

Residents' efforts have a building breathe

Staff reporters

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about an old residential building — is it the dark corridors or the rusty electric-meter boxes?

No. 30 Building at the Meiyuan Xincun Community has earned the title of “a breathing residential building” after defying the stereotype by redesigning public areas and growing plants.

When people enter the building, the first thing they see are rows of pot plants underneath the windows and the electric-meter box is decorated with wooden strips.

“The green plants make the corridor a bright and cozy place,” said one elderly resident. “The good environment makes us feel happy.”

Growing green plants in public areas of residential buildings has been welcomed by residents as it improves the

environment. The community piloted the program first in the No.30 Building.

The residential committee contacted a design company and hoped that the company could realize their ideas.

They were delighted when their idea was recognized and supported by Jiading District Gardens and Greening Administration Bureau, which offered them 100 pot plants for free to add new vigor and vitality to the building.

The plants are carefully tended by elderly residents in No. 30 building.

They have a tip about how to feed the plants — they use water soaked with the crushed peel of apples and bananas.

From time to time, bureau officials visit to teach residents about how to look after the plants and keep them growing healthily.

“The young man living in Room 301 was attracted by the arrangement and green

decorations and he chose to move into our building,” said an elderly resident surnamed Wang.

However, the “breathing residential building” has much more than the green decorations in the public areas.

All residents in the building are now growing vegetables hydroponically — a method of growing plants without soil and the produce they grow has become an important part of their daily diet.



• African reporters make news

A 30-strong group of reporters from Africa pay a visit to the Shanghai Auto Museum in Jiading on June 16. They were in the district to seek new information about Shanghai International Automobile City. After visiting the auto museum, they went to two high technology enterprises, NextEv Nio, focusing on driverless cars, and Shanghai United Imaging Healthcare in Jiading. — Gu Xianhui

Students' designs are works of art

Li Huacheng and Shen Li

WORK by students of Jiading-based Shanghai Art & Design Academy have impressed visitors with their creativity and talent at a graduation exhibition at M50 Park in downtown Shanghai.

Among the highlights are Chen Hui's clothing designs which integrate metal cages, wooden materials, dry flowers and 3D-printed dolls.

“I used five different materials in this design to make people feel the depression of confinement and I want this design to wake up people's inner heart for kindness and freedom,” she said.

Her work delighted a New Zealand designer who came to the academy on an exchange program that he invited her to New Zealand.

Fang Wenliang's bottle gourd lights, inspired by the Chinese animation Calabash Brothers, combine modern light design and traditional Chinese elements. She manages to make her lights both a functional lighting devices and works of art.

Founded in 1960, Shanghai Art & Design Academy is one of the most influential, oldest and best-known colleges of art and design in China.

Prior to the graduation exhibition, students won three first prizes and eight second prizes at the second “Think Youth” event, an annual competition and exhibition of creative works by Shanghai college students.

Mao Jialin won first prize in jewelry design with a bracelet named “shrinking distance.”

She says her work represents the soft beauty and broadness of the ocean and she applies metal techniques in wax sculpting to add complexity.

She said she was inspired by the Chinese poem “If you have friends who know your heart, distance cannot keep you apart.”

Toothpaste for bikes helps solve parking problems

Ran Tao and Tong Wangyue

COMMUNITIES and the road administration bureau in Jiading have effectively eased the problem of abandoned and badly parked bicycles by marking parking spaces with white lines and exchanging commodities for old bikes.

At the Yingyuan Community, officials launched a campaign to exchange toothpaste and detergent for old bikes and recycled about 200 in just one day.

“These abandoned bikes occupy public areas and affect the environment of our community,” said Yingyuan Party secretary Yao Peijuan.

The cycle parking lot at Taichen Yayuan Community in Juyuan New Area is small and many residents left their bikes in the corridors or leaned them on fire hydrants, risking safety.

The community launched a campaign to exchange rice and detergent for old bikes and recycled about 100 of them.

The event was so successful that it ended up in making room in the previously jam-packed parking lot.

Staff at Baolong City Square have been encouraging customers to park their electric bikes in an area marked with white lines.

One month earlier, the sidewalks had been packed with badly parked bikes.

New parking places have been set up in busy areas, including in the vicinity of the maternal and child health hospital.

Crowdfunding for culture taking off

Staff reporters

CROWDFUNDING is now available on Culture Jiading Cloud, an Internet-based platform for public cultural services. Individuals and cultural organizations in Jiading can use the platform to raise funds.

Jiading is the first district to pilot crowdfunding in the field of cultural services. The Culture Jiading Cloud

has gained popularity since its opening. However, it was hard for users to apply for a free ticket sometimes because there were too many “competitors.” “Some people even said that they were willing to pay for a public cultural event,” said Yan Yan, an officer from Jiading District Culture, Radio, Television Administration Bureau. “We launched the crowdfunding function to solve this problem.”

The cultural event will be successfully funded after the number of applicants reaches the minimum number required. The content of events will be examined before launching. The crowdfunding fee is relatively low and funds raised will be kept by a third-party non-profit organization.

The first crowdfunding event is a flower arrangement event launched by Hu Xin on March 31. Locals can pay 20

yuan (US\$2.94) for the one-hour experience. Although the money raised on the platform was much less than the cost, Hu was happy to make friends with people who share the same hobby.

Li Ping, a calligraphy teacher, successfully held a lesson on May 13 with the help of crowdfunding.

She says crowdfunding offers her more choices on teaching methods.