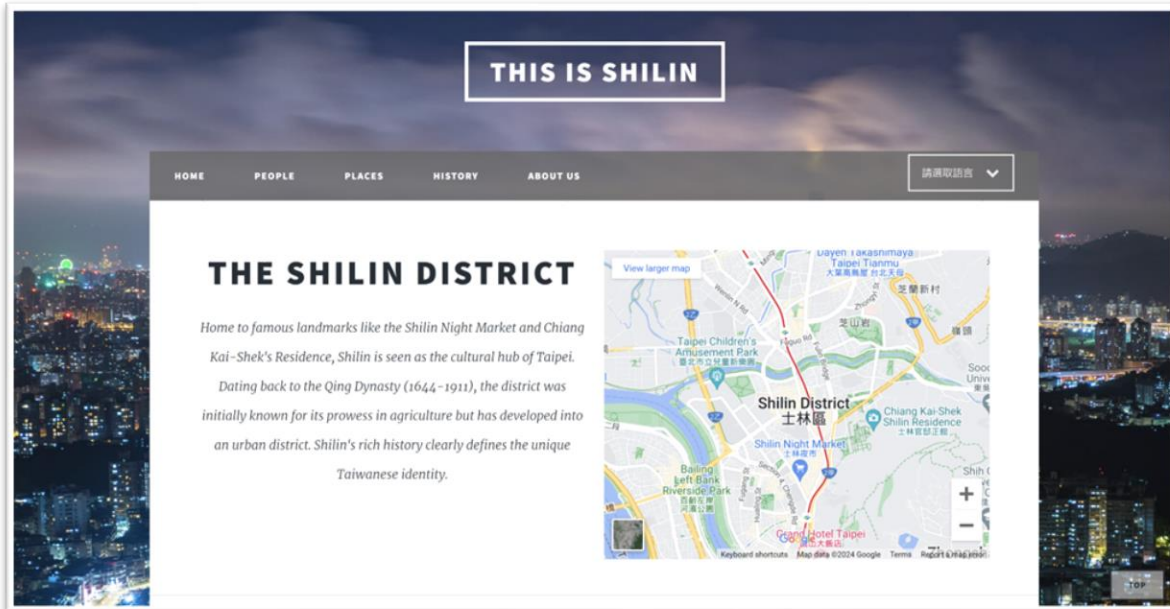
Figure 5.15: Scrolling further homepage on desktop

When scrolling further, the user sees an automatic slideshow containing images from various pages on the website, which Figure 5.16 shows. The webpage will redirect the user to each corresponding page after clicking or tapping on an image. The team increased the delay for each slide before automatically switching images, as suggested by Professor Kinicki. Finally, the homepage has a short description of how the website aims to preserve Shilin's cultural heritage, and a footer at the bottom with a site directory (see Figure 5.17). Note that the footer is consistent among all pages on the website, and all listed items are hyperlinks. Another feature the team added was a *top* button that will bring the user to the top of the screen. Figure 5.16 captures this in the bottom right corner of the screen.
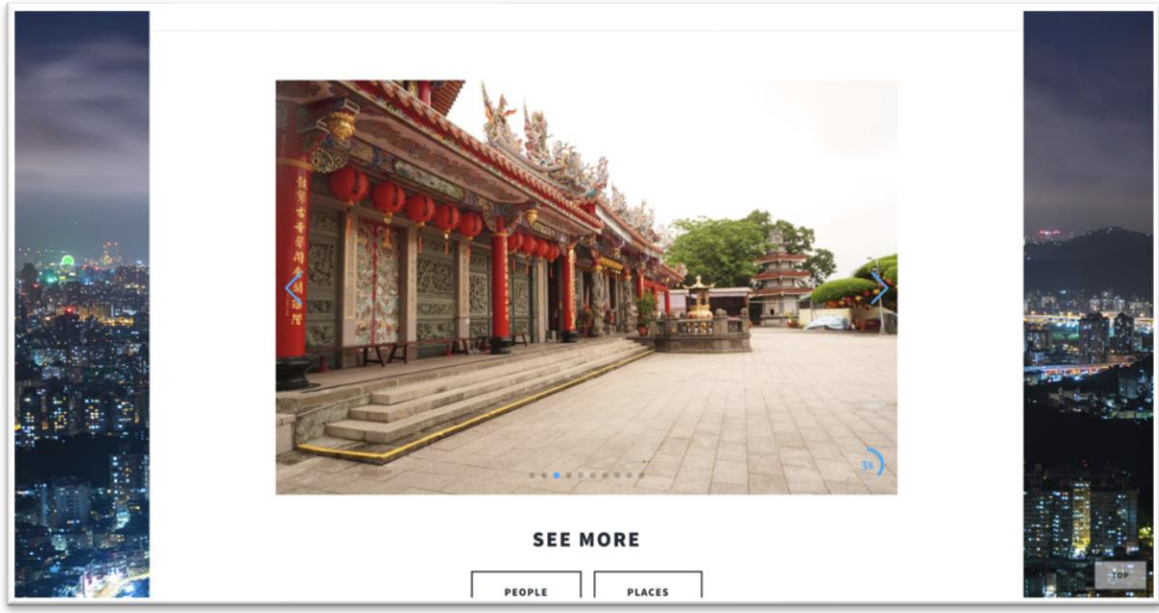
Figure 5.16: Slideshow on homepage on desktop
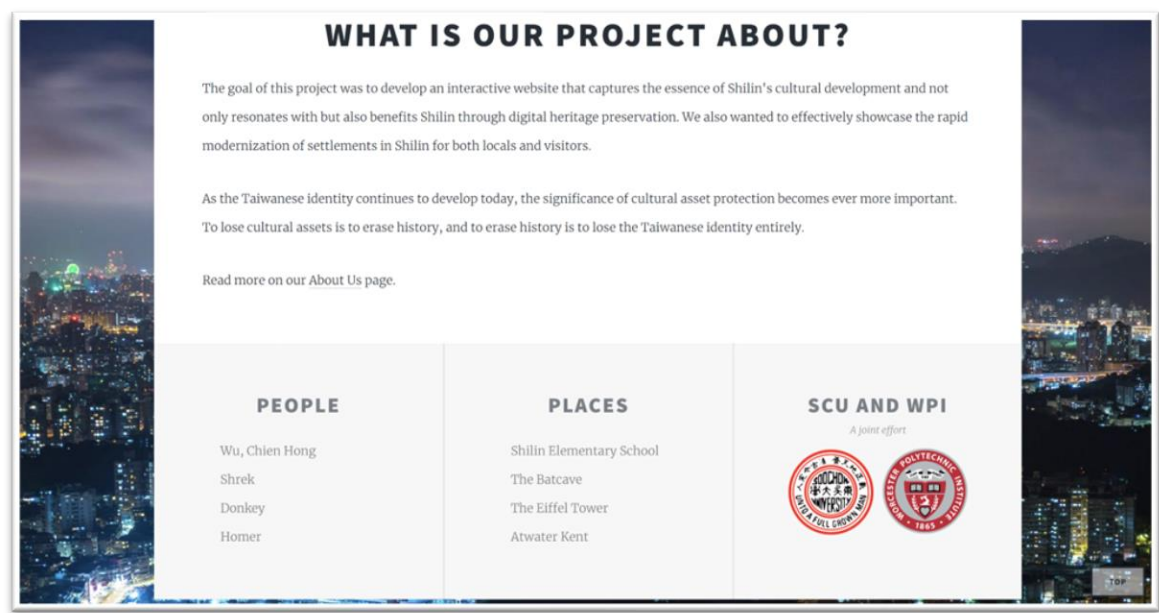
Figure 5.17: Small section detailing project info and page footer

Figure 5.18 displays the homepage on a mobile device. No text runs off the page, and words are not split in half when going to the next line. The user can access the menu at any time

by tapping the button in the top right corner. Additionally, the user can access the Google

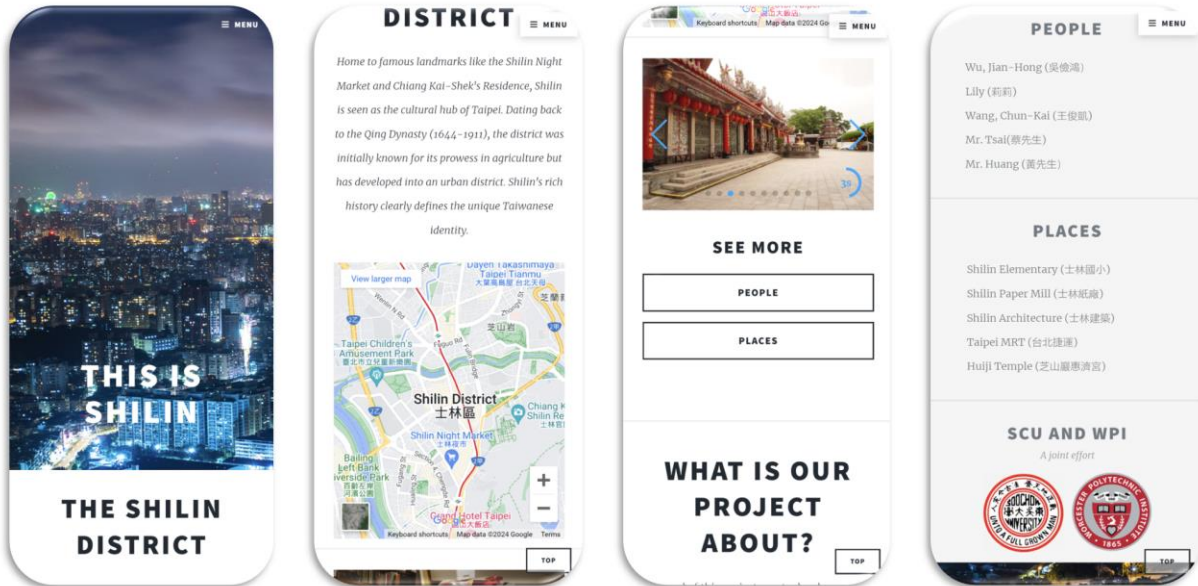Translate widget by tapping on the menu and selecting their desired language (see Figure 5.19).

Figure 5.18: Homepage on mobile device
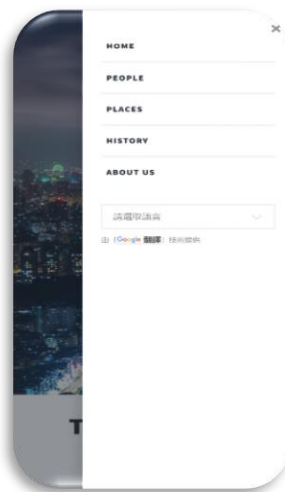
Figure 5.19: Menu on mobile

5.5.2 Navigation / Sub-homepages

The team's goal for the website flow is for a user to load into the homepage, scroll down,

and land on either the *Places* or *People* page, which are directories containing links to stories and

historical sites. Figures 5.20 and 5.21 depict how the team organized the *People* directory page. The overall webpage has the same style as the homepage. The team repeated this style for the *Places* directory page, which Figures 5.22 and 5.23 detail. Figure 5.24 is a representation of what the *People* and *Places* directory pages look like on mobile.
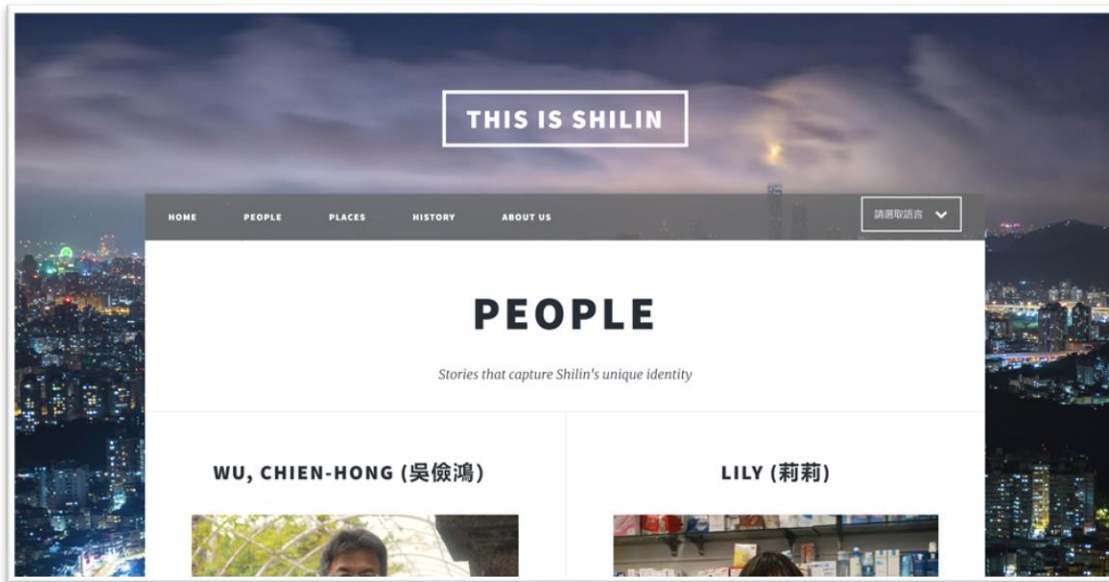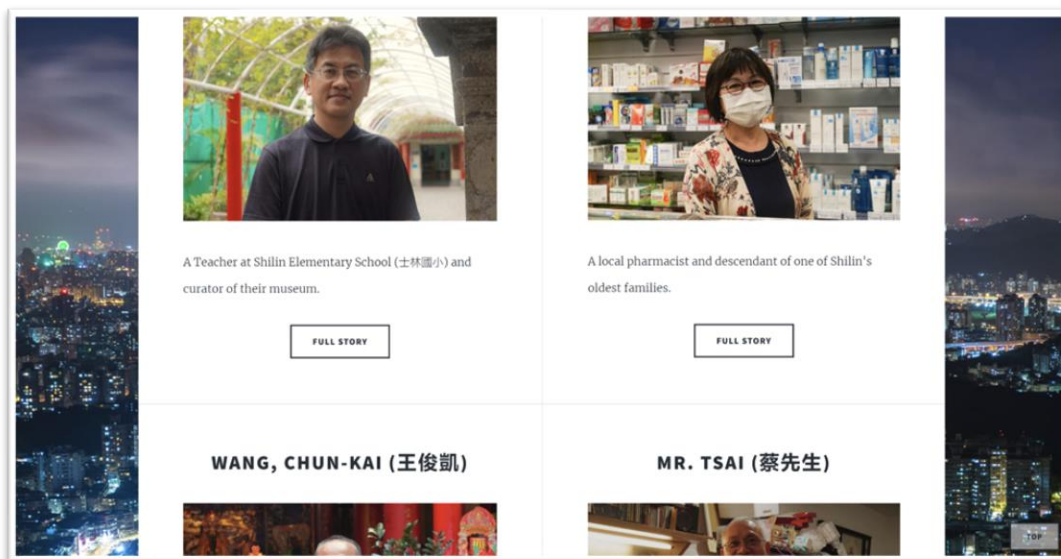

Figure 5.20: People directory
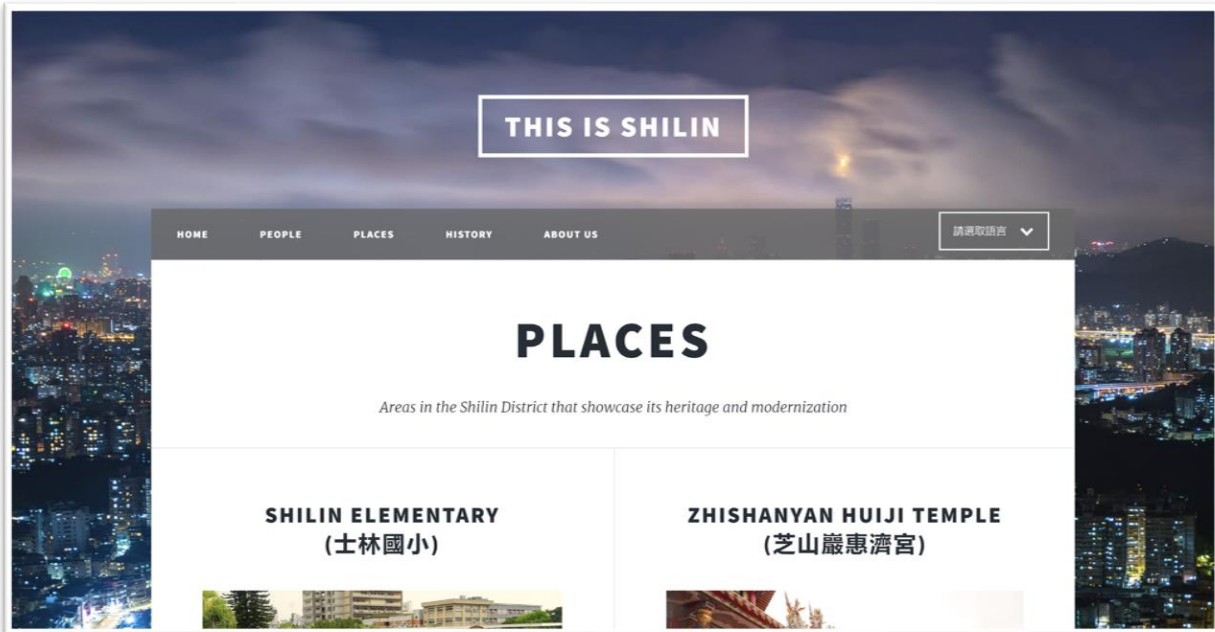

Figure 5.21: Various stories of Shilin

Figure 5.22: Place directory
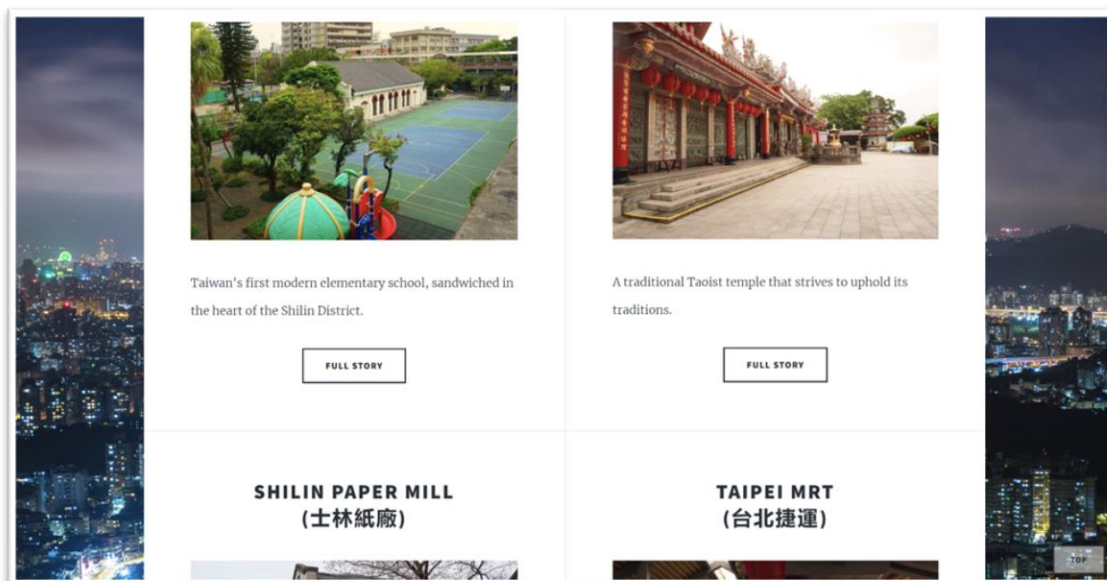
Figure 5.23: Historical Sites

Figure 5.24: Places and People directories on mobile

5.5.3 People Pages

The *People* directory page sends users to individual *Story* pages, which all have the same general format: a picture of the interview subject, a short intro of who they are, and excerpts from the interview. Additionally, on some pages, the user sees either video or audio recording clips from the corresponding interview. Figures 5.25, 5.26, and 5.27 depict the final page for Mr. Wu below. All pages have the Pinyin transliteration and actual Chinese characters of the subject's name, to ensure an accurate display after using Google Translate. The team implemented this after Dr. Shih suggested corrections to some parts of the translation.
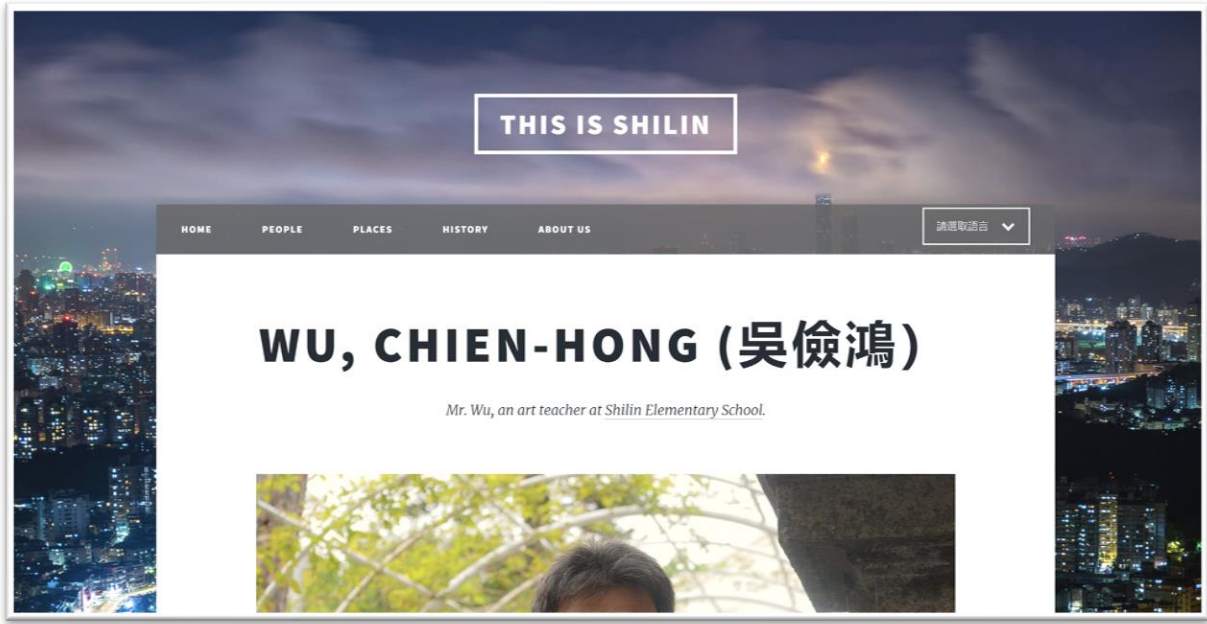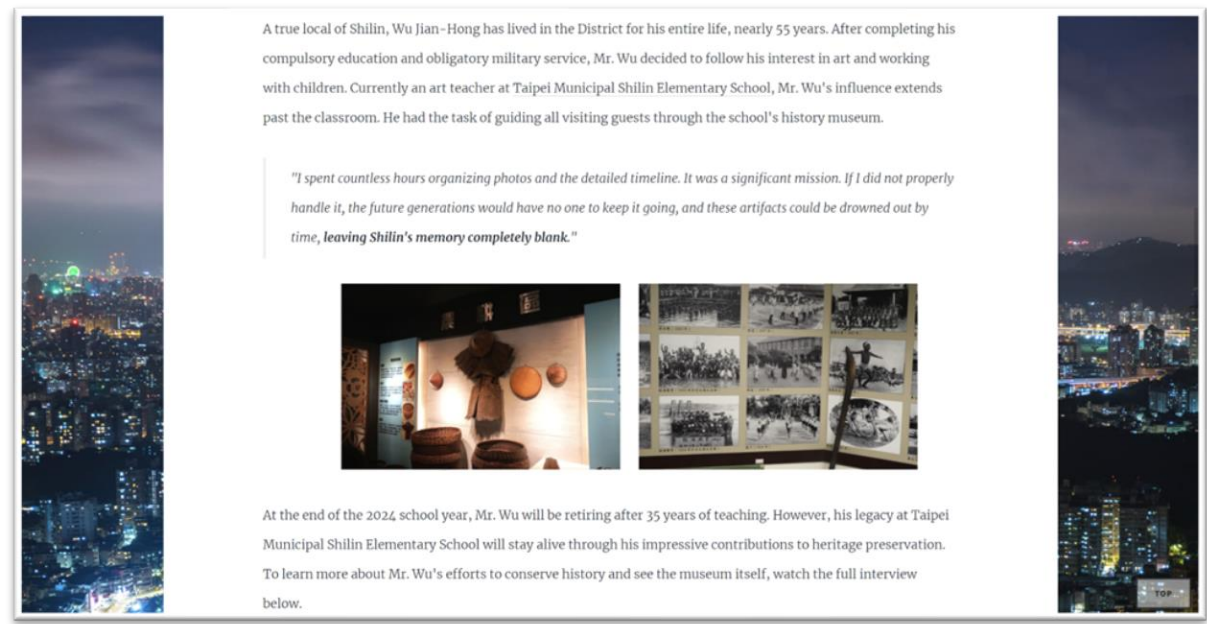
Figure 5.25 Mr. Wu Page upon loading

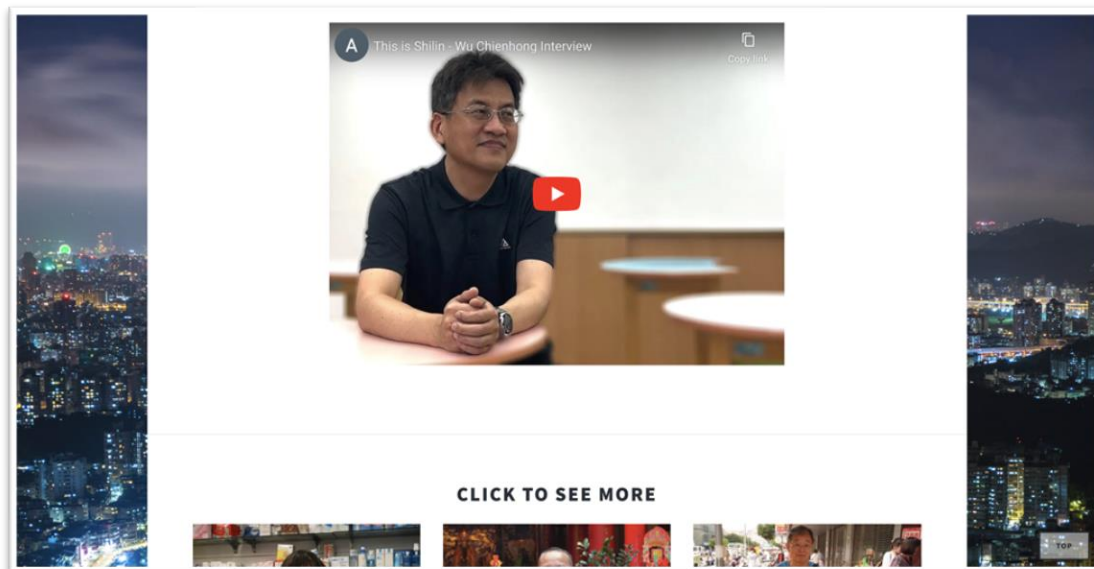*Figure 5.26: Mr. Wu content*

Figure 5.27: Linked YouTube interview video of Mr. Wu

Figure 5.28 is a screen capture of the *See More* section, a small area that contains links to other stories. The website redirects the user after they click or tap on each image. All pages have their own *See More* section; on *Place* pages, the *See More* section displays other *Place* pages. As the format is the same, this paper will only give one example of a *Place See More* (see Figure 5.42) and *People See More (*see Figure 5.28). Additionally, after *See More,* users can return to the webpage directories via two buttons. Figure 5.29 depicts Mr. Wu's page on mobile.

The team made a total of five people pages, one each for Mr. Wu, Mr. Wang, Mr. Tsai, Lily, and Mr. Huang. The Lily webpage has a dedicated audio excerpt from her interview, in both Mandarin Chinese and English. Figure 5.30 pictures Lily's portrait, and Figure 5.31 shows the playable audio. Figure 5.32 is her webpage on mobile.
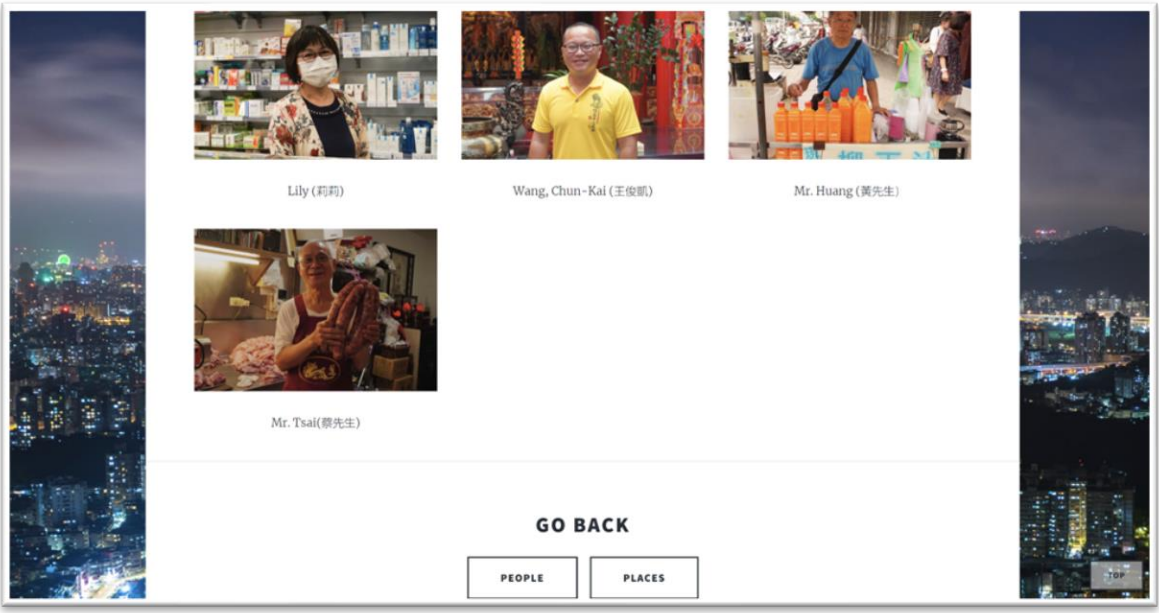
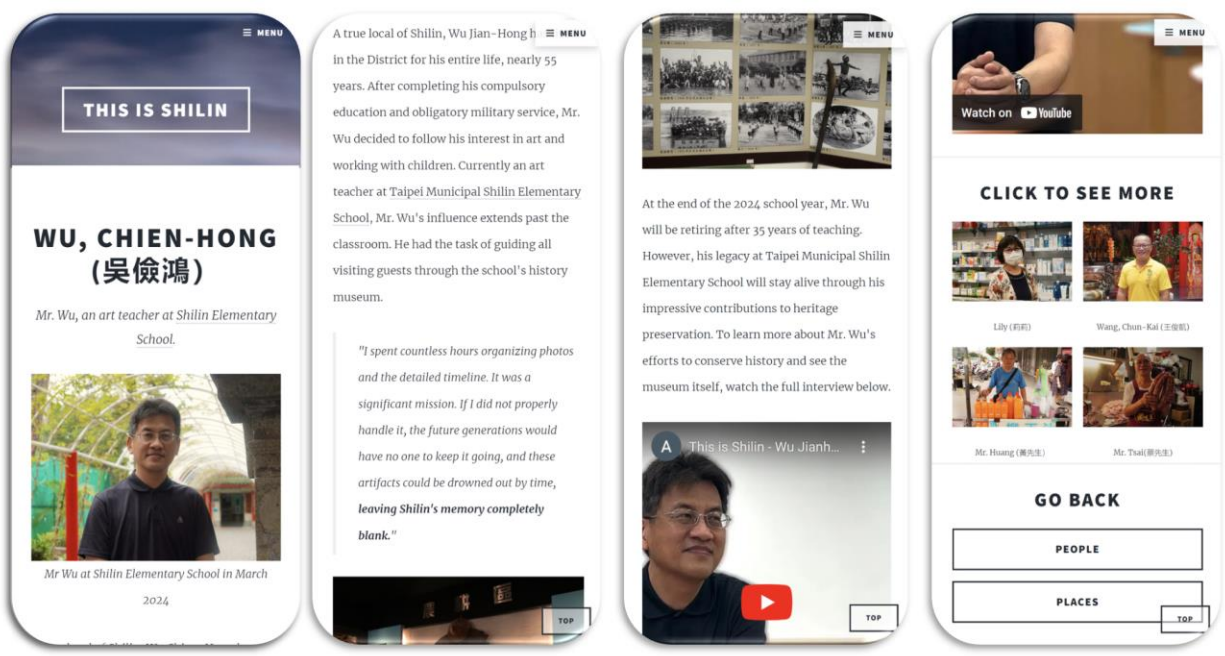*Figure 5.28: "See More" on Mr. Wu's page and "Go Back" buttons*

Figure 5.29: Mr. Wu's page on mobile

Figure 5.30: Lily's portrait

Figure 5.31: Playable excerpt from Lily's interview

Figure 5.32 Lily's page on mobile

Mr. Wang's page follows a similar theme to Mr. Wu's; it starts with a portrait, then a short excerpt, and ends with a video interview. Figures 5.33 and 5.34 detail Mr. Wang's page on desktop, while Figure 5.35 depicts the page on mobile. Mr. Tsai's page also follows this layout – Figure 5.36 pictures Mr. Tsai in his butcher shop. When scrolling further, the user can play a video recording of his interview (see Figure 5.37). Figure 5.38 depicts his page on mobile.

Figure 5.33: Mr. Wang's portrait
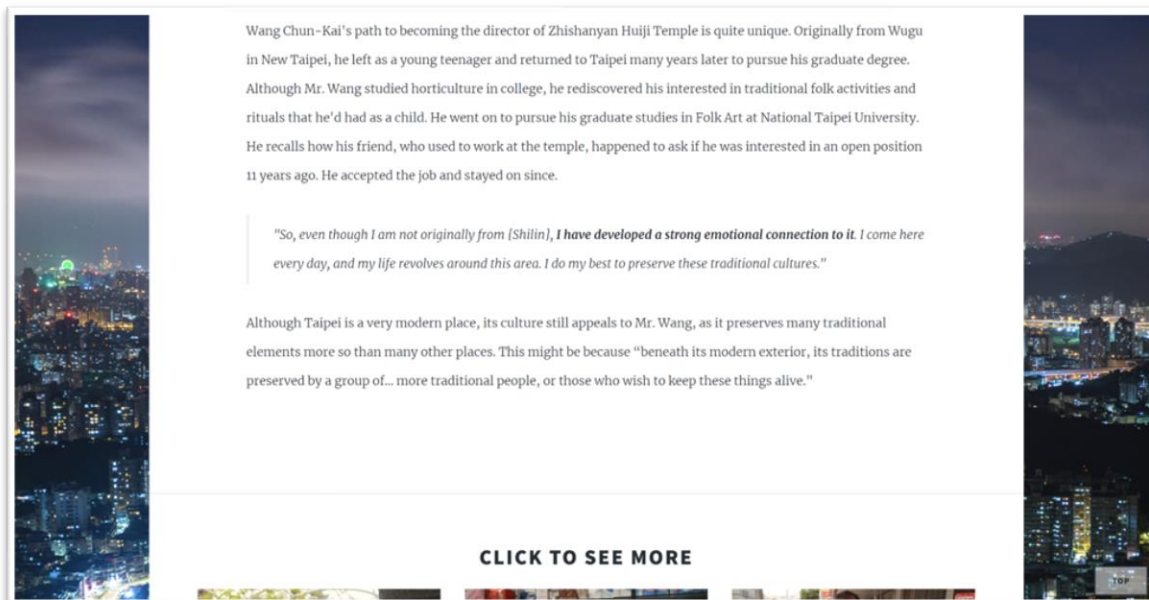
Figure 5.34: Content on Mr. Wang's webpage.
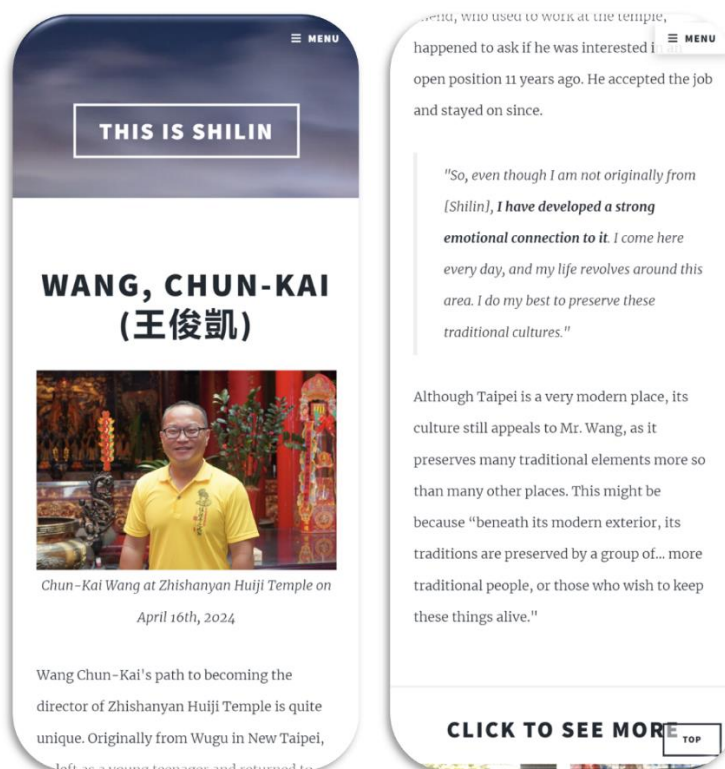
Figure 5.35: Mr. Wang's page on mobile

Figure 5.36: Mr. Tsai's Portrait
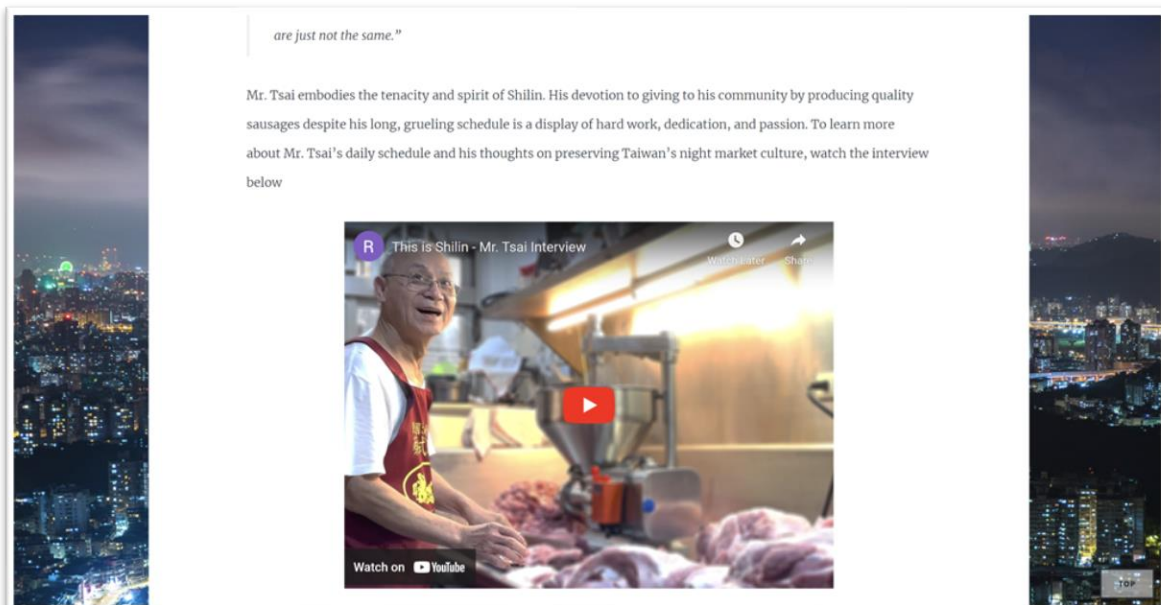
Figure 5.37: Video interview on Mr. Tsai's webpage
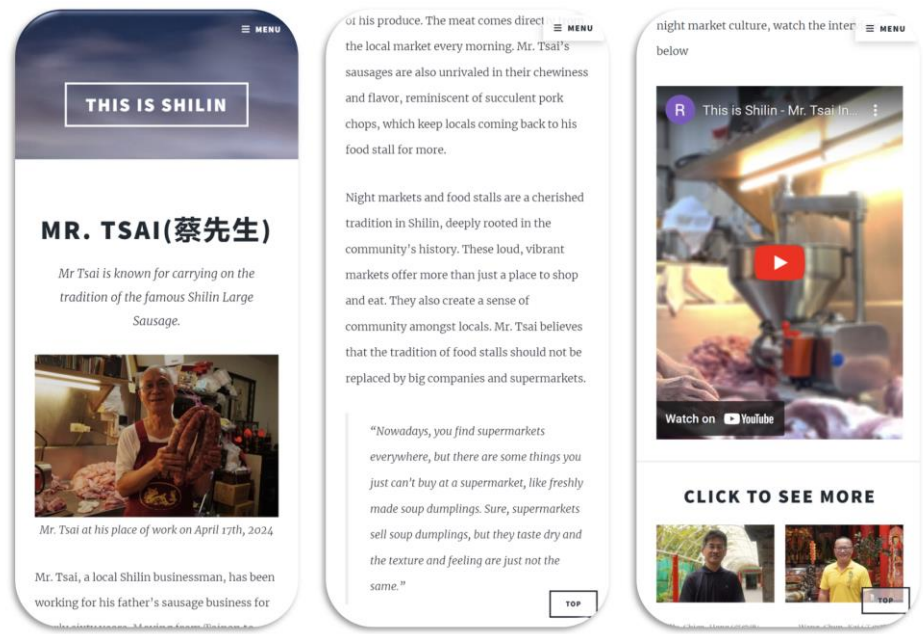
Figure 5.38: Mr. Tsai's page on mobile

Lastly, due to time constraints, the team did not complete Mr. Huang's webpage. When a user navigates to his page, they see his portrait and a "Website Under Construction" image. Figure 5.39 captures his webpage on desktop.

Figure 5.39: Mr. Huang's page

5.5.4 Places Pages

The *Places* pages all have the same general layout; a photo designated to be the main

image, and an interactive Google Maps widget focused on the place's location when applicable.

The user then sees a passage of text, which provides an understanding of what makes the

location significant and its relationship to the overall website and project. The Shilin Elementary

School webpage is the first one displayed on the *Places* directory page. Figure 5.40 details the

school's landing page.

Figure 5.40: Shilin Elementary Landing Page

Figure 5.41 reveals that upon scrolling further, the user sees a passage about the school's

significance, and a photo gallery of various places throughout the school. Finally, Figure 5.42

details the *See More* section, linking to other sites. The Elementary School's page is depicted on

mobile in Figure 5.43.

Figure 5.41: Shilin Elementary text and photo gallery

Figure 5.42: See More section for sites

Figure 5.43: Shilin Elementary on mobile

The Zhishanyan Huiji Temple page is nearly identical to Shilin Elementary, only with more photos scattered throughout and referenced in the description. Figures 5.44, 5.45, and 5.46 are screen captures of it on desktop, while Figure 5.47 depicts it on mobile. See *Appendix H* for more pictures of the Architecture, MRT, and Paper Factory pages.

Figure 5.44: Zhishanyan Huiji Temple landing page

Figure 5.45: Zhishanyan Huiji Temple content

Figure 5.46: Huiji Temple Photo Gallery
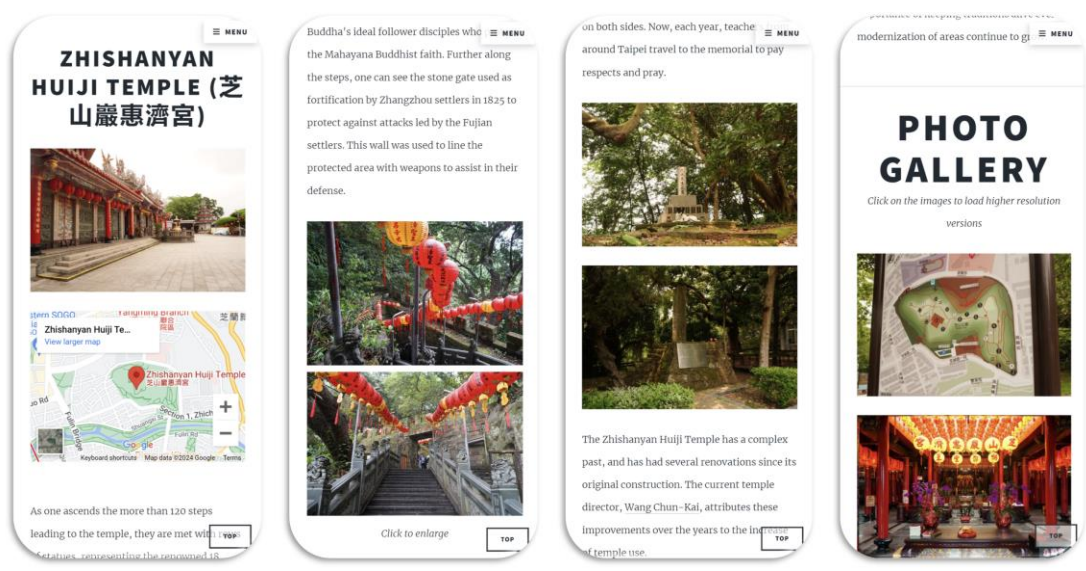
Figure 5.47: Huiji Temple on mobile

5.5.5 History Page

The team added a page to the website that gives a brief description of Taiwan's history.

This page is plain text, containing no images. Figure 5.48 shows the start of the page.

Figure 5.48: History page

5.5.6 About Us Page

Lastly, the website contains an *About Us* page to give more information about the project including each team member, and acknowledgements at the bottom of the page. Figures 5.49 and 5.50 are the *About Us* page on desktop, while Figure 5.51 provides the mobile version.
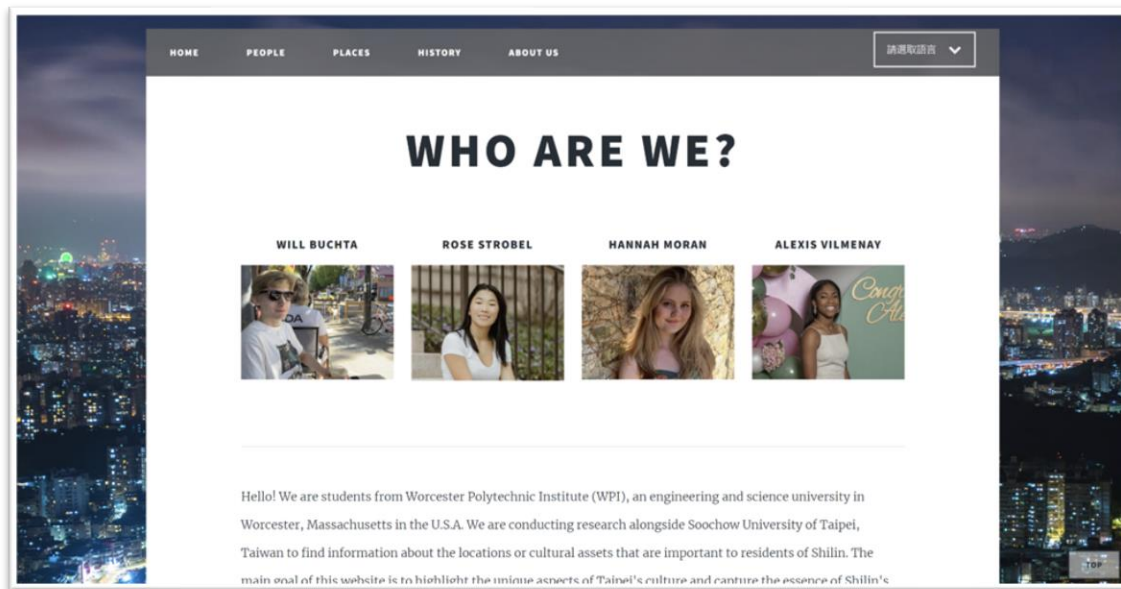
Figure 5.49: About us page
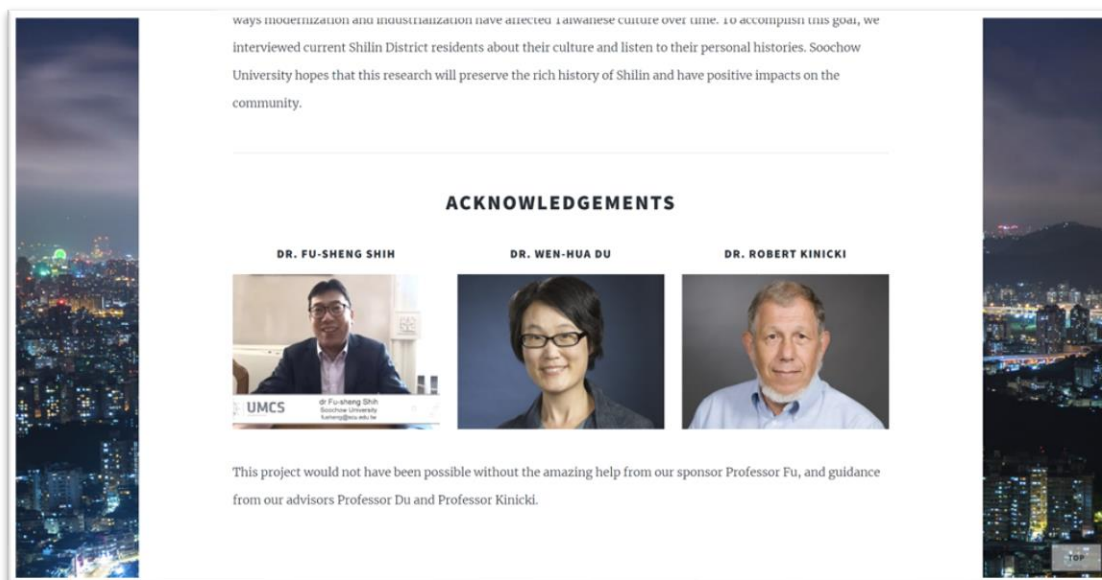
Figure 5.50: Acknowledgements on About Us page
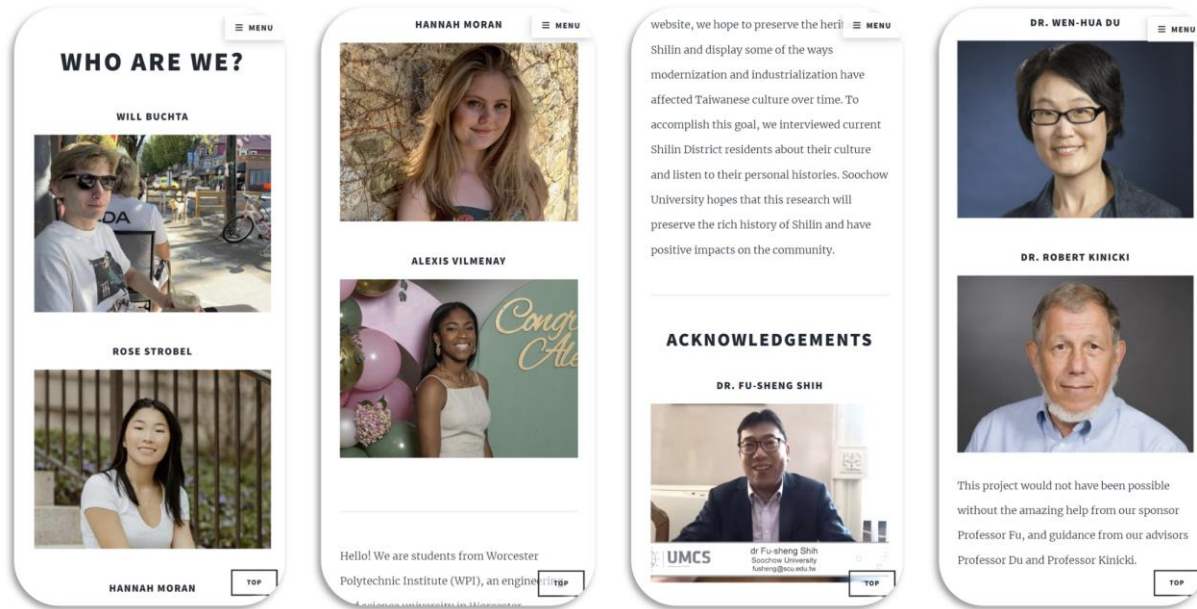
Figure 5.51: About us page on mobile

5.5.7 Modal

As discussed in section 4.3, the team decided to include modals on each webpage when applicable. A good example of this is on the Huiji Temple page; when the user sees the photo gallery, clicking or tapping on each photo will send a request to the webserver to load a higher-resolution version of the same photo. Additionally, if multiple images are in the same section, the user can click on arrows on either side of the image to change between high resolution photos. Figure 5.52 shows an example modal image.

Figure 5.52: Example modal pop up

Overall, this section detailed the layout of the final website the team developed.

5.6 WPI & Soochow University Collaboration Website

After Dr. Shih requested a platform for documenting collaboration between WPI and Soochow University during the *shilin.wpi.edu* design review, the team got to work on creating an independent website to accomplish his request. The methods of setting up the website were nearly identical to creating *shilin.wpi.edu*. First, the team settled on a domain name: *soochow.wpi.edu*. Then, the team requested a GitLab repository on the WPI servers with that domain name. The website's homepage is a picture of Soochow University's front gate and WPI's Boynton Hall. The team chose an HTML template from HTML5UP again and modified it as necessary to create the webpage. Figure 5.53 pictures the homepage of *soochow.wpi.edu*. Figures 5.54 and 5.55 detail the two projects completed by students working with Dr. Shih.
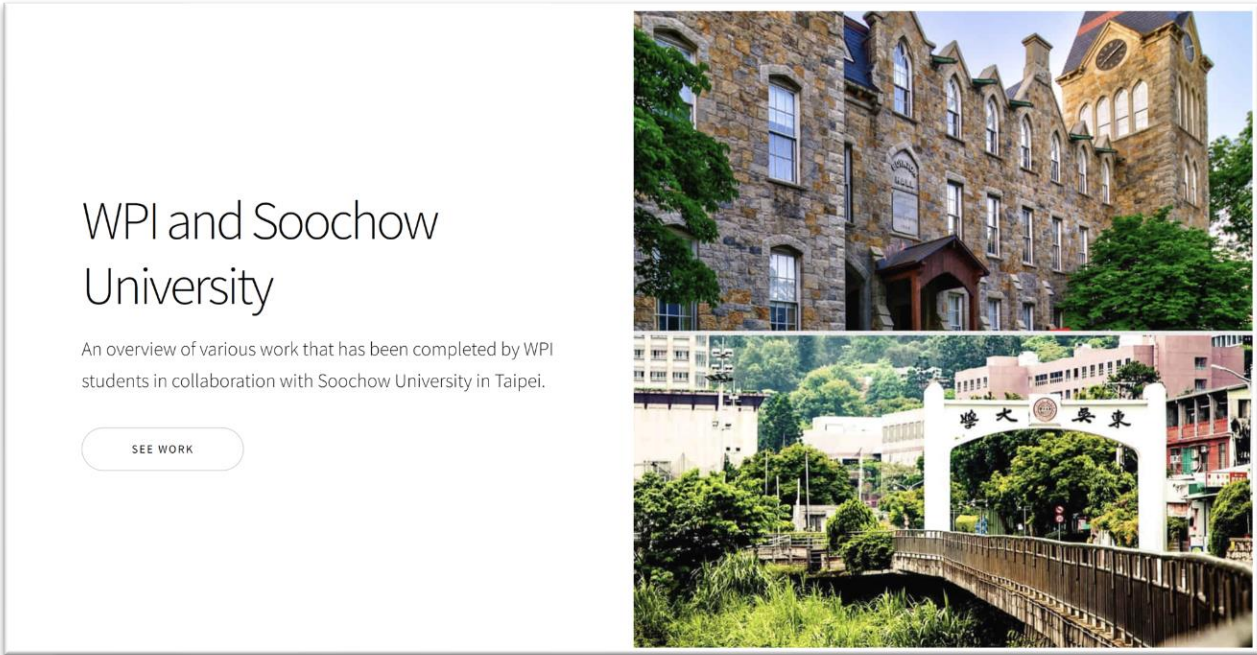
Figure 5.53: Homepage of soochow.wpi.edu
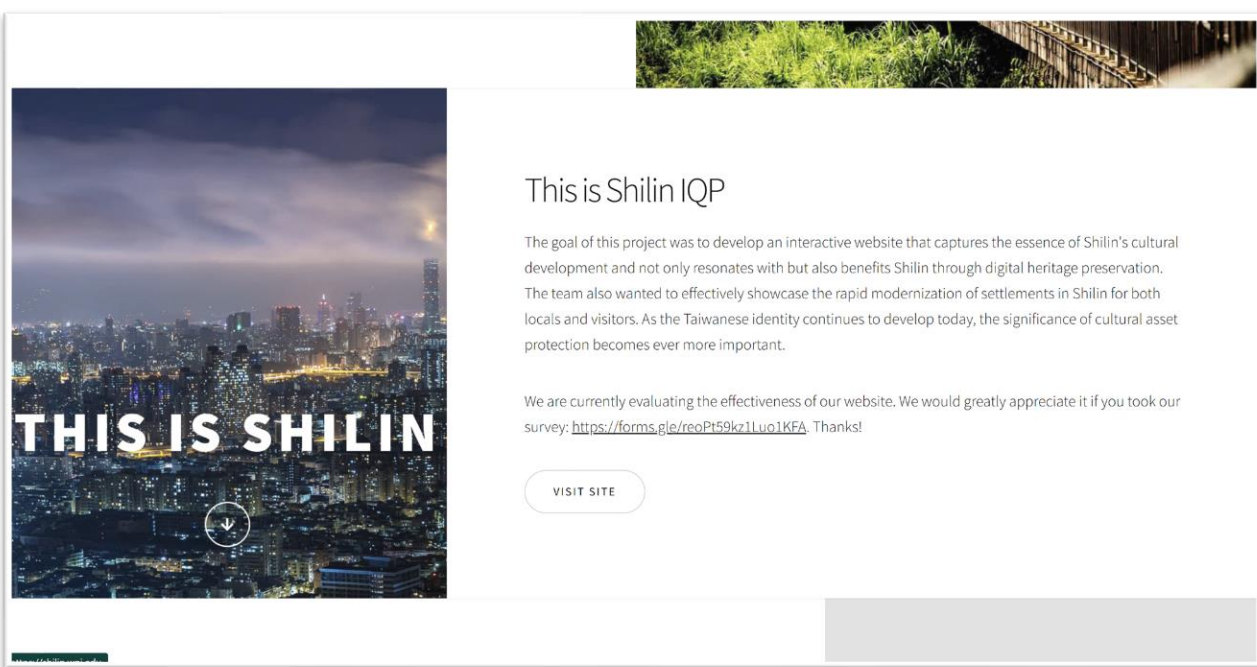
Figure 5.54: Taipei D24 Shilin WPI IQP
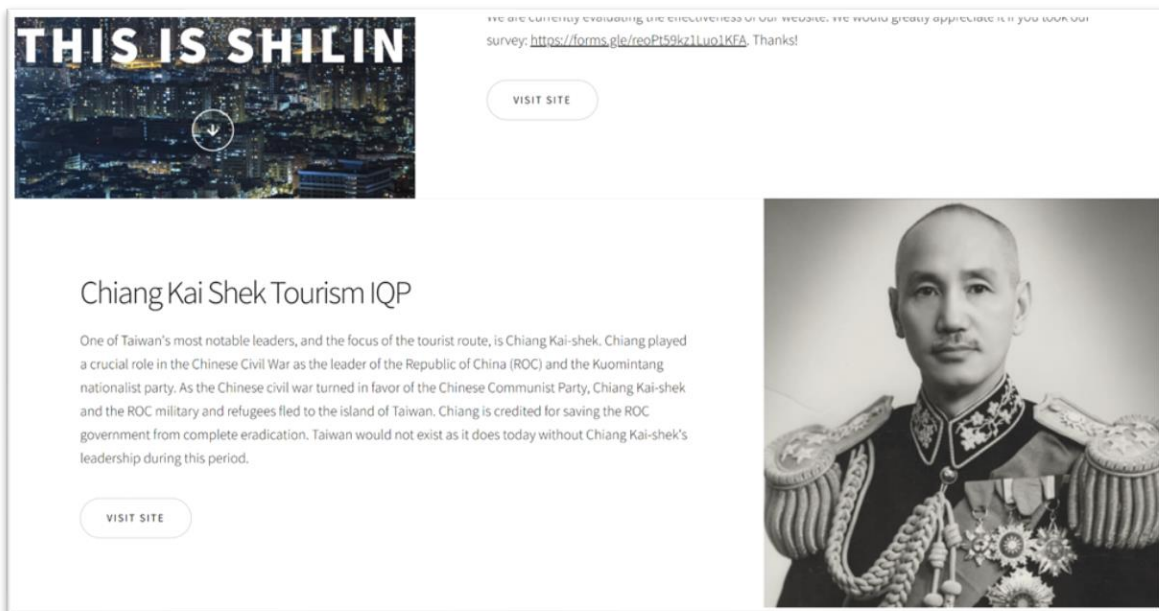
Figure 5.55: Chiang Kai Shek WPI IQP (2023)

5.7 Analysis of Website Survey Results

The goal of this project was to develop an interactive website that captures the essence of Shilin's cultural development and not only resonates with but also benefits Shilin through digital heritage preservation. In addition, our deliverable needed to effectively showcase the impact of modernization in Shilin for both locals and visitors and create an excellent user experience. To gauge how well the project achieved these goals, the team distributed an online survey. This section presents and analyzes the results of this user survey.

5.7.1 Respondent Demographics

The team attempted to receive a significant number of responses from both Taiwanese people and people of other nationalities. Additionally, it was important to get a comparable number of responses from different genders. The total number of survey respondents was 133 individuals. Figure 5.56 represents the nationality of these respondents, with 57% being from the United States and 39% being from Taiwan. In addition to the US and Taiwan, 3.8% of

respondents were from other countries, including Indonesia, Germany, and Canada. Figure 5.57

illustrates the gender breakdown of the survey with 59.4% females, 39.1% males, and 1.5% of

people that did not wish to say.
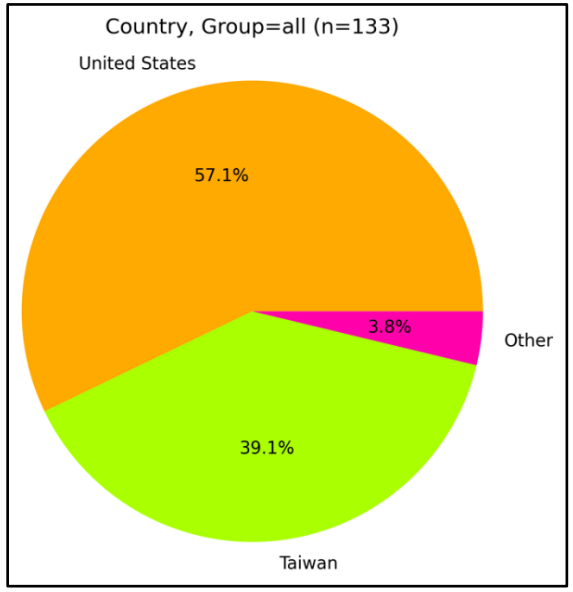
Figure 5.56: Survey Respondent Nationality
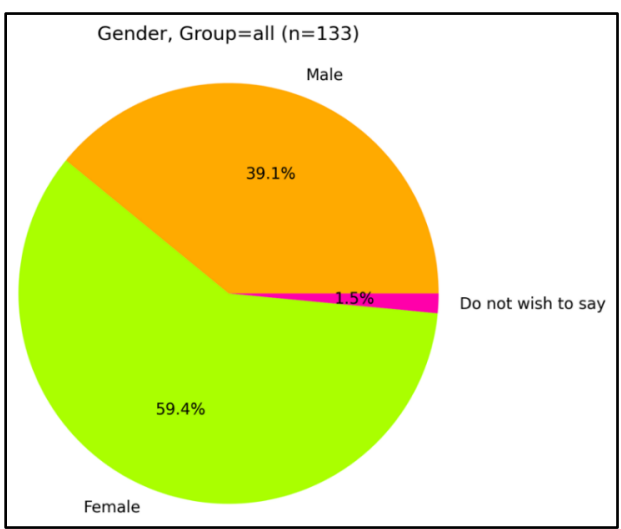
Figure 5.57: Survey Respondent Gender

5.7.2 Website Effectiveness

Website effectiveness was a major factor in determining the website's success. The survey asked respondents to rank the statement "This website captures Shilin's culture" on a Likert scale of 1 being 'Strongly Disagree' and 5 being 'Strongly Agree'. Figure 5.58 indicates that the average response is 4.2. As the left-skewedness of the bar graph depicts, over 81% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the website captured Shilin's culture.
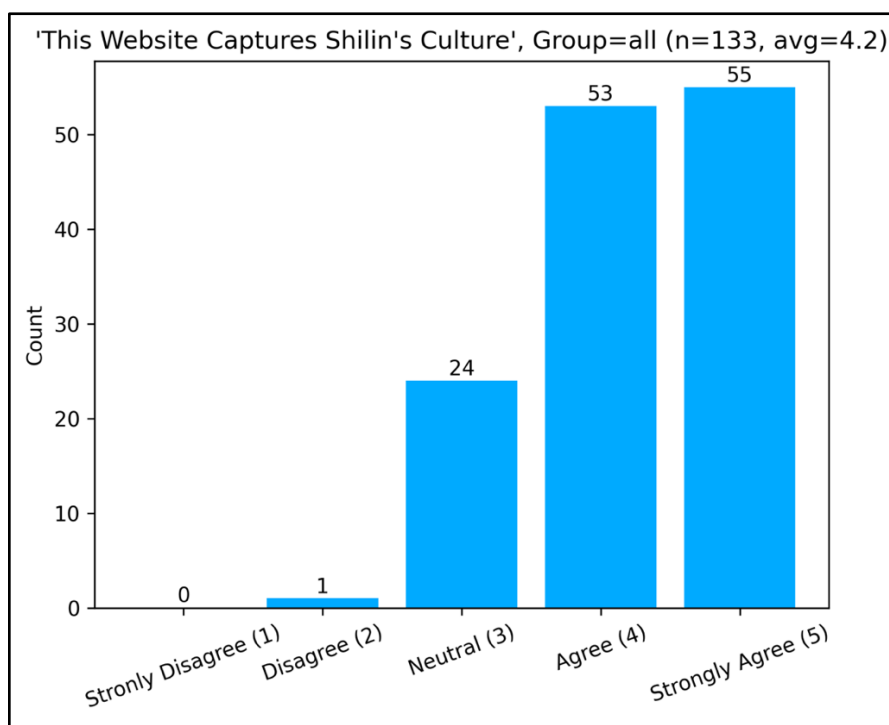
Figure 5.58: Survey Response: Website Captures Shilin's Culture

To determine the effectiveness of the Shilin website, obtaining data that interprets how well the website showcases modernization from the viewers' perspective is crucial. The statement "This website captures the impacts of modernization." helped gain a greater sense regarding whether our mission was successful. *Figure 5.59* shows that the average rate for this response is 4.2, which is on the higher end of the Likert scale and 80% of the respondents believe the website captures the modernization of Shilin.
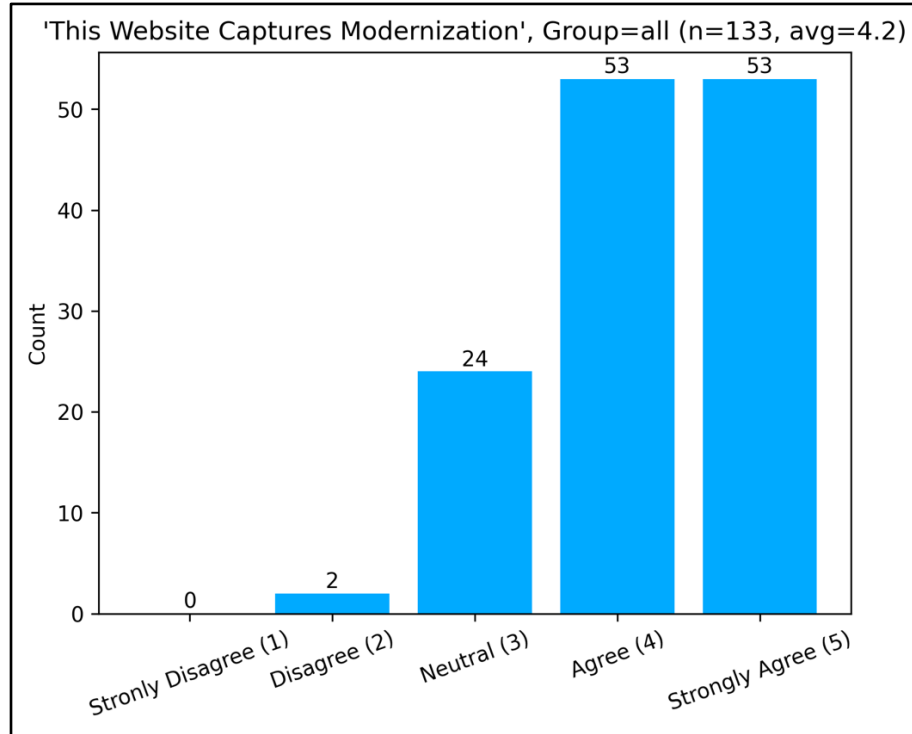
Figure 5.59: Survey Response: Website Captures Modernization

The question, "How much of an impact does the website have on you?" attempts to gauge the effect that the website had on the survey respondents. *Figure 5.60* illustrates that 94% of Taiwanese respondents rated the website as 'Somewhat (3),' 'Impactful (4),' or 'Very Impactful (5)' on a 5-point Likert scale. Similarly, 78% of visitors rated the website as either 'Somewhat (3),' 'Impactful (4),' or 'Very Impactful (5)', with 'Very Impactful' being the most common choice.
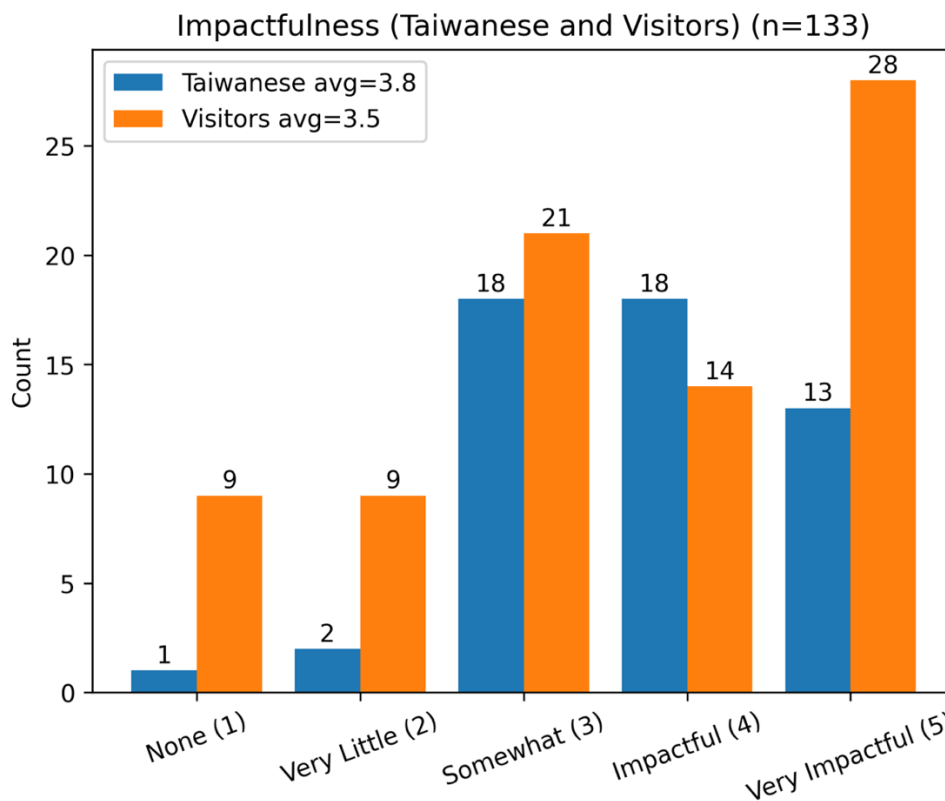
Figure 5.60: Survey Response: Website Impactfulness (nTaiwan=52, nOthers=81)

5.7.3 Website Interactivity

A key aspect of website interactivity is the overall experience, prompting the question: "How was your overall experience with the website?". Figure 5.61 indicates that around 87.22% of respondents rated their overall experience as either 'Good (4)' or 'Very Good (5)', supporting evidence for the effectiveness of our user experience initiatives.

Website interactivity helps to ensure that the people viewing the website have a positive user experience when navigating through each part of the website. The team presented respondents with the question "How easy is the website to navigate?" with possible answers ranging from 'Very Difficult (1)' to 'Very Easy'(5). Figure 5.62 relays that the overwhelming

majority of respondents (85%) believe that the website is either 'Easy' or 'Very Easy' with a Likert scale average of 4.4.

The team targeted the functionality of load speed of the website in the design stage to strive for the best user experience possible. We believe it is beneficial that load speed was reduced to avoid users clicking off the site. When we asked respondents about their experience with the website's load speed, 84.96% indicated either 'Satisfied (4)' or 'Very Satisfied (5)' on a Likert scale of 5, as shown in Figure 5.63.
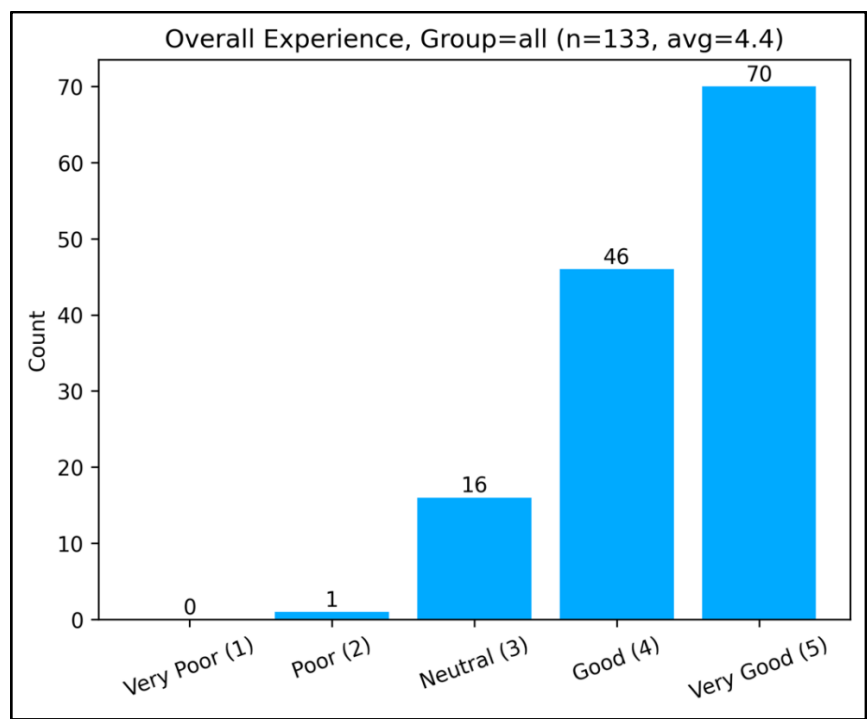
Figure 5.61: Survey Response: Overall Experience
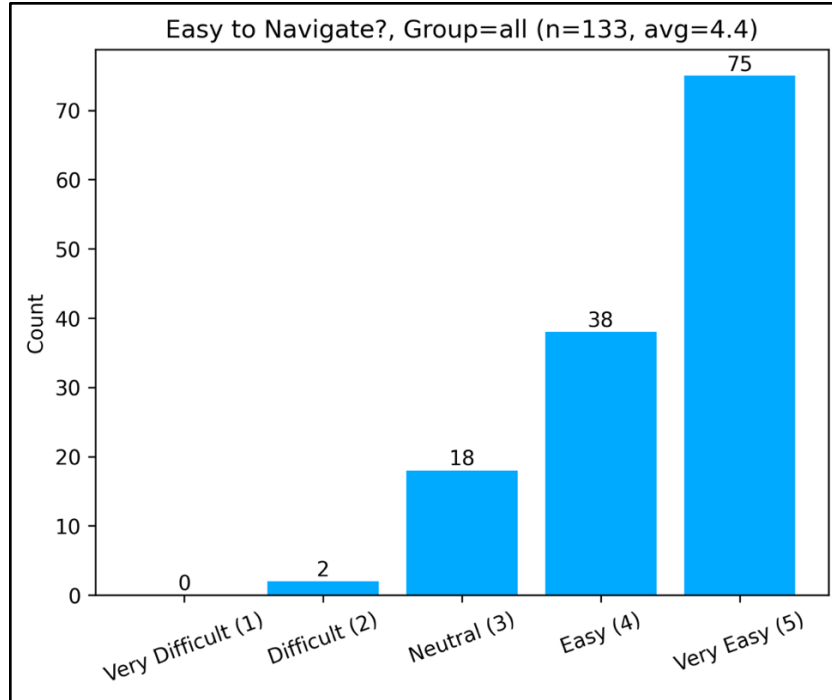
Figure 5.62 Survey Response: Ease of Navigation
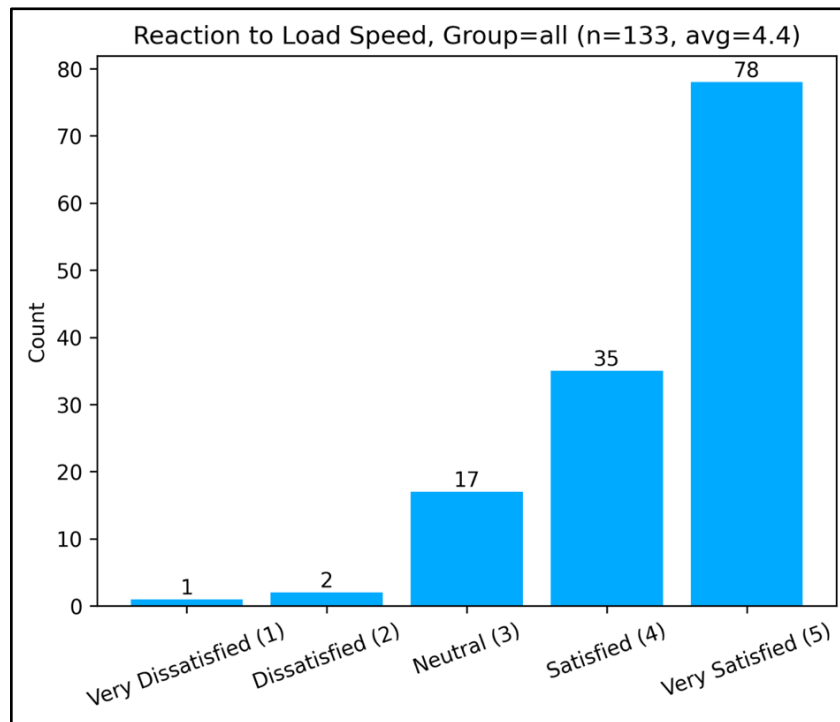
Figure 5.63 Survey Response: Satisfaction with Load Speed

5.7.4 Website Page Preferences

The question "Which 'Story' webpage did you enjoy the most?" offered valuable

feedback from the viewers' perspective. Figure 5.64 provides the three options of the

interviewed stories completed at the time the survey was sent out. Out of 133 respondents, 54.1%

of people chose 'Lily' as their favorite story.
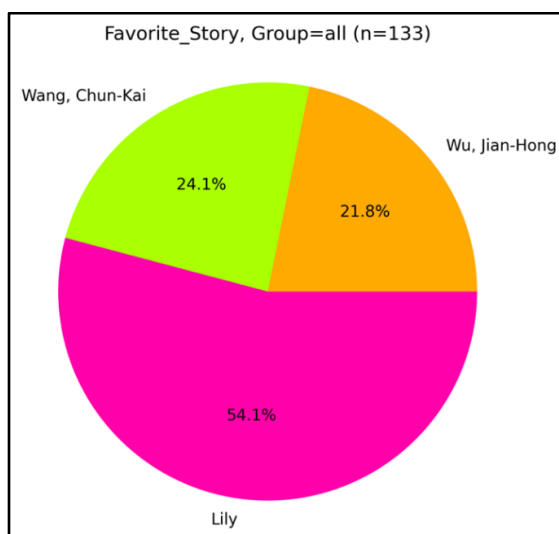
Figure 5.64 Survey Response: Favorite Story Page

The question "Which 'Place' webpage did you enjoy the most?" offered more feedback

from the viewers perspective. Figure 5.65 shows the five places on the website. The overall

favorite *Places* page among the respondents is the 'Taipei MRT' page with 23.3% of survey

respondents choosing that site. However, as shown, there is quite an even spread of favorites,

indicating that no one page is favored more than the others.
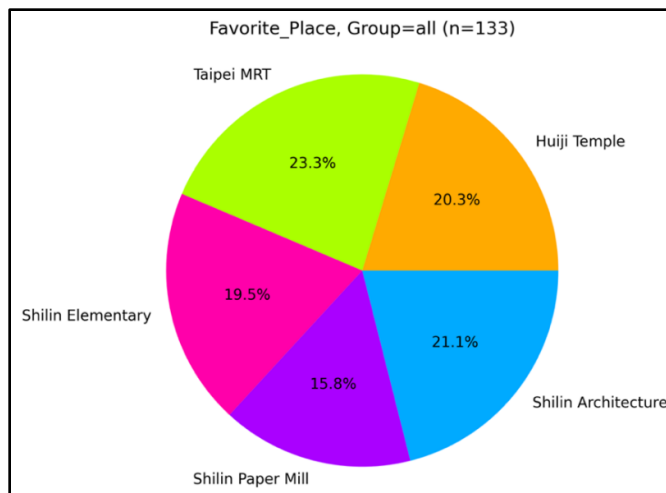
Figure 5.65 Survey Response: Favorite Place page

5.8 Future Work (Additional Features, Maintenance & Tutorial)

Based on discussions with our sponsor, the following areas of improvement are of interest to him:

1. Dr. Shih would like to increase the quality of the website's translation ability. This would likely entail manually translating each page and creating two separate, identical websites in different languages, or some other method using JavaScript.

2. It is desirable to add more stories to this website in the future. Dr. Shih would like us to create a basic tutorial on how to go about doing this. As of right now, the website is hosted on WPI's servers using GitLab, and access will only be granted to people who have WPI email addresses. As a safety measure, we will zip all the files necessary to host the website.

3. The team created a tutorial for future students to demonstrate how to add to the website. The tutorial will require the viewer to know the basics of HTML and navigating around an integrated development environment. They are in video format on a YouTube playlist (see Appendix I). The material that the videos cover includes how to navigate around the

folder that contains all of the HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and image files, what the layout of

each HTML page looks like and how to edit it, and access to the links to the

documentation for **Swiper** and **LightBox**. The videos are concise and give the viewer

basic knowledge to continue building upon the website.

6.0 Conclusion

What makes the identity of Shilin unique? After performing thorough background research, conducting interviews with locals of the community, and receiving direct community-based accompaniment by our sponsor, the research team reached a clear answer. The history that has occurred in the Shilin District alone has played a vital role in forming modern-day Taiwan. One would be remiss to discuss history or the identity of Taiwan without mentioning the Shilin District. As the Taiwanese identity continues to develop, the significance of heritage preservation becomes ever more important. How does one preserve an identity that continues to change? It's imperative to listen to the people. The people who know the culture, have experienced it change and are striving to maintain tradition.

Collaborating with Dr. Fu-sheng Shih of Soochow University, the WPI project team created an interactive website to capture the essence of the Shilin District's cultural development and not only resonates with but also benefits Shilin through digital heritage preservation. The success of our research project was dependent on our observing the culture through the lens of its members. This project could serve as a model for preserving digital heritage in neighboring Taipei districts, laying a strong foundation for future preservation efforts. Our team believes that given the development tools provided, the content of the website will continue to grow and over time, fully capture Shilin District: the unique identity of Taiwan.

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Appendices

Appendix A1: Consent Document for Interviewees (English)

Heritage Preservation of Shilin – Conserving Taiwan's Unique Identity

Introduction:

We are students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), an engineering and science university in Worcester, Massachusetts in the U.S.A. We are conducting research alongside Soochow University to find information about the locations or cultural assets that are important to residents of Shilin. We plan to develop a website that will highlight the unique aspects of Taiwan's culture. Through this website, we hope to preserve the heritage of Taipei and highlight some of the ways modernization has affected Taiwanese culture over time. We are interviewing current Shilin residents about their culture and listening to stories that may be featured on the website. Soochow University hopes that this research will preserve the rich history of Shilin and have positive impacts on the community.

Confidentiality Statement:

We want to reiterate that we fully respect your desire for confidentiality. Records of your participation in this study will be held confidential so far as permitted by law. However, the study investigators, the sponsor and, under certain circumstances, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Institutional Review Board (WPI IRB) will be able to inspect and have access to confidential data that identify you by name. If you are comfortable with us recording this interview, only the investigators will have access to the interview recordings, and they will be transcribed and coded for common themes. You may decide to stop participating in the research at any time.

If you are willing, we would appreciate associating your interview with your name. However, you have the option to remain anonymous as well; if you choose that option, the records of your participation will be kept confidential, and any publication or presentation of the data will not identify you. Another option is to use a nom de plume, also known as an alias, so as to protect your identity even further.

Do you consent to our taking your photograph to use on our
website alongside your answers?   Yes ☐ No ☐

Can we utilize your name on our website?   Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please write your name as you would like it to appear on the website:

_____

If No, please select one of the following:

Remain anonymous ☐   Use an alias (_____) ☐

Consent for Interview:

By signing this form I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;

2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;

3. The interview may be video/audio recorded and translated for future analysis;

4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;

5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;

6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

_____   _____

Signature of Participant   **Date**

I believe the participant is giving informed consent to participate in this study

_____   _____

Signature of Researcher   **Date**

Feel free to email our team at *gr-shilin-d24@wpi.edu* with any questions you may have. Thank you for your participation!

Appendix A2: Consent Document for Interviewees (Mandarin Chinese)

士林的文化資產保護－保存台灣的獨特性

研究背景簡介：

　　我們是美國波士頓伍斯特理工學院（WPI）的學生，這是一所位於美國馬薩諸塞州伍斯特市的理工大學。我們正在與台灣東吳大學一起開展研究，以尋找對士林居民具有重要意義的地點或文化資產的相關資訊。

　　我們計劃架設一個網站，突出台灣文化的獨特之處。我們希望通過該網站來介紹台北的文化遺產，並突出現代化對台灣在文化上的影響。我們正在採訪士林的在地居民，嘗試了解他們的文化，並紀錄可能會在網站上刊登的故事。伍斯特理工學院與東吳大學希望這項研究能夠協助我們保存士林豐富的歷史，並對社區產生積極的正面影響。

保密聲明：

　　我們非常尊重您的隱私，您參與本研究的記錄將在法律保護的範圍內予以保密。但是，研究調查人員、研究發起人，以及在特定情況下，伍斯特理工學院審查委員會（WPI IRB）將可以查閱能夠識別您姓名的保密資訊。如果您同意我們對訪談進行錄音，只有與研究調查人員可以查閱訪談資料，並將對錄音內容進行轉錄和編碼，以確定共同主題。您可以隨時決定停止參與本研究計劃。

　　如果您願意，我們希望可以在訪談資訊中註明您的真實身份，不過基於保密考量，您也可以選擇匿名。如果您選擇匿名，您的參與記錄將被保密，任何相關資料的發表及出版都不會透露您的真實身份，您也可以使用化名，以便保護您的身份。

1. 您是否同意我們將您的照片、影像紀錄等訪談內容用於我們的網站？

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　是 ⊓　　否 ⊓

2. 我們是否能在網站上提及您真實的姓名資訊？

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Yes ⊓ No ⊓

3. 若您願意提及您真實的姓名資訊，請於下列填寫您希望顯示在網站的姓名為：

　　　_____

4. 若您不願意提及您的姓名資訊，請選擇下列任一種匿名方式：

匿名 ⊓　　　　使用右側所填寫之化名：（_____）⊓

訪談同意書：

簽署本表即表示我同意下列事項：
1. 我自願參加本計畫，且知悉本研究非強制參加，且可以隨時終止訪談。
2. 訪談記錄或訪談摘要可用於上述提及之用途。
3. 訪談可能會被錄音及翻譯，以供將來研究分析使用。
4. 我知悉本研究無提供任何利益或報酬。
5. 我可以要求獲得一份訪談記錄副本，並可以進行我認為必要的編輯，以確定保密協議的有效性。
6. 我可以提出任何問題，並且知悉今後可以單就任何問題與研究人員聯繫。

參與者簽名：   簽署日期：

_____   _____
（以下欄位由研究人員簽署）

我確定上述署名之訪談參與者在知情的情況下同意參與本研究：

研究人員簽名：   簽署日期：

_____   _____

如果您有任何疑问，请随时向我们的团队发送电子邮件至 gr-shilin-d24@wpi.edu。
感谢您的参与！

Appendix A3: Interview Questions for Locals of Shilin (English)

This is the layout of an interview that will be conducted by (Insert Researcher's Name) Clarifying questions may be asked to determine further details. An additional researcher, (Insert Researchers' Name), will take notes, observe the interviewee and ensure the recording equipment is working properly.

1. Please tell us about yourself.

    a. Are you originally from Taipei?

        i. If yes, how long have you lived here?

        ii. If not, where are you from? What brings you to Taipei?

    b. How old are you? Only if you are comfortable sharing that information.

    c. What is your current occupation? Have there been any changes in work opportunities in the area in your lifetime?

    d. Tell us about a tradition that you practiced growing up and/or tell us about one of your fondest memories from living in the area.

2. What is your favorite thing about the culture in Taipei? Why?

    a. Ask supplementary questions to determine specific examples/locations

3. Do you think it is important to preserve history/heritage?

4. What is a historical building in Taipei that is significant to you?

5. Do you feel a strong personal connection to Shilin [or the district we are interviewing in]?

6. Are you associated with any groups in the area that you would like to mention?

7. Is there anything else you'd like to let us know / tell us?

Appendix A4: Interview Questions for Locals of Shilin (Mandarin Chinese)

以下是（Researcher's Name）的訪談問題。訪談可能會提出一些進一步的問題，以確保更詳盡的細節。另一位研究人員（Researcher's Name）將做記錄，觀察受訪者，並確保錄音設備正常工作。

1）請介紹一下您自己。

    a. 您來自台北嗎？

        i. 如果是，您在此居住了多久？

        ii. 如果不是，您來自哪裡？您為什麼來台北？

    b. 您的年齡是幾歲呢？（非必答）

    c. 您目前從事什麼工作？在您的生涯中，在這地方，有過什麼工作機會的變化呢？

    d. 請告訴我們您成長過程中特別的傳統，以及 / 或告訴我們您在這地方，生命中最美好的回憶。

2）您最喜歡台北文化的哪一點？為什麼？

    a. *提出補充問題以確定(標定)具體例子 /地點*

3）您認為保存歷史 / 遺產重要嗎？

4）台北有哪些歷史建築對您而言很重要？

5）您覺得自己與士林（或我們採訪的地區）有很強的連結嗎？

6）您是否有參與這地方任何團體的經驗，並想與我們分享？

7）您還有更多資訊想告訴我們的嗎？

Appendix B1: Survey Questions for Final Draft Website Feedback (English)
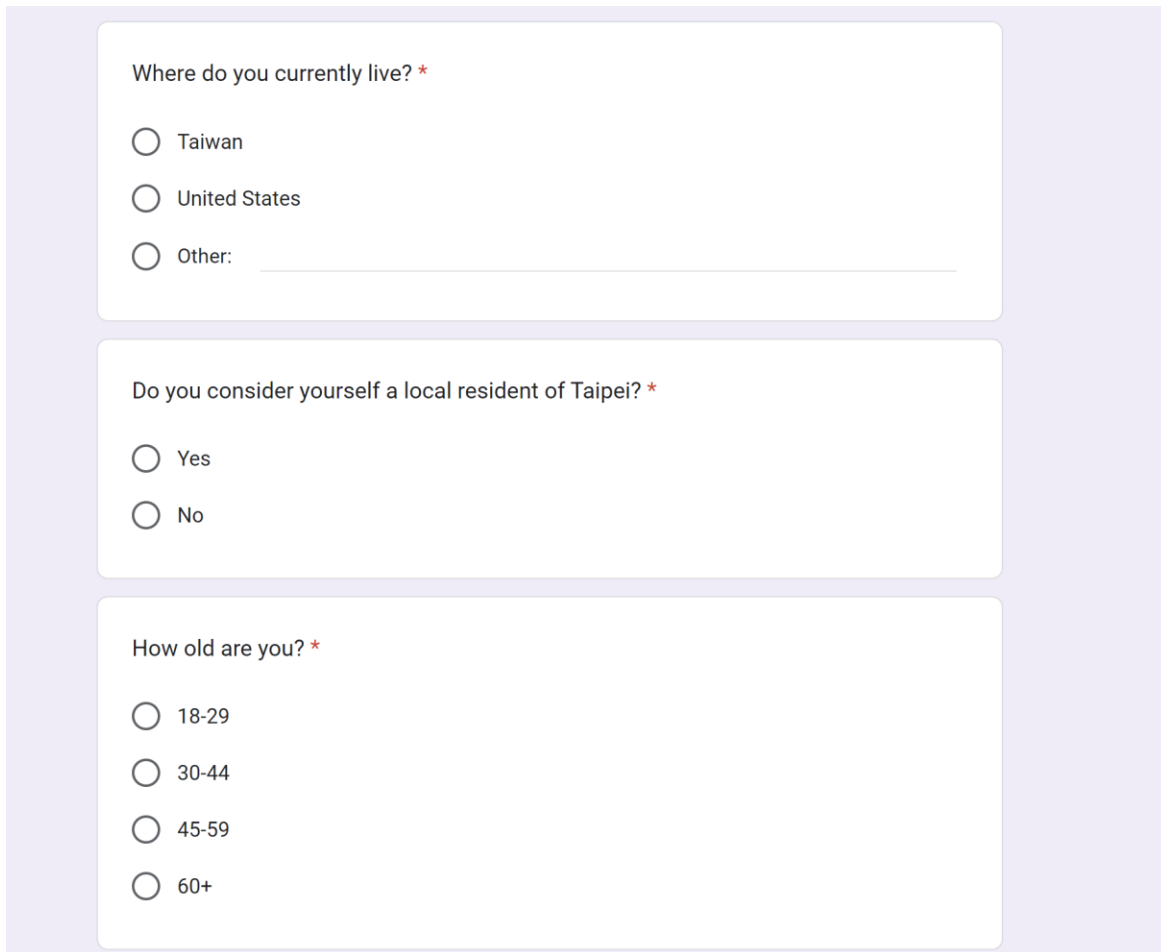
Introduction:
Hello! We are students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), an engineering and science university in Worcester, Massachusetts in the U.S.A. We are conducting research in Taipei, Taiwan alongside Soochow University aimed at digitally preserving Shilin District's unique history through the website shilin.wpi.edu.

Confidentiality Statement:

We will be using this survey data in a report that will be published and made available in the public domain. All the information that you provide will remain anonymous. We hope this research will be of interest to you.

Survey Questions

Where do you currently live? *

○ Taiwan

○ United States

○ Other: _____

Do you consider yourself a local resident of Taipei? *

○ Yes

○ No

How old are you? *

○ 18-29

○ 30-44

○ 45-59

○ 60+

Gender *

○ Male

○ Female

○ Do not wish to say

○ Other: _____

Website Interactivity

How did you view the website? Choose the closest option. *

○ Desktop / Laptop

○ Tablet

○ Smartphone

How was your overall experience with the website? *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Poor	○	○	○	○	○	Very Good

How easy is the website to navigate? *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Difficult	○	○	○	○	○	Very Easy

How well do you agree with this statement? "I enjoyed the presentation of material on the website." *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Strongly Agree

I feel _____ about how fast the website loaded. *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Dissatisfied	○	○	○	○	○	Very Satisfied

Website Effectiveness

How likely are you to recommend this website to a friend? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Unlikely	○	○	○	○	○	Very Likely

How well do you agree with this statement? "This website captures the culture of the Shilin District" *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Strongly Agree

How likely are you to use this website when visiting the Shilin District? *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Unlikely	○	○	○	○	○	Very Likely

How well do you agree with this statement? "The website showcases the impacts of modernization." *
3 = Neutral

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Strongly Agree

How much of an impact does the website have on you? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
None	○	○	○	○	○	Very Impactful

Favorite Story

Which "Story" did you like the most? *

○ Wu, Jian-Hong (吳儉鴻)

○ Wang, Chun-Kai (王俊凱)

○ Lily (莉莉)

Why?

Your answer

Favorite Place

Which "Place" webpage did you enjoy the most? *

○ Zhishanyan Huiji Temple (芝山巖惠濟宮)

○ Taipei MRT (台北捷運)

○ Shilin Elementary School (士林國小)

○ Shilin Paper Mill (士林紙廠)

○ Shilin Architecture (士林建築)

Why?

Your answer

Final Thoughts

What is something you liked about the website?

Your answer

What is something you disliked about the website?

Your answer

Would you like to see anything added to the website?

Your answer

Any other comments?

Your answer

Please share with family and friends!
https://forms.gle/reoPt59kz1Luo1KFA

Appendix B2: Survey Questions for Final Draft Website Feedback (Mandarin Chinese)

Introduction:

你好！ 我們是伍斯特理工學院 (WPI) 的學生，這是一所位於美國馬薩諸塞州伍斯特的工程與科學大學。 我們正在與台灣東吳大學合作進行研究，以數位方式保存台北市士林區的文化。 我們創建的網站如下： shilin.wpi.edu.

Confidentiality Statement:

我們將在公共領域發布的報告中使用以下調查數據。 請放心，您提供的所有資訊都將保持匿名。 我們希望您會發現這項研究很有趣。

Survey Questions:

您最近居住在哪個國家？ *

◯ 臺灣

◯ 美國

◯ Other...

您認為自己是台北本地居民嗎？ *

◯ 對

◯ 不

您的年齡？ *

◯ 18-29

◯ 30-44

◯ 45-59

◯ 60+

性別 *

◯ 男性

◯ 女性

◯ 不想說

◯ Other…

Section 2 of 6

網站的互動性   ⌄   ⋮

Description (optional)

您大部分是透過什麼方式來瀏覽網站？選擇最接近的答案即可 *

◯ 桌上型電腦/筆記型電腦

◯ 平板

◯ 手機

您在瀏覽網站時的整體體驗是如何？ *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不好	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	非常好

您可以簡單的從網站中取得您想要的資訊嗎？ *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常困難	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	非常簡單

您對於以下這句話的認同感為何？ 「我喜歡這個網站呈現資料的方式」 *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不同意	○	○	○	○	○	非常同意

您對於開啟網站的速度感到 *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不滿意	○	○	○	○	○	非常滿意

Section 3 of 6

我們所製作的網站的有效性

Description (optional)

您會願意將我們所製作的網站分享給身邊的朋友嗎？ *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不願意	○	○	○	○	○	非常願意

您對於以下這句話有多少的認同感？ 「這個網站記載了士林區的文化」 *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不同意	○	○	○	○	○	非常同意

您在訪問士林時，有多大的可能會參考我們的網站？ *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不可能	○	○	○	○	○	非常可能

您對於以下這句話有多少的認同感? 「這個網站呈現了士林區的現代化過程」 *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
非常不同意	○	○	○	○	○	非常同意

您對這個網站有多少共鳴? *
3 = 一般

	1	2	3	4	5	
幾乎沒有	○	○	○	○	○	總是如此

Appendix C: Wu Chien-Hong Interview Transcript

Transcript of Wu Chien-Hong interview, translated by Jason Chu

1:25 Alexis: Tell us little bit about yourself, your name and where you and your family from?

Alexis: 請跟我們說說你的名字，還有你和你的家人從哪裡來？

1:40 Wu: 大家好，我叫吳儉鴻，我是台北士林人，是本地人，今年五十五歲，從小在士林 長大，在這裡讀書就學，一直到當兵，之後再回到士林當老師，都沒有離開過士林。

Hello, I'm Wu, from Shilin Taipei, I'm a local, 55 years old, I grew up here since I was born, and done my compulsory education here, beside I was doing my obligate military service, and back here again as a teacher in Shilin elementary School, I have never left Shilin.

2:30 Wu: 我在本校已經教了剛好第 35 年。

This is my 35th year in shilin elementary school.

2:45 Alexis: Can you talk a little more about your job? what do you do in your daily life?

請你告訴我們更多關於你的工作，你一天當中需要做什麼？

2:56 Wu: 我最早的時候是擔任高年級的導師，後來又轉任教美術，因為我本身是學美術的。

At beginning of my career, I was a home teacher of the 5th and 6th grade student, and I have switched to Art teacher after, because I learned the art related stuff in the past.

3:27 Wu: 我當了大概十五年的美勞老師，後來又轉教一般的三四年級，教了大概六年左右，才又轉回教社會科，直到現在為止。

I have been as a art teacher about 15 years, and altered again as a home teacher of midgrader, after that I end up teaching social study, until now.

5:17 Alexis: Why you want to be a teacher? Why you choose teaching?

請問你為什麼想當老師，是什麼讓你想選擇教書？

5:38 Wu: 第一個是興趣啦，我覺得我喜歡跟小孩子相處，然後第二個是，為了有一個比較穩

定的工作，因為當老師的話，是一個很穩定的工作，保證可以做到退休為止，都不用擔心會失業，而且當老師的話，有很多時間可以做自己的事情，因為有寒假跟暑假。

The first reason is my interest. I feel that I enjoy interacting with children. And the sec -ond reason is for a more stable job. Being a teacher is a very stable profession, guaranteeing employment until retirement without worrying about unemployment. moreover, as a teacher, there is plenty of time to do personal things, thanks to the winter and summer vacations.

6:32 Alexis: what was your family like to grow up with? do you have siblings?

你的家庭背景是什麼？你有兄弟姐妹嗎？

6:47 Wu: 我的爸爸也是我們士林本地人，他也是讀士林國小畢業的，我家有四個小孩，我的哥哥和我的弟弟都是讀士林附近的學校，我們家四個孩子都算是比較懂事一點，因為家裡從小環境比較不好，所以我們都會自己很努力讀書，不用父母親擔心，也不用幫我們安排補習，我們都靠自己用功讀，雖然我們家都是男生，但大家都很獨立自主，前幾年我爸爸在已經八十多歲時過世，我自己在結婚後只生了一個女兒。

My dad is also a local from Shilin, and he graduated from Shilin Elementary School. We have four kids in our family, and my older brother and my younger brother attended schools near Shilin. All four of us are considered to be more self-managed because our living condition wasn't that financial-capable, so we all worked hard in our studies by ourselves without making our parents worry or needing them to arrange for extra tutor-ing. Despite all of us being boys, we are all very independent. A few years ago, my dad passed away when he was in his eighties. After I got married, I only had one daughter.

7:55 Alexis: What is some family tradition you practiced growing up? Or custom?

有什麼從小到大的傳統或習俗嗎？

8:45 Wu: 在士林區有三大古廟，有一些宗教活動很多人都會參與，像有一個媽祖的廟慈誠宮，每年三月份的時候會有媽祖遶境的活動，在過年或元宵節的時候也會有土地公遶境，會放很多鞭炮。

一般台灣比較重要的是農曆的節日，像是農曆新年，每到新年全家都會聚在一起，一起圍爐吃飯，長輩都會發紅包給孩子，到了農曆一月十五日元宵節，是小朋友最喜歡的節日，可以提燈籠，還有漂亮的花燈展覽，有些地方有放天燈的習俗，在四月份有最重要的清明節，我們在這天去祭拜祖先和已去世的長輩，家族的兄弟姐妹在這天都會回到自己的家鄉，之後五月份有端午節，吃粽子和划龍舟是最大特色，到九月份是中秋節，大家會再度團圓，一起吃月餅甚至烤肉，一起欣賞美麗的月亮，以上是台灣傳統的節日。

In the Shilin district, there are three major ancient temples, and many people participate in some religious activities. For example, there is a Mazu temple called Cicheng Palace, where a Mazu

pilgrimage event takes place every March. During the Lunar New Year or Lantern Festival, there's also a pilgrimage for the Earth God, with many firecrackers be-ing set off.

Generally, lunar festivals are more significant in Taiwan, like the Lunar New Year. Every New Year, the whole family gather to have dinner together, and elders give red envelopes to the children. The Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first lunar month is the favor-ite festival for children, where they can carry lanterns and enjoy beautiful lantern dis-plays. Some places have the custom of releasing sky lanterns. In April, there is the most important Tomb-Sweeping Day, where we go to worship ancestors and deceased elders. Siblings in a family will return to their hometown on this day. Then, in May, there is the Dragon Boat Festival, where eating zongzi (rice dumplings) and dragon boat racing are the main highlights. In September, the Moon Festival brings families together again to eat mooncakes and even have barbecues, enjoying the beautiful moon together. These are the traditional festivals in Taiwan.

12:26 Alexis: what are your favorite things about the Taiwanese culture and why?

你最喜歡關於台灣文化的哪部分，為什麼？

12:40 Wu: 我覺得台灣人的個性比較隨和，好相處，也比較重視禮節，這點是我以身為台灣人自豪的地方，我們也比較有人情味，對於來台的外國人比較有親和力且有熱情，讓外國人覺得我們台灣人很好相處，比較沒有排他的感覺，至於傳統文化，重視孝順和愛，是台灣人蠻為傲的特點。

I feel that Taiwanese people have a more easy-going and amiable personality, and they place a great emphasis on etiquette. This is something I take pride in as a Taiwanese. We also have a more kind and warm approach to others, making foreigners feel welcomed and passionate when they come to Taiwan. This makes it easy for foreigners to get along with us, as there's less of a feeling of exclusivity. As for traditional culture, ilial piety and love is a characteristic that Taiwanese people are quite proud of.

13:40 Alexis: Do you think it is important to reserve history or heritage?

你覺得保存歷史文化和留下的遺跡重要嗎？

13:51 Wu: 當然，一個國家，一個民族，如果沒有把文化和歷史保留下來，那這就是一個沒有過去，沒有根的地方，每個國家都應把自己國家的文化保存好，把它交給下一代，讓我們的孩子們都可以知道，在過去發生了什麼事情，絕不能忽略掉自己的歷史，之所以成立校史室，就是把學校以前留下的文物和歷史展示出來，並透過網路宣傳

，讓下一代知道，我們上一輩努力奮鬥的過程，所以國家絕對要好好把歷史保存並發揚起來。

Of course, a country or breed that doesn't preserve its culture and history is like a place without a past or roots. Every country should safeguard its cultural heritage and pass it on to the next

generation so that our children can know what happened in the past. It's cru-cial not to neglect our own history. This is why historical archives in schools are estab-lished: to display the relics and history left by the school and promote them through the internet. This lets the next generation understand the efforts and struggles of the previous generations. Therefore, it's essential for a country to preserve and promote its history properly.

14:45 Alexis: How long ago did you stay with the museum, and why?

你在校史館工作多久？ 是什麼讓你願意繼續下去？

15:12 Wu: 大概是六年前，在我擔任社會科老師的時候，有一個任務是要帶所有來學校參觀的外賓介紹校史館，一開始我對學校的歷史是茫然無知的，為了應付這個工作，所以我開始大量閱讀有關學校的歷史書籍，或上網找資料，校史館內有很多珍貴的書籍資料，在看完之後我很感嘆，如此有意義的照片和史料，已在學校三十五年的我居然一點都不知道，真的很可惜，我是在地士林人，居然不知道有這樣一段歷史，我覺得我不僅要仔細了解這段過去，我還要把它透過我的能力宣揚出去，讓更多人知道士林國小乃至士林地區的歷史，才不會讓這光彩的過去被後人給忘掉，我花了無數時間把照片和細瑣的時間軸理清楚，這是很重大的使命，如果現在不做好，未來後繼無人，那這些事跡就會被時代淹沒過去，那士林的這段記憶就會完全空白，這是很可怕的事情，所以我花很多的時間，把這些像是記憶的拼圖一塊快拼湊起來，這是莫大的使命感，也是我作為士林人的光榮，有如此豐富的歷史如果無人知曉，實在是很可惜，所以我必須要把這件事做好，我才敢放心退休。

About six years ago, when I was a social studies teacher, I had the task of guiding all the visiting guests through the school's history museum. Initially, I was utterly ignorant of the school's history. To prepare for this job, I began to read a vast amount of literature on the school's history or search for information online. The museum contained many precious books and materials. After going through them, I was amazed by the meaningful photos and historical documents. It was such a pity that I have been at the school for thirty-five years, but knew nothing about them. Being a local from Shilin, it was even more surpris-ing to me that I was unaware of such a history. I felt it was not only essential to thor-oughly understand this past but also to promote it with my capabilities, letting more peo-ple know about the history of Shilin Elementary School and the Shilin area so that this glorious past would not be forgotten by future generations. I spent countless hours organ-izing photos and the detailed timeline. It was a significant mission. If I did not properly handle, the future generations would have no one to keep it going, and these deeds could be drowned out by time, it leaves Shilin's memory completely blank. That would be terri-ble to happen. Therefore, I spent a lot of time, like piecing together a puzzle of memory.

This was a great sense of mission and my pride as a person from Shilin. It would be a pity if such a history went unnoticed, so I had to ensure this task was completed before I could retire peacefully.

17:21 Alexis: where the school receives the most artifacts from?

校方是怎麼收到這些文件及照片的呢？

17:35 Wu: 應該是在日本戰敗之後，資料有妥善地保留下來，因為在戰後，國小的校長都是士林本地人，由學校資深的老師擔任，因此可以完整的紀錄學校的過去，不會隨意丟棄毀壞，畢竟本地人對這裡有較深的感情，後來的老師也都是學校的畢業生，在進入學校任職後，也繼續參與這些資料的維護與保存，在一九七三年時，校史館成立，使校史文物能有系統地陳列，直到一九八二年，活動中心完工，我們把校史館規模再擴大，後來校史館的經營在之前的老師都相繼退休或過世之後，就沒什麼變更了，直到六年前我接手後，我覺得我必須要運用我的美術所能，用電腦繪圖的方式把資料數位化和修復，做更好的展示，把校史館重新佈展，使展出的內容完全不同，以上是校史館簡單的介紹。

It was likely after Japan's defeat that the materials were properly preserved after the war, the principals of the elementary school were locals from Shilin, served by the school's senior teachers. This allowed the complete reserve of the school's past without random disposal or destruction. After all, the locals have deeper feelings for this place. Subse-quently, the teachers afterwards were also graduates of the school. After joining the school, they continued to participate in the maintenance and preservation of these materi-als. In 1973, the school history museum was established, allowing the historical relics to be systematically displayed. Until 1982, when the activity center was completed, we ex-panded the scale of the school history museum. Later, the previous teachers had retired or passed away, there were no significant changes to the operation of the museum until I took over six years ago. I felt that I had to use my abilities in art, digitizing and restoring the materials using computer graphics to improve the display and reorganize the school history museum, making the exhibition content completely different. This is a brief intro-duction to the school history museum.

20:16 Alexis: Why shilin elementary school so important to shilin's history?

為什麼士林國小對士林如此重要？

20:27 Wu: 士林國小先前是台灣割讓給日本之後，當日本人來到台灣之後所成立的第一所學校，當初是為了培養會說日文的台灣人，作為治理台灣重要的工具，不過這也是讓台灣開始現代教育的種子，從學校分支出去的有許多分校，而士林國小是最早的源頭，在台灣現代教育史上佔很重要的地位，因此我覺得我們的校史意義重大。

Shilin Elementary School was established by the Japanese after Taiwan was colonized by Japan, making it the first school established by the Japanese in Taiwan. Initially, it was meant to cultivate Taiwanese people who could speak Japanese, serving as an important tool for governing Taiwan. However, this also planted the seeds for the start of modern education in Taiwan. Many branch schools stemmed from this school, with Shilin Ele-mentary School being the earliest source. It holds a significant position in the history of modern education in Taiwan. Therefore, I believe our school history carries profound sig-nificance.

21:21 Alexis: Do you feel a strong personal to shilin?

你對士林有強烈情感連結嗎？

21:35 Wu：士林自古以來就是文風鼎盛的地方，這裡風水很好，山河圍繞，到海邊和山林都很方便，當時被日本總督府選在這裡蓋學校，這裏也有曾經台灣最大的神社台灣神宮，在戰後蔣中正也選擇在士林設立官邸。

Shilin has been a place of cultural and literary prominence since its name beknown, with favorable feng shui with mountains and rivers surrounding it, and offering easy access to both the seaside and forests. It was chosen by the Japanese colonial government to estab-lish schools, and it was also home to the largest Shinto shrine in Taiwan, the Taiwan Shrine, at one time. After the war, Chiang Kai-shek also chose Shilin as the location for his official residence.

22:38 Alexis: Is there anything would you like to tell us?

還有什麼想告訴我們的嗎？

22:47 Wu: 因為以前來參觀學校的都是日本人為主的外賓，今天第一次有來自美國的，我們十分歡迎，希望以後有更多來自不同國家的人來參觀，瞭解學校的歷史淵源，也可以一起體會士林的美好。

In the past, the visitors to our school were primarily Japanese, today marks the first time we have guests from the United States, and we are very welcoming. We hope that in the future, more people from different countries will come to visit, to understand the histori-cal origins of the school, and to experience the beauty of Shilin together.

23: 25 Alexis: Thank you for your time, we appreciate it!

謝謝你抽空帶我們參觀，我們十分感激！

Appendix D: Lily Interview Transcript

Transcript of Pharmacist (Lily) interview, translated by Bryan Ke

<u>0:46</u>
Rose: Please introduce yourself.
Lily Wu:

     My name is Lily Wu, I'm 67 years old and I've been living in Shilin for 67 years. I'm a pharmacist. My family has always been engaged in medicine-related work in Shilin.

Rose：請您先自我介紹。
Lily Wu：

     我叫 Lily Wu，今年 67 歲，住在士林已經 67 年了，我是一名藥劑師，我們家族在士林一直從事醫藥相關的工作。

<u>1:40</u>
Rose: Please tell us about some local traditions in Shilin when you are growing up.
Lily Wu:

     In Taiwan, the third month of the Lunar Calendar is Mazu's birthday, and when I was a kid, there were rituals all over Shilin, with tables on the street where offerings, fruits, and food would be prepared to worship Mazu, and families would invite guests over for dinner, but around the 1970's this event disappeared throughout Taiwan, and it's a very special religious event.

     There is also the Lantern Festival, on the fifteenth day of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar, when everyone carries lanterns, but the only lanterns left in the landscape are on Shezi Island, which also offers a lot of food for visitors to eat.

Rose：請您介紹一些士林當地的傳統或習俗。
Lily Wu：

     在台灣，農曆三月是媽祖的生日，在我小的時候，士林全境都會有祭祀活動，街邊會有辦桌，準備供品、水果與美食祭拜媽祖，各家各戶會邀請客人來吃飯，但到了民國 60 年（1970's）左右，這個活動在全台灣都銷聲匿跡了，是一個很特別的宗教的活動。

     還有一個是元宵節，在農曆正月十五時，大家會提燈籠，但燈籠的景觀只剩社子島還有，也提供很多美食供參觀的人吃。

<u>4:20</u>
Rose: What is your favorite part of culture in Taipei?
Lily Wu:

     Probably the religious customs and activities, it's quite lively.

     The architecture of Shilin is very special in the Taipei City. There are not many buildings in this neighborhood because Chiang Kai-shek used to live across the street, so our houses could only be built up to the second floor, and this building was built in 1986, and it was the first taller building in this neighborhood.
Will: San Francisco has similar rules.

Rose：在台北的文化中，您最喜歡的部分是？
Lily Wu：

　　大概就是宗教習俗與活動，比較熱鬧。

　　士林的建築在整個台北市內是很特別的存在，士林這附近沒什麼大樓，因為以前蔣中正（蔣介石）住對面，所以我們的房子只能蓋到二樓，那這棟大樓是民國 75 年（1986）蓋的，是這個街區第一棟比較高的建築物。
Will：舊金山有類似的建築高度規定。

_____

6:17
Rose: Do you think it is important to preserve those heritages?
Lily Wu:

It's very important to see the history of the past and how people lived in the past. In Europe, just a stone can show the history of more than 300 years, but it seems that our heritage in Taiwan have not been preserved very well.

Rose：您認為文化資產保存是重要的嗎？

Lily Wu：

　　很重要啊，可以看到以前的歷史、以前的人們生活是怎麼過的，歐洲光是一顆石頭都可以展現三百多年的歷史故事，但我們台灣的文化資產好像都沒有保留得很好。

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7:28
Rose: Do you have a strong connection with Shilin?
Lily Wu:

Shilin is a nice place, it has the most and the best public facilities in the administrative district of Taipei City, but we don't seem to have a good leader to make it better....

Rose：您有對士林很強烈的認同或連結嗎？

Lily Wu：

　　士林是一個不錯的地方，它是台北市的行政區中，公共設施最多、最好的地方，但我們好像沒有一個好的領導人把它建設得更好…

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9:10
Will: When did you start to run this pharmacy business?
Lily Wu:

I started working in the pharmacy when I was 22 years old, in the 1970s. My family has lived in Shilin for more than 200 years, and we started as a traditional Chinese medicine pharmacy on Da Dong Road.
Will: Did you take over the business from your parents?
Lily Wu:

My ancestors from my great-grandfather upwards were already Chinese medicine practitioners, and all along the way they opened Chinese medicine pharmacy until my father got married, when he realized that Chinese medicine required a lot of preparation and was very troublesome, so my father went to a Western medicine course, and then our family switched to a Western medicine pharmacy.

Will：您是何時開始經營藥局呢？
Lily Wu：

　　我在二十二歲，民國七十年開始在藥局工作，我們家族在士林已經生活兩百多年，一開始的傳統中藥局開在大東路裡。
Will：您是從父母親的手中接過藥局事業嗎？
Lily Wu：

　　我的曾祖父以上的祖先們就已經是中醫師了，一路下來都是開中醫藥局，直到我父親結婚之後，覺得中醫真的要做很多準備工作、很麻煩，所以我爸爸就去上西藥課程，之後我們家轉為西藥局。
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12:20
Will: Where did your family move to Shilin?
Lily Wu:

　　From Mainland China, the Henan Tang Qiu Clan, I think it was Fujian, many people see us and ask about are we Hakka People?

Will：您的家族是從哪裡遷徙至士林？
Lily Wu：

　　從中國大陸地區，河南堂邱氏，應該是福建，很多人看到我們邱氏都問是不是客家人？
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13:56
Will: What do you notice changing the most about Shilin?
Lily Wu:

　　Shilin has changed a lot. In the past, the whole area behind the Earth god (Tu-di-Gon) Temple was a river with a suspension bridge, and in the past, almost all that area was planted with rice, and in the past, the area around the Jiantan MRT station was also a river, so the whole landscape of Shilin has changed a lot.
Will: How do you feel about the Changes?
Lily Wu:

　　The road has become bigger and more crowded. Shilin was very busy for a while because the transportation was not yet developed at that time, and there were a lot of schools in Shilin. The night market here was very famous before, and there were a lot of people, and in the past, there was no way to walk on this road, and it was all crowded with people. In the 1980's, Shilin was at its busiest, and in the 1990's, after the MRT established, there were more and more night markets in the other places, and then there were fewer and fewer departments at Ming Chuan

University, so there were fewer and fewer students coming in, and the number of people slowly decreased.

Will：您認為士林變化最多的地方是？
Lily Wu：

士林改變很大，以前土地公廟後面整條是河，有一座吊橋，過去那邊幾乎都是種水稻的，以前劍潭捷運站那邊也是一條河，所以士林的整個地景改變是很大的。
W：你對士林變化的感受是？
Lily Wu：

就是路變大了、變多了，士林有一陣子非常熱鬧，因為當時交通還不發達，剛好士林的學校又很多，這邊的夜市之前是非常有名的，人非常多，以前這個路根本沒辦法走路的，都是人。民國七十年（1980's）左右，那時候應該是士林最熱鬧的時候，到民國八十年（1990's）左右吧？捷運開通以後，各地的夜市就越來越多了，然後銘傳大學科系也越來越少，學生進來變少，人也就慢慢變少了。

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17:50
Dr. Shih: Is Qiu Shouyang your uncle? I would like to ask something about Qiu Shouyang.
Lily Wu:

Qiu Shouyang is my grandfather, who was one of the first teachers at an elementary school on Yangming Mountain.

In the past, there was a troop here, the soldiers would come out to buy things, and when the stalls carrying goods saw the soldiers with guns, they all ran away. In fact, the soldiers just wanted to buy food, but when the vendors saw the guns, they ran away, and the soldiers couldn't buy any food. When my grandfather (Qiu Shouyang) saw this, he told the vendors, "We are all Chinese, and they (the army) want to eat too, so sell them the goods." He also told the soldiers, "Don't bring your guns out to buy food, for the people will be afraid." After that, the soldiers would come to my grandpa when they wanted to buy food.

Later, on March 10 (1949), there was Chin-xiang activity, and my grandpa, who had the habit of exercising in the morning, brought my third uncle, who is now running a Chinese medicine pharmacy, to do the exercise with him. When he returned home at around 6:00 a.m., many soldiers were at the entrance of our house, trying to take my grandpa and my third uncle away, and my grandpa said, "The kid is too young, so I'll just go with you." After that, he never came back.

At that time, it is 1949, the KMT government army came, the Japanese regime withdrew, at that time, Many of the Japanese policemen at that time were Taiwanese. After the Japanese withdrew, these Taiwanese policemen had no jobs and no place to live, so this old building was rented out to them for a while.

The tenant had a very small child at that time, who kept saying he wanted to go back to his grandmom's house after March 10, and it was a very chaotic time, so his mom said, "We will back to grandma's home when there are no more solders" But the child kept on crying and his mom had no choice but to take him home. When they got home, the grandma of the tenant said, "There is a dead body like your landlord! He was be killed by gun shot." After that they hired a funeral director and put the body in a dry ditch and covered it with straw, then the tenant came back quickly and told my grandma, my grandma went to see it and my grandpa's clothes were stripped naked when he died, just because he was a teacher and sometimes he had to live in the

school so there was my grandpa's name written on the top of his underpants and then she realized that was my grandpa and that's my grandpa's history. He was just too kind...

Dr. Shih：邱守陽是您的叔公嗎？想請教邱守陽有關的事。
Lily Wu：

　　邱守陽是我的阿公，我阿公是陽明山那邊一座小學第一屆的教師。

　　以前這裡有部隊，軍人會出來採買東西，當時扛著商品的流動攤販看到軍人帶著長槍，大家都跑。其實軍人只是要買菜而已，但大家看到槍就跑，軍人都買不到食物，我阿公（邱守陽）看到後就跟攤販們說：「啊一樣都是中國人，他們（軍隊）也要吃，就把商品賣給他們。」也跟軍人講說：「你們不要帶槍出來採買，百姓看了會怕。」之後軍人們要買菜都來找我阿公。

　　後來，三月十號有清鄉活動，我阿公有早上運動的習慣，當時帶著我三叔一起運動，三叔現在也開中藥行。早上六點多回到家的時候，就一大堆軍人在我們家門口了，要把我阿公跟三叔帶走，我阿公就說：「小孩子那麼小，我跟你們走就好。」之後就再也沒回來了。

　　那時候民國38年（1949），國民軍隊來，日本撤軍撤走了，那時候日本警察很多一部份是台灣人，日本人撤走後，這些台灣人警察沒有工作、沒地方住，這一棟舊房就出租給他們先住一下。

　　當時的租戶有個很小的小孩，三月十號之後就一直說要回阿嬤家，那時候都很亂，他媽媽就說：「等沒有士兵了我們再回去。」但小孩還是一直哭鬧，小孩媽媽沒辦法就帶他回家。回家以後，租戶小孩的阿嬤就說：「有一具屍體好像你房東！被槍殺了。」之後就請了土公仔（喪儀人員），把屍體放在乾的水溝，用稻草把它覆蓋起來，然後租戶就趕快回來跟阿嬤講，我阿嬤去看，我阿公去時的衣服全被扒光了，因為他是老師，有時候要住校，所以內褲上面有寫我阿公的名字，然後才知道那是我阿公，這就是我阿公的歷史，他就是太好心了…

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26:52

Dr. Shih: Your grandfather was a teacher and studied western medicine?
Lily Wu:

　　Chinese medicine. His grandfather was already a Chinese medicine doctor.

　In the past, because my grandfather was arrested, many people were afraid to contact us, because they thought that we were a family with political prisoners, and it was only after I grew up that I realized what was meant by "228 incident", and when I was a kid, I always heard about : "Ah that is Shouyang's grandchild, their family is very pitiful."

　　I was born in 1958, and my grandpa was arrested in 1949, only nine years later. When we went out, people in the neighborhood or at the market would say, "That's Shouyang's granddaughter, and her grandpa is very pitiful, he was arrested in 228 incident. When I came home, I would always ask, "Mom, what is the meaning of 228 incident?" Our family never talk about that. When I graduated and went to Singapore for travel, I met some friends in Singapore

who told me about 228 incident, and then told me, "The KMT government did ..." and I said, "No, it's not!"

When I went to Singapore at that time, they took me to see a movie, and the first thing I asked was, "Why don't you sing the national anthem before the movie?" It was the first time I learned that you don't have to sing the national anthem when you watch a movie, but in Taiwan you must stand up, stand at attention, and sing the national anthem when you go to a movie. They told me: "Only in a dictatorship do you have to sing the national anthem!" Then they borrowed a lot of books about "228 incident" for me to read, and that's when I realized what 228 incident was. But the incident is a Taboo to our family.

Dr. Shih：您的祖父同時是老師也學西藥？
Lily Wu：中藥。他的阿公就已經是中醫師了。

以前因為我阿公是被抓走的嘛，然後很多人就不敢跟我們接觸，因為覺得我們是有政治犯的家庭，那我是到了我長大以後，我才知道什麼叫二二八，我小時候出門都會聽到：「啊那守陽他們家的孫子，很可憐。」

我是民國四十七年（1958）生的嘛，我阿公是民國三十八（1949）年被抓的，才過九年，我們出去的時候，不管是鄰居還是菜市場的人，他們都知道：「啊那是守陽的孫子，他阿公很可憐，二二八被人抓走。」那我們回來都會問：「媽媽，什麼叫二二八？」我們家是從來不敢談二二八的，然後是我畢業了，去新加坡，然後新加坡有認識朋友，然後再跟我們講這個二二八的事情，然後跟我講：「民國政府怎樣怎樣…」然後我說：「沒有啊！」

我那時候去新加坡，他們帶我去看電影，第一個動作：「為什麼你們電影院不用唱國歌？」我第一次知道說國外看電影是不用唱國歌的，我們台灣看電影過去是一定要站起來，立正，唱國歌的。他們就跟我講說：「獨裁國家才要唱國歌！」後來他們就借了很多二二八的書給我看，我從那時候才知道說「什麼是二二八？」，但我們家是絕對都不談。

32:22

Dr. Shih: What do you think of the cultural impact of this incident in your family in the Taipei?
Lily Wu:

It was one of the families that was arrested, it was one of the families that was inexplicably arrested, and fortunately after the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) vindicated us, so there is a picture of my grandfather in the 228 memorial Park.
Dr. Shih: So, Qiu Shouyang was not a political prisoner, he was just innocently implicated?
Lily Wu:

Because the Chin-Xiang activity wanted to arrest those who had the ability to lead and organize people, and they thought that my grandfather was the one who had the ability to lead the local affairs, so he was arrested.

Dr. Shih：您認為您家族的這件事在台北地區造成的文化影響？
Lily Wu：

就是被抓的家庭之一，就是蠻莫名其妙被抓的家庭之一，還好是後來民進黨上來之後，有替我們平反，所以我阿公的照片在二二八公園裡面有。
Dr. Shih：所以邱守陽不是什麼政治犯，他只是無辜被牽連？

Lily Wu：

因為清鄉就是要來抓有主導能力的人，他們覺得我阿公是有能力主導地方事務的人，所以就被抓走了。

35:08
Will: What do you do in your free time?
Lily Wu:

Exercise, that's aerobics, TRX. We have four good friends, every Thursday we will find a good restaurant to get together, we can't repeat the restaurant, it's been fifteen years in a row without stopping.
Will: What's the furthest you've traveled to a restaurant?
Lily Wu:

Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, if we go abroad, we will arrange a few days of vacation. In Taiwan, the farthest restaurant which we visit is in Pingtung. But we recently rented a small van, I heard there is a good restaurant in Yunlin, we drove to eat a meal and then came back. I have traveled as far as Norway for food, and there is an undersea restaurant in Norway, we had to fly to Oslo, then change to a small plane to get there, and then rent a car and drive for two hours to get to the restaurant, and I was the one who drove.

Will：您在空閒時都做些什麼？
Lily Wu：

運動，就是有氧運動啊、TRX 啊。我們有四個好朋友，每週四都會找好吃的餐廳一起聚會，不能重複的餐廳，已經連續十五年沒有停過。
Will：最遠的餐廳去到過哪裡？
Lily Wu：

日本、香港、新加坡、澳門，如果是出國就會安排幾天假期，台灣本島最遠到屏東，我們最近還特別租了一台小廂型車，聽說雲林有間餐廳很好，我們就開車去吃了一餐就回來。我為了吃，最遠去到挪威，挪威有一家海底餐廳，為了那家餐廳要坐飛機到奧斯陸，再換成小飛機到當地，再租車開兩個小時，開到餐廳，是我開車。

38:40
Will: Do you feel competitive pressure from other pharmacies?
Lily Wu:

Of course I do, but because I'm very old, it's not for business purposes anymore, it's just that I've been here for a long time, and it's just that I have friends who come over to chat, and then they come and ask me questions, and I think that's the most important value of my life now.

Will：您有因為其他藥局感到競爭壓力嗎？

Lily Wu：

當然有，但因為我年紀很大了，已經不是以營業為目的了，就是…怎麼說，就是開店在這邊很久了，就是會有朋友來這邊聊天，然後他們有什麼問題會來問我，我覺得這就是生活的重心了。

40:50
Dr. Shih: Is there anything else you would like to say or recommend?
Lily Wu:

There is a small bridge called Guanyin Bridge at the entrance of your school, have you ever noticed it? I don't know if it's been torn down yet, but there used to be a small arched bridge coming out of your school with a Guanyin Bridge carved on the top of the piers, and the Guanyin Mountain was the most beautiful view from there, the face of Guanyin lying down and sleeping, because when I was a kid, I had a friend who lived right over at Wai Shuang Creek, and when I was a kid, Wai Shuang Creek was very clean, and we would all go over there and catch clams.

Dr. Shih：您還有什麼想說的，或是推薦景點或美食嗎？
Lily Wu：

你們學校門口出來有一座叫觀音橋，你們有注意過嗎？不曉得有沒有拆掉了，你們學校出來，以前有一個拱橋小小的，橋墩上面刻觀音橋，從那邊看觀音山是最漂亮的，就是觀音躺著睡覺的一個臉龐，因為我小時候有個朋友就住外雙溪那邊，小時候外雙溪很乾淨，我們都在那邊抓蛤蜊。

Appendix E: Wang Chun-Kai Interview Transcript

Transcript of Wang Chun-Kai (Temple) interview, translated by Jason Chu

0:05　Will:　Nihao, first of all, thank you for taking time in this interview.
你好，首先謝謝你撥空參與我們的採訪。

0:12　Will:　So first stuff…...uh, could you tell us a bit about yourself? where you
originally from, Taipei or Shilin or, where did you grow up?
可以請你先介紹自己嗎？ 你原本來自哪裡，在哪長大？

0:32 Wang:　其實我們本來是新北的五股人，可是我是在台北市大同區出生的，就在士林的
南邊，一直到國中的時候去外面唸書，直到研究所畢業後才回來台北工作這樣
子。

I originally came from Wugu in New Taipei, but I was born in Datong District,
Taipei City, just south of Shilin. I went away for school starting from junior high
school and returned to Taipei to work after graduation of my master.

1:39　Will:　Would you might share how old you are?
可以說說你的年齡嗎？

1:50 Wang: 我現在四十四歲。
I'm now 44.

1:55　Will: Do you have one thing in particular that you like about Shilin? or what's your favorite
thing about the culture? In Taipei or shilin?
士林有哪些東西你特別喜歡呢，在此文化中什麼最吸引你呢？是整個台北還是
士林區域呢？

2:20　Wang: 台北的文化比較吸引我就是因為，雖然台北是很現代的一個地方，但它也保留
了一些很傳統的東西，甚至比很多地方保留更傳統的，可能這是因為在現代化
的一個外在之下，他的傳統反而被有一群…….比較傳統的人，或者是想保存這
些東西的人，把這些東西給保存下來，反而特別珍貴，所以我蠻喜歡這樣子的
一個文化。

The culture in Taipei appeals to me because, although Taipei is a very modern place,
it also preserves many traditional elements, even more so than many other places.
This might be because, beneath its modern exterior, its traditions are preserved by a
group of... more traditional people, or those who wish to keep these things alive,
making them especially more precious. That's why I really like this kind of culture.

3:45　Will: Can you tell us about, what are the specific things that……uh, you like try to
preserve or the people try to preserve?
什麼是你特別想保存的？ 甚至是大家都想的呢？

4:15　Wang: 誒，特別的事情喔，嗯。。。像這邊農曆四月會有個迎媽祖的活動，就是我們會去遶境嘛，那其實這個範圍就是芝山這個地區的五個里，最傳統的方式就是要籌措經費，那就會向地方居民，收那個叫做『丁口錢』，像家裡有幾個人，就收多少錢，但現在是用自由樂捐的方式，由里長負責收這些費用，其實這個傳統在台灣的鄉下還蠻常見的，可是在都市幾乎沒有了，可是在天母這個地區反而還保留住，還保留下了這個傳統，所以我們在農曆三月的時候會開會，請這些里長，鄰長來吃飯，之後他們就會跟居民收取費用，這個費用是自由樂捐的，這代表我有參與，我有參與這個活動，這是一個認同嘛，會對這個活動更有向心力，代表我有出一份力，不管這個遶境有沒有經過你家，還是你有沒有參與，但至少有繳錢，神明就會知道你有付出和奉獻，會給你庇佑。這是一個，在天母這很現代化的地區，一個蠻保留一般傳統的東西。

Oh, speaking of special events, well... For example, in the fourth lunar month here, we have an activity to welcome Matsu（媽祖）, which involves a pilgrimage (遶境) around the neighborhood. Actually, this encompasses the five neighborhoods of the Zhishan area. The most traditional way is to raise funds by collecting what is called "Dingkou money" （丁口錢）from residents, based on the number of people in each household. However, now it's done through voluntary donations, with the neighborhood leaders in charge of collecting these fees. This tradition is quite common in rural areas of Taiwan, but almost nonexistent in cities. Yet, in Tianmu, this tradition is still preserved. So, in the third lunar month, we have meetings inviting these neighborhood leaders for a meal, after which they collect donations from the residents. This donation is voluntary and signifies participation and identification with the event. It enhances cohesion and shows that you have contributed, regardless of whether the procession passes by your house or if you participate. But at least by contributing money, the God know you have made an effort and offered the devotion, they will bless you. This is an aspect where Tianmu, a very modern area, still preserves a very traditional practice.

7:49　Will: Is that more so here [in shilin] than in other districts?

這個活動是只有士林有嗎？

7:55 Wang: 迎媽祖是各地都會有，像士林是每個區輪流，在收丁口錢的，目前還是有，但很少，基本上台北市應該都很少了，有這樣家家戶戶去，在這個地區很少了，以天母來說，好像只有我們這裡有。應該整個士林我想，應該剩我們這裡有保留住。

The Matsu welcoming ceremony is common in many places. In Shilin, each district takes turns collecting "Dingkou money," which still exists but has become quite rare. Generally, it's uncommon throughout Taipei City now for each household to participate as how it traditionally done. In terms of Tianmu, it seems that only our

area still retains this practice. I think it might be the only remaining place in the whole Shilin district that still preserves this tradition.

9:10 Wang: 現在大部分都是自由樂捐啦,就是說居民自己來廟裡繳,不會特別收,:『不會挨家挨戶收嗎?』,我們會派鄰長去,他會去找他的里民,但看他怎麼收啦,我們不會管他怎麼收,但他會給我名冊,在慶典的時候就會跟神明講這些人的名字,稟報媽祖說,這些人有繳錢。

Nowadays, most donations are made voluntarily. This means that residents bring their donations to the temple themselves, without a specific collection drive from house to house. However, we do send neighborhood leaders to approach their community members, although exactly how they collect the donations is up to them; we don't oversee that part. However, they provide us with a list of names, and during the festival, these names are announced to the deity. It's reported to Matsu, mentioning that these individuals have contributed financially.

12:33 the interpreter: 那現在都是惠濟宮在辦嗎?

Is it mainly held by this temple?

12:40 Wang: 誒,惠濟宮就像一個熔爐一樣,地方的一個組織,原本都是各個地方或是里長自己辦的,但因為人事更迭,現在社會有些里長,不像是以前傳統制度,有些比較新和年輕的,可能他們對這些不是很熟悉,所以後來這些活動,就慢慢交給廟來辦理,像是大型中元普渡,十幾年前就由惠濟宮來幫忙主辦,像媽祖,也是約八年前開始由廟辦理,以前也有土地公,也是這個里的,因為祂的廟被拆了,後來就請來廟裡面,我們每年也會辦『炸土地公』,其實炸土地公是整個內湖,士林,北投,都有的,這在以前日本時代都有記載,所以士林幾乎每個地方都有,不只社子,而且範圍都是非常小的,因為每個土地公管轄範圍都比較小,像我們這裡是臨山里,那隔壁岩山里有自己的,東山里也有,到神農宮,舊街那邊也有,媽祖廟那也有,都在元宵節舉辦,甚至到天母三玉宮,這麼繁華的天母也有,神明到我們廟之後,以前會請神明下去辦,但因為很多原因,比較無法自行舉辦這個活動了。

Huiji Temple acts like a furnace for the local community. Originally, various local leaders or neighborhood heads would organize events themselves, but due to personnel changes, some of the newer and younger leaders may not be as familiar with these traditions. As a result, the temple has gradually taken over the organization of these activities. For instance, the large-scale Zhongyuan Festival has been managed by Huiji Temple for about fifteen years, and the Matsu festival has been organized by the temple for about eight years. There was also a temple for the Earth God in this area, but it was demolished. Subsequently, the Earth God was moved to our temple, and we also host the "Exploding Earth God" event annually, a tradition not only in Neihu, Shilin, and Beitou but also recorded during the Japanese era. Almost every area in Shilin has its own version, also Shezi, and each is quite

localized because each Earth God's domain is relatively small. For example, in our Linshan neighborhood, the adjacent Yanshan neighborhood has its own, Dongshan neighborhood too, and so do the Shennong Temple, the old street area, and the Mazu temple, all celebrating during the Lantern Festival. Even the bustling Tianmu area, like the Sanyu Temple, has its events. Previously, deities were invited from our temple as the symbol for these events, but for various reasons, it has become increasingly difficult to manage these activities independently.

15:45 Will: Can you tell us more about your daily life? and how involved you are in organizing these events?

您現在是惠濟宮主任？可以介紹一下你每天的工作內容嗎，一年之中要舉辦哪些活動

16:12 Wang: 對，我是辦公室主任，主要是管理整個辦公室，因為我們有蠻多的員工，負責統籌大小事情，我的工作蠻多樣的，每年活動的推行，甚至是文化，或是有外賓都要幫忙接洽，像我們現在的訪談，都是我們負責的事，那一年中的活動，幾乎每個月都有，兩次的禮斗法會，七月的中原普渡啊，七月有兩次普渡嘛，一次是廟本身嘛，一次是四角頭的中原，包含迎媽祖還有玉佛，元宵的土地公，六月還有開天門，年底還有水燈，法會活動很多，加上是地方大廟，所以說很多的團體，原本的組織就由廟來管理，這變的所要管理的活動很多，還有有關錢，廟裡財務的收支，大部份也是由我經手在處理，一些帳務的東西，所以事情還蠻多的。

As the office director, the role involves managing the entire office, coordinating a wide variety of tasks and spread it to the large number of employees. The responsibilities are quite diverse, ranging from organizing annual events, managing cultural activities, and welcoming with foreign guests, similar to how we holding interview now. Throughout the year, there are nearly monthly events, including bi-monthly Ritual Dharma assemblies, the Zhongyuan Festival in July with two sessions—one by the temple itself and another for the regional Zhongyuan, including welcoming Matsu and the Jade Buddha. You also manage the Earth God event during the Lantern Festival, the Opening of Heaven's Gate in June, and the Water Lantern event at year's end. With the temple being a major local institution, you handle numerous activities originally managed by various community groups. Additionally, you take charge in most of the temple's financial operations, handling revenues, expenditures, and other accounting matters, which add up to a substantial workload.

19:30 Will: Could you tell us about what your degree is (master's degree) and how you ended up getting this job?

可以聊聊你研究所是念什麼嗎？你怎麼到這裡工作的。

19:53 Wang: 其實我大學是學園藝的，只是我從小對傳統民間的活動和祭祀有興趣，所以我後來研究所讀台北大學的民俗藝術研究所，剛好這邊有個職缺，因為有朋友之前在這上班，但他後來轉去另個在北投的古蹟，他就問我想不想來，直到現在我也在這待了十一年，就一直待著。

I actually studied horticulture in college, but I've been interested in traditional folk activities and rituals since I was young. So, I went on to pursue my graduate studies at the Institute of Folk Arts at National Taipei University. And here happened to be a job opening here, which my friend who used to work here but later transferred to a historic site in Beitou asked if I was interested in the position. I've been here for eleven years now and have stayed on ever since.

22:00　Will: When was the first time you visited the temple, and how much has it changed since then?

你第一次拜訪這裡是什麼時候，現在和以前差很多嗎？

22:32 Wang: 應該說我們對廟都有興趣，所以以前都會一群朋友一起去很多廟拜拜，那時候的樓梯還沒有像現在這樣，那時我的印象，只是覺得爬山很累，甚至還說以後不要來這裡，可是後來基於這個緣分又回來這邊上班，變成每天都要來，所以不能亂講話。我們大概 20 年前就有來過這些廟宇了。最大的變化是多了許多活動，法會和文化活動比以前更多。可能剛好廟有整修，我們那時來的時候還是比較舊的，現在變得比較富麗堂皇，像樓梯也都變新了，香客和信眾也比以前多，以前我們跟媽祖廟是共同管理的，那一個組織管理兩間廟一定有取捨，因為這裡比較偏僻，比較不是重心，後來分開後，由當地里長組成委員會來共同管理，所以成員不是現在里長就是以前的老里長，所以我們分成四個角頭。

We've always been interested in temples, so a group of friends and I used to visit many temples to pray. Back then, the stairs weren't like they are now. My impression at the time was just that climbing was exhausting, and I even said I wouldn't come back here. But later, due to fate, I ended up working here and had to come every day, so I learned to be careful with my words. We first visited these temples about 20 years ago. The biggest change has been the increase in activities; there are more rituals and cultural events now than before. It might because the temple was renovated, as it was quite old when we first came, but now it's more magnificent. The stairs have also been renewed, and there are more pilgrims and devotees than before. Previously, we managed the Matsu temple jointly with this temple. Managing two temples with one organization always involves compromises. Since this place was more remote and not the main focus, after the separation, a committee formed by local neighborhood leaders took over the management. So, the committee members are either current or former neighborhood leaders, and we are divided into four local sections.

27:34 Will: How have you seen the shilin district change over time? What do you think about cultural preservation?

你怎麼看待士林從前至今的變化呢？ 你對於文化保存的想法是？

28:05 Wang: 因為我們一群朋友很早就開始在士林一些廟宇服務，大部分都二十多年以上，所以我們對這個地方，雖然我不是在地人，但對這也保有一個情感，至少我每天都來這，生活圈也都在這，當然我就是盡量去保存這些傳統文化，畢竟我知道許多文化的內涵，因為很多地方的文化已變質，但我還是盡力把祖宗留下來的東西留下，當然也會包含新的元素，讓它流傳下去，就像我們的迎媽祖，植蘭亭媽祖，以前這種神明合併在廟裡後，祂的名字會消失，植蘭亭這個名稱可能之後就不見了，但我覺這是一個很有意義的歷史演進，而且這個名稱還蠻好聽的，就把它保留下來，後來這個活動就讓五個里一起來參與，以前參與沒那麼踴躍，但這次是每個里長都一起來推神轎，一起遶境，他們參與越深，使這個媽祖更能保留下來，但如果沒有特別推廣，可能祂就會消失在這個歷史裡面。

Me and my group of friends, had been serving in some temples in Shilin quite early, with most of us having been involved for over twenty years. So, even though I am not originally from this place, I have developed a strong emotional connection to it. I come here every day, and my life revolves around this area. I do my best to preserve these traditional cultures. After all, I understand the significance of many cultural aspects, and although the essence of many local cultures has deteriorated, I still strive to preserve what our ancestors left behind. Of course, this includes incorporating new elements to keep the traditions alive, such as our Welcoming Matsu event at Zi Lan Ting (植蘭亭)Mazu. Previously, when deities were merged with a temple, their names would disappear; the name Zi Lan Ting might have been lost, but I think it is a historically meaningful name and quite pleasant sounding, so we kept it. Later, we got all five neighborhoods involved in the event. Participation wasn't always enthusiastic, but this time each neighborhood head joined in holding the palanquin and participating in the procession. The deeper their involvement, the better we can preserve Matsu's legacy. However, without special efforts to promote these traditions, they might disappear from history.

Appendix F: Mr. Tsai Interview Transcript

Transcript of Mr. Tsai interview, translated by Celine

Will: Introduce yourself, tell us who you are.
               您怎麼稱呼，

Mr. Tsai: 八歲從台南來到台北（士林），工作將近 60 年，父親開始做這個工作，父
               親和兄弟都退休，剩下訪談者在做此工作。攤子開創於民國 55-56 年，大概
               我 8 歲的時候。
               I moved to Taipei (Shilin) from Tainan when I was eight years old, and have been
               working for nearly 60 years. My father started this work, and now both my father
               and brothers have retired, leaving me to carry on the job. The stall was founded
               around the 55th or 56th year of the Republic of China, roughly when I was 8
               years old.

Will: What's special about your sausages compared to others?
               香腸有什麼特別地方，跟其他的相比？

Mr. Tsai: 以新鮮為主，當天現做現賣，新鮮溫體豬，平常外面的香腸都柴柴的硬硬
               的，我們的非常有嚼勁。我們的香腸吃起來有豬排的感覺。以前沒有人說
               「士林大香腸」是由我們開始創立的，現在坊間有很多人都叫士林大香腸
               了。
               We focus on freshness, making and selling them on the same day using fresh
               warm-bodied pigs. Usually, other sausages are dry and hard, but ours are very
               chewy. Our sausages have a taste similar to pork chops. In the past, no one called
               it 'Shilin Big Sausage'; that was a name we created. Now, many people refer to it
               as Shilin Big Sausage.

Will: What time do you get up to start work, and what do you need to prepare?
               大概幾點起床工作、需要準備什麼東西？

Mr. Tsai: 大概從八點半起床，大概做到 12 點左右，洗個澡吃個飯休息一下，下午四
               點再出去，賣到晚上九點半，一天工作 12 小時，有事情的話會提早收攤。
               I usually get up around 8:30 am, work until about 12:00 pm, then take a bath,
               have a meal, and rest a little. I go out again at 4:00 pm and sell until 9:30 pm. It's
               a 12-hour workday, but if something comes up, I'll close the stall early.

Will: Where does the meat come from?
               豬肉從哪邊來？

Mr. Tsai: 豬肉從市場直接送過來
               The pork comes directly from the market.

Will: Do customers come directly here [Mr. Tsai's home] to buy?
顧客會直接到你這裡買嗎？

Mr. Tsai: 是啊。
Yes, they do.

Will: Do you still eat your own sausages?
你現在還會吃自己的香腸嗎？

Mr. Tsai: 我天天吃，有時候沒空吃飯會吃香腸配個啤酒，有空買個菜飯配自己的香腸，天天都會吃自己的香腸！
I eat them every day. Sometimes when I'm too busy to eat a meal, I'll have a sausage with a beer. When I have the time, I'll buy some vegetable rice to go with my sausage. I eat my own sausages every day!

Will: What are your thoughts on the future of this business?
您對未來這個事業？

Mr. Tsai: 很累的話。可能會交接給女婿，
If it gets too tiring, I might hand it over to my son-in-law.

Will: So, does your son-in-law help out?
所以您女婿會幫忙嗎？

Mr. Tsai: 他本來早上都會來幫忙，但因為最近他生第三個小孩，我的女兒和女婿都很累。這是香料、味素、糖、水、醬料、金門高粱
He used to come and help in the mornings, but since they had their third child recently, both my daughter and son-in-law are quite tired. These are the spices, MSG, sugar, water, sauces, and Kinmen kaoliang liquor.

Will: Do you have regular customers who come to buy every day?
有沒有常客會天天來買？

Mr. Tsai: 有的連續買了六天。他昨天跟我報告說他買到第七天才會休息，他還是廚師喔，因為他都快要八點半九點半才下班，他都跟我說「不要太早收，不然我都吃不到」，他昨天買第六天了
Yes, there's one who has bought for six consecutive days. He told me yesterday that he would rest on the seventh day. He's a chef, and since he gets off work around 8:30 or 9:30 pm, he always tells me not to close too early, or he won't be able to buy any. Yesterday was the sixth day he bought.

Will: Are your customers mostly local?
您的顧客都是附近的人嗎？

Mr. Tsai: 大部分，有的人是在這邊買，買到搬離士林還是會回來買，有的人從國外一下飛機就會衝回來買，有的人搬去桃園、新蘆，還是會回來買。
Mostly, yes. Some have bought from here and still come back to buy even after moving away from Shilin. Some rush back to buy as soon as they land from abroad. Others have moved to Taoyuan or Xinzhuang but still return to buy.

Will: Regarding our traditional culture, like this market, do you think it should be preserved?
對於我們的傳統文化，像這樣的市場，您認為要留下來嗎？

Mr. Tsai: 一般的觀點是要留下來，現在到哪裡附近都是超市，但傳統市場有些東西是超市買不到的，像現做現吃的湯包，超市買得到湯包沒錯，但吃起來就會柴柴的，口感就不一樣，感覺也不一樣。
The general view is that it should be preserved. Nowadays, you find supermarkets everywhere, but there are some things you just can't buy at a supermarket, like freshly made soup dumplings. Sure, supermarkets sell soup dumplings, but they taste dry and the texture and feeling are just not the same.

Will: What do you think about Shilin's cultural and traditional customs?
士林的文化傳統習俗您覺得怎麼樣？

Mr. Tsai: 街頭小吃，士林也有文藝、節慶。像我這種就是美食文化，要保持的話大家要照顧好。
Street snacks, Shilin has its arts and festivals as well. Like mine, this is a culinary culture, and if we want to maintain it, everyone needs to take good care of it.

Appendix G: Mr. Huang Interview Transcript

Transcript of Mr. Huang interview, translated by Celine

Will: What is your name, and What kind of shop do you run?
              先生您怎麼稱呼，這家店多久了？

Mr. Huang: 我姓黃，經營這家店將近 53 年（13 歲-66 歲），現榨果汁（經營幾十年）
              年紀大了，認為身體健康最重要，所以有時候不會工作太久。
              My last name is Huang. I have been running this store for nearly 53 years (from
              age 13 to 66). We serve freshly squeezed juice (which has been in business for
              decades). As I've gotten older, I believe that being healthy is the most important
              thing, so sometimes I won't work for too long."

Will: Did you grow up in Shilin? Were you born here?
              您在士林土生土長嗎？

Mr. Huang: 媽媽是士林人，大約 30 年前搬來士林並在士林長大，從小住在士林神農宮
              附近。
              My mother is from Shilin. We moved to Shilin about 30 years ago, and I grew up
              there. I've lived near the Shennong Temple in Shilin since I was young.

Will: How have you seen the night market change over the years?
              這三十年黃昏市場有什麼變化

Mr. Huang: 訪談者：因為這是老社區，所以好像沒什麼，最大的不同應該就是光華戲院
   （診所的前身），還有公車總站。
              Since this is an old community, it seems like not much has changed. The biggest
              difference would probably be the Guanghua Cinema (the predecessor of the
              clinic) and also the bus terminal.

Appendix H: MRT, Architecture, and Paper Factory Pages

TAIPEI MRT
(台北捷運)

Like other areas in Taiwan, the Shilin District has experienced rapid modernization over the past few decades. As one walks through downtown Shilin, they see the classic three story building with small stores on street level. In the heart of downtown Shilin stands Cixian temple, built by Chinese immigrants in the 18th century. It is still very active today and is undergoing renovations to help increase tourism and visitor counts.

Click to enlarge the photos
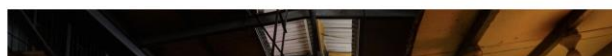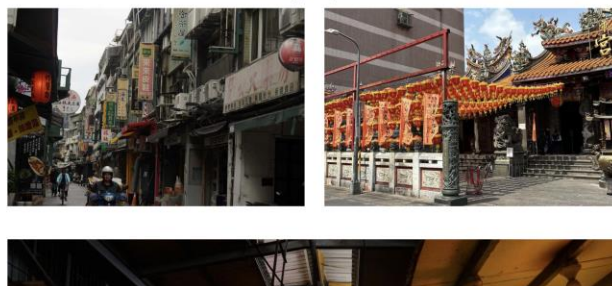
About 500 meters to the North is Huarong market, a traditional night market home to local pop-up stands and businesses. Together, these areas embody Shilin's culture. But that's not to say that Shilin is a full blast to the past. Just a few blocks away is the Shilin MRT station. As the 16th biggest station out of 108 in Taipei, the station saw an average daily entry and exit count of nearly 54,000 riders in February 2024, which equates to 3000 an hour, or almost one rider every second during the open hours of 6 a.m. to midnight (according to data from english.metro.taipei). Naturally, various restaurants, bubble tea shops, and other businesses are packed densely together nearby.

Since its ownership change from the Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA) to the Taipei Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), the Shilin Station has become a prime example of Taipei's modernization. From the platform, one can see old-style small buildings to the Northeast with high-rises in the background. Looking to the right, construction is

The Shilin MRT Station highlights the juxtaposition between the area's rich history and its modern developments.

CLICK TO SEE MORE

Shilin Paper Mill

Zhishanyan Huiji Temple

Architecture and Canals

Shilin Elementary School

THIS IS SHILIN

TAIPEI MRT (台北捷運)

Like other areas in Taiwan, the Shilin District has experienced rapid modernization over the past few decades. As one walks through downtown Shilin, they see the classic three story building with small stores on street level. In the heart of downtown Shilin stands Cixian temple, built by Chinese immigrants in the 18th century. It is still very active today and is undergoing renovations to help

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SHILIN PAPER MILL (士林紙廠)

During the Han dynasty, under Chinese rule, the invention of papermaking came to fruition, as described in Tiangong Kaiwu (The Exploitation of the Works of Nature). This marked an important moment in human history, shaping modern life with paper's many uses. From packaging and containers for food, to recording information and cleaning products, paper became a daily necessity. Within the Shilin District specifically, the establishment of

nearby Fudeyang Canal was even diverted towards this mill for industrial use.

> *The chimney stacks of this mill served as a beacon to merchants traveling by sea, signaling their arrival to Shilin District.*

The 1950s were highlighted with many crucial steps and achievements, including a share of exports from 1957 to 1966. The growth of exports throughout Taiwan's Japanese colonial time had substantially raised the GDP, which laid the groundwork for Taiwan's rapid development in the early 1960s (Tsong-Min, 2017). This continuous move towards industrialization and modernization of farming equipment caused underemployment in agriculture, resulting in a surplus of laborers in the agricultural sector. This caused higher rates of poverty in farm families and a low standard of living for laborers, who accepted the low paying wages offered in the industrial market. The export-oriented approach significantly influenced the development of various industries within Taiwan, particularly in electronics and basic metals.

> *In turn, this focus on export-orientated manufacturing played a role in the incentivization of economic growth over the preservation of the past agricultural norms of the time.*

The industry faced overproduction problems and domestic market challenges but got on its feet after entrepreneurial approaches focused on the increase of exports. From the famous "golden decade" of industrial

PHOTO GALLERY

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https://shilin.wpi.edu/images/places/paper-factory/fulls/DSC00993.jpg

SHILIN ARCHITECTURE
(士林建築)

The origin of Taiwan is rooted in its abundant water supply and fertile soil. Historically, the southern part of China lacked a supply of rice due to an excess of infertile soil, often transporting rice from the northern region. During the Qing Dynasty, the island now known as Taiwan appeared to be a viable agricultural solution. The island's clay-like soil proved to be very suitable for the planting of rice and sugarcane, in addition to the plentiful underground supply of water through aquifers and sources from its surrounding mountain ranges.

Having access to water is, of course, a daily necessity. Over the course of the Qing Dynasty, over 15 canal systems were meticulously designed and constructed, connecting throughout Taipei. These canals provided access to water for irrigation, transportation of goods and urban infrastructure like drinking water and sanitation systems.

Click to enlarge the photos

development. Fudeyang is the original name of Shilin District: in Taoist beliefs, "Fude" is the lowest god of small villages and "yang" refers to the fertility of Shilin's soil.

Originally the water was intended for the irrigation of surrounding farms, but its function evolved over time. Eventually being used for domestic and industrial use, the canal was even diverted towards Shilin's first paper factory in 1912.

It was a common practice of the ancestors to plant trees along the canal. This provided two main benefits; first, it provided shade and cooling for those collecting water and second, the roots of the trees reduced the erosion along the canal banks. As the function of the canal became more residential, more homes started to incorporate a small bridge-like structure from the street path, over the canal and to the front door. This distinct historical feature can be found throughout the Shilin district.

PHOTO GALLERY

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https://shilin.wpi.edu/images/places/architecture/fulls/DDSC09938-2.jpg

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SHILIN ARCHITECTURE(士林建築)

The origin of Taiwan is rooted in its abundant water supply and fertile soil. Historically, the southern part of China lacked a supply of rice due to an excess of infertile soil, often transporting rice from the northern region. During the Qing Dynasty, the island now known as Taiwan appeared to be a viable agricultural solution. The island's clay-like soil proved to be very suitable for the planting of rice and sugarcane, in addition to the plentiful underground supply of water

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In 1739, the Fudeyang Irrigation Canal (福德洋圳) was built in the Shilin District, playing a large role in the city's development. Fudeyang is the original name of Shilin District: in Taoist beliefs, "Fude" is the lowest god of small villages and "yang" refers to the fertility of Shilin's soil.

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the roots of the trees reduced the erosion along the canal banks. As the function of the canal became more residential, more homes started to incorporate a small bridge-like structure from the street path, over the canal and to the front door. This distinct historical feature can be found throughout the Shilin district.

Although the Fudeyang Canal is mostly dry today, the remaining paths of trees and bridges over dry beds tell the story of what it once was.

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Appendix I: YouTube Tutorial Links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTh0NK27CBc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7O6WG_wJ-g