

New culture center to open in 2022

Niu Lichao and Yang Yang

Construction of the Songjiang Culture Activity Center, a new landmark in the suburban district, will be completed by the end of 2021.

The venue, located opposite Zuibai Pond Park and about 1.9 kilometers from Songjiang South Railway Station, covers an area of about 63,000 square meters. A bird's-eye view captures the venue in the shape of rolls of unfolded, wavy bamboo slips.

The venue consists of the Songjiang Culture Center, a branch of Songjiang Library, Yunjian Theater and Yunjian Hall. It offers one-stop cultural services for residents, including exhibitions, art performances, cultural activities and book borrowing.

Yunjian Theater, covering an area of more than 10,000 square meters, seats about 1,200 people. It includes a rehearsal room, dressing room and lounge, and can hold various kinds of performances, including dance and modern



An aerial view of the Songjiang Culture Activity Center, a new landmark — Yue Cheng

dramas, operas, traditional Chinese operas, symphonies and art shows.

The library is designed with a storage capacity of one million books and has more than 1,200 seats, whereas the culture center is equipped with exhibition

halls, an auditorium, multi-media classrooms, rehearsal rooms and activity areas for seniors and children.

"The venue will offer people in Songjiang full access to public cultural resources. By building up cultural soft

power, we can also offer strong support for the construction of a modern Songjiang, with advanced scientific innovation, rich culture and good ecology," said Zhang Guoqiang, deputy chief of the Songjiang Culture and Tourism Bureau.

High honor for Sky City steel structure

Zhou Dandan and Yang Yang

THE first phase lattice shell structure of G60 Rafael Sky City in Songjiang was recently awarded the China Construction Project Steel Structure Golden Medal, the highest honor for steel structures in the country.

A new landmark along the Yangtze River G60 High-tech Corridor (an urban-rural development axis connecting Songjiang with eight cities in the Yangtze River Delta region), the sky city is being constructed in two phases. Its overall length is estimated to be 1.5 kilometers and the total construction area about one million square meters,

equivalent to 12 standard football pitches. When completed, the complex will consist of 26 buildings — each around 80 meters in height — and will be the longest urban industrial corridor of architecture in the world.

The award-winning first phase project is made up of ten buildings, constructed with several pioneering engineering technologies.

The large-span roof shell structure in the first phase weighs about 4,232 tons. When it was installed, the operation level was more than 80 meters above ground, making its installation precision control and construction safety a challenge.

The sky city's 80,000-square-meter roof has been manually installed with about 1.83 million airline-use rivets that are maintenance-free for life.

Since it was put into use about a year ago, the entire shell structure has withstood several strong typhoons, with feedback statistics reflecting high safety levels.

"The award marks a breakthrough for Lingang-Songjiang Sci-tech City's steel structure construction capacity and management capacity. The project also contributes to the high-quality development of the architectural industry in China," said an official with Lingang-Songjiang Sci-tech City, the sky city's location.

Kuatang Bridge lights up for first time

Qin Tian and Yang Yang

DECORATIVE lights on Kuatang Bridge, nicknamed "Yunjian No. 1 Bridge" (Yunjian is another name for Songjiang), started to shine for the first time at 7pm on June 24.

The bridge, located in the Cangcheng historic and cultural zone, dates back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279). A scene featuring the Kuatang Bridge bathing in the light of a full moon with river water shimmering was selected as one of Songjiang's "Twelve Best Scenes" in 1998.

"The scene is phenomenally beautiful. The bridge, the moon, and the night sky of Cangcheng are all beautiful," said a resident surnamed Gu who was visiting the bridge.

The newly added decorative

lights include LED strip lights on both sides of the bridge, LED wall washers on the bridge's arch and flood lights on the exterior of the bridge's piers. With deference to the bridge's historical value, not a single nail was used during the decorative process, according to the Yongfeng Community Cangcheng Old Town Development Office.

In addition to its long history, the bridge is related to some legendary figures. Xia Yunyi, a general in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), drowned himself in the nearby Huayuan River after his army was defeated by Manchu invaders. Chen Zilong, a renowned scholar in the Ming Dynasty, committed suicide in the nearby Gupu River after an uprising he led was suppressed.



The lighted Kuatang Bridge — Qin Tian

A trial lighting of the nearby Shihe Bridge will take place soon. At that point,

Dacang and Shihe, will form a brand-new scene of illumination to entertain both residents and tourists.

Afforestation project adds to district's forest area

Li ZhunZhun and Yang Yang

THE "Seven Green Corridors and One Woodland," the biggest ever afforestation project in Songjiang, was completed recently after three years' cultivation.

The total area of the project covers 9,390 mu (1,448.9 hectares), pushing the district's overall forest coverage rate from 16.35 to 18.57 percent, ranking Songjiang in the top 2 citywide.

Seven Green Corridors refers to the 3,620-mu area along important highways and rivers in the district, including Shenhui Belt Expressway, Hukun Highway, Huyu Highway and the Huangpu River.

One Woodland refers to the 5,770-mu Tianma Ecological Forest. The eastern part of the forest reaches the Shanghai Belt Expressway, and its southern section meets the Shenzhuan Highway. The forest connects the ecological corridor in neighboring Qingpu District, Sheshan Town and the Sheshan National Forest Park in the east.

This afforestation project, while building up a natural protective barrier for Songjiang, also connects the district with ecological corridors in other regions in order to promote ecological diversity.

The cost of the project increased from the previous level of 12,000 yuan (US\$1,851.60) per mu to 33,000 yuan per mu. Standards for seedling selection and afforestation layout also rose. To become part of the new forest land, a seedling had to have a trunk diameter of at least 7 or 8 centimeters.

The layout of the forest land was professionally designed. Trees with different heights, widths and crown sizes were included. Deciduous trees and arbors are also part of the mix, creating a natural forest environment.

Among the trees, there are magnolia grandiflora and beeches to form a shelter belt, Chinese ash and dawn redwood to reduce dust and noise, and camphor, Machilus thunbergia and Japanese privets to form a landscape.

"Quite a few afforestation areas are reclaimed land, which require time and effort for cleansing and leveling up. And its water preservation capacity is low, so we usually choose drought-tolerant trees like locust trees to ensure seedling survival rates," said Cai Feng, deputy chief of the Songjiang Forestry Bureau.

"The Tianma Ecological Forest, in particular, is a low-lying land, so we have carried out waterlogging prevention to ensure seedling survival rates," Cai added.