



Here You Come Again!

Vacant Space Renovation at Kaohsiung Main Station

Course: English 9

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I. Introduction

Kaohsiung, once Taiwan's second city and a major industrial hub, has changed better these days. To transform the main industry of the city from traditional heavy industries to culture and creative industries, many attractions have been built to attract tourists such as Pier-2 Art Centre and Formosa Boulevard MRT Station.

However, there are still plenty of spaces remaining unplanned or are planned improperly. We found a vacant space in Kaohsiung Main Station that has remained unused for at least one year. Although the design of the station building is quite beautiful, the space still remained empty and not properly used. The only function of such a tremendous vacant space is nothing more than a passageway. Considering it as a waste of space, we decided to figure out a possible solution to make the space a better one for public to use as an open space.

In the beginning, it was difficult for us to decide which location to choose for the project because there are plenty of places or areas which are not well designed in Kaohsiung. After searching for information about space use throughout Taiwan, we finally decided to choose this place that most of our teammates usually go to—Kaohsiung Main Station as our rebuilt object. We think this space should be offering passengers and residents to take advantage of instead of being wasted. Moreover, we want to realize how we can rebuild this space through the investigation. We aim to provide the passengers with a comfortable environment to commute. As for residents, they can communicate in this space with each other to improve their relationship.

Well-planned public spaces can bring positive effects to a city, in particular, the train station is the first impression people have when they arrive in a city. Take Xin Zuoying Train Station as an example, there are a variety of stores including food, bookstores, and souvenirs in the station building. It not only brings business opportunities, but also make people want to visit here again and again.

By collecting information from questionnaires for passengers and doing research on space usage, we want to take advantage of the fact that by understanding people's needs so that we can rebuild the space with the best possible plan to achieve them.

II. Target Analysis

The vacant space we chose is located on the first floor of Kaohsiung Main Station. It is a wide space with escalators connecting the first floor and ground floor where the boarding entrances are.

The roof of the station building is designed well, which is comprised of thousands of pebble stones. However, it seems that the only function of this space is nothing else but a passageway. It is wide but empty. We can hardly find people staying there, not to mention the interaction between individuals. Passengers just do not pay attention to this place because there is nothing special and functional.

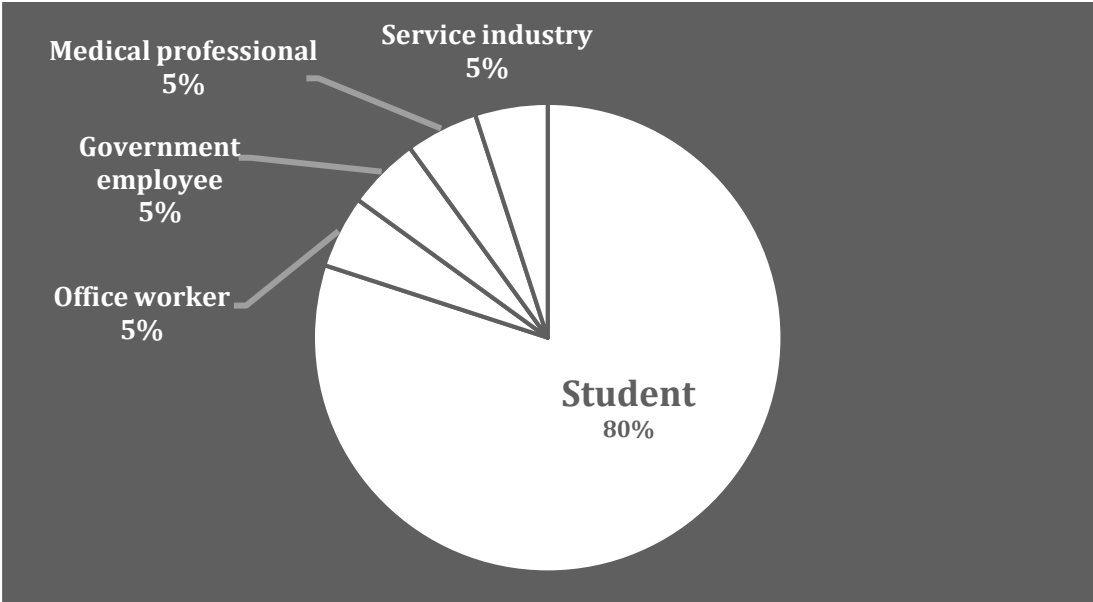


Figure 1: Respondents by occupation

The pie chart in Figure 1 shows that 80 percent of the respondent are students. Also, we found that 85 percent of the respondent are using Kaohsiung Main Station just for commuting.

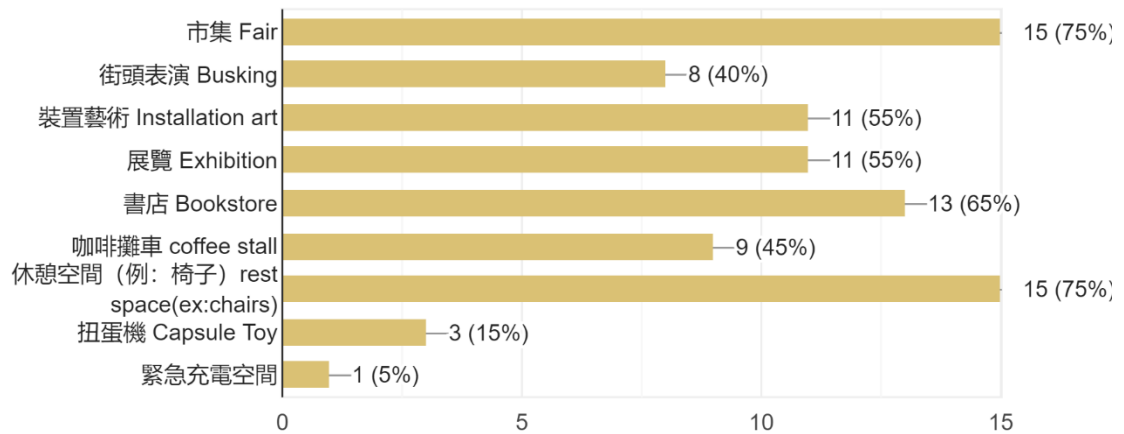


Figure 2: Ideal construction for the respondents

Moreover, from the figure 2, we can find one of the most mentioned disadvantages is the lack of rest spaces. Since chairs or benches are nowhere to be found in the vacant space, most of the respondents consider the space has been totally wasted. It should have more function for the passengers and for the locals as well. In addition, some of them mentioned that Taipei Main Station might be a good example of space usage. There are a variety of stores for passengers and visitors to explore and plenty of spaces for them to rest comfortably

Also, they suggested that for improving the space usage in Kaohsiung Main Station, holding fairs or musical events, art exhibitions, and installation arts are good choices. Besides, the charging stations are important as well. In today's society, almost everyone has smartphones, so they need it in case their devices are out of power.

Lastly, respondents suggested there can be more stores, especially for the food and souvenir. The reason is that there are only a few stores in the underground floor. Also, they proposed that exhibitions or fairs can be held there, so that the space can be taken advantage of more and will not be wasted.

III. Proposal

To give the vacant space in Kaohsiung Main Station a new life, we intend to accomplish it by constructing resting spaces and by planning spaces for different events such as fairs, art exhibitions, and installation art. By designing the space usable for a variety of purposes, we aim to create a comfortable environment for people to participate in instead of just moving through.

“The development of an informal public life depends people finding and enjoying one another outside the cash nexus.”, said Ray Oldenburg, the sociologist who created the phrase ‘Third places’ in his 1989 book *The Great Good Place*. ‘Third places’ refer to places where people spend time between first places (their homes) and second places (offices). They are locations where we exchange ideas, have a good time, and build relationships. We hope to rebuild the vacant space into a multi-function one where people can be physically and mentally comfortable in. Once they open up, they may be willing to stay longer and interact with others.

First of all, we need to set up chairs as a resting space for people to take a break. It also gives people a chance to look around slowly where they are and how the space is designed. Once people feel safe and relaxed, the sense of comfort will make them want to spend more time here. Likewise, holding fairs and art exhibitions can bring energy into the whole station as well as improve the interaction between individuals.

We plan to divide the space into several sections while each area can be connected with others at the same time. For instance, chairs can be placed beside the exhibition area for people to use while they are enjoying the events, and it can also be put around the fair section for people to sit and have their meals.

The steps of our plan include cooperating with the local government, consulting designers and engineers, inviting stores or companies for the fairs and raising funds from residents and companies. Firstly, we have to apply our project context to government for approval. After that, we can start putting our design into practice. Meanwhile, we will start on inviting vendors for the fairs we plan to hold. After all of the details are done, we need to draw public's attention by launching a website or fanpage and so on.

We estimate the setting of rest space and equipment for fairs can be finished in about one week. Installation art can be set up in about three weeks. To finish the installation, we estimate it may take about in one to two months.

IV. Solution and Results

We aim to solve the problems of nonfunctional vacant space and the lack of resting spaces that many people mentioned in the questionnaire we sent out. Our rebuilding plan includes setting chairs for people to rest and to build connections, planning a space for fairs and inviting companies to set shops, and holding events in the large vacant space.

Firstly, we shared our opinions with each other and discussed if it was practicable. Once we reached an agreement, we came to the details and tried to figure out how we can make it. When there was any problem in the process of planning in detail, we would recheck it while using the Internet for more information that helped us to fix it.

Our solution brought both positive effects and negative impacts. A successful third place allows people to interact with each other. Regardless children, the elders, or tourists all can go visit and spend time here. The rebuild of this place also improved the image of Kaohsiung Main Station. However, the negative impacts were inevitable. Since many people started to visit the place, it influenced passengers who were in a hurry. In addition, the rise of visitors caused worse impacts on the traffic around Kaohsiung Main Station. Moreover, the homeless would occupy the resting area, and the chairs have got some damages since the chairs are free of charge and are opened to everyone.

We consider our plan is successful for building a space that makes more people be willing to stay and spend more time here. However, our plan can be also unsuccessful for causing heavy traffic around the train station and unbearable noises for the nearby residents.

While working on the rebuilding plan, there were something that did not go on as smoothly as we had planned. For instance, since applying for the subsidies from the Kaohsiung city government late, we could not accomplish the project on our ideal date. We set the goal to settle things down after a year, however, we were too late to submit the application of the subsidies because we have been concentrating on what the buildings we are going to build. Therefore, the project might be postponed for half to one year.

V. Reference

Stuart M Butler and Carmen Diaz. 2021. "Third places" as community builders. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2016/09/14/third-places-as-community-builders/>. [Accessed 06 January 2021].

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VI. Presentation File

HERE YOU COME AGAIN!

VACANT SPACE RENOVATION

AT KAOHSIUNG MAIN STATION

GROUP: 4EVER

MEMBERS: CARRIE, LILY, MIYU, CLAIRE, VIVIAN, ZONA

CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. IntroductionII. Target analysisIII. Background theoryIV. Solution<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Example- 3D modelV. ConclusionVI. Reference
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INTRODUCTION

A vacant space in Kaohsiung Main Station



- Remained empty
- Nothing more than a passageway → A waste of space

Train station = First impression of a city!

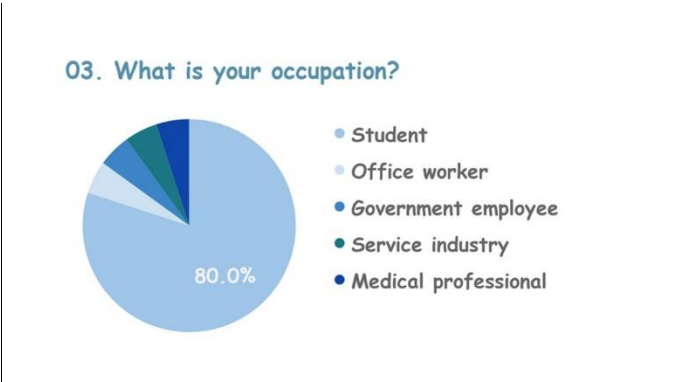
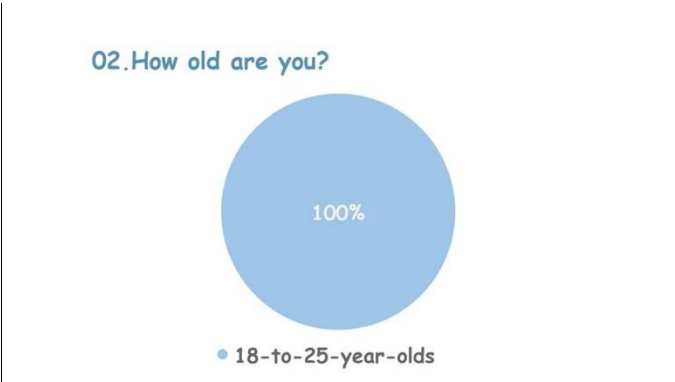
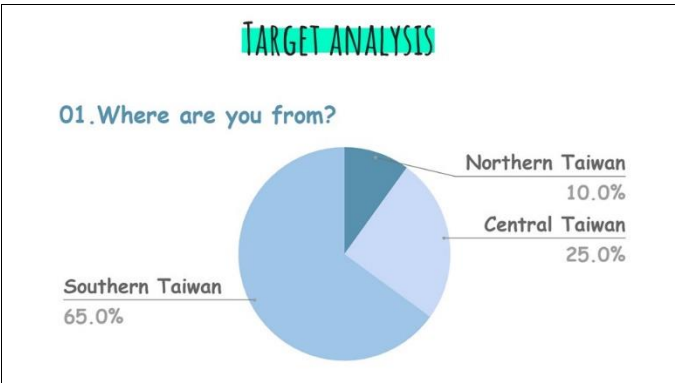


XinZuoying Train Station

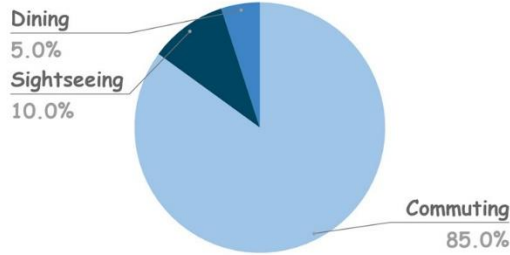
- Variety of stores
- People want to visit here repeatedly

- ✓ Offer a space for people to take advantage of
- ✓ A better public space

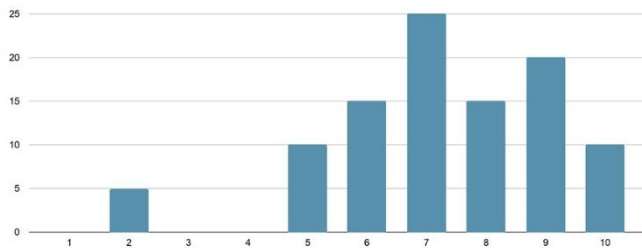
TARGET ANALYSIS



04. What is your purpose for visiting Kaohsiung Main Station?



05. Satisfaction level with Kaohsiung Main Station.



椅子可以的話多一點，因為老媽腳很容易酸XDD 希望垃圾桶也可以增設，常常看到亂丟的飲料杯QQ

可以擺市集吧! **More public benches and garbage cans or fairs**

很好

可以多建美食餐廳

沒

市集或者文創 讓更多年輕人可以打拚

Too many vacant space,unfunctional

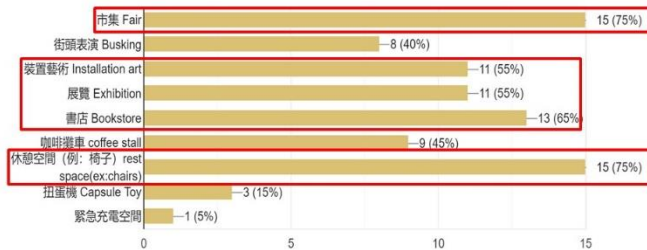
太浪費空間了! 空曠一片不知道要做什麼。除了是旅客的通道以外，完全沒有其他功能; 沒有座椅或行李放置台，讓人不想久待。

可以擺桌子跟椅子變成戶外用餐區之類的

或許可以提供座位

Tables, benches for outdoor dining


06. What kind of constructions/facilities will attract you to visit Kaohsiung Main Station?



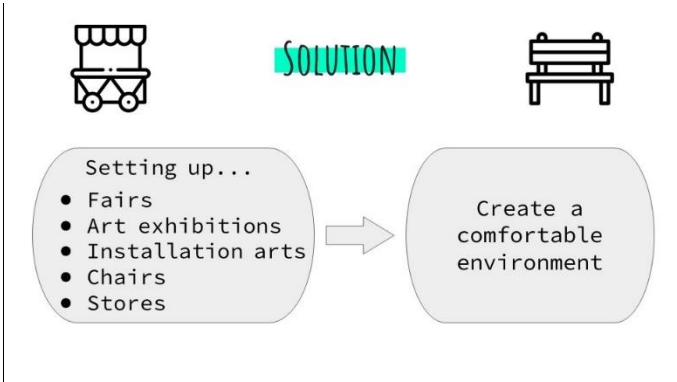
BACKGROUND THEORY

BACKGROUND THEORY

- WELCOMING SPACE
- People can interact with each other.
- People can get there easily.



SOLUTION



EXAMPLE — XIN ZUOYING STATION



There are various stores and fairs

There are also some installation arts



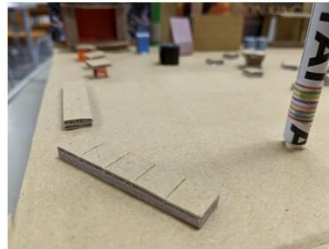
3D MODEL

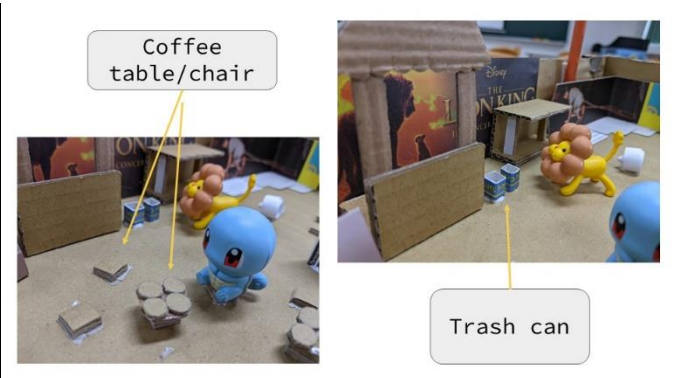
3D MODEL



Art exhibition

Resting space





CONCLUSION

- > This renovation project make people stay and spend time here.
- > People have chances to communicate with others.
- > We hope the government can make good use of other wasted places.

REFERENCE

Third place:

- The Art of Charm. 2021. The Third Place | The Importance of Ray Oldenburg's Third Place. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://theartofcharm.com/art-of-personal-development/what-is-a-third-place-and-why-do-you-need-one/>. [Accessed 06 January 2021].
- Ray Oldenburg Quotes (Author of The Great Good Place). 2021. Ray Oldenburg Quotes (Author of The Great Good Place). [ONLINE] Available at: https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/2831.Ray_Oldenburg. [Accessed 06 January 2021].

THANKS FOR YOUR
LISTENING

VII. Appendices

1. Job Division

	Name & ID. No.	Job Division
Leader	Carrie 1104204233	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Call for meetings● File printing● Keep records of meeting minutes● Information collecting● Questionnaire designing● Essay writing● 3D model making
Members	Lily 2106200145 Miyu 1109212019 Vivian 1109200064 Zona 1109201068 Claire 1109200138	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Information collecting● Questionnaire designing● Essay writing● 3D model making

2. Budget

Item	Price (NTD)	Amount	Total	Notes
1. Coffee shop	300,000	1	300,000	
2. Benches	2,000	20	40,000	
3. Installation arts	50,000	5	250,000	
Sum			590,000	

3. Accounting Report

Item	Price (NTD)	Amount	Expenses	Balance
fund				600,000
1. Coffee shop	250,000	1	250,000	350,000
2. Benches	2,000	20	40,000	310,000
3. Installation arts	50,000	5	250,000	60,000
Sum			540,000	60,000

Minutes of meetings

Meeting of	Group 4—1 st meeting	
Date	November 18, 2020	
Time	1 pm~3 pm	
Place	Q602	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: Which place should we choose as the renovation subject in our project. How can we do to make it a better place?</p> <p>Conclusion: The vacant space in Kaohsiung Main Station is not designed and used well. We want to figure out a possible solution to renovate it.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		

Meeting of	Group 4—2 nd meeting	
Date	November 19, 2020	
Time	11 am~12 pm	
Place	Q603	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: What kind of question should we put in the questionnaire for our target analysis.</p> <p>Conclusion: 1. Occupation of the respondents. 2. Ages. 3. Propose for visiting Kaohsiung Main Station. 4. Opinion about the space. 5. Ideal facility.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		

Meeting of	Group 4—3 rd meeting	
Date	December 1, 2020	
Time	7 pm~9 pm	
Place	Online (LINE group call)	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: Introduction of the existing problems of the vacant space in Kaohsiung Main Station.</p> <p>Conclusion: The space is totally wasted. It should be planned with more function and should be an open space for the public to use.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		

Meeting of	Group 4—4 th meeting	
Date	December 9, 2020	
Time	8 pm~10 pm	
Place	Online (LINE group call)	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: Target analysis based on the questionnaire we have collected. How the respondents feel about the space using of the station? From their points of view, how can we figure out a possible solution to solve those problems?</p> <p>Conclusion: There should be more resting space in the vacant space. Also, holding fairs and other events, having stores in that area are possible way to make there a functional public space.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		

Meeting of	Group 4—5 th meeting	
Date	December 15, 2020	
Time	8 pm~9 pm	
Place	Online (LINE group call)	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: What is the proposal of our project? What kind of change we hope to do in the renovation project?</p> <p>Conclusion: We can try to build this vacant space into a good third place that allows people feel relaxed and communicate with each other.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		

Meeting of	Group 4—6 th meeting	
Date	December 24, 2020	
Time	11 am~12 pm	
Place	Q603	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: How to make the 3D model. What kind of material we can use?</p> <p>Conclusion: Use cardboard box we had to make the 3D mode and all the facilities we want to put in that space.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		

Meeting of	Group 4—7 th meeting	
Date	December 30, 2020	
Time	3 pm~5 pm	
Place	Q602	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
	Carrie	
	Lily	
	Vivian	
	Zona	
	Miyu	
	Claire	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Topic: Making 3D model and presentation file.</p>		
Written by: Carrie		