



保育南山公墓：與多重遺產交織的臨界地景

On Conserving Nanshan Gravesite:
A liminal landscape threaded with a multiplicity of heritage

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Gravesites as the sites of remembering

- “No interment” regulation at the Nanshan Gravesite since 2008
 - aligned with the general trend to prefer cremation in Taiwan
- Cultural practice: tomb-sweeping, bone-collecting, *fengsui*, ...
 - but no longer for forging memory about the newly dead...
- Cultural heritage
 - tombs are markers of human stories
 - folklore and belief depicted by rich artifacts
 - uneven distribution of the tombs at the Nanshan Gravesite
 - heterogeneity, complexity, liminality, ...
- Cultural landscape



Tyng-Ruey Chuang (2017)

The Nanshan Gravesite as liminal landscape: A multiplicity heritage

A constraint or an opportunity prompting place-based dialogues?

Liminality in its physical space

- Location of the gravesite itself:
 - Scenic gravesite; *fengshui*
 - The surrounding built environment
- Government intervention vs. Grassroots movement
- Tangible & Intangible heritage

Liminality with respect to time

- Japanese era – in between a prison and a navy airfield
- Post War – the airfield turned into a US air base
- 2000s – *Simen Road*, Section 1, cutting into the site



Site Specificity of The Nanshan Gravesite

A new understanding for the Gravesite

Why site specificity?

What is site specificity?

A new understanding for the Gravesite

It refers to a work of art designed specifically for a particular location and that has an interrelationship with the location

– Tate Museum

To remove the work is to destroy the work

– Richard Serra

Tilted Arc, Richard Serra, 1981



“The viewer becomes aware of himself and of his movement through the plaza. As he moves, the sculpture changes. Contraction and expansion of the sculpture result from the viewer's movement. Step by step, the perception not only of the sculpture but of the entire environment changes.”

Three paradigms of site specificity (proposed by art historian Miwon Kwon)

A glance at different sites

- **Phenomenological:** observed physical attributes
- **Social/institutional:** deciphering institutional conventions
- **Discursive:** consistent engagement with issues

The Nanshan Gravesite: Spatial triad of site specificity

A layered approach on the phenomenological understanding of the Gravesite

	Subject	Site
<i>First layer</i>	Individual headstone	The Nanshan Gravesite (Nature environment)
<i>Second layer</i>	headstones	The Nanshan Gravesite
<i>Third layer</i>	The Nanshan Gravesite	Surrounding built environment of the Gravesite

Individual headstone & The Nanshan Gravesite

First Layer of site specificity

Subject: Individual headstone

Site: The Nanshan Gravesite

What make individual headstone site specific? (Focus on nature environment)

- *Fengshui treasure land (favorable placement named after animal)*
 - 螃蟹穴、龜穴...

Collective headstone & The Nanshan Gravesite

Second Layer of site specificity

Subject: Headstones (*Individual headstones taken as a whole*)

Site: The Nanshan Gravesite

What make individual headstone site specific? (Focus on man made environment)

- *Relationship among headstones*
 - *Proximity to celebrity headstones (historical figures, local gentry)*
 - 名人 / 地方仕紳墓塚

Connecting site specificity to liminal landscape: Third Layer of site specificity

Subject: The Nanshan Gravesite

Site: The surrounding built environment of the Gravesite

What makes The Nanshan Gravesite site specific?

- *Tangible & Intangible term (spatio-temporal)*
 - *Tainan city's urban fabric*
 - *Importance of local history gained over time*

Questions / Comments / Concerns?

