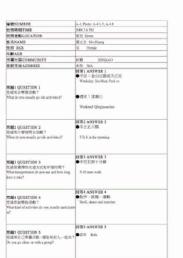


## methods

## Interview

We integrated the five main issues identified in the workshop process into the interview questions. This ensured that the topics we discussed were based on real community concerns, rather than our opinions. The entire team contributed to the questions, and every question was written in Chinese and English. Although the interviews were conducted in Mandarin and Minnan, non-native speakers contributed by recording observations and conditions during the interview.

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## **Findings**

People want a better living environment and better quality of life. These desires are basic to most people. Part of the participatory process is discovering the specific needs and wants of a community – allowing residents to express their own visions for their neighborhoods.

The process of discerning specific wants and needs is an investment in a community's long-term social wellbeing and economic vitality. Simply put, while planners and designers lend the development process technical expertise, it is members of the community who comprise the social fabric and character of a neighborhood. These latter elements may be more important to successful development or re-development than technical expertise.

The participatory process requires community activism, government accountability and transparency, and time. Our team was in Quanzhou for three weeks, enough time to become familiar with Xin Qiao, but not enough to build relationships with the community and establish trust that is crucial to the participatory process. What we have done is progress to the point of identifying several key issues according to feedback from residents. Xin Qiao residents would like:

- · More and better gathering spaces
- · Modern housing amenities
- ·Clean, well-lit streets conducive to business
- Compensation for government-driven preservation or redevelopment
- ·Economic vitality more jobs
- More young people living and working in the neighborhood





