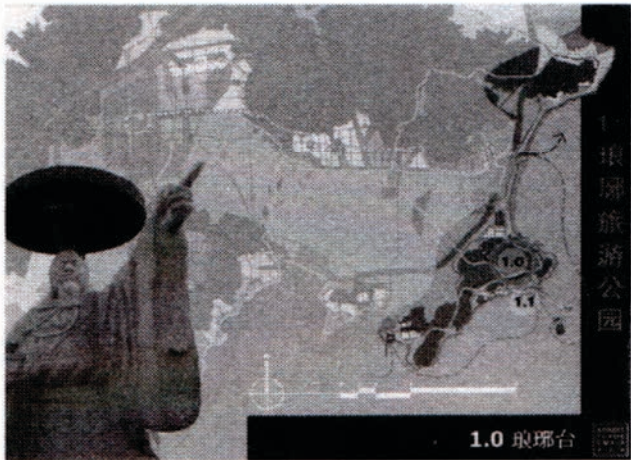


ARCADE

ARCHITECTURE / DESIGN IN THE NORTHWEST

Lang Ya city master plan with
Qin Emperor.
Image: Robert Edson Swain, inc.



Bob Swain and EDGE

Congratulations to Bob Swain and EDGE, a Seattle-based firm, for being selected by Qingdao Planning Bureau from an international field of 487 firms, to be the designers for a strategic master plan for a new coastal city called Lang Ya. Qingdao is hosting the aquatic events for the 2008 Olympics and hopes to use the economic influx from that event to establish a new city, supported to a great extent in the future by the rapidly growing coastal tourism industry. Swain, who's been involved with urban planning projects from Athens to Costa Rica, became familiar with business in China while serving as a board member of the Seattle firm Rhodes Architectural Stone, which has a manufacturing business there.

The vision for this 122 acre site (the size of Vancouver, B.C.) is based on ecological balance and the acknowledgment of its significant physical and historic heritage, including wind farms and bicycle paths, along with fiber optic cable and light rail. Excited by the effort and cooperation he's experienced at every level, Swain says, "this form and style of green and sustainable planning is new to China and we're proud to have made an impact." Sometimes in China they say that the natural entrepreneurialism surfaces in unexpected areas not always precisely aligned with the mission statement. This exciting 15-year project will be interesting to watch.

