

Re-telling the Yung Shue Au Story

Co-creating Rural Place with
Experimental Communal Hub and Eco-
Cultural Trail







Eco-Cultural Trail

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● The Village

● Beyond the Village



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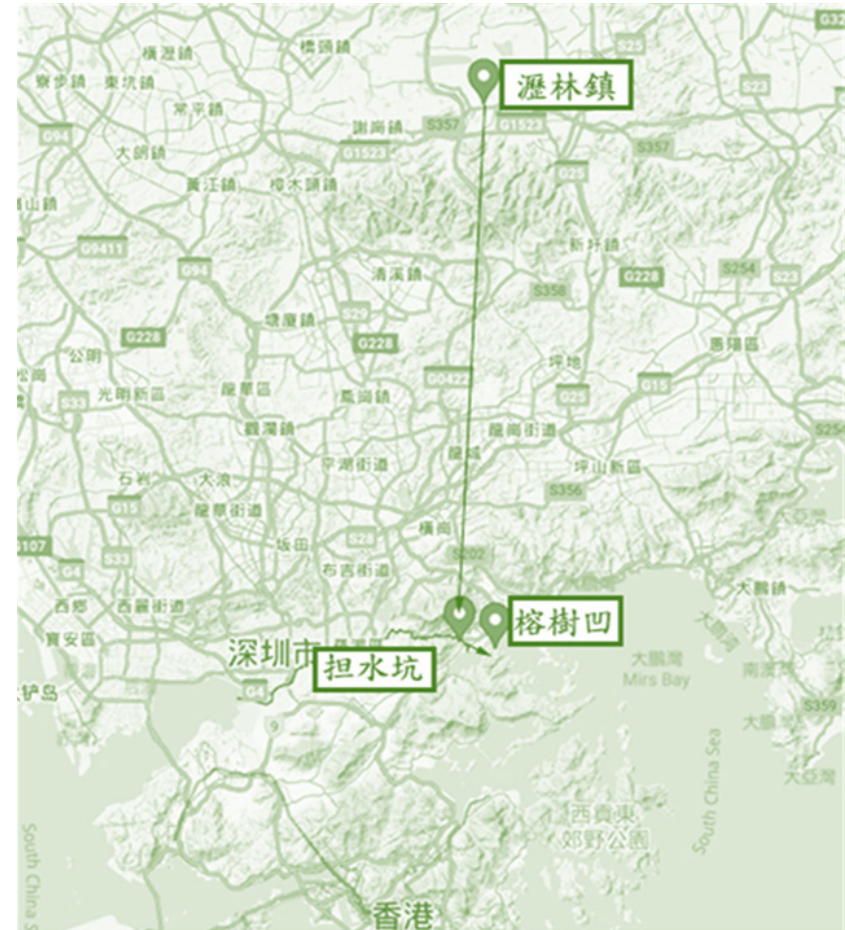
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1 Overview of Yung Shue Au (YSA)

Location: Existing Yung Shue Pier

- Formerly known as “Yung Shue Au”, also known as “Nong Shue Au”.
- A Hakka village with a single surname formally established during the Qian-long period (1736-1796) of the Qing Dynasty.
- After the evacuation of the Hai Ling, the Wan Clan first moved to Tanshukeng (Wan Kakei), and later a group of clansmen went to Yung Shu Au (Wan Mancheung) to establish a foundation.



Route of Wan's relocation to Xin'an

2 Military Significance

Location: In front of the British Arms

- Yung Shue Au is strategically located and is a battleground for military strategists
- During the Japanese Occupation, Japanese troops were stationed at Yung Shue Au to monitor the activities of the guerrillas.
- Queen's Own Highlanders were stationed here in the 1970s and 1980s.



Queen's Own Highlanders emblem

(The head of a deer is still visible in the spray paint of the Banyan Tree Au emblem)

3 Village Alliance & Transportation

Location: Old Pier

- Since ancient times, Yung Shue Au village has relied on boat transportation.
- The Yung Shue Au Wan Clan and the Wan Clan of Tam Shui Hang on the other side of the river were originally one family.
- Yung Shue Au Village was a member of the “Three Villages Agreement” and was in alliance with villages on the other side of the river, such as Tam Shui Hang Village and Sha Lan Heng Village.



Villagers waiting for the boat at the old pier



Old and New Piers

4 Education

Location: Pui Man School

- From “Bu Bu Zhai” to Pui Man School, Yung Shue Au Village has a long history of education.
- Founded in 1959, Pui Man School provides elementary and high school education, with a special subject of “General Knowledge of Nature and Agriculture” to meet the needs of the local community.
- Pui Man School ceased operation in the early 1970s and was later converted into a military barracks by the British Army.



Old photo of Pui Man School



Current situation of Pui Man School

5 Guard on Yung Shue Au

Location: Barracks

- Since 1970, the British Army has been patrolling Yung Shue Au.
- Since 1977, the British Army has stationed staff at Yung Shue Au on a permanent basis, not only to deal with the problem of illegal immigrants, but also for the purpose of border defense.
- In 1985, after the signing of the *Sino-British Joint Declaration*, the British Army withdrew from Yung Shue Au.



Status of Camp 8

6 Agriculture and land enclosure

Location: In front of Tai Wong Baak Gung

- Yung Shue Au's ancestors actively developed agriculture and expanded the area of usable arable land through two sea-enclosure projects.
- After the 1960s, agriculture in Yung Shue Au declined, and the dams fell into disrepair, and seawater continued to flow in and erode the dike fields.
- Today, the area of the pond has been enlarged considerably, and the mangrove forest is full of vitality.



Villagers transplanting rice in the dike field in front of Tai Wong Baak Gung



● The Village

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7 Religious Life

Location: Tai Wong Baak Gung

- Tai Wong Baak Gung is the Land God of the Hakka people, and the shrine is located at the entrance of the village to mark the boundary of the village.
- In the old days, Yung Shue Au villagers used to pay homage to Tai Wong Baak Gung and Ho Lap Baak Gung when they worshiped their ancestors during the Lunar New Year, Ching Ming and Chung Yeung festivals.
- In spring and autumn, the villagers would make a “social gathering” in front of the two Baak Gung to pray for blessings and pay tribute to the gods, prepare offerings such as rice cakes, tea sweets, and three sacrificial animals, and perform Hakka Unicorn Dance to help celebrate the event.



Current status of Tai Wong Baak Gung

8 Tradition & Modernity

Location: Fuk On Kui

- Located near the entrance of the village, Fuk On Kui consists of three traditional Hakka houses, a modern village house, and a pigsty in front of it, and is generally complete.
- Fuk On Kui was generally built before the Second World War, but the modern-style new house was built in the 1960s or later.
- Fuk On Kui shows two typical architectural styles of Yung Shue Au Village, contrasting traditional and modern architectural styles.



Current status of Fuk On Kui

9 From Banyan Bay to Banyan Treehouse

Location: Banyan Treehouse

- As no one has settled in Yung She Au since the early 1990s, many houses in the village have been parasitized by banyan trees, and have even been merged into one body, which is called “Banyan Tree House”.
- The spectacle of the “Banyan Tree House” is a reflection of the two waves of exodus that affected the Yung Shue Au village from the second half of the 19th century onwards.
- First wave of exodus: due to the influx of overseas Chinese workers from the late 19th century to the early 20th century.
- Second wave of exodus: In the second half of the 20th century, due to the general relaxation of immigration policies in European countries and the industrialization of Hong Kong, there was an exodus of people from Hong Kong.



Banyan Tree House in front of Luk Keng Trail



Banyan Treehouse

10 The Capital of Village

Location: Village Office

- The Village Office is one of the few public buildings in Yung Shue Au.
- The Village Office is not only a place for villagers to conduct business, but also used to be the ancestral hall of the Wan family in Yung Shue Au.
- Before the opening of Pui Man School, the Village Office was also the location of the village's "Bu Bu Zhai", where classes were taught in the Hakka dialect, hence the name "Hakka Shu" (Hakka Book).



Current status of Village Office (first from right)

11 Synthesizing tradition and modernity

Location: Village Head's House

- The Village Head's House was built at least before the Great War, and in the 1960s and 1970s, as family members split up and the house was substantially altered, it was divided into three.
- The Village Hall is not only a place for villagers to conduct business, but also used to be the ancestral hall of the Wan family in Yung Shue Au.
- Before the opening of Pui Man School, the Village Office was also the location of the village's "Bu Bu Zhai", where classes were taught in the Hakka dialect, hence the name "Hakka Shu" (Hakka Book).



Current status of the Village Head's House

12 Tolo Drink House

Location: Tolo Drink House

- “Completed in 1966, Tolo Drink House was originally a residential building with a beautiful view of Yung Shue Au Bay at the back of the mountain and facing the sea.
- After the British Army stationed in Yung Shue Au Village, the owner of the house operated a bar there, which was named “Tolo Drink House” by the British Army and was often patronized by them.
- The name “Tolo Drink House ” is believed to come from the Tolo Channel near Yung Shue Au Bay, which is located between Tai Chi Mun and Yim Tin Harbor.



Old photos of the Tolo Drink House



Current situation of Tolo Drink House

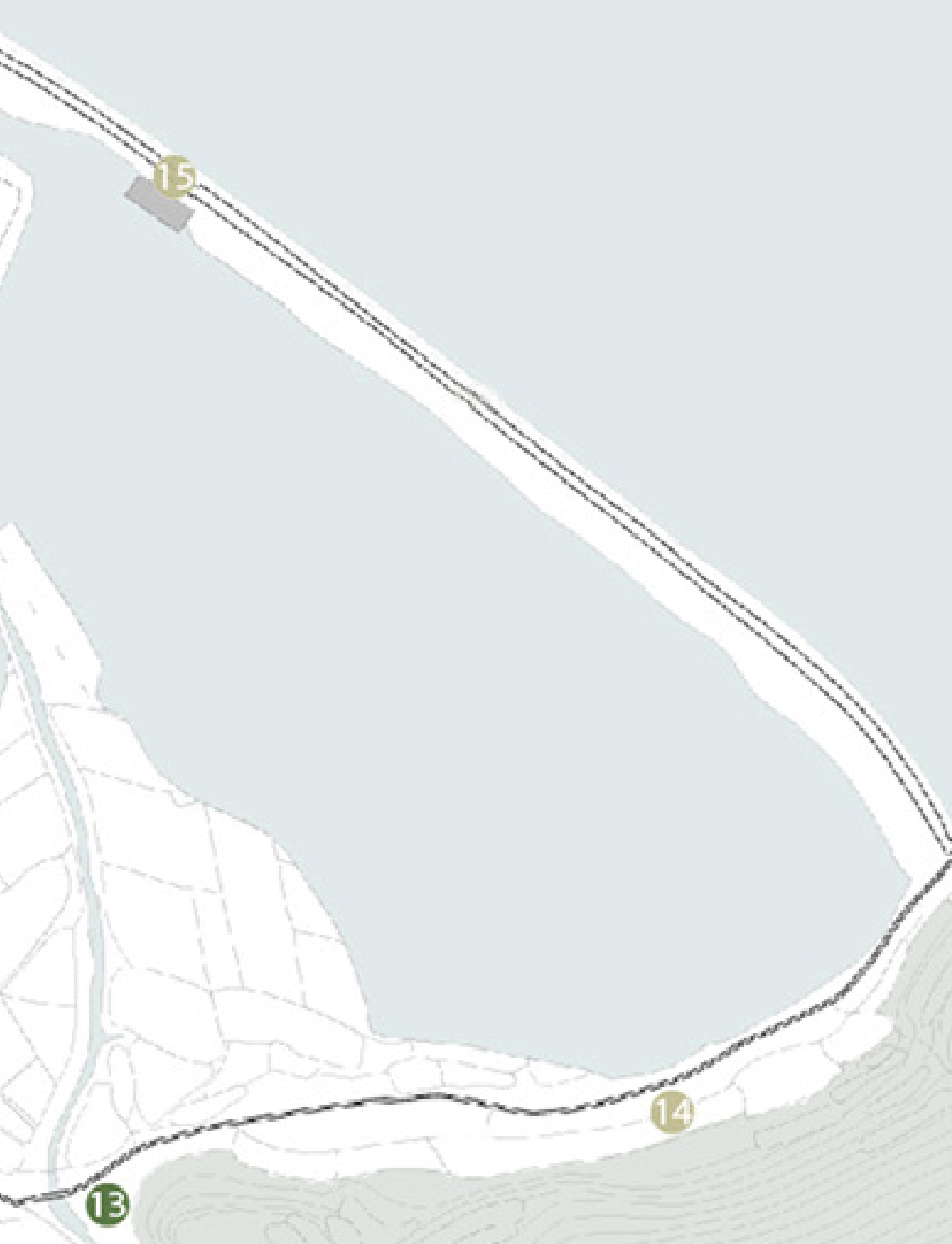
13 The River

Location: Ho Lap Baak Gung

- Ho Lap Baak Gung is the guardian god of rivers and streams. “Ho Lap” is a Hakka word meaning the area between two rivers and streams, and the position of Ho Lap Baak Gung in Yung Shue Au is also located in the Loop of Yung Shue Au Stream.
- Yung Shue Au Stream is the main source of fresh water in the village, and has contributed significantly to the village’s agricultural development and the sea-enclosure project.
- In the 2000s, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department included Yung Shue Au Creek in the list of Ecologically Important Streams (EIS).



Villagers transplanting rice seedlings



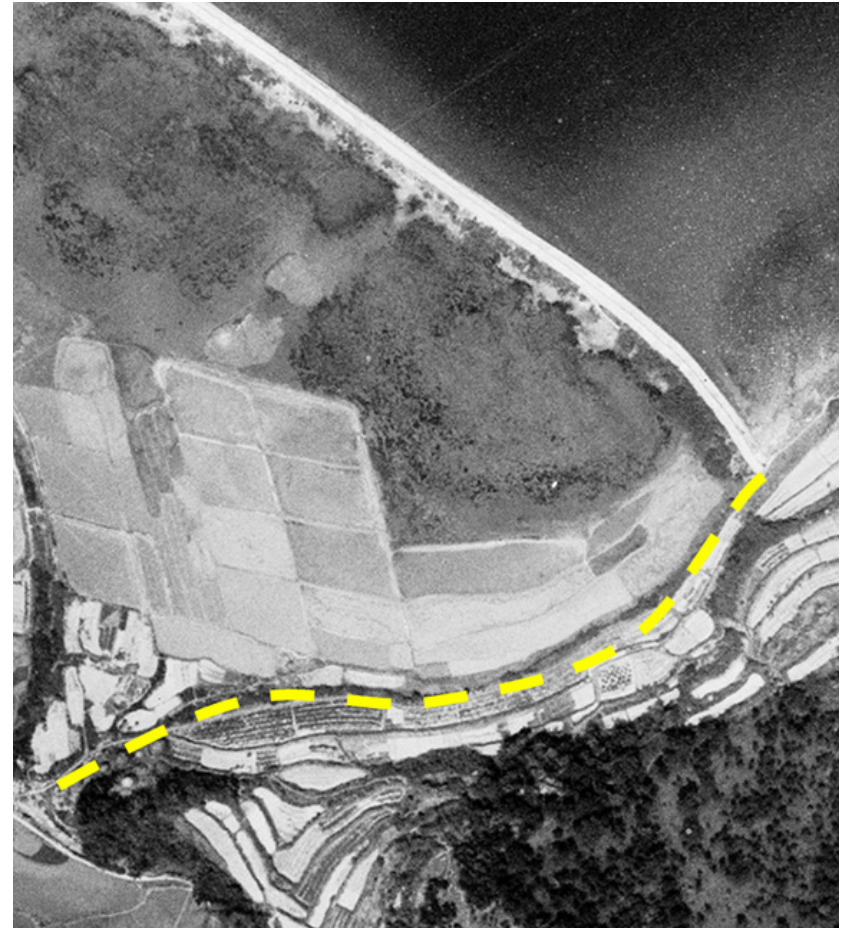
Beyond the Village

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14 The Frontier of a Frontier Village

Location: The Frontier

- Strictly speaking, when you leave the Ho Lap Baak Gung, you step out of the village's boundaries.
- Nearby is the Lung Yeuk Tau Tang Family Cemetery, which is said to date back to before the Boundary Crossing Order.
- With less human activity and development, the area is full of life and mangroves.



Path to the dam after Ho Lap Baak Gung
(Old satellite map- 1969)

15 Re-telling Yung Shue Au story

Location: Helipad

- The helipad was built on the eve of the British Army's arrival at Yung Shue Au for the transportation of heavy equipment and personnel.
- When the village was prosperous in the past, you can enjoy the scenery of Yung Shue Au Village from here.
- Behind the dam is a river pond with golden rice paddies, followed by rows of Hakka houses in a mix of traditional and modern styles.
- As things have changed, Yung Shue Au Village is no longer what it used to be, but in recent years, the villagers have returned to their hometown and are committed to restoring the village in an attempt to reshape the story of Yung Shue Au.



Yung Shue Au Old Day View (from helipad location)



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